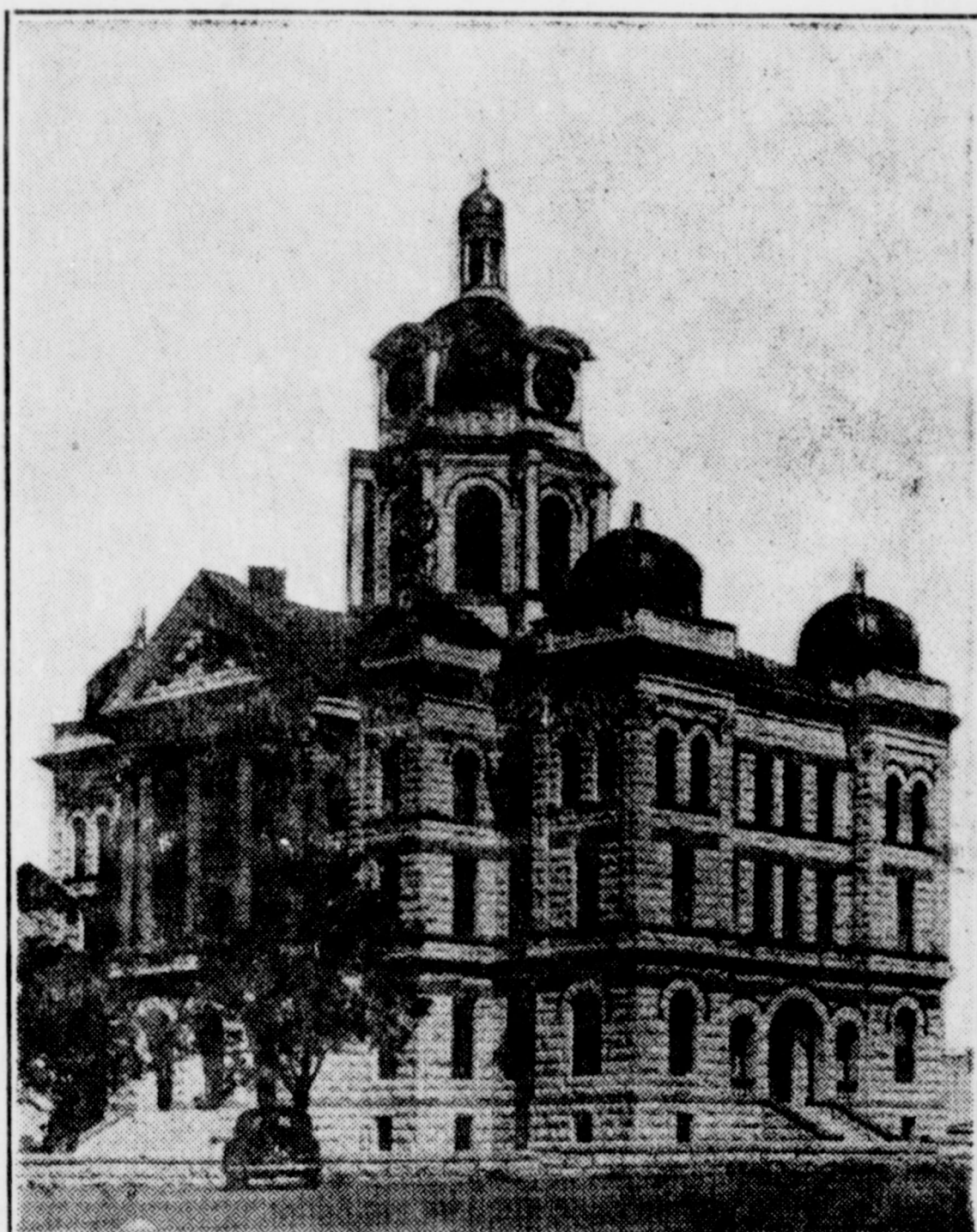


BQ JON TB TQ IE A A A O ECK R

CORYELL COUNTY



CENTENNIAL

1854-1954

MAY 6-7-8

H U HND JSUO B R V D H C EP

DEDICATION

This Program is affectionately dedicated to Coryell County and her People; those of yesterday, today, tomorrow; to the men and women who have lived here and loved her rugged hills and peaceful valleys, her plains and her traditions.

Welcome To

Gatesville

and

Coryell County

"Small enough to know you—Large enough to serve you"

In the Heart of Texas



GATESVILLE
Chamber of Commerce

1854

1954

Coryell County Centennial

CHAIRMAN Henry Sadler
VICE-CHAIRMAN Robert Brown
TREASURER J. F. Patterson
SECRETARY Mrs. Jack Straw

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

R. B. Allen, Gatesville	Mrs. T. R. Mears, Gatesville
Evant T. Brooks, Evant	Marvin Mickan, Copperas Cove
J. O. Brown, Gatesville	Sam Powell, Sr., Gatesville
Robert Brown, Gatesville	Wallace Raabe, Coryell City
J. T. Davidson, Pecan Grove	H. R. Saunders, Gatesville
Andrew Kendrick, Gatesville	Jim Searcy, Oglesby
P. T. Lemmons, Jonesboro	

FINANCE DIVISION:

Dawson Cooper, Chairman
Historical Program Committee, Allen Bennett
Novelties Committee, Byron Freeman
Official Hat Committee, Pete Wagner
Beard Contest Committee, C. C. Shepherd
Decorations Committee, Dr. O. D. Price
Food and Drink Committee, Jack Roach

SPECTACLE TICKET DIVISION:

Sam Powell, Jr., Chairman
Advance Ticket Committee, Mrs. Tom P. Thomson
Princess Contest Committee, Mrs. Sam Powell, Jr.
Patrons Ticket Committee, Mrs. T. R. Mears
Reserve Seat, Gate and Ushers Committee, J. F. Patterson

SPECTACLE DIVISION:

Albert Dickie, Chairman
Cast Committee, L. C. McKamie, Mrs. Leona Campbell, Co-Chairman
Scenario and Title Committee, Mrs. Ollie Little
Properties Committee, John Gilmer
Construction Committee, Frank Bates, Jr.
Spectacle Music Committee, Robt. Meisch

PUBLICITY DIVISION:

P. D. Holt, Chairman
Press Committee, Mrs. Bailey Curry
Distributive Committee, Bob Foster, Jr.
Radio Committee, Eiland Lovejoy
Speakers Committee, Byron McClellan
Promotional Committee, Mrs. Bythel Cooper; Pat Hollingsworth, Co-Chrm.

SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION:

Eiland Lovejoy, Chairman
Historical Exhibits Committee, Mrs. Mabel Bailey
Home Coming Committee, Howard Franks
Old Settler's Committee, Hugh Saunders and Jim Miller, Co-Chairmen
Special Days Committee
 Armed Forces & Veterans Day, Carl McClendon
Old Settlers & Home Coming
 Old Settlers, Hugh Saunders and Jim Miller, Co-Chairmen
Home Coming, Howard Franks, Chairman

HOSPITALITY DIVISION:

Judge Jan Clawson and Mayor Roger Miller, Co-Chairmen
Traffic Safety Committee, Windy Cummings
Housing Committee, Miss Dorothy Culberson

WELCOME!

**The City of GATESVILLE
Extends a Hearty Handshake**

-- To You

May your visit to our city be enjoyable
and memorable.

“Small enough to know you—
Large enough to serve you”

CITY OF GATESVILLE

Roger H. Miller, Mayor

Eiland Lovejoy, Secy.

C. C. Shepherd
Johnny Washburn

Charles Trewitt
Charles Powell



CORYELL COUNTY OFFICIALS—1907



"IN THE CENTENNIAL WAY"—1954

A SALUTE

The Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., Salutes the Citizens of Coryell County for the Outstanding accomplishments during the past Century, and for their important role in the future economy of Central Texas.

from the Bank that is
Time Tested-Depression Tested

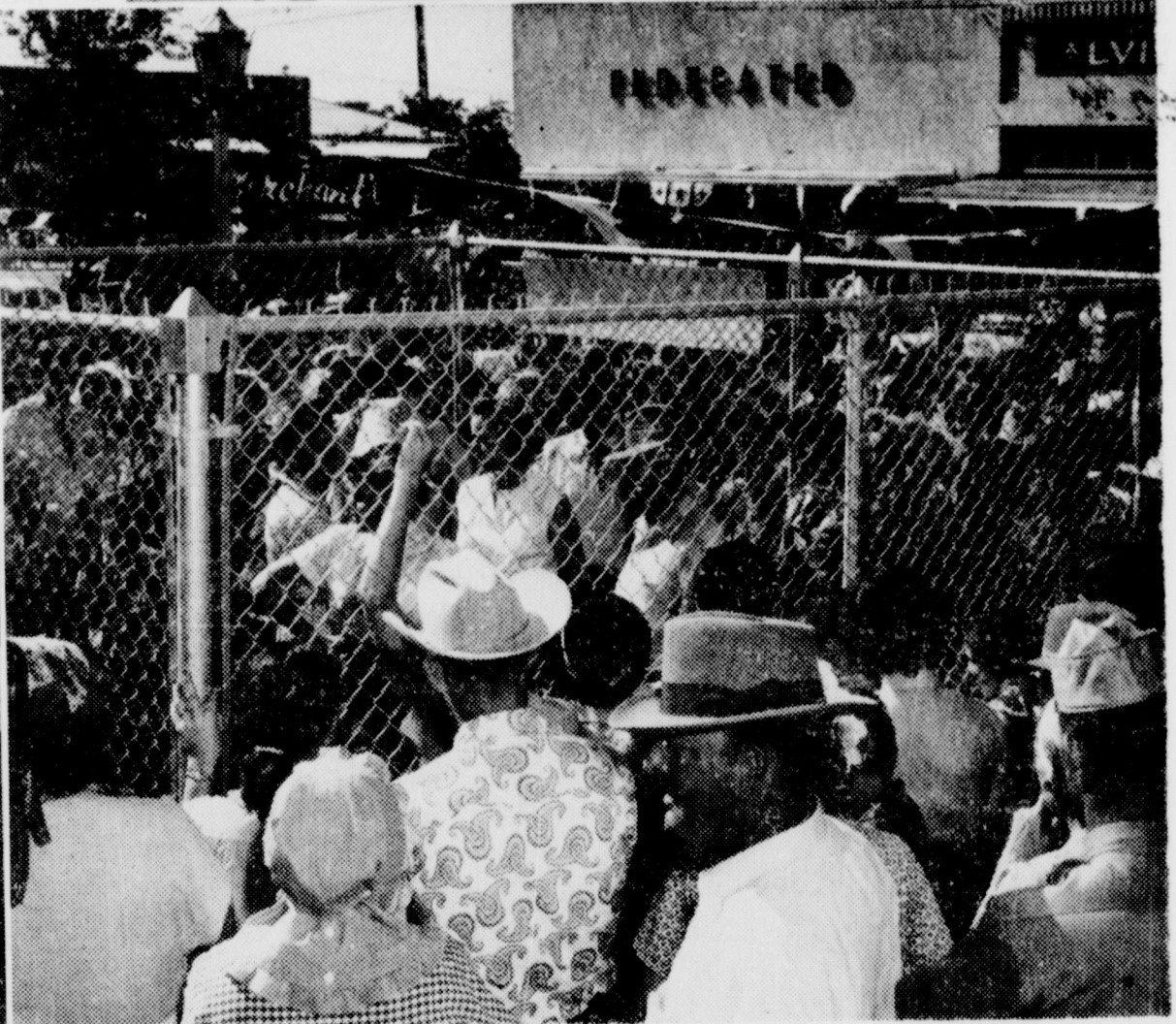
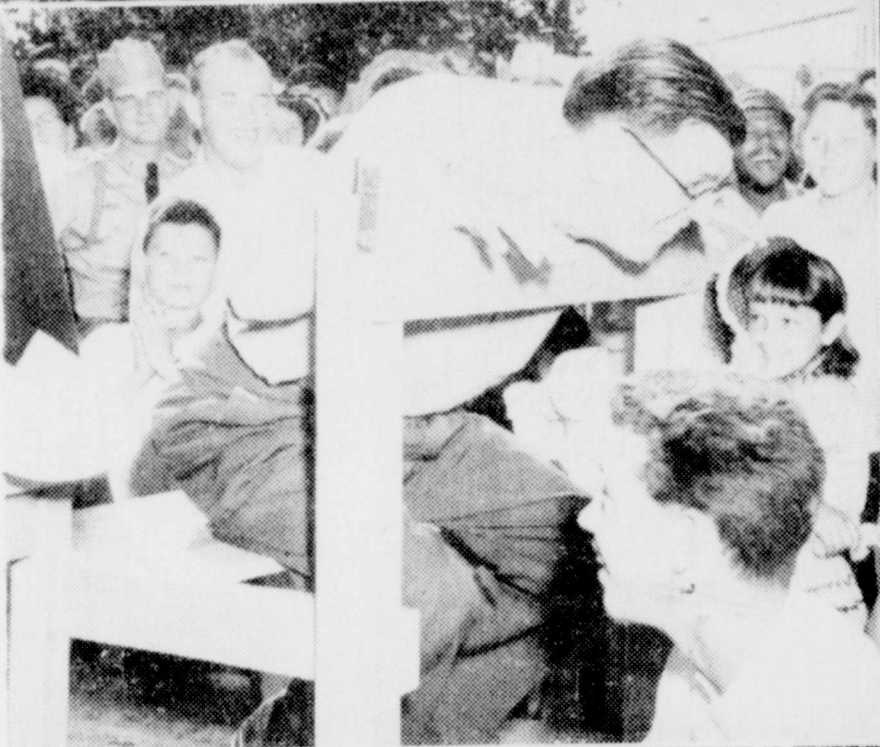
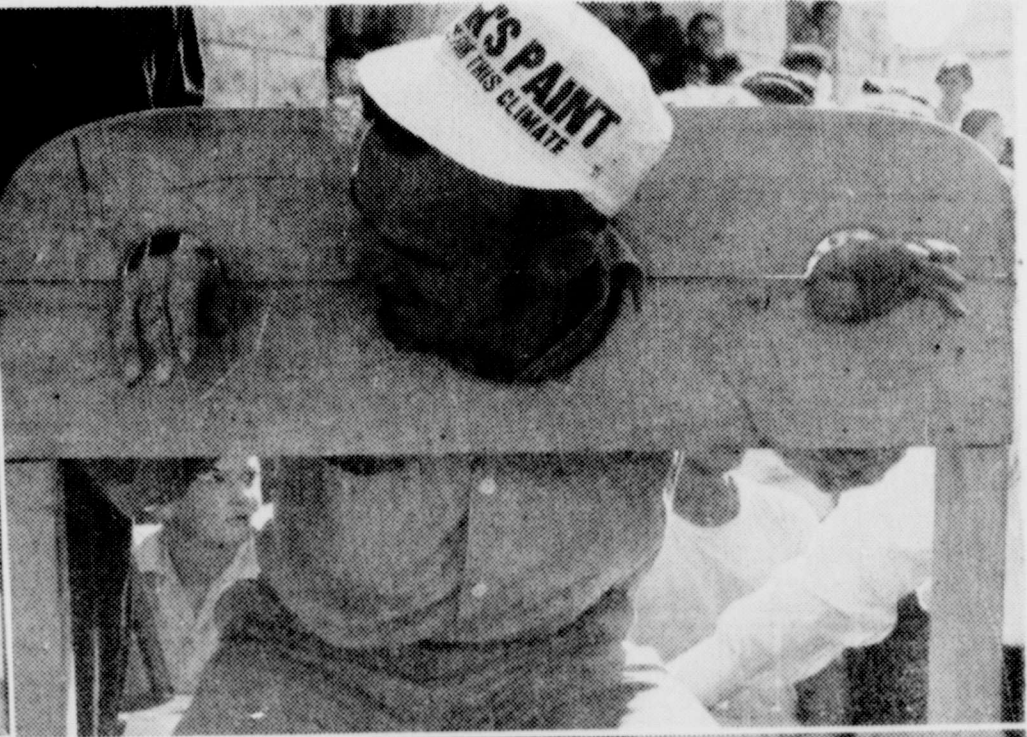


GUARANTY BANK

AND TRUST CO,
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

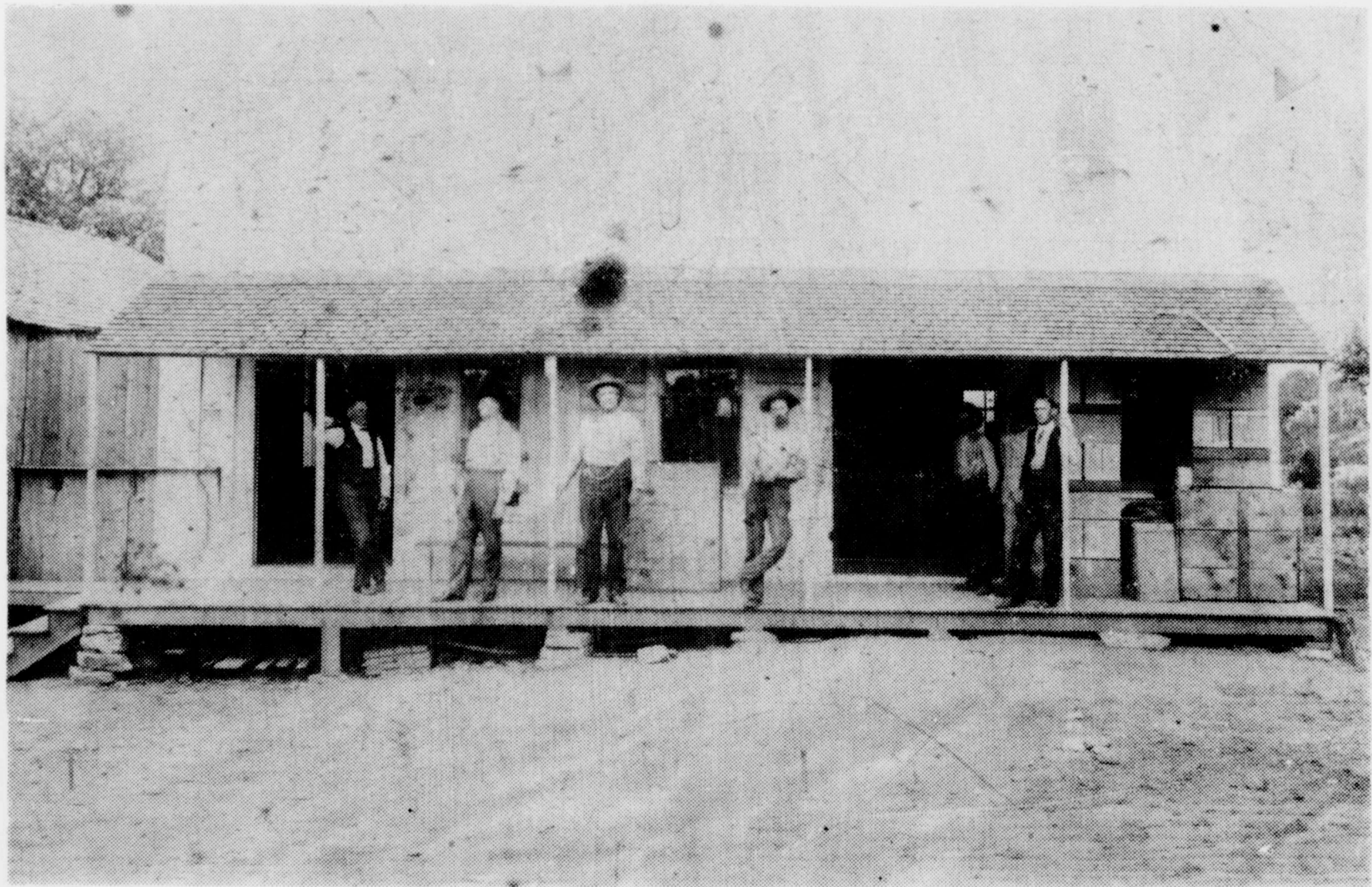
40 Years of Friendly Service

MEMBER F.D.I.C.





FIRST PEARL SCHOOL



MILE'S STORE, LEVITA

SINCE 1907

Morton Scott and Son

FURNITURE

Scott's Funeral Home

GATESVILLE, TEXAS



1906



1954

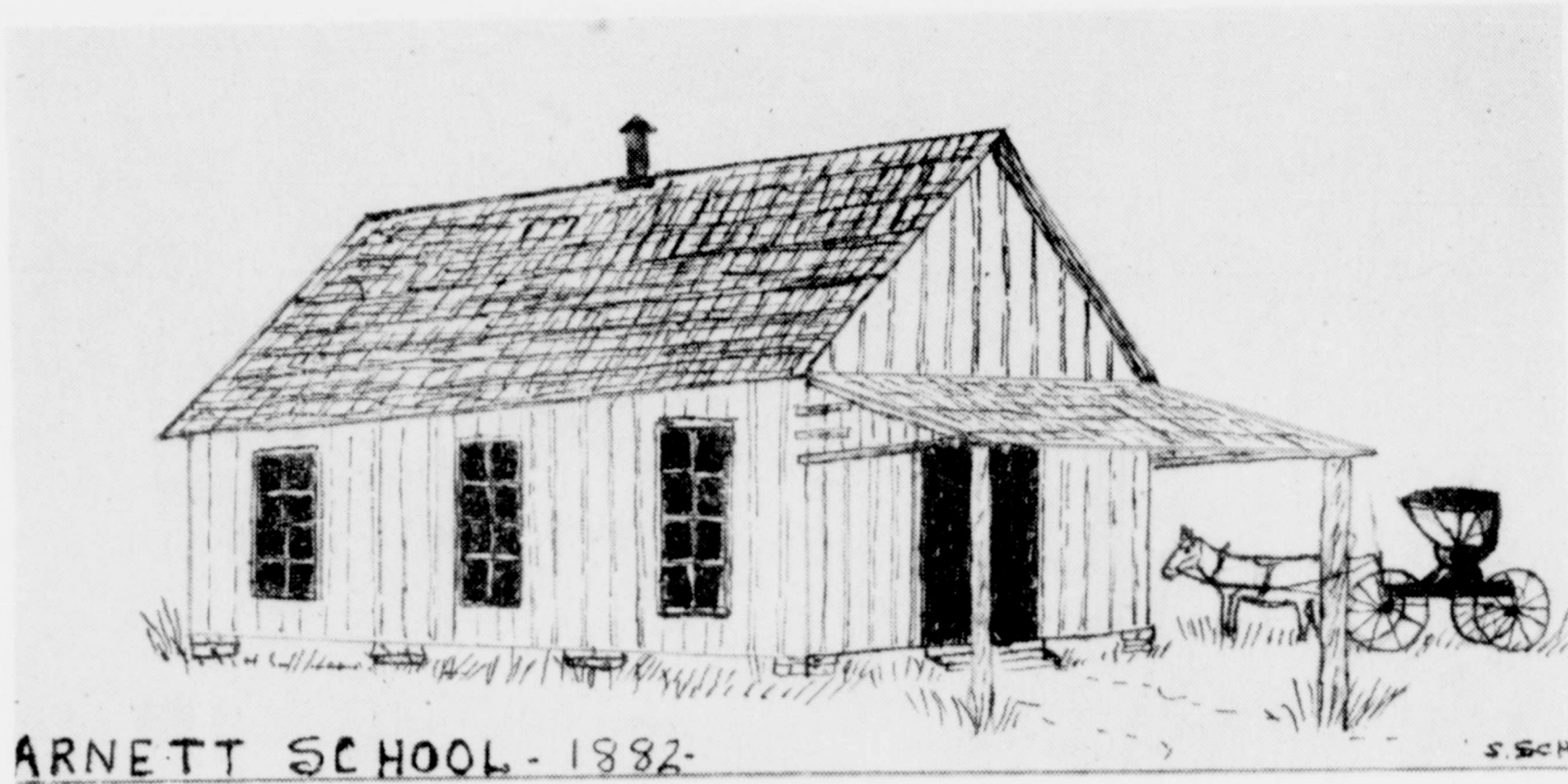
Miller Motor Co.

Telephone 59

Gatesville

Texas





ARNETT SCHOOL - 1882-



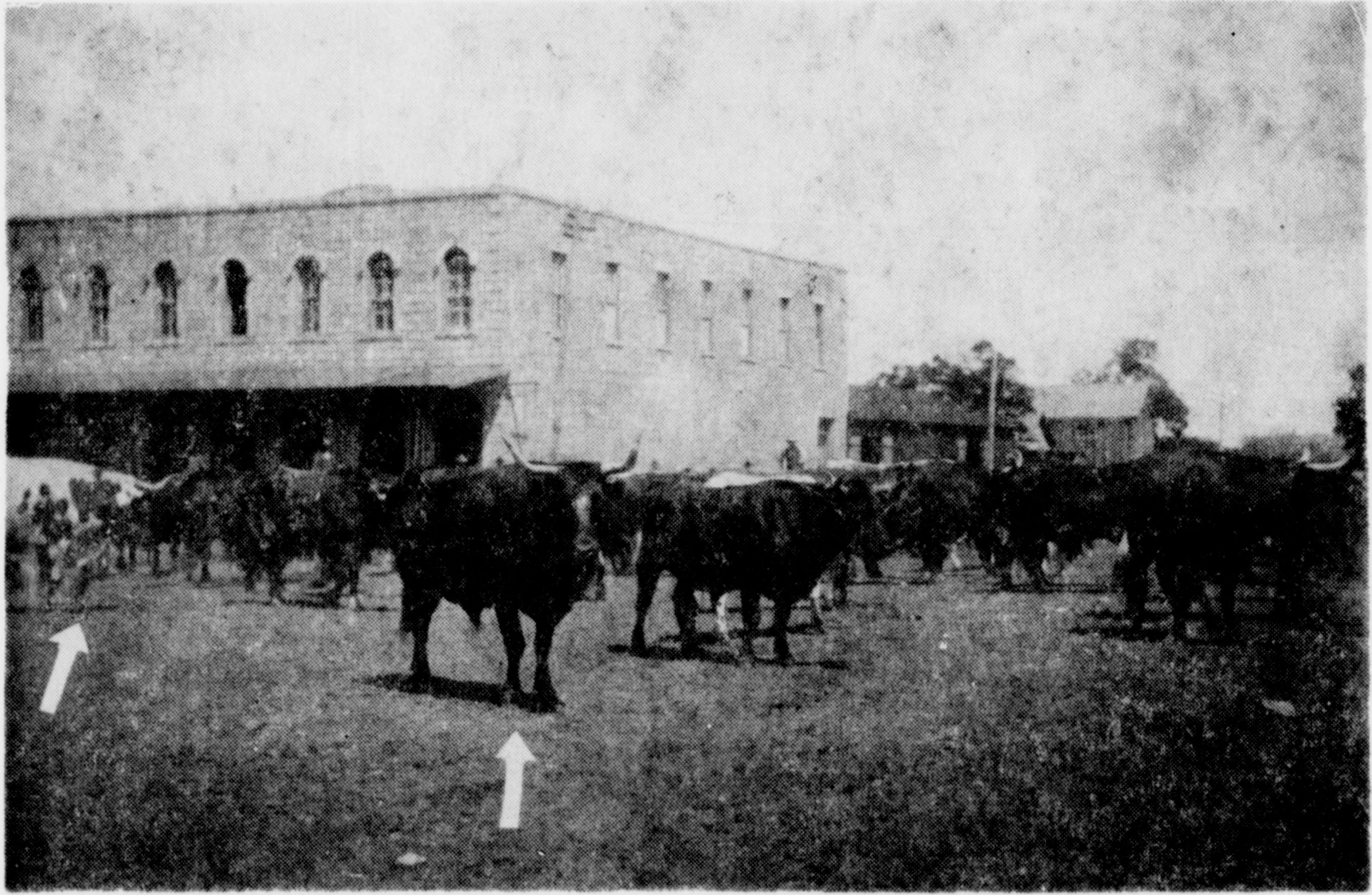
MUSIC CLASS, PURMELA



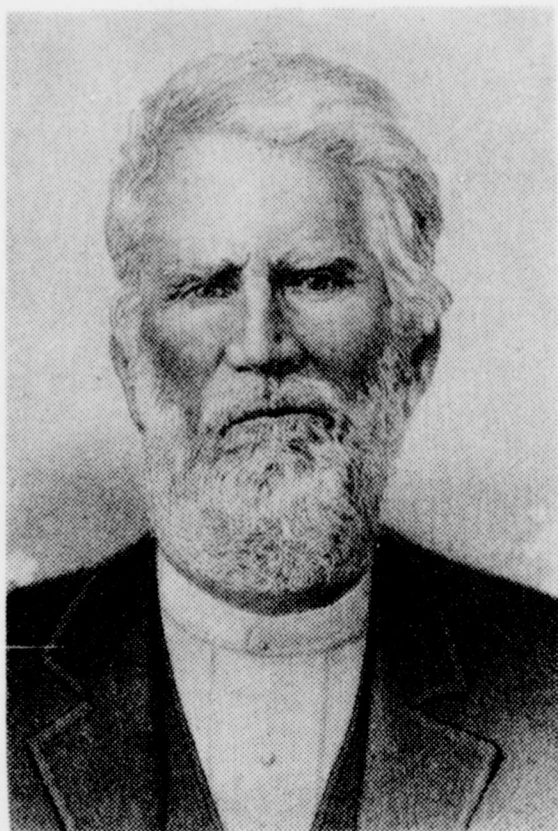
BANK, TURNERSVILLE



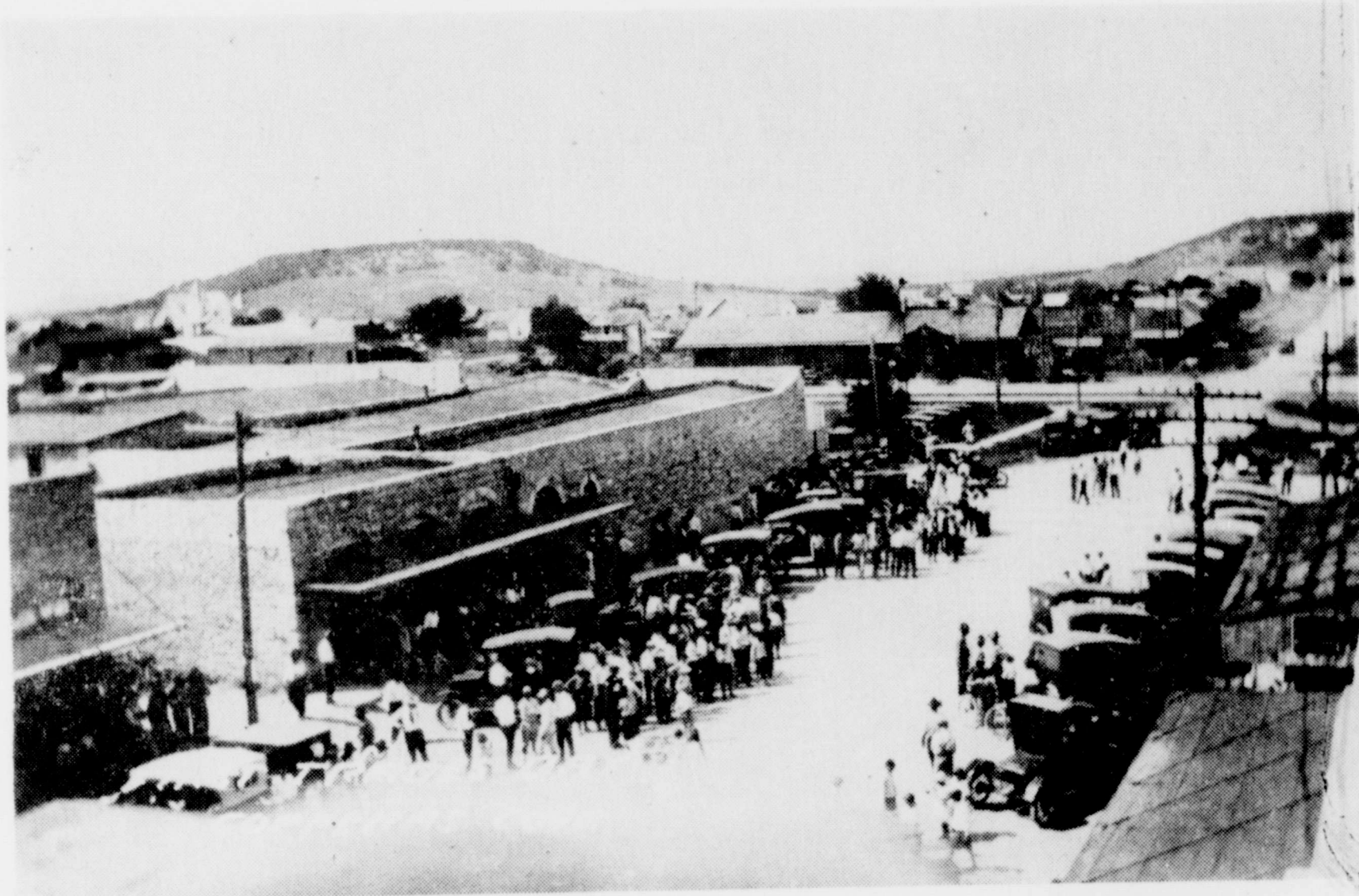
THE OLD SPRING, TURNERSVILLE—1903



1896—Lead steers of one of the last big drives through Gatesville. The two on the left turned the prairie sod into the Wm. Voss Farm.



Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Clements, founders of Copperas Cove, donated land for school, churches, right-of-way of railroad, and gave every other block to the Santa Fe to get a stop at the town.



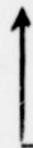
COPPERAS COVE WITH THE HILLS IN THE DISTANCE



COPPERAS COVE WHEN THE MODEL T REIGNED KING



EVANT, SNOW ON THE SQUARE MARCH 9, 1915



MAIN STREET EVANT IN THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

**GATESVILLE'S
OLDEST FLORIST**

MRS. J. B. GRAVES, FLORIST
"Since 1925" — Member F. T. D.

OLDEST OFFICE SUPPLIES:
JONES BOYS INC. LTD. AND SALLY MAUDE
Office Supplies
"Since 1937"

OLDEST TABLOID:
CORYELL COUNTY NEWS
Tuesday and Friday — All in Jones' Bldg.
705 Main — Phones 43 - 69

WALKER MOTORS, INC.

Phone 90 814 E. Main St.

LUKE WALKER

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

DESOTO

— PLYMOUTH

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR NEIGHBORS
IN
CORYELL COUNTY



MILLER



PRINTING COMPANY

120 S. FIRST ST.

TEMPLE, TEXAS

KCLW

900
on your
Dial

GATESVILLE STUDIOS



AL SCOTT, Mgr.

"Serving Coryell County"

Compliments of

HUCKABEE and WILLIAMS

(HUCK)

(BILL)

CORYELL CENTENNIAL

1854 — 1954

SHEPHERD MOTOR CO.

CHRYSLER and PLYMOUTH DEALER
SINCE 1927

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

W. E. POSTON COMPANY

"International Dealer"
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

EVANT, TEXAS

JIM MILLER ARMY STORE

From a Tooth Pick to a
Battleship

TOM V. FREEMAN

Insurance—Tax Consultant
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

JIM MARTIN'S CLEANERS

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

GORDON and ASHCRAFT

5c to \$1.00 Stores
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OGLESBY, TEXAS

Compliments of

DR. OTIS C. RAY

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

**PAT H. POTTS
PLUMBING**

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

DR. JAMES E. PFEFFER

OPTOMETRIST
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

JONES DRY CLEANERS

Doyle Jones
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

CINDERELLA BEAUTY SHOP

Bonnie Hamilton, Mgr.
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Coryell County

National Farm Loan Association

J. B. Roach, Sec'y.
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

LOYD F. GREEN

PLUMBING — HEATING

Residential

Commercial

FREEMAN PRINTING PLANT

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
OFFICE SUPPLIES

Byron E. Freeman Gatesville, Texas

**WESTERN AUTO
ASSO. STORE**

JOHN DURRETT, Owner
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Congratulations

TO

Gatesville and
Coryell County

From One of It's

OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS

The Gatesville Messenger
and Star-Forum

HOLT, EDWARDS and POST

PAT HOLT
Publisher

STERLING EDWARDS
Superintendent

JOHN F. POST
Editor

Member:

Audit Bureau of Circulations
National Editorial Association
Texas Press Association



1951

THERE HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN
QUEENS AND
DANCERS IN CORYELL

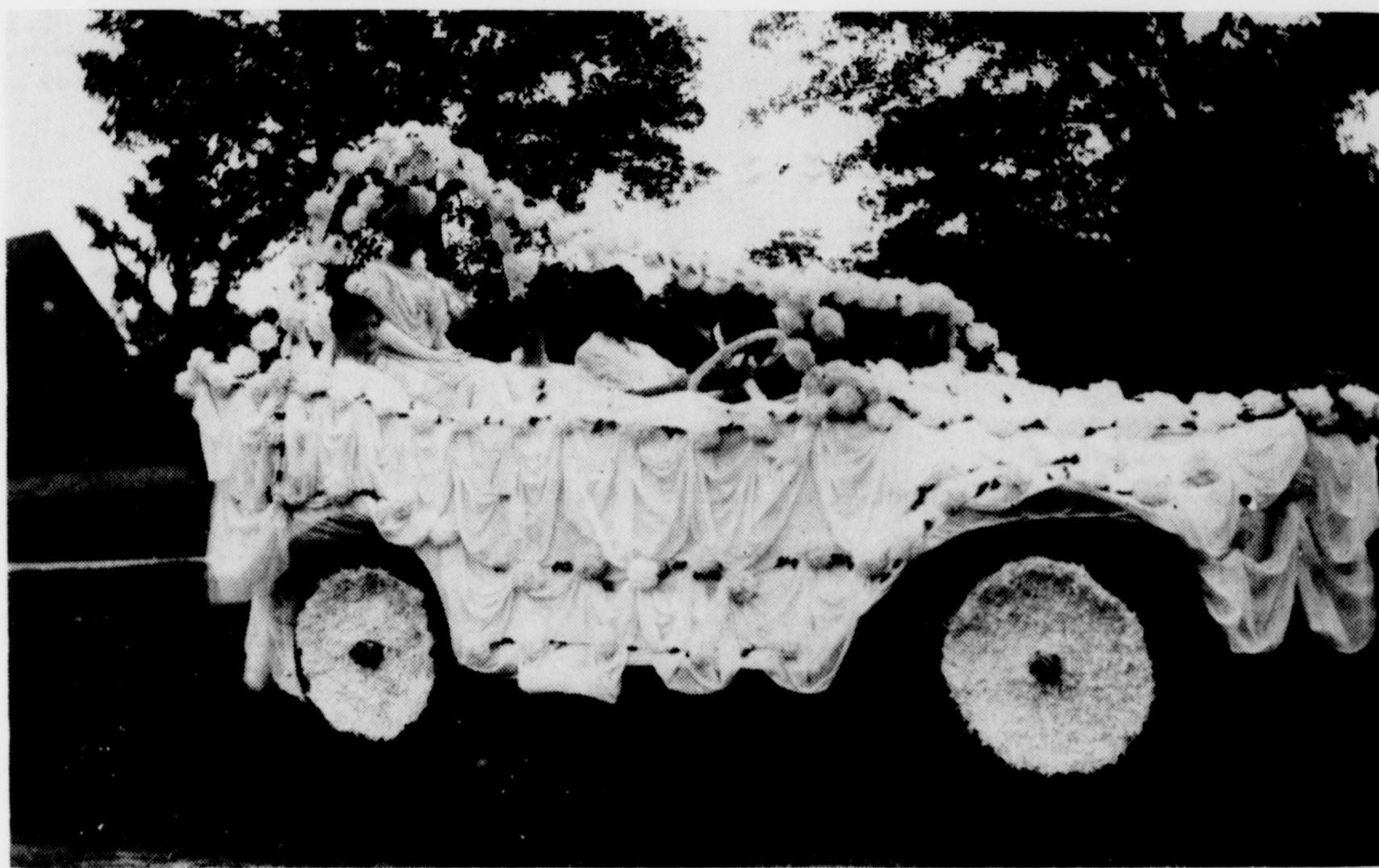


1896



1907





1911



1909



1954

The Coryell County Centennial Association *pro*

"THE CORYELL

Fireman's Rodeo Arena

A John B. Rogers Production

The Prologue

A brilliant scene in which our Centennial Queen welcomes visitors from every corner of the nation. Surrounded by beautiful ladies in her court.....The Queen's Cadets—Sailorettes.....The Mounted Guard of Honor, she greets representatives from the forty-eight States.

This Is Coryell County

A salute to the pioneers of Coryell County who with flashing axes felled the growths of timber in order to found a settlement in the new land of promise.

The Land Of The Red Man

Beneath the tall trees of Coryell County the Indians paused in their meandering to camp and hunt. Here they prayed for fertility, danced to propitiate their Gods and carry on their family life.

Our Territory Is Surveyed

In 1822, there came to the western part of the county a surveying party, seeking to survey the area. In 1835 another party came here from the East. When James Coryell saw the level valley known as Martin Farm, he was struck by its beauty and it was here that he wanted to make his home.

Fort Gates Protects The Frontier

After Texas gained her Independence from Mexico, and became a part of the United States, a Fort was established about five miles East of what is now Gatesville. Soon after the Fort was established, the soldiers routed the Indians in a brief but fierce battle.

Hugh Sheridan — Sentinel

The routing of the Indians accomplished; soldiers left for other parts of the frontier, leaving Hugh Sheridan in charge of the property. He soon wrote his childhood sweetheart and asked if she would join him in his new found home in Texas.

The First Settlers

The early settlers of Coryell County faced many hardships. There was always time to welcome the wagon trains and to be host to the newcomers to the territory. All was not work in these times. After the chores the folks all enjoyed a good old-fashioned hoe-down.

One Hundred Years Ago

It was just one hundred years ago in our State Capitol, that the state assembly decided to call this land around the Leon and the Cowhouse rivers Coryell County.

Remember The Sabbath

When the first settlers came to this land they brought not only their determination and courage, but another priceless gift, their faith in God. The first Religious Services were conducted by circuit riding preachers, who came to this area several times a month.

roudly presents the Dramatic Historical Spectacle

CENTURAMA

May 6-7-8, 1954, 8:15 p.m.

Directed by Alfred H. Srnka

Dawn of Education

As the Area started to increase in population, education became a subject of great consideration to the people of Coryell County. From the crude surroundings of a simple beginning to the fine systems of schools today, Coryell County has rapidly progressed in its march toward a higher educational standard.

War Between The States

Event followed event. The Southern States seceded from the Union one by one. A frontier regiment was organized in this section and had its headquarters in Gatesville.

The Days of Reconstruction

From 1865 to about 1880 a state of lawlessness prevailed in the Southern states. Ruffians and rustlers took the law in their own hands. Mob violence ruled. But Coryell County had been settled by men who believed in law and order and they soon put a stop to all this crime.....

The Coming of the Iron Horse

The first train arrives.....two ribbons of steel now bind Coryell County with the rest of the nation.

Bikes, Bustles and Mustaches

The Tandem bike, trips up the river and, of course, the "Belles of 1890's". All good fun, and reminiscent of the days when Grandma was in her teens.

For the Cause of Democracy

The year was 1914 and again the people of Coryell County heard the troubling sounds of war in the making. The climax came in 1917 when the Lusitania was sunk and the United States entered the war.

The Roaring Twenties

It was the age of "Yes We Have no Bananas", Plus Fours and the Flappers. A dance sensation hit the nation and everyone in Coryell County was doing the Charleston.

The Evacuation of the County

On the 26th of February, General A. D. Bruce, in a few stirring words, told the people of Coryell County that the government must have the use of their land for the training of our young men. Words cannot describe the way the people reacted.

Seige For Freedom

With the startling news that came to the United States on the quiet afternoon of December 7, 1941, war came to the United States for a 2nd time in a generation.

The Parade of Years

Coryell County honors the early cattlemen of the county. The cattlemen whose brands are familiar on the range; and have been familiar since the first brave pioneer came to this area to make his home.

Finale

A spectacular final picture featuring the entire cast of this Centurama.....So proudly we hail.....Coryell's Second Century.



GATESVILLE—1876—NORTHSIDE OF THE SQUARE



GATESVILLE—1907—LOOKING NORTHEAST ON THE SQUARE



GATESVILLE—LOOKING NORTHWEST ON THE SQUARE



GATESVILLE—1954—LOOKING NORTHEAST ON THE SQUARE

MEEKS
CAFE & CAFETERIA

L. D. MEEKS

Serving You Since 1931

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

ALVIS - GARNER CO.

The Dependable Store

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

MURRAY'S FOOD
MARKET

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

R. E. POWELL CO.
HARDWARE

Farm and Home Supplies
Electrical Supplies

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

CONGRATULATIONS

To a Grand Old Town on Her 100th Birthday

Ward, Cummings & Thomson

(ROBERT)

(ERNEST)

(LOUIS)

All Kinds of INSURANCE and LOANS

Compliments of

GATESVILLE SAVINGS and LOAN ASSN.

HOME LOANS

3 PER CENT ON SAVINGS

Gatesville, Texas

**JONES - BRADFORD
MOTOR CO.**

Sales — BUICK — Service

E. W. Jones, Jr.

John Bradford

THANKS

For the privilege of
serving you for a

QUARTER OF A CENTURY

Wm. CAMERON & CO.

Home of Complete Building Service

901 E. Main St.

Telephone 15

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

FRANK BATES, JR., Mgr.

PERRY BROS.

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Howard Franks

Manager

POWELL CHEVROLET CO.

Sales and Service

Phone 44

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

**BROWN & CHAMBERS
GROCERY**

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

H. N. Brown

B. E. Chambers

**HORACE JACKSON
INSURANCE**

LOANS

AUTO

Phone 20

Horace Jackson, Sr.

Horace Jackson, Jr.

Brief Summary

of the

History of Coryell County

Many romantic stories have been told of roving French and Spanish explorers, of silver mines and buried treasure in this area, but the recorded history of Coryell County began in 1822. We were then technically a part of the State of Coahuila, Mexico, but this was in truth and fact the Red Man's country, the home of the Tonkawa and Commanche Indians. The Tonkawas were a peaceful tribe but the Commanches were a cruel and warring people. Buffalo, deer, wild hogs, coyotes, and their like roamed these hills and valleys. Since there was plenty of rain in that age, the grass grew very tall, and the streams flowed full fed by the many springs that gushed forth in the area.

In 1822, there came into the western part of the county on the "waters of the Cowhouse and Bee House" a surveying party under the leadership of David Snively and F. Thompson. As they surveyed the land these men marveled at the beauty of the country and took back with them to San Antonio glowing accounts of it. Some claims were registered with the Mexican Government but the land was not occupied by the white man.

In 1834 and 1835, another surveying party came into the county on the opposite side. It was headed by Capt. Geo. B. Erath and they surveyed the land located in and around the Leon River and what is now known as Coryell Creek. With this party was a young man by the name of **James Coryell**. He was unmarried and had originally come from Ohio, but had gone from there to Tennessee to join a group of colonist coming to Texas. He met up with James Bowie, and they became great friends and together had explored many regions of the state, but when James Coryell saw the level valley now known as the Martin Farm, he was struck by its peculiar beauty. It nestled at the foot of the hills between two streams, the Leon and what became Coryell Creek, and he immediately knew that this was the place where he wanted to build his home. He surveyed his own headright of land of 1,280 acres, but James Coryell was never to build the home of his dreams there. In other parts of Texas, free and liberty loving men were beginning to rise up against the tyranny of Mexico and he went to fight for the cause of liberty. In the distance, there was heard the echo of the massacre of Goliad, the fall of the Alamo, and the victory at San Jacinto; but, before James Coryell could get out of uniform and back to his chosen land, his life was snuffed out by an Indian arrow at Fort Milam on the Brazos. He and some of his soldier companions had

found a bee tree and had cut it down to get the honey. While they were busy at this, they were attacked by the Indians. Coryell told the others to run and he stood and drew the fire while the others escaped. He was killed and scalped. He was buried near an old slave cemetery and the story is told that the huge pile of stones on the grave were placed there by the negro slaves to "Keep Mr. Jim's restless spirit down", because they knew of his longing to get back to his chosen spot on the Leon.

Texas was now an independent nation under the Lone Star flag and many claims had been registered for land in this area by men who had never seen their land but relied upon the earlier surveys. Here and there venturesome colonists had drifted in but the Commanche Indians had swept down on them, stole their stock, and killed the colonists. The country was so sparsely settled that history has not preserved for us the names of the men and women whose blood stained our soil during this early period; but, as soon as Texas became a part of the United States of America and the Stars and Bars were raised, action was taken to stop the Indian attacks. On October 26, 1849, at the close of the Mexican War, two companies of the Eighth Infantry under Brevet. Colonel W. R. Montgomery were sent to a point north of the Leon River about five miles east of what is now Gatesville to establish a fort to protect this frontier. This fortification was a part of a chain that reached from the Rio Grande to the Red River. It was called Fort Gates after Major G. R. Gates of the Fourth U. S. Infantry. It was not long before the soldiers and the Indians met and a humiliating defeat was inflicted upon the Commanches. The price that the soldiers paid is represented by two unmarked graves down by the railroad track near the old fort. The troops slowly drove the Indians farther and farther west. The last officer in charge of the camp was Lt. Horce Haldeman. In 1852, the soldiers were transferred to Phantom Hill and one of the troops, Hugh Sheridan by name, was left in charge of the government property. A romantic story is told of how Sheridan was born in Ireland and came to America about 1847, leaving behind him a beautiful Irish sweetheart. While at Fort Gates, he wrote her a letter telling her of the beauty of this country and asking her if she would like to come over here to live. To his amazement, with the pluck and daring of an Irish maid, she wrote back that she would sail for Galveston immediately. He met her there, they were married, and drove back to Fort Gates in an old fashioned buckboard. We imagine that in that lonely

HISTORY OF CORYELL COUNTY (Continued)

army outpost Elizabeth Sheridan created a great sensation. Sheridan bought the land adjoining the Fort and today his grandson tends the unmarked graves of the soldiers.

"Wagon Wheels, Wagon Wheels, rolling along singing their song" toward Coryell. On foot, on horseback, and in wagons the settlers came with a mere handful of possessions but with hearts strong and true and a fixed determination to change this country into the land of the free and the home of the brave. Mills and trading posts sprang up, but there were no schools or church houses. The Bible was read at the family altar; and if there were any A-B-C's taught at all, they were taught at the mother's knee.

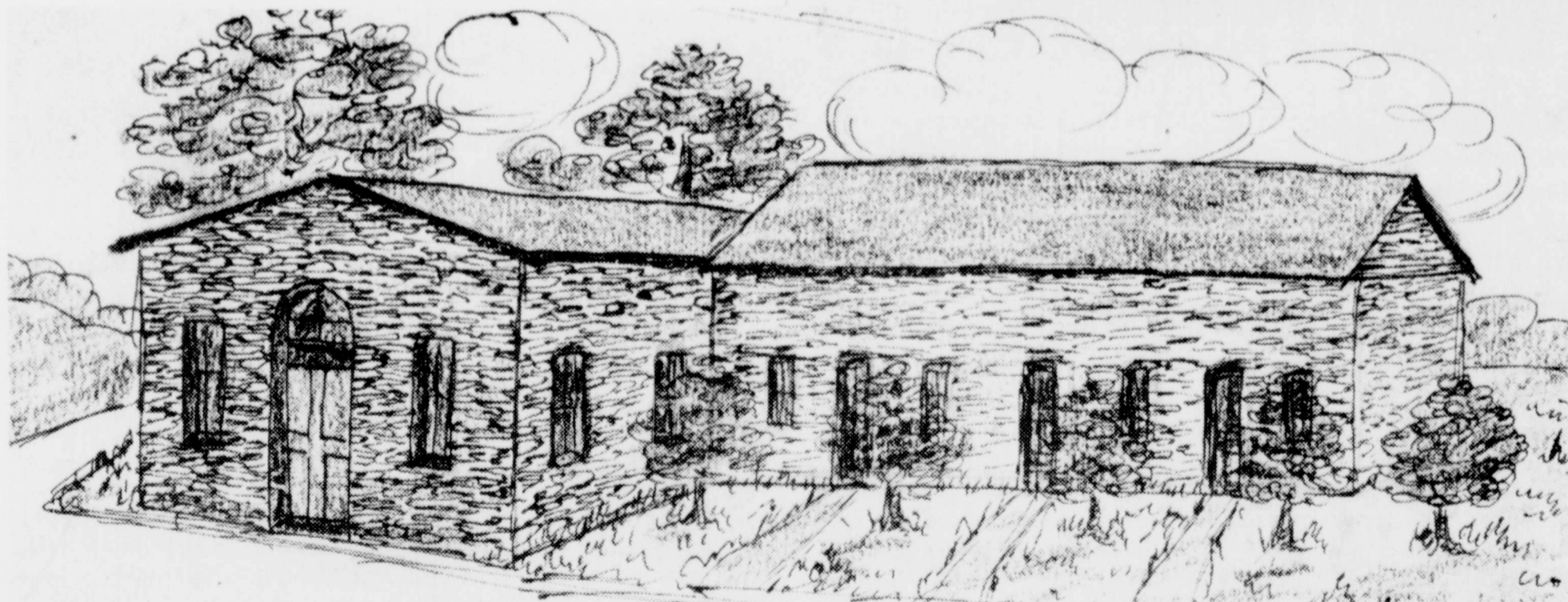
By the latter part of 1853, there were a number of people in Coryell County, and led by O. T. Tyler, a resident of the Mound community, they began to talk about organizing a county. Previous to that time we had been a part of first Milam County and then Bell. In February 1854, the Legislature authorized the creation of the new county. Pierce was the name originally proposed for it but, after a last minute dramatic appeal, it was changed to Coryell in honor of the young soldier hero who had roamed all over Texas and then chose this place for his home because he thought it was the most beautiful spot that he had ever seen.

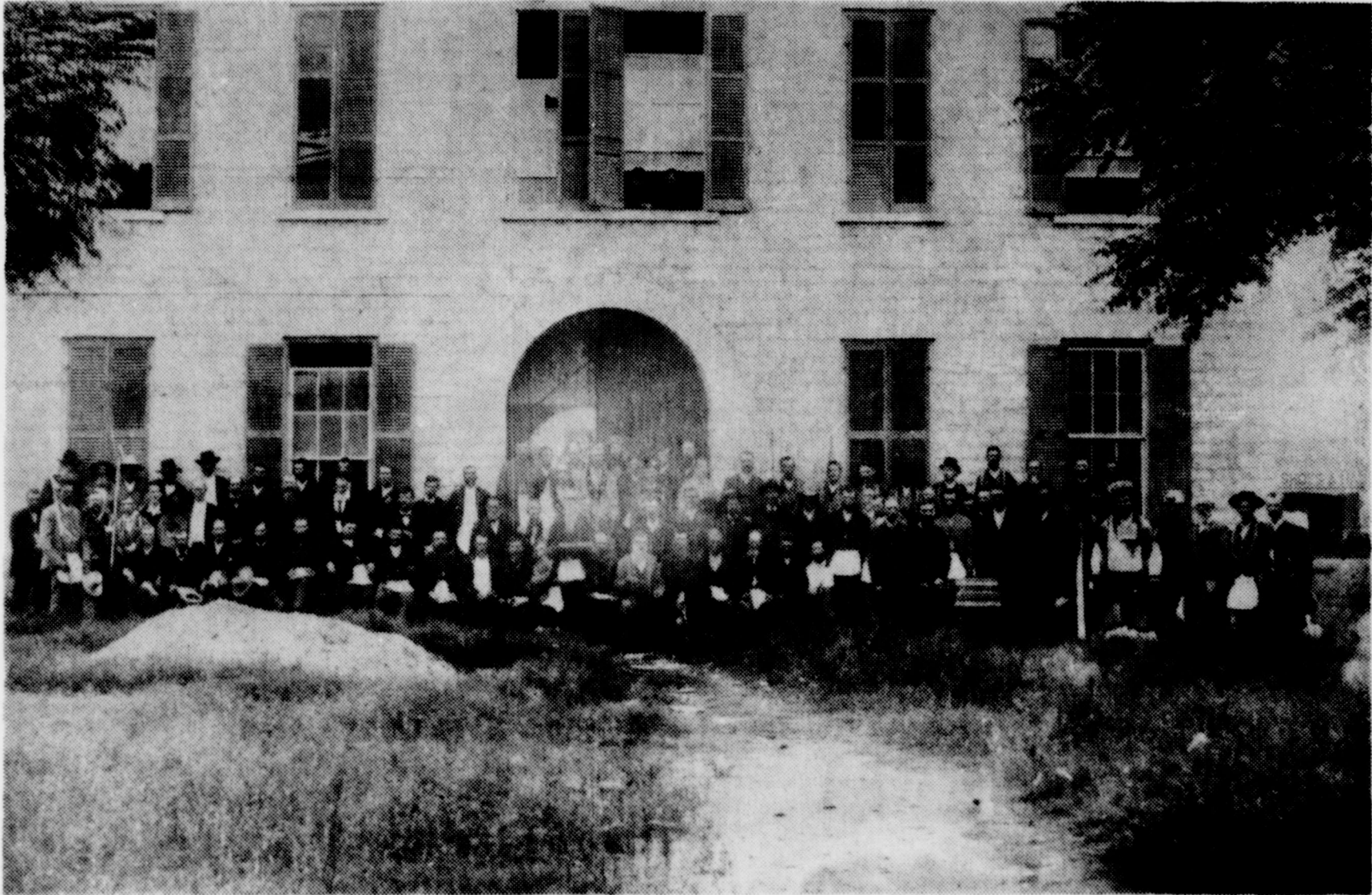
On the 15th day of March 1854, the county was organized at Fort Gates with the following officers: O. T. Tyler, County Judge; John C. Russell, County Clerk; T. B. Pollard, District Clerk; John Turney, Sheriff; David R. Franks, Collector and Assessor; John L. Montgomery, Thomas Tremier, James Hicks and Abram Flannery, Commissioners; Samuel Moore, Treasurer; Samuel Carsons and Thomas Caufield, Justice of the Peace; and John P. Clayton, Constable. At the same time, a committee was appointed to select three sites suitable for a county site. On the 27th day of May an election was held and the site on the east bank of the Leon River at Grant's Mill was chosen. Richard Grant, a very wealthy man, had offered to donate the streets, the courthouse square, the land for a cemetery and \$2,000. The town was called Gatesville after Fort Gates and literally means "Village of Gates". On the 17th day of June, the county records

were moved to a small building rented from Grant and located where the W. T. Hix store now stands.

The month of June, 1854, was eventful in the life of the people of Coryell County for another reason. Some time in that month the first church was established in the county. It was organized by the Baptists at Coryell Church and Rev. John Clabaugh was the first minister. Two years later, he also organized the Baptist Church in Gatesville.

The 3rd day of November, 1854, was another very eventful day for Coryell County. Late in the afternoon of that day, there arrived in Fort Gates an oxdrawn covered wagon carrying a family whose influence on the town of Gatesville was to be of great importance. Three days later they moved on to Gatesville. In that wagon were R. B. Wells and his wife, Mary Fisher Wells. On the 7th day of November, 1854, in the little building used for the courthouse, Rev. Wells preached the first sermon ever preached in Gatesville and began the organization of a Methodist Church. In her log cabin where Wells Park Addition now is, Mary Wells taught the first Sunday School in Gatesville. It was a union Sunday School. In that same log cabin the first school in the county was taught. The school was a private one, and Mary Wells was its teacher. R. B. Wells had been educated as a





MASONIC LODGE IN FRONT OF OLD COURTHOUSE

HISTORY OF CORYELL COUNTY (Continued)

lawyer, but he also edited the *Frontiersman*, the first newspaper published in Coryell County. On January 23, 1857, he helped organize the Masonic Lodge. In all periods of our history, the Masonic Lodge has been a very potent organization; but, in this early day period, its importance was magnified by the fact that Masonry fostered and encouraged public schools and in some cases even supported them. The first officers were as follows: J. H. Collard, Worshipful Master; J. A. Haynes, Junior Warden; Thos H. Robertson, Treasurer; R. B. Wells, Secretary; and F. W. Lutterloh, Junior Decon.

On May 23rd, 1860, the first piece of land in Coryell County to be dedicated to the worship of God was deeded to the Methodist Church in Gatesville and became a worship place for any and all denominations that desired to use it. M. A. Britain gave the property and the improvements on it to the church. It was located where the ice plant and the frozen food locker now are. Today, almost a hundred years later, a portion of the wall of the old church still stands and forms a part of the walls of the ice plant. Legend tells us that beginning with 1856, there was a school house in Gatesville and some other schools in the county, and we know there were several private schools, but the County Records do not reveal where these schools were located. However, there is recorded a lease contract between the trustees of the Gatesville Public School and the Trustees of the Methodist Church whereby the Britain property was leased for school purposes through the week and reserved for church pur-

poses on Saturdays and Sundays. A wing was added to the original building and it served as a church house for all dominations on Saturdays and Sunday and a school house during the weekdays, thereby becoming the first officially located school in Gatesville.

The ministers who served the early rural churches traveled from church to church on horseback, carrying a Bible, tuning fork, and their own hymn book, oftentimes handwritten. They sometimes traveled as far as one hundred miles in this manner. Rev J. W. Shook of the Methodist Church and Rev. John McClain of the Baptist were typical Circuit Riders.

While the County Records do not tell us where they taught, they do give us the names of the teachers in the county in 1856 and their annual salaries. They were as follows:

John Armstrong.....	\$98.65	Elizabeth Chisam \$	55.79
T. B. Pollard.....	20.00	I. C. Smith.....	113.62
Elizabeth Morris....	54.69	Laurena Shook....	66.87
B. F. Bell.....	70.47	Sarah Wilson.....	90.01

By 1857, the number of teachers had grown to 26 and the budget to \$1,888.84. In 1883, the present site of the Gatesville High School was deeded to T. L. Crow. The Board of Trustees of the Public School furnished the money and he agreed to build thereon a first class building to be used for School purposes. The school was known as Central Texas Institute and some of the popular

HISTORY OF CORYELL COUNTY (Continued)

teachers of the school were Prof. T. L. Crow, Frank Crow, Miss Virginia Culberson, and Miss Jennie Anderson. August 21st, 1888, the property was deeded to the trustees of the public school for \$3,590. The story of the development of each of the schools of the county is full of romance and sacrifice. At Jonesboro at a very early period was located one of the colleges of Central Texas.

While the Indians had been driven out of this section by the soldiers at Fort Gates, yet their depredations did not cease until 1871. From time to time they came back killing the settlers, stealing their stock, and creating fear throughout the area. Some of the raids were led by white men. In 1871, Gen. McKenzie, with the aid of the Tonkawa scouts, drove the Comanches to the High Plains and the depredations ceased, but not before Mr. Williamson, Brown, Pierce, Rev. Griffity, and others had lost their lives. An interesting story is told of Jeff Fore who came to Coryell County from Kentucky bringing with him some thoroughbred racing stock. One mare was his special pride and joy, but one night there was an Indian raid. The mare was taken, but she left behind a yearling colt. About a year later, Fore and a negro were out in Stampede Valley rounding up some stock when they saw a bunch of Indians coming in the distance. They decided to run. Fore knew that the negro was on a good horse, and since he was riding the newly broken colt, he felt safe because he knew that there was good blood in him. Suddenly there shot out from among the Indians a horse that was coming like a blue streak. Fore spurred his own horse and urged him forward but, realizing that he was running a losing race, he finally turned and fired a shot. The Indian fell to the ground but the horse came on like a streak of lightning. It was not until he heard a whinney that he realized that it was the mare coming home to her master and her foal. In this same region John M. Perryman was attacked by the Indians but managed to escape. The Indians got his horse and saddle and his hat and danced a war-dance over the hat because they thought it was a prize trophy.

Gatesville and Coryell County were developing fast when the Civil War broke out. We were too far removed from the real conflict to know the meaning of the suffering that it brought to some, but we furnished our share of men also suffered many privations and hardships. A frontier regiment under Col. J. M. Norris and Maj. Geo. B. Erath was organized in this section and had its headquarters in Gatesville.

Just as in other sections of the South, the period following the Civil War was a lawless one, but it took a different form here. The range was an open one, barbed wire was unknown, and cattle rustling became a flourishing industry. The County unwittingly encouraged it. During the Civil War, a great number of cattle that were not branded had grown up on the open range. The County authorized the branding of these animals and the payment to the county of a certain amount for each. This was to be used for the support of the widows and orphans of the Confederate soldiers, but it gave to the lawless an opportunity to brand cattle that they never paid for and also to unscrupulously brand other people's stock. The cattle problem was further increased by the fact that one of the Feeder Routes of the Chisolm Trail

led across Coryell County. The Chisolm Trail was not a road as we know it today, but was a strip of land with sufficient water and grass to graze a large herd of cattle across. The one crossing Coryell entered in the region of Eagle Springs, crossed the Leon River in the vicinity of Straws Mill, and continued out via Lone Mountain and the Plainview Community to the Pearl and Evant country. Local officers were unable to cope with the problem as is shown by the fact that there were seven different sheriffs during this ten year period. Cattlemen began to ride the range with a shotgun tied to the horn of the saddle or a six shooter on their hips. They themselves became the guardians of the law; and, as always happens in such cases, justice was not always administered. It was not an unusual thing to hear of a man being found hung to a Live Oak limb. But Coryell County had been settled by men who believed in law and order and this state of confusion was soon again directed into law abiding, progress making channels.

The period from 1870 to 1882 transformed Coryell County from a disorganized struggling county into an organized progressive one. In 1872, a first class Court House was built and a few years later a jail. Gatesville was incorporated August 2nd, 1870. In August 1870, a new free school law was passed and this gave an impetus to schools over the county. The Commissioners Court set up new school districts and provided for the election of trustees in them. Hand in hand with the developing schools went the churches. Other denominations organized and many churches were built; but the most important thing that happened, in so far as it immediately affected the life of the county, was the coming of the railroads.

Previous to their coming, transportation was a tremendous problem. All supplies were hauled in by wagon train, most of them coming from Calvert, Bryan and Galveston, and all travel was by stage coach. Mrs. A. D. Honeycut tells how the townspeople gathered in front of the old Town Hotel, which stood where the Powell Supply Company now is, and waited for the arrival of the stage each afternoon. The stage coach was operated by a Mr. Smallwood Fields and its arrival was about the most exciting thing in the day's program. So you can imagine how important it was to these people when railroads were built into the county.

In 1882, the St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company ran a spur line into Gatesville. It was only a single gauge track at first, but meant speedy contact with the outside world, and the rapid growth and development of Coryell County. The celebration that heralded its coming was never to be forgotten by old-timers. Something that we of this generation also need to remember is that these early settlers with little income or resources went down into their pockets and laid down \$30,000.00 in cash to secure that railroad. A few years later the Santa Fe crossed the southwest corner of the county and Copperas Cove came into prominence. Copperas Cove owes its existence at its present location to J. H. Clements. He owned the tract of land upon which it is built and gave every other block of it to the railroad to get a stop there.

Other big factors that influenced the development of this period was the introduction of well drills and barbed

HISTORY OF CORYELL COUNTY (Continued)

wire. These enabled the pioneers to get away from the streams and springs and opened up some of our most productive land. The first barbed wire fence in Coryell County was built by Wm. Voss on his farm near Arnett. The first gin had been built just before the Civil War. The machinery was operated by horses and had a maximum capacity of 4 bales per day.

The coming of the railroad was like a blood transfusion to both Gatesville and all of the rural areas. It was a boom period for all. A number of new business houses in Gatesville and the smaller towns of the county were built. Oglesby, Evant, Turnersville, Copperas Cove, The Grove, Coryell City and many other sections prospered. A lot of good homes were built in Gatesville and many in rural districts.

The only case of capital punishment ever assessed by a jury in Coryell County was assessed during this period. Leeper and Powell were hanged for highway robbery and murder.

Along with all of the prosperity of this era came much gaiety and fun. One of the outstanding evidences of this was the annual fair that was held at the old fair ground west of Gatesville. There was not only competition for the best stock in the county, but both men and women competed for prizes for riding and driving, and there were many hot horse races run, and a few fist fights slung. Those fairs were a gala occasion. Tournament riding was a favorite sport and to the winner went the honor of crowning the queen. Every community had its own tournament track, so the fair contestants were highly skilled, because tournament racing was the usual Saturday and Sunday afternoon sport for the young men.

For the more cultured, the old opera house that stood between Pat Potts' shop and Dr. Ray's building offered diversion. Whether it was East Lynn, a high soprano, or a deep baritone, they always found a very enthusiastic audience. This was the heyday of the Chataqua Programs and each year the elite of Gatesville were both entertained and educated by the performances and lectures at the Opera House.

Some have called the years 1900 to 1920 the consolidation period for the growth of Gatesville and Coryell County. That of the county was a growth of its agricultural economy and its schools. In Gatesville, running water, bath tubs, electric lights, and telephones came into common use. In 1891, artesian water had been discovered in Gatesville and later a private company was organized to distribute it and water lines were run to the more prosperous areas of the town. Previous to this, water had been supplied by cisterns, shallow wells, and from the river. As late as 1910, there was one street light in Gatesville and Main Street was as crooked as a cow's trail; but before the next ten years had elapsed, Gatesville was well lighted, Main Street had been straightened, the side walks had been built, a sewer system had been constructed, a new high school built, additional school grounds added, a city park acquired, part of it donated

by Mrs. J. R. Raby, the City owned its own water system, and the citizens were beginning to talk about better highways and paving.

Many consider 1913 as one of the most outstanding years in the history of the county, for it was in that year that prohibition was voted and the sale of liquor was outlawed. The history of John Barley Corn belongs to no certain era, because it belongs to the entire history of the county, arising at the beginning and still discussed at the present time. Before any churches or schools were in Coryell County, there were whiskey stills. Richard Grant, the man who donated the land for the streets and public square in Gatesville, operated a still house on the branch north of town and a grist mill where the branch runs into the river. It is told that the farmers would bring in their corn, carry part of it to the still house and exchange it for corn liquor, then carry the other down the stream to the grist mill and exchange it for meal. The story is also recorded that when the first sale of lots was put on in Gatesville, Grant placed under an oak tree on what is now the Court House lawn, three barrels—one of water, one of sugar, and one of whiskey, also some gourds and tin cups. Every man was invited to mix his drinks as he pleased. The record further states that "At the close of the day, there was not a drunk man on the ground." So there must have been present men who were later to become school trustees, church officials, and county officers who would lead the fight for prohibition, and that fight was waged for a long time and frequently. An examination of the records of Coryell County will show that there were very few years that some kind of local option election was not held, either in some precinct or in the county itself. A number of times prohibition carried just to be overthrown a short time later; but in 1913 John Barley Corn was run out of Coryell County and has never been able to slip back in. Much credit for his demise is due the teachers, the preachers, and the women of the county, as well as to the faithful men who led the political fight and took part in the campaign.

One of the big occasions each year was what was known as "The Reunion", a two or three day celebration honoring the Confederate Veterans. Huge crowds assembled and some of the most prominent men in the state were used as speakers. Joe Bailey was one of the favorite orators and most disputed characters, for men firmly contended for their political views in those days. The Cotton Belt always ran an excursion train and huge crowds came to Gatesville.

This was an important period to the schools too, because much progress was made in public education and it was in this period that a regular organized athletic program was begun and the Interscholastic League came into existence. In 1913, Gatesville had its first official football team and about two years later began an active basketball program and the holding of track meets.

But the two outstanding incidents of this period were the coming of the automobile and World War I. The first glimpse of an automobile was an amazing thing that left you breathless, but words cannot describe the thrill of a ride in one nor the panic of the livestock that met it.



"AIN'T THEY GRAND"

HISTORY OF CORYELL COUNTY (Continued)

Dusters and veils were the styles of the ladies, and Raby, Brown, Gilchrist, and the other early owners were the heroes of every school boy.

Every older person in Coryell County well remembers the enthusiasm and patriotic zeal with which the whole county went about its preparation for World War I, of the speech making, the patriotic appeals, and the company of local boys who rushed to the colors and were for days camped at Pecan Grove and officered by Capt. Henry Sadler, 1st Lt. Chess Sadler, and 2nd Lt. Louaine Burt, nor of the many others that offered themselves for service or were drafted by the draft board under B. B. Garrett. Those left at home bought bonds, rolled bandages, sang "Keep the Home Fires Burning", and worked overtime to fill the gap left by the others. A National Guard Company under Capt. Ed York and Lt. Ed Wright was called out for border service. Of those who so bravely marched away, 32 never came back.

When the soldiers were discharged from World War I, prices were exceedingly high and yet there was no discharge pay, no job reserved, and no employment and social security agencies to help them. Then in 1925, there came the drouth, and slowly month and year by year that dreadful monster, "The Depression", came upon us and we found ourselves held firmly in its clutches. The banks closed for readjustment; bread lines formed at the City Hall; there was leaf raking, sewing rooms, canning projects, and public works; and many capable men found themselves forced to seek charity.

But in spite of the suffering and privation of this era, it meant much to the development of Coryell County, for it was then that our City Hall, our County hospital, and the through highways of the County were built, and most of the pavement in Gatesville was laid. Mother Neff park was established and built by civilian conservation labor under the direction of the military. The land was donated by Pat M. Neff and the park was the first such state owned park. There was a great and vital re-adjustment of the agricultural interests to enable farmers to become more stable and shareholders in the national economy. Then came the era of soil conservation

and improvement. Slowly we again attained a stable economy.

The next period of Coryell County history is the history of a mighty nation girding itself for war. On December 7th, 1941, the southern part of Coryell County was a great expanse of rugged hills, open prairies, and peaceful valleys populated with cattlemen and farmers, many of whom traced their lineage back to the pioneers of Fort Gates. They attended the rural schools, prayed in the churches, and buried their dead in the shaded churchyard. A thousand sentimental ties and traditions bound them to their land. When the news of Pearl Harbor flashed across the air on December 7th, every breast beat with a patriotic fervor, but they little realized the great test that patriotism would soon be put to. By January, it was beginning to dawn upon them, because planes flew over homes, strange men in government cars rode over the area, and the newspapers began to carry articles telling that the military camp allocated to central Texas in October, 1941 was to be located in the southern part of Coryell County and the northern part of Bell County. On the 26th day of February, General A. D. Bruce, in a few stirring words, told these patriots that the cause of free men everywhere demanded the use of their homes for training purposes. Words are inadequate to describe the way that these people reacted. No soldier at the Battle of the Bulge or Iwo Jima faced his assignment more courageously. It is true that the landowners were paid for their land, but by the time that they had waded through the Government red tape, other land had doubled in price and they could only buy about half what they had once owned. Some were given two weeks to get their improvements and stock off the land; and, since this did not give them time to find land to which the stock could be moved, the farmers had to sell their stock and the buyers realizing the predicament that they were in, picked the stock up for nothing. The school houses and churches were torn down, some of the homes were moved out, but other men stood by and saw the hearths at which they had knelt as children burned or used for target practice by the tanks. Cemeteries were uprooted and the bones of men moved that had lain beneath the sod for almost a hundred years. When corn and cotton

HISTORY OF CORYELL COUNTY (Continued)

planting time came, the tanks and army trucks of Fort Hood were beating down the bluebonnets and Indian paint brushes in the valleys, and those old rugged hills were echoing with the sound of big guns. The farmers and cattlemen of Coryell County had proved that there can be valor on the home front as well as in the front line.

This would seem to be enough for the farmers of Coryell County to do for the cause of freedom; but, cheered on by the selfsacrifice and uncomplaining patriotism of their friends and kinsmen in the southern part of the county, farmers all over the county rose to the emergency. One-fifth of the county had gone into an army camp and 5,000 more acres into an ordinance plant at McGregor, but the men and women in the rest of the county toiled early and late, planted, howed, and reaped until at the end of the year barns were full and there was a surplus to give to the nation. In spite of the 144,000 acres of Coryell soil that was taken over for military training, Coryell County was one of the 26 counties in the United States of America to which an Agricultural award was given, and from its Courthouse Lawn there flew the Flag of Agricultural Achievement. We fought on the home front just as patriotically and as zealously as did our soldiers. There were casualties in both places, for many of our older citizens worked beyond their endurance trying to fill the jobs left vacant by the young men.

On the battlefield, our young men fought with valor. There were Coryell County boys on the hot sands of Africa, on the beaches of Salerno and Normandy, at the Battle of the Bulge, in the skies over France, Germany, and Sicily, and they fought from New Guinea to Iwo Jima in the Pacific. One hundred-two of them gave their lives, but most of those who came back came with a greater love for their county and a deeper desire to render service to the homeland.

With just as much courage and valor, Coryell County boys have served in the Korean conflict. Others are in the service now just as ready and just as willing to do their part if the need arises, for Coryell County and Coryell County people still carry on the traditions of their forefathers.

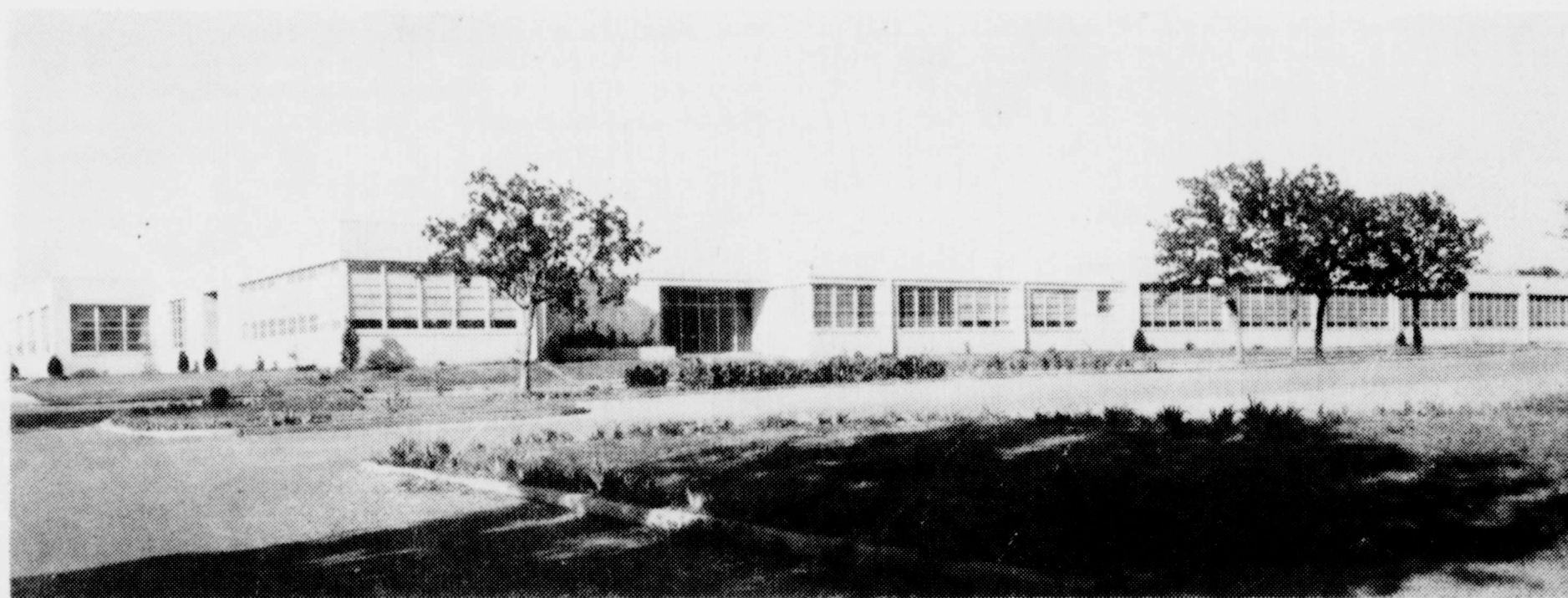
Some of the first pioneers who came to Coryell County were accompanied by Negroes, and so our history is not complete without them. From the time of the abolition

of slavery to the present day, there has always been complete cooperation between the Negro and the white race in Coryell County, and a deep affection has existed between the pioneers of both races. The names of Mayberry, Snow, Easley, Davenport, Squires, Barnes, Adams, Holmes, Murray, and others are as traditional in Gatesville as those of the white pioneers. Their sons and daughters have served in our armed forces, worked in our defense plants, graduated from colleges, and have contributed what they could to the progress and development of Coryell County, and we salute them for their cooperation in our effort.

Along with other parts of the Nation, Coryell County has greatly prospered since World War II. It has always been a good cattle country and today many fine thoroughbred cattle graze its ranges. The sheep industry flourishes. The trucking business and the auction barns at Gatesville and Evant have brought the market close to home. The land in the Fort Hood reservation has been lost for farming purposes, but a great number of cattle are grazed there. Farm implements, farming methods and knowledge have been improved, and one man can today work four or five times the amount of land that his father worked. So the farmers of Coryell County have better homes, running water, electric lights, telephones, butane gas, and all the comforts that their city friends enjoy.

Added to the agricultural prosperity, has been the income derived by several hundred families from work in Fort Hood; and all of these factors have added to the general prosperity of the entire county. The one blight of the period has been the Korean War and the sacrifice that our boys have had to make there.

Material prosperity, though a good indicator, is not always a criterion of real prosperity, so we look beyond it to our great consolidated school systems, our churches, to the number of young men and women who are graduating from high school and going away to college to prepare themselves for life. Their number is above the average of other sections, so we are not afraid of tomorrow. For a hundred years their forefathers have been laboring upon a foundation. There have been many obstacles to overcome and the work has been slow, but the foundation is solid and secure. It remains for this generation to build a building beautiful and strong, a Coryell County worthy of their own efforts and of that of their forefathers.



1854

**CORYELL COUNTY
CENTENNIAL**



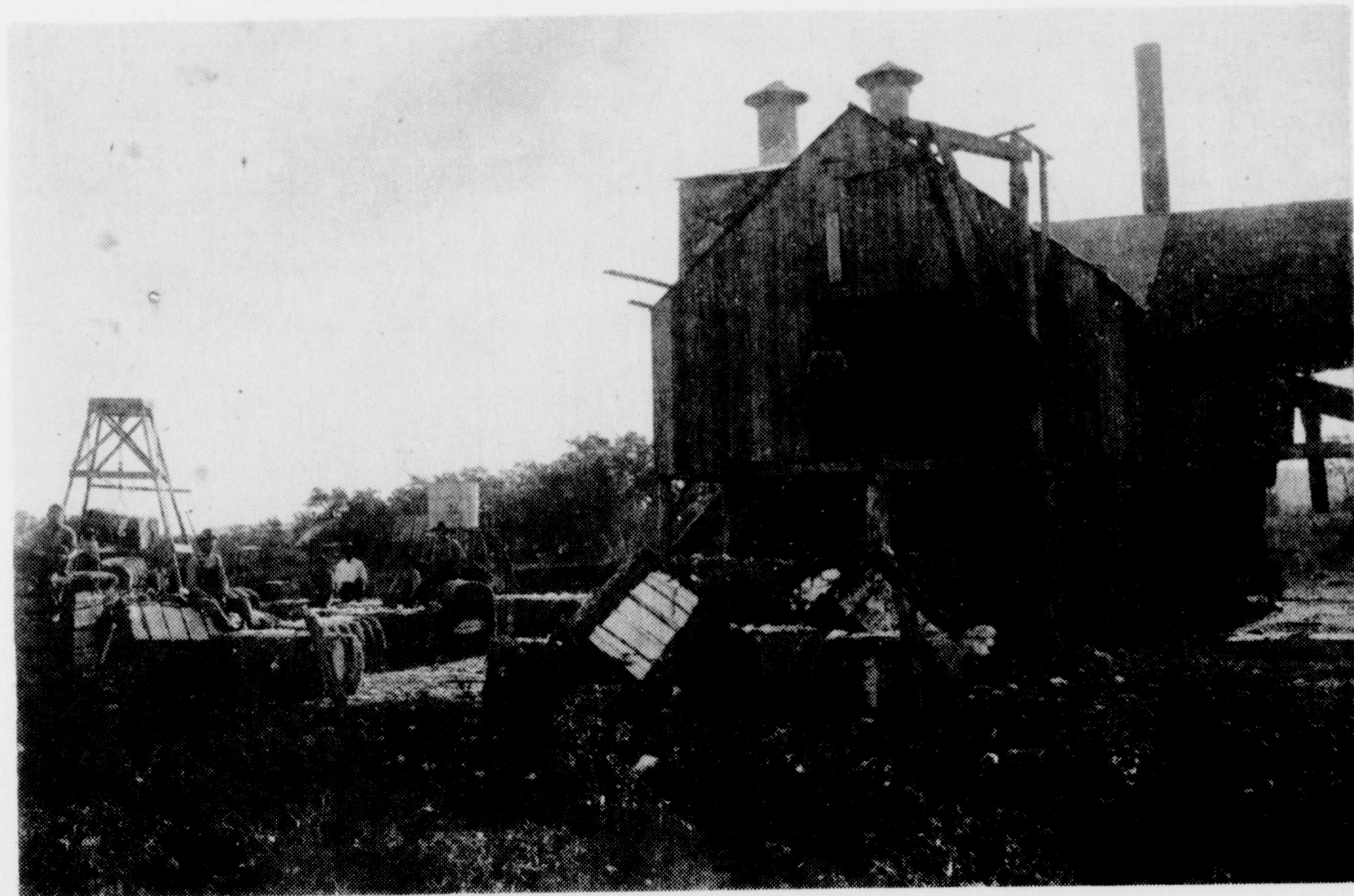
MAY 6-7-8



1954



FIRST STORE, FLAT



COTTON GIN, FLAT—1915

JOE HANNA'S CASH STORE

The Friendly Store

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

1854

1954

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORYELL COUNTY

The Heart of Our Great State of Texas

on your

100th Birthday

We are happy indeed to be living at this time, to join our neighbors and friends to celebrate this happy occasion.

MAY GOD continue to smile on You and Bless You and Your Children with Peace, Happiness and Prosperity.

Your Hills and Valleys May Ever be Green; and the LORD GOD may be Your Everlasting Refuge.

JOE HANNA & SON

1908

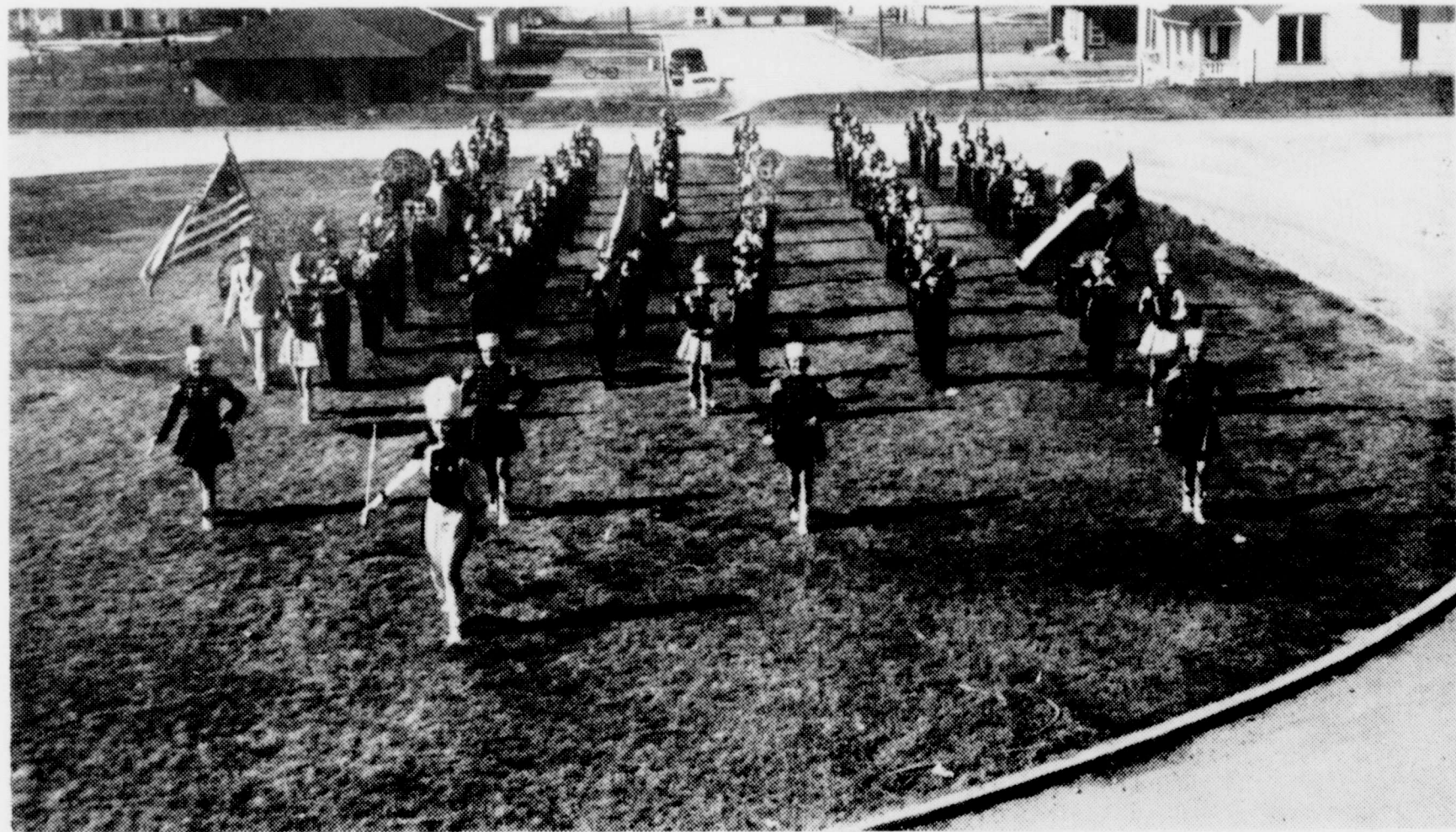
1954

Joe Hanna

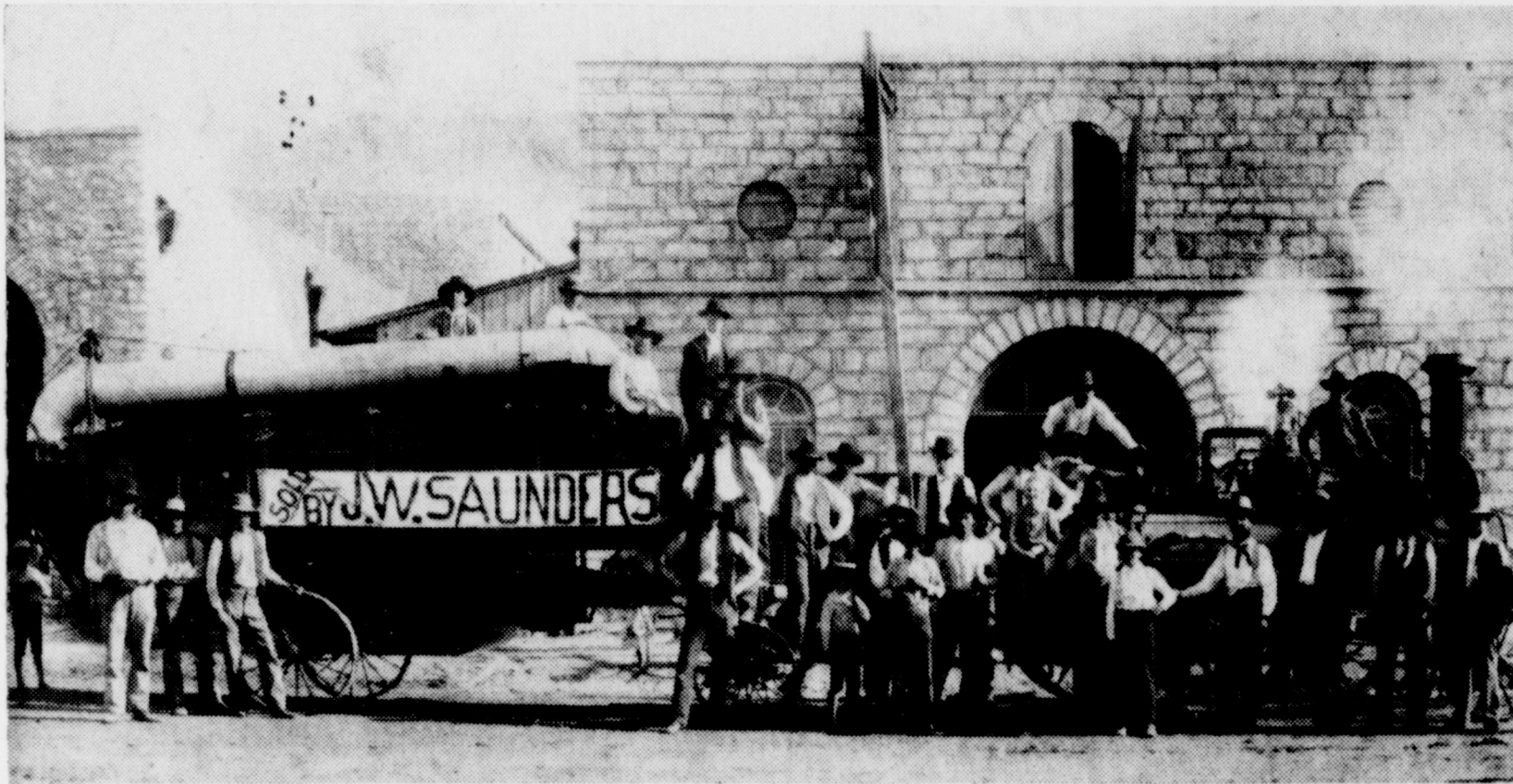
Brack Hanna



FIRST GATESVILLE BAND—1874



GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND—1954



FIRST STEAM
THRESHER
IN
CORYELL
COUNTY
ABOUT 1898



COTTON YARD
GATESVILLE
1907



ALL
ABOARD
FOR THE
DEPOT

W. F. & J. F. BARNES LUMBER CO.

“Everything to Build Anything”
In Gatesville Since 1916

YOUR BUSINESS SOLICITED AND APPRECIATED
JEFF BATES

Gatesville, Texas

Phone 21

POWELL SUPPLY CO.

Electrical Appliances—Goodyear Tires—Auto Parts
Studebaker Cars and Trucks

GATESVILLE, TEXAS
Charles Powell

PHONE 166
Erle Powell

Compliments of

R. B. ALLEN

“BUCKHORN”

LEAIRD'S DEPARTMENT STORE

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Since 1898

Leaird's Department Store

CONGRATULATIONS
to
Gatesville and Coryell County

On Their

100th Birthday

BAUMAN'S CLOVER FARM STORE

A Complete Self Service Food Market
It has been a pleasure serving you for over
a quarter of a Century

E. PRICE BAUMAN, Owner

CONGRATULATIONS TO CORYELL COUNTY

ON ITS

CENTURY OF PROGRESS

Although one of the youngest members of your community
we feel we have become a part of it. It has been a pleas-
ure to serve you.

BENNETT'S

Federated

Home Owned

Allen R. Bennett

Gatesville, Texas

POLLARD and SELLERS

BARBER SHOP

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

LEWIS SHOE STORE

"Shoes That Fit"

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

GATESVILLE FABRIC SHOP

Mrs. Rob Blanchard

East Side Square

Phone 390

Compliments of

H. S. COMPTON

Real Estate

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Since 1928

**J. A. PAINTER LIFE INSURANCE
AGENCY**

Compliments of

Community Public Service Co.

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

**CLYDE LEE'S
BUTTON SHOP BARBER SHOP**

DOMESTIC SEWING MACHINES

East Side Square

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

RE-NU DRY CLEANERS

Cleaning, Pressing, Alterations

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Compliments of

PAT HOLLINGSWORTH

Great Southern Life Ins. Co.

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Stock Farms — Ranches — City Homes

GEO. B. PAINTER

REALTOR

Office Guaranty Bank Bldg.

FARMERS' MUTUAL FIRE ASS'N.

Mrs. Annabel Chamlee, Sec'y

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

DRAKE'S FURNITURE CO.

CARL DRAKE

WHITE AUTO STORE

GROVE LUMBER CO.

J. L. Geiselbrecht

L. E. Zuehlke

LESTER BRITAIN

GARAGE

111 S. 8th St.

Gatesville, Texas

ETHMA BEAUTY SHOP

Ethel Rutherford

Mrs. W. H. Everett

Mrs. Gene Bond

IRVIN KOCH AGENCY

General Insurance

GATESVILLE, TEXAS

Phone 5

Retail Merchants Association

Evan J. Smith, Mgr.
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

J. F. CLARKE REAL ESTATE

Growing Whiskers for Coryell County
Real Estate Will Grow Too

Compliments of

Dr. O. D. Price Dr. H. C. Gray

OPTOMETRISTS
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS GONE

See You at the Next Centennial

FLENTGE DRUG STORE

Congratulations

CORYELL COUNTY

If Its Real Estate Its O. K.
O. K. BROWN AGENCY
Office in Burt Building

Compliments of

DR. OLEY BEARD
CHIROPRACTOR

HOLLINGSWORTH FEED MILL

Feeds, Seeds and
Custom Grinding

Compliments of

**GATESVILLE FROZEN
FOOD LOCKER**

Joe White, Owner

Gatesville

Jack Healer Service Station

419 W. Main St. — Phone 95
Atlas Tires and Batteries
Humble Products

Blackburn Poultry and Egg Co.

Poultry, Eggs and Cream
Phone 70 Gatesville, Texas

MODERN CLEANERS

Ruben Cummings
Dependable Dry Cleaning

Compliments of

**ROBT. W. BROWN and
J. ALBERT DICKIE**

Gatesville Seat Cover-Canvas Shop

Phone 403
JACK WICKER

Compliments of

BOB THRASHER PONTIAC
New and Used Cars

GATESVILLE DRUG CO.

"Walgreen System"
JOHN P. REESING
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

CITY DRUG STORE

Prescriptions
"Nyal Service Store"
Phone 138 Gatesville, Texas



1889

1954

SIXTY FIVE YEARS OF SOUND BANKING

Coryell County's Oldest and Leading Bank

THE NATIONAL BANK of GATESVILLE

Gatesville, Texas

Officers

Andrew Kendrick, Chairman of the Board
W. D. Cooper, President
Bailey Curry, Vice President
C. H. McGilvray, Jr., Cashier
F. W. Straw, Asst. Cashier

Bookkeepers:

Mrs. Billie Powell
Mrs. Georgia Mae McBeth
Mrs. Bobbie Cantrell
Mrs. Nadine Millsap
Miss Billie Baize

Directors

R. M. Arnold
M. Blankenship
H. S. Compton
W. D. Cooper
H. K. Jackson, Jr.
Andrew Kendrick
Byron Leaird, Jr.
C. H. McGilvray, Jr.
W. F. Powell
Robert W. Scott
Mrs. Vivian Straw
Bailey Curry

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



