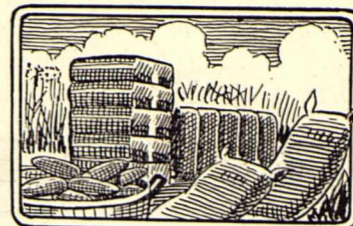


A WEST TEXAS PAPER FOR WEST TEXAS PEOPLE Dickens Co. Times



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1925

An Interesting Bit of History of Dickens Co. and its Growth

By Clifford B. Jones

I have been requested to write for this issue a brief history of Dickens County. I do so reluctantly, conscious of my own limitations and of the fact that there are many better qualified than I to attempt this record. But I am glad indeed for what ever interest it may have, to share the information I have gathered for many years from many sources. To do so may perhaps be helpful in perpetuating valuable data, and in reconciliation of conflicting recollection. I shall be grateful for correction of error or reference to important omissions noted.

Although John Arrowsmith's Map of Texas, published in London, in April 1841, shows this section of Texas to have been explored by LeGrand in 1833, probably the first reconnaissance of any note was by Capt. R. B. Marcy, U. S. A., who in the Summer and Fall of 1854 led an expedition from Fort Smith, Arkansas. It is known that his wagon train crossed what is now Garza County, and it is assumed that his scouts traversed this county also.

Daniel Webster's fallacious judgment of the value to the United States of the so-called Louisiana Purchase is fully equalled by Capt. Marcy's detailed report of this immediate section "the dangers we encountered and the privations we suffered had not been in vain, establishing as they did the fact, that for all purposes of human habitation... except it might be for a penal colony... those wilds are totally unfit. Deserving everything else that can sustain or make life tolerable, they must remain as they are, uninhabited and uninhabitable."

It was eighteen feet long and in remarkably good state of preservation. A splendid picture of this petrified giant reptile is available, showing a form of life which inhabited this section millions of years prior to the Mastodon age. Remains of the Mastodon (much larger than the Elephant) are found in Dickens County.

It is interesting also to realize that eons later this country was above the cap rock and on the Llano Estacado or Staked Plains. Scientists advise that the cap rock was once far east and south of its present location, and that covering a period of untold centuries the process of erosion (wash) has pushed it continuously backward.

Worthy of note to the student is the evidence found here that during the eruption of volcanoes probably situated in what is now New Mexico, this section was covered to shallow depths by volcanic ash, millions of tons of which are today found near Spur. Dr. Udden thinks the Spanish Peaks a likely source.

And then in the natural order of things came the great herds of buffalo, and other extensive animal life, antelope, deer, bears, panthers, lobo wolves, prairie chickens and wild turkeys, in addition to those remaining at this time. The scene of the best story ever written of the extermination of the buffalo "The Thundering Herd" by Zane Grey, was laid here—Pease River just north of us is particularly mentioned.

Dickens County is named for John Dickens, one of those who fought at the Battle of the Alamo. This county was organized March 19, 1891, prior to which time it was successively attached to Mitchell County and Baylor County for judicial purposes. After

A West Texas Developer



Clifford B. Jones, Manager Spur Farm Lands

interesting that undoubtedly he has the record of the longest continuous service as County Attorney of any County Attorney in the State.

The first District Judge was Hon. W. R. McGill. The first District Attorney, W. Q. Henderson, who was succeeded by Judge Kinder now of Plainview.

According to W. R. Stafford, who came here from Wharton County, Texas, in 1833, the first cattle brought into this immediate section were the "Ingletons." They were brought by the "Ingletons" to the Chisholm Ranch on the Pecos, in the year 1877.

In the early days the two largest herds of cattle were those of the Spurs and Matadors, the former owned successively by the Espuela Cattle Co. of Fort Worth, and the Espuela Land & Cattle Company, Ltd., of London, from whom in 1907 S. M. Swenson & Sons and associates acquired the Spur Rancho. The Espuela Company's diary for November 30, 1886, shows a total on the Spur Rancho of 52,986 head, of which 20,346 were cows. The Spur herd had its basis in the old Cross L. brought in August 1878 from the New Mexico-Colorado line by Jim Hall. Jeff Harkey, who later became the first sheriff of Dickens County, came

with these cattle. The Matador herd had its origin in the 50 Brand of cattle brought from Ellis County. The Matador Company branded a number of buffalo with the T-41 their early brand on the left side.

As was the case in this section of Texas, the early history of Dickens County was largely influenced by the history of the cattle business. And to those early pioneers, and especially to the women of those days who bore with such fortitude the hardships, fire, and droughts of that time.

Cattle in those days were frequently finished in the Northwest and moved from here usually as two-year olds, along the old Chisholm Trail via Amarillo to Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas. The trail herd comprised several thousand head. Completion of the main line of the Fort Worth & Denver in 1888 permitted shipment by rail.

The first drift fence in Dickens County was built by the Spurs in 1884. The drift fence of the Llano Cattle Company, in Garza County, was built in 1882. These fences, and that of Col. Goodnight who ran the P. and J. A. brands near the main

Dickens County Stands Out As The Best in Agriculture

The progress that Dickens County has made along agricultural lines has been amazing, even to those who have been here through the years and have seen the great transition that has come. Just a very few years ago this country was considered practically worthless for farming activities. The cattle men of early days found it to be reasonably profitable as a grazing country, and felt secure after getting possession of it, that they would never be molested in any manner from agricultural industry. An acre of grass was not considered of much value unless when it was being plowed up, and the remark, "How foolish of him to destroy the grass," was often heard.

Cattlemen who were here forty years ago did little or no farming. There was a little feed of unimproved type grown, and this was just in small tracts chiefly along the streams where they thought it would get moisture. They really discouraged the idea of raising much feed, probably fearing that it might the earlier prove that this was an agricultural country.

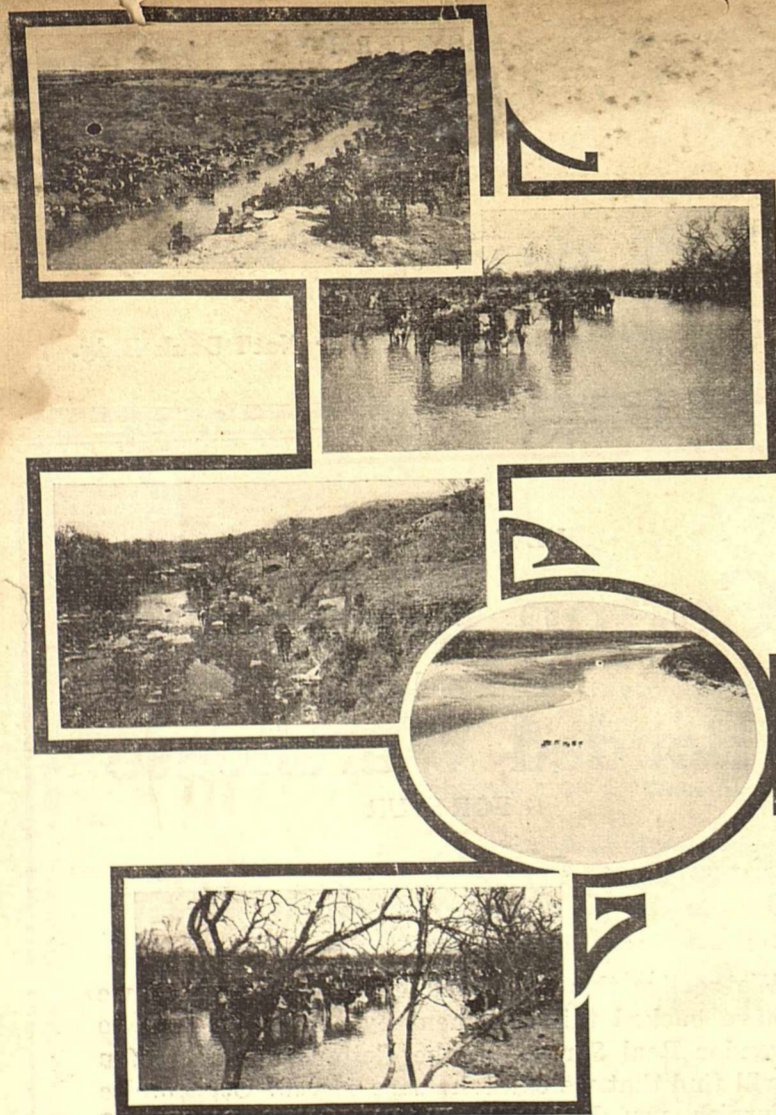
Dickens County has an area of less than 1000 sections, and of this there is probably less than fifty per cent of it that is devoted to farming industry. Yet, with all of this considered, this county raised more than 26,000 bales of cotton last year, and the indications are that it will exceed that number of bales this year by some fifteen or twenty per cent.

In addition to the vast amount of cotton grown here, there is a great amount of feed produced. This consists of corn, feterita, red and black-hull kaffir, milo maize, sudan grass, alfalfa, and many other varieties, which grow luxuriantly. The coun-

try is very conducive for dairying as the cows are able to have good range by April 1st of each year, and continue on until November 1st., and many times later in the Fall. The country is just now waking up to the fact that dairying is a paying proposition here. Many farms are being stocked with good high grade registered Jerseys and other dairy types of cows, and many farmers are making the running expenses of their homes from the sale of milk, cream and butter. There are now cream stations established at practically every trading point and the market for these products invariably good.

Soils—By virtue of the fact that the county lies at the foot of the Plains and extends back on the Plains give it a great variety of soils. Below the Plains we find these soils diverging from red clay through sandy loams to different grades of sand, all of them being of a very productive type. The red clay and red mixed lands are good firm soils adapted to the raising of row crops and small grains. Oats, wheat and rye are very productive on these soils and in time will be grown very extensively in the county. The sand types grow good row crops and are especially adapted to fruits and vegetables. We do not mean to say that these types of soil are classified in just the above manner. They grow most any other crops than those we have mentioned, but these have been found to be the adapted ones.

That portion of the county on the Plains is composed of a good dark clay or black land soil. There is rarely a crop found that will not grow this part of the county. Here at be grown in great quantities.



Watering Places on the Spur Rancho

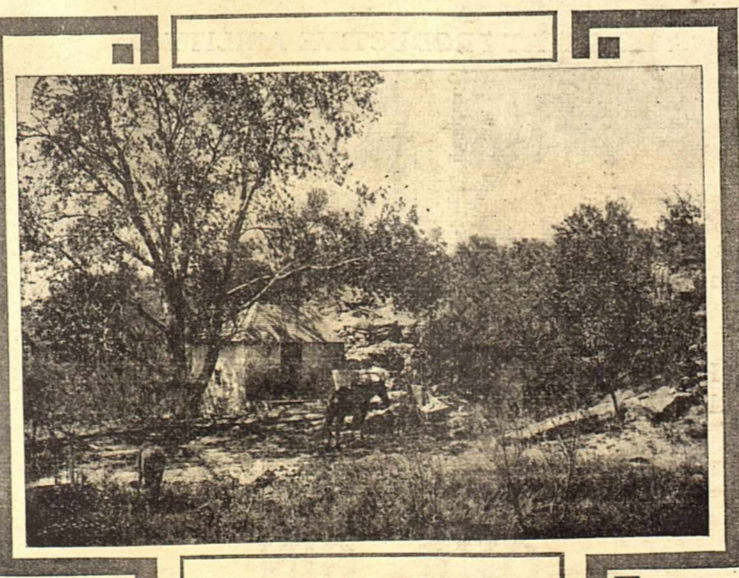
Cheffin's Map of the Republic of Texas, published in Southampton, England, shows what is now Dickens County as lying within John Cameron's Grant, and as occupied "by Comanche Indians, droves of wild cattle and horses."

It is interesting to realize that Dickens County was once in the edge of the sea. Shells and remains of prehistoric reptiles known to inhabit the marshes and edges of salt water are frequently found. It is hoped that these may be recovered by Texas educational institutions instead of being taken by distant Universities.

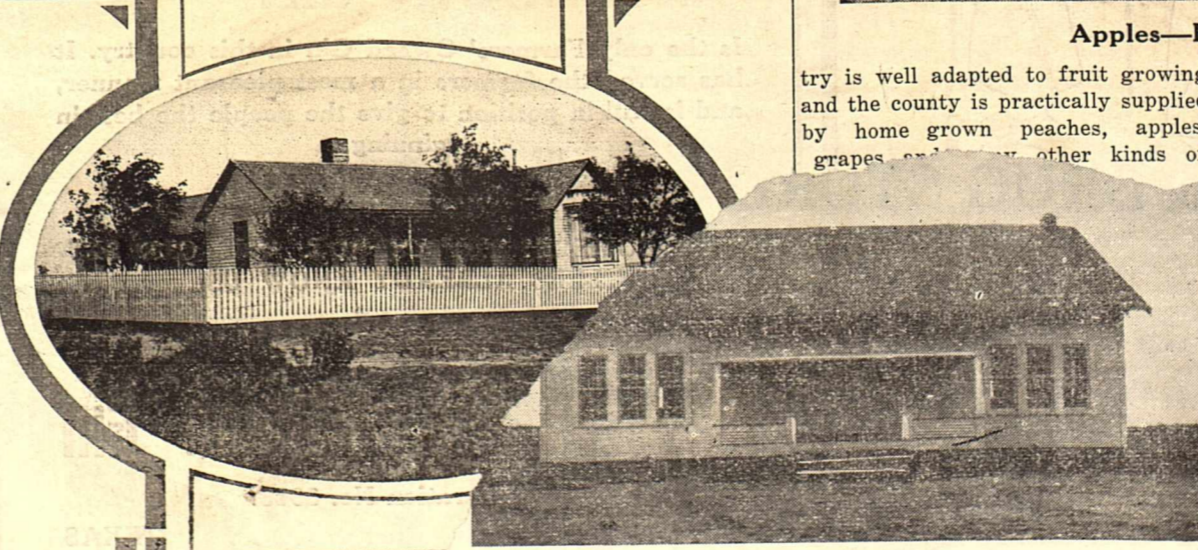
In 1920 Prof. E. C. Case, Paleontologist for the University of Michigan, found near Spur a sub-order of prehistoric reptile hitherto unknown to the scientific world, "Desmatosuchus Spurensis" (named for Spur).

the organization of Crosby County, Dickens County was attached to it for judicial purposes. I once asked an old-timer to what Dickens County was attached for judicial purposes before being attached to Mitchell County, and with a significant look he replied "We didn't know or care much about judicial purposes in those days."

The first County Officials were as follows:
County Judge, -----A. J. McClain,
County Attorney, Col. John A. Green
County Treasurer, -----J. M. Jones,
County Clerk, -----Sid Dunwoody,
Sheriff, -----J. D. Harkey,
Tax Assessor, -----J. D. Kutch,
County Surveyor, -----John Hale
Hon B. G. Worswick early succeeded to the County Attorneyship, and it is a tribute to him and strikingly



Espuela Baptist Church, One of the Oldest Organizations in this County

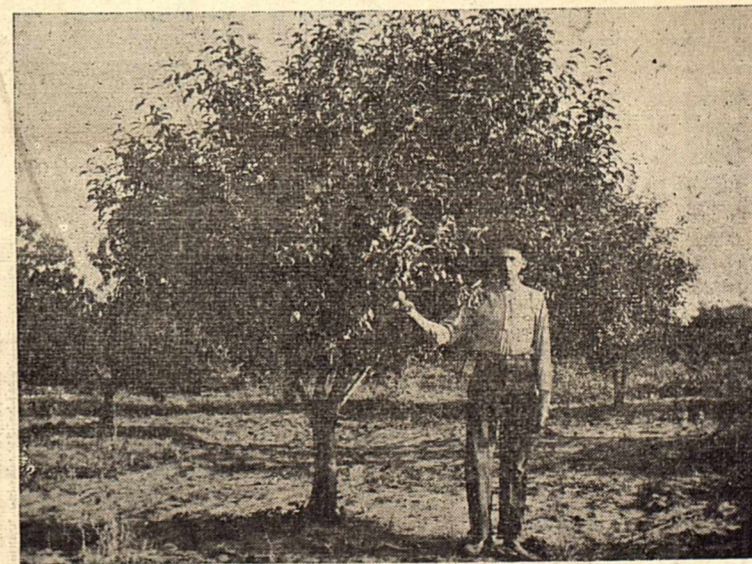


(Top) Old spring house, Spur (Bottom) "White House" quarters, original quarters of the Espuela Land and Cattle Company, which later sold it's fore them day after day in the,

dustry, here were located the head- many of the characters portrayed in quarters of the Espuela Land and in their stirring narratives pass be- Cattle Company, which later sold it's fore them day after day in the,



Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Gilmore. An example of irrigation on Spur Rancho—Raising Fine Cabbage



Apples—B. F. Whitaker

try is well adapted to fruit growing and the county is practically supplied by home grown peaches, apples, grapes and many other kinds of

even the altitude is much higher than the other portion of the county is practically a valley, contains just enough Fruits and make it drought-resistant, the south and east edges bordering on the blow-sand area.

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Here also lived the boy who won the Spur Chamber of Commerce prize for the greatest cotton production in the Boy's Club Contest under the supervision of the County Agent. This boy, Melvin Morgan, (Address, Afton, Texas) produced 7,200 lbs. of seed cotton on his five-acre plat. This

(Continued on p 7 this section)

We Have The Complete

Line of P & O International Implements.
McCormick and Deering Row Binders, also Mowers
Remember we handle Deering Twines—the best
On the Market



We Have A Complete

Stock of Furniture and Undertaking Goods
When in the Market it will pay you to call and see
Us. You can save money by buying from us

We Have a Complete Stock of Hardware, Furniture and Undertaking Goods

You are invited to visit our
Display at the BIG Fair October
7-8-9-10th.

Spur Hardware & Furniture Company

1909

"SPUR'S OLDEST STORE"

1925

You are invited to visit our
Display at the BIG Fair October
7-8-9-10th.

Fair Dates: October 7-8-9-10

Metal Surgery Our Specialty



The Skilled Mechanic capable of an Expert
the Inexperienced. The Combination
Equipment, Experience and integrity will
always assure you a First-Class Job.

Why not rather trust us with the VITAL
ADJUSTMENTS of Your Automobile?

Spur ALWAYS READY TO SERVE YOU Phone 191 Texas

MOTOR HOSPITAL

The Presbyterian Church



The Presbyterian Church was one of the first church organizations in Spur. It was organized at the opening of the town in November 1909.



James M. McLean, Pastor

Rev. Loyd and three persons, avowed Presbyterians, held a meeting and organized the church, and he served as the first pastor. His work with this Church ran over a period of one year.

The Church used one of the school buildings in the first part of town for a church building the first year. In the Summer of 1910 the present building was erected, and now they have a nice church home.

F. W. Jennings, now manager of the Brazelton Lumber Company here, was the first Sunday School Superintendent. The first Sunday School was not very strong numerically. However, the interest was good and the school grew in interest and numbers.

Rev. James M. McLean is the present pastor. He has served the Church nearly two years and has done a great work. The church membership is composed of progressive people

who are very anxious to see church work going on in the town. Through Rev. McLean's influence arrangements have been made for a new pastor's home. The membership are loyal, and Rev. McLean usually has a goodly number of the membership present at the services. There are now about sixty members in the organization.

THE DELPHIAN CLUB

The Delphian Club is the oldest Club Organization in Spur, having been organized November 6th., 1907, with Mrs. L. H. Perry as the first President. During the years of its

organization this Club has accomplished some great things for Spur.

The organization has a library of more than 400 volumes which they open to the public all the time. In the early Spring they were the means of bringing one of the greatest art exhibits to Spur that has been in the West. This Club is just a mark of the progressive spirit of Spur Ladies. The President now is Mrs. W. E. Putnam.

Northwest Texas Fair, October 7, 8, 9, 10. A great showing of livestock, poultry and home canned foods. Come with the crowd to Spur.

City, Farm And Ranch Loans

LOW INTEREST RATES
EASY TERMS
Spur will be glad to

Let Us Help You Buy or Build a Home

S. L. Davis

Phone 264

Spur Nat'l Bank Bldg.



THE GREAT PRODUCTIVE ABILITY OF AFTON COUNTRY

Is what has made our business a success. It is as good as found in the Southwest.

THERE IS ROOM FOR MORE GOOD PEOPLE IN AFTON COUNTRY, AND IT WILL MAKE THEM SUCCESSFUL

OUR GIN

Is the only Farmers' Owned Gin in this country. It has served the farmers in a most pleasant manner, and is still in position to give the people the best in ginning.

COMERS! TRY US OUT. THE OLD SETTLERS ALREADY KNOW US.

Farmers' Union Gin

Organization No. 3913

TEXAS

NEW ENTERPRISE Cotton Compress and Bonded Warehouse FOR SPUR

We realize this is a good cotton country and we have backed this statement by coming to Spur to render Real Service to the Cotton Interests. You will find that we can take care of your Cotton, also furnish you BONDED WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS which your Bank will gladly explain to you as good Collateral and Protection for you.

OUR SERVICE IS YOURS—WHEN IN SPUR DON'T FAIL TO PAY US A VISIT

Spur Compress And Bonded Warehouse

SPUR

T. P. McGRAW, Mgr.

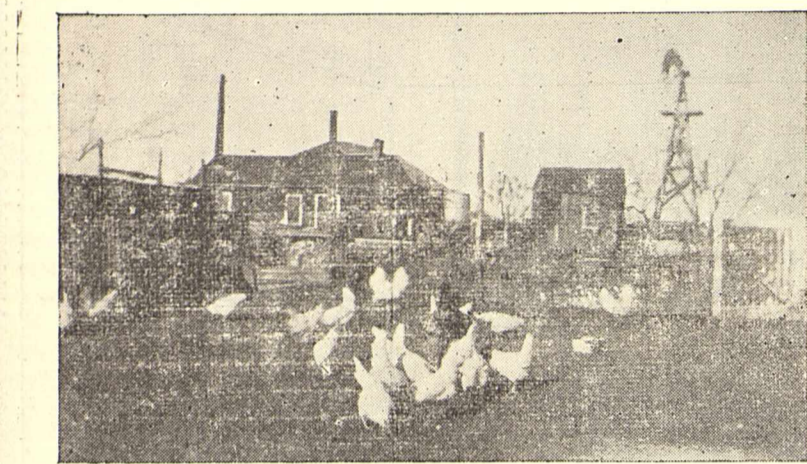
TEXAS

A Short Sketch of Dickens County Community Life

Dickens County possesses a type of community life found only in those sections in which the settlers are, in large part, descended from the hardy pioneer type of cow-man. This county is peculiarly blessed with a large quota of these broad, liberal, big-hearted Barons of the Range, who together with their descendants, leave the whole country with a hospitality and neighborliness peculiar to the era which is largely past.

Spur is built on the old round-up ground of the Espuela Land & Cattle Company, and where now the air reverberates to the restless hum of indus-

try, a few short years ago the equally restless feet of thousands of cattle stirred the dust to a smothering cloud, and smoke from branding-fires was seen in place of the smoke which now issues from the gins, compress, power-plant and other places of activity. So with the other towns of the County in the memory of many of our living citizens, herds of cattle and even a few buffalo and antelope roamed where now stand the towns of Dickens, Afton, McAdoo and Eiton.



W. D. Blair Home, 3 miles east of Spur

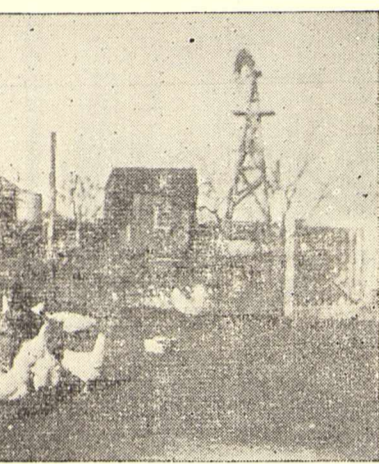
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Where is now found the rural high-school and the well managed and active church and Sunday School were only a few scattered cow-camps.

Agriculture is, of course, the big industry of Dickens County, and the big ranch is largely a thing of the past, but several good-sized ranches

still are in operation, and a goodly number of the old-time cattle-men are now stock farmers, combining feed raising with their ranching in a profitable manner, and great numbers of our new farmers have followed their example, making Dickens County one of the very best diversified farming areas in all the State.

The rainfall of this section, averaging 22.9 inches annually, comes so largely during the growing season of our leading crops that it is ample for the production of grain-sorghums, forage crops, corn, cotton, potatoes, alfalfa, sweet-clover, fruits and many



other products. Cotton often produces an average of one-half bale to the acre, the county over, and yields of one to one and one-half bales are not at all rare. We are out of the boll-weevil zone, and very few cotton pests are to be dealt with.

Maize produces well, as do Feterita, Kaffir, Higari, the sweet sorghums and corn. The grain sorghums often produce a ton and a half of heads per acre, and the forage crops can not be excelled.

Last year, which was not a specially propitious one for alfalfa growers, W. T. Wilson produced on his farm, five miles east of Spur five tons of alfalfa per acre, and S. R. Bowman, on the highway between Spur and Dickens has a field of alfalfa eight years old which has never yielded

less than four tons per acre since its planting.

Fruits and vegetables grow abundantly, peaches, grapes and other fruits being planted more and more on a commercial basis, and very few farms being without an orchard and garden sufficient for home needs.

Communities

AFTON—

The town of Afton, in the North west part of Dickens County is a rapidly growing little city with ten or more business-houses, two gins, a splendid High-School employing four teachers, churches, and boasts of two splendid physicians. Religious services are held by three different denominations, and Sunday Schools are conducted in each of the churches.

An unusual farming section is tributary to Afton, the land being a sandy loam, unusually fertile and capable of almost unbelievable production during periods of deficient rainfall. The two gins of Afton run day and night during the ginning season, three crews of men being employed at each gin to make it possible to run twenty-four hours per day. Milo-maize is produced in large quantities, many tons being shipped each year in addition to the great amount being fed in the community, feeding of livestock being practiced to a great extent, the Matador Land and Cattle Company's property extending almost to the city limits, and their splendid herds of Herefords making vast numbers of feeder calves available. Hogs are shipped to market in great numbers, and poultry and dairy products are the farmer's assurance of a steady cash income while he is producing his feed and money crops.

An abundance of water in found near the surface in the Afton country, new wells being only ten and twenty feet deep. The water is of a splendid nature, no "gyp" water being found in this community. An inexhaustible supply is to be had for irrigation, and good gardens are found on almost every farm. Watermelons, grown without irrigation, are trucked in large quantities to the neighboring towns.

Taken all the way around, Afton offers an ideal location for the farmer who wishes to diversify, live at home, educate his children and have access to a place of worship which is well maintained and well pastored.

NEW NEW CHEVROLET

Everybody Says:

HOW CAN THEY PRODUCE SUCH FINE CARS TO SELL AT SUCH LOW PRICES?

This is the comment that people make on seeing the new Chevrolet cars. Beauty streamline bodies mounted on a chassis new from radiator to rear axle, these cars present the most striking values ever offered in the low price field. Be sure to see these beautiful cars and note these outstanding features.—

New radiator of non-rusting airplane metal, having all the beauty of nickel.

New disc clutch, requiring no lubrication.

New rear axle with larger, stronger gears and one-piece banjo-type housing.

New semi-elliptic springs of chrome vanadium steel, with rear springs underslung.

New frame, longer and stronger, of leap channel steel construction.

New bodies, roomier, more comfortable, of modern design—closed models have beautiful Fisher bodies;

New windshields, with very low bottom glass panel on open models, one-piece VV type on closed models.

New finish, lustrous, durable Duco in beautiful colors.

New motor refinements, heavier crankshaft, improved construction for carburetor and manifold.

Touring Cars	-----	\$525
Balloon tires and special artillery wheels	-----	\$25 additional
Roadster	-----	\$525
Balloon tires and special artillery wheels	-----	\$25.00 additional
Coupe	-----	\$675
Balloon tires and disc wheels	-----	standard equipment
Coach	-----	\$690

Balloon tires and special artillery wheels standard equipment

Sedan ----- \$825
Balloon tires and disc wheels standard equipment

Commercial Chassis --- \$425
Express Truck Chassis -- \$550
All priced f. o. b., Flint, Mich.

Free Service on all Chevrolets sold for period of ninety days after sale!

Gilley Chevrolet Company
SPUR, TEXAS

Spur Mutual Life Insurance Association

(A LOCAL MUTUAL AID)

Incorporated Under the Laws of Texas

Many times have we persuaded a proud father to secure protection for his loved ones. More than thirty times have we seen these loved ones recompensed by father being thoughtful of them.

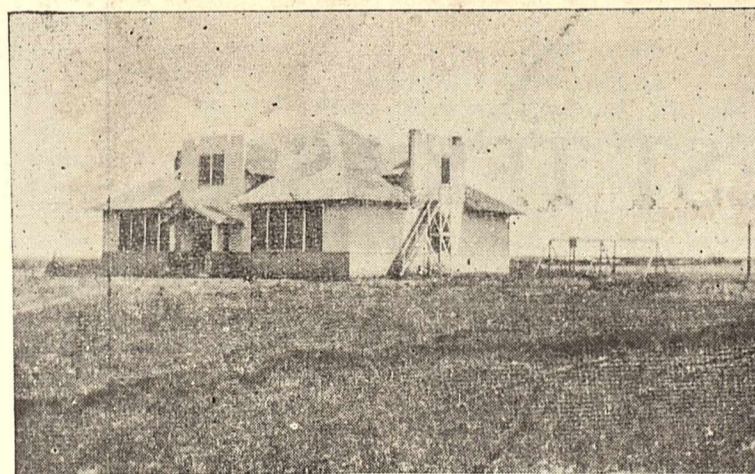
In the four years since we have been in business, we have paid out \$34,000 to different ones when sorrow hung heaviest over them. This was all paid to home people—your friends and ours. It has cost our policy holders less than one dollar per month to carry protection—Good insurance at cheap rate.

Try our cheap, secure plan and give your family some protection. Get it now, while you are strong. When you are in the hospital or on your sick bed, it will be too late.

SPUR MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

C. C. HAILE, Secretary.

The business houses carry a wide variety of goods, first-class medical treatment can be had, and the sandy thousands upon thousands of head of cattle and it's vast domain of land to the Swenson interests, who still



Afton School House

soils of this vicinity assure the farmer of a crop every year. Some of the best orchards in the West are found in this vicinity.

ESPUELA

Espuela, (Spanish word, meaning Spur) is the oldest community in Dickens County, but can not be said to have other than young ways.

A progressive group of farm people reside here, taking an active part in all affairs which contemplate the up-building of the community or the County.

In the early days of the cattle in-

own much of the land adjacent to the community, and who still maintain their local head-quarters here.

A halo of romance still hangs around the old corrals, where thousands of wild cattle have passed, herded by men and horses only a degree less primitive, and around the old "spring house" and "bunk house." On the ground occupied by the Spur Rancho Headquarters, and in the very houses now standing on this historic ground, Emerson Hough, George Pattullo, Zane Grey, and many other writers of note spent much time, drawing much of their inspiration

from the low-star-lit skies, and seeing

then, prosaic affairs of everyday ranch life. A large ranch is still maintained in Dickens and adjoining Counties by the Swenson interests, and many of the very stirring scenes of ranch depicted by the writers of Western stories are still enacted as part of every-day life.

The soil in this community, consisting mostly of very fertile rolling valleys, is especially productive, and some of the most attractive homes in the County are found here.

Many of the County's most progressive pure-bred livestock breeders live here, several herds of registered Jersey cattle and Poland-China hogs, as well as flock after flock of standard-bred fowls, being found. A. B. Morgan, J. L. Karr, W. F. Foreman and Sons, all breed both Jerseys and pure-bred hogs, and Mrs. A. M. Miller and Mrs. A. B. Morgan breed the best of Buff orpingtons and Rhode Island Reds, while R. C. McMahan and C. A. Brinnell are noted for their Barred Rocks and White Wyandottes.

A good school is maintained, and two beautiful little churches have regular religious services. An active Womans Club, also a Boys' and Girls' Club help supply activities for the community, and the people work together harmoniously for betterment of home and community life.

PRAIRIE CHAPEL—

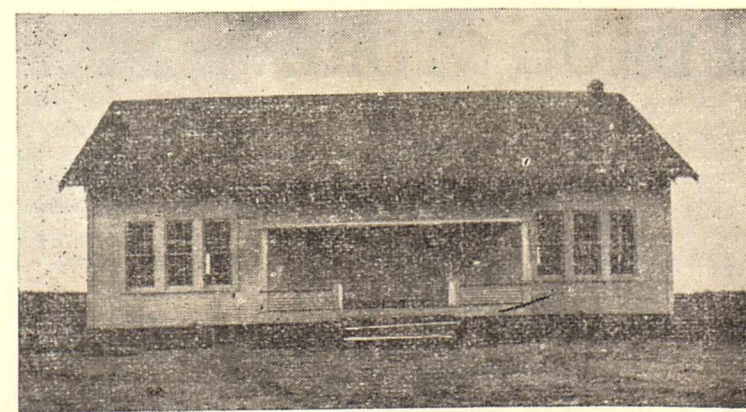
Just a few miles East of Afton lies the Prairie Chapel Community, famed for its heavy crop production and splendid school interest.

The land in this community is practically all level, contains just enough sand to make it drought-resistant, the south and east edges bordering on the blow-sand area.

In this community lives Albert Power, (Address, Afton, Texas), who in 1923, won the premium offered by the Spur Chamber of Commerce for the greatest feed production on twenty-five acres. Mr. Power produced more than two tons per acre, and was run a close race by several other farmers in the community.

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(Continued on p 7 this section)



Espuela Baptist Church, One of the Oldest Organizations in this County

dustry, here were located the headquarters of the Espuela Land and Cattle Company, which later sold its

many of the characters portrayed in their stirring narratives pass before them day after day in the,

AN INTERESTING BIT OF HISTORY OF DICKENS CO.

(Continued from p 1 section 1)

line of the Denver, were the only ones between Colorado City, Texas, and Fort Dodge, Kansas, according to the best information available.

Probably the last buffalo killed here was in August, 1883, at about the location of what afterwards was the town of Espuela, on Section 354, of Block 1, H. & G. N. R. R. Company Survey, near the present J. L. Karr farm. This buffalo was shot by the titute of soil, timber, water, and boy known as Billy ("the Kid"), who worked for the Triangle outfit.

According to W. L. Hyatt, the Causie boys were among the first to hunt buffalo here—they and Moore and Crill and Patton (for whom Patton Springs in Dickens County is named). They hauled the buffalo hides to Fort Griffin. The only time "Uncle Bill" Hyatt ever "cut my rope off anything in my life" was in the spring of 1883, when near here he roped a buffalo in the round-up: "As he came through the drive I roped him. He went to the end of the rope and turned over. They are natural-born fighters, and of course, my horse it scared him, and the horse broke, and the buffalo right in after him, and he just worked his horns right in that horse's tail for a quarter of a mile, and he was going right into a slant, and the boys behind me kept saying 'stay with him, Hyatt.' I knew if he ever struck that alkali bed and turned I was gone, and I got out my 'Bill Dokey' and cut my rope."

W. C. Dockum, who came here in the middle seventies, and S. T. Pepper, who came from Stephens County in 1877, were also among the buffalo hunters. Dockum Creek was named for W. C. Dockum, and one of the earliest postoffices in this section of the country was known as the Dockum Postoffice, located on what is now the Southwest Quarter of H. & G. N. R. R. Company Survey 359, Block 1, Dickens County, near the present farm of Vernon Powell. Mail service was from Colorado City to Mt. Blanco via Dockum.

Further quoting Bill Hyatt: "The whole face of this country was covered by mustang horses and antelope. The cowmen and buffalo hunters killed the mustang. They were of no

use at all—all tail and mane. Lots of them, no bigger than that little spotted pony that little boy runs around Spur. And turkeys on these rivers! You just picked them off the limbs of these cottonwoods. And quail—millions of them. Later hauled them out of here—killed them, and trapped them. I have seen wagon-loads after wagonloads; and turkeys too, being hauled to market. And rattlesnakes, and vinegaroon. Not much hope in those days for anything bitten by a vinegaroon. That grave along the fence about a mile northwest of old Spur Rancho headquarters is that of a nephew of A. T. (Bud) Campbell, who was bitten by a skunk. There were bears all over this country—in Croton Breaks and along Duck Creek. Black bears, mostly, and panthers—you would often hear them scream. Many deer were in the shinnery."

It is probable that the last Indian depredations in this immediate section were in 1883. The Comanches stole Sam Gholston's horses, and also those of John and Bill Slaughter, including those named "Sugar-Child," "Old Sorghum," and "Taller eye."

Evidently the last Indian fight of any moment near here was Gen. McKenzie's engagement on the Tule, following which his troopers killed hundreds of captured Indians' horses. The well-known McKenzie Trail crossed what is now Dickens County. It entered at about H. & G. N. R. R. Co. Survey 150, Block 1; thence past the Hensley Camp on Spade Branch about one mile east of the present location of Spade Tank; thence across the present Town of Spur at about the northeast corner of the Spur Inn. Just west of the Town of Spur it branched, one trail going north to Soldier Mound, the other winding up Dockum Flat; thence north along the ridge east of the old Spur Rancho Headquarters and to the Plains climbing the Cap Rock south of the present Spur-Dickens-Crosbyton road and north of the head of Cottonwood.

The last white person here captured by the Indians was Lee Parrish, a boy about 15 years old, in the summer of 1882 or 1883. Chat Dockum, who was with the Parrish boy, outrode the Indians, who evidently fearful of trouble, released the Parrish boy after keeping him for some little time. They retained his horse

and saddle. The Indians were Comanches with the exception of one red-headed white man who had been reared by the Indians. The capture occurred on the Plains, a short distance from the present location of the Spur-Dickens-Crosbyton cap rock road.

Soldier Mound four miles north of Spur, has been referred to as the site of the last Indian fight on Dickens County soil, but apparently no authentic account is available. Several old-timers recall reference to such a fight, and it is known that there are several unmarked soldiers' graves on top thereof. It is known that in 1865 or 1866 Gen. McKenzie built a fort on the west side of Soldier Mound, and it is probable that its name is taken from that association, or from the soldiers' graves, to which reference has been made.

It is probable that the first white settler in Dickens County was W. C. Dockum, and that the first white settler to bring his family to Dickens County was S. T. Pepper, who lived on the head of Duck Creek.

From all accounts it seems apparent that the first white child born in Dickens County was "Tiny" White, the initials of whose father and mother so far have been unobtainable. The child's father was a travelling blacksmith and fiddler, who played at frontier dances. The child was born in camp on Duck Creek, near Soldier Mound. "Old man" White represented that his oldest child was the first white child born in Wichita County, and added "you see now I have always been 'p'inted' for the front." Tiny White was born in 1872.

The Town of Espuela (Spanish for Spur) was started about 9 miles north of Spur by J. H. Parrish, who came from Callahan County about the year 1881. He acquired four sections of land and opened a store, one of the first in this immediate section, preceded only by two others, one at Soldier Mound operated by Shellworth and Davis, and the Dockum Store on the head of Dockum Creek. (The Spur Company took over the Dockum Store in June, 1886) About the year 1883 Parrish bought from a man by the name of Faulkner the store supplies which Faulkner had bought from Shellworth and Davis, and Parrish moved these supplies from Soldier Mound to Espuela.

A postoffice was established at

On These Lines We Have Succeeded

Years of Experience

Security of Funds

Soundness of Principle

Safety of Investment

The City National Bank

SPUR, TEXAS

Liberality of Treatment

Economy of Management

We Should Like to Have Your Business

WEST TEXAS

—is a mighty good place to live—a good farming Country, Healthful climate, plenty of room and opportunities for new settlers.

You Don't need a —
Drug Store
very often in this county, but you
Want the Best

Our Left-Handed Drinks are Unexcelled

WE ARE HERE READY TO SERVE YOU WHEN YOU NEED US.

Come to Dickens County, Get a Start in life, and get Acquainted With Us.

SPUR DRUG STORE

SPUR

TEXAS

Espuela, and mail was carried from Colorado City to Dockum Postoffice, and from there to Espuela. Previously there was a postoffice at Soldier Mound, that mail being brought from old Fort Griffin at irregular times by buffalo hunters in ox teams.

Espuela was the first county seat of Dickens County, and the first cemetery in Dickens County was at that point. The first person buried there was a man by the name of Combs, the father-in-law of W. W. Stegall.

The first sermon ever preached in Dickens County was at Espuela in 1878 by Rev. J. H. Stegall, of the Methodist Church. At that time Rev. Stegall lived in a little dugout on the west side of Duck Creek within 300 or 400 yards of the Town of Espuela. In the early days Espuela was called Dickens.

The first church organized in Dickens County was a Baptist Church at Patton Springs in the Fall of 1888, and the first persons baptized in Dickens County were J. A. Askins, his daughter, Mrs. Brock, and Mrs. Sarah E. Allen, at Patton Springs the Fall of '88.

(Continued on p 5 section 1)

DICKENS COUNTY, THE BEST IN AGRICULTURE

(Continued from p 1 section 1)

other farm pests. The fruit beetles have been the more abundant and these are here because the farmers have not taken the pains to properly spray their trees. The fruit is damaged but very little on account of insects. Not more than twice in the past twenty years has boll worms been found here. And these in one instance proved a blessing rather than a curse. They are of short duration and never occur except at long interval of years apart. Army worms and web-worms have never done much appreciable damage to the cotton in this country. They just don't do well here.

In addition to this being a great agricultural country, it is also excellent for stock farming. Many farmers have a few beef type cattle on their farms and find them very profitable. Hogs and sheep are profitable as grain sorghums are found to be excellent feeds for them, and are raised extensively all over the country.

Much of the county is yet devoted to grazing, probably fifty per cent of it, and in these pastures are found some fine land suited for farming. With the country already tested for farming these lands can be purchased at very reasonable prices, depending on location and improvements.



Feed on W. D. Blair Farm east of Spur

These lands will not remain this way long for the great crops that are being raised here are gradually forcing the price of land upward. Yet, considering their productivity they are remarkably cheap at the price for which they sell. Many farmers have made enough on a farm in one year to pay it out. Not many counties are blessed with such a productive type of soils.

A few years ago the ranchmen saw that this would soon become a farming country and made arrangements to sell some of their lands to the people. They felt that if the country was a success as a farming territory that they did not desire to stand in the way. On the other hand should farming prove a failure that they then would have the territory

for grazing purposes for many years without being molested. Among the great ranches that offered farmers opportunities were those owned by the Matador Land & Cattle Company with headquarters at Matador, and S. M. Swenson & Sons with local headquarters near the present town of Spur. The last company named have been a great power in the development of Dickens County. They sold their lands reasonably, on lenient terms and low rates of interest which enabled farmers with little capital to secure homes here. In addition to this they invested money with the people in business ways, and when crop conditions proved unfavor-

able they were always ready to give the people an extension on their payments. The Agricultural Experiment Station located at Spur, has been a wonderful aid to farmers not only in this country, but to all West Texas. Through the influence of the many experiments there, farmers have been willing to place their business on a higher plane than is ordinarily found in many countries. Dickens County, therefore, has secured and is securing a very progressive type of farmers, and its future in this line is very promising. It is difficult to tell what will be the extent of the farming industry in this country as it is growing very rapidly all the time, and marked differences are observed every year.

AN INTERESTING BIT OF HISTORY OF DICKENS CO.

(Continued from p 4 section 1)

Spring House at old Spur Ranch Headquarters.

It is believed that the first wedding which took place in Dickens County was that of Miss Diana Browning, who married Millard McBride. The wedding took place at the old Browning home on the head of Duck Creek, now owned by J. P. Goen. This was about Christmas 1882. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Stegall.

Probably the earliest known grave in Dickens County is that of the soldier, W. H. Kilpatrick, who died November 18, 1877, at the age of 32 years. His grave is near the old Dockum postoffice on the head of Duckum Creek. Another grave of a few months later is that of a man by the name of Smith, who was called "Smithy". This grave is on a high gravelled hill on the south bank of Rock House Creek. Smith kept supplies on Rock House Creek for buffalo hunters. He was killed by a freighter who operated from Fort Griffin. A difference of 25c in freight caused the shooting.

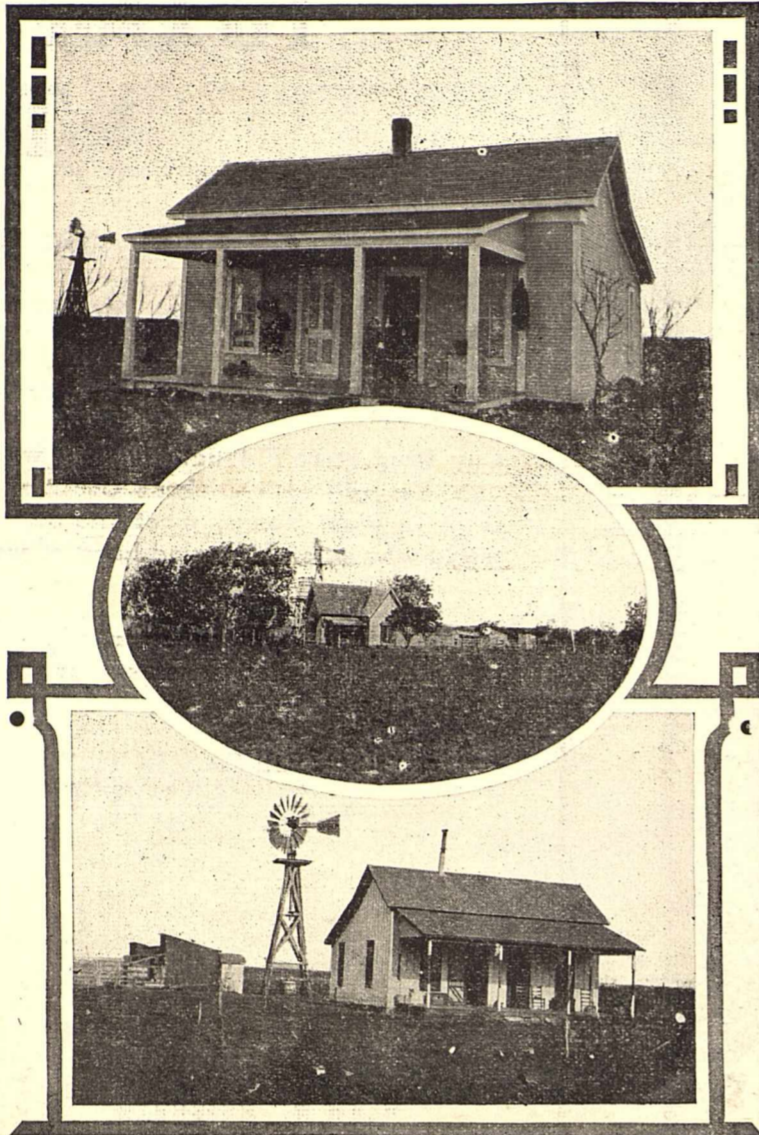
The first public school in Dickens County was in a dugout at the old town of Espuela, about 1881, and was taught by Mrs. L. G. Garrett. The first private school in Dickens County was at the Joe Browning place. A man by the name of Jim Lane was engaged to teach the Browning children and the Pepper children. Perhaps the first school of any size held in Dickens County was about 1884. The teacher was Miss Lizzie Baine, a cousin of Governor Browning.

The first county seat election in Dickens County was held March 19, 1891, the same date Dickens County was organized. Three places were offered for the site—Espuela, Dickens and Frankfort. Espuela and Dickens need no explanation. Frankfort was on Croton Creek, near what is now known as the Poison Mill, and near the old Baxter Rock House. None of these places received a sufficient vote to determine the county seat. Consequently on May 8, 1891, another vote was held, with the same result. On March 8, 1892, another vote was taken, Frankfort in the meantime having withdrawn. Dickens received one more vote than Espuela, and was selected.

R. D. Shields operated a private bank at Dickens prior to the organization of the one also located at Dickens managed by John O. Wilkerson and H. P. Cole, both former employees of the Spurs. These were the first banks in Dickens County.

So far as can be ascertained, the last panthers killed in Dickens County were by Sid Young and a man by the name of Cochran. It was in the late eighties. According to J. C. McNeill, Jr., bear tracks have been seen in this immediate section as late as the Fall of 1901.

The first cotton raised in Dickens County was by E. Luce in 1889. This was on land patented to E. Luce, about twelve miles southwest of Spur at the edge of what is known as the Shinnery strip, on the farm now occupied by Mrs. Perkins, a widow, and just south of the road between the East and West pastures,



Typical Pioneer Homes in Dickens County

The first fruit trees planted in Dickens County were by W. L. Brown on which is now located the school and brush arbor. The first cotton planted in Dickens County was on the head of Duck Creek, in this same land by E. Luce in 1886. He planted peaches, pears, and other fruit varieties. The first It failed to mature. The cotton

Welcome To Ramsey Garage And Service Station Spur, Texas

The Best Garage in The Best County in Texas

The place where tourists find a welcome and a service that is a pleasure to them.

We have been benefitted by coming to this country, and if you will follow suit you will also gain in finance health and happiness.

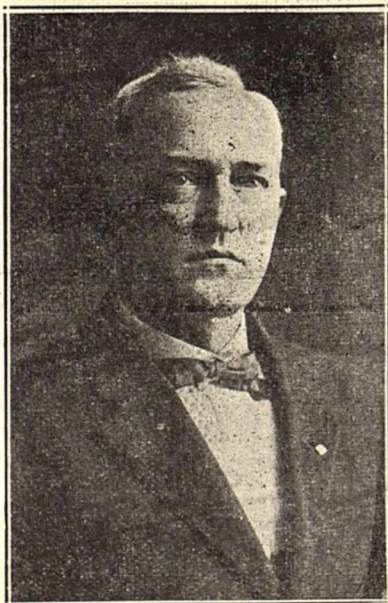
Make Our Garage Headquarters when in Spur. Prompt Service

Spur's Economy Grocery

First Month's
Sales
\$1193.00

Largest Day's Sale
\$1227.35

Largest Month's
Sale
\$12,402.42



Watch our
Growth

1925 Sales

Our Aim
\$120,000.00

Buyers and Sellers for Cash. Own Delivery. We sell the Highest Grade for less money. Kimbells Best Flour, also Marichal Neil Flour

GOLD BAR
Fruits

SUN KISS LINE
Fruits

DROMADARY
Line

PARAMOUNT
Line

COFFEE SPECIALS

1869^o Coffee

Flag Ship Coffee

Breakfast Delight

Yuban

Golden Gate

Comrade

Pecan Valley

Creamo

Maxwell House

Greatest Lines in
WEST TEXAS

WE FEATURE
Everything in
TOBACCO
CANNED
VEGETABLES
DRIED FRUITS
Everything found
in a
REAL GROCERY

The Economy Store

C. A. LOVE

SPUR, TEXAS

raised in 1889 was hauled to the gin at Sweetwater. It is impossible to ascertain the kind of cotton seed planted. It was brought from Palo Pinto County.

Rice Corn was perhaps the first kind of feed planted here, and the first Maize planted was of the "Jumbo" type and grew very tall with extremely large heads.

The first cotton gin was that of the Spur Company at Espuela, one-half mile south of the old store on the bank of Duck Creek. This was in 1891. It was operated by horse power and fed by hand power.

The first lawsuit in Dickens County was tried at the Dockum Store, on the head of Dockum Creek. The suit was brought by E. Luce against a man by the name of Keltner for Trespass to Try Title. It is said that the jury brought in a verdict that "E. Luce was a fool for endeavoring to hold the land, and that Keltner was a fool for endeavoring to claim it." The case was tried before "Shorty" Wilkerson, Justice of the Peace, and a brother of John O. Wilkerson. The case was transferred to Estacado in Crosby County, and it is said that Keltner ultimately won the suit.

According to George M. Williams, the first permanent surveying in this immediate section of Texas was done in the year 1873 by Capt. George Spiller, of Jacksboro, Texas, in the location of Block 1, H. & G. N. R. R. Company Survey, a portion of the Spur Rancho acquired by the Swenson interests.

The oldest surveying corner in this section was that established by Capt. Spiller at the common corner of H. & G. N. R. R. Company Surveys Nos. 1, 2, 23, and 24, in Kent County, Texas, established in 1873. The tie for this survey was run from Fort Phantom Hill in Jones County. This fort was established in 1851, abandoned in 1854, and was prior to the establishment of Fort Griffin which was not located until 1867. Mr. Williams' first surveying in this immediate section was in 1882, at the instance of Col. W. C. Young, President of the Llano Cattle Company.

The first newspaper in Dickens County was "The Espuela Bulletin," first published in the year 1891 by Mose Harris.

The origin of the names of towns and creeks and similar nomenclature is always interesting.

Spur, Texas, in its name will per-

petuate for all time to come the memory of one of the famous herds of Texas Hereford cattle. When S. M. Swenson & Sons, and associates, of New York City, bought the well-known Spur Rancho from the Espuela Land & Cattle Company, Ltd., of London, it was quite natural that the principal railroad town established within the Rancho in 1909 should be named "Spur," which is the English interpretation of the Spanish word Espuela. It is an interesting side-light that the postoffice authorities at Washington at first rejected the suggested name of Spur owing to its similarity to another already established Texas postoffice. However, through the influence of friends the Department reversed its decision and named the postoffice Spur.

Dickens was named for John Dickens who fought at the Battle of the Alamo, and for whom also this county was named.

The town of Afton was named by the Postal authorities in 1901. The Afton citizens submitted several preferred names, including those of Roswell (the middle name of W. R. Stafford) and Zada, but they were declared to be too similar to the names of existing post offices. Hence all were rejected and postal authorities christened it Afton for reasons unknown. J. A. (Cottonwood) Jones was the first postmaster.

McAdoo was named for William Gibbs McAdoo. The postoffice was established in 1914.

The only other postoffice in Dickens County, Gilpin was established in November 1908, and was named for Judge Gilpin.

Spade Branch and Spade Tank were named for a brand of cattle owned by a nephew of J. H. Hensley, who came here in 1879. The nephew and his brother lived in a dugout faced with rock on Spade Draw about one mile east of the present location of Spade Tank.

Croton Creek was named by the early buffalo hunters because of its bad quality of water, and Croton Breaks and Croton Peak took their names therefrom.

Crow Spring, near Dickens, was named for Dr. M. S. Crow, a non-resident, who donated that spring and the land immediately adjoining to Dickens County.

Flag Springs are named because of the wild flags which grew at these springs in profusion and of

which a few are still in existence. J-2 Breaks were named for J-2 cattle owned by Jesse Jones.

Wilson Creek was named for "old man" Wilson, a buffalo hunter of the early days.

Steele Hill was named for a buffalo hunter by the name of Steele, who camped at what is now known as Steele Hill.

Patton Springs were named for Jim Patton (at the present time, 1925, living at Clarendon), a buffalo hunter who made his camp at Patton Springs.

Of the name of Duck Creek there seems to be no authentic account.

Dockum Creek was named for W. C. Dockum, a buffalo hunter of whom reference has previously been made.

Abbie's Peak, of which exact location there is some doubt, is probably the peak located on the present farm of L. G. Crabtree about 4-1-2 or 5 miles east of the present town of Dickens. Abbie's Peak is frequently referred to in the surveying calls for much of the land near the Town of Dickens. Abbie's Peak was named by Capt. Hayes, an early surveyor. It was named for a young lady in Louisiana who later became Capt. Hayes' wife.

The first alfalfa planted in Dickens County was in the Spring of 1886 by the old Spur Company, and was planted at the farm near Espuela. The seed was ordered by S. W. Lomax, the then Manager, from Hon. Norman J. Coleman, Commissioner of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., December 3, 1885.

The first irrigation in Dickens Co. was at old Spur Rancho Headquarters. The Spur Company's dairy follows under date of Apr. 1, 1887, the following: "Hale fixed water pipe to irrigation garden."

In the year 1907 when in London, E. P. Swenson for his firm S. M. Swenson & Sons and associates purchased the Spur Rancho comprising 439,972 acres lying in Dickens, Kent, Crosby and Garza Counties, this section was devoted solely to cattle and some sheep interests.

Immediately the Swenson Company began the subdivision of those properties for sale, and hence with C. W. Post, of Post City, and Messrs. Coonley and Bassett, of Crosbyton, who at the same time were cutting up their holdings, shared the distinction of being the first in West Texas to offer large ranches for sale to

(Continued on p 6 this section)

AN INTERESTING BIT OF HISTORY OF DICKENS CO.

(Continued from p 5 this sec.)

homeseekers in small tracts. It was a radical departure in policy, which recognized and correctly forecast the demands of the farm and ultimate intensive development.

The first sale by the Swenson Company was on August 17, 1908, to L. M. Hamilton, of Anaheim, Orange County, California, and was the Southwest Quarter of the H. & G. N. R. R. Company Survey 317, Block 1, Dickens County.

The exact location for the Town of Spur was in statu quo for a period. The Town of Dickens, or near there was under serious consideration by the Swenson Company as the principal town on the Ranche. On the other hand, the railroad engineers for the Burlington Road had located it several miles east of the present site of Spur. The final decision was reached in a conference upon the site of the present depot between C. A. Jones, then Manager of the Swenson interests, and Daniel Willard, the Executive head of the Burlington System, and now President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Mr. Willard agreed to the present location urged by Mr. Jones in recognition of its natural advantages of beauty, drainage, proximity to abundant water, abundant gravel and sand. It is interesting to note that a large band of antelope was on the present site of Spur on the day Mr. Jones drove carefully over that part of the Ranche seeking the best available location for the town site.

The first train of the Stamford & Northwestern Railway pulled into Spur November 1, 1909.

Spur was incorporated February 7, 1911. The first city officials were: Geo. S. Link, Mayor.

W. G. Sherrod, Commissioner, E. C. Edmonds, Commissioner, Oscar Jackson, Recorder & Secretary B. D. Glasgow, City Attorney, Dr. J. E. Morris, Health Officer, J. M. Neeley, Marshal.

The streets of Spur were named for officials of the Fort Worth & Denver and Burlington Railways—Hill Street and Hill Heights just north of town, for James Hill, President of the Great Northern closely

identified with the Burlington.

On the day of the opening of Spur, November 1, 1909, an average of one lot per minute was sold during the greater part of the day, selections previously having been made by the purchasers.

The first store opened at Spur was the Spur Hardware & Furniture Company, of which N. A. Baker was then the active head.

The Spur Inn opened its doors on Saturday, September 3, 1910, and the well-known author and war correspondent for the Saturday Evening Post, George Pattullo, then of Boston, was the first to register. Pattullo later spent many months at Spur and Spur Rancho Headquarters, and here wrote many of his western stories.

Many other authors and painters of note have found inspiration and material here for their work, including in addition to Pattullo, Emerson Hough, B. M. Bower, Frank Tenney Johnson (the painter); John Lomax, who has preserved cowboy song for future generations; Freeman Tilden, of the "Country Gentleman;" Professor Crosby, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. E. C. Case, of the University of Michigan; Dr. J. A. Udden, of the University of Texas; and many others.

Dickens Co. led in the Good Roads movement in this section. At Spur in September, 1914, was called and held the first meeting of the Fort Worth-Roswell Highway Association, whose activities connected the links essential to the designated and important State Highway of today through Dickens and adjoining counties. The large amount of gravel here of splendid road quality, freely donated by the Swenson interests, has been of inestimable value to a substantial road program.

It is of value to these historical notes that the deep boring at Spur (4489 feet), then the deepest well in Texas, was the inspiration of the present Potash investigation in West Texas. In that well was found at 2000-feet a brine having a very high potash content.

Upon acquirement of the Ranche the Swenson Company promptly undertook the riddance of prairie dogs from its properties. At an expense which reaches more than Seventy Thousand Dollars it effected a complete freedom from that pest

which depredates upon crop and range. Two complete outfits with chuck wagons and men and boys covered that large acreage three times, twice with poison grain and once with carbon bisulphide.

In this connection it is interesting to note that during the early days when this and adjoining counties offered a bounty on prairie dog scalps, the old Espuela Land & Cattle Co. was able to pay its taxes with prairie dog scalps, and at times left the counties in its debt.

The first airplane to fly in Dickens County was that of Charles Theodore, employed by the Dickens County Fair Association for exhibition flights at Spur during the Fair of September, 1916. His ship was of the Curtis biplane type, with the propeller at the back instead of the front of the machine. There was no cockpit, and the pilot sat precariously strapped to an open seat attached to the rods which supported the forward landing wheel. He made several successful flights, but at each landing crashed into the Fair Ground fences, owing to the inability to cut off the engine. Later he was killed while stunt flying at Dallas.

The Dickens County Fair Association located at Spur, was organized and incorporated under the Texas laws in 1915. It was incorporated under the benevolent plan. The corporate title was changed in 1918 to the Northwest Texas Fair Association.

The first radio set in Dickens County was owned by the Spur National Bank, and installed May 13, 1922, for the benefit of its customers.

NOTE: This synopsis of the history of Dickens County will be completed at a later date.

A Big Factor In Building of Spur

It would be impossible to issue an edition of this sort dealing with the history of Spur and Dickens County without extensive mention of Chas. A. Jones, who came here in August, 1907 from Kansas City, Missouri to assume management of the Spur Rancho upon its purchase by the Swenson interests from the Espuela Land & Cattle Company, Ltd., of London.

Welcome To Our Town

City Drug Store Extends a hearty welcome to every one that will visit Dickens County—Visit the best town in West Texas, meet the best people in the world who extend the glad hand of welcome.

While in Spur if you should need anything in Drugs we will be very glad to serve your requirements.

VISIT OUR SANITARY FOUNTAIN, THE BEST IN TOWN

CITY DRUG STORE
The Rexall Store
Cal. Martin, Prop.

We Enjoy A Good Joke

BUT WE MUCH MORE ENJOY GIVING OUR CUSTOMERS THE BEST OF SERVICE WHEN THEY COME TO SEE US.

We enjoy seeing new people come to Dickens County. Then, we enjoy seeing them come to us when they need gas, oil, casings and tubes for their cars.

Our increasing business is evidence that somebody is constantly coming—Coming to Dickens County for homes, coming to Spur to trade, and then coming to us for auto supplies.

A Good Business, in a Good Country, Among Good People.

SPUR SERVICE STATION
Fletcher & McCombs, Owners
ON THE RIGHT CORNER - - - - - IN SPUR, TEXAS

In fact, except for him the Town of Spur would now be located several miles east of its present site at a point desired by the railroad engineers. But Mr. Jones, confident of the advantages of the beauty, drainage, abundant gravel and sand offered by the present location, was insistent and carried the point to Daniel Willard, then executive head of the Burlington System and now President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, who supported his contention.

Without doubt the remarkable friendly relationship which has existed between "the Company" and the settlers and subsequent purchasers, is attributable to the loving disposition and precise sense of business justice and fairness which characterizes Chas. A. Jones to such an extent. He is a living embodiment of business integrity and dependability, and though now in the New York office of the Swenson Company instead of at Spur, his influence and policies are still felt. No man ever came into business or personal contact with him without sensing at once his frank, honest, courageous and courteous nature, and because of those sterling qualities his friends are legion.



Chas. A. Jones

I once heard someone say to him: "you have more friends than any man I know." His reply was characteristic: "If that is true, it is because I value my friends more than any man you know."

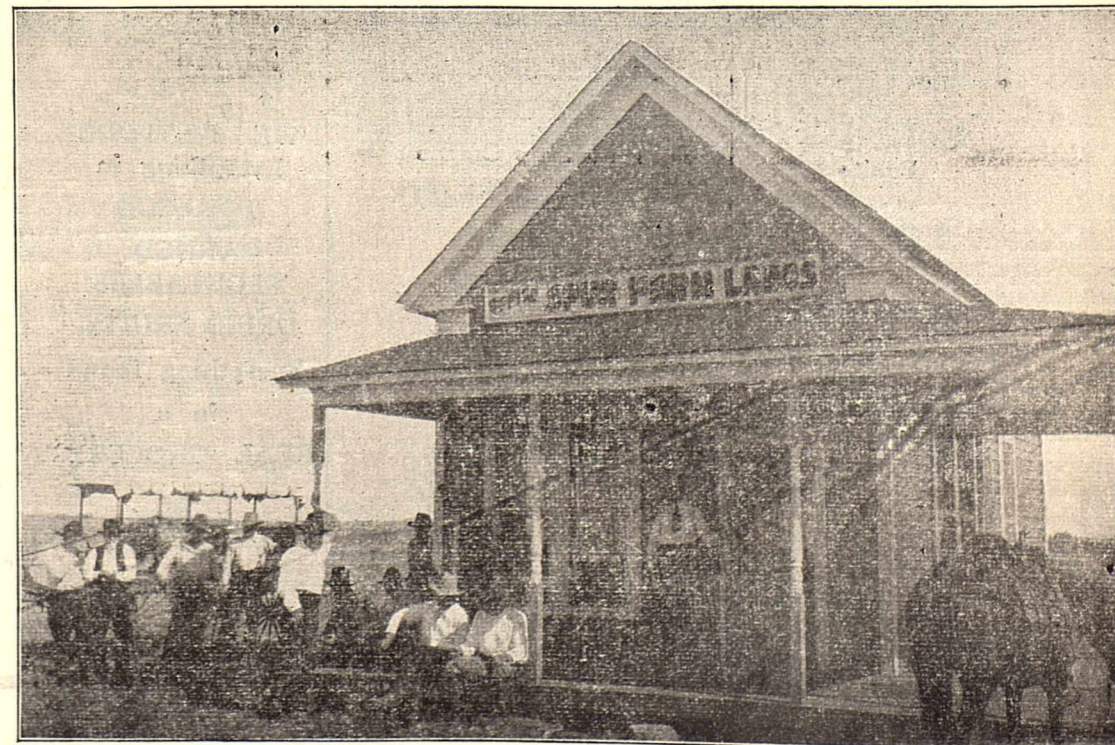
It was that kind of man who came for the Swenson Company to as-

sume management—to adjust boundary conflicts—to subdivide and classify the approximate half million acre ranch—to arrange for the townsites with their varied interests—and to handle the accompanying multitude of details.

His varied experiences in life had well qualified him for his duties. He had been a cattleman, a newspaper editor, interested in mining, assistant to his father in the management of the Kansas City Missouri Water Works, and General Purchasing Agent for all plants of Armour & Company west of Chicago.

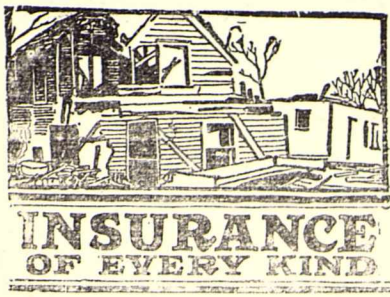
He was born April 21, 1861, in Rome, Georgia, and was named for his uncle, Charles Smith, the well-known Southern Journalist whose pseudonym was "Bill Arp." His father was B. F. Jones, a Major on the staff of Gen Brackston Bragg of the Confederate Army. Shortly after the close of the Civil War Major Jones moved to Kansas City, Missouri.

The lure of the far west was irresistible, and at an early age Chas. A. Jones went to Colorado, where at Rico in the San Juan he became the owner and editor of the "Dolores" (Continued on p. 7 this section)



Office of Mr. Chas. A. Jones, then Manager of the Swenson Interests, where an average of almost one lot per minute was sold during the opening day at Spur.

Fair Dates: October 7-8-9-10



Was It Insured?

is the question everybody asks after a fire. When YOUR House goes up in smoke, let the Answer be—

"YES" IT'S INSURED WITH—

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We Are
Pioneer West Texas People

And have always had a welcome for the new people coming into Afton Country. We enjoy seeing farmers coming to the best country in the West, and you will find it at Afton.

Our store is always full of the best in Groceries for both the old settlers and the new people. We have a warm feeling for our many friends, and desire to make new ones all the time.

Yes, you can buy Hardware at Afton—get what you want at our store. Not only shelf Hardware, but implements, binders, plows, cultivators—anything you need to run a farm.

Our Work Clothes Department will often be a great convenience to you. The best line found anywhere.

COME ON TO AFTON. YOUR NEEDS WILL BE SUPPLIED

J. N. HANEY & SONS
The Store Where Farmers Trade

After the Fire
is Out-

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT FIRE INSURANCE. THE TIME FOR SUCH THOUGHTS IS BEFORE THE FIRE STARTS.

INSURE NOW

Clemmons Ins. Agency

PHONE 84

A SHORT SKETCH OF DICKENS COUNTY COMMUNITY LIFE

(Continued from p 3 section 1) was the season of 1924, one of our driest years.

A splendid new consolidated Rural High School is maintained, and a move is now under way to secure an Independent School District. Sunday School and regular church services are held by several different denominations, and a spirit of community cooperation pervades the life of these people such as is seldom found.

the County Fair having won first place the past two years. The exhibit has been under the auspices of the Women's Club. The Club has also been active in assisting the County and Home Agents in their work with the boys and girls of the community.

In this community is found one of the best Registered Hereford Farms in the Southwest,—the Alamo Farm, belonging to Mr. J. C. McNeil, Jr. Several herds of pure-bred Jerseys are also maintained, and interest in better crops and better stock is grow-

ing rapidly. The school facilities are good, a consolidated High-School employing the best of teachers. Trucks transport the children who live at a distance.

Uncle Jonas has been in Dickens County since the time when neighbors were people who lived fifty miles near each other, and has seen the country change from a land of a few scattered cow-camps to a well settled, orderly land of happy and contented farmers.

And if any man has a right to his views as to the possibilities of this country, Uncle Jonas is surely the man. He says that during all the time since farming has been carried on in the County he has never seen a crop failure, and that he has his first hungry man to see who is hungry by necessity.

Steel Hill has a good school with a comfortable building, and has regular church services.

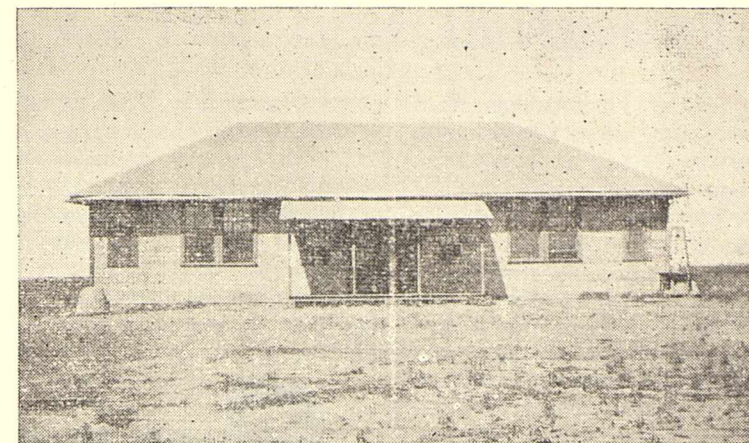
RED HILL

The Red Hill section, contrary to the implication of the name, is a country of deep, black, loamy soil, similar to the Central Texas Black Land Belt. Cotton and the grain-sorghums are the principal crops, the wheat and cats are also raised to a great extent.

A good rural school and regular church services are held.



J. N. Haney & Sons, Progressive Merchants at Afton Texas. 24 miles north of Spur



Steel Hill School, Six Miles Southeast of Spur

This community has grown by leaps and bounds, and much new land is being opened for settlement by one of the large cattle companies. This community is a leader in the production of pure-bred live-stock. B.

ing rapidly. The school facilities are good, a consolidated High-School employing the best of teachers. Trucks transport the children who live at a distance.

that "Uncle Jonas" is some seventy-odd years young, he never misses a convention of the Confederate Veterans, be it held far or near, and is active in community and church affairs, and finds time to oversee his extensive farming operations.

Uncle Jonas has been in Dickens County since the time when neighbors were people who lived fifty miles near each other, and has seen the country change from a land of a few scattered cow-camps to a well settled, orderly land of happy and contented farmers.

A splendid school is supported by the people of the Duck Creek Community, and church services are held in the school building by several denominations, and active Sunday School is carried on.

STEEL HILL, a few miles South-east of Spur, is similar to the Red Hill Community in soil and products, both of them possessing a heavy, produc-

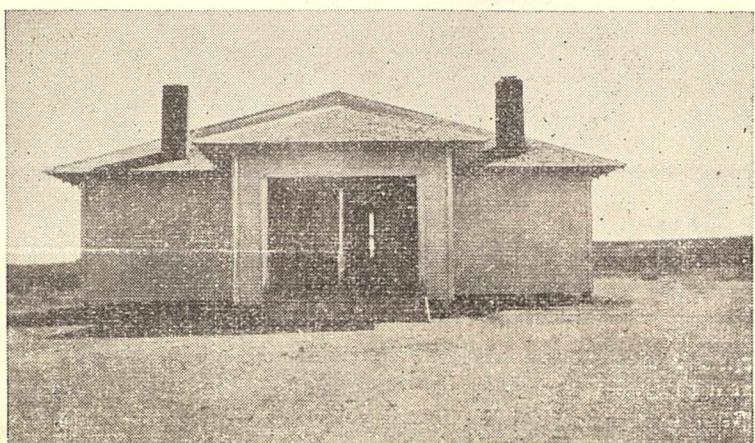
A BIG FACTOR IN BUILDING OF SPUR

(Continued from p 6 section 1.) News." He was then 19 years old. On January 8, 1884, he married Virginia Bartlett. In 1887 he returned to Kansas City to assist his father in the management of the Kansas City Water Plant, then owned by the National Water Works Company of New York. He continued in that capacity until the city bought the plant in 1895, when he was offered, and accepted, a position with the Armour Packing Company. His title was General Purchasing Agent but the range of his duties was extensive and broadening. He remained with the Armour Company until 1907 when he came to Spur as Manager for S. M. Swenson & Sons.

In 1913 the Swenson interests became heavily interested in the mining of Sulphur in Brazoria County, Texas, and he thereafter Mr. Jones was taken to Freeport to manage those more extensive properties with their allied interest in Mexico oil fields and shipping. In 1921 he was called to the general Swenson Office in New York City, where he has been ever since.

As intimated, he brought to the management of the Spur Rancho and its relationship to the public a ready recognition of their mutuality of interest and a sympathetic understanding of their problems, born of his large and varied experience.

Except for his untiring efforts it is probable that the valued Spur Experiment Station would have been located at Amarillo instead of at Spur; and in other ways too countless to mention he has served this town and country substantially, constructively and unselfishly. He is still President of the Spur National Bank.



Highway School Building in a Growing Community

F. Middleton and Sons, (address, Afton, Texas) breeding Registered Jersey Cattle, Duroc Hogs, and Mrs. Middleton maintaining one of the very best White Leghorn Flocks to be found in the state.

M. S. Faver, Albert Power and Miss Gladys Robertson breed Registered Jerseys, and T. D. Hale has an outstanding herd of Registered Holstein Friesians. Many other farmers are producing registered hogs and cattle, and the unusual feature of this is that practically all of the land in this community is capable of producing from a half to a bale and more of cotton per acre. Many farmers who came to this country within the past five years as renters "on the halves" now own good farms and have built comfortable homes.

Regular church services are held. DUCK CREEK

Throughout West Texas, the Duck Creek valley is famed for its deep and fertile soil, as well as for the



Duck Creek School Building where the children are Educated and people meet for Divine Worship

shallow water belt following it. The community of Duck Creek lies along the banks of this stream, and

of Spur, is similar to the Red Hill Community in soil and products, both of them possessing a heavy, produc-



Simplicity--
Quiet Dignity

The Utmost in Simplified Dignity Marks the Funerals conducted by us. When in need of our services, Please call 14 or 283 and we will respond promptly and courteously, yielding a service that is especially appreciated in your time of bereavement.

OSCAR R. MAPLES
Licensed Embalmer

Spur Hardware And Furniture Co.

"SPUR'S OLDEST STORE"

DRY LAKE.

The Dry Lake Community, located five miles Northwest of Spur, has a splendid school, employing the best of teachers, the present Superintendent and his wife, Prof. and Mrs. H. P. Bell being noted educators, and having taught in this county continuously for seven years, most of the time in the Dry Lake High School.

This community, as the name indicates, is built on land which was once under water, and the rich alluvial soil is very productive, Cotton, Maize and the other staples do well, as do fruits and melons. R. F. Rogers, of this community, probably sending more melons to market each year than any other man in this part of the State. Alfalfa thrives, also sweet clover and other hay and forage crops.

Church services are held regularly, and the community activities are sufficient varied to furnish entertainment for all.

Pure-bred livestock and poultry are plentiful, Judge Walter L. Powell being a pioneer Jersey breeder, and taking the lead in live-stock breeding. Other good herds of cattle and flocks of standard bred chickens are raised.

HIGHWAY

The Highway Community, lying eight miles West of Spur, is so called because of its location on the splendid graveled highway leading West from Spur. Good roads, comfortable homes, good orchards and gardens are plentiful. Water is very near the surface, some of the land being sub-irrigated, as in many other communities.

The products of the community are varied, the farmers diversifying, and the Womens' Demonstration Club having purchased a mammoth steam-pressure canner with which the entire community conserves huge quantities of fruits and vegetables for winter use. This Club has been especially active in advancing the interests of the Community, the Highway exhibit at

Spur Farm Lands

Farm Lands

Small Ranch --Tracts:

Many splendid small tracts from one to several sections in extent are available at reasonable prices to those who again will enter the cattle business as conditions right themselves. Of good turf—well watered—and in one of the best cow countries known.

A large acreage offered in Dickens, Kent, Crosby and Graza Counties at very reasonable prices, on terms of one-fifth cash—the balance on long time. These lands are contiguous to the well-known towns of Spur and Girard and are offered direct to the homeseekers by the owners—no selling commissions of any sort.

The large percentage of sales paid out in full from the products of the land, and the continuous substantial growth of this section of Texas, reflect a fertility of soil worthy of careful consideration and investigation by prospective purchasers.

No Boll Weevil Here

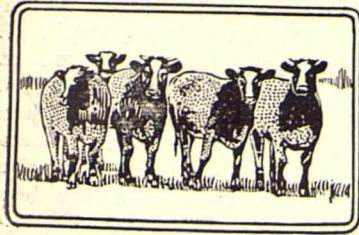
As an investment of Safety, good farms and town property have few equals. "Buy a Home and save rent" is good logic.

Town Lots Offerings:

A wide range of selection at Spur and Girard on easy terms. The Highway Addition to the Town of Spur will be offered for sale at an early date. This lies west of Spur on the highway south of and convenient to the schools.

S. M. SWENSON & SONS

CLIFFORD B. JONES, Manager



A WEST TEXAS PAPER FOR WEST TEXAS PEOPLE

Dickens Co. Times



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1925

Spur's Wonderful Growth and Prosperity is Due Largely to the United Efforts of its Business Men

There is probably not a town in Texas that has experienced a greater degree of prosperity and growth among its business firms than has the town of Spur. At the opening of the town in 1909, many of the businesses that are now in operation here, started, some in tents, others in houses without roofs and some of the business houses had no lights in front windows. We feel that our readers would appreciate a little sketch about the different firms who have added to the progress of this county, and who have so ably stood by the citizens during the trying times.

Among the first of these businesses to be established in Spur was that of Bryant-Link Company located on the corner of Harris street and Burlington Avenue. This is truly a great department store that grew from a small beginning into a great business. If there is anything you want to buy in any line of merchandise, you can secure it at Bryant-Link Company. Mr. Geo. S. Link, one of the founders of the business, is the local manager and one of the directors of the company.

C. Hogan & Company, located just across the street from the above named firm, was one of the businesses that began with the town. Mr. C. Hogan, one of the founders, is manager and has built up a great business. In connection with this firm there is an "M" Grocery Store, the only one of its kind in this country and is a very neat establishment. This company is always alert to the progress of Dickens County and freely lends its influence and encouragement to every progressive movement.

Love Dry Goods Store is the oldest store in town that devotes its energy strictly to selling dry goods. Mr. C. L. Love, the manager, started business here in a building without a roof and transacted business some three weeks in that condition. This firm has grown from an humble beginning until today it is one of the great dry goods stores of Texas.

C. R. Edwards & Company, located near the City National Bank, is a very progressive firm. This store is familiarly known as the "Home of Honest Values," and no one realizes the truthfulness of that clause more than do the customers of that store. The business is managed by C. R. Edwards who is one of the live wires of Spur, and who has a deep feeling of appreciation in the progress of the county.

Layne-Yates Company is another one of the fine dry goods stores in the town. This firm has stores located in Stamford and Rule besides the one here, and all of them are stocked with high classed merchandise. Mr. D. D. Dunwoodie is local manager for the company and is a booster for this country. They are enjoying a good trade and their business is growing.

Salem's Dry Goods Store is one of the new businesses, was established about one year ago. It has enjoyed a very fine patronage for the first year, and these people are strictly in harmony with the interests of Dickens County. The store is managed by Mr. Joe T. Salem and his sister, Miss Jennie Salem, who always have a cordial greeting for the new people coming into this country as well as for those who have gone through the pioneer trials.

Hogan & Patton is the first store of its kind established in this country. It is familiarly known as the "Man's Store," and from what the phrase implies, it is stocked with men's furnishings. Both Mr. Hogan and Mr. Patton have been interested in the growth of this country, and have been on the firing line for every progressive movement introduced. Mr. Ned Hogan is manager of the business here. Those people have established a similar business in Lubbock, Texas, where Mr. Patton is in charge.

The "Spot Cash Grocery" is owned by Sample Bros. and is a very complete business of its kind. The store is under the management of W. W. Sample, who has been very instrumental in winning the businesses a great line of friends. These same people also own and operate the Spot Cash Grocery at Matador, Tex. where they also command the respect and

good will of a large patronage. They are the oldest firm in Spur selling strictly groceries.

The City Grocery assumed its present name about March 1st of this year. It is owned by Messrs Guy Holman, D. E. and P. M. McClanahan who became owners of the business on the above date. These people came from Oklahoma and have been made to feel they are welcome in Spur. Mr. Holman is local manager and is

connection with other lines of business, Spur has two excellent Hardware Stores. One of these, the Spur Hardware and Furniture Company, was established the day the town opened in 1909. This business was established on its present location by Messrs Hill Perry and N. A. Baker, and Mr. Baker became its first manager. This is the oldest store in Spur and is now in a fine brick building and managed personally by Mr. Perry. The Riter Hardware Company is another fine business of which the people feel proud. It is an old established firm and is managed by John C. King, present mayor of Spur.

making it the up to date business that fine garages and Filling Stations. The garages have the best mechanics E. P. Swenson of Stamford; J. P. George (deceased) and W. J. Lewis of Dallas. R. V. Colbert of Stamford, was the first President of the institution. C. A. Jones of New York, is now President, W. B. Lee is Vice-President, and manages most of the business for the Bank, and W. T. Andrews, Jr., is Cashier. The Spur National has been in line with every progressive movement in Dickens County and takes much pride in assisting the people in many ways.

We feel that our town would not be complete without our lumber yards, of which we have three good ones. The Musser Lumber Company is managed by R. E. Meadows, and has been very instrumental in furnishing the people with building material. The Tri-County Lumber Company here is one of a line of yards in West Texas. Birl Hight is manager, and through his management the company has done a flowing business. They have a fine line of building ma-

terials. At this time it might be well to speak of Spur's two great financial institutions. One of these is the Spur National Bank, which was established December 15th., 1909. Among those who had part in the making of this institution were: S. M. Swenson, E. P. Swenson, and C. A. Jones now of New York City; Judge W. T. Andrews E. P. Swenson of Stamford; J. P. George (deceased) and W. J. Lewis of Dallas. R. V. Colbert of Stamford, was the first President of the institution. C. A. Jones of New York, is now President, W. B. Lee is Vice-President, and manages most of the business for the Bank, and W. T. Andrews, Jr., is Cashier. The Spur National has been in line with every progressive movement in Dickens County and takes much pride in assisting the people in many ways.

The City National Bank was originally organized as the First State Bank in April 1910. Then when the Federal Reserve System became effective, application was made for a charter granting it privilege to become a national bank. The new Charter was granted and became effective in February 1919. Among the founders of the institution are found the names of G. H. Cornell of Fort Worth, P. H. Miller and Mrs. John T. George of Spur, Berry Pursley then of Girard (deceased), and J. D. Harkney of Dickens. The Bank is under the management of E. C. Edmonds, its President and James B. Reed, the Cashier. It has been a great power in promoting the progress of this country and has stood ready to liberally assist the people in many ways.

There is not a town anywhere that can boast of greater banking institutions than can the town of Spur. They have co-operated with the people and with each other in making this the great country that it is. As to Hotels and Cafes Spur has ample supply to care for a great number of people. The Spur Inn was built shortly after the opening of the town, and is pronounced by all as one of the greatest hotels for service and neatness in the state. It is headquarters for the commercial people and is a great pride to Spur.

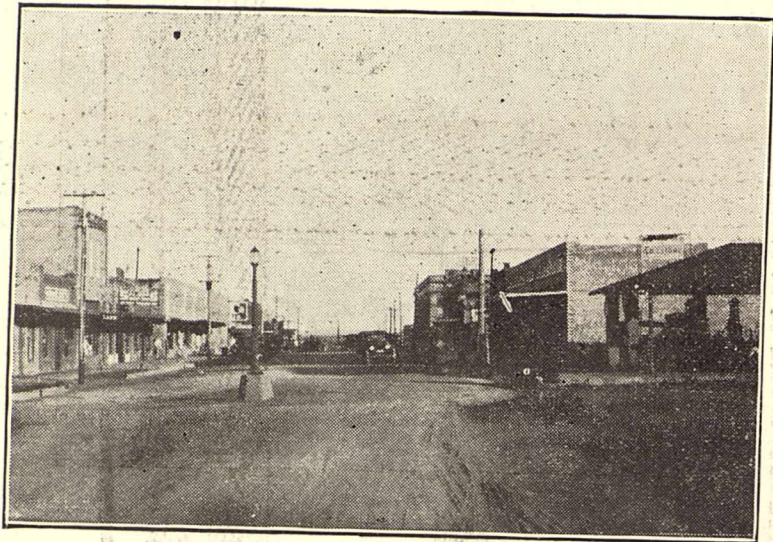
The Western Hotel is probably the next largest in the city. It contains many conveniences, and under its management is giving excellent service. The Spur Hotel is managed by "Uncle Bill" Hyatt, who is one of the early settlers in this country. "Uncle Bill" takes pleasure in meeting his old friends and giving his many patrons the best in his line. The Midway Hotel is located in the business section of town conveniently for transient people. Here people find a good resting place when in town.

In addition to the hotels there are a number of first class cafes. Among these are Bell's Cafe, where many banquets are held. The Sanitary Cafe, a neat place; The Dixie Cafe, where the line cars stop; The White Rose Cafe, formerly the Spur Candy Kitchen; and the Highway Cafe. Then there is Roscoe McCombs who has sold hamburgers so long in this town until the name has become apart of him.

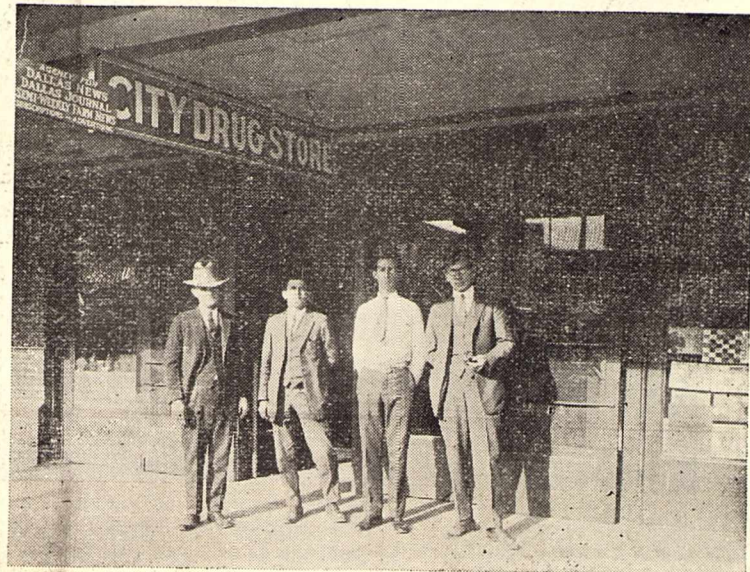
Spur is indeed lucky in the line of drug stores. There are at present four that are doing good business even though this is one of the healthiest countries in the world. They are: The City Drug Store managed by C. L. Martin who was one of the original cowboys of Dickens County. The Red Front Drug Store, managed by G. R. Elkins, who was one of the early business men in this town; The Spur Drug Store, managed by J. E. Hall who recently acquired an interest in the business, and where probably the oldest druggist in town takes care of the prescription work; Then Gruben Bros., which is under the management of W. C. Gruben, has a good line of drugs and in addition is a fine jewelry store.

The Spur Cream & Bottling Works is a great addition to our town. Here ice cream is manufactured in great quantities, and the sale of this product affords a good market for a great amount of dairy products of the county. There is also Coca-Cola and all other carbonated beverages manufactured and sold from this plant to people in all parts of West Texas. It is very completely equipped and conducted in a most sanitary manner. The Nichols Sanitarium is one of the best found in Texas. It is not a large institution, but bids fair to become a great hospital. It is under the management of Dr. P. C. Nichols, who is a very skilled surgeon, and who has been instrumental in saving the lives of hundreds of people. Very few cases considering the number cared for are lost by death at this sanitarium.

(Continued on page 4 section 2)



A Street Scene in Spur—Harris Street Looking West



The City Drug, A Progressive Store in a Progressive town

winning the friendship of many people.

Joplin & Gipson are just starting their present business, however, they had been in business here before, and through their courteousness in their earlier business days people are giving them a good patronage. The owners are L. Joplin and R. T. Gipson. Aside from those mentioned in

Mr. Riter the Senior member of the firm, furnishes the advice and looks after the general features of the business. Campbell & Campbell are the only furniture Store in town that holds exclusively to the furniture business and the auxiliaries that go with it. There is an undertaking department with the business which assists in

terial.

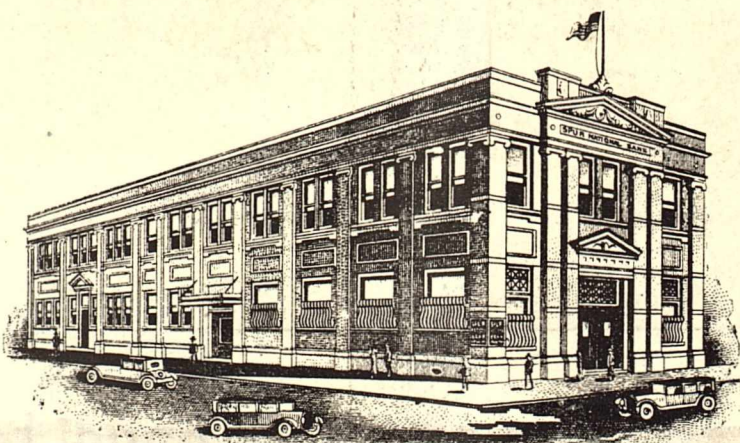
The Brazelton Lumber Company was formerly the Brazelton-Pryor Lumber Company and is one of the representative firms in Spur. F. W. Jennings is manager, and takes an active interest in the building of the Country. Spur furnishes a good number of

except on tubes.

At this time it might be well to speak of Spur's two great financial institutions. One of these is the Spur National Bank, which was established December 15th., 1909. Among those who had part in the making of this institution were: S. M. Swenson, E. P. Swenson, and C. A. Jones now of

C. A. JONES, President
W. B. LEE, Active Vice-Pres.

W. T. ANDREWS, Jr., Cashier
F. G. COLLIER, Asst. Cashier



THE SPUR NATIONAL BANK
Capital And Surplus \$125,000.00
SPUR, TEXAS

WITH THE COMING OF THE FALL SEASON WE ARE ARRANGING TO KEEP ABREAST THE CONSTANT INCREASE OF BUSINESS IN OUR TERRITORY. ADDITIONS TO OUR EQUIPMENT—AND EVEN BETTER ORGANIZATION—ALL INTENDED TO SPEED UP SERVICE AND AT THE SAME TIME MAKE IT PLEASANT FOR YOU. ABOVE ALL WE EXTEND TO YOU OUR—PERSONAL SERVICE—ONE THAT IS REAL—DEVELOPED BY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT WEST TEXAS. "YOU WILL FIND US INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING WORTHWHILE." WE INVITE YOUR BUSINESS OR A FRIENDLY VISIT.

Cordially yours,
THE SPUR NATIONAL BANK
"At the Sign of 4 Per Cent"

Northwest Texas Fair A Great Western Organization

It is probable that the origin of the Northwest Texas Fair grew from the annual picnics and barbecues that were held at Spur in the year of 1912-13-14. These annual festivities naturally expanded to take in different factors, and within a year or so after their origin were noted for more than just a merry-making time.

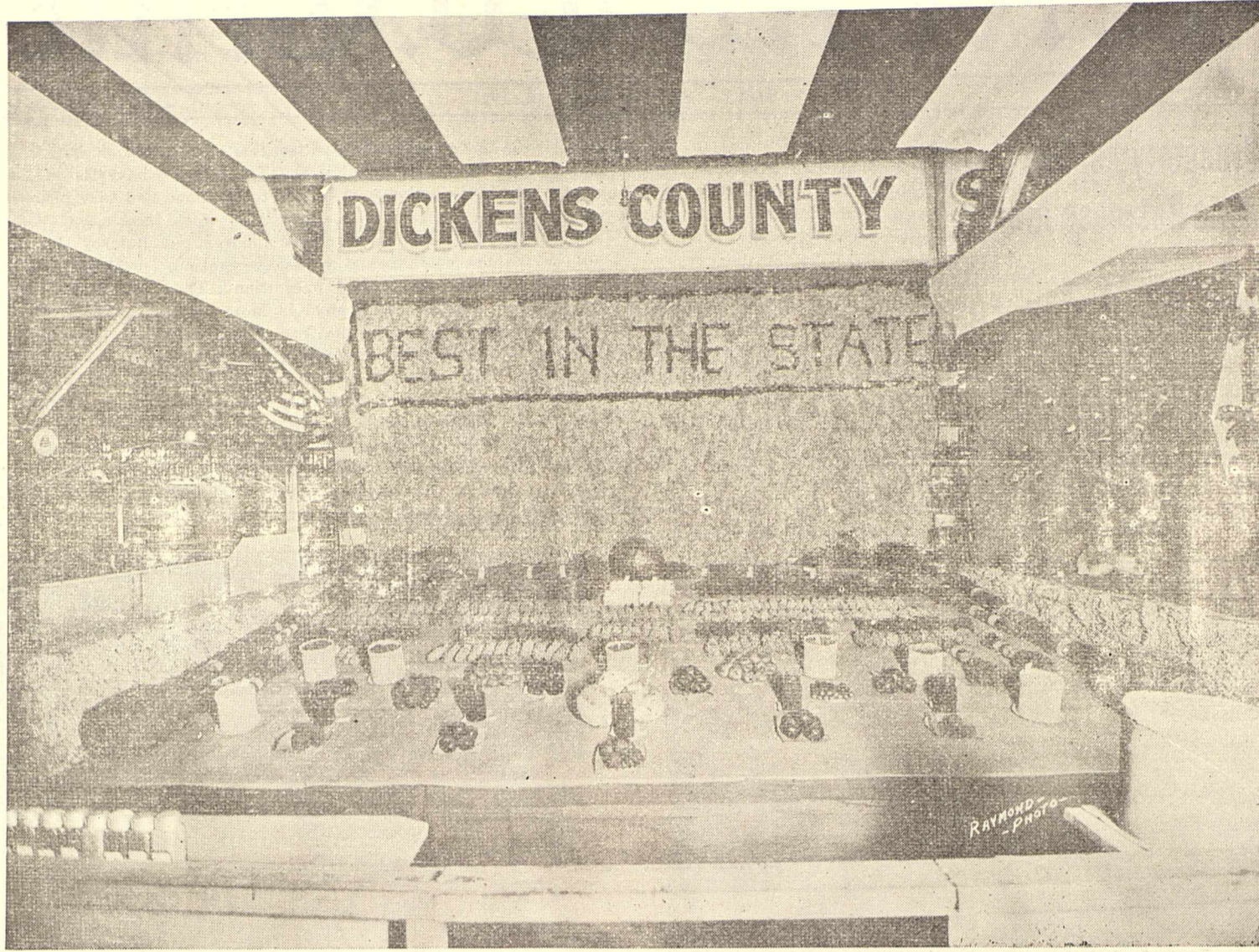
The Fair was organized in 1915 and incorporated under the name of "Dickens County Fair." Among the promoters of this movement were B. G. Worswick, of Dickens, Clifford B. Jones, S. R. Bowman, F. W. Jennings, Geo. S. Link, W. F. Godfrey, Oran McClure, C. L. Love and others whose names we were unable to learn. A charter was obtained and capital stock issued. The first Fair was held in September 1915.

Spur is situated so as to take in much more territory than Dickens County, and feeling a great interest in the good people from other counties who made Spur their trading point, it was decided that these people should have some consideration in the Fair. The name Dickens County Fair was a good one, but it was not broad enough to include the territory that was interesting. The charter for the Fair Association was amended in 1918 and the organization was empowered under the name of Northwest Texas Fair Association. The influence of the organization has grown and now it is remarkable the number of people outside of the county who take interest in its annual sessions.

The first officers of the Association when first organized were very progressive people, and it was largely due to their untiring efforts that the Fair was a success. Among these we find the following: Clifford B. Jones, President; R. L. Collier, First Vice-President; M. E. Manning, Second Vice-President; Sam T. Clemmens, Secretary; and E. Carl Patton, Treasurer. The Board of Directors in addition to the officers was composed of R. C. Forbis, J. C. McNeil, Oran McClure, Geo. S. Link, B. D. Glasgow, and S. R. Bowman.

The organization was incorporated

DICKENS COUNTY A STATE WINNER



Dickens County has had an exhibit at the State Fair at Dallas every year since the County Agricultural Agent has taken up the work here. In all the counties in Texas that have been in these contests Dickens County's lowest rating in any year was 10.

In 1923 Dickens County's exhibit stood first in line of decoration and 4th in line of productions. The above picture is a representation of that exhibit. The entire background was made from Spur Feterita developed by R. E. Dickson. The entire

decorations were made from Spur Grain sorghums. An interior decorator acted as judge in this case and pronounced the scene excellent. The exhibit display was made by R. B. Johnston, at that time Agricultural Agent for this county. In the exhibit were eight varieties of grain sorghums, six varieties of forage crops, alfalfa, sweet clover, peanuts, pop corn, wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn broom corn, every variety of vegetables both fresh and canned, and fruits all grown in Dickens County. There were more than fifty counties competing in this contest.

on the benevolent plan. All the earnings are used each year for the improvements of the Fair grounds. No stockholder receives any income from the organization it matters not how great might be its earnings. There have been one or two small assessments made on the stockholders, but the Association generally has been self supporting and the stockholders have been out but very little above the amount of capital stock each subscribed.

The Association has helped in many instances in sending boys and girls to the State Fair at Dallas. It has been a great incentive to the people of this country for the improvement of live stock on the farms. It has induced farmers to take greater pride in their methods of farming, and above other things it has caused farmers to desire to raise a better quality of farm products. By reason of the Northwest Texas Fair the general farming conditions have been placed on much higher standards than before its organization.

The Fair Association now owns about 40 acres of fine land that is practically clear of washes. There is a large pavilion that will easily seat 2000 people. There is an exhibition pavilion 50 x 120 ft. with the best of conveniences for exhibition purposes. There is another pavilion 40 x 100 ft. The grounds are all fenced in good condition.

The general character of the Fair this year is the promotion of good live stock on the farms of this country. For this, the Association offers liberal prizes for winners in the various types of farm stock. It also promotes the improvement of farm products by offering good rewards to winners for exhibiting agricultural products. The work of the Fair extends to the home, and there is a consideration for the best specimens of needle work, crochet work, embroidery, tating, canning, preserving, etc., and the many things that go to make better home facilities. All of these have their educational values to the people. It causes them to think along lines of improvements, and the great accomplishments of life come from thinking.

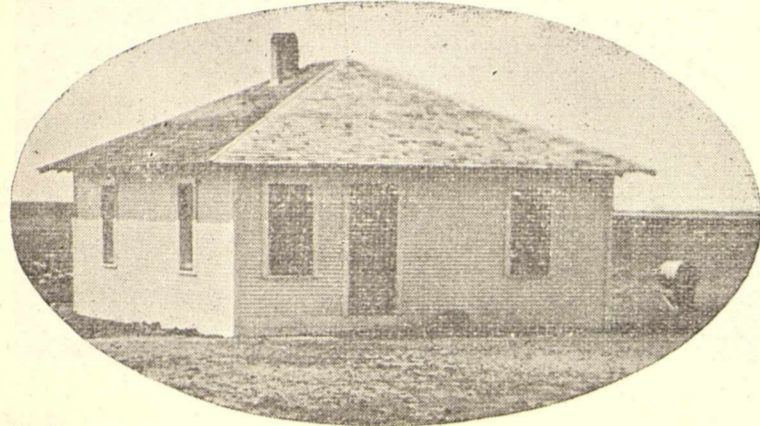
As to lines of amusements there is no lack during the session of the Fair. There are horse races, relay

(Continued on page seven)

Come to Spur and Buy Land. Locate
With Us and Trade With--
Spot Cash Grocery

The Spur Poultry Rancho a Great Asset to Dickens County And West Texas

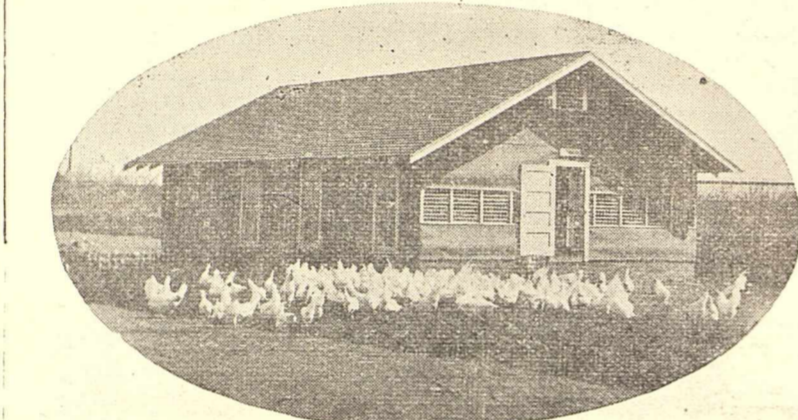
The plan for the Spur Poultry Rancho became effective in the Autumn of 1924 when a few business men assembled in council to determine a method of better poultry in this country. They realized the need of better poultry and that the quality was far inadequate in the country. They made certain calculations as to the value of this industry would mean and should a little attention be given it how it would increase the income of the farmers. There were



Care-Taker's Home

some forty business men in and around Spur who went into an organization, and incorporated under the name of Spur Poultry Rancho (English word for ranche) with a capital stock of \$4,200 in March of 1925.

PURPOSE—The idea that this great movement be a money making project never entered the mind of a single stockholder. There were many farmers that were not even getting an average of hundred eggs per year from their hens. These hens were eating approximately what a two-hundred or three-hundred egg hen would eat and were giving far less profit in return. The corporation realized this was a losing proposition to the farmers and saw the great need of improvement for the condition. They realized that the quality of poultry must be better and that the quantity must be increased. Many months in the year the local market could not be supplied with eggs and chickens not to say anything for the great demand that was being made from



Laying House, Capacity 300; Showing a Flock of White-Leghorns in the Foreground

other year. There are six model poultry houses, a brooder house with a capacity for 1000 baby chicks, an office building and comfortable 4-

room dwelling for the attendant. In addition to the seven acres in the Rancho there is approximately 40 acres in the Fair Grounds that can be used for range for the flocks.

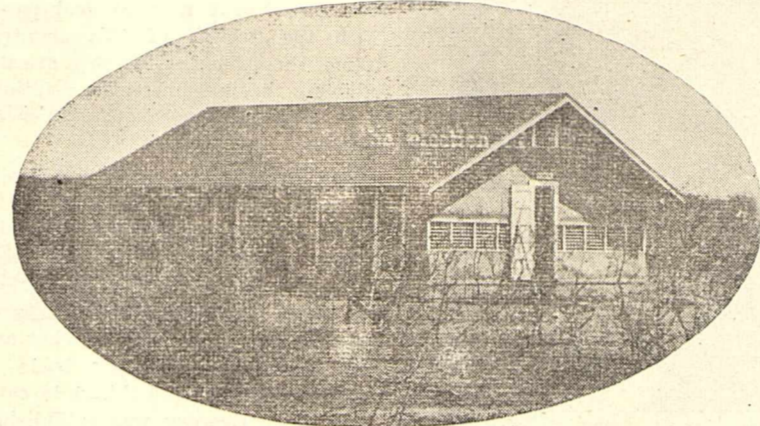
APPROVAL OF PUBLIC—The plan at the first was not received by the people very favorably. Many thought it would be in opposition to the farmers of the country, and therefore, did not smile on the work. The results of the industry has been so surprising to the people that it now has the profound approval of every one. The people who first were skeptical about it and who openly spoke against it are now regular customers and good boosters for the work. The large incubator has been running at full capacity all through the season since it was started. There are hundreds of people that visit the Rancho and show much appreciation in getting to study the plan of the poultry houses and other arrangements. It is a great education to them to know that better results can be secured from the industry and they are making careful study of how these results can be obtained. The manager is assisting the farmers by explaining to them how they can rid their flocks of the non-producers and teaching them the art in this work.

RESULTS—More than sixty thousand baby chicks have gone out from the Rancho within the six months of operation. These have been placed with farmers at a very reasonable rate. It was not the purpose of the Rancho management to commercial-

ize in the business, and have sold their chickens at a very small margin. These sixty thousand chickens will constitute the breeding stock on

many farms for 1926, and the grade of poultry will be placed much higher by reason of these pure bred birds. The Rancho co-operates with those farmers who have pure bred flocks and are buying eggs from them. This try Rancho made any money out of the flocks the farmers with pure bred birds an opportunity to secure a much better market for eggs. However, the Rancho takes very rigid steps in this work. The manager goes through these flocks and a rigid culling is made. The birds must meet a certain standard in production and pointings before the eggs are used to produce breeding stock.

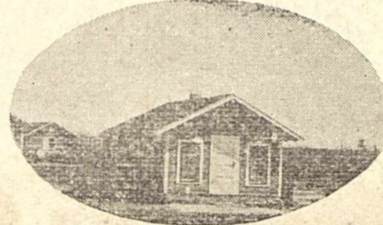
At the Rancho every hen with less than a 200-egg record is eliminated and many birds in these flocks have



Another Laying House, Capacity 300 Hens

as high as a 300-egg record. Many of the farmers are beginning to see these advantages and are suffering their flocks to be rigidly culled to raise the standard of production. They realize it is the greatest economical movement they have experienced, and that it is a money saving proposition to them.

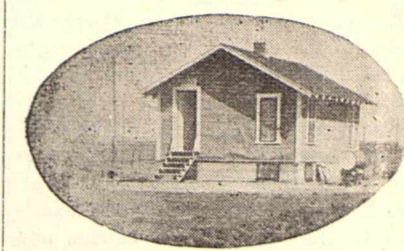
Another great result of the Poultry Rancho is the privilege the farmer has of securing custom hatching. The management has offered this privilege, and people are learning that it is a great advantage to them. Instead of them going to the time and trouble and expense of securing hatching apparatus, they carefully select the eggs and take them to the Rancho where they are carefully tested by high grade testing machine and are placed in the large incubator and looked after by a specialist in the work. The farmer returns home, goes on about his farm work and later is notified that the chicks are ready for him. The cost is small and invariably there is a much better hatch secured and



Brooder House

Poultry Rancho today has assets that will amount to two or three times the original capital stock.

This is just an evidence of what can be done with the poultry busi-



Office and Incubator House

ness in West Texas. Dickens County is especially adapted to this industry for there is practically no loss incurred from diseases or pests to the flocks. It has been found that chickens do well when fed on grain sorghums, and these crops can be and are raised abundantly in this county. The introduction of the Spur Poultry Rancho is only an embryo from which one of the greatest industries of America will be promoted and built up in Dickens County.

OFFICERS—The officers and directors for the Rancho are men of business experience and far sightedness in the affairs of the business world. Clifford B. Jones is president; S. H. Twaddell, Vice-President; W. F. Godfrey, Treasurer and R. B. Johnston, Secretary and general manager. The Board of Directors consists of W. B. Lee, E. C. Edmonds, W. F. Godfrey, Geo. S. Link, S. H. Twaddell, Clifford B. Jones, R. B. Johnston.

EAGLES DROP LITTLE PIG ON ENGLISH TOURIST

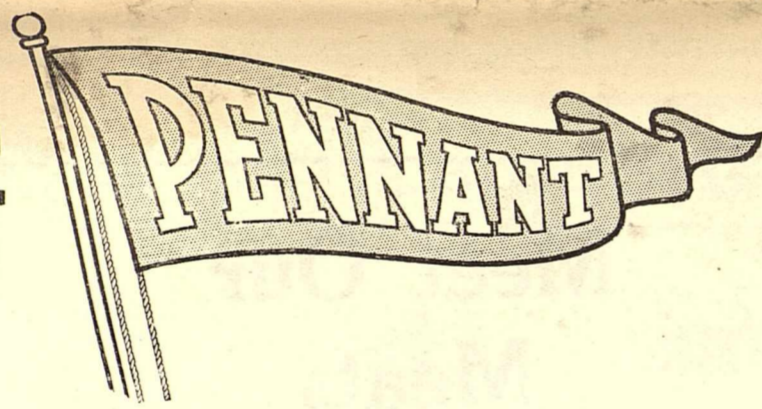
BERNE—An English Alpinist has just had a remarkable adventure. He was passing through a difficult part of a mountain road in Switzerland when he was menaced by two eagles who seemed to be coming down directly toward him.

Not having any sort of weapon of defense he could think of nothing better than to open his umbrella and make of it a sort of shield. His surprise may be imagined when he saw a little pig fall at his feet. The eagles had been disputing over its possession and had dropped it.

The pig unharmed, was adopted by the Englishman.

Crank up the jitney and get into the road that leads to the Northwest Texas Fair, Sept. 24-25-26 COME.

1855



1925

"In Quality Above All"

This is Your Town Buy in Spur

and most of all buy at the PENNANT Sign. PENNANT Brand Products are the result of seventy years of far-reaching laboratory experiments and embody those elements that determine the ultimate in efficiency and service for the motorist of today. PENNANT 4D Oil is the last word in Lubrication for the Universal Car.

J. P. SIMMONS, Agent
Pierce Petroleum Corporation

WE WELCOME YOU

The Unprecedented Progress in North West Texas in the last 20 years is due to that thrift and stern determination handed down to us by our Pioneer Forefathers—Boost West Texas and Spur to the Skies. To do so will only do it justice.

Welcome Fair Visitors

TO

SPUR

AND

C. Hogan & Co.

SPUR, TEXAS

SPUR BUSINESSES

(Continued from page 1 section 2)

In connection with the above, we desire to state that Spur has a corps of the best physicians found in any town. Dr. T. H. Blackwell is specializing in Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat diseases and is relieving much suffering from these causes. Dr. Hale, Dr. Morris and Dr. Grace are excellent in the practice of medicine and



Interior View of The Red Front Drug Store, on Burlington Ave.
co-operate in many ways for the health of the public. There are two good dentists in Spur who are becoming more efficient in their profession every month. Both of them are young men, both have built nice homes here and both are gaining the confidence of the people very rapidly.

Spur has and supports two newspapers—the Texas Spur and the Dickens County Times. The Texas Spur has been here since the town began, and has been instrumental in developing much of the social atmosphere of this country. The Times was founded a year ago, and while it is new to the people it has received a most cordial welcome from the public.

There is one business in the town that is an exception for a town of this size. This is the Spur Top & Paint Shop, the owners of which are very busy all the time. They repaint and beautify cars, and it is remarkable what an excellent finish they can put on your car. They are especially equipped for finishing cars and are doing work that stands a favorable test.

The Cash Variety Store carries a line of such as is suggested by the name. Mr. John T. McCulloch is the owner and manager and is building up a nice line of business. There is where the people go to buy the little things as well as some of the larger articles of use.

J. P. Wikes & Son, is another one of the hustling businesses of Spur. In addition to a large line of furniture this firm sells notions, dry goods

that commands the respect and confidence of all who know him. This store sells work clothes and shoes but their chief line is groceries. Mr. Love has always been a believer in Dickens County and no one is more buoyant than he is for the progress that is being made.

Wolfe's Bargain Store has been established about one year. This business suffered a fire during the summer, but is being restocked and building up a good business. Mr. I. Wolfe is its manager.

These include Spur's Dry Goods stores and all stores that in any manner have a dry goods department in them. However, the various grocery stores have a great deal to do with the growth of this country. Among these businesses there are the following that have not been mentioned in connection with other lines of business.

Scott Bros. located on Haris Street and was formerly Morgan & Scott. During the first part of the year Mr. Morgan sold his interest to the Scott Bros., and the business is known by that name. In addition to groceries they operate a neat little market and are prepared to supply trade in most any line of good things to eat.

The Spur Grocery was established some five years ago and came under its present management about three years ago. The business is owned by Mr. S. H. Twaddell and Mr. Ray Sanders and is managed by Mr. Twaddell. These people have been faithful in promoting the interests of Dickens



Ramsey Garage, A Modern Building with Modern Conveniences

County and have been the means of assisting in many worthy improvements.

The Drive-In Grocery is another good business in the city. It is owned by D. H. Sullivan, who has been in this country a number of years, and has been in business quite a while. This business was established as a "Drive-In Grocery" in the early part of this year.

The plumbing business in Spur is carried on by three firms. Clayton & Son was the first of these that was established, and they have been doing good business. The Riter Hardware keeps plumbing supplies and has an expert man for the work. Walker & Moore are new people in the business, but are making good.

Spur has a cotton exchange, the only town of its size in West Texas that supports a local exchange. This is under the management of C. B. Cook, one of the most experienced men in Texas in that line of business.

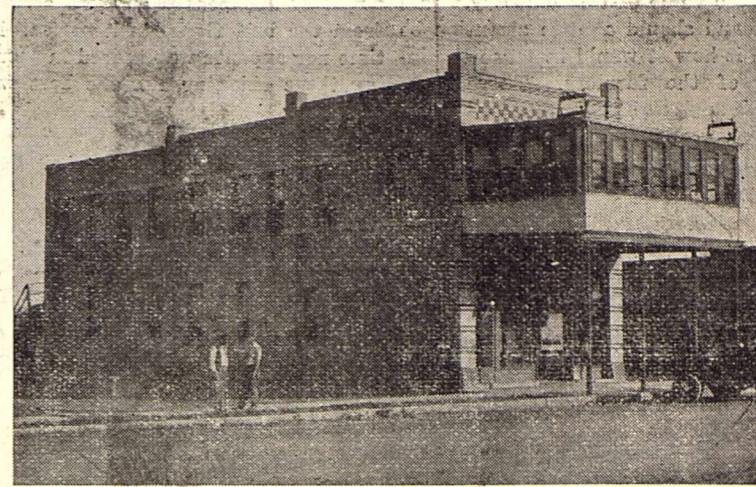
The cotton ginning in this town is done by eight gins. There is something more than 16,258 bales ginned here of the 1924 crop. There is rarely any lack of ginning facilities in Spur, and people are glad to come here to avoid having to endure long hours of waiting for cotton to be ginned. There were approximately 27,000 bales of cotton ginned in the county last year.

A new business that is being established in Spur is the Spur Cotton Compress & Warehouse. This is a new business and will be opened for

receipts this fall for the first time. It will be under the management of T. P. McGraw who has been in the compress business a long time, has made it a life study and knows the problems to be solved in the cotton business.

So far as amusements are concerned Spur is not behind in this line. The Lyric Theater, managed by W. W. Flournoy, affords some of the best screen programs to be found in America. The pictures are of a high class,

and one that own their church building, and one that holds services monthly, using the building of a sister denomination. This shows the broad, liberal attitude of the people in regard to devine worship. Of the church buildings three are of modern brick and for sightliness and neatness are not excelled in the west. There are two fine school buildings in the town, and Spur has a school system that is the equal of many cities much larger. There is a fine



The Nichols Sanitarium on Burlington Ave.

clean nature, with a purpose of making the moral conditions better. Then there is the Skating Rink, just lately established, and is a great amusement to the young people as well as good wholesome exercise for those participating.

There are five church denomina-

school among patrons and students that means much in the work of the school.

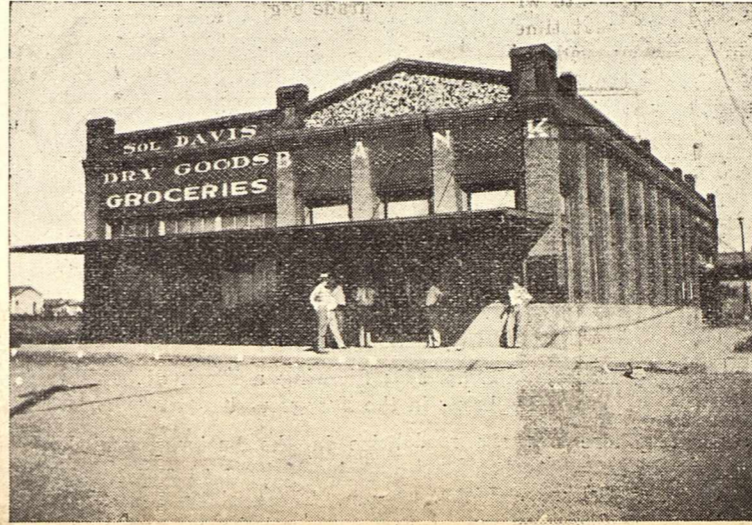
This is just a synoptical report of the industries and institutions of the town.

The Central Market is operated and managed by Lonnie Harris who is a progressive young man. This business contains the latest equipment in its line and is a great asset to the country. Mr. Harris buys a great deal of local stuff when he can get the right grade for his market. It is a neat, sanitary business.

Clemmons Insurance Agency has been among the enterprising businesses of this country. It was founded by Mr. Sam T. Clemmons, and since his demise, has been managed by Mrs. Clemmons.

Davis & Ousley are a new firm. Mr. S. L. Davis established the business early in the year, and it has grown until he found it necessary to enlist the assistance of a partner. They are for Spur and Dickens County.

E. J. Cowan is a pioneer in the insurance business in this country.



The City National Bank

(Continued on page 5 section 2)

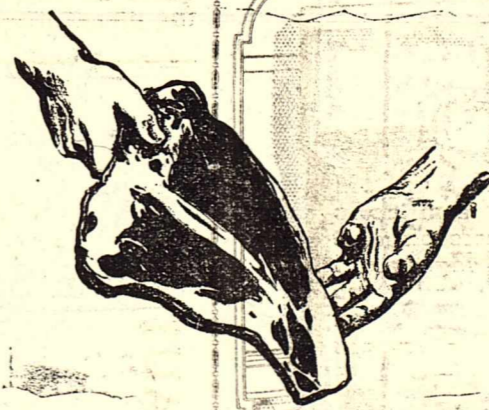
It Pays to Buy Good Lumber



The longer service, the greater efficiency, saving of work and neater appearance of the finished job combine to make buying good Lumber an economical thing to do. We have many different grades of Lumber, each one the best for the purpose intended—but for the usual run of work, our standard grade is the best all around Lumber to buy.

Brazelton Lumber Co.
Has Good Lumber, - Spur, Texas

Meet Our Meats



Then you will realize just how unusually good, good meat can be. Tender and Juicy, the choicest cuts of the choicest stock. It is easily digestible and full of nourishment for every member of the family.

Central Market
PAY CASH AND GET THE BEST

Spur Making Good at the West Texas C. of C.



The business men of Spur have always been alive to the town's opportunities and have never failed to score when they entered a contest. They made a good showing at the West Texas Chamber of Commerce convention which met in Mineral Wells May 4-5-6, 1-9-25, and won the applause and kind consideration of towns represented there.

The above picture shows Spur demonstration in the contest for the best decorated car. All of this is typical of Dickens County products, and the farm exhibits were grown in this territory. It was thought at first that Spur would not enter the contest, but the spirit of progressiveness reigned too strong with the representatives and they went in to win.

R. B. Johnston, at that time County Agricultural Agent, had charge of the contest and superintended the car. He was ably assisted by O. C. Arthur, of Dickens, and other enthusiastic citizens of this county, and it is said they did the work so well that even other representatives from this county were surprised at their own car looking so grand. When the parade began Dickens County won the applause of the convention and at the same time first honors for the

ing. Spur has always been represented at the Chamber of Commerce Convention. This year, in addition to winning a first honor, they had one of the snappiest little bands that played before the convention. They have always been fair to the contests, and through this attitude have held the highest respect of all towns competing.

SPUR BUSINESSES

(Continued from page 4)

He owns business property and is one of the men who desires to see progress in this country.

As a medium of feed markets and supply, Spur has two excellent feed and grain stores. They are the Spur Grain & Coal Company owned and managed by Mr. W. M. Hazel; and King & Sample, managed by Mr. Bill Putnam. These furnish a good market for all grains and feed that the farmers have for sale, and is a base of supply when the farmers run short of feed.

There is an excellent market furnished the people through the Spur



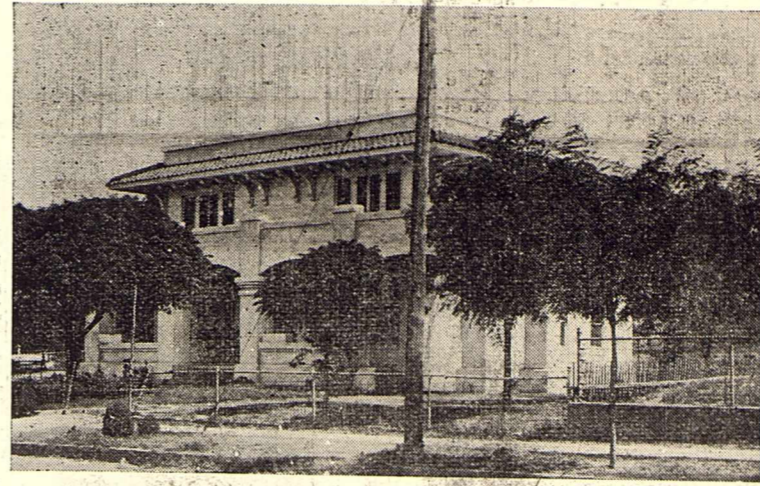
Commodious Home of Bryant-Link Company

Produce Company. This business is managed by Mr. H. E. Blendon and pays a good reasonable price for farm products all during the year.

There are many other firms who stand for the progress of this county. Among these are the barber shops, Spur's Dairy, the tin shops, blacksmiths, and many others. All of them are willing to do something for the growth of the west.

The town of Spur and Dickens County is a field of opportunity opened to the man of moderate means, where, if he has not had and opportunity to get a start in life he will find people ready to give him a good boost.

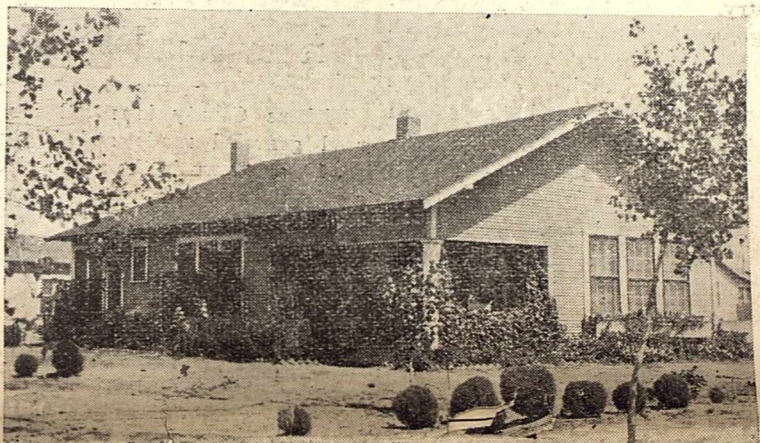
Another Group of Beautiful Homes



The Modern Home of E. L. Caraway



The Home of W. R. Lewis on Burlington Avenue



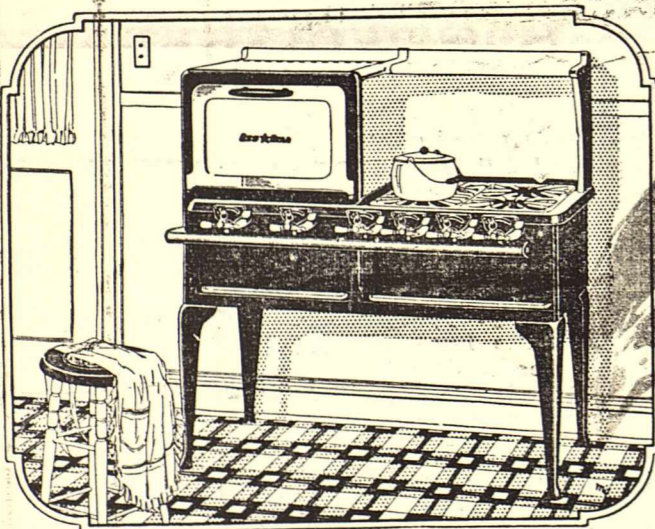
The P. A. Ramsey Home

Campbell & Campbell Exclusive In Home Furnishings

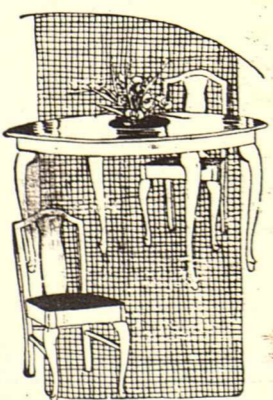


Furniture For Every Room

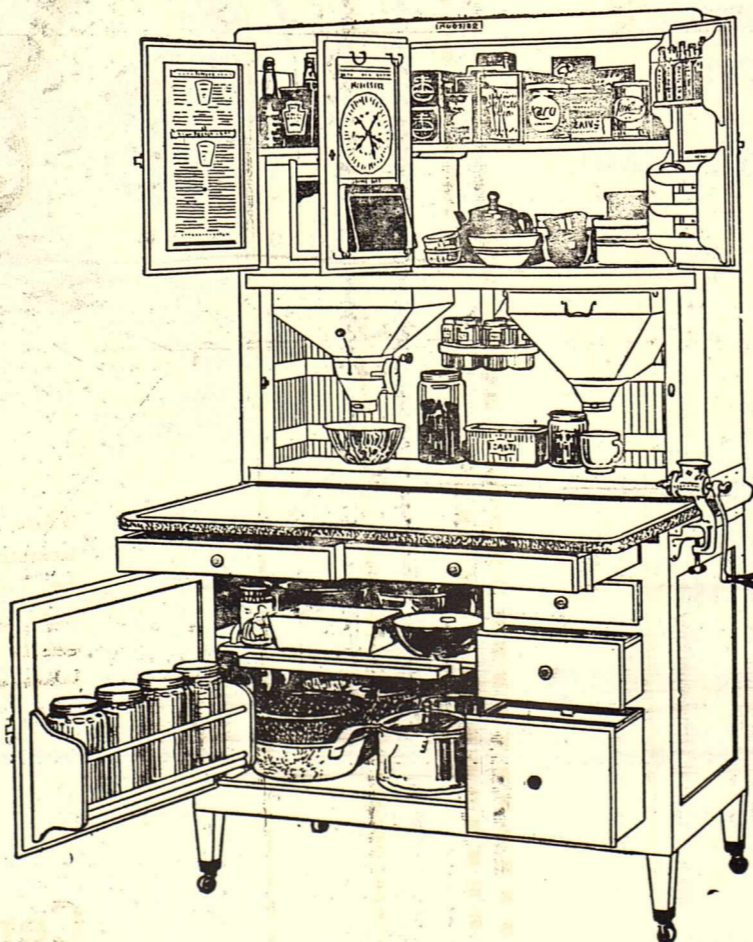
SELECTED BY US FROM THE LEADING MANUFACTURER'S LINE OF THE COUNTRY, the Furniture displayed in our stocks affords many excellent suggestions for furnishing every room in your home economically and well. Visit our store and learn the reasonable prices we quote on staple items. Nice furniture is a necessity, and adds much to the pleasantness of any home.



Uses common kerosene, gasoline or distillate. Cooks with clean, hot economical GAS HEAT. Gives perfect results. Saves one-fourth the fuel. Lasts a lifetime.



SELECTION OF A FEW ODD CHAIRS FOR THE HOME is a pleasure that few can resist when they see the attractive designs we have on display. OUR DINING ROOM FURNITURE is excellent in beauty this Fall. Let us show you our line.

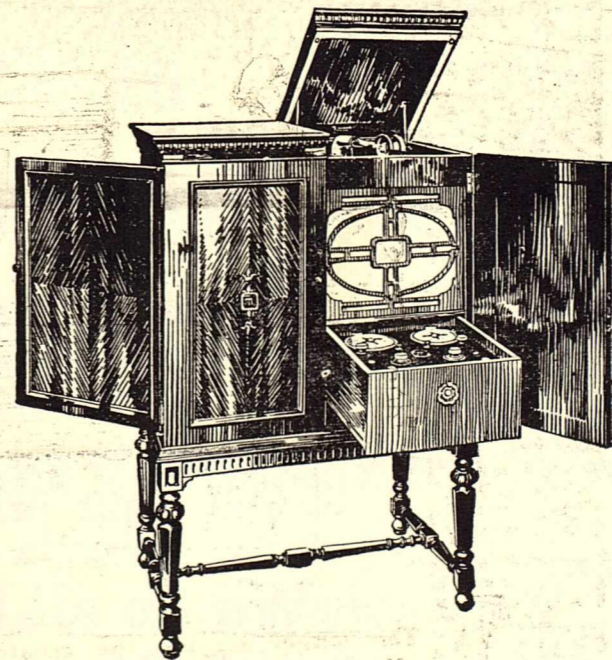


A THING OF BEAUTY

HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINETS

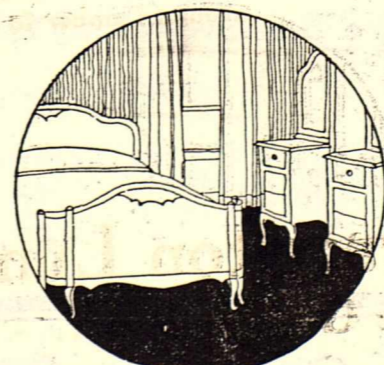
Here are some of the special Hoosier features: Sliding work table, rigid at any position; extra rapid shaker sifter, both fluffs and sifts the flour; large, easy-filling flour bin with glass front that shows the amount of flour; adjusted table height; cutlery drawer with racks for all kinds of knives; velvet-lined drawer for silverware of immediate need. These and dozens of other features make the Hoosier the most efficient and economical kitchen cabinet you can buy.

Music Supreme Here



HERE'S PHONOGRAPH AND RADIO IN ONE. Clearer, Sweeter—through the famous BRUNSWICK Method of Reproduction. A proved musical instrument.

Bedroom Furniture



IN OUR NEW SHOWINGS OF BED ROOM PIECES you will see many suggestions for improving the appearance of your Bedroom at little cost.

The First Baptist Church Spur Tex.

The spirit of progressiveness rules with the Church denominations of Spur. The above is a representation of the First Baptist Church and the smaller picture is the able pastor, through whose untiring effort the building was erected.



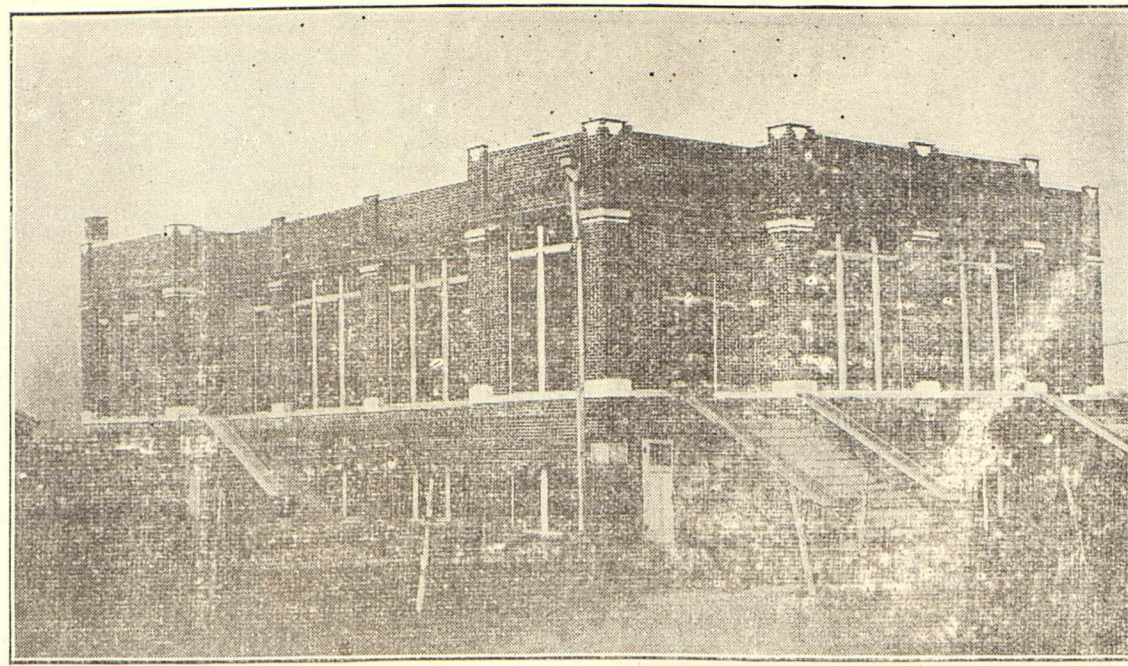
L. L. F. Parker, Pastor.

Rev. L. L. F. Parker, formerly pastor of the Tahoka Baptist Church for several years, moved to Spur on October 14th, 1920, almost five years ago. When he and his family arrived the only excuse of a building his church had was an old tabernacle which was very uncomfortable in many respects. This did not please the pastor and a great many of the membership desired a better home in which to worship.

After Rev. Parker had been on the field about six months, he had learned who were the faithful ones in the church, and on whom could be depended for the main work of the organization. The pastor began talking for a new building. Many in advisory manner discussed the problem and a few members opposed the movement, but the building was erected, and every member is glad they have this nice church home.

The original cost of the building was \$35,000.00. This does not include the furnishing which amounted to a great deal. The Building Committee was composed of the pastor and the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SPUR



This building was erected four and half years ago, at a cost of \$35,000., including equipment. Property now worth more than \$75,000.

following members: P. H. Miller, Oscar Jackson, E. C. Edmonds, T. J. Seale, Emmett Lee, J. A. Marsh, T. A. Johnson, J. H. Dobbins and W. F. Godfrey.

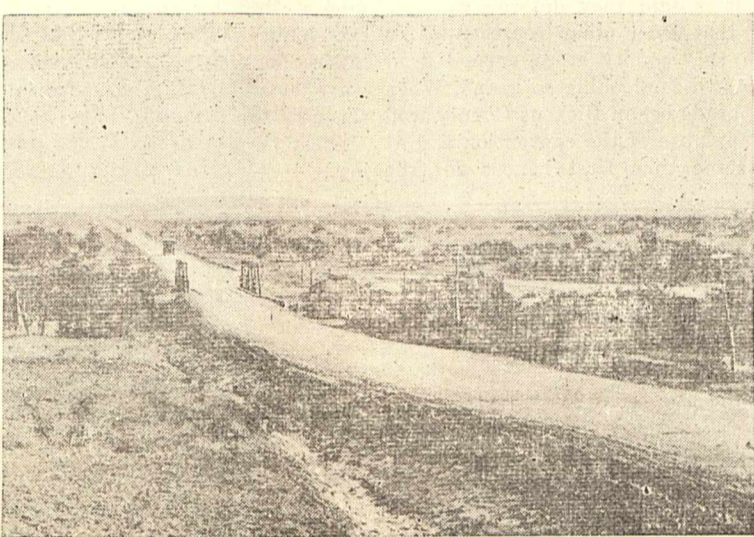
The church now has a membership of nearly 400 and is growing all the time.

When in Spur you will find a hearty welcome by Pastor and deacons.

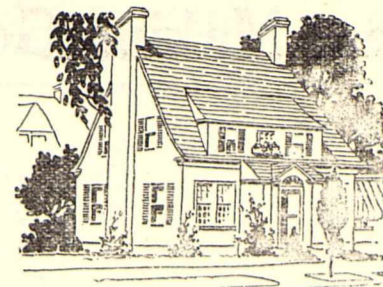
Dickens County Pioneer Road Builders

Dickens County is noted for its good graveled roads and Highway No. 18, as shown in the above picture is only a specimen of what the county offers to its settlers in the way of good roads. The officials of the county realize that there is nothing that is quite so beneficial and adds to the progress of any country more than do the roads that are traversed in it. The judicious connection that this

HIGHWAY NO. 18



county has with the different great as beneficial to the people as is the state highways is probably nearly railroads that penetrate the country.



Before You Start Planning Your Home

LET US FIGURE WITH YOU.

There is much to be considered in material and saving when you start to build a home. We have had years of experience in this business and will take great pleasure in assisting you.

We have the material needed to make your home the best of its kind, and you will be glad you let us help you when it is finished.

Musser Lumber Co.

Material to Build Everything from a Milk-house to a Mansion.

FIRST CLASS PICTURES
Can Be Seen Any Time At

Lyric Theater

SPUR, TEXAS

J. P. Wilkes & Son

We Sell Everything--

Dry Goods, Shoes, Notions Furniture, Hardware and Wall Paper

This is the place to get what you want at right prices

We do all kinds of Repairing

We Buy all Kinds Second Hand Goods

Just drop in and See Our Line

We Buy Everything and Sell Everything We Buy

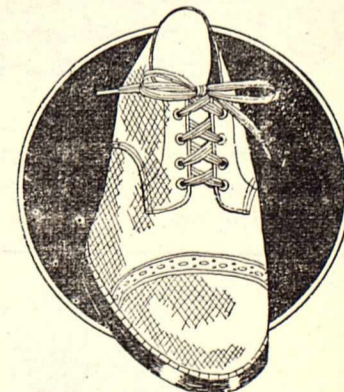


What Mother Enjoys

Mother enjoys cooking, but it is oftentimes much harder work than necessary because she lacks the proper utensils. Tell her to come here and select what she needs—it will cost you a very moderate sum.

O-So-Ez-E Guaranteed Shoes

A line of Styles, Suitable for any occasion
Get 'em Here



Come to The Fair Sept, 24, 25, 26, And Visit Us While Here

Spur People Take Much Pride In Beautiful Homes

Probably in no town of all the great west do people take more pride in beautiful homes than they take in the little city of Spur. Through these nice homes the town is made a beautiful place in which to live, and is very enticing to the many visitors who come to Spur.

There is much pride taken not only in the buildings but in the lots. Cleanliness is a great feature among Spur people. Careful arrangements of the grounds and beautiful home plots and plans add to the attractiveness of Spur very materially.

The ladies of the town take much pride in raising beautiful flowers, and through their supervision Spur has some of the most beautiful lawns found anywhere.

Most of the homes that are being built now are of modern bungalow style, or of two-story stately type that would be a credit to any city. Many are using brick and reinforced

concrete and stucco material for construction, which make a good permanent residence. It is the chief idea of the owners that when they build, that the residence constructed be adequate to meet conditions in a rapid growing town several years in the future.

Many of the different types of homes are being exhibited in photographs in this paper, but these are only a few of the many homes now located in the town. There are many others that compare favorably with the progress of any town with a much greater population than is found in Spur.

This great building spirit just shows the confidence the residence have in the future of Spur. It is just one of the reasons why this is the great little town that it is, and why there is a great prospect for it becoming a still greater town.

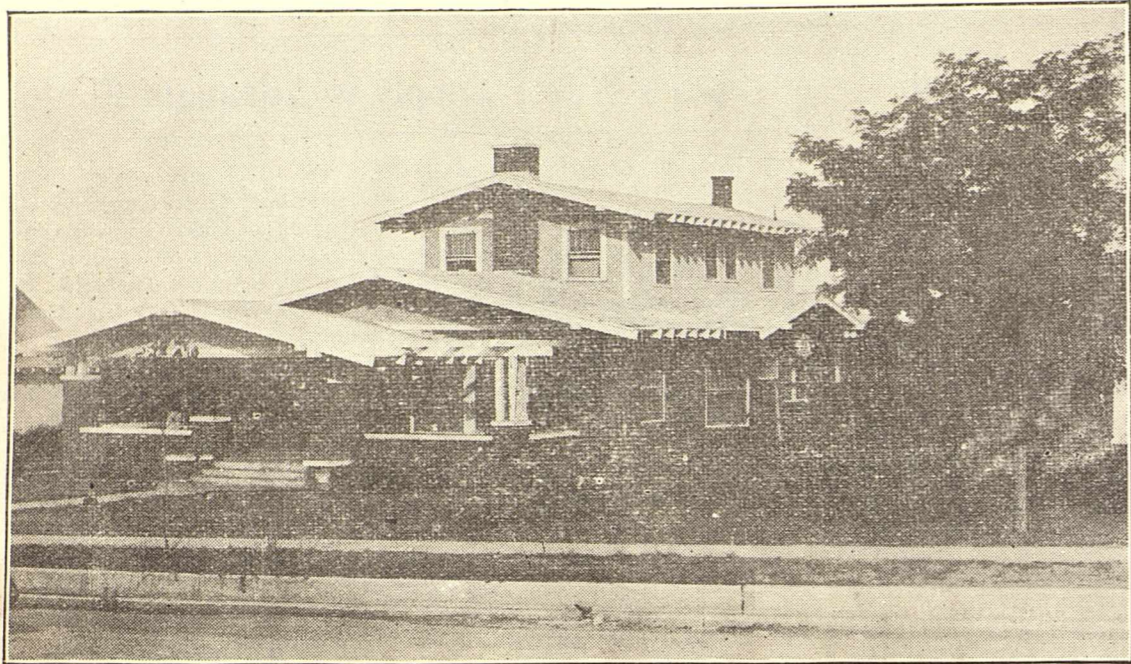
NORTHWEST TEXAS FAIR ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page two)

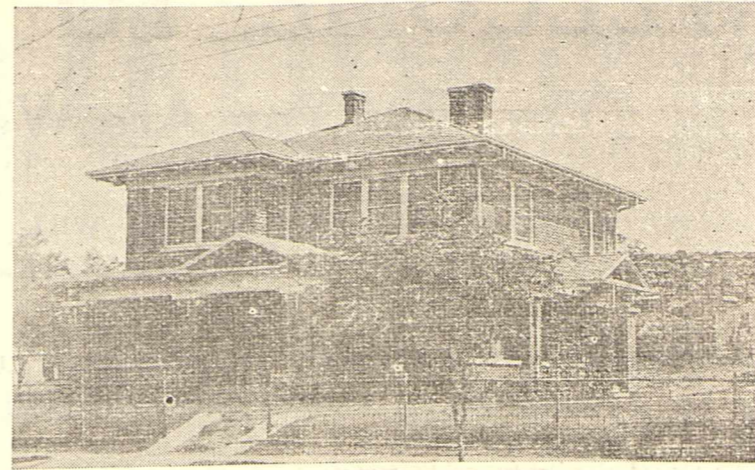
aces, fire works exhibits (two nights this year), and practically everything in innocent amusement that will be educational and entertaining to the people.

There are people (not in Dickens County) who have said that a Fair is not beneficial to a people. If these people could only get an understanding of the conditions of this country fifteen years ago, and then could realize the great improvements that have come from the influence of the Northwest Texas Fair, they might feel there is some benefits derived from such an organization. The Fair has been a wonderful influence on farm stock improvements, and the agricultural products are of much better quality now than they were years ago. Come to Dickens County and see what a wonderful country it is.

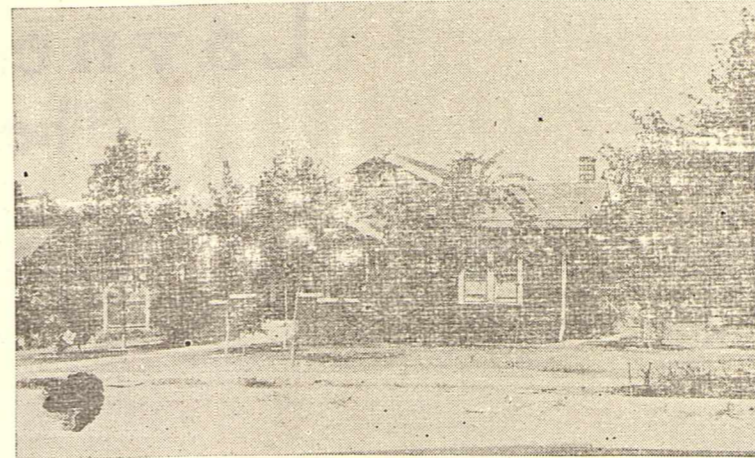
Make your preparations to come to the Northwest Texas Fair. If you miss it you'll miss something big.



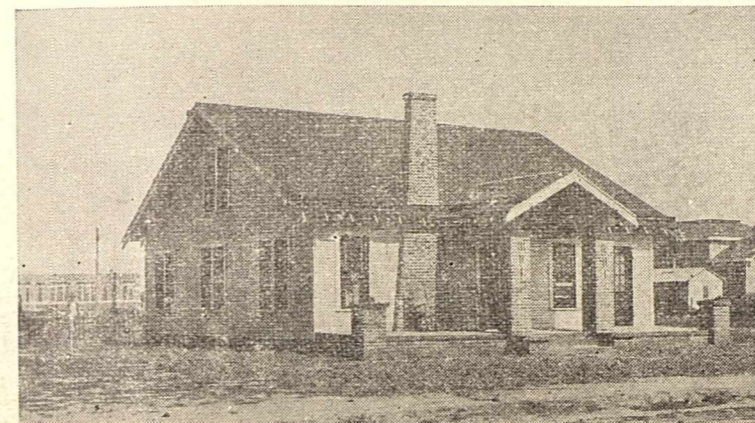
The Beautiful Home of Ned Hogan



The Lovely Home of W. S. Campbell, on Hill Street



Home of W. J. Bryant, Jr.



C. A. Love Home

COAL HAY FEED

Just Plain Common Sense

It's just Common Sense—and nothing else—that Prompts you to Save money on feed and Petroleum Products

And regardless of how low the prices are, unless you get QUALITY, it's Poor Business judgment. , and that's why it's just PLAIN COMMON SENSE to trade here—We handle Quality feed and Petroleum Products and you can't beat our prices.

Try Us

King & Sample

Spur's Progressive Feed Store
GASOLINE LUB. OILS KEROSENE
PHONE 199

What It Means To You

To be within reach of a Grocery Store that carries a full line of High Class Groceries as--

Premier Food Products
H. J. Heinz 57 Varieties
Chase And Sanborn's
Teas And Coffees

These are well known HIGH STANDARDS OF QUALITY, and we are equipped to give you BIG TOWN service in a small town.

We invite you to call on us any day in the week, meet our hospitality, and get acquainted with our service.

A GOOD GROCERY
IN A GOOD TOWN

WE WANT YOUR TRADE

SPUR GROCERY COMPANY

WELCOME, TO SPUR, DURING THE FAIR

Yes, But You Are Welcome to Layne-Yates Co. All The Time

AT LAYNE-YATES COMPANY YOU WILL FIND MISS ILA BOWMAN, MR. RALPH JACKSON AND D. D. DUNWODY, EVER READY TO SERVE YOU WITH A SMILE—COME IN AND TALK WITH US—WE ARE ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE YOU

WE HAVE MANHATTAN AND WILSON BROTHER'S SHIRTS, CURLEE AND SOCIETY BRAND SUITS, NUNN-BUSH, RED GOOSE AND J. & K. SHOES; STETSON HATS; WILSON BROTHERS AND BLACK CAT HOSE. AND EVER-FAST PIECE GOODS.

Yes, We Have Ladies' Hats and Dresses of All Kinds

Layne-Yates Company

The Cash Dry Goods Store

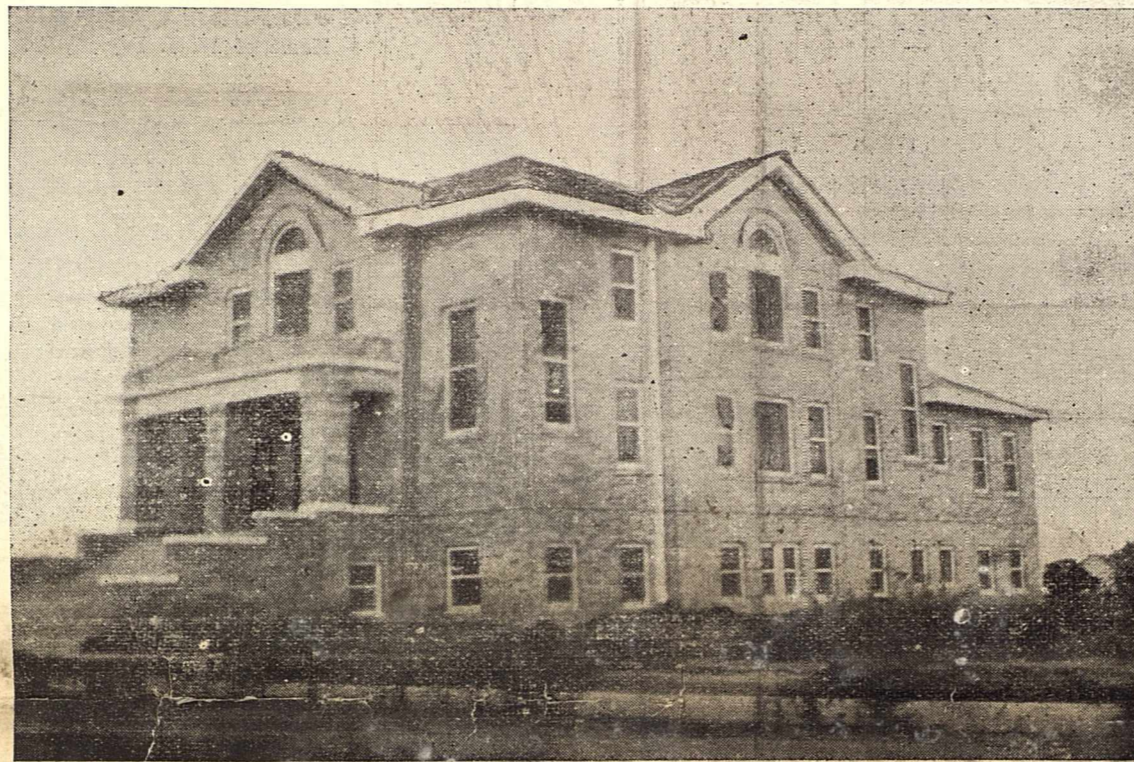
M. E. Church Pastor



Rev. I. A. Smith

Rev. Smith was sent to the Spur Methodist Church in the Autumn of 1923. He and his good wife and children were strangers when they arrived, but they found a people ready to extend them a cordial welcome. The two years that Rev. Smith has been pastor of the church, it is noted that he has enjoyed a pleasant atmosphere and loving association with his membership. He works at his job like it is a pleasure to him, and is has been largely through this attitude that the church has made the great progress that is has. Bro. Smith is loved by his membership who recognize him a great leader. Rev. Smith is one of the ablest pulpit orators in West Texas. He is a student and always is alive to the times. His church wants him back next year, and it is the hope of every one that he will remain with Spur people.

A Monument to the Efforts of The Methodist



This shows a view of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Spur, one of the most modern in West Texas, composed of the best finish brick. The church was organized in 1909, and for twelve years the congregation worshipped in a tabernacle. The first pastor was Rev. R. A. Stewart now presiding elder of Sweetwater District of the M. E. Church. It is said the first pastor made his home in Dickens and preached here only a part of the time.

The above structure was erected in 1921. The Church membership desired a new home long before that year, but were patient in order to be able to erect the class of building they desired. Rev. Joe M. Haynes, now pastor of the M. E. Church at Hereford, was the one who directed the building of the new church. Rev. J. P. Patterson was the first pastor sent to the Church after the building was completed. It was up to

him to see about financing a church that was already burdened, but he was very successful because the membership was loyal. Rev. I. A. Smith, has been on the field two years. Since he came he has been successful in getting the church on a good financial basis. Arrangements have been made whereby the remainder of the church debt will be liquidated soon.

Spur's Water Supply is Adequate For City

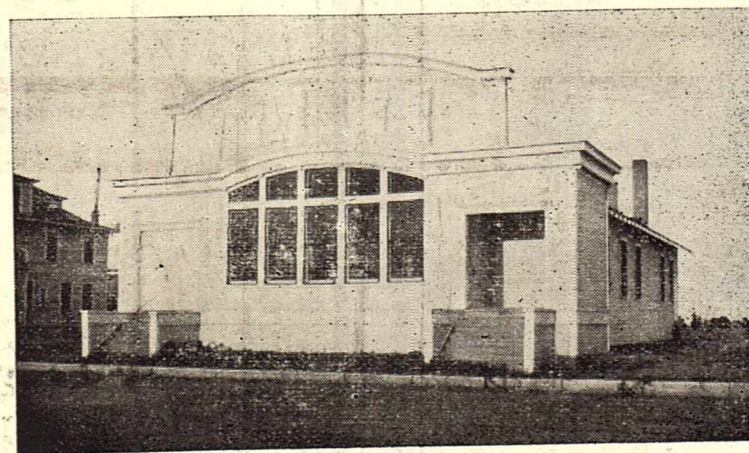
The people of Spur truly are proud of the city water supply for it is a representation of the progress the town. The city officials have given much attention to this feature of the town, and today there are few cities that have a greater supply of water than is found here. The source of supply is a number of wells in Duck Creek valley, near where Dockum Creek intersects that stream. These wells are securely covered and cemented over in order to guard against foreign matter getting into the water. The water is pumped to the large reservoirs by two pumps of great capacity. The reservoirs are located on the hill just north of town. One of these is an elevated tank of 55,000 gallon capacity and supplied the city for many years. The other reservoir is re-inforced concrete and was just lately erected, Chas Whitener having charge of the work. This tank has a capacity of 180,000 gallons.

The two pumps are driven by electric motors, from the Spur Light & Power Company. One pump furnishes 200 gallons per minute and the other one 300 gallons per minute. There is a large main leading from the pumps to the reservoirs which gives them full capacity in the pumping. The town just recently replaced a great deal of the main water lines with larger mains. There is plenty of mains leading to all parts and every resident has the privilege of the city water. This requires several miles of main in all to reach the people. The town is supplied with a number of fire plugs, equally distributed over the townsite. There is no part of the town that cannot be reached from a fire plug. This alone has been very beneficial to the people. When Spur becomes a city of 10,000 people there will be plenty of water for its citizens.

Schrimsher's Barber Shop

Where You Will Feel At Home
And Your Patronage Appreciated

The First Christian Church



This is another one of the live church organizations in our city. A few faithful ones came together on the 7th day of July, 1915, and perfected an organization. The Church did not have much means at first, but there was plenty of determination and that is what usually accomplishes anything.

The above church building was under construction at the time the church was organized. There had been a church board organized and authorized to go ahead with the building. The contractors permitted the people to use the building for the organization. Then there was a meeting held about three weeks, later, and the Church was then dedicated.

Rev. Douthitt was the first pastor of the Church. He is now field secretary for the Christian Courier. The first Sunday School was organized in 1915 with 19 members. C. A. Love, manager of the "Economy

Store," was the first Sunday School Superintendent. The school was a success and grew to 137 members. R. E. Dickson is the present superintendent. At the present time the Church has no pastor. Rev. M. B. Harris was the last pastor, but resigned to take work with the First Church at Stamford. However, the membership has held together remarkably, the Sunday School is at par and the members are diligent in attending to the church business and ordinances. They expect to call a pastor soon.

There is not a dollar of indebtedness on the Church. They own a nice pastor's home that is now valuable property.

Don't forget the dates of the Fair, September 24-25-26. COME

See the Mammoth Fire Works Display the second night of the Fair.



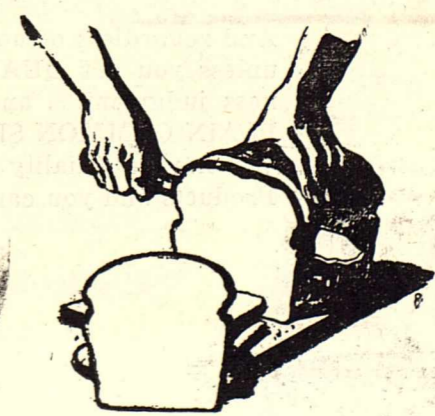
PURITY ICE CREAM

Our Cream is Pasturized—All Cans and Containers are Sterilized under high steam pressure.

You will find the Cream to be absolutely PURE.

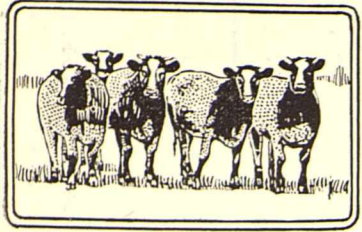
Spur Cream & Bottling Works
Spur, Texas

When Serving Our Bread Slice Plenty



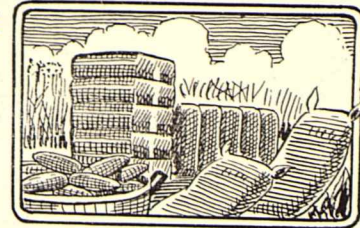
If you do not slice plenty of our bread before sitting down to a meal, you will surely have to get up and slice more. It's so good the family cannot resist it.

SPUR BAKERY



A WEST TEXAS PAPER FOR WEST TEXAS PEOPLE

Dickens Co. Times



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1925

Spur Experiment Station Has Contributed a Wealth of Information to the Farming Industry of Texas

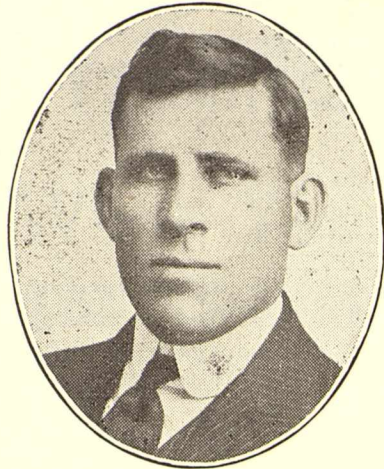
The Spur Experiment Station is one of the 16 agricultural experiment Stations that have been created by the Texas Legislature and established in various parts of the State to study the agricultural problems of the region in which they are located. The Experiment Station is maintained by appropriations made by the Legislature. The Stations are branches, or out of door laboratories of the Main Experiment Station at College Station, Texas and a part of the A. & M. College of Texas.

The A. & M. College of Texas is divided into three major branches. The Experiment Stations, or the branch of the College whose duty it is to secure new information about Agriculture of the State. The Extension Service, or the part of the College that carries the agricultural information to the farmers of the State, and the resident teaching department, or the College proper at College Station.

The Experiment Station at College Station, with its 16 branch substations are studying every problem that confronts the farmers of Texas. Each of the Substations are studying the problems peculiar to their own region. The main work of the Beaumont Station is rice production; Sonora, is cattle and sheep; Troupe is general farming and truck crops; Nacogdoches, tobacco; Denton, Cotton, Corn, Wheat and oats; Wichita Falls, irrigation; etc. on down the line.

The Spur Station was established by an act of the Legislature in 1909, and was to study the agriculture of Central West Texas or that vast territory below the Cap Rock ex-

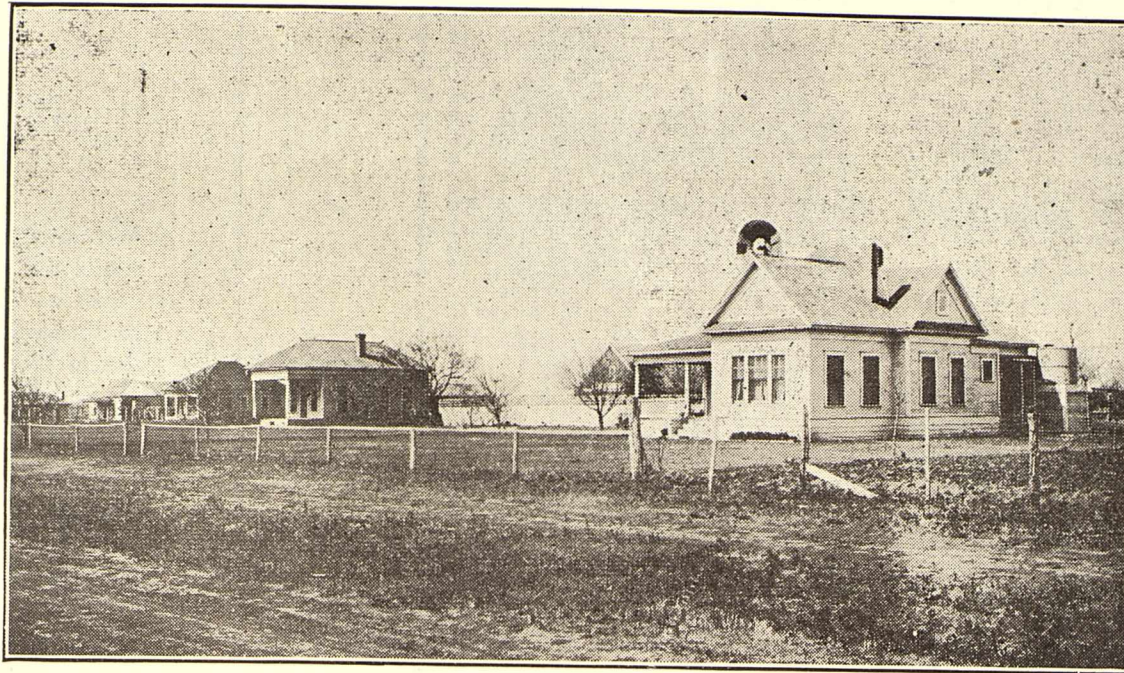
Making History at Experiment Station



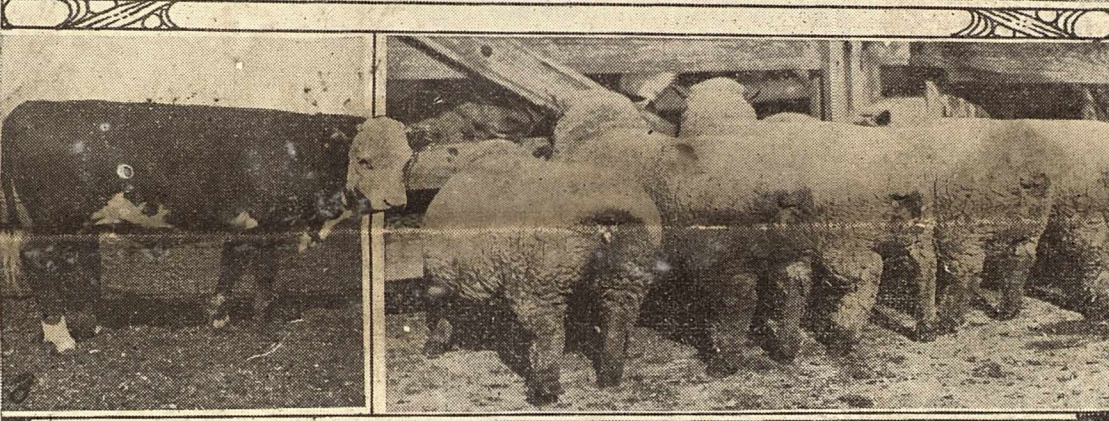
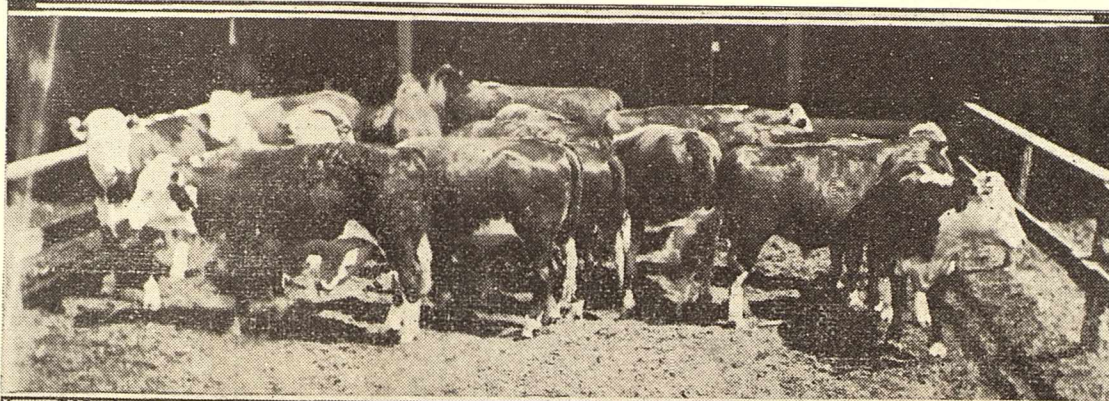
R. E. Dickson

tending eastward to the Cross Timbers. In 1914 feeding and breeding investigations with livestock were added to the field of the Station and for the past 11 years a systematic study has been made of the breeds of livestock and the relative feeding values of the feed crops produced in Western Texas.

The Experiment Stations are the only institutions in existence which have for their one purpose the study of agricultural problems. It was through the work of the Experiment Stations that milo, kafir and feterita were found in the semi arid sections of Africa and introduced into the semi-arid sections of America. Only



View of the Homes at the Spur Experiment Station



Pen of calves fed on grain sorghum. Lower left an exceptionally good calf fed on milo. A champion pen of Southdown wethers fed at the Spur Experiment Station.

increased many times faster than the agriculture of North West Texas. The scope of the Station's work has increased from a local nature in 1911 to a continuous service to a large portion of the best agricultural and livestock sections of Texas.

Among the outstanding services rendered by the Stations are:

1. A comprehensive study of the feeding value of the grain sorghums. A few years ago the grain sorghums were not quoted on the grain markets except as a make shift feed on the farms where they were grown. On January 27, 1925 corn and the grain sorghums of the same grade were selling at exactly the same price per 100 pounds on the Kansas City market. For a period of practically two years, ending some time during the summer of 1923, the grain sorghums brought a premium over corn at the primary grain markets. The largest feeders in the Southwest are paying premiums, when necessary, for the grain sorghums for fattening cattle and sheep. The grain sorghums have increased in rank among Texas Crops from zero to 3rd place, being exceeded only by cotton and corn. The Spur Station has been a fore-runner in studying the production, handling and feeding of the grain sorghums.

2. The Spur Station has developed and distributed two new and distinct types of grain sorghums which are being well received by the farmers of Texas. These two sorghums have extended the grain sorghum belt into the dryer sections of the west and into the edge infested sections on the east as well as increasing the yield in the heart of the sorghum belt.

3. The Spur Station has developed a superior strain of cotton and has made improvements on the dwarf yellow milo. As soon as these crops have been increased in sufficient quantities they will be turned over to the farmers of this section of the State.

4. The Spur Station, being located in a new agricultural section, had for its first problem the finding of crop varieties suited to the conditions that prevailed. In finding the few that were especially suited, hundreds were found that were not at all adapted and the Station has protested vigorously against the introduction of these crops into Western Texas.

5. A careful study is being made of soil moisture and fertility conservation and the Station will be ready with an abundance of information when the farmers of this section feel the necessity of building their depleted soils and increasing the moisture holding capacity of their soils and sub-soils.

6. The Spur Substation has the (Continued on page 2 this section)



A pen of baby heaves bred by Jones and Elliott and fattened at the Experiment Station on grain sorghum. These calves made equally as good and economical gain on milo heads as another pen made on corn.

a very few of our truck crops, fruits, field crops and other things which we enjoy and which have become necessities are indigenous to the region in which they are grown. They were found in other countries and no other continents by agricultural explorers, planted and tested on the Experiment Stations and later given to the public. Where thousands of

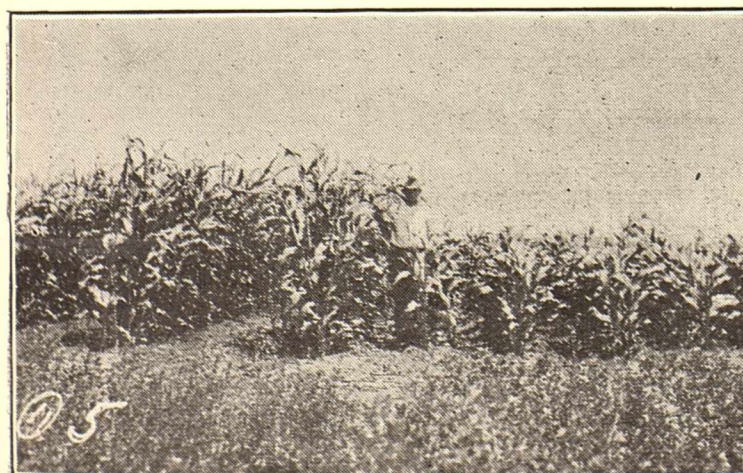
these crops are tested on a few are found to be valuable and worthy of distribution, the rest go into the junk heap. The introduction of new crops is only the starting point. After these crops have been found in place in the agriculture of a region, the big tedious task of improving is at once started. It was through this method of breeding and selecting that

dwarf milo was developed from the crude old forms; and the Spur Feterita and the Dwarf feterita was developed from the introduced strains which met with so much disapproval 15 years ago.

The demands on the Spur Stations, by farmers, ranchmen, and agricultural interest in general for reliable information and improved crops has



Annual meetings of farmers, County Agents and other Agricultural workers are held annually at the Spur Experiment Station at which time the results of experiments are made public.



The old standard milo on the left and dwarf milo on the right. Improvements of this kind in field crops has been worth millions to West Texas farmers in labor saving as dwarf varieties of grain sorghums are much easier and quicker harvested than tall varieties.



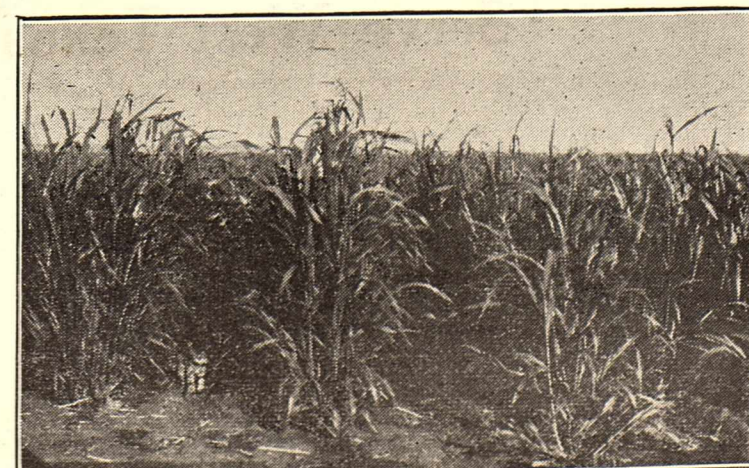
"Jimmie" Grand Champion wether at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show and Exposition was bred and fed at the Spur Experiment Station. This is probably one of the best sheep that ever entered a show ring in Texas.



Tree nursery work at the Spur Experiment Station.



Loading bright pea green alfalfa hay onto a three ton wagon. There is a large acreage in Dickens County that is well suited to alfalfa. Good alfalfa land is considered very valuable property and there is room in Dickens County for thousands of acres.



Sudan grass one of the best and most popular pasture grasses which was introduced and distributed through the Texas Experiment Station.

SPUR EXPERIMENT STATION HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO FARMING INDUSTRY OF TEX.

(Continued from p 1 this section)

distinction of being the only station in the State that is conducting a line of investigations with field crops and livestock. Due to Spur being located in a section of the State where feed crops grow abundantly, and where feeder cattle, sheep and hogs are grown and shipped to northern feed lots in great numbers and where the climate conditions are practically ideal, all that have made a study of the question agree that this is the logical section of the State in which to conduct feeding experiments.

7. No provision has ever been made by the Legislature for experimental feeding of cattle in Western Texas. The Spur Station, however, has conducted three cattle feeding experiments which have created a great deal of interest in all sections of Western Texas and has offered encouragement to the "Cow men." One rancher expressed it "The information secured on the feeding value of the Grain sorghums is the basis of the future livestock farming of this section." These three feeding tests have been made possible by local ranchmen and bankers who have placed at the disposal of the Station cattle and funds for conducting the experiments.

8. The Station has a great number of secondary projects which have a direct bearing on agriculture of Texas. In the list of secondary projects are, horticulture, vegetable gardening, forestry, bees, poultry, flower gardens etc.

9. The Station officials have used the best of business judgement in developing the Spur Station. The buildings erected have been inexpensive but substantial. The farm and farmstead have been developed along modern and improved lines. The Spur Station with its livestock, implements and improvements will invoice and sell for as much as it has been appropriated for the Station since it was established in 1909.

AVERAGE RAINFALL FOR 14 YEARS

January	.....	.21
February	.....	.51
March	.....	1.04
April	.....	2.29

May	.....	3.03
June	.....	2.51
July	.....	1.48
August	.....	2.32
September	.....	2.83
October	.....	2.85
November	.....	.86
December	.....	.76
		20.69

Practically every farmer plants feed early so as to be able to harvest it before the cotton crop opens. In doing this it is more difficult to control the weed growth in the feed and it starts heading in July. Referring to the above rainfall table it will be noted that July is a dry month and that it is at a very critical period in the development of the feed crop. Feed planted in June will start heading the latter part of August to September and will mature under much more favorable conditions. It would undoubtedly be a good policy to plant some feed before planting cotton and the rest of the feed crop after cotton planting has been finished.

THE EXPERIMENT STATION ADVOCATES

- The growth of cotton as a money crop.
- The growing of more feed and feeding of cattle, Sheep and Hogs for the market when cotton farming becomes less profitable.
- Caution against over cropping.
- Clean cultivation of all crops.
- Moisture conservation by every Method known The chief of which are terracing. Good preparation of the land and clean cultivation.
- The planting of the best tested variety of field crops. They are: Dwarf Yellow Milo, Red Top Cane, Mebane Cotton, Sudan Pasture and Feterita for bundle feed or late crop.
- Growing Alfalfa on soils which are adapted to its needs.
- Planting of some early feed and some later in the year.
- Planting winter pasture crops after heavy summer or fall rains.
- Concerning soil fertility by turning under crop residues? Returning all farm manure to the soil, preventing of blowing and washing and crop rotation.
- An orchard and garden on every farm.
- Supplying the table with products raised on the farm.

Planting and cultivating trees about every home. The best are Chinese and American Elm, Salt Cedar, Hackberry, Green Ash, Black Locust, Russian Mulberry, Cotton Wood, Native Mesquite.

Spur's C. of C. Promotes Town's and Country Growth

Since its reorganization in the Spring of 1923, there has been a great many civic movements promoted by the Spur Chamber of Commerce. There was a campaign for membership in 1923, and the body grew until there were something more than 600 members in the organization. Among the first works of the organization was a big barbecue given in honor of the Boys and Girls' Clubs of Dickens County which was one of the greatest of its kind in this country.

The Chamber of Commerce now is composed of business men, both in the town and farmers in the country. (for farmers are business men, too), that are always looking for a method to make this a better town and country. There is not much to be said about the Spur Chamber of Commerce unless we should list the many accomplishments made by it. Here are a few of them:

1. They instituted a Clean-up Day to dispose of the trash and rubbish and beautify the city.
2. Prepared and submitted to the Locating Committee Spur's brief covering its advantages as a location for the Texas Technological College.
3. They employed a competent engineer to investigate and report on the present and potential water supply of Spur and vicinity.
4. They sent "Miss Spur" to the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Convention at San Angelo in May 1923, and to Mineral Wells in 1925 to represent Spur in the "All West Texas Pageant" held at these conventions each year.
5. They instituted a community week in Spur under the direction of Captain C. S. Nusbaum.
6. They helped foster an election for the purpose of voting school bonds in the city approximating \$40,000.00
7. Helped to foster the repairs on the old school building.

We Are Interested In The Development of Dickens Co.

We Want to see People Settle This Country

We want this to be the best country in the west, and we know one way to help it to be so is to make our business the best of its kind. This we are trying to do by giving the people the best in workmanship and service, and our great line of customers prove that we are making a success.

Come to Dickens County for the best farming country
—Come to Spur for the best trading point; and then come to us for the best garage and filling station service.

AUTO ACCESSORIES, TIRES AND TUBES
LADIES REST ROOM

The Sunshine Service Station

MRS. O. MOORE HALL, Proprietor
One Block South of Spur Inn Spur, Texas

Spur Poultry Ranche

Incorporated

Our Breeding Stock Is Unexcelled

Baby Chick in Any Quality

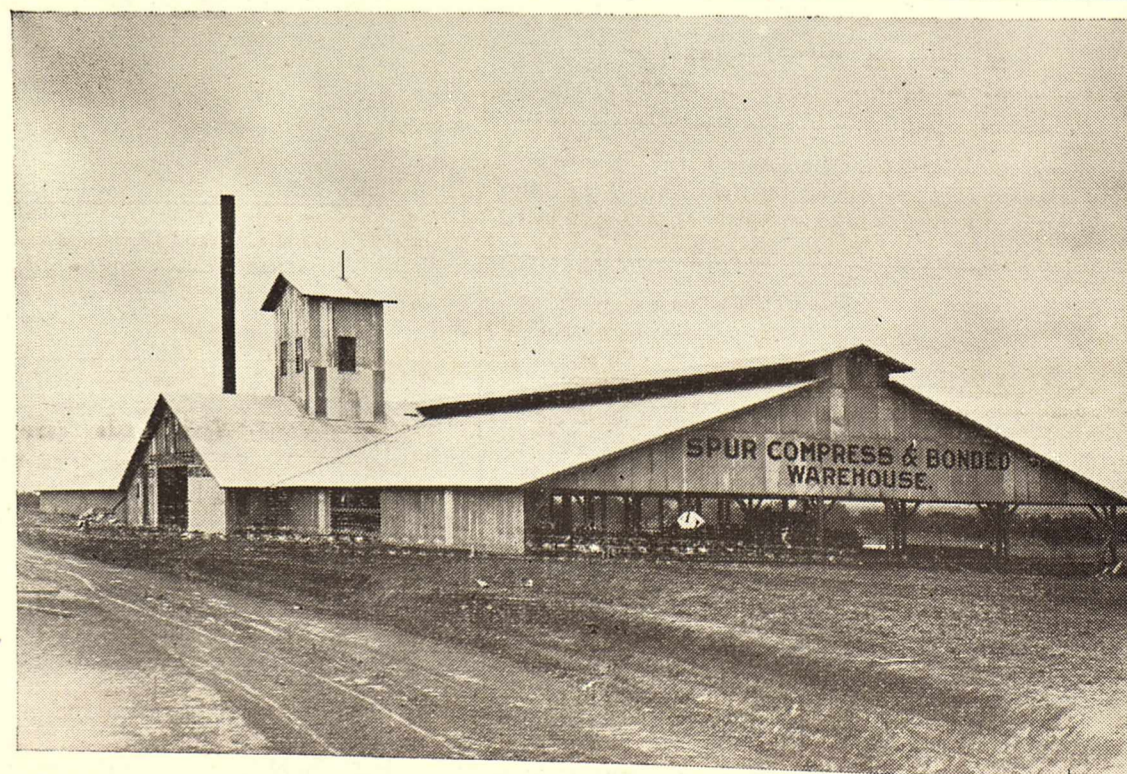
Ready and Able to Serve West Texas

R. B. JOHNSTON, Mgr.

8. They established a tourist camp in first class condition that portion grounds in Spur affording tourists a of the Fort Worth Roswell Highway place to camp while passing through. in the territory adjoining Spur.
9. Agitated the question of putting Highway Department an enrollment of \$183,200 for the improvement of State Highways in Dickens County.
10. They secured from the State (Continued on p 3 this section)



Sunshine Service Station. A Building Any City Might Boast



Spur Compress and Bonded Warehouse Recently Completed

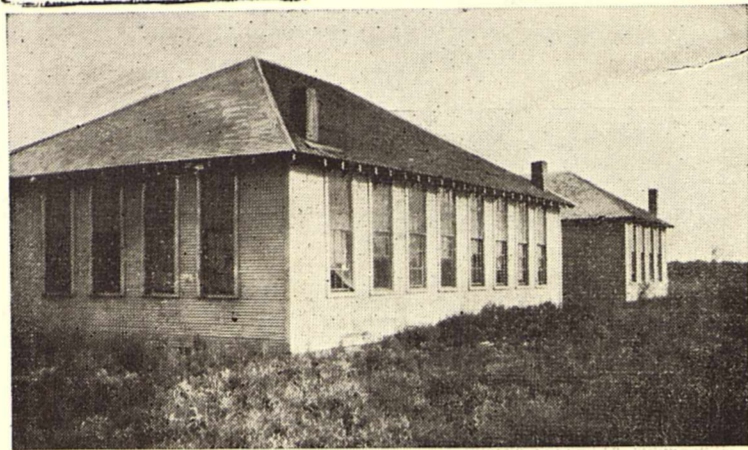
A Short Sketch of Dickens County Community Life

(Continued from section 1)

DUNCAN FLAT—

Duncan Flat, sister community to Prairie Chapel and Afton, has the same splendid farming conditions, and nestles just at the foot of the plains, possessing, in addition to its wonderful farm land of great fertility and drought-restraint quality, a vast amount of rolling pasture land. Here are found some splendid small ranches, and much land can be had at a very reasonable price, combining splendid agricultural land with profitable pasture.

general merchandise stores, a drug store, three garages, blacksmith shop, cafe, post office and confectionary. Two gins operate day and night during the cotton season, a five-teacher High School is maintained, several trucks bringing children from a vast distance to the school. The town boasts of two splendid churches, and the community life is very pleasing. Sparkling, clear pure water comes from a reasonable depth, this section being unsurpassed for the quality of its water. Splendid gardens, lovely



Duncan Flat School, located in one of the best farming sections in Texas.

A good three-teacher school is maintained, religious services are held regularly, and the water in this community is unexcelled. The people are served with mail on a Rural Route passing from Afton to Roaring Springs, both of which places are within easy trading distance of the community.

McADOO—

McAdoo has the distinction of being the only community in Dickens County lying wholly on the plains. Situated a few miles from the "Cap Rock", this thriving little city is growing so rapidly that people from nearby communities must visit it frequently in order that it may not grow out of their knowledge. The business houses include two

yards and bountiful orchards are



McAdoo School Building, 25 miles northwest of Spur. A good School in a Good Country

made possible by the inexhaustible supply of water, although there are many years when none of these things need irrigation.

The soil is a heavy clay loam, capable of wonderful production and its level nature makes it possible for a single family, in many instances, to cultivate from two to four hundred acres.

In addition to a wonderful amount of cotton and feeds, much wheat is produced on the plains around McAdoo, and vast numbers of hogs and cattle are shipped to market, bringing top prices. Diversification is generally practiced, many farmers keeping several hundred hens, and very few not possessing dairy cattle and hens enough for home use and to aid with the grocery bill.

Just a few years ago this country was dotted with buffalo herds, and now the homes of a thrifty, industrious, intelligent class of farmers dot the plains almost as thickly. Many farmers and ranchmen have from two to five sections of land in their possession, and this can be had in quarter sections or more at a very reasonable price.

MIDWAY (Postoffice, Elton)

Midway Community, located halfway between Dickens, the County Site and the town of Afton, has many advantages for the home-seeker. The soil is a sandy loam, and some of the best orchards in the whole county are found here, and the crops of grain sorghum and cotton yards and family gardens are seen at almost every farm home.

A splendid consolidated rural High School is maintained, employing the

best of teachers, and community activities are pronounced.

Especially active in this Community is the Woman's Home Demonstration Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Lura Hollingsworth, Dickens County Home Demonstration Agent. This club has done much for the community sponsoring the exhibits at the County Fair, providing activities for the young people, and studying ways and means of improving the farm home and providing better supplies of canned fruits and vegetables for the family.

Church activities are pronounced, the little village boasting of two churches, and a number of different denominations holding services in them. A post office has recently been established, under the name of Elton, Texas. A good general store carries a complete line of hardware and general merchandise, and it is hoped to soon secure a gin.

DICKENS.

Dickens, the County Site, is an inland town, but few, if any, inland towns of the same size boast of as many conveniences.

The business houses include several general merchandise stores, dry-goods establishments, drug-store, confectionery, cafes, splendid hotel, theater building where the best of pictures are shown, several garages, gin and postoffice.

The town is beautifully located, nestled among a small range of hills, from which some large springs gush cold pure water in considerable volume.

One of the best High Schools in the West is maintained, with a corps of efficient teachers, and one of the best school spirits exists here that is to be found. Many of the teachers have taught continually here for several years, the Superintendent, Mr. Frank Speer, having been connected with the school for the past five years.

Mr. Speer is a Dickens County product, having been born and reared in the vicinity of Dickens. Mr. Speer is by no means an old man, but so marked has been the growth of the country that he remembers distinctly the location of the County Site at Dickens, and as a bare-footed lad, he played about the court-yard while the court-house was under construction.

As coach of athletics, Mr. Speer had led his athletes to victory on several

occasions, his basket-ball boys and track teams having won District honors several times. The town of Dickens is fortunate to have Mr. Speer for a school man, and appreciates (Continued to page 5 this section)

WELCOME TO C. R. Edwards Dry Goods Company

ONE OF THE MOST UP-TO-DATE STORES IN WEST TEXAS

We are now swinging into Fall in earnest with values such as we've never offered before.

All That's New In Fall Millinery

Every smart turn of the Mode, every desirable color, every new trimming in a word, all that's new for Fall in the Millinery is to be found in our displays.

LADIES, we are prepared to give you just that new frock you have been looking for. Our Ready-to-wear department is aglow with lovely new dresses of the latest styles.

New Fall Clothing

For the well dressed man of mature years—
For the Younger Man who is now climbing—
For the Youth of first long trousers age—

THE SHOPPING CENTER OF SPUR

LINCOLN
The Finest Motor Car
In The World

FORD
The Universal Car

FORDSON
—THE TRACTOR THAT MADE THE "OLD"
... Aint What She Ust To Be"

VISIT OUR NEW BUILDING—LADIES REST Rm.
ICE WATER AND FORD SERVICE AND PARTS

Godfrey & Smart
SPUR, TEXAS

No Car meets
the Better BUICK in value
per dollar + and here's



THE Better Buick steps far ahead of all previous standards of motor car performance.

75 Horsepower!
The Master Valve-in-Head engine now delivers 75 and more horsepower. And there is 60 and more in the Standard models.

Triple-Sealed Engine!
Three new seals for the famous Buick sealed chassis result in decidedly longer engine life, noticeably lower operating costs —an Air Cleaner—a Gasoline Filter—an Oil Filter protect the engine.

4 and 2 Door Sedans!
Real sedans with Fisher Bodies. Upholstery and fittings according to Buick's luxurious standards. Real sedans... at "coach prices."

Duotone in Duco!
New beauty! The latest, smartest, most striking color and finish combinations for motor cars.

Safe Night Driving!
The Better Buick introduces the Controllable Beam Headlight. It furnishes, constantly, a flood of soft, searching light on the roadway without glare in the eyes of the approaching driver, and without dimming.

Lower Prices!
And while Buick has raised Buick quality and performance even higher than before, it also has been able to make substantial reductions in prices.

Better acquaintance with the many 1926 advancements and improvements in the Better Buick will convince you that: "Again Buick Has Built a Better Automobile!"

When Better Automobiles Are Built, Buick Will Build Them

BUICK MOTOR COMPANY, FLINT, MICH.
Division of General Motors Corporation

G. A. WELCH, Dealer

A SHORT SKETCH OF DICKENS COUNTY COMMUNITY LIFE

(Continued from page 4 section 3)

The country around Dickens is very

The small but unusually productive section of country just East of Spur is known as the Wilson Draw Community, and it would be hard to find a more ideal strip of country for the man who wishes to diversify. The land

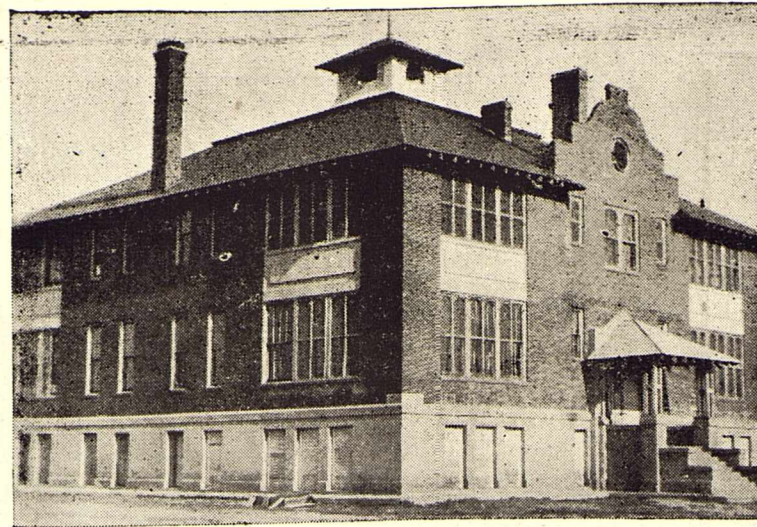
is sub-irrigated, alfalfa and sweet clover thrive, and some of the finest orchards and gardens in the West being found.

Alfalfa produces four to five tons to the acre, and the staple crops do well. A good rural school is maintained, and as the school house, which is the center of the community is only some five miles from Spur, the more advanced pupils may attend school there. Several good herds of pure-bred cattle and flocks of chickens are found.

RED MUD AND CAT FISH

A vast scope of country, much of it still virgin grazing land, but thickly settled in spots, lies to the West and South-west of Spur. This section, lying along the Red Mud and Catfish Creeks, is well served by small rural schools, among them being Red Top, Peaceful Hills, Spring Creek, and others.

Potatoes, vegetables, melons, glorious orchards and wonderful truck-crops are seen in the sandy, sub-irrigated section, while the tighter



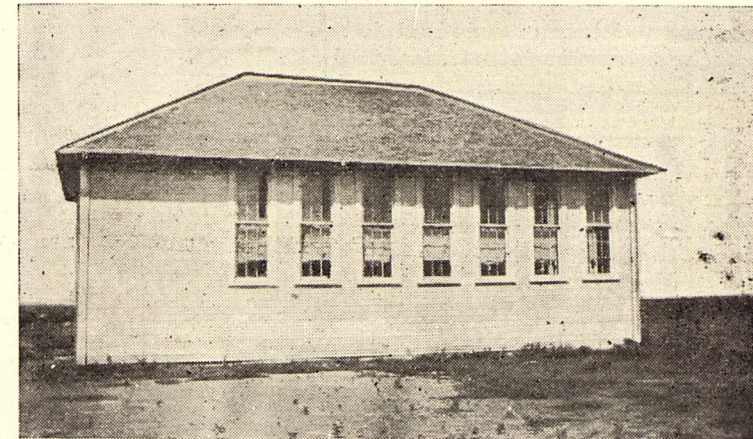
Dickens School Building, A Monument to Education

fertile, the little town drawing trade from many surrounding communities. Many old-time cow-men reside here, and the town is rapidly settling, as is also the surrounding country.

CROTAN, WICHITA AND DEER LAKE.

These three communities, recently consolidated for school purposes, are treated collectively, as the community life of the three is so closely intermingled that no one can say where the one ends and the other begins.

At Croton is found one of the best and most up-to-date High Schools to be found in any rural district in the State. Where a few years ago



Twin Wells School Building, A Great Community Educational Center

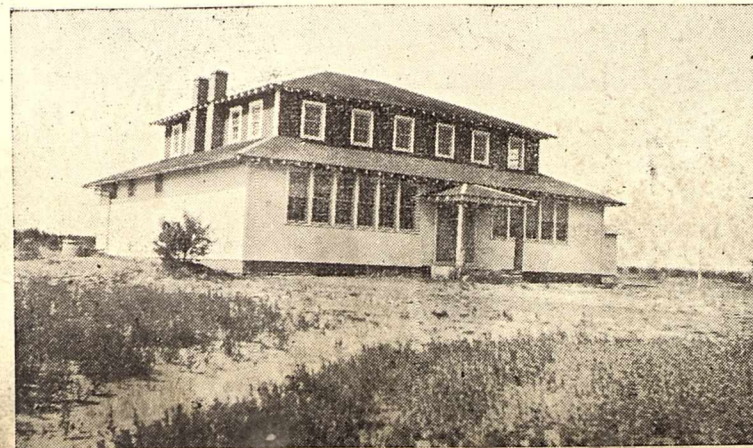
lands yield bumper crops of cotton and maize, sorghum Sudan and Kaffir.

Much land is still available for farming, and the people are of the hardy pioneer type, ideal neighbors in times of stress, and with the interest in their fellow-man which is unusual found in the some-what sparsely settled regions.

Many small churches serve the people in a religious way.

Most of the residents are stock-farmers, ranching and farming in an intelligent manner, never risking "their eggs in one basket."

(Continued on page 6 this section)



Croton School, Northeast of Dickens

Croton, Wichita and Deer Lake each supported a small and necessarily short and inefficient school, now is found an eight months school, employing five teachers, the building being modern in every respect. Additional rooms are provided for increased enrollment, and it is hoped soon that other teachers will be added, and a nine months term instituted.

Three comfortable busses, maintained by the school district, transport the children who live at a distance, a teacher boarding near the terminus of each truck-line, and seeing to the safety of the children on the drive to and from school. Not a single accident has occurred in the two years the busses have been running, and few indeed have been the days when the trucks did not run.

Church buildings are maintained, and regular services held, at each of the three community-centers, several denominations having pastors. The people of these communities are very active in community activities, and the opportunities for whole-people are unlimited.

Lying along the banks of Croton Creek, Little Croton, and Cottonwood Creek, the soil in this section is specially productive, that of Wichita Community and parts of Croton being mellow clay-loam, while the Deer Lake country and parts of the Croton section are of the deep sand variety which is well adapted to the growing of fruits, melons and vegetables. Very few people in these communities rent land, the most of them owning their homes.

In many ways the location of this scope of country is very advantageous, the Croton School District joining the Dickens District, Dickens being the County Site, thus making this community well located with regard to the County Capital. Much land is still available for settlement, these communities embracing a goodly part of the North-east section of the county, and including parts of several large ranches, which are being opened for settlement.

TWIN WELLS.

Just South of Spur lies the Twin Wells Community, a small but active little place. A two-teacher school is maintained, and as it is only a few miles to Spur, it is convenient for the older and more advance pupils to attend school in Spur.

The soil and products are similar to those mentioned in the above paragraphs.

WILSON DRAW.

Come To Spur

The writer after many years of travel selling merchandise in ten different states, many points in Texas in the older portion, came to Spur in its early days; in fact before we had a store building within its border. I am truly glad of the move, for I believe we have the thriftiest class of farmers and townspeople I have had the pleasure of meeting in my experience.

We are sellers of merchandise of the better kind; and while we are asking your attention to our lines, we want to be of service to the prospective visitor or new comer who is interested in making a change to a land of more and better things of life.

We feel that this section presents one of the greatest diversified sections in the entire cotton raising regions of the south. Come to Spur—and come to our place of business for information, same will be gladly furnished, and we may be of some service in a way.

Love Dry Goods Co.

C. L. LOVE, Prop.

The Spur Paint And Top Shop

We Welcome You to Spur

If you come in an old car we can make it look new. We make tops, curtains, reupholster, and heat covers

Burgeson & Lanier
Proprietors

A SHORT SKETCH OF DICKENS COUNTY COMMUNITY LIFE

(Continued from p 5 this section)

SUMMARY:

The great Spur Country, offering every type of soil to the prospective farmer, with a wide variety of products, and the full assurance that every year the farming operations will show a profit, with thousands of acres yet untouched by the hand of man, what more can one ask?

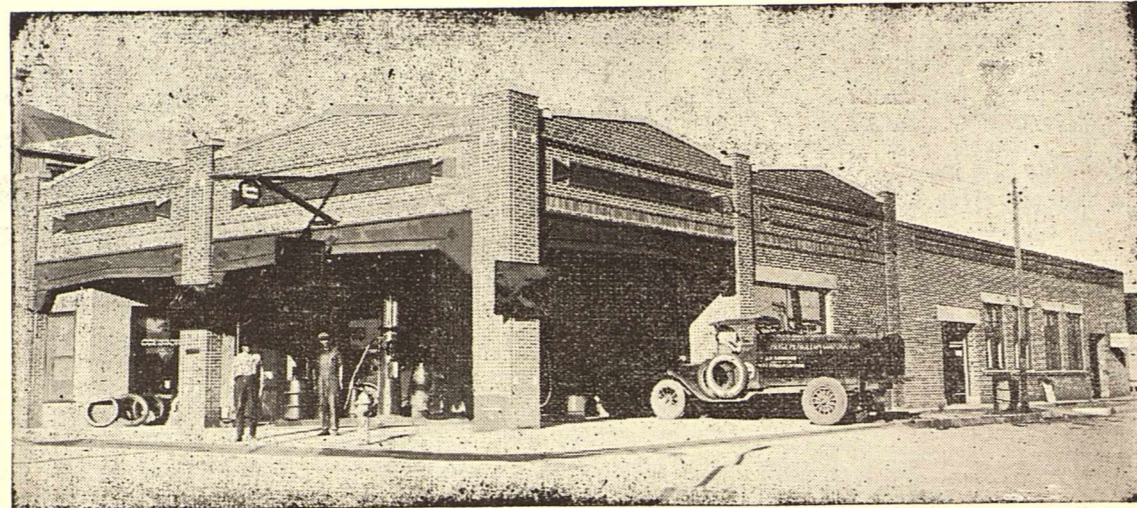
With a good market for every type of produce, with trade facilities which would do credit to much larger cities, with strong and liberal banks which believe in the country and back the farmer in times of stress, and business men who are interested from an unselfish standpoint in the welfare of the farmer. Could any country offer more?

Land is comparatively cheap, and can be had on easy terms. Water is, in most localities, to be had at shallow depths and is excellent in most communities. Herds of pure-bred livestock and flocks of standard-bred

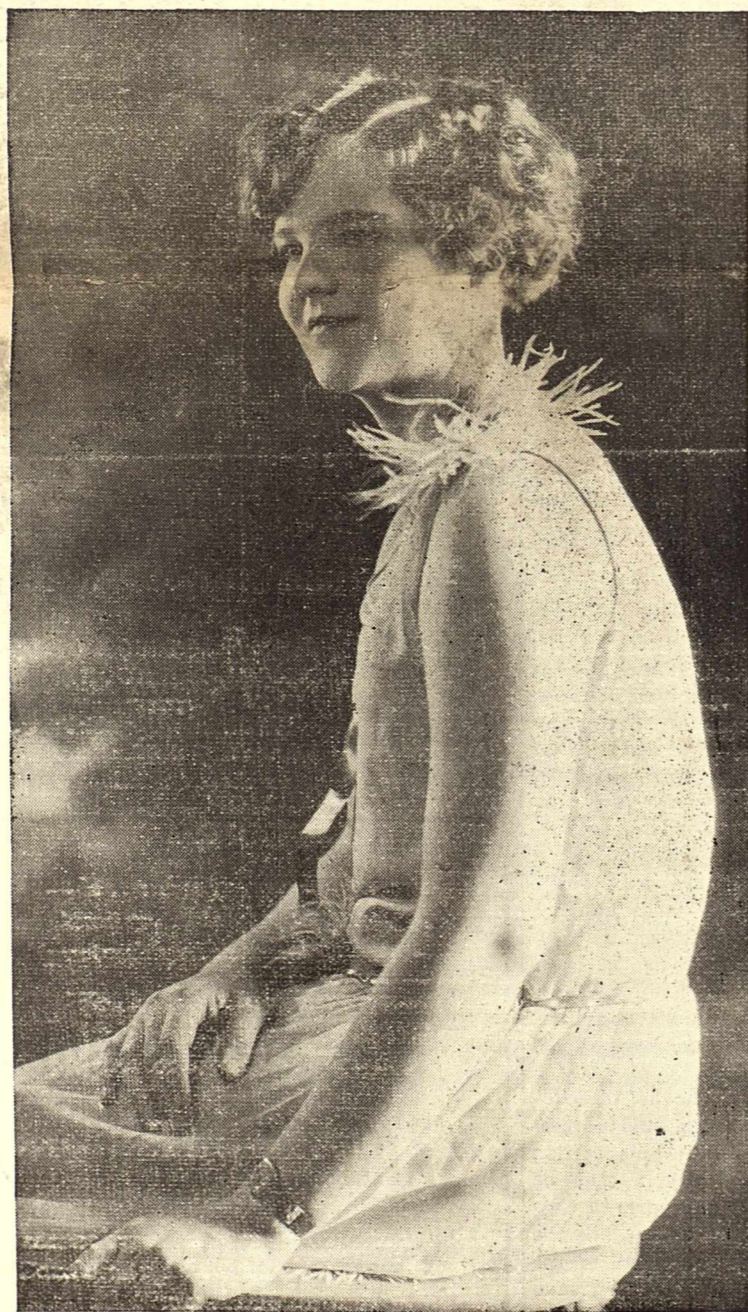
fowls make it easy for the new settlers to supply his wants in these lines, and last of all, every person in the County is interested in seeing new settlers come among us, and will extend you a hearty welcome, and take a brotherly interest in your welfare.



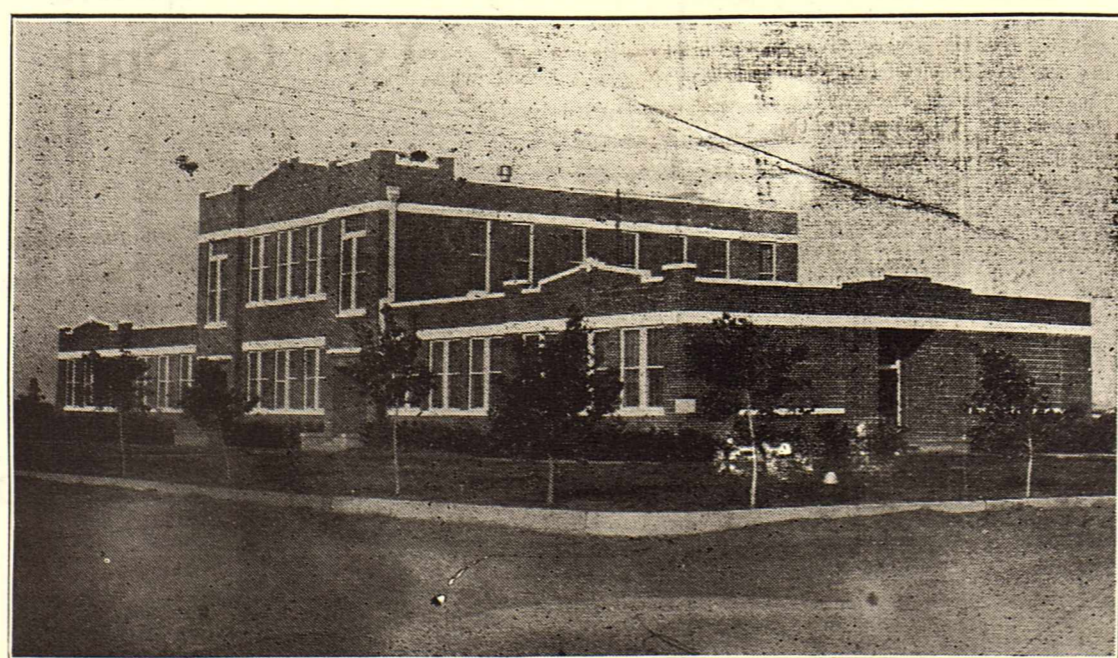
Sorghum on D. G. Simmons Farm, Duck Creek Valley



Pennant Service Station, A splendid building.



Miss Nell Higgins, teacher of Piano and Expression at Spur High School—Director of the Choir at M. E. Church.



Spur High School Building, Modern throughout.

People Are Coming to Dickens County

With the latest and best methods of farming. We are keeping pace with this advancement by having in stock the best lines of farm implements, farm machinery, wagons, etc.

The many new homes require many new things to furnish it. We have the famous Coleman Gas Stove for the kitchen and everything in cooking utensils needed in any home.

There is always found a good line of heavy and shelf Hardware in stock here.

The seasons govern the farmers needs and we have what he needs at the season he needs it.

We desire to promote the success of Dickens County people by selling them the best in our line. As you come to this country, come in and let's get acquainted. You need us, and we need you.

Riter Hardware Company

THE FARMERS' SUPPLY HEADQUARTERS,
ON SPUR'S BUSIEST STREET.

The Pioneer Cattleman And Spur Farm Lands

The change of conditions on the once frontier from the old days of the buffalo and the Indian, to the present day, is full of romantic interest. It carries us through the first occupancy of the naturally fertile lands of what is now West Texas by prehistoric races, of which only vague traces remain, to the days when the Kiowa and the Comanche held undisputed possession, and were sustained by the herds of buffalo, deer, antelope and abundant smaller game. Nowhere in the world have wild turkeys been more abundant than in the general country of which the great Spur Ranch later became a part; the massive cottonwoods along Duck Creek were heavy with them at roosting time.



G. Brown, showing cotton raised by him in "Paradise Valley" not "Poverty Flat"

The cattle raising era began in August, 1878, when Jim Hall brought in some 1900 head of cattle branded Spur, (-) from Refugio County; and soon thereafter he brought down from the Cimmaron, New Mexico, country, his share of the "Cross L" herd, in the division between himself and his brothers, Nathan and William. Up to that time, the theory of communication of Texas fever was unknown to the cattlemen of the coun-

try; and Hall, thorough old cattleman that he was, received the first bitter lesson. His New Mexico cattle died like sheep with the rot, the coast country cattle inoculating them. Soon thereafter, however, the tick theory was understood, conditions met, and the Spur country is now well above the quarantine.

Jeff D. Harkey came into the country with the southern cattle, with an outfit of eleven men, including the cook and the horse rustler. He is still a resident of Dickens county.

Jake Raines came down with the "Cross L" outfit; and he is to this day working with Spur cattle, having been continuously on the Spur range through all the changes of administration. It has been jocularly said that he engaged himself for life when he first entered the Spur employ, and there is a pleasant fiction that he carries the Spur brand on his left hip, and that he wears his hair

There is no more characteristic picture of the early cattle life than the line-rider trying to hold back cattle drifting South in the northerners and turning into his lonely camp at night at the end of an exhausting day's work, himself half frozen, and knowing that by morning his cattle, driven in the face of the fierce wind that is tattering his tepee-tent will be miles below his line. But he has done what he could, and shivers in his blankets until morning, when his work can be resumed. It would seem that such a life would kill most men; but instead, it has developed a hardy type of man-



Team on Meador's Farm east of Spur where Cotton Grows rank

hood, unequalled anywhere. The Texas cattlemen of the early days is now generally retired from his work with rope and spur, and you find him still hugging the frontier as nearly as its fast vanishing lines will allow with beautiful homes, in small but thriving towns, often a banker or merchant in his chosen place, near his old haunts, watching his children advance in the educational advantages which were denied him. He often has his name cut in the stone over the entrance of the best brick or stone building of the town. He does not seek the cities, or if so, soon deserts them, as he must keep in touch with his loved prairies and his old compadres of the range. Still wearing his broad-brimmed white hat, bronzed of skin, clear of eye, with muscles of steel, and rich, red blood flowing through his veins, he keeps his youth till death. He may not have originally known much but cow and may have spelled that with

a "K", but his strong native intelligence, matured by years of hardship amid the exigencies of the frontier life, overbalances the want of the superficial educational graces and makes him the same dominant factor in the business life of the new West that he was under the old conditions.

When the lands of the Spur country were first surveyed, the instrument men had to keep one eye on the compass and the other on the Indians; and the inaccuracy of the first surveys was therefore excusable. The property lines have since been carefully adjusted, and they now stand



View of the Spur Inn

WEARTEX HOSE

FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

NO BETTER
FOR WEAR

We Handle Everything

Cash Variety Store

J. T. McCulloch

Spur

Texas

He selected the beautiful Spur Ranch headquarters about 1883. The (Continued on next page)

Welcome Fair Visitors

SPUR IS YOUR TOWN; MAKE OUR STORE YOUR STORE. DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ON US FOR ANY ASSISTANCE OF INFORMATION. WHENEVER YOU ARE IN OUR STORE DO NOT FEEL OBLIGATED. WE ARE ALWAYS GLAD TO SHOW YOU AROUND EVEN AFTER YOU MAKE A PURCHASE, SHOULD YOU LATER DECIDE YOU CAN NOT USE THAT PARTICULAR ARTICLE, BRING IT BACK TO US AND WE WILL REFUND YOUR MONEY.

Our Store Is Chuck Full of New Merchandise

We handle: Miller Bros. Inc. Hats For Men, Kirchbaum Clothes For Men
Pictorial Review Patterns. Also several lines of Exclusive
Ladies' Read-to-Wear, Purchased in Eastern Markets

When it comes to Staples, Blankets, Underwear, Sweaters, Men's Work Clothing, Gingham, Domestic, etc. Our prices are incomparable, not even out of the Catalogs. Why order? Do your business in Spur, Come to us with your Dry Goods Troubles, We will help you solve them.

SALEM'S

Comfort, Convenience, And Utility
That's What Your Power and Light Service Means

Comfort

It lightens the work of Wife, Mother and Sister, through use of Home appliances

Conveniences

It is always ready when you push the Button

Come and See

Us Demonstrate the Hot Point Range and Iron at the Fair, October 7-8-9-10

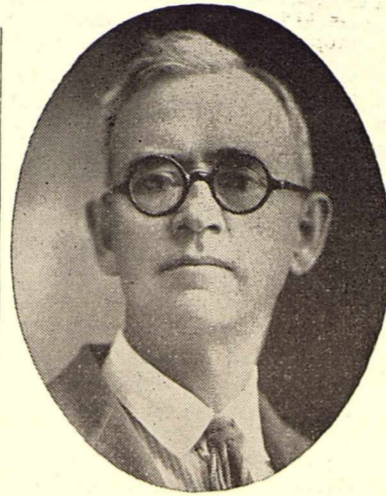
Utility

It is the most economical form of Power for the Factory

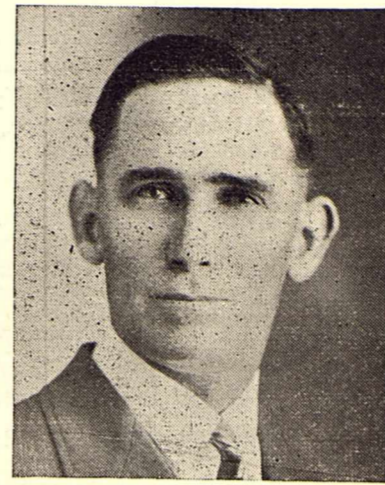
Webster defines Utility in this Sense of meaning: "Useful, Advantagous, Service."

"Your Electric Servant"
Spur Light & Power Co.

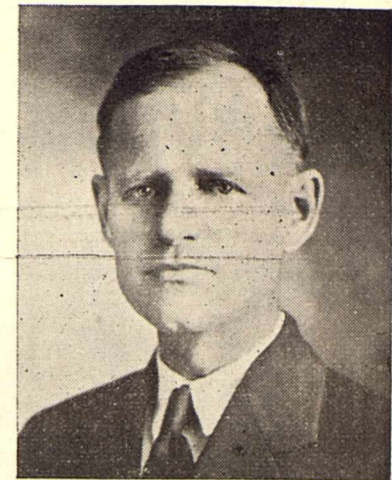
A Group of Officers Northwest Texas Fair Ass'n



Secretary, C. L. Love, Manager of the Love Dry Goods Company



President, V. C. Smart, An Official of Godfrey and Smart Sales Agency.

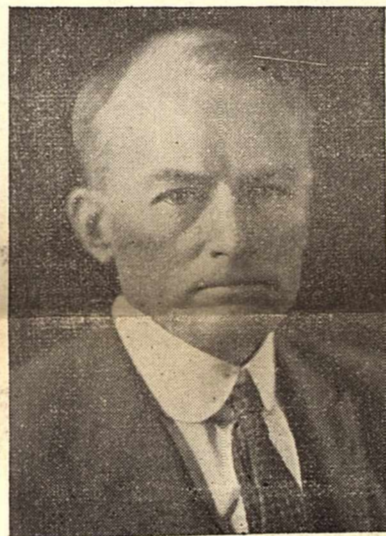


1st Vice-President, E. C. Edmonds, President City National Bank

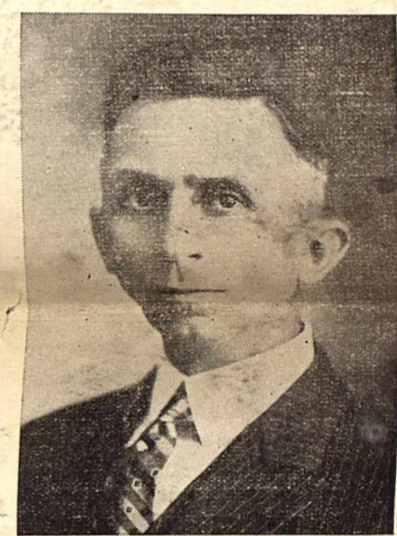


Treasurer, Faust Collier, Assistant Cashier of Spur National Bank

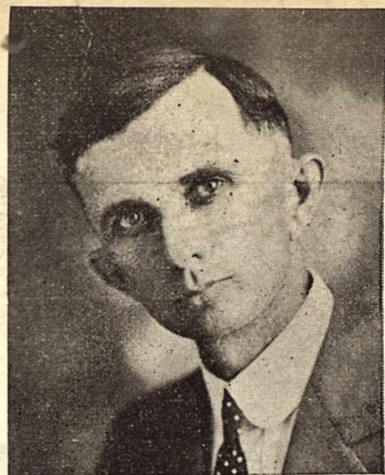
A Few of The Business Leaders of Spur



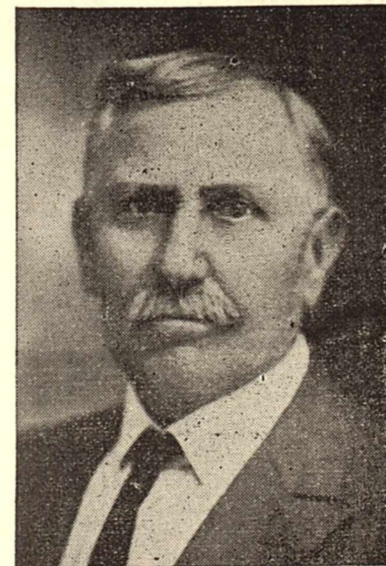
G. R. Elkins, Manager of the Red Front Drug Store.



W. B. Lee, Vice-President of the Spur National Bank



C. R. Edwards, Manager of C. R. Edwards & Company Dry Goods.



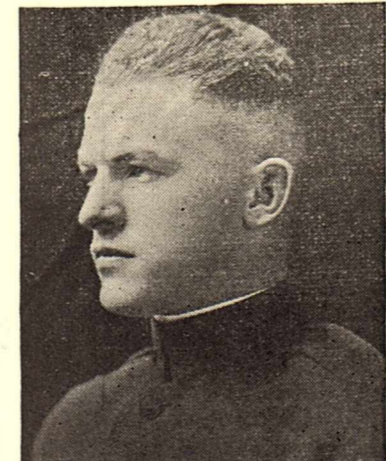
L. N. Ritter, a resident of Spur since 1909, and member of the Ritter Hardware Company.



Fred S. Reynolds, New County Agricultural Agent, began work Sept. 1.



Hill Perry. One of Spur's first business men and now manager of the Spur Hardware & Furniture Co.



Webber Williams, Secretary of the Spur Retail Merchants Association



Miss Kitty Powell, Assistant Cashier Spur National Bank

SPUR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The Spur volunteer Fire Company have served the interest of the town purely from a benevolent standpoint, and with that spirit of local pride that makes every citizen proud of them. When the fire alarm is given

there are no slackers among the boys, but they all answer the summons as promptly as if they were receiving the greatest reward in America. In a way they do receive a reward—the reward of a satisfied conscience that results from a liberal service to humanity. The city owns a good fire truck and several hundred feet of good hose which is under the control of the Fire Company. This is one of the best investments the city has ever made. The Fire Company with this engine and hose have saved thousands of dollars in property in the town. The saving in rate of insurance has more than paid for the engine and truck.

THE PIONEER CATTLEMAN AND SPUR FARM LANDS

springs and natural beauty of the surroundings mark these headquarters as among the most beautiful in the cattle world.

W. C. Dockum was the first independent settler in this country. He established a sheep ranch near Dockum Springs, on the creek of the same name, having a store and acting as Postmaster. The mail came in from Fort Griffin "every once in a while." Later, a stage was run with more or less regularity, from Colorado City.

Mr. Fred Horsbrugh became manager about 1888 and pursued a far-sighted policy of additional land purchases.

In 1906, the unusual quality and extent of good farming land in a pasture which had heretofore been considered only from a cattle standpoint, came under the observation of S. M. Swenson & Sons of New York; and negotiations were commenced for themselves and associates, which ended in their taking possession on February 20th, 1907. This put them in possession of 673 square miles of land, in Dickens, Kent, Garza and Crosby counties, a large percentage of which is conceded to be the best all-purpose farming land in West Texas.

These lands are not on the plains; and they are peculiarly adapted to cotton growing. The boll weevil does not exist here; it cannot propagate. This removes the greatest cause of fear from the mind of the cotton farmer. The crop has never failed; and it has been tested for the last twenty years. Further, the upper Brazos country grows an especially long staple, increasing the price per pound. Instances are authenticated where 1 1-4 to 1 1-2 bales per acre have been raised about here, in measured acres, while the acreage planted in the last ten years has averaged a yield annually of over half a bale to the acre.

There is no better hog country anywhere. Cholera is unknown. Hogs can be brought to a weighty maturity cheaply.

The present high prices of cotton and hogs are a mighty incentive to bring farmers to a country where either can be reliably and cheaply produced. However, there is no necessity for restriction, as a wide range of products can be grown. On lands adapted to them, Indian corn, alfalfa, kaffir corn, maize, wheat, oats, sorghum, peanuts and potatoes thrive abundantly. Excellent fruits and vegetables have always been grown by the early settlers. Poultry for market is an attractive business.

S. M. Swenson & Sons brought this largely undeveloped country to the attention of the Colorado & Southern Railway officials, with the result that the Wichita Valley was extended practically to the center of the Spur farm lands, terminating at Spur.

S. M. Swenson & Sons were the first among the great land owners who sold their cattle and placed their lands on the market, thereby opening the way for the many people to find homes here. The sale of their lands began in 1908, the first purchaser being L. M. Hamilton, of Anaheim, California, who became the owner of a tract August 17 of that year. There were a few other sales that year and the early part of 1909. The greater part of the sales really began with the opening November 1st, 1909.

The sale of these lands and the information given concerning them by the Swensons was not a mere theory. There were a number of people who had scattered sections of school lands all through these pastures. They devoted some time to agriculture and the great crops they raised was startling even to the great ranchmen. The people who were in possession of the Spur Farm Lands saw that it was a great opportunity for opening a new country to a great industry. They said if these farmers can raise these great crops, others coming into the country can do the same thing. Their lands went on the market in that great benevolent spirit of prosperity that has so characterized the Swensons.

The people came and are still coming, and today there are no happier people than those who purchased homes from the Spur Farm Lands. They have prospered, made money and paid out their homes. Today approximately eighty per cent of all claims are paid in full. A large number of farms were paid out from the earnings of one and two crops.

The Swenson people are offering very liberal terms on these lands. It has not been their purpose to sell lands under high pressure advertisement and recommendations, neither do they agree to sell you land without some consideration. As a result of their methods, they have secured a practically permanent population that has made a success and are satisfied with their purchases. One must have a small amount of means with which to start, and then they see that he

gets through all right if he proves worthy.

There is yet more than 200,000 acres of these fine lands to be sold to settlers. There is practically every variety of good soils found on these lands. These are among the best class of soils found anywhere in the West. Duck Creek and Dockum Creek valleys are as productive as any in the state under reasonable conditions. In fact, there never has been a failure in this country since the opening sixteen years ago.

These lands can be bought by paying one-fifth of the purchase price down. The remainder can be paid in six equal annual payments, which are secured by vendor lien notes bearing eight percent interest.



W. R. Stafford, An old Pioneer Settler

However, all or any part more than one fifth of the purchase price may be paid when the land is bought if the purchaser so desires. Information regarding these lands can be secured by writing Mr. Clifford B. Jones.

There are no boll worms in this country, and farm crops are damaged but very little if any from other farm pests. There have never been any appreciable damages incurred in this manner.

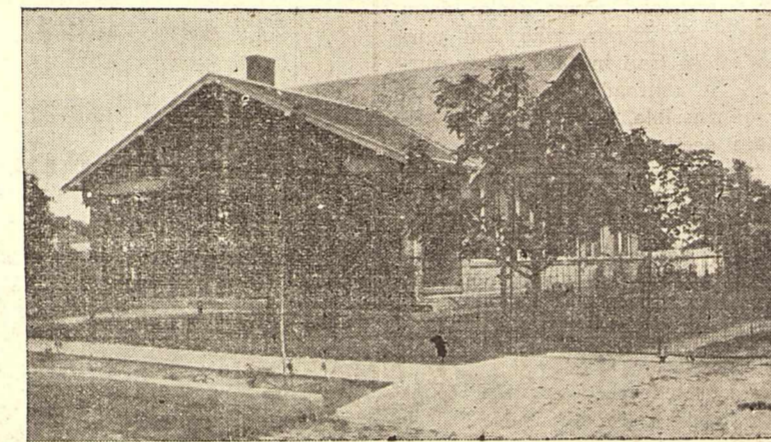
Any one desiring to come to this country will do well to investigate conditions before they buy property here. The country will bear investigation both to the delight of the people here and those making such investigation.

SPUR'S BAND

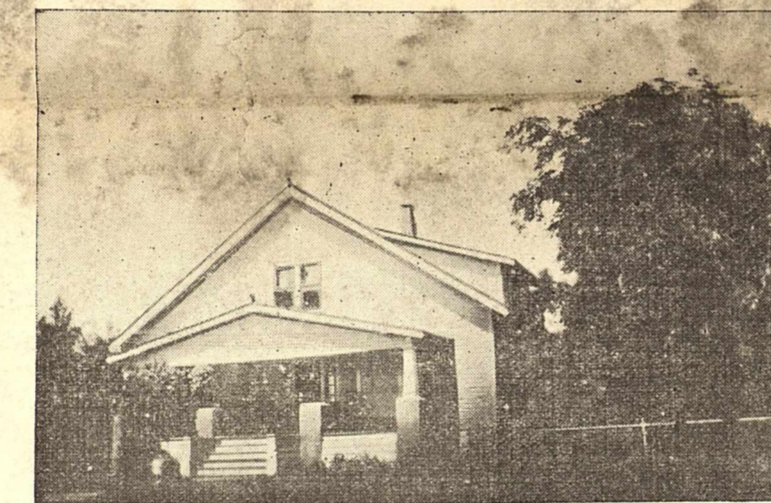
This is one of the best organizations of the town. Starting less than eight months ago with only eight members and the director. It has grown until it now has more than twenty. The Spur Band has been giving concerts on the streets for many months, and time and again it has been asked to play special occasions in other places.

C. B. Cook had the dream of organizing this Band and was its first business manager. The director is J. B. Walkerton.

Get in the Road that leads to Spur. Great times here, October 7-8-9-10



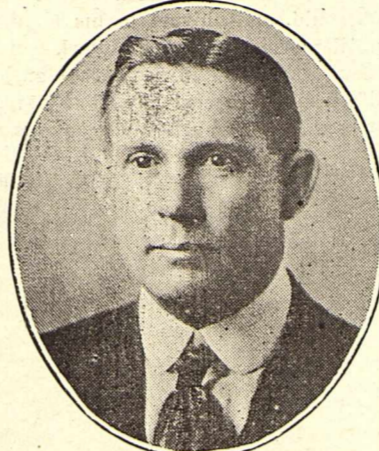
C. L. Love Home



Mrs. Sam H. Kelsey Home on Hill Street

THE EDITOR'S COMMENT

The Editor of the Times and his good wife are grateful indeed to the people of the town of Spur, and of Dickens and Kent Counties for their encouragement. In 1924 he came to Spur and began publishing the Dickens County Times. There has been no



W. D. Starcher, Editor

country paper that has enjoyed more pleasant environment than the Times has enjoyed since it was started one year ago. The publication was



Mrs. W. D. Starcher, Business Mgr. started with 235 paid subscriptions. There has not been a campaign instituted nor has there been an agent in the field to solicit, yet the list has grown more than 1000 since the publication began.

The editor's wife is the solicitor and business manager. It has been through her untiring efforts largely that the business has the prosperity that it has. She resigned her position with

the First State Bank at Roaring Springs and became associated with the business February 1, of this year.

She is responsible to some extent for the scheme and plan of this special edition of the Times. Working in conjunction with her husband she has been faithful in the collection of the material and subject matter for it, as well as for the business it contains.

To say they are grateful to the people of Spur and Dickens County, business has the prosperity that it would be expressing their feelings in mild terms. They know they are

WHEN WEST TEXAS PEOPLE COME TO TOWN
THEY ENJOY DINNER AT

The Bell's Cafe

Just west of Spur National Bank

When New People Come, Our friends tell them about us, and they enjoy Dinner, Too.

You will find a good Farming Country in Dickens County, A good town in which to trade at Spur, and A Good Place to Eat at

Bell's Cafe

Fair Dates 7-8-9-10

Chrysler Record

Speed: 1000 Miles in 786 Minutes

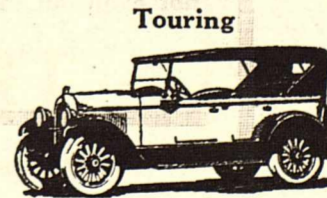
PRODUCTION OF CHRYSLER QUALITY CARS, THE SIX AND THE FOUR IS NOW PROCEEDING AT THE AMAZING TOTAL OF 800 PER DAY.



\$1395

Eager America forced the Chrysler Six to achieve by far the greatest sales success ever recorded by a motor car company in its first year. Over fifty million dollars is the sum the public enthusiastically paid last year for Chrysler cars, and the demand was never satisfied.

No other four but the Chrysler Four gives such a smooth flow of power, such sustained speed, such lightning pick-up and almost incredible fuel economy. This is the result of the same fine engineering which produced the phenomenal Chrysler Six.



\$895

COME IN—WE ARE EAGER TO DEMONSTRATE TO YOU THE BEST CAR ON THE MARKET

E. L. CARAWAY, Dealer

SPUR,

TEXAS

You Can Rely

On Our Prescription Department

We use only standardized ingredients and every prescription is filled by registered men only.

Our Sundry Department

Is Complete, your ever want can be filled at any time.

Our Soda Fountain

Will please you. Competent and Courteous men on daily.

We also have Jewelry—Art Glasses—Silverware—Kodaks and Edisons.

Red Front Drug Store