

Jan 4 - 1947

The Strawn Tribune

Established 1912

PALO PINTO COUNTY'S LEADING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

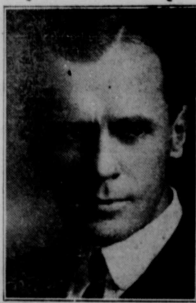
Visit Omnia Veritas

Big Strawn Merchandise Company City's Oldest Business Institution

Executives of Pioneer Firm



R. M. HARRIS
General Manager



JUDGE E. B. RITCHIE
President



H. A. CRAWFORD
Assistant General Manager

FIRM, FOUNDED HERE BACK IN 1894, WILL BE FIFTY YEARS OLD NEXT YEAR

The Strawn Merchandise Company, the oldest business institution in this area, will celebrate its golden anniversary in November, 1944.

The pioneer firm, one of the most complete department stores between Fort Worth and El Paso offering complete "Service from the Cradle to the Grave," was originally organized back on November 17, 1894 as a unit of the American Coal Mining Company, forerunner of the present Strawn Coal Company.

In 1904 the firm was re-organized as the Strawn Merchandise Company and after the purchase of the big store of the late R. C. Hinkson, pioneer Strawn merchant and banker, the institution was moved to its present location.

Hinkson's store was originally founded back in the early eighties by the late Captain J. H. Diahanty, one of Palo Pinto County's most colorful pioneers. Captain Diahanty came to Strawn from Palo Pinto and began his retail merchandising venture in a small 24 by 40 foot frame building.

Today the Strawn Merchandise Company occupies 46,525 square feet of floor space — exclusive of its warehouses.

Judge E. B. Ritchie of Mineral Wells heads the firm as president;

Clyde Jones of Fort Worth is vice-president; Arthur Duffbach, Fort Worth, secretary-treasurer; R. M. Harris of Strawn, general manager; and H. A. Crawford of Strawn, assistant general manager.

The firm has twenty-eight employees.

In the office — modern air-conditioned, furnished with the finest office equipment and flood-ventilated — are H. A. Crawford, Miss Thelma Heald, Miss Maggie Cato, Miss Rita Vintine, and Victor Creighton.

Employees in the dry goods department are Frank D. Phillips, O. M. Hurst, Mrs. Joe Weeks, Miss Janie Gallina, and Mrs. Donald Crawford.

Personnel of the grocery and market department includes Earl Moon, Bruce Willis, Lonzo Fincher, Mrs. Matt Segars, Miss Nadene Heath, Raymond Harris Cole and James Cospar.

Employees in the hardware and furniture department include Theo Ferguson, V. W. Jones, Miss Calleen Jones and Miss Elenda Wilkerson.

V. W. Jones, licensed funeral director, is manager of the Strawn Merchandise Company's Funeral Home, one of the finest undertaking establishments of its kind in this section of the state.

John Davis is nightwatchman, and W. A. Perry is fireman.

Employees in the explosives sales and service division of the Strawn Merchandise Company include H. A. Miller and Clarence Cole of Strawn, Ernest Halifax and Charles F. Chestnut of Midland and Clyde Scott, field representative, also of Midland. The company's branch at Midland.

The firm, distributors of Hercules explosives, expect 1943 dynamite sales to run well over one million pounds.

The company sells and handles more dynamite than any other explosives distributor in the Southwest, and its magazine facilities for storage of explosives here in Strawn are the largest in the entire South.

More explosives move from Strawn than from any other city in Texas — perhaps, even the entire Southwest!

WINNING THE WAR COMES FIRST STRAWN MERCHANDISE COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES GO 'ALL-OUT' FOR VICTORY!

The Strawn Merchandise Company and its employees have gone "all-out" for Victory . . .

Strawn's oldest business institution — established here back in 1894 — is working shoulder-to-shoulder with this community and its citizens in carrying on the important duties on the home front . . . and in strongly supporting every campaign staged to aid the war effort and to bring speedy Victory for the United States and her valiant allies, the United Nations.

The firm has spent hundreds of dollars — yes, thousands — in institutional advertising via newspapers, billboards, etc., promoting the sales of United States War Bonds, urging support of the American Red Cross, and staunchly backing the War Fund and other wartime fund-raising campaigns.

The scope of this powerful, dynamic day-in and day-out, week-in and week-out advertising barrage is not limited merely to the confines of this community, nor merely within the radius of the firm's large trade territory. It is spread effectively over a large area.

At the present time seven mammoth outdoor boards — seen by thousands daily — are telling travelers and Americans in this section of Texas to buy more, more and more War Bonds for Victory.

The big billboards, maintained by the Strawn Merchandise Company at great expense, are in the following locations:

One east of Ranger on the

Strawn Highway, two are between Strawn and Metcalf Gap, another large one is at Metcalf Gap, one is between Gordon and Mingus on Highway 108, another is east of Palo Pinto, and a seventh is north of Mineral Wells on the Jacksboro Highway.

All seven of these large outdoor boards are devoted to promoting the sales of United States War Bonds.

In addition hundreds of inches of display advertising in The Tribune and other newspapers in this area urge readers to "Buy More Bonds." During Bond drives, the firm goes "all-out" and usually confines its sales messages exclusively to institutional advertisements on the War Bond theme.

And then — of course — every employee of the pioneer firm is investing to the limit in U. S. War Bonds and Stamps . . . and giving as generously as possible to every wartime cause.

"Winning the war comes first!" is the fine, highly patriotic spirit of this progressive 49-year-old

firm and its employees.

They're determined that there shall be only one decisive result — complete and overwhelming Victory as soon as possible . . . for the United States and her allies!

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

13 Ex-Employees In Armed Forces

Thirteen former employees of the Strawn Merchandise Company — on land, on sea and in the air — are serving in Uncle Sam's mighty armed forces which are valiantly battling for Victory.

Another ex-employee, the late J. B. (Jack) Hash, Jr., died while serving his country in the ranks of the United States Army. He is the son of Mrs. J. B. Hash, Sr. of Fort Worth.

Eight of the firm's employees are in the United States Army — and four of them are overseas.

Three former members of the Strawn Merchandise Company's personnel are wearing the Navy's blue — and one of the trio is on



LIEUT. CHARLES HODGKINS

duty "somewhere in the Pacific."

One of the firm's ex-employees is in the U. S. Army Air Forces and another is in the U. S. Marine Corps — in action "somewhere in the Southwest Pacific area."

Lieut. Charles Hodgkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Hodgkins, is currently stationed at Harlingen with the U. S. Army. Lieut. Hodgkins is married, and his wife

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

IN MEMORIAM

★

J. B. (JACK) HASH, JR.

who died in the service of his country in the Army of the United States.

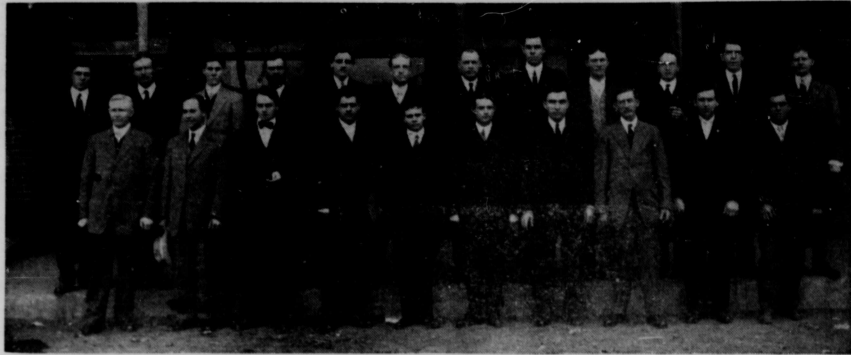
30 YEARS OF SERVICE **The Strawn Tribune** **OUR COMMUNITY, OUR COUNTY, OUR SOUL at OUR SERVICE!**

Palo Pinto County's Leading Weekly Newspaper

Employees

Back In

1909



Pictured above are the twenty-two employees of the Strawn Merchandise Company back in 1909 — 34 years ago. Five of the members of the big store's all-male personnel of that year are still residents of Strawn. And two of them are present day employees of the pioneer firm.

Pictured above are, bottom row, left to right — J. W. Barber, now of Arlington; Vic Cormier, now of Alvarado; E. W. Berry, now of Abilene; M. D. Cook of Strawn, currently serving as County Commissioner of Precinct 3; J. W. McCorkle, now manager of the Strawn Merchandise

Company Garage; Vic Anderson, now of Mississippi; Col. Brasher, now of Ranger; the late P. E. Whitaker; E. L. (Rass) Roberson, now of Mineral Wells; and Doc Wedekind, now of Breckenridge.

Back row, left to right — Frank Walker, now of Ranger;

the late Sam Barton; Roy Whitaker, now of Fort Worth; Fayett Ames, now of Newcastle; Ross Cook, now of Graham; the late Frank Crawford; Ed S. Britton of Strawn who is still associated with the company; C. A. Bruner, now of Lubbock; Lon E.

Shaw, now manager of the Strawn branch of the Burton-Lingo Lumber Company; Walter Warren, now of Alpine; the late Lloyd Stewart; and O. M. Hurst, a member of the current personnel of the store which features a complete service — "From the Cradle to the Grave."

13 Ex-Employees In Armed Forces

(Continued From Page One)

is the former Miss Lola Byron of Mineral Wells.

Staff Sergeant Frank S. Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Phillips, has been in the Army for more than two years, and has been serving overseas for many months. He is now reported "somewhere in the New Guinea area" with U. S. armed forces.



S-SGT. FRANK S. PHILLIPS

Staff Sergeant Phillips' father is a veteran employee of the Strawn Merchandise Company and his mother is active in Red Cross and other wartime home front activities.

Sergeant William Supina, son of Mrs. Janie Supina of Strawn, is also overseas. He has been stationed "somewhere in India" with the U. S. Army for many months.

Pvt. Bob E. Brothers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harve O. Brothers, is "somewhere in India" with the Army. Pvt. Brothers' wife, the former Miss Gena Beth Andrew, is now a member of the faculty of the Strawn Public Schools.

Also overseas with the U. S. Army is Corporal Germando Gallina, son of Mrs. Mary Gallina of



CADET DONALD CRAWFORD

Strawn. Corporal Gallina has a sister, Miss Janie Gallina, now in the employ of the Strawn Merchandise Company.

Corporal Fred Boero, another former employee of the pioneer



CP. GERMANDO GALLINA

Strawn business firm, is stationed at Camp Beale, California with



CP. FRED BOERO

the U. S. Army. He is the son Mr. and Mrs. Frank Boero.

Joe Ernest Halifax, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Halifax, formerly of Strawn and now of Midland, is another ex-employee of the Strawn Merchandise Company who is



JOE ERNEST HALIFAX

serving in the ranks of the United States Army. His father is employed by the Strawn Merchandise Company's branch at Midland.

Aviation Cadet Donald Crawford is working to win his wings and commission as a pilot with the U. S. Army Air Forces. He's currently in training at San Antonio and is the son of Mrs. Ura Crawford of Strawn. His wife, the former Miss Elizabeth Visentine, is employed here by the Strawn Merchandise Company.

The whereabouts of Lieut. Paul Peters, former employee, is not known. Lieut. Peters is serving in the United States Army. He is the son of Mrs. Mary Peters of Nor-

man, Oklahoma and has one brother and one sister.

Three former employees of the Strawn Merchandise Company are serving in the United States Navy. Truitt Cole, one of the trio of



PVT. BOB E. BROTHERS

Navy tars, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Cole.

Bill Brothers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harve O. Brothers, is currently stationed at Houston.

Serving overseas — "somewhere in the Pacific area" — with the U. S. Navy is Joe Lunardon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Lunardon. Cecil Cross, another ex-employee of the pioneer firm, is serving,



CECIL CROSS

"somewhere, in the Southwest Pacific" with the hard-hitting U. S. Marine Corps. He's the son of Mr. and Mrs. Denver Cross, formerly of Strawn and now of Fort Worth.

Give him a crisp WAR BOND for a CHRISTMAS present to be remembered. Keep on BACKING THE ATTACK.

Floor Manager



Frank D. Phillips, one of Strawn's most popular citizens and leading civic and religious leader, is one of the veteran employees of the Strawn Merchandise Company. He is floor manager of the firm's big store, one of the largest establishments of its kind between Fort Worth and El Paso.

Keep on Backing the Attack with your purchases of WAR BONDS. Give War Bonds for Christmas.

Strawn Merchandise Is Distributor Humble Petroleum Products

The Strawn Merchandise Company is distributor of Humble products — gasoline, oils and lubricants — in this territory.

The firm has been distributor for the Humble Oil and Refining Company for many years. Territory of the local distributors includes Palo Pinto and parts of Erath, Stephens and Eastland Counties.

Strawn's Humble dealer is R. M. (Matt) Segars.

The present with a future — WAR BONDS for CHRISTMAS. Keep on Backing the Attack.

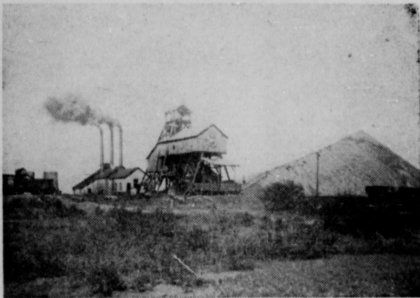
30 YEARS of SERVICE

The Strawn Tribune

Polo Pinto County's Leading Weekly Newspaper

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR COUNTRY, OUR STATE and OUR NATION!

STRAWN'S ONLY COAL MINE — NO. 4 — IS PRODUCING 300 TONS PER WEEK



Pictured above is Strawn's only producing coal mine — Strawn Coal Company's No. 4 — which has been operating since 1917.

Every week hundreds of tons of high quality bituminous steam coal come from the bowels of the earth here and move out of Strawn to near and far-off points by truck and rail.

The black ore, most of which is shipped from here by rail, comes from Mine No. 4 — the only coal mine now operating in this area — which is located three miles northeast of Strawn.

Present output of the mine is three hundred tons per week. The mine was originally opened back in 1917 and is owned and operated by the Strawn Coal Company, a pioneer firm whose history dates back to the days at the turn of the century before the advent of oil and gas which slashed the staggering demand for coal early in the second decade of the century.

The late Willard Burton, who passed away in Fort Worth on November 25, was president of the company at the time of his death. Judge E. B. Ritchie of Mineral Wells is vice-president and general manager, and E. M. Harris of Strawn is local manager.

At one time the company operated four mines — and total output from the pits was between 800 and 900 tons daily. That was from 1918 through the early twenties. More than five hundred miners dug the ore. And thousands of dollars in payroll checks made Strawn one of the liveliest, busiest and most prosperous little cities between Fort Worth and El Paso.

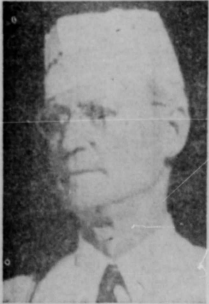
Old No. 1 — opened in the '90s — is located two miles east of Strawn.

No. 2 is one mile north of Strawn and near this mine flourished the busy, thickly-populated community of Lyra back when coal mining was at its peak in this section.

The Mount Marion mine, the company's third source of coal, is located one-half mile west of Strawn adjacent to the city limits.

The old coal boom days are gone, but certainly not forgotten. Hundreds of ex-miners remained here after the mines shut down. And they still reminisce fondly over the days they spent in the pits, digging the precious ore.

Market Manager



Lanzo Fincher is manager of the meat market department of the Strawn Merchandise Company. He is noted as one of the best butchers in this section, and is highly popular among the store's many patrons.

Grocery Manager



Earl Moon is manager of the grocery department of the Strawn Merchandise Company. Moon is an experienced groceryman and efficiently supervises the foods department of Strawn's big department store — offering a complete service "From the Cradle to the Grave" — which will be fifty years old in 1944.

KEEP ON Backing the Attack WITH WAR BONDS



Invest your CHRISTMAS savings in Uncle Sam's WAR BONDS. Keep on Backing the Attack.

Just the Gift for him DAD Mother Her Sister brother

WAR BONDS the best gift of all!

USEFUL PRACTICAL GIFT ITEMS FROM OUR HARDWARE AND HOME FURNISHINGS DEPARTMENT

- | | |
|---|---|
| 32-Piece DINNER SET, Ivory Ground with Gold Spray \$10.75 | 32-Piece DINNER SET, Cream Around, Rose and Gold Trim \$15.75 |
| 32-Piece DINNER SET, Pauline Pink Pattern \$10.00 | OVEN EARTHENWARE CASSEROLE 75c |

MEXICAN POTTERY — Attractive Decorative pieces from South of the Border.

- BOWLS, VASES, WATER JUGS, NOVELT PIECES
25c to \$1.25

DECORATIVE LIGHTING PIECES FOR THE HOME —

- 6-LIGHT NOVELTY WREATH \$3.25
9-LIGHT HOLLY TREE ON BASE \$3.95

• SEE OUR LARGE AND VARIED ASSORTMENT OF TABLEWARE GLASSWARE, CHINAWARE, ETC.

CHRISTMAS TREES

- Genuine firs, beautifully shaped trees, mounted on bases, ready to trim.
- | |
|--------------------------|
| 3 to 4 Feet 75c |
| 5 to 6 Feet \$1.25 |
| 7 to 8 Feet \$1.75 |



Give SMOKING PLEASURE GIFTS

Tobaccos & Cigarettes in Gift Packages

- | |
|--------------------------------------|
| 1-lb. GRANGER PIPE TOBACCO 79c |
| 1-lb. PRINCE ALBERT 79c |
- All Popular Brands of Cigarettes.

CHRISTMAS GOODIES

- | | |
|---|-----|
| SALTED PEANUTS, one-half pound | 15c |
| ALMONDS, one pound | 60c |
| ENGLISH WALNUTS, one pound | 40c |
| FANCY FIGS, one pound | 30c |
| EXTRA FANCY DATES, one-half pound | 55c |

strawn merchandise co.

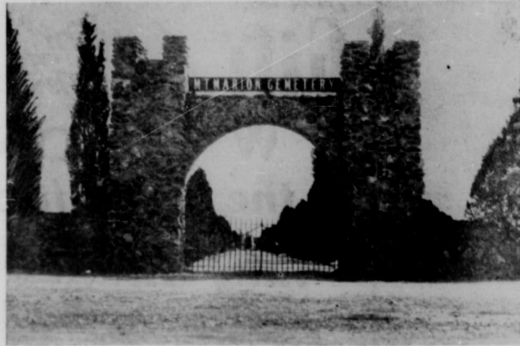
30 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Strawn Tribune

Paul Farris County's Leading Weekly Newspaper

Serving **OUR COMMUNITY, OUR COUNTY, OUR STATE and OUR NATION**

CREATED TO LAST THROUGH THE AGES . . .



MOUNT MARION
CEMETERY
Strawn, Texas



THE FINAL JOURNEY . . .

is a journey prepared in beauty and dignity as a last token of love to the departed. It is also a journey prepared to most solicitously accommodate those who go with the deceased only to the shore. The Strawn Merchandise Company assumes all the responsibility, executes it in a careful and refined manner, thus helping to shoulder the burden of those left behind.



V. W. JONES
Licensed Funeral Director

★
**Strawn
Merchandise Co.**

Funeral Service

AMBULANCE

Phone 2231 ★ Night Phone 2881

TIME . . .

For nearly half a century the policies of this firm have gained the respect of citizens in this area. For good taste, for courteous service, for attention to detail, none can compare with the Strawn Merchandise Company's funeral service. We offer complete information at all times.

“NEARLY 50 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE”