

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

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Thursday, August 28, 2008

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Volume 117 Issue No. 35



"Bucking Horse" by Ken Young

The 85th Annual Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo

The 85th Annual Motley-Dickens Old Settler Reunion and Rodeo will kick off Thursday August 28, 2008 in Roaring Springs at 10:00 a.m. with the annual parade in downtown Roaring Springs. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to take part in this historic parade.

A memorial service will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Tabernacle on the grounds. A business meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m.

Motley-Dickens Counties Arena Events will get underway Thursday afternoon with books opening at 4:30 p.m. and events set to begin at 5:00 p.m.

Events will include Cutting, flag Race, Open Age Barrel Race, Junior Team roping, and Motley-Dickens Counties Team Roping.

An Old Folks Dance will be held all three nights featuring Mike Porter. All dances are free with Thursday night's dance to be held 8:00 - 1:00.

Friday and Saturday night dances will be held from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The Friday night dance will feature Kevin Rainwater and the Moonlighters from 9:00 - 1:00 a.m. The Saturday night dance will feature Cadillac Jack also from 9:00 - 1:00 a.m.

The Cowboy Church Band with Ron and Marianne Brunson will perform Friday and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. on Slab.

General admission on the grounds is \$5.00 Friday and Saturday, with those 12 and under admitted free.

Friday events will start early with the RHAA Ranch Horse Competition. Books will open at 8:00 a.m. and competition will start at 9:00 a.m. Classes will include Cowboy, Ranch Hand, Junior, Senior and Youth.

The Ranch rodeo will begin at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday evening. Events will include Bronc Riding, Wild Cow

Milking, Team Doctoring, Calf Branding and Team Sorting. Twenty teams will consist of 4-6 members each.

The drawing for Handmade Spurs by Matt Humphreys and 2008 Rodeo Queen will be crowned Saturday night during the Rodeo.

A Jr. Flag Race will be held for kids 12 and under Friday and Saturday during the Rodeo. The entry fee is \$10, (Stock Charge is \$10). The winner will receive a ranger buckle set.

Saturday morning will begin with a Double Mugging. Books open at 9:00 a.m. and Roping will begin at 10:00 a.m. A Washer Pitch Contest will be held a 1:00 p.m. The much anticipated Kid's Snapping Turtle Race will begin at 3:00 p.m. The winners in each division will receive \$50. For more information contact Russell Alexander at 806-348-7958.

Motley County holds public budget hearing

By Carol Campbell

Motley County Commissioner's Court held its public budget hearing for fiscal year 2008-2009 on Monday, August 25, in the Commissioner's Courtroom.

Present at the meeting was County Judge Ed D. Smith, Commissioner's Donnie Turner, Precinct 2; Franklin Jameson, Precinct 3; and Russell Alexander, Precinct Four. Absent was Commissioner Ronnie Davis, Precinct 1. Also attending were County

Clerk Kate Hurt and Eva Barkley, County Treasurer. Other county employees present were Tom Edwards, County Attorney, Michael Crutchley, Sheriff, and Judge's Assistant Carol Campbell.

Guests attending from the Motley County Oversight Committee were Marisue Potts-Powell, Chair, Dude Barton, Billy Myers, Mari-Louise Liebe-Harcort, Wilburn Martin, and Motley County Tribune editor, Larry Vogt.

Following a review of the

2008-2009 budget, Judge Smith asked for comments from citizens. Questions by Marisue Potts-Powell consisted of several line items, including the budget line item for the library, the courthouse technology line item, and the money allocated for the county attorney and county judge assistant salary.

Treasurer Barkley explained that the \$15,000 credit to the library was an account set up for contributions to the library from the county and city, as

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MCISD holds public budget hearing Enrollment increase announced

By Carol Campbell

The Motley County ISD met Monday, August 25, to hear public comments related to the proposed tax rate for 2008-2009 school year.

A full quorum was present consisting of Interim Superintendent Tom Alvis, and board members J.D. Russell, Tina Brooks, David Stafford, Lewis Drum, Mark Seigler, Don Baxter, and Gilbert Guerrero. Also attending were Denise Ford, Business Manager, and

William Cochran, Principal. Citizens present were Marisue Potts-Powell and Maria Louise Liebe-Harcort. Marisue Potts-Powell signed, but did not speak in open forum.

Ms. Ford distributed the proposed budget revenue and expenditures for 2008-2009 to the school board, reviewing the packet updates with the board. The school board had a detailed budget workshop in March to consider the items for the 2008-2009 budget.

According to Ms. Ford, there

are "no big changes" from 2007, except for the possible addition of a new security system for the school. "This year we are proposing to budget about \$20,000 for a security system," Ford said. This proposed expenditure is in reaction to a recent burglary at the school where 35 new laptop computers were stolen.

Ford complimented the county on the low tax delinquent rate. She reported that the ISD only has \$9,435 in delinquent taxes. "Our county

MC Matadors vs Kress in first home game Aug 29

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Matador News

The Red Hat Club met for lunch at beautiful Hotel Matador on Tuesday, August 17.

Roaring Springs News

Brody and Brogan Rankin competed in the JRCA finals at Vernon, Texas.

Opion Editorial

A Commonsense Energy Policy
By Rick Noriega

Library News

Friends of the Library 8th Annual Beans & Cornbread Fund-raiser Luncheon featuring writer, Joaquin Jackson.

County Agent News

4-H for you and your child means opportunities for your child and for family involvement.

Foothill Country Connections

Community, Diversity, Art

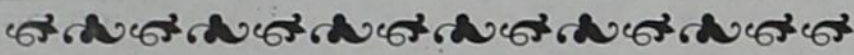
By Larry Vogt

Traveling to Austin last week I was struck by the variation in landscape and weather. There were a couple of rainstorms along the way and upon reaching Austin, there was a noticeable upward spike in the outdoor humidity. Kind of made me miss West Texas already.

Another variation was in the gas prices. The prices stayed level with the local prices for a few towns then at Bangs (how did they get that name, gun-fights?) It reached its lowest at \$3.41 per gallon and went up until it was about \$3.57 in Austin. Austin seems to be a happening town: music (everywhere, a venue in the Central Market offered North Eastern Brazilian music and dancing), different kinds of food (don't ever let me near Mandola's on West Guadalupe or we may founder on the

sampleings of gelato, which is an Italian ice cream that could spell disaster for anyone trying to lose weight), culture (The Texas State History Museum, boasting lots of permanent exhibits), politics (no need for explanation here), and the Texas State Capital itself.

The visits to the History Museum and the Capital are highly recommended, especially for your (grand)children. These are truly experiences to share and remember with children. There were many families with children of all ages represented on the Saturday that we went through the Capital. The tour guides were young folks who know their way around and gave interesting commentaries on the different offices and chambers. From the pink granite on the outside to the oak panel woodwork and marble tiles on the inside, the building is very impressive.



By Laverne Zabielski

We never came to Texas for Old Settlers because it was always the week that school started and too far to drive for the week-end. We heard about it, however, and read about it in the *Matador Tribune*. How far back will the Old Settlers who come this year remember? The 1930's? The 1940's? The question I want to ask them is what is the most unique aspect of this culture?

This is also the first week of school for Motley County. Learning to write effectively and read critically is a life long task. Fortunately, we all learn from each other. Larry and I have decided the best we can learn from the students is to ask them to be our copy editors. Each week we will be taking 25 papers to school. One for each classroom. The class that finds the most typos will win a pizza party at the end of each six weeks. This will keep us on our toes!

WRITING COMMUNITY

My Autobiography

By Stella Butterfield (Tilson) 1915

I was born at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, October 17, 1897. My father is of German and Scottish descent and is a native Texan. His father and mother came to Texas and helped make dear old Texas what it is. My mother is of French and English descent. She was born in Georgia into an old, well established southern home. Grandfather Richardson came to Texas after the war because he had lost almost every thing. A good part was regained before his death. He left an excellent library but I have never been fortunate enough to have a very large share of it.

Until 1900 my father, Andrew Butterfield, was a missionary among the Indians. Then Mother's health failed and we moved to our farm three miles north of Anadarko. All my life I had lived out doors but now I had horses to ride and my entire time was taken up in play. We had Negroes to work for us and we were also blessed with an old Negro nanny, Aunt Lucy. She told us stories of the war and of ghosts. I have not quite got over the idea that there are ghosts.

While on this farm my only little brother was born, but he soon died and we buried him on a pretty hill under a tall oak tree. His death was the first sadness to enter my life.

I attended the little country school not far away for a few days but the teacher and I had a difficulty and she would have whipped me but I pulled the rug from under her and went home. As I was not of school age Mother taught me at home. The school house was the dearest place to me.

It was in the center of a wood and near a creek. I could not bear the idea of giving up my playground and desk mate, Arnold Stadler, but the thought of the teacher! I have had a special dislike for teachers ever since which I have tried to over come but to this day I do not feel easy in their presence.

In 1905 we moved to Childress, Texas for Mother's health. We lived there eight years. Gertrude Hicks and Edna Roberts were the first girl chums I ever had. One day I was down to play with Gertrude and some company came. There were some children, two boys just a little older than I. The oldest boy was so timid he wouldn't come to play with Lloyd because there were girls out there, he said. The youngest of the two came out and played; he was not afraid of girls. I remember that was the first real good time I ever had where boys were. I cried because they teased the older of the two boys for being afraid of girls.

I finished the grammar department and the first year in high school at Childress. When I finished grammar school I was the second of nine out of fifty to receive a diploma. Our grades had to be above ninety, mine were ninety-five.

In 1913 we decided to move to Plainview so as to be near a college. Rev. J.L. Hicks asked Father to fill the Methodist pulpit at Silverton, so we lived at Silverton a few months and then moved to Sethward for the opening of the 1913 and 1914 school term. This year was the most impressive as all first years in college are. I



STELLA BUTTERFIELD AND TOM TILSON, circa 1917

was fifteen and quite grown up in my own eyes, but a baby to Father and Mother. But they let me go with the boys to a few things. In October I fell and broke my collarbone in two places. It had been broken before but this was worse than the first time, worse even than being unconscious three weeks with fever. I soon recovered but still bear the mark; a large knot on my

right collar bone. I at once became a Philo and have been ever since. In the inter-society debate we won but I almost cried out of sympathy for the other side. During the summer months I worked in the telephone office. Mother did not want me to but I wanted so she let me. I was so anxious for school to start I felt like I would like it even better than the first and I did. What do you think, I was almost surprised to death, as we say, when one day in walked a tall dark-complected boy of about nineteen. I looked and looked at him. I knew his name but did not recognize him as the boy I had seen a long time ago. The boy who was too timid to play with girls: Tom Tilson.

During the entire year I enjoyed every feature of the school more and more but especially the social side. In March I began to go with Tom. I am a Philo and he an Alamo. He wanted me to be an Alamo but I would not and we had several arguments about it so the night of the debate he took me and he sat on one side and I on another. The Philos

continued on page 3



TILSON KIDS, sitting on the porch at home in Whiteflat. L-R W.R., Dan, Thomas, Raworth, Grace Laverne, and Eugenia holding Warren Earl

Opinion Editorial

A Commonsense Energy Policy

By Rick Noriega

There's no upside to \$4 gasoline. Texas families are struggling to meet basic demands due to the skyrocketing price of fuel and the related spike in food prices. Yet, as a result of our energy crisis, we finally have a consensus that we can't rely on the same old solutions to what has been a steadily-worsening problem.

Politicians have done us a disservice by pretending that there are simple solutions to energy issues and by putting forth a false choice about energy. Our policy debates should not present finding new sources of oil or investing in new renewable sources as competing options — both are critical components of any plan to extricate us from the predicament we find ourselves in today.

In 1970, the U.S. imported 24% of our oil; by 1990, the total had crept to 42%; at present, we import nearly 70% of our oil. This is untenable, bad for America, and a lost opportunity for Texas.

Our current, unsustainable energy policy cripples our economic viability, endangers our natural resources, and limits

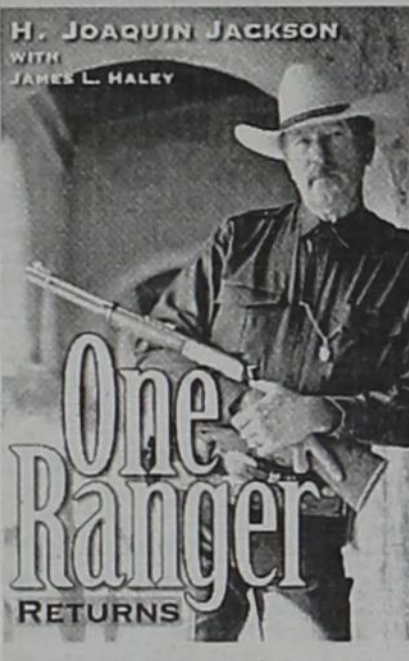
our foreign policy options. Many of the most promising clean energy ideas are years away from coming to fruition. We must redouble our research and development efforts towards boosting the viability of renewable energy for the long-term. We also need to invest in an intermediate, bridge fuel strategy that begins to transition from the short-sighted policies of today to the visionary future of tomorrow. One approach is to use wind-power to replace natural gas used for electricity needs — a development that would free up natural gas for use as a transportation fuel, buy us valuable R&D years to realize the potential of renewable energy sources, and reestablish our state as the world leader in energy innovation.

It will take a Texas-sized effort to develop a functional bridge strategy using wind. According to a recent study by the U.S. Department of Energy, a key challenge posed by wind power is that "the transmission grid would have to be expanded and upgraded from wind-rich areas and across the existing system to

deliver wind energy to many demand centers." In plain English, we have trouble connecting where the wind is to where the people are.

Though the recent announcement of the \$5 billion plan to upgrade wind power transmission capacity is welcome news, we need to recognize that neither wind power nor any other approach is a cure-all. Less wind power is generated during the summer compared to the rest of the year; yet summer months are the peak months for energy use. But let's be clear, everything from clean coal technology to continued oil exploration to solar and biomass technology must be part of our energy strategy in the coming years.

Developing real energy solutions will require bold and immediate action, long-term strategic goals, and, most importantly, acknowledgment that there are no easy answers for U.S. energy policy. It's time for leadership and it's time to reject the special interest politics of the past that have paralyzed our policy. Texas families deserve no less.



Rootin' Tootin' Beans Yaller Cornbread Tea

Friday August 29th
11:30-1:30
Motley County Library


Friends of the Library 8th Annual Beans & Cornbread Fundraiser

Featuring special guest
Writer and Movie Star Joaquin Jackson

Mr. Jackson will be on hand to sign copies of his latest book, "One Ranger Returns"

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE
Laverne Zabielski & Larry Vogt, Publishers & Editors
Carol Campbell, Feature writer

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER
HOUSTON PRESS CLUB EDITORIAL AWARD WINNER
WEST TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER



AWARD WINNER

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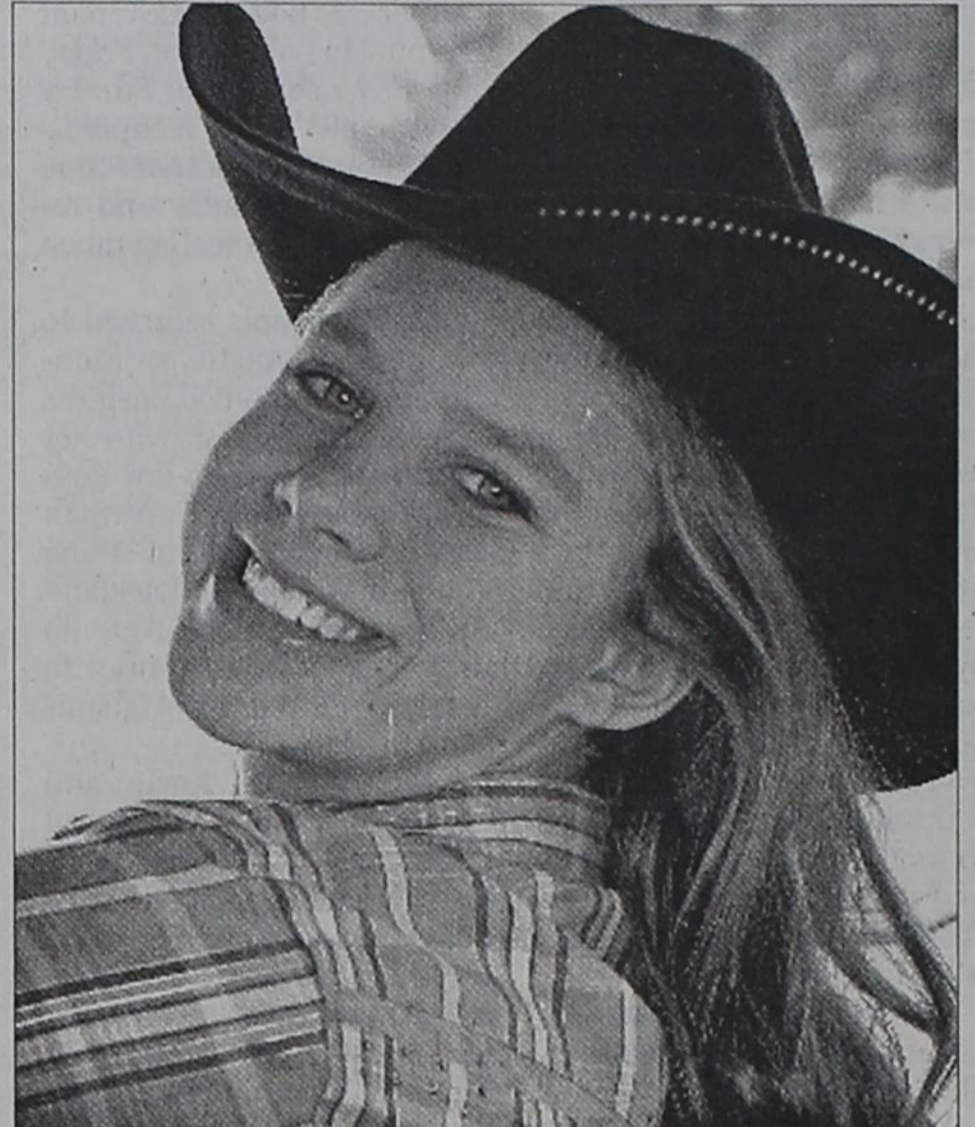
85th Annual Motley-Dickens Counties Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo

ROARING SPRINGS, TEXAS
AUGUST 28, 29, & 30, 2008

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Free Admission All Day</p> <p>PARADE - 10:00 A.M. MEMORIAL SERVICE - 11:00 A.M. BUSINESS MEETING - 1:00 P.M. FREE DANCE - 4:00-6:00 P.M.</p>	<p>RHAA RANCH HORSE COMPETITION Books Open at 8:00 A.M. Competition Starts at 9:00 A.M.</p> <p>COWBOY CLASS \$100 Entry Fee \$40 Stock Charge RANCH HAND CLASS \$100 Entry Fee \$40 Stock Charge JUNIOR CLASS \$100 Entry Fee \$40 Stock Charge SENIOR CLASS \$100 Entry Fee \$40 Stock Charge YOUTH CLASS \$40 Entry Fee \$20 Stock Charge 18 Years and Under (As of Day of Competition) RANGER BUCKLE Sets To Class Winners</p>	<p>DOUBLE MUGGING BOOKS OPEN @ 9:00 A.M. ROPE @ 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>ENTRY FEE \$80.00 PER TEAM \$30.00 STOCK CHARGE</p> <p>MAY ENTER TWICE WITH DIFFERENT PARTNER</p> <p>1 LONG ROUND TOP 10 GO TO SHORT ROUND</p> <p>Ranger Belt Buckle Set to Average Winners</p>
<p>MOTLEY-DICKENS COUNTIES ARENA EVENTS Books Open at 4:30 P.M. Events Begin at 5:00 P.M.</p> <p>CUTTING Entry Fee \$70 (Stock Charge \$30) Ranger Buckle Set to Winner</p> <p>FLAG RACE 6 Years & Under - Free 7 Years to 12 Years - Free (As of That Day) Ranger Buckle Set to Winners</p> <p>OPEN AGE BARREL RACE Entry Fee \$15 (Office Charge \$5) Ranger Buckle Set to Winner</p> <p>JUNIOR TEAM ROPING 18 Years & Under Entry Fee \$10 per Team Ranger Buckle Set to Winner</p>	<p>JR. FLAG RACE FRIDAY & SATURDAY - DURING RODEO 12 Years Old & Under (As of That Day) Entry Fee \$10 (Stock Charge \$10) Ranger Buckle Set to Winner</p>	<p>WASHER PITCH CONTEST 1:00 P.M. - SATURDAY Belt Buckles to Winners</p>
<p>MOTLEY-DICKENS COUNTIES TEAM ROPING Entry Fee \$60 (Stock Charge \$25) Draw Pot - Draw 4 Partners 3 Hd - Progressive After 1 Top 12 Back for Short Go Ranger Buckle Set to Winners</p>	<p>WRCA SANCTIONED INVITATIONAL RANCH RODEO FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7:00 P.M. BRONC RIDING WILD COW MILKING TEAM DOCTORING CALF BRANDING TEAM SORTING Team of 4-6 members 20 Teams @ \$500 Each Prizes to Event Winners Four Monies Paid in Average Bits to Top Hand & Top Horse Winners</p>	<p>KID'S SNAPPING TURTLE RACES 3:00 P.M. - SATURDAY \$50 to Winners of Each Division 0-4 yrs. 5-9 yrs. 10-14 yrs. Call Russell Alexander @ 806-348-7958</p>
<p>OLD FOLK'S DANCE Mike Porter & Friends Thursday - 4:00-6:00 P.M. / 8:00-11:00 P.M. Friday & Saturday - 5:00 - 8:30 P.M. ALL DANCES ARE FREE</p>	<p>FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE 9:00 TIL 1:00 KEVIN RAINWATER AND THE MOONLIGHTERS</p>	<p>CROWNING OF QUEEN and DRAWING FOR SPURS Handmade by MATT HUMPHREYS</p>
<p>FRIDAY AND SATURDAY General Admission \$5 Free Admission 12 & Under</p>	<p>COWBOY CHURCH BAND Friday & Saturday - 6:00 P.M. - On Slab Ron & Marianne Brunson</p>	<p>SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE 9:00 TIL 1:00 CADILLAC JACK</p>
		<p>FOOD CONCESSIONS ON GROUNDS</p>

2008 OLD SETTLERS RODEO QUEEN CANDIDATES

Motley County
Jaci Zingerman



JACI ZINGERMAN, 13, is from Roaring Springs, Texas, and she will be an eighth grader at Motley County ISD. She is the 13 year old daughter of Russell and Lori Alexander of Roaring Springs and Jason and Christie Zingerman of Boulder, Colorado. Her grandparents are Boyd & Pat Dean, James & Sharlotte Zingerman, Barbara Hill, and Rick & Cyd Alexander. Jaci participates in 4-H, as well as cross country, basketball, and track at school. She enjoys all kinds of sports, but basketball is her favorite. She is also active in the First Baptist Church youth group at Matador. She loves her phone and her trampoline. In her spare time, when she's not busy working with her animals or participating in school activities, she likes to hang out with her friends and family at the Springs or the lake, or just in Roaring Springs.



Dickens County
Jordan Garvin



JORDAN GARVIN 14, is the daughter of Ray and Karen Faubus of Spur. Her grandparents are Bill and Kay Heatly of Paducah, Betty Heatly of Lubbock, Phillip Garvin of Paducah, Barbara Garvin of Lubbock, and Avanelle Faubus of Spur. Jordan's siblings; Tre' Garvin, Jared Faubus, and Shayla Rose. Jordan's hobbies are barrel racing; basketball; track; cross country; school, church activities; and eating. Future plans: "I plan on continuing competing in barrel racing in college, while getting a degree in veterinary medicine, then, when I graduate, I would like to have a family, run my own veterinary clinic, and live on a ranch somewhere close to family and friends."

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Stella Butterfield (Tilson) 1915, Autobiography

won but it did not cause any hard feelings on account of our agreement, thus we separated for part of the summer greater friends.

In August I visited at Matador and Tom took me to his home where I had the best time I ever had. I went to my first round-up. We all came back to school and began the 1914 and 15 school term. In one way this has been the happiest year of all and in another way it has been the saddest. I

have enjoyed my studies more than ever and of course I have had to study harder, but the social side is what everyone likes best.

During October, and September also, there were two or three in school who made it their special business to break couples up. They succeeded in Tom's and my case, but not for good. About Christmas Tom wanted to make up but didn't until February and then we did not make up like we were before we broke up, but a

little is better than none at all.

Future hopes--a good literary education, a year of two in China painting, a good domestic science training, a fair knowledge of all fine arts, and last but not least, home on a ranch with a person whom I will love better than life. The rest is too sacred to put on paper but will live constantly in my mind.

*Quotes from
Quotable Texas Women by
Susie Kelly Flatau and Lou Halsell Rodenberger

CORRECTION

In Last week's City Council Report it should have

stated that currently the Senior Citizen Center is the only entity that receives free services without any kind of agreement.

Hardeman County Memorial Hospital

Would Like To Announce Its' Association With

Gail Ream, PA-C

Her hours at the

Paducah Clinic

Monday-Thursday 9-5

806-492-3581

"Developing Greatness"



For the Christian, real greatness comes from within. From a new inner person built in the image of Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus condemned the scribes and the Pharisees of His day, likening them to "whitewashed tombs, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but within are full of dead men's bones and full of all uncleanness." (Matthew 23:27). Our Lord was pointing out to His disciples that these scribes and Pharisees looked mighty fine on the surface. Yes, they had created a very impressive façade of "holiness" for themselves.

The lesson for us today is that beautiful buildings and well-spaced padded pews don't always reflect a Christ-like spirituality. A good number of well groomed, nice dressed attendees at Sunday morning worship services does not necessarily guarantee that genuine worship is actually taking place. Don't forget, that the scribes and Pharisees looked good from a distance!

What then is needed: sincere disciples willing to dig beneath surface appearances and work on improving what really matters - our hearts. This will develop greatness.

Michael G. Crowley, Sr.

Roaring Springs Church of Christ
Michael G. Crowley, Sr.
BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to Roaring Springs!
For 85th Old Settlers Celebration!

Traveler's Inn

806-348-7304

New Location
Childress Veterinary Hospital
Dr. David Fuston
Full Service Veterinary Hospital
Large and Small Animal Needs

940-937-2558
109 Industrial Circle/287 West, Childress

NEWS AROUND MOTLEY COUNTY

Roaring Springs News

By Monta Marshall

Here they are ready or not; school starting, Old Settlers Annual Reunion and Rodeo! It seems some things come and go so quickly; I know it has been a year since Old Settlers and nearly three months since school was out. They say time flies when you are having fun; well it seems to fly faster as we get older too. I am sure the queen's contestants; rodeo contestants, kids with their terrapins ready to race can hardly wait and time is slow like molasses to them. A full slate of events with something for everyone is planned.

School is a different story for some children; some were definitely not ready for the summer to end — long days of playing, sleeping late and staying up late will be replaced by getting up early, rushing to catch to bus, and getting homework. The upside is soon everyone gets used to the new routine and they look forward to football games; pep rallies, and playing with their friends at school. Some even look forward to learning!

Ed and Faye Hall of Burnett, Texas visited with Ed's sister, Sheila Lefevre on Saturday.

The annual Cowboy Camp Meeting will be held at the Old Settlers Tabernacle on September 11th through the 13th. Jack Martin of Holley, Colorado and Johnny Morris of Afton will be the speakers again this year. I will know more of the details next week.

Leandra Whittenburg and friend, Randy Harris visited with her parents, Don and Billie Stuckey over the weekend.

Matt and Kenna returned home with their mom to begin another school year in Flower Mound, Texas after spending the week with their grandpar-

ents. Will Palmer of Lovington visited with his mother, Pearl Patten last week and worked clearing the limbs out of her pecan orchard and mowing.

Johnny Palmer, son of Zella Palmer was taken to Covenant Hospital in Lubbock on Friday and was released on Sunday afternoon. He is recuperating at home. Zella spent time with him on Sunday and reported that he is feeling much better.

Becky Nichols returned to her home in Austin on Monday after a combined business trip and family visit with her son and daughter-in-law Ross and Dana Graham. Airman Jared Rieger, son of Dana Graham will be at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio this week for briefing prior to being deployed to Afghanistan.

Kelly, Pennie, Kevin and Lesa Keltz attended the funeral of Pennie's first cousin, Trent Scott last Thursday in Lubbock. Kevin Keltz preached the funeral service. Kelly and Pennie were in charge of the music. Corky and Monta Marshall also attended the funeral. Trent's parents are Ceaman Scott and Margaret Evans Scott. Margaret grew up in Matador and Ceaman at Dougherty and McAdoo.

Larry Vogt traveled to Austin last weekend for a visit with his daughter Susanna Van Tassel and his grandson Frank Collebrusco. They enjoyed experimenting with stop animation techniques with their camcorders, visiting the Texas Museum, seeing "Whales and Dolphins" at the Imax theatre, and touring the Texas State Capitol.

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

A time with someone who will listen, talk, laugh and sing may be the very thing that will someday cure this old world and make it a better place and an enjoyable Old Settler's Reunion!

Mrs. Jessica Schupbach and daughter, Waveland of Denver, Co., visited the week with her mother, Shonda Lee and husband, Roger. They visited in Dallas Wednesday with Sonda's daughter, Mrs. Jenne Wesley and celebrated her son's Paxton first birthday. Saturday night those enjoying a cook out supper at the Lee home were Mr. and Mrs. Rex Dave and Mrs. Martha Taylor of Plainview, Bud and Penny Taylor of Floydada and Ruth and Orville Lee of Flomot. Shonda accompanied Jessica and Waveland to Amarillo Airport Sunday night for their return trip home.

Johnie Starkey left Friday for a two week visit in Lebanon, MO., with his son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Rickey Starkey and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Starkey and children.

Tim and Melissa Kendall and sons, Jere and Jacob and friends, Todd and D'Anne Oberhue, Ty and Grant of Quitaque enjoyed during the weekend Splash Water Park in Amarillo.

Blayne and Savannah Young visited the week in Spur with their father, Jody Young.

Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse of Turkey visited Mrs. B. Rogers, Sunday.

Butch Hughes received a good report when consulting with his surgeon in Lubbock, Tuesday. He will still be under the care of Home Health nurses. Visiting Butch and Janice Saturday were son and grandson, Roger Hughes and Brodie of Floydada. Mrs. Venita Hrnier of Amarillo, cousin of Butch's, visited them Sunday. Many local neighbors and friends have visited them during Butch's illness.

Mrs. Jackie Lynn Davis of Fritch visited during the weekend with her parents, Jack and Nada Starkey. Their daughter, Mrs. Bessie Reid of Amarillo accompanied Nada to medical appointments in Amarillo, Monday. En route home, they visited in Canyon with son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starkey.

Lance Barclay, Colton and Kayla of Lubbock visited the weekend with his parents, Sandra and Jerry Barclay.

Mrs. Christi Milam of Petersburg visited Saturday with her parents, Kathy and Clois Shorter and accompanied home her daughters, Emily and Haley who visited here the past week.

A birthday celebration honoring Clinton and Clayton Pigg was held Saturday night at the Bob Wills Center in Turkey. Among the many relatives and friends attending were Cally and Will Sperry, Gage and Cash. Cally and sons visited in Canadian from Sunday until Wednesday of last week with Will who works for an oil Company there.

Matador News

Melinda and Clay Jameson are enjoying a six week vacation at their home in Creede, CO.

Tom and Deanie Edwards spent last Friday, August 22, with Margarite "Marge" Edwards at Ventura Place, Lubbock. They were luncheon guests at Ventura with Marge and Aunt Grace Campbell, then enjoyed an afternoon of visiting.

Carol Campbell and Kay Bailey, both of Matador, Carolyn Limmer, Snyder, and Melanie Camp, Jacksboro, traveled to Ruidoso, N.M. last Thursday, August 21-24, for a reunion gathering of the Skeelas. This group of high school friends has been meeting annually for about 47 years. Not attending were Donna Wilson Nelson, McMinnville, OR,

and Janie Waybourn Brooks, Austin. The group rented a large 4-bedroom cabin from friends in Snyder, enjoying coffee and visiting on the deck, viewing wildlife, including deer and chipmunks; and busy hummingbirds on four feeders. They attended the Quarter Horse races at Ruidoso Downs on Friday, followed by a buffet at Inn of the Mountain Gods. They donated to the Apache Indian Reservation casino and enjoyed the beautifully restored hotel, catching sunset on the lake at the Inn. The next day two friends tried their luck again at the races, followed by shopping in downtown Ruidoso, and critter watch on the deck. A good time was had by all!

Red Hatters meet at Hotel Matador

By Mary Jones

The Red Hat Club met for lunch at beautiful Hotel Matador on Tuesday, August 17.

Attending were Queen Mother Joyce Campbell, Dorothy Day, Suzanne Abbott, Ray Baxter, Joan Patton, Norma Marrs, Dorothy Knight, Marihelen Wason, Beverly Vinson, Lucretia Campbell, Winifred Darsey, Evelyn Garrison, Mary Jones, Billie Koon, and guests Deanie Edwards, Debra Scott and Dorothy Russell.

The members agreed that the food was past delicious,

probably the best they had ever been served as a group. The tables were decorated so lovely and the service was outstanding.

It was Evelyn's birthday and she was given a red rose in a bud vase and a slightly off-key rendition of the Happy Birthday song.

Shane Jones, Matador Variety Store, gave a gift bag. Thank you, Shane!

Norma won the door prize: a red hat. A short business meeting followed. All enjoyed the outing. Thanks again to the Hotel Matador staff for entertaining us so royally.

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County Agent's News

by Ryan Martin, AgriLife EXTENSION Agent



ROBY -- A nationally recognized quail expert invites all "students of quail" to the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch's inaugural field day set from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sept. 12.

The ranch is located 12 miles west of Roby on U.S. Hwy. 180.

"Our inaugural field day will be the first of what I hope are many significant events towards the proliferation of quail in West Texas," said Dr. Dale Rollins, Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist and the ranch's director.

Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available for those with a private applicator's license.

An innovative approach to fire and grazing will be a featured talk during the day, according to Rollins.

"I'm really intrigued by the concept of patch-burn-grazing as it relates to quail habitat management," Rollins said. "We initiated this project last March as a way to develop a quail-friendly approach to prickly pear management."

"We only burn parts of pastures, then follow with a light stocking rate of cattle," he said. "The cows graze the burned area, resulting in more weeds beneficial to quail. But by not burning the whole pasture, we are leaving adjacent areas that provide excellent nesting and escape cover."

Rollins said the field day will also highlight several studies done cooperatively with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Kingsville. One study involved counting quail from a helicopter and monitoring fall-winter survival using radio telemetry. The other evaluated quail abundance using GPS-equipped bird dogs to find the quail.

Other topics will include: Food Plots for Quail; Nesting Ecology; Renovating Bermuda grass and Conservation Reserve Program Fields for Quail; Brush Sculpting for Quail; Roadrunners, Rattlesnakes and Quail.

The field day will be conducted by the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch, Texas

AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension and Quail Unlimited.

Individual pre-registration by Sept. 5 is \$10 and \$15 thereafter. The fee includes lunch. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Roby Community Center. RSVP to Rollins at 325-653-4576 or d.rollins@tamu.edu

Grazing Management Workshop for Landowners

Producers are invited to attend a Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative summer series workshop on Sept. 3 in Clarendon. The initiative is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The workshop will include presentations and outdoor demonstrations by the conservation service personnel, as well as Donley County Soil and Water Conservation District and Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel. The workshop will be held in the Bairfield Activity Center on the campus of Clarendon College.

Landowners will receive classroom instruction on managing grazing lands during the morning session and hands-on forage production and management instruction in the field during the afternoon.

A \$25 registration fee will include lunch and a newly published handbook titled, "Managing My Piece of Texas." The how-to guide was developed to assist landowners in managing grazing lands across Texas. Landowners will learn to estimate forage production, grazeable acres and setting proper stocking rates, among other grazing management principles.

To register for the workshop, call the Donley County SWCD office in the USDA Service Center at 806-874-3561, ext. 3. Deadline for registration will be Aug. 29. For more information on managing grazing lands, visit the Web site at www.GLCI.org or the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

continued on page 7

Notes from the Library

By Buffy Crutchley

Beans & Cornbread. Beans & Cornbread. Beans and Cornbread!

I'm so excited to get to experience my first ever Beans & Cornbread.

For those of you that haven't heard, Friday August 29th is the Friends of the Library 8th Annual Beans & Cornbread Fundraiser Luncheon. We're having a special guest, Famous Writer & Movie Star Joaquin Jackson. Mr. Jackson will be on hand to sign copies of his latest book, "One Ranger Returns". The Luncheon is from 11:30-1:30, and I hope you'll join us. I want this to be the best year yet!

I am pleased to announce

the return of our "big blue box" outside. It is now safe to bring your library books back after hours. I know many of you have had a hard time returning your books while the sidewalks have been being constructed, but thankfully you don't have to worry any more. The Return Box is back!

I also want to remind everyone about the sale we are having on our remaining stock of Texas Capitol Ornaments. We've sold quite a few, but still have some available. If you need to fill in the gaps to complete your collection, now's the time. They're flying off the shelves so shop early for the best selection.

continued from page one

MCISD holds public budget hearing

has a 97 percent tax collection rate," she said.

"Every budget is tight, and we are doing the best we can to stay in budget," she said, adding, "if enrollment stays stable until 2012 we will be okay. You are doing a great job, keep it up," she congratulated the school board.

The adjusted tax value is currently at \$1.17 per \$100 value. Dr. Alvis said that the ISD is recommending the same tax rate as last year. "This is a critical year because the legislature is meeting this year," he said. "They keep our nose to the (education) grindstone, but maybe we will get lucky this year," referring to state revenue for education.

Following the budget hearing, the board met in regular session, covering a 12-item

agenda, including the adoption of a resolution "explaining the intent to fall short of TEA proposed expenditure targets;" the approval of the final amended budget for 2007-2008; the approval of the 2008-2009 proposed budget; and approval of the 2008-2009 school tax rate.

Larry LeBlanc and Dane Daniel of 1st Alarm of Lubbock made a presentation to the board regarding a new security system for the school.

The proposed bid included three "stand alone" scenarios for security: 1) a camera system; 2) a key-pad, door lock system; and 3) a window breakage system.

The camera system would record "all of the time, for 16 cameras," collecting data via computer for at least two

weeks prior. "The cameras are all stand alone," LeBlanc said. "They are not on a timer, you do not have to change tapes, and they are high impact and vandal resistant." Cameras can be placed on interior and exterior walls, which decreases "accidents, school yard fights, and locker break-ins," he said.

The door lock system would include a magnetic door with a siren and a keypad panel. The panel would hold 75, 4-digit user codes. Key pads would be installed at the front door and the kitchen door. All entries after hours would be monitored. For this system to be effective, the building would need to be "re-keyed," Blanc said.

The window break alarm system would sound an

alarm anytime a window was breached, alerting the monitors who then call police. "Research has shown that a person is six-times less likely to get a break-in with an alarm system," LeBlanc said. "If the system is breached, the siren would go off, and it is very loud," he said. The board voted to table the security system vote until the company could re-bid the project without the camera system.

According to the resolution the agenda also included consideration of insurance and fuel bids. The board voted 7-0 to keep Carson Insurance Agency for 2008-2009 who provided the low bid for property, general liability, and fleet insurance. The low fuel bid was awarded to Cornelius Fuel in Floydada.

Kids Praise

Motley County Arts and Crafts Club met August 4 for its monthly workshop. The members had a fervent desire to see what the surprise lesson would be!

It fulfilled all expectations with a lovely plaque of an angel. The angel with golden wings was fashioned with a halo and a dangling star.

Each member made a lovely angel of colors of choice. These will make a beautiful hanging or a cute sign on a garden gate, or in the home. The results were all lovely

ador. There will be songs, crafts, a Bible story, food, and fun for all. Please note that the Kids' Praise meal will now be at the beginning of the evening, rather than at the end.

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The emancipation of women may have begun not with the vote, nor in the cities where women marched and carried signs and protested, but rather when they mounted a good cow-horse and realized how different and fine the view. From the back of a horse, the world looked wider and possibilities greater.

Joyce Gibson Roach, writer

Back to school sale at Matador Variety

CONGRATULATIONS MOTLEY-DICKENS COUNTIES 85TH ANNUAL OLD SETTLERS REUNION AND RODEO



continued from page one

Motley County holds public budget hearing

well as donations. The county pays the bills, including equipment replacement costs, out of this line item. Additionally, following review of the proposed budget, MCOC noticed that while each department had a line item for technology costs, there was also a line item for "courthouse technology." Judge Smith explained that this budgeted line item was for projected emergencies to the router or power outages that affect the system as a whole.

The salary budgeted for the assistant to the county judge and county attorney was under budget for the past fiscal year. The MCOC asked what happened to unused salary from one year to the next. Judge Smith explained that monies that are not used in a salary line item cannot be carried over to the next year, and did not include salary increases. "We start over each year," Judge Smith said.

Following discussion, the judge asked for recommendations for changes or corrections to the budget. Having no changes or corrections, the budget was approved by the quorum present; four voted "for." In the next order of business, the salaries and expenses for elected officials were approved, with no increases from fiscal year 2007-2008.

Further, the judge called for discussion and vote on any proposal to raise the tax rate above the effective tax rate. "By law," Judge Smith said, "we are required to decide now what to do on the tax rate. If we intend to increase the tax rate, then we would be required to set two tax rate hearings, plus a meeting to adopt the tax rate."

While the 2007 rate is .79698 per \$100 value, the effective tax rate, or the rate required to raise the same amount of revenue as last year after deducting new property value

would be .82372. The roll-back rate is .88948. According to Judge Smith, counties cannot go above .80 per \$100 value tax rate, and therefore, the county could only increase the tax rate by .003 percent, representing about \$2,247 for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Discussion focused on concerns of the commissioners that while the tax roll increased the tax rate did not decrease accordingly. "We had more taxable value this year, so it should be less, but it went up," Commissioner Jameson pointed out. Tax Assessor-Collector Elaine Hart and Chief Appraiser Brenda Osborn were called to the meeting for clarification purposes. Ms. Hart explained that the state guidelines were very complicated.

"The state formula used to figure the 2008 effective tax rate takes the certified value from the Appraisal District minus the new improvements and new personal property," she said. "That adjusted value is what the 2008 effective rate is based on."

Brenda Osborn, Chief Appraiser, said that while our "pasture was the same, the farm appraisal went down, but new property values increased."

Judge Smith pointed out that while the overall taxable value went up, the taxable value went down when the new property value is deducted. New property is taxable, but is not used in rate calculation.

The court voted four "for," to accept the tax rate without the .003 increase at .79698 per \$100 value, the same as last fiscal year.

Following the vote, Marisue Potts-Powell asked the court that if the state formula projected an increase "if limited to .80 per \$100 of assessed value, and we can't go above, how do you pay for overages or shortfalls?" she asked. Commissioner Jameson said

that "in my opinion, there will be an overall shortfall."

"A few years ago," Judge Smith said, "the General Fund was in trouble. Now the precincts are in trouble. We had to transfer money from reserves to make it balance. We will have to move money from Capitol Acquisitions to pay the precinct bills in August, September and October," he said.

"We can make line item transfers as needed," Judge Smith said, "but we can only amend the budget under emergency circumstances and strict requirements."

"We are like Foard County was about five years ago," Commissioner Turner said, "they laid off hands and cut services to make their budget."

"Some counties have cut courthouse services to 10-hour days, four days a week," Judge Smith added.

The light at the end of the tunnel seems to be the hope that equipment will need less maintenance in the future, that fuel costs will decrease, and that new businesses projected to open in the future will increase the tax roll.

"A gravel pit that was closed two years ago will open in January," Commissioner Turner said. Commissioner Alexander said that diesel fuel was dropping, and there could be a savings there. "There is also a rumor that Polypipe in Roaring Springs will be running 24-hours a day in the near future," he said.

Judge Smith set the next meeting to adopt the tax rate on Friday, September 19, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom. He reminded the audience that there would be "no discussion" at this meeting, only a motion to adopt the new tax rate. The budget hearing adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Rankin boys cowboy up

The Junior Rodeo Cowboy Association Rodeo Contestants end the 2008 season with a bang.

Two members were from Motley County. Brody and Brogan Rankin competed in nine of the ten rodeos that started in May and ended in August. The finals were held July 31-August 2, 2008.

Brogan, 3 and Brody, 8 are the sons of Ryan and Lacey Rankin and grandsons of Harold and Barbara Parks of Roaring Springs, Newell and Toni Rankin of Miami, Texas and Andy and Vicki Brown of Amarillo.

Brogan competed in the 3 and under stick horse barrels and goat undecorating. He won the reserve year end of both and won the average buckle of the finals in the goat undecorating.

Brody competed in the 6-8 year old barrels, poles, goat tying, breakaway roping, and calf riding. He won the reserve all-around saddle, a breast collar for reserve pole year-end, spurs for third in the goat tying year end, a leather powder pouch for sixth in the breakaway year end, and a buckle bull bell for third in the calf riding year end.

For the finals he won the poles both days and ended up with the pole average belt buckle. He ended the finals by catching his calf in the breakaway with a 4.4 and cinched the saddle win.



CANDY WEARS WINNING SADDLE. Brogan Rankin, L, rides Headlight and Brody Rankin, R, rides Sargeant at JRCA finals at Vernon, July 31-August 2, 2008.



BROGAN RANKIN goat undecorating at the JRCA finals at Vernon, Texas.



BRODY RANKIN pole bending at the JRCA finals in Vernon, Texas.

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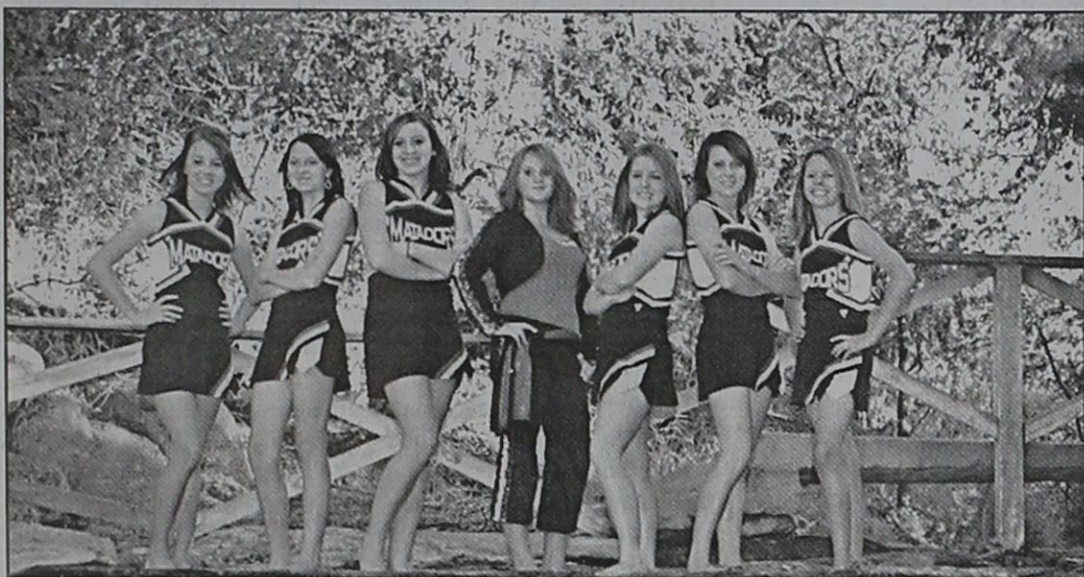
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2008 VARSITY CHEERLEADERS: Kyla Simpson, Leanne Jameson, Alyx Smith, Ashley Brackeen [mascot], Courtney Alexander, Shane'a Russell, Lexi Osborn

continued from page 5

County Agent

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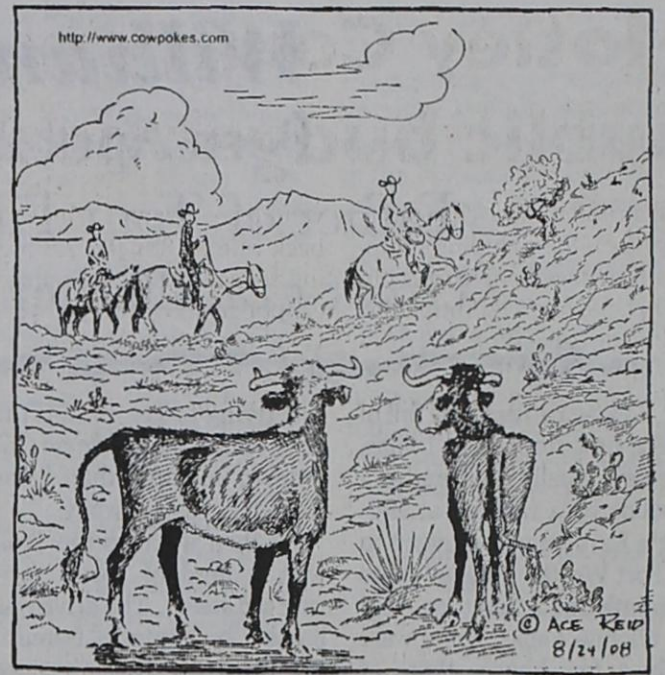
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The Motley 4-H Club will have their annual "4-H Sign Up Night" on September 2, 2008 starting at 6:30 pm in the Motley County Courthouse. Come join 4-H and Make It Yours!

The 4-H youth and development program is offered by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Motley County Extension Office. In addition, other services are available from the Extension Office. For more information contact: Ryan Martin, Motley County Extension Agent, at Tel: 806-347-2733.

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By Ace Reid



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William R. Tilson Autobiography

Born April 27, 1858, Tilson's Mill, Bland County, Virginia

Father of Tom Tilson, Grandfather of Grace Laverne Tilson Zabielski
Great-grandfather of *Motley County Tribune* Publisher, Laverne Zabielski

I came to Texas the fall of 1882, first stopped at Dallas, then eventually was hired as a cowboy by a rancher attending a Cattleman's convention in Fort Worth. I stayed there a month and a half then went to Wichita Falls. There were only a few houses there at that time and it was the wildest town I had ever seen. I ran a restaurant for a few months and helped Mr. Sales open a stage and mail line from Wichita Falls to old Clarendon by driving a buckboard. Then I took Charles Goodnight and his wife to the J.A. Headquarters. While there I saw a buffalo bull so vicious I did not bother him.

I took a job driving six yokes, being twelve oxen, from Wichita Falls to the Lane Ranch close to where Wellington, Texas, now is. Coming back we loaded our trail wagons with buffalo bones. In one of the backbones I found the flint of an Indian arrow.

Next I was employed by Tom Gibson to work as a cowboy. He was boss of the R2 Ranch, with headquarters on Wonders Creek, one mile south of where Chilli-cothe now is. They slipped me the wildest bronc they had. The horses I had ridden bucked straight ahead. This one went high in the air, turned halfway around and landed stiff legged. Then he did the same thing but in reverse. His name was Dynamite. He threw me. When I

was trying to get on him the third time the foreman interfered and after that I was considered as a cowboy.

I then went up the Trail with a herd of 3,000 two-year old steers. The drive was bossed by Jimmie Daniels. We drove by Doane's store and just before that by the William's farmhouse where Sallie Williams, my future bride, then lived. I might have seen her standing out in front of her house.

We drove on the old Chisholm Trail and crossed the Prairie Dog Fork of the Red River, just west of Doane's. We were now in Greer County. The night before we arrived at

the North Fork of Red River we had quite an experience holding our herd. I was on the right point and Pat Lacy on the left. Just before we reached the river, four or five Comanche Indians, (Quanah Parker and his Comanches were in camp 1/4 mile down the river) met us and helped drive the herd down into the flat before crossing the river. Just as the cattle were taking the water some squaws, Indian bucks, and dogs stampeded the cattle, causing the cattle to mill around into a bog hole which was close by. At the same time they jumped on the cows and rammed their heads into the mud and

smothered them to death. Then as quickly as they could they would pull them out of the mud and float them about 400 yards down the river to their camp. This was all done unnoticed by the cowboys. Four or five had been killed before we saw what they were doing. Then I ran them out and stayed down there while the other boys went up over the bluff where the cattle had run when frightened by the Indians. The river was up. The water was about four feet deep which caused us trouble in crossing the herd.

We passed through the Wichita Mountains and over a creek that was so deep the cattle had to swim. One of boys' horse, an old yellow one, turned over on his side and floated down the creek quite a ways. Of course the boy got loose and swam to the shore.

On some of these creeks I killed large bullfrogs with my six-shooter. I gave one to each of the cowboys. We tied their hind legs to our saddles and took them to the camp cook who cooked them and they were very good.

Everything went along very smoothly until we were about halfway across the Indian Territory and reached the Kiawa Reservation. An Indian chief and several of his warriors came to the herd. The Chief said, "Me Big Chief. Two wahas (cows) or \$20." We cheerfully gave them the \$20 to keep them from stam-

peding the herd that night.

Then another Indian came up and said, "Me Little Chief. One dollar." We gave him the dollar. We had to be careful because about two or three weeks before a herd of four or five hundred horses had passed through there. The Indians rode in and cut out several horses. The boss tried to stop them but the Indians paid no attention and so he shot the Chief and left. But the boss knew they would return with reinforcements, which they did. But the boss had turned the herd over to another man to boss and had cleared out. When the Indians could not find him they left.

There was no further trouble and we went on to Dodge City. We turned the herd over to another outfit who took them on to Montana. Dodge City was a wild town as it was nothing for a man to be killed any day. After giving the town a touch of cowboy life, we left for the R2 Ranch. On our way back we killed several gar with our six-shooters. The cook tried to cook them and some of the gar eggs. A short time after eating our fill the whole bunch was so sick we thought we would die.

For the rest of the year at R2 Ranch we helped with the branding. That fall after getting back to the ranch in Hardeman County I was sent to the Riley work west of Sey-

mour by way of Teepee City, the Matador Ranch, intersecting the road from the Spur Ranch to the Pitchfork Ranch. There I met George Klutts with the Spur outfit. George and I were fast friends, from then on.

We worked about two months then I returned to the Ranch. That fall Hardeman County was organized. I helped Professor Westmoreland survey the Hardeman County line, took the bearing based on Initial Monument. I was elected County Attorney for which office I did not even try to qualify.

The R2 had their fall round-up at old Margrette where John Wesley had a store. The 9 outfit had their boys there, and in that round-up there was a large maverick. A 9 boy cut this maverick out when Billie Bell, an R2 boy, lined him up.

One of them said, "Hold up."

The other said, "Who said hold up?"

The other said, "It didn't make a damned bit of difference who said it."

Then they pulled their six-shooters and began shooting. The 9 boy was killed and Billie Bell was shot through the finger. The 9 outfit left for their ranch. The round-up was turned loose and the maverick was never seen again.

After the work was done that fall, Pat Lacy and I de-



SALLIE AND W.R. TILSON

Welcome to Roaring Springs

Roaring Springs Bank building, 1913.

Thacker Jewelry
Downtown Roaring Springs

WELCOME TO ROARING SPRINGS & OLD SETTLERS

85TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION!

Graham Supply
Downtown Roaring Springs

Congratulations to Motley & Dickens Counties on the Celebration of their 85th Annual Old Settlers Reunion!

Men at work building roads south of Roaring Springs, 1933-34.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF FLOYDADA
Member F.D.I.C.

W.R. Tilson Autobiography continued

cided to hunt that winter in the Yampirika breaks south of where Quanah now is. We killed a number of deer and antelope and I shot a large black bear. He was asleep in a canyon. When I shot him he rolled over in the ditch that ran along the canyon. He ran a ways then came out and worked in and out of the ditch. Each time he came out I would shoot him. I shot him five or six times. I saw him go to a turn in the ditch and could see him no more. I didn't know whether he was dead or not. I went up to the ditch, threw a rock in and he didn't move. I went

down into the ditch, threw a cartridge into my gun, eased up close enough to touch him with the gun. He was dead. I tried to turn him over. I cut him in two and carried him to camp in two parts.

That night a cowboy I shared a bunk with got in a bad humor. He drove a spike in the ground and put the bedding over it to divide my sleeping space from his. He left me a very little space. Not enough to lie down on, much less sleep on. I rolled over the spike and shoved him away. There was not enough space for him so he was on the ground.

Next spring, 1884, we went to work for the Mill Irons, and was sent to the Riley work to gather Mill Iron cattle, and bring them back to the Ranch, helping brand until fall and then was sent to the Double Mountain to work. Joe Carr was boss. That winter I camped in Childress County on Shores Creek and part of this time was building a big tank on the head of Mountain Creek.

In the spring of 1885 I was employed by the Matador Ranch and was again sent to the Riley work. That fall I bought DV cattle and moved to Whiteflat, Motley Coun-

ty. Lal Lewis and I camped where the A.B. Echols' ranch later was. At the camp George Klutts enjoyed eating dried jackrabbit that had been salted and dried for the winter.

That fall Mr. Drace and I dug a well and dugout on Sec. 3A Block T where our ranch house now is, this being the first work towards a settlement on Whiteflat. This dugout was walled up with plank having a plank floor and plank overhead, dirt on top of that. This was the mansion to which I brought my bride, Sallie Williams of Childress.

I helped build the first schoolhouse at Whiteflat, this

being the first schoolhouse in Motley County. I got the subscription of \$1,600 for the second Whiteflat schoolhouse, which was the first two-story schoolhouse in Motley County. I was also instrumental in building the Methodist Church in Whiteflat.

Previously I had continued to work on the Matadors. Judge H. H. Campbell being Manager. I went with Judge Campbell to Crosby County to get an order to organize Motley County. It was necessary to show that a certain amount of business was going on.

This was evidenced by putting up a plank counter for a

millinery shop run by Mrs. J.L. Moore. I was a real estate agent having four planks around my office. The Matadors gave a dinner and dance at the Matador headquarters. At the dance Jim Thompson and Bill Cloyd had a fuss. They drew their guns but were stopped before they shot. There was a large crowd. Mr. Pepper got scared and went through a window taking the frame with him around his neck. In the election Matador was made County Seat.

Originally typed by Eugenia Tilson Bethard, 1976



W.R. TILSON, Charlie Waybourn, Rance Moore, Joe Wason, Ben Spiegel and Bill Moore after a successful hunting expedition.

TRAIL DUST

By DOUGLAS MEADOR



Bewildered clouds climbed a stair of space to the mezzanine of gathering storm. They were like frightened children entering a vast and unfriendly room; silent, hesitant, yet driven by a commanding urge. Presently they were drawn into a turbulent ferment that consumed all trace of identity, and driven across the horizon with whips of the wind. It lives as with clouds, the material always fits destinies patterns

Welcome to Motley County

Old Settlers Reunion

New to You

Stop by and see us at our booth!

MATADOR COWBOY REUNION

All Matador Ranch Employees (ex and current) and friends are invited to a Reunion

Saturday, August 30, 2008
Roaring Springs Community Volunteer Center
(across from Old Settlers grounds)

Mid-morning until no one can think of another pitchin' horse story

Tea & Coffee will be served
Bring your old pictures and enjoy a good day of visiting

Ed D. Smith - Director and Past President
Home 806-347-2172 Work 806-347-2334

85th Annual Old Settlers Reunion

In honor of the Pioneers who have gone on before us, we offer a welcome to Motley & Dickens Counties as you help celebrate a tradition!

DICKENS SCHOOL, 1903-1913
(photo from Dickens County, It's Land and People)

Tip's Package Store

Dickens, Texas

Welcome to Old Settlers!

Meredith Construction Gas & Supply

Roaring Springs 806-348-7332

85th Old Settlers

Welcome Home!

Matador Variety

Downtown Matador

Pioneers

We salute you for the courage of your great hearts which led to the conquest of this mighty empire.

We pay tribute to your vision; may we live to serve you and your principle.

We are proud to have you as our friends.

Seigler Funeral Home

Matador & Paducah

85 YEARS!

Congratulations! Old Settlers!

H.P. FEED & SEED

ROARING SPRINGS

Old Settlers Reunion Celebrating 85 Years!

M.E. Keahey's filling station in Roaring Springs.

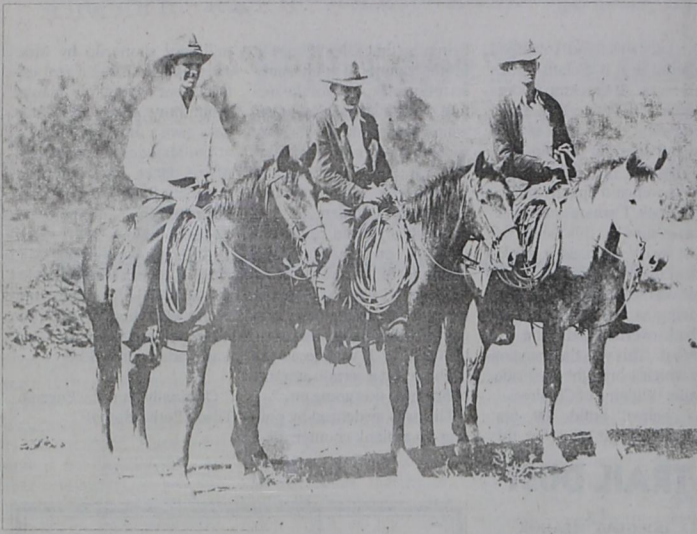
Alexander Fuel

Downtown Roaring Springs

Welcome to Motley County and the 85th Annual Old Settlers Reunion!

Pete Knight, the Watkins Man and his pick-up.
(photo from Of Such As These)

Matador Motor & Implement



JOHN V. STEVENS, Riley Thacker, and Rosie Deaton prepare for a 1950's round-up.

**RETRO
NEWS**

**Matador Tribune
August 30, 1951**

**Ranch is Dissolved in
Liquidation Plan**

A way of life has passed in West Texas. The great Matador Land and Cattle Company empire has vanished. The land and cattle are still here but the 70 year old ranch is gone. To natives of the county the passing of "The Company" is comparable to the strangeness that might follow if the government should be dissolved.

John MacKenzie of Denver has resigned as general manager after 40 years at the helm of the vast cattle empire. Mr. Mackenzie gave his reason for resigning, "Just age, I guess."

Welcome to Old Settlers!



*Come join us for our
delicious*

**Fried Chicken
Lunch Buffet**

THE HITCHIN' POST

DOWNTOWN ROARING SPRINGS

Welcome to Roaring Springs and the
85th Annual Old Settlers Reunion



Downtown street scene in Roaring Springs, soon after the town opened in 1913.

Smith Southern Banc Equipment

Jeff & Debbie Braselton
Roaring Springs • 806-348-7346



Leaving Spur for service in Army WWI.
(photo from Dickens County, It's Land and People)



**South Plains Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Old Settlers
Reunion

Lubbock • Lorenzo • Spur • Childress

Old Settlers Days



Matador First State Bank, 1911

*We salute the Pioneers of
Motley & Dickens Counties
and honor the residents of today as
the 85th Annual*

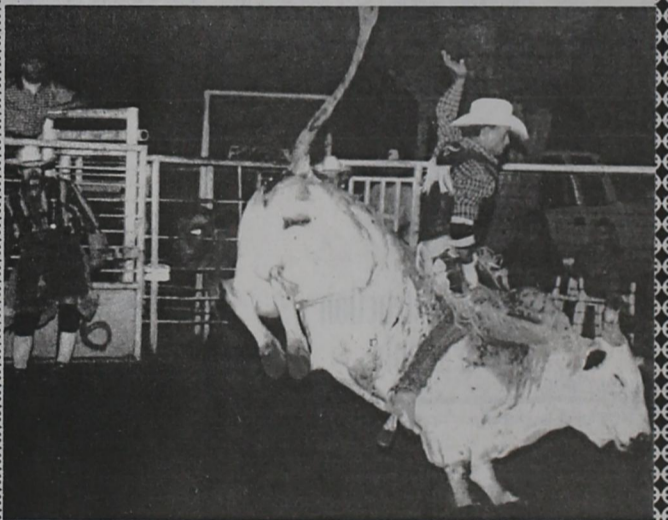
Old Settlers Reunion is celebrated

**MATADOR BRANCH
FIRST NATIONAL BANK**



EQUAL HOUSING LENDING

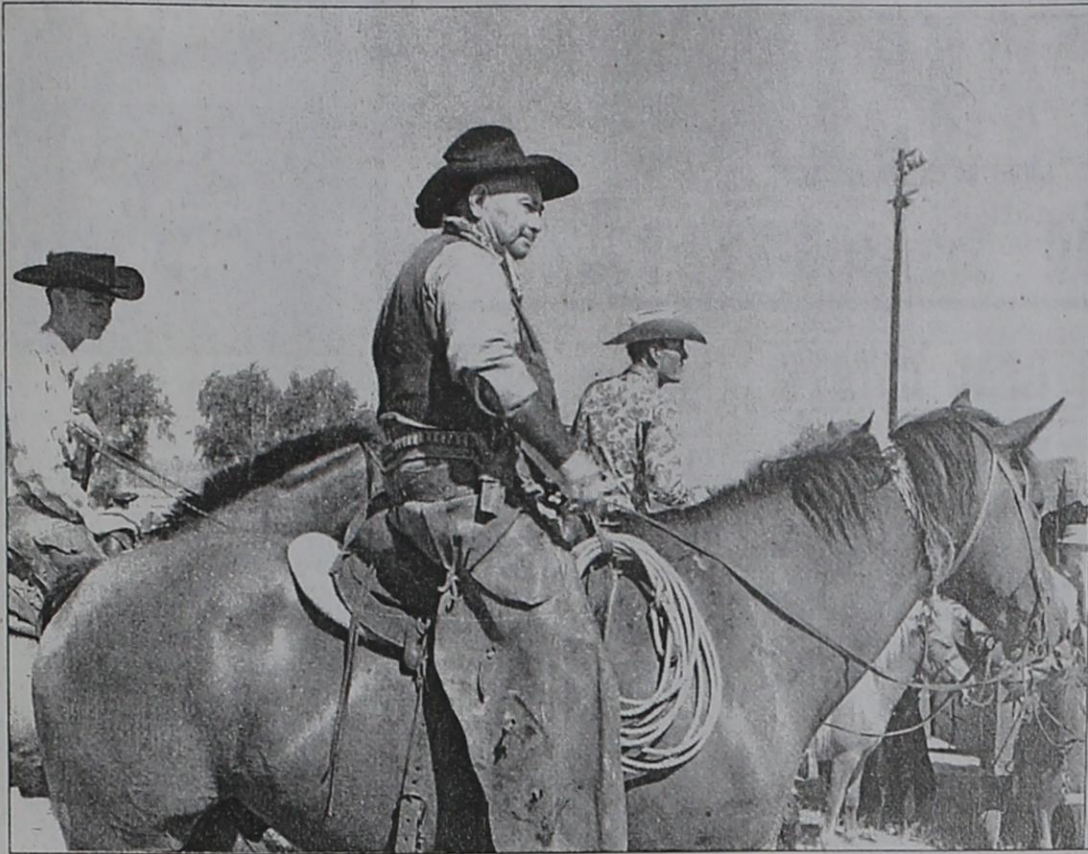
★ ★
★ 85th Annual Motley-Dickens ★
Old Settlers Reunion



RIDE 'EM COWBOY — This unidentified cowboy was hanging on during a past Old Settlers Rodeo.
(photo by Carla Meador)

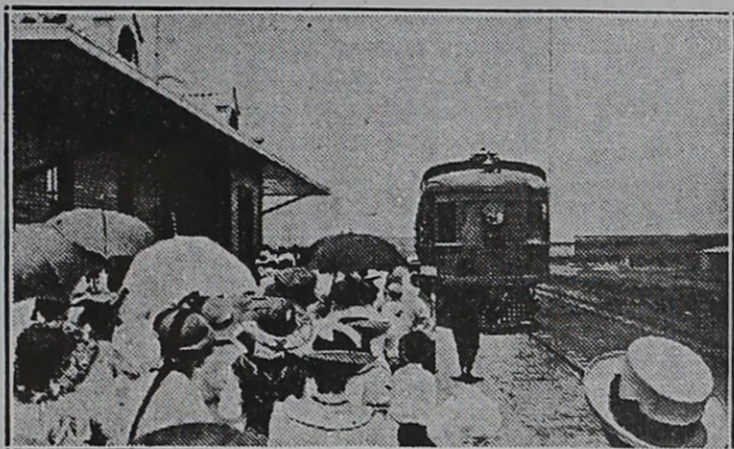
**Best Wishes
for a Great Celebration!**

★ **Caprock Cellular** GSM The wireless evolution ★



ED D. SMITH JR and Ed D. Smith Sr. at Old Settlers, 1962.

Congratulations to Motley & Dickens Counties on the 85th Celebration of the Old Settlers Reunion

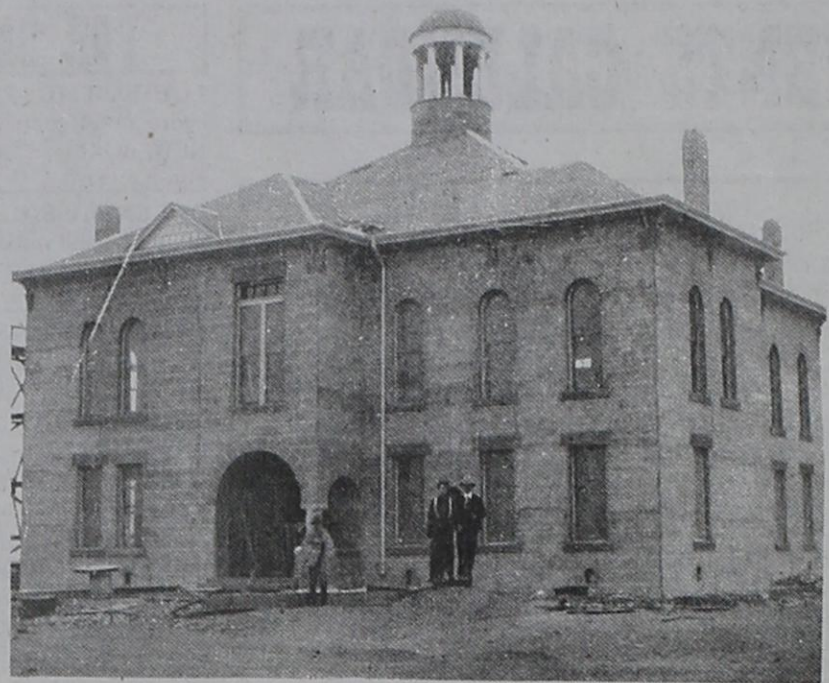


MOTOR CAR at Roaring Springs depot during early day trials in passenger service by Q. A. & P. Railway

Lighthouse Electric

Floydada, Texas

A Salute to the Pioneers of Motley & Dickens Counties



Motley County Courthouse, built in 1904, and destroyed by fire in 1944.

MOTLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE STAFF

Motley County Judge: Ed D. Smith
 County Commissioners: Precinct 1, Ronnie Davis; Precinct 2, Donnie Turner; Precinct 3, Franklin Jameson; Precinct 4, Russell Alexander

Sheriff: Michael Crutchley
 Tax Assessor/Collector: Elaine Hart
 County & District Clerk: Kate Hurt
 Justice of the Peace: Cora Smallwood
 Treasurer: Eva Barkely
 County Attorney: Tom Edwards
 County Appraiser: Brenda Osborn

Deputy - Chris Spence
 Deputy Clerk: Sherry Rose
 Deputy County Clerk: D'Anna Russell

DPS Trooper: Chad Overton
 Game Warden: Matthew Cruse

Courthouse Maintenance: Larry Markham

Road Maintenance: David Taylor, Precinct 1; Billy Farley, Precinct 2; Richard Thomas, Precinct 3; Dean Osborn, Precinct 4

Congratulations to Motley & Dickens Counties on the 85th Celebration of the Old Settlers Reunion



Farmers with their first bales of cotton ginned for the year. New Spur National Bank building in background. (photo from Dickens County, Its Land and People)

Spur Security Bank
 SPUR, TEXAS



85th Annual Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion



Allie Barton (Hart) in north Motley County on the Barton farm, North Pease. (photo courtesy of Marisue Potts)

First Ag Credit, FCS
 Matador Spur

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806-271-3361

WELCOME TO OLD SETTLERS



Lowe's Pay & Save Grocery

Downtown Matador

MOTLEY COUNTY



TRIBUNE

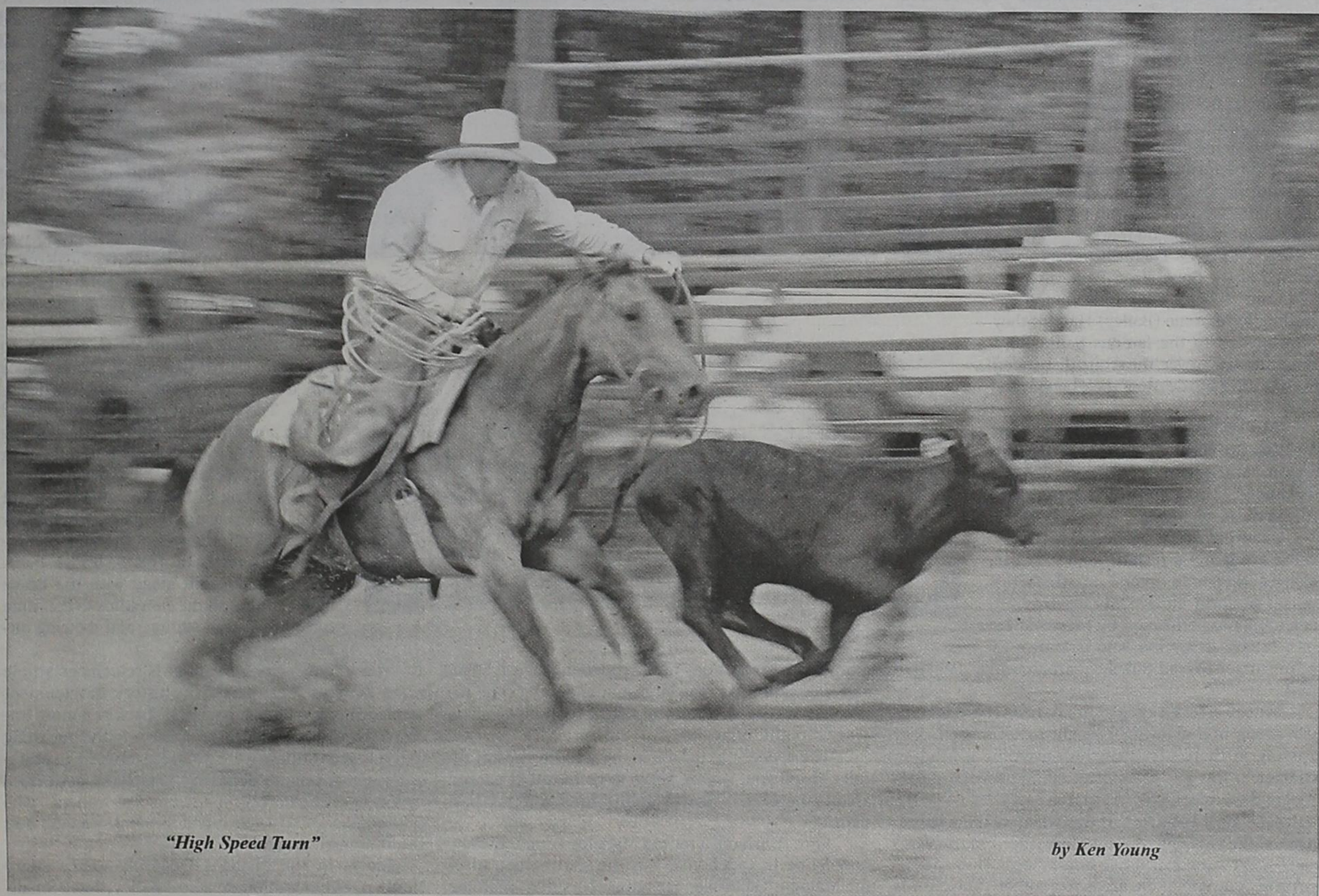


VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Thursday, August 28, 2008

ESTABLISHED 1891

Old Settlers Edition



"High Speed Turn"

by Ken Young

**85TH ANNUAL MOTLEY-DICKENS COUNTIES
OLD SETTLERS REUNION & RODEO
2008 SPECIAL EDITION**

Dosey Doe: Square dancing on horseback

Quadrille is an equestrian ballet, using a minimum of four horses. It can also be ridden in pairs in which the horses perform movements together. It is commonly performed by four couples in a square formation, and is known as a precursor to traditional square dancing. --Wikipedia

By Carol Campbell

From paired horses to paired dancers on horseback to folk dancing in squares, the Matador Quadrille performed the "dosey doe" to the beat of music in rodeo arenas far and wide during the early 1950s.

And what time Matador friends Geraldine (Waybourn) Key, Dorothy (Traweek) Hanesworth, and Marlene (Bailey) Hamm weren't practicing dance movements on horseback, they were practicing steps used in traditional square dance with members of the group.

"We performed at rodeos on horseback during intermission," Dorothy said, "then after we practiced all evening, we would square dance on foot."

The Matador Quadrille group performed at the Spur, Post, Paducah, Vernon, and Wichita Falls rodeos, and according to Marlene (Bailey) Hamm, they were invited to the famous Santa Rosa Roundup. However, the group disbanded in 1952 after the death of their benefactor U. L. Wylie.

"Mr. Wylie carried our horses and fed them, free of charge, to rodeos all over the region," Marlene said. "When he died, we disbanded. I rode for two summers in a row in the early 1950s."

Quadrille is an "equestrian ballet," using a minimum of four horses. It can also be ridden in "pairs" in which the horses perform movements together. It is commonly performed by four couples in a square formation, and is known as a "precursor to traditional square dancing." (Wikipedia).

Sixteen riders, riding at break-neck speed in a rodeo arena in a giant figure-eight pattern, each rider passing in the center, narrowly avoiding a head-on collision – this was the most exciting part of the choreographed ride, the friends agree.

"The most exciting part was when we did a figure-eight at the very end of the performance," Marlene recalls. "We would turn our horses loose "full speed," covering one end of the arena to another. The crowds loved it," she said.

The pairs not only sported matching horses, but western-style dress costumes were unique to each couple. Dorothy remembers her costumes clearly – matching shirts, boots, chaps, hats, and horses. "I remember my leather chaps with silver conchos, and grey pinstripe pants, white shirts, and grey and black hats," she recalls. "We had another outfit of matched

western green and red rose snap shirts," she said.

Marlene said her favorite couples costume was bright blue. "We had bright blue chaps, and I still remember those bright blue boots," she said.

In 1952, "Slim" Durham and his partner Mary Norman were married at intermission on horseback at Old Settlers Rodeo and Reunion with the Matador Quadrille team serving as attendants. "They were

the line."

The group would practice square dancing on foot, like they were going to do on horseback," Slim said. He remembered some of the moves, like "Dip and Dive" and the "Wagon Wheel." They practiced at least three times a week on horseback, he said. They were invited to rodeos all over the state, but it was hard to get the group together, he said, they had a sheriff and deputy, teachers, two college-aged riders, and Marlene was in high school, "we just couldn't get everyone on board at the same time," Slim said. But they practiced the drills over and over, and "we really got pretty good," Slim said. The group was highly sought-after in the regional rodeo circuit, Slim said, "and we got paid \$200 a performance. Sixty-five years ago; \$200 was big money."

Geraldine remembers a caravan to Palo Duro Canyon Amphitheater on Labor Day in 1951, before the canyon was developed. The Matador Quadrille performed in the amphitheater at the base of the canyon. "We were also invited to the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show," she recalls.

According to Dorothy, "We never got enough of dancing in square, whether by horseback or otherwise," she said. She remembers parking cars on the bridge, lighting the make-shift stage with the headlights, tuning all the car radios to the same country-western station, and dancing under the stars.

These "dosey-doe" dream girls remember a time when "squares" were part of the historic development of quadrille, perched high on horseback or a more traditional movement on the ground. And the one thing they all agree – these were exciting summers in Matador when a unique dance by horseback performed by local talent, choreographed by local "callers," who cued the dancers to specific movement, was the best entertainment around.

Riders in the Matador Quadrille were: Mary Norman, Slim Durham, Marlene Bailey, Jesse Smallwood, "Toots" Bearden, Charles Payne, Glenda and Claude Flippen (father and daughter couple), Dorothy Traweek, Sheriff John Stotts, Lois and Lewis Blevins (brother and sister couple); Sue and "Man" Bird (brother and sister couple); Geraldine Waybourn, Peck Thompson, and Gene and "Gip" Ragland. "We had barrels of fun," Slim said.



married on the last day of the rodeo in August, 1952, and they said it was the largest attendance at the rodeo ever recorded," Dorothy said. Her mother made Mary's "outfit" off white.

"The rodeo sold tickets to my wedding," Slim recalls. "I tell you, it took nerve to go into that packed arena," he said. "Sheriff John Stotts was my best man."

"Slim" Durham, a retired Matador Ranch cowboy, now living in Oklahoma, was the lead horseman of the Matador Quadrille. He remembers that when the "caller" Walter Ray announced the group, he would tell the crowd that if "anybody has a weak heart, don't look, they will scare you to death." Running horses at full speed in figure-eight patterns would sometimes cause collisions, horse and man (or woman) would crash to the floor of the arena, Slim said. "We would just go around the fallen, and continue on the ride. When they got up, they would mount and fall back in

1923 Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo Memories 2008



DOROTHY (TRAWEEK) HANESWORTH was a member of the Matador Quadrille Team. "We performed at rodeos on horseback during intermission," Dorothy said.



ED D. SMITH SR., Matador cowboy on his horse, Dakota Bay, 1929.



MELVIN DIRICKSON, on horse, was a long time professional cowboy.



SLIM DURHAM prepares to donate saddle and other riding gear to Motley County Museum.



THE PITCHFORK KID, 1913, on Rosie Brown, was found as a 12 year old run-a-way and raised by the Pitchfork Ranch.

Hotel Matador was setting for an ideal summer almost 60 years ago

By Carol Campbell

Linda Horton Smith grew up in a fairy tale, right here in Matador, Texas. Her grandparents, Warren and Faye Clements owned and operated Hotel Matador for 40 years.

Linda recently spent the weekend in the old barbershop, now the Circle Cross Heritage Suite, reminiscing with the owners and filling in some gaps in history.

"I spent a lot of time in the barbershop," Linda said. And being an imaginative child, Linda created wonderful imaginary playmates. "My grandparents put up a teepee in the lobby of the hotel," she said. In addition to her imaginary friends, she had a real live cowboy friend from Matador Ranch, "Wishy" Dirickson. She nicknamed him "War Dance Wishy," because he "danced around my teepee." I was an only child until I was seven years old," Linda explains.

Her brother, Richard then shared her childhood sum-

mers. He currently lives in Idaho.

She spent her summers in Matador, hanging out at the hotel; and the barbershop and hotel were the "center of activity," she said.

"The hotel was always packed on Saturdays, when the cowboys from Matador Ranch came into town for a tub bath and a straight-razor shave," she said. "We had an upstairs and downstairs maid and a porter," she recalls. "My grandfather often worked until after midnight on Saturdays."

"I thought I had a charge account at the Variety Store," Linda said. "My grandmother would let me go down to the Variety Store once a day and buy anything I wanted. I bought my clothes at Salem's Dry Goods. When I came to Matador, I was spoiled rotten," she explained.

But it was not all fun and games, Linda also learned how to cut up a chicken, make chowchow and watermelon preserves, plant iris bulbs, and paint on fine china. Faye Clements excelled in this art form, "painting every kind of flower on china, except irises," Linda said, adding, "I always thought this was interesting, since my grandmother grew award-winning irises. She painted a complete 12-place serving of china, and each plate had different flower, including wild roses, mums, poppies,

pansies, but no irises," she said.

Faye was "known" in garden clubs in the area and especially in the very active Matador Garden Club for her prized irises. Her green thumb earned her numerous sweepstakes awards. After she died, Linda found drawer after drawer of blue ribbons and awards. Part of her job in the summer was helping her grandmother plant bulbs. She drew a diagram of the garden for the current owners, outlining in precise detail where the iris bulbs were planted, followed by Bells of Ireland, day lilies, roses, and many others.

Linda remembers her grandfather as a "quiet man" who liked to play practical jokes and dabbled in magic. "He liked to do magic tricks," she said. She remembers a few practical jokes he played on her.

Warren Clements first came to Motley County in 1914 where he met Faye Graves, married; served in WWI and "after the Armistice came back to Motley County where he began barbering." He bought the old hotel in 1939.

Linda plans a return visit to Matador, where so much of her childhood was spent. She can still see the little imaginative youngster, laughing, playing, working, having the "run of the town." And the barbershop mirror is still intact, just as she remembered it.

Recently, her husband Jack stopped in Matador and took a tour of the hotel. Linda Roy and Marilyn Hicks gave him a door from one of the original upstairs bedrooms. The Smith's say they will replace their office door with Room #14.

Linda lives with her husband, Jack, in Coppell. She has three grown children, Kimberly, Travis, and Audra; and eight grandchildren, ranging in age from five to 13 years. Her mother, Marian Clements Smith, currently lives in Lakeview Christian Home in Carlsbad, N.M.



FAYE CLEMENTS in Matador Hotel Garden, 1950.

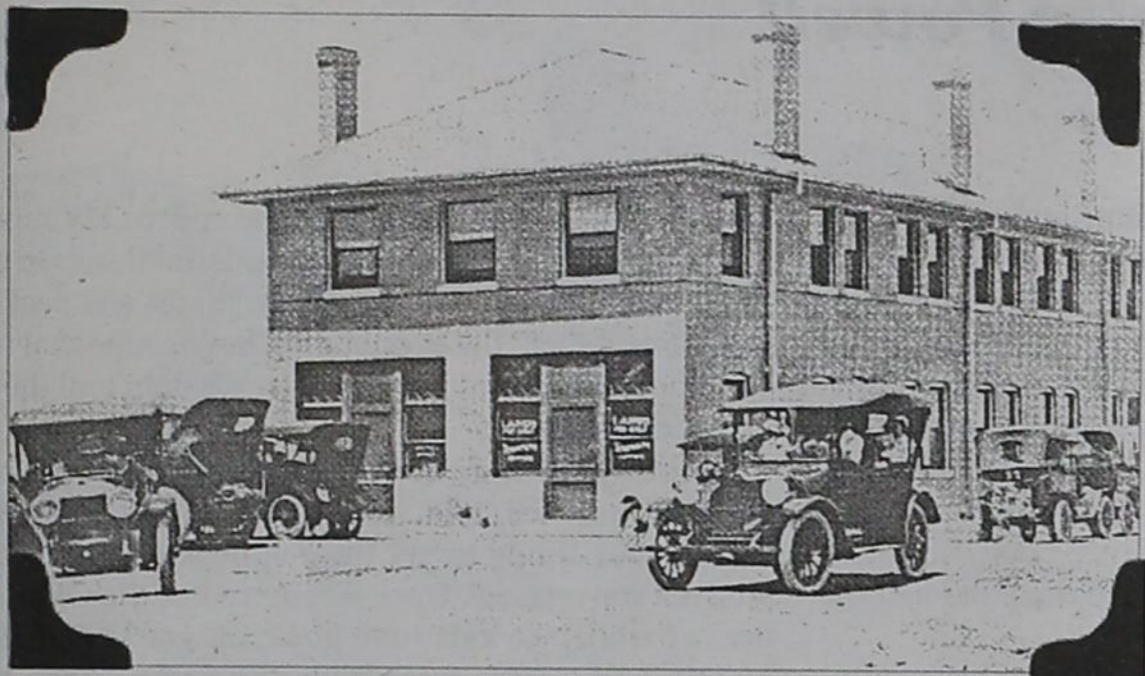


WARREN CLEMENTS registering guests at Matador Hotel.



EL PROGRESSO STUDY CLUB 1969, members drove this late 1920's vintage automobile owned by James Stanley in the Old Settlers Parade. In the drivers seat is Winifred Darsey, next to her is Virginia Wiley, in the back is Mrs. Harry Willete and Maggie Hamilton.

1923 Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo Memories 2008



TRAVELERS INN downtown Roaring Springs circa 1915.



SOUTHERN HOTEL 1910, A boarding house for travelers in Matador, located on the court house square facing east.



MATADOR GENTLEMAN, posing near Motley County jail, circa 1910.



CHALK HARDWARE AND CITY HOTEL in Matador located next to City Drugs with a group of early day cars.



SPUR HOTEL, a tourist destination of the 1912 era.



RIDERS pause near City Hotel in Matador circa 1910.

The Lady Wore Pants to the First Old Settlers

By Marisue Potts Powell

Alta Smith shocked those gathered at a picnic held at "the springs" in 1923 because she wore pants to the affair. Her father, John Smith, was admonished by Mrs. Harry Campbell to go home and read a certain bible verse, one that quoted that women should not be seen in men's clothing. This gathering, despite Miss Smith's unfortunate choice of dress, became the catalyst for bringing together families of the early settlers in an organization that was to be called The Old Settlers Association.

Today the Motley-Dickens Counties Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo is held each year on the fourth Thursday, Friday and Saturday of August. It resulted from two couples reminiscing about the many old friends they seldom saw anymore. What a pleasure it would be if they could just get together and visit once more. So Mr. and Mrs. John Smith and Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Bird compiled a list, then included the D. C. Keiths in their planning, and picked a date. As Alta Smith Duval recalled in 1973, they divided up the list, wrote invitations, and she, the modern thinking teen, licked the stamps.

It was a rather informal meeting of the pioneer citizens and their families from Motley and Dickens counties. About thirty who had been residents or one or both counties for more than 25 years were recognized along with some like the venerable Mrs. Campbell who had lived in the area for 30 years or more. Joining the hosts were the pioneer families of the Tilsons, Waltons, Campbells, Jinkins, Cliftons, Reeves, Dodsons, Waswicks, Poteets, Greens, the Harrison Williams' and others.

It was decided to make it an annual event with a formal organization directed by elected officers. C.D. Bird was elected president and Mrs. Smith, secretary. D. C. Keith later served as president and then C. C. Haile served in that position for 19 years.

Directors, friends, and neighbors gathered in 1933 to build a brush arbor to provide comfort for the throng expected. A platform for the speakers was arranged on a stump, therefore all the speakers were "stump" speakers. The noon hour was the greatest social feature "in the history of the organization" with basket dinners brought from home and shared as need be. The Jeff Morris Cotton Pickers String Band, the Matador Brass Band, and the Ennis Moss String Band livened up the reunion.

After 11 years of meeting at the Roaring Springs falls and picnic area, the gathering had grown too large to be accommodated comfortably, so the annual reunion was moved to the town of Roaring Springs for ample shade and seating facilities in the gym, as well as parking for automobiles. However, free barbeque became a thing of the past due to the expected crowd of 300. Concessions went to the Roaring Springs school athletic fund since the event was held on school property.

A major part of the program in 1934 involved sons and daughters of the old settlers, along with a display of old-time pictures and souvenirs. Entertainment in-

cluded a baseball game, horse racing and a ball.

A tabernacle was constructed on the school grounds in 1937 from a structure purchased for \$240 and moved from the Spur fairgrounds. Entertainment expanded from speeches, singing, and music to a softball game, a goat roping contest, a trick pony act and square dancing. Square dancing evidently drew the ire of some of the local squares because ax-wielding vandals damaged the wooden dance floor. Not to be deterred by such a criminal act, the directors had the dance floor repaired just in time.

Although the nucleus of the get-together continued to be the old timers who enjoyed their memories, amusements were added for the enjoyment of the children and grandchildren. Carnivals, dances, rodeos replaced talking, singing, and eating.

The forties brought Pearl Harbor and involvement in a war. After the grand entry in 1942, the rodeo was delayed by a moment of silence in tribute to the service men in the two counties who had been lost or were missing. Covered wagons, buggies, buckboards and 125 riders and horses kicked off the parade celebrating a western heritage. While old timers waltzed to their old tunes in the pavillion, the young people enjoyed western swing on a separate open-air dance slab.

"Probably one of the most outstanding events of the rodeo was Mary Ellen 'Dood' Barton's winning of the ribbon roping contests, the only girl to enter the arena against 56 cowboys. Her time was 9 seconds and the purse was \$25," reported an area newspaper.

Douglas Meador so eloquently described Old Settlers in 1944 when 35 rider-less horses were led around the arena: "Empty saddles in the sun, empty stirrups dangling in the brown, sticky dust paid symbolic tribute to absent cowboys...Cowboys of the two counties whose once booted feet are now clad in GI shoes, in the stirrups of destiny, of death and glory, will never know the full depth of reverence paid to them. There was a hush half way between a whisper and a prayer...Tears welled and cut their paths along many a tanned, wrinkled and dust-covered cheek. The heart and spirit of Texans, tense with the tribulations of war, paid homage to their absent comrades in uniform."

Also absent was the usual carnival and concessions. Therefore, old-timers declared, the reunion one of the most successful in the history of the organization because it afforded more opportunity for visiting and trading stories, the original intent of the association.

Being a kid of ten I may have missed the drama in the arena that night, but we had enough excitement of our own trying to load a bob-tail truck load of horses for us to ride at the parade, in the grand entry, and the kids events. Despite the little fat girl that I was, I brought home a few ribbons in the girls barrel race that my mom kept in a scrapbook along with my dad's laurels.

For weeks ahead of time the taste of anticipation surrounded our once a year mini-vacation to Old Set-

tlers to visit and participate in the rodeo. My mom, Mollie Burleson, cooked lots of wonderful things to eat and share with family and friends, things she packed in the turtle shell, the back of the Chevy coupe that became hot as an oven. It's a wonder we didn't all die of "tomatine poisoning."

Dad, aka as W.E. or Wee Doc, had gathered saddles, bridles, feed, and ranch horses and then spent half the day trying to get the geldings to load in the unusual conveyance. Once we arrived at the Old Settlers grounds, we kids were gone, off gawking at the "carnies" who were assembling the ferris wheel, the highlight of the festival for most of the kids. We tried out the only "instant" thing in our lives, a booth with curtains that, for a small fortune, spit out photos as we waited. Of course, we had to water and feed our stock, and then were off to look for cousins to hang out with. It felt like we were on our own for two days, although I'm sure parents were watching us closer than I suspected. Aunts, uncles, old friends, school chums, and rodeo buddies, we did lots of touching base. It was a time to visit.

Sometimes my dad partied too hardy with his cowboy friends and on at least one occasion he and his buddies were given a trip to the overflowing jail in Matador to re-think their over-indulgence. I remember a few sunrises that found us on the dirt road toward home, napping before going on in to milk the cows and feed the stock at home. Coming only once a year perhaps too much energy went into one weekend that served as a change from the harsh realities of farm and ranch work.

A release from every day life, a chance to see friends and visit, a thrill of riding the ferris wheel, a chance to shine in the parade, a competition to show off ranch skills, and a little dancing to the two-step, a waltz, or Bob Wills' style Western swing to rekindle or fan the flame of romance. That was Old Settlers, fifties style, as I remember.

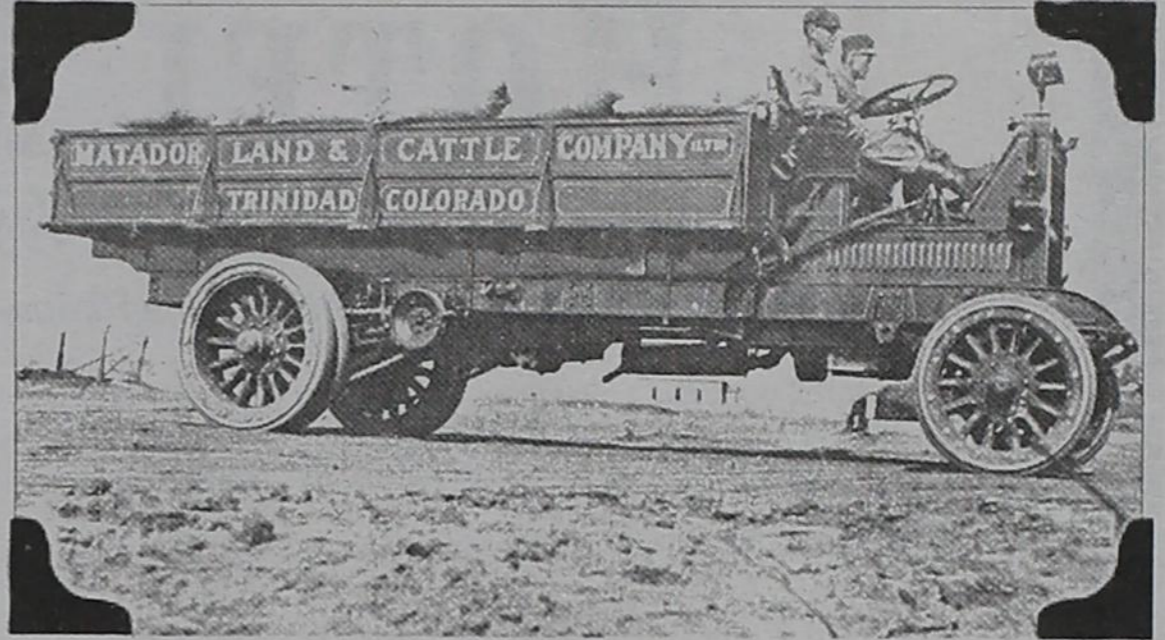


W. E. BURLESON takes time out for a photo with young daughter, Marisue, at a 1950's Old Settlers.

1923 Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo Memories 2008



MOTLEY COUNTY RAILROAD 1913-1936 was also known as the "Old Jenney."



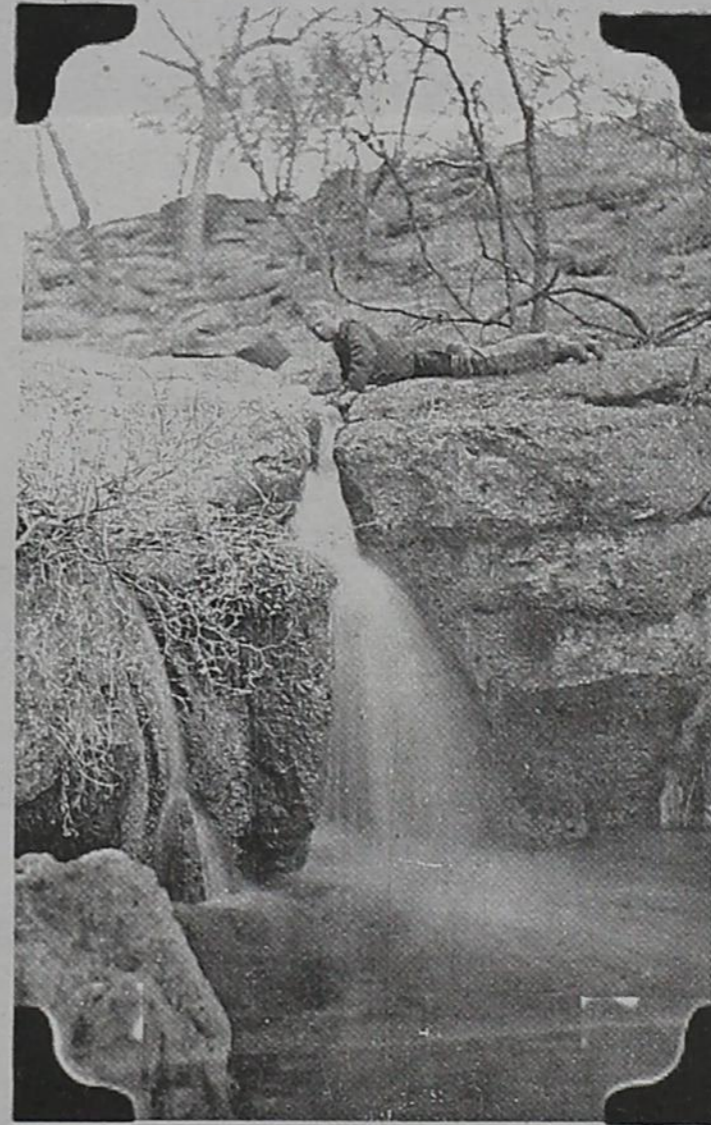
ONE HUNDRED POUND sacks of feed for cattle transported by one of the earliest trucks used by the Matador Land and Cattle Company. Driver/mechanic: A.T. Swetson.



COWBOYS SERVE their noon meal at the chuck wagon on a regular work day.



A. WATSON, GENTS-FURNISHINGS and Taylor shop in Matador circa 1914



ROARING SPRINGS, an early photo when owned by Matador Land and Cattle Company. An unidentified cowboy takes a drink of the cold water.

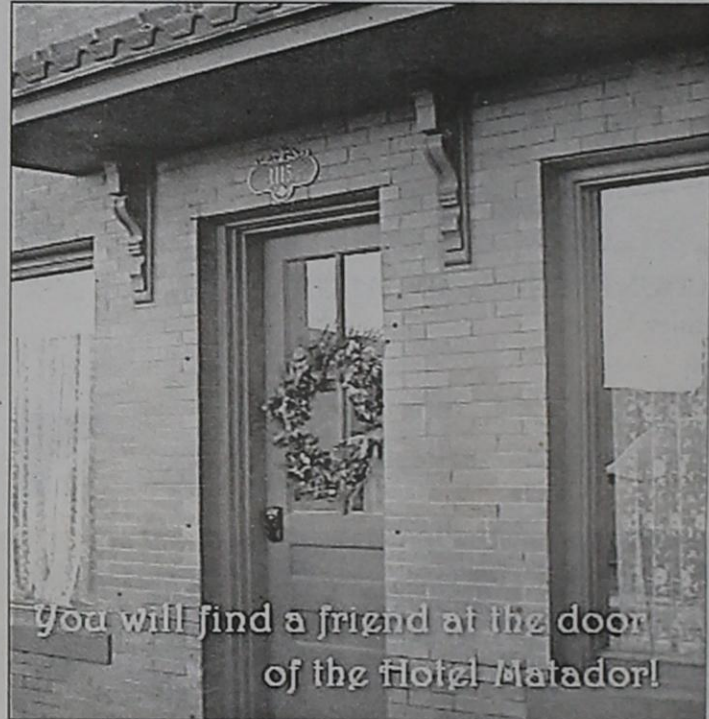
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