

The Spearman Reporter

VOL. 31, No. 1.

SPEARMAN, HANSFORD COUNTY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1937.

SAMPLE

OPERETTA DRAWS BIG CROWD TUESDAY

Tuesday evening Dec. 21, the grade school music department gave "The Legend of the Snowman"...

The stage was a dazzling Xmas scene, Miss Dorothy Ewing was in charge of the decorations.

The special choruses were very good. The costumes for the whole cast were attractive and interesting.

Band Presented In Concert Thursday

Mr. Ratton and his bands gave the community one of the greatest treats of the year last Thursday night, Dec. 16th.

The senior band with their 3 new instruments gave a concert of great credit. The clarinet quartet composed of Jimmy Winter, A. L. Jackson, Marilyn Snider, and Martha Delon Kirk gave a good rendition of Humoresque.

Mr. Ratton really entertained when he performed on two horns once. And much can be given the swing numbers given in addition to the regular program.

Methodist Choir In Xmas Contata

A candle light service replaced the regular evening service at the Methodist church Sunday. A cantata "The Child Jesus" was impressively rendered by a well trained choir under the direction of Mrs. Berry.

To Those Who Furnished Pictures For Issue Of Reporter

Of course we thank you for helping us with the rare old pictures. We value so much your favor. We want all who furnished the pictures to come to the office and see them. Perhaps we should have kept them separated but the moving company shipped them to us all jumbled together.

NEW FREIGHT RATE HEARING

The following letter is self explanatory. Hutton, county agent, referring to my letter to you, 12.16. Since the letter was written the commission has given consideration to calling a further hearing to receive evidence as to Hansford and the nine other counties and I enclose herewith copy of notice setting the hearing for the Hanning Hotel, Dallas, Texas, December 28th.

HANSFORD NEWSPAPER FINISHES 30th YEAR THEY DID MUCH FOR HANSFORD

Reporter Owner for 11 Years

Reporter Owner for 7 Years



Oran Kelly, deceased, was, according to record, the owner-publisher of the Spearman Reporter, for 11 years, the longest period of time any one newspaper man has been identified with a Hansford county newspaper.

Kelly was not only an outstanding man in his community and county, but was the recipient of many honors in the newspaper fraternity for the Panhandle country. He served as President of the Panhandle Press Association in 1927, and was a director of that organization for a number of years.

Near Electrocution In Spearman

Tuesday Mr. D. W. Page of Borger, meter engineer, of the Panhandle Power and Light Co. met with near tragedy when he went to check over the meter station here. He hardly knew how to explain the accident, but reason-

progress of Hansford county and the Panhandle country, would take much space and time. Kelly served on practically every committee for roads, Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, and other civic organizations that were active in the early days of the county.

He rolled up his sleeves and stayed in there on all better road campaigns. He was innately a home, county, booster and caused many to become his faithful followers.

He worked with zeal to establish a permanent cemetery fund to employ a regular care taker and beautify the grounds.

As we look about us now we see the wonderful results that have grown out of his early fostering. We see how enterprises have merged and grown into bigger and better things till our county is foremost among the progressive counties of Texas.

He was behind all church movements for the county's welfare. He was a tireless worker in all fields and phases of school activities.

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Perhaps the owner of the Reporter during the most trying time of its existence was J. H. Buchanan, resident of Spearman, who has been so helpful to the present management of the paper in presenting this anniversary issue.

Rev. Brown Called Home

DR. POWELL WILL BE AT DR. GOWER'S OFFICE JAN. 5.

Rev. Leroy Brown received a message Sunday calling him home to Cleburn where his father had suddenly passed away. He and Mrs. Brown left immediately for Cleburn.

lication is related by him in a feature story "Early Hansford Editing." Mr. Buchanan contributed four other feature stories in this Anniversary edition, and the Editor of the Reporter can say they are outstanding, interesting and historical. You will find them scattered thru the paper under the by line of J. H. B.

The story "Early Hansford Christmas" was also written by Mr. Buchanan.

Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Richards, from Waco are here to spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cooke.

Mrs. Auburn was brought from the hospital in Amarillo yesterday to her mother Mrs. Ed Wilbanks for a holiday sojourn.

DON'T NAME IT

To the merchants of Spearman who have made possible this issue of the paper, I give my personal THANKS. Your advertising enabled this paper to purchase the engravings, the newspaper and pay for the extra help employed.

As Editor of your paper I do not have an apology to make for this our first anniversary issue. Perhaps it is not a thorough edition from the standpoint of newspaper history. Advance planning would have enabled me to bring more definite newspaper historical facts to you.



WILLIAM J. MILLER



"HONEST WILL"

Four Newspapers Make History In County Past 48 Years

With this issue of the Spearman Reporter Hansford newspaper begins the 31st service with the finest ever lived. The Spearman, successor to the Headlight, represents newspaper venture in county.

Farwell Graphic P Back in the early county the little located near the F Highway 88, mad county seat, wher ly known that be organized. W going, owned an M. Kelly, an at at Vicksburg, like the Farwe advantages, J ford publication of the Farwell explained by old t statement that Huf just "too smart fo bunch."

The Farwell Gra ed some time in publication in county seat que and old Hansfor tal of Hansford d ly the owner-p visit to Spearma ing old timers in Richardson, Mrs. S. B. Hale and other publication definit publish an Annive plans were made from R. M. Kelly, perrence in publisha Hansford's four new's short time availab for ing this issue has pres from securing this story, plan to carry such a story near future, so that our may have a complete pictu the newspaper history of f ord county.

Hansford Herald Publishes

Just a short time after four other feature stories in this Anniversary edition, and the Editor of the Reporter can say they are outstanding, interesting and historical. You will find them scattered thru the paper under the by line of J. H. B.

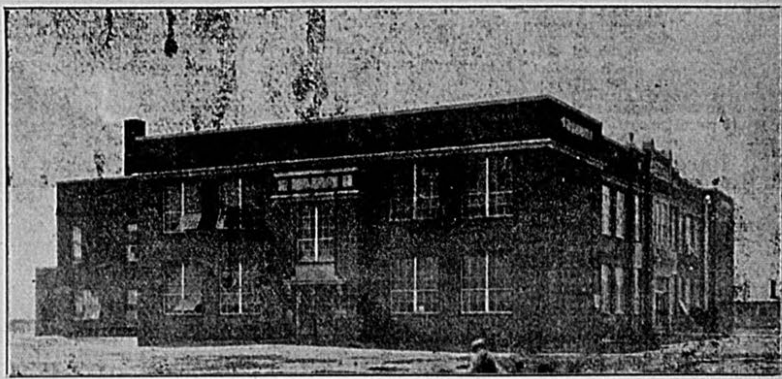
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Mrs. Auburn was brought from the hospital in Amarillo yesterday to her mother Mrs. Ed Wilbanks for a holiday sojourn.

S. B. Hale, who has been identified with the growth progress of Hansford county the past 30 years was for the establishment

Snapshots, Hansford Co., 1907-1937

The Origin of Spearman Schools



We have come a long way and our united efforts have been many to make the outstanding records we hold for the Spearman Independent School District.

In the beginning the school house was not so small, if you recall the old three story building we moved up from old Hansford, but it was inadequate in every measure. It was a fire trap and a constant uneasiness hung over the community. Soon this old building would not house the enrollment and make shift frame buildings went up to take care of the overflow till there were three of them. Then the old school house from Happy Jack was moved in.

The school life of Hansford county sorely needed revising, in 1920 the Spearman Independent School District was organized by an act of the legislature. It combined the districts of Happy Jack Micou and Hansford.

The city of Spearman grew up in the midst of the original Happy Jack District. The first school house in it being a dugout located on Ernest Wilbanks land in the southwest corner of section 70. Later they replaced it with a frame structure which was moved to Spearman in its early school life.

In 1922 the old three story frame school house went up in flames. Mr. Clark was superintendent at the time.

Immediately \$75,000 worth of bonds were issued to erect the first brick unit of the Spearman school. School was carried on in the make shift buildings left after the fire and in churches, lodge halls and whatever vacant space offered room enough for classes till February of 1923 when the brick structure was sufficiently finished for classes to begin.

Mr. Wilcox was superintendent and acted in that capacity for six years. Soon the original high school building overflowed and the make shift "cracker boxes" were moved on the campus along with the two room school house from old Hansford.

Supt. R. L. Snider was elected in 1929 and it was under his tireless efforts and consistent foresight that Spearman issued bonds for the school unit of our beautiful and adequate school. This was erected in 1930. Two vocational teachers were added to the faculty then giving us accredited departments of Home Ec and Agriculture. The make shift buildings were disposed of the lawn grassed and trees planted which made our campus one of which we could be proud.

The first children transported to school came in cars from rural neighborhoods in 1934 the Lackey district transferred to Spearman. In 1935 Holt, Medlin and Blodgett transferred in and in 1936 Black moved in.

Our first busses were not so sightly or comfortable but with gradual improvement they have reached the last word in school transportation.

In 1919 Spearman High School held her first graduating class with only two graduates: Beatrice Gibner and Stonewall McMurtry. This year the Senior class has 45 yes, we have come a long way and our rewards are many!

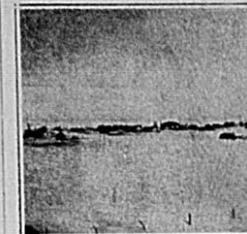
ANOTHER CAR: Canon Blue Springs fancy lump coal on track for a few days. Iowa yellow corn, fresh cake and meal. See our Quaker ad this issue. R. L. Porter Grain and Seed Co.

Dr. J. T. Dacon



Just showing the cow-hands he could do their stuff. This picture was taken in front of the court house in Old Hansford in 1909, and the Doc, evidently made good on his brag about roping calves. (I looks as though he was all ready to brand this here critter.

Old Hansford



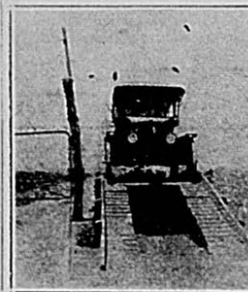
Snow scene from the windmill at Fred Brandt's home after a big snow storm—back when it SNOWED.

Crowd Attending



Attending ceremonies of Laying of corner stone of the Methodist church at Old Hansford in 1915.

Cattle Guard



On road between Dumas and Amarillo. Picture taken in 1916.

Ice Scene



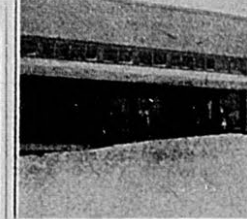
Mary and Billie Brandt on lake East of the Homer Allen place.

Laying Corner Stone



Of the Methodist church in Old Hansford about 9115. In the picture reading from left to right is A. F. Barkley, Rev. S. W. Franklin—and the third person was perhaps the presiding elder of this district. We were not able to identify him.

Fred Brandt's Store



Back in 1919 after a drift of snow had per here obliterated the entrance to the store, Fred said the snow was neck deep in the center of the drift, and the drift was in the center of the street.

A Winter Outing



At Burkhalter draw on Gus Ward place, about 1911. Do not ask us who is in the picture because Fred made the writer promise he would not tell.

Running Tournament



Probably at a fourth of July picnic 1910, at Old Hansford. The picture does not show the details, but five standards are erected along the race track. Riders are allowed 8 to 12 minutes to make the entire distance of the track and snatch a ring from the standards. The one getting the most rings is the winner. Asked how the contest ended if all riders snatched off all the rings, old timers smiled knowingly and said in effect that occasionally there were ties, that had to be settled with a second contest, but that few riders were able to make the distance, snatch the rings from the standards with the lance pole in the allotted time. Local people who have witnessed a running tournament declare it is quite exciting and interesting.

What Handsome Gent



—Is this? ? ? Yes it does look like Senator Clayburg of Ole Kentucky and again it might be Congressman Dillwillow from over Carolina way. But it happens to be our own well loved Judge A. F. Barkley; The judge failed to give this writer a picture for this pioneer edition so we found one that was printed in the old Hansford Investigator back in 1907. We gave ole A. F. the hoss laugh—told him we was printing a picture of him anyway. He asked why? The writer told to make the young ladies of this day and time wish they had lived 30 years ago—

Miss Vashti Wright of Hansford has been in Ochiltree the past week demonstrating an improved Edison phonograph.

The Missionary society met with Mrs. Oran Kelly Wednesday.

Daphne Doyle is on the sick list this week.

16 Years In Hansford County



After sixteen years years of business in Hansford County, we come to the pleasant annual task of extending greetings to our friends and customers with the realization that we cannot adequately express our appreciation to you for your friendship and patronage. So far as the official Christmas greeting goes, we can only say for the 16th time we sincerely wish you a merry, merry, Christmas and a truly Happy and prosperous New Year.

This firm has been identified with the establishment and growth of Spearman and Hansford county. We have shared with many of you in prosperous times and during business depressions. With all it makes the firm owner realize the true value of your patronage and kind words.



W. L Russell
Dry Goods - - Groceries



At this glorious season, the time of peace and good will, good cheer and good fellowship,
SPEARMAN GRAIN GROWERS
wishes you the best Christmas you ever had, the best of health, happiness and prosperity, N O W and in the future.

Spearman Grain Growers

sh Gobbler as...
Thursday
20th Cer
ne of
Bid a



HOW IN 1912.
was a small picture from this cut was made and it difficult for old timers to try the people holding horses. Brandt gave the picture to newspaper, and he could not any but J. N. Kirk, L. S. and Water Medlin. He man on the hoss was J. man. When asked if our was a horse breeder, he was a newspaper man y Sways trying to steal the

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Who is the handsome young...
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ragrands? It's Fred... and...
sture was taken after the...
inch snow in April of 1919.



OUR HENS WILL BRING IN GOOD MONEY

flock that produces plenty of big, round, shelled, premium eggs for its owner. These require a good egg maker to keep up these laying eyes. If you want more eggs from your birds feed them **FUL-O-PEP MASH**. It keeps the body weight in the layers and provides the nutrients hens require to produce the number and quality of eggs that will bring profits to you.

Car Blue Springs lump on track. Also Quaker car. When in Spearman call and see us for your every need. We make a point to have what you want when you want it. And in goods that we know are

PORTER GRAIN-SEED CO.
tors of: Silk Floss, Gold Hillbilly and Quaker products.

Christmas at Old Hansford

Early Hansford Editing

J. H. B.

After has been requested something about how we had Christmas at old Hansford it was a sort of frontment, forty miles from a and no wagon roads of name.

People in those days were just ordinary folks, who made their fun and laughed at it, and usually sometimes it was funny. We had the same Christmas spirit then as now, but really more so. There wasn't much of anything in the way of excitement going on, so when Christmas rolled around everyone was ready for it. For weeks the ladies had been busy making fruit cakes and cooking up other things that would keep. Also the mail order house had been patronized liberally, and somewhere about the house there was a cache that no one was supposed to investigate.

Some of the men, whose names I could mention, but must refrain on account of their church affiliations, would also patronize mail order houses, but a different kind from the ladies. I believe they were called "barrel houses" perhaps because they sold barrels, but my recollections is that no one in our section bought any barrels from them. From about 2 weeks before Xmas until a week after, any snake that would have had the hardihood to bite some of the men might have lived over it, but never would have looked like anything.

Usually a home talent play or a box supper would be held before Christmas to raise money for the expenses of a Christmas tree, with presents for all the children and most of the grown folks. This writer and several others learned from experience, not to open anything received at the Christmas tree, until after we arrived home, for people could think of the most ridiculous things to put on a tree.

The men usually planned a big hunt just before, or during the Xmas time and as game was plentiful along the Canadian river, there was plenty of wild game to top off the menu.

One snowy Xmas, I recall when we hadn't been able to get mail for some time, a bunch of us gathered up and carrying strung instruments went to every house in town and sang Christmas Carols. They might not have been Xmas Carols but neither we or the recipient knew the difference. Anyway what we lacked in harmony we made up in noise, and a good time was had by all. Most of the folks we visited would immediately open the door and invite us in and we would leave a liberal donation of snow on the front room carpet. Food would be served and a few of the men would receive a nod to go back into the kitchen, where other refreshments would be served. Not getting in on this we cannot state for sure just what was served it might have been onions, as most of them came back making a wry face and trying to keep us from smelling their breath.

Judge Townsend and Judge Barkley both had deep bass voices, and no one liked to hear it better than themselves. It would start out something like a bumblebee in the bottom of a rain barrel and gradually ascend and get louder and louder until the very hills quivered in harmony. Unfortunately we did not get to hear much of it that night for every time they raised their voices and got started every gentleman cow for miles around recognized the call and started raising their voices in every thing from a faint quivering tenor to the heaviest bass and our two luckless basso would be put in the shade.

We do not recall all who were in the party, but do recall that the late Mrs. L. S. Cator, was and she carried a heavy youngster in her arms all the rounds. The youngster would not allow anyone else

to tote her neither would she stay at home. This howling youngster grew into a fine young lady and is now Mrs. Chester Mitts.

Others in the party were Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Womble, now among the substantial citizens of Morse. We don't believe they were married then, but were soon after. Just what part Arthur played if any, is forgotten for heaven knows he could not sing. It might be that he helped the editor, hint about refreshments. If the folks seemed a little thick headed about volunteering them. No Arthur could not sing, but about that time he made one of the most thrilling speeches ever delivered in Hansford county. Temple Houston, son of the great Sam Houston delivered orations in court and he was an orator second to none, but he never held his audience spellbound, like Arther Womble did the Christmas he made the speech, standing on the head of the windmill in the court house yard.

Looking back from now it seems some of the happiest Xmas we have ever spent were at old Hansford. No one was rich, and the county had no really poor people. In fact we do not recall any family in the county that had to have help from the neighbors until after the railroad came. We all had plenty such as it was and if a neighbor needed any of it he was welcome to it. We had our spats and family jars, but they were soon forgotten and everyone remained friendly and all threw in together to have a good time.

Usually one or two big dances were held, either at the court house, or at some of the neighboring ranches. There would be real old time fiddling by Uncle Paddy Doyle, or Fiddler Lackey, both of whom have passed on, but leaving only kind remembrances in the hearts of their friends for the good cheer they brought into our homes.

Sometimes there would be shooting matches and horse races to add to the excitement to the holidays, and as all the ranchers had a pack of wolf hounds it was no trouble to get a coyote chase.

Then sometime during the week a stag party would be held, usually at someone's home, where the wife was away visiting. A concoction called "egg nog" would be made and passed around for approval, but no one seemed to have found fault with it, a large white wash bowl would usually be used for a mixing bowl, and several of our well known citizens of Spearman qualified as experts and did the mixing. Then a wild hilarious card game, called razzle-dazzle would be played, for awhile but all tried to be home in time for breakfast, so the game usually had to be cut out before they were half through.

Storm of '86

J. H. B.

We sometimes think we have severe cold spells now a days, but according to old timers our winters on the average are getting milder. The writer can remember several bad winters, but mainly the winters of 1911-12 and 1918, but every time we go to tell about them we are interrupted by some one who starts telling about some real winters they passed through. Finally realizing there might be something in these cold winters besides the wind furnished by the narrator, we investigated and found the records bore out the stories of hard winters, but nothing compared with the terrible winter of 1886.

During this blizzard the wind, in places, has been reliably reported to have reached a velocity of 80 miles per hour and driving a heavy biting snow before it and the mercury down to around 40 below, overwhelmed everything before it, that did not have proper

protection.

Western Kansas was then having one of its perodical settlements and many immigrants, in covered wagons, were caught out and perished. The late, L. S. Cator, one of the early pioneers of this section, once told this writer that he and a party once came upon a wagon containing a man, wife and three children frozen to death and the team was still lying in the harness.

Years ago, one frequently met up with a man with a hand or foot missing and in conversation learned that it had been frozen off in the blizzard of '86. Most of those living in the country at that time had severe experiences and many barely escaped with their lives.

B. O. Cator, and Tom Jenkins, were horse hunting at the time and were camped in a tent on the Palo Duro creek, nearly north of where Spearman now stands. The day had been pretty and they were going around in their shirt sleeves. That night the storm struck and it was soon bitter cold. They took their saddle horses in the tent with them and then rolled up in their beds. There they remained for 72 hours and even then thought at times they were going to freeze and perhaps would have but were camped behind a bluff which broke the main force of the wind.

The late Jos. W. Jones whose widow is still living in Spearman, had only then recently married and he and his bride came out and settled near Fort Elliot, which later became Mobeetie. They were living in a dugout and had three head of horses. He had stacked quite a lot of lake hay to feed the horses, as they realized they were in for a terrible storm they brought two of the horses in the dugout with them, stacking the furniture wherever they could to make room, as the dugout was small. The other horse they tied between two hay stacks and covered with sacks and wagon sheets and then piled hay on it and brought it through alive. Most of the time they stayed in bed and as Uncle Joe laughingly said they didn't cook much for it was too cold for him to get up and build a fire and his wife would not.

Grandpa Ward, long since deceased once told this writer that the Indians that fall all left the plains early and said they were going to where there was more protection as it was going to be a hard winter. No one paid much attention to what they said at the time, but later spent considerable time wondering how the Indians knew.

The late M. B. Wright stated that after the storm he went up the Palo Duro to hunt wood and in the head of a canyon in a plum thicket, he came upon a herd of antelopes that had yarded there and had been unable to get out. Where they stood the snow was packed hard, but around them it was soft. They would leap into

and then missed it once you from them. A few people would be pests in this matter, and then just for aggravation we would deliberately put something wrong or upside down, and await results. That were not long in forthcoming. There was five ways to get a letter wrong, in hand set type, in a full newspaper, the total of this amounted to thousands and it is a wonder they were the model of neatness they were.

Sometimes for several weeks there would not be a stranger, or farmer in town and nothing of interest happened. So an early day editor had to manufacture most of his news and this fact accounts for much of the trivial matter, the big papers poked fun at the little ones, for having in their columns. However in those days most of the editors of the metropolitan papers had risen by their own ability from the country, and still cherished a fellow feeling for the country boys. When one was in the city and dropped in to see them, they always had time to stop and visit awhile and many times take you home with them for supper, and then go out and show you the city.

We used "ready print" in the old Headlight, making the paper eight pages. This was usually spoken of as Patent Insides and the local editor had no say as to what these insides contained. Sometimes readers found offensive matter there and lost no time in jumping the editor about it, but he was powerless, to do anything.

This ready print was shipped out a week or two ahead of time and usually was on hand when wanted, but at times it failed to connect and then the editor was in a stew as he had nothing else to print the paper on. The mail carrier would bring ours to us, from Guymon and one time we recall he lost it, being somewhat fatigued from overindulgence and we had to hire a livery team and go back over the route that night and find it.

We had some bad snowstorms during those winters and at times we would go from three to six weeks without mail. One Christmas, Henry Waldrop and four mules were employed privately to go to Guymon on a Snake Sled and bring a load of Christmas mail. He was gone nearly a week, and it was a bitter hard trip, but old Henry got back the day before Xmas and were the women and children happy. When the mail

was not very plentiful and as there was only a handful of people in the county the same names were necessarily used over and over, but no matter if you got the names correct a hundred times this soft snow and be helpless. He killed all he wanted of them with a club and skinned out the saddle.

When asked if this was good to eat he replied "no but when you were used to doing without it was a welcome change."

Practically all the cattle in the Panhandle died during that storm. And on the north side of the drift fence they piled up in thousands.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

As we welcome another Yuletide we are reminded of the excellent patronage we have enjoyed from the people of Hansford county in the past year . . . So please accept our sincere thanks.

FREE XMAS MATINEE
"The Jones Family in Borrowing Trouble."
Saturday, Dec. 25 1:30 - 3:30.

Dec. 23-24 "Thoroughbreds Don't Cry"
Dec. 25 "Born to the West"
Dec. 26-27 "TOVARICH"
Dec 28-29: "Sh! The Octopus"
Dec. 30-31 "Beg Borrow or Steal"
New Year's Eve Preview
Dec. 31: 11:15 p. m. "Footloose Heiress"

Ellis Theatre
PERRYTON, TEXAS

manage any way, time we had a bunch of, just had to appear. The we got out on old ready, which were kept back for agencies, but when the next press day rolled around and still no mail something had to be done. After canvassing the town, we located a roll of white wrapping paper at the W. E. Caldwell store that was wide enough to use. This was torn off the proper length for two pages of a newspaper and used. It did not take ink very well in places and some places somewhat too well but we got by with it and these papers were kept by people as souvenirs for a long time.

Local and national politics were taken seriously and the editor had to be on one side or the other. At evenings men would gather at some of the stores and after hours of hot arguments, they would go to bed, feeling they had had an important part in saving the nation.

We were a live bunch in those days and spent a great deal of time building railroads, on paper. The Headlight was in the fore front of this battle and sent copies of the paper containing items that would interest railroad builders, to every railroad president we could locate. When the Santa Fe finally decided to build Mr. Hurley, who handled the matter for them, informed this writer that every copy of the Headlight sent to them was still kept and referred to, in the office of Mr. Ripley then the president of the road.

There was not a public road in the county, at that time, and to most of the citizens none was wanted. Wire gates were everywhere and one could scarcely go a mile without opening one. The man who advocated roads that would cut peoples pasture in two was public enemy No. 1 and this writer made some bitter enemies by having the hardihood to advocate the laying out of open roads.

Much of the land was owned by non-resident and each ranchman was using all the grass he could get his fence around free, and no road could go very far with out breaking into his arrangements. These ranchers dominated the commissioners' court and for a long time we made little headway in advocating open roads.

We believe the first laid out road in the county followed closely

My Tuesdays
My Wednesdays
My home is here
is sheetless.
They sent them
The bar rooms
My coffee is sweet
Each day I get
My stockings are
My trousers are
My God! but I sure
Kaiser.

"Peace On The Earth Good Will Toward Men"

ANGELS sang this refrain centuries ago near the little town of Bethlehem. Today it comes echoing through the years to the corners of the earth by the voice of men. Now it is heard above the roar of business, tonight the host of the land are one chorus, and their chant lifted high and beyond the stars.

IN THAT CHORUS is the noise of this servant of the people reaffirming on the eve of Christmas, its heartfelt wish of peace, good will for those it has served. In the house of this servant a candle is lit and carol is sung. Faith in mankind is high; gratitude is deep for those we serve and call our friends.

AND THERE is great joy among us; the joy that springs from an opportunity to serve and the joy of knowing that in our hearts we have striven to serve well. It is a joy shared by each officer and employee of this organization.

FROM the star-lit JUDEAN Plains there comes ringing through the centuries again that sweetness of refrains. Its charm lifts the voice of the world rejoicing.

"Peace On Earth, Good Will Toward Men"



We would like to tell our greetings to you in person but it seems that we are not able. So we will try to extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas on a piece of paper with a flock of printers ink.

Frank Tatum
DALHART, TEXAS

Panhandle Power & Light Comp
General Offices: BORGER, TEXAS

SOCIAL
Ann Miller—Call 10



ELIZABETH ANN MILLER

LIGHTS OF CHEER

A light shining in a window, sending out rays of good cheer, hope, and comfort to those of mankind who are tired, cold, hungry and without hope is like the light in the lighthouse that sends out its rays to guide ships over the rough and dark places. It will never cease to be a beauty, a delight and an inspiration to those who need it.

Such are the lights of Christmas they radiate good cheer, beauty, and thoughts of the Yuletide season. They make you think of Christmas carols, snow and sleds, stockings, hanging over a fire place, bells ringing merrily, stars, Christmas trees and all sorts of gifts. Christmas is a joyous thought.

The whole constellation seems to have come down to earth. Every where are blazes of light and color. We have candle lights, wreaths, colored electric lights, fires, and moonlight.

And now that its Santa Claus time at last, we on the staff of the Spearman Reporter wish to extend to you our best wishes for a very, very, merry Xmas and a Happy new year.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE CAROLING

After League Sunday night the members went caroling. They tried to find the homes of shut ins and folks who were not able to attend church regularly. Mrs. Gene Richardson is League Sponsor and the young people are very enthusiastic in their work.

XMAS PROGRAM PRACTICED AT HOLT SUNDAY

The Holt Sunday School was attended by a large crowd Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the Holt School house. The number of new folks coming out is increasing each Sunday. Following the Sunday school the complete Christmas program was gone over with Mrs. Charlie Rosson, Mrs. Owen Pendergraft and Mrs. Clyde Thompson in charge.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Patsy Howell entertained a number of her little friends Saturday afternoon with a party in honor of her fifth birthday. A large white cake adorned with five candles was the center of attraction.

After several games were played refreshments were served to the following: Barbara and Beverly Beck, Doris Birdwell, Mary Ann Bowling, Joy and Lela Mae Close, Colleen Schell, Cloyd F. and Opal Mae Carpenter, Calvin Mills, Dwayne Wallace, Gene Howell, Sonny Windom, Gary Hancock, Joel Lee Lackey, Don DeArmond, Dorothea Darlene McLeod, Doris Maxine Harbour, La Dawn Trollinger, Mary Faith Oakes, Mary Margaret McLain, Lavenia and Max Hughes, Kay Lanette Howell and Patsy Howell.

A lovely salad plate with favors of anta wading through snow, delighted the guest.

Twenty two guests enjoyed this special meeting amid the beautiful decorations of holly, icicles, red and white chrysanthemums and a gaily lit white Xmas tree.

20TH CENTURY CLUB MET AT MRS. GIBNER'S

The 20th Century Club met in the home of Mrs. G. P. Gibner Thursday Dec. 16th. Mrs. Raymond Kirk was cohostess with Mrs. Gibner. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. E. C. Womble, president.

The study groups, Home Science and Fine Arts met separately for their study work and jointly for business and social meetings.

This meeting was the club's annual Christmas social combined with business session.

The program was opened by singing of Christmas carols led by Mrs. Gene Richardson. Martha Delon Kirk read "Dust of the Road" a one act Christmas play by Goodman. Mrs. George Buzzard, rendered Holy Night, with synopated variations as a piano solo. The program closed with prayer by Mrs. Buchanan.

A lovely salad plate with favors of anta wading through snow, delighted the guest.

Twenty two guests enjoyed this special meeting amid the beautiful decorations of holly, icicles, red and white chrysanthemums and a gaily lit white Xmas tree.

SINGING CLASS HELD REGULAR MEETING

The Holt singing class held their regular meeting at the Holt school house with a large group present. Chas. D. Rosson was in charge of the program. Mr. Rosson announced that the largest crowd that had been there in several Sunday nights was present.

XMAS PROGRAM WILL BE GIVEN AT HOLT

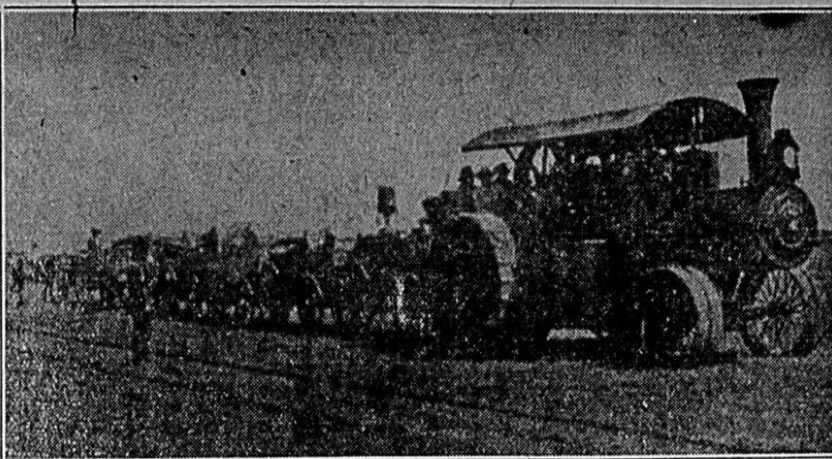
The Christmas program will be given at the Holt school house Wednesday night at nine o'clock. Everyone in the community is invited to come and bring your own family for an evening of entertainment.

RAINBOW DINNER

Members of the order of Rainbow enjoyed a pleasant hour of fun and entertainment when they dined at the home of their mother advisor, Mrs. Lloyd Campbell last Monday evening. Every one was delighted with the beautiful decorations which lent a festive air to the whole party. The "not-luck" dinner was one of the high lights of the evening and everyone's good spirits increased as they ate the delicious foods. The climax of the evening came when Helen Richardson played Santa Claus and distributed the gifts.

Members present were, Frances Hoskins, Vera Beth Hoskins, Maxine Allen, Doris Jean Russell, Janell Womble, Buena Vernon, Ruby Ruth Kelly, Betty Morton, Patricia Snider, Coleen Kelly, Helen Richardson, Martha Delon Kirk, Rosa Lee Clement, Elsie Ruth Porter, Marcella Newcomb, Ida May McLeod, Fran Schubert, Kybil Lackey, Louise Novak, Marie Deck, Elнора Close and Elizabeth Ellora.

A Special Freight Train Whirling Toward Hansford



The above picture represents freight outfit leaving the rail for Hansford pulled by an immense traction engine, the car consisting of everything from salt to needles. This peculiar gravitating is reproduced as a novelty more than anything else, as the steam apparatus is not general used for transporting freight this being really the only instance

where it was given a test. But the load was so heavy that a trial was given the engine but it failed to fill the bill. The load now being transported weighed almost 30,000 pounds and was for the well known E. C. Hays "Busy Grocery" store, which enjoys a most excellent business.

The customary way of bringing merchandise to "The Village of the Plains" is by the auto-mule route, and while not a 60 mile an hour record is accomplished, these faithful animals are certain reliable. The Hays freight wagon are almost constantly on the road operating from 5 to 7 wagons, and when they pull into town, remind the "tenderfoot" of the old time wagon show on dress parade. Driver George Hays is well skilled in the art of handling large mule teams, and with a team of fair size he can make about 30 miles a day, but the distance from the railroad being 40 miles the crew usually pull about half way and rest until the next morning and complete the journey.

Mr. Hays, the capable and well known driver understands the foxy mules like a book and he has often remarked to the writer, "In order to obtain the maximum amount of exertion from a team of mules requires a judicious admixture of profanity and a blacksnake—and it all comes with practice." REPRODUCED picture and exact LOCALS

MARY MARTHA'S
The Mary Martha's met with Mrs. R. E. Lee for their Xmas party Wed. Dec. 22. The house was festive with Yule decorations and a lovely tree was laden with gifts for all. Lesson on World Outlook was led by Mrs. Gene Richardson.

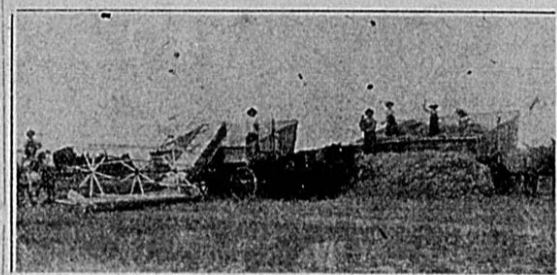
MRS. WOMBLE ENTERTAINS DORCAS SOCIETY

Mrs. Jess Womble entertained the Dorcas Society Thursday, Dec. 16, with a Christmas party.

Mrs. Yates led the devotional, which was taken from the 27th Psalm and 2nd Matthew after which many enjoyable games were played. Dainty refreshments were served to the following members: Mesdames, J. Yates, Lester Howell, Claude Schell, Earl Carpenter, Basil Good, Lawrence Wilbanks, Ike Klutts, Walter Good, Jess Womble, Woodie Davis, Olin Sheets, Vester Hill, Lelan Close and Miss Carrie B. Nesbitt.

The next meeting will be Dec. 30 at the home of Mrs. Alvino Richardson with Mrs. Leian Close as hostess.

Harvest Scene About 1913



This picture was taken on the farm of L. S. McClellan. Mr. McClellan is driving the header barge and little Lee is on top of the stack. Mr. McClellan says there has been a time in the past when we really raised wheat in this country. He relates that one year he left 500 acres and never touched it. The volunteer from this acreage harvested 5,000 bushels.

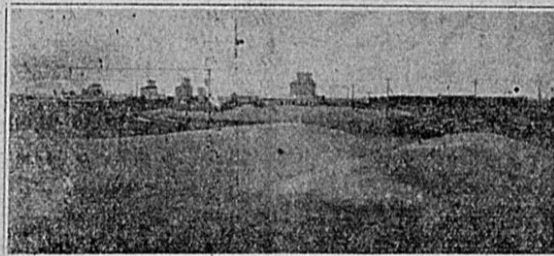
Merry Christmas



May the joy of successful achievement be yours for this Merry Christmas and throughout the many days and months of the New Year.

Hays Barber Shop

Proof of Past Production



This picture gives you an idea of how much grain was harvested back in 1929. The five elevators were filled to overflowing then most of the available space for blocks around had massive piles of wheat.

BEST WISHES



We all wish to extend to you Christmas greetings and good will, and may boundless Holiday cheer be ever yours. To our ever-widening circle of friends we are especially grateful this year.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Spearman Reporter on its 31st Birthday.

White House Umb. Co.

BIT LUNCHEON

David Hester was hostess for a Bit club Monday Dec. 16. The luncheon at 1 o'clock was served in the dining room of the club. Christmas decorations were on the tables. Several rounds of bridge were played. Mrs. Roy Russell presented the program. Members present were: Roy Russell, Bill Russell, Womble, Bruce Sheets, Pbell, Joe Hatton, Wilcox, Lee, Lackey and one Bob Douglas.

ENTERTAIN AT HOME

Ladies entertained at the home of Mrs. Bill Russell with silver decorations through the room and on the quarter a very lovely dinner was served. Six members of the Bid club to entertain the night with highest scores in past sessions. The 3 course dinner gifts exchanged and bridge was until a late hour. The score went to Mrs. Bill Hut at prize to Mrs. Bruce

BANDS NIGHT OF A BIT CLUB

and Mrs. Jimmie Jackson a delicious Turkey dinner and members at the regular night for the Bid a Bit club. The night was merry with party. There were decorations, minstrel songs, and each table and tree were decorated with candy green and gold.

TEACHERS LEAVE FOR HOLIDAYS

The school teachers will be on their holidays. Gunn, Hedley; Mr. Higley, El Paso; Miss Ruby Longview, Greenville; Amarillo; Miss Roach, Texhoma; Mr. Ratten, Also; Texas; Miss Graham, Miss Ewing, Panhandle, Springtown, Fort what, Miss Hawkins, Panhandle Andie, Oklahoma City; Miss carman; Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Brannon Follett; n, Oklahoma City.



We would count it a poor Christmas indeed if we could not count among our gifts—your friendship. Each Holiday season, as the old year draws to a close we realize most deeply and appreciatively the value of our association with our patrons. Much of the joy of Xmas comes from the knowledge that we have so many warm friends. And we count friendship as the greatest gift one man can bestow upon another. We sincerely hope that this will be a very Merry Christmas for your health happiness and prosperity.

Your patronage during the more than two years we have been in business in Gruver has been very gratifying.

Our volume of business has increased more than a hundred percent since the first month we operated here. For this and the many kind words, allow us to again extend our sincere thanks.

Universal Oil Co.
Lyle Blanton, Mgr. Gruver, Texas