# Thirtieth Year Of Continuous Service <br> THE TEXAS SPUR 

More News

## January Has 30 -Year Record Rainfall

Average of . 41 Farm Debt Meeting Mr. and Mrs. Clifford B. Jones Are Honor Topped by 1.92 To Be Held Friday Guests At Two Local Homages Tuesday

and

TTHE SPURS


I can assure the reader that the weather in
est Texas for the last thirty-five years has been lest Texas for the last thirty-five years has been id drier. Some folks seem to think that any fou $r$ five years designated, is the average weather
ut any thinking West Texas man will know that lose few years may all have been extremely dry perhaps one of the five may have been seasonle. Just how many years must be included
re one can claim that such and such years were
$e$ average for West Texas is a question. I will e average for West Texas is a question. I will
t further weary the reader with weather rerts, but will now lead you to other fields. The ack" is about to close.

## Ight-hew it how we may

Christmas in the yay. w-out. The folks at Dickens gave us a big te, as well as did the folks at the ranrh. It was
that they combined forces. Each effort was ependent and unknown to the other. Mr. and Mrs. Horsbrugh gave us a big istmas tree, followed by a concert. Every boy the ranch was invited and a gift was on the for all there. As it was necessary to send
iy for most of the gifts some considerable time ly for most of the gifts some considerable time
idvance, any thinking person will see that at deal of kindly thought had been expended Mrs. Horsbrugh on her intended guests.
This was not the first Christmas tree by y, that we had enjoyed at the ranch. It did em as if "The Giftie" meant us to remember
is, the last one as it happened to be, given by
e old Spur Ranch. The writer knows beyond the hhadow of a doubt, that what followed later was quite unexpected, and that this Christmas tree, was not intended to be of a fairwell nature, but
was just given for our pleasure and enjoyment, was just given for our pleasure and enjoyment
is well as for "The Kids." as well as for "The Kid

## AN ACCIDENT

CHAPTER
One of the saddest accidents that ever happened on The Old Spur Ranch was shortly after Billy Dawson was promoted to the place of
Ranch Foreman, in place of Handy Cole, who signed his job, and with John O. Wilkerson oung Scotchman, just recently imported from f bookkeeper, left vacant by Mr. Dawson's pro-
Peter by his friendly disposition was accept-
hy the boys and made one of the family. He
therly without pretence, being to every one
Peter." Like all young men he enjoyed with congenial companions and on every ion, when the branding wagon was near
ranch, if his work permitted, he could be ranch, if his
d at the wagon.
One evening in July 1903, the wagon was ped at a little spring tank, half a mile or so y dry spell, by the writer, Uncle Tom Gilmore, rsbrugh as completed the spring kept it fairly well filled imping the scrapers on the dam. After the dam
ith water. It was a very desirable place for the agon to camp
Bed rolls were made down; some of the boys ere lying on them, others were fixing to retire.
eter and Ern Clay had ridden over from the anch, to spend an hour or so at the wagon, and hen they came in sight of it, Peter drew his gun
pistol) and fired in the air, squaling as well as pistol) and fired in the air, squaling as well as e could, like a wild and wooly cowboy, and
inning his horse right up to the wagon. One of he boys who was lying on his bed, got on his nees, reached under his war-sack, and got his
un, to fire in response to Peter's play. The istol missed fire, the boy drew back the hamme ith his thumb, threw the gun back over his
houlder, at the same time releasing the hammer Tommy Hunter was standing by the wagon, nd 'the bullet from the gun fired by the kid over ones happened to be looking at Tommy just hen and saw him fall. A doctor was immediately alled from Dickens, and everything done that ommy Hunter is buried at Dickens where veral of the Spur Boys are resting.
Of the many boys who have worked on the d ranch, none was more universally liked than mmy Hunter, both on the Ranch and in Dickens, here he was very popular with all "the folk." e first and last of its kind. Of course nothing as done to the boy who was responsible for the cident but Peter Brand, who had no business
have a pistol, under the law, paid a fine for have a pis
rrying one.

THE SALE OF THE SPURS
HOW SANDY SPILLED THE BEANS
It is a great pity that anyone should have exalted an opinion of their own importance
that the weight of their money should be at I likely to be considered as of so "much-a-much" w-a-days. It is against human nature for u
themselves, Mostly caused by one of the stock
holders who had fallen heir to a large block of
The Prior Lein Bonds. These bonds were really a mortgage with the whole ranch as security,
and drawing 6 percent interest annually. The best kind of security a man could have for his
money, with interest much higher than was money, with interest much higher than was
usually secured in Great Britain. These Bonds were not voting stock, but this man wanted to
dictate the policy and management of the ranch dictate the peeting of The Board, poorly represented he managed "to raise hobb." He was not one of the Original Stockholders who had bought the Ranch from Lomax and Brittan. The Manager was fired and so was the Secretary of the Company in London. New men were put in their
places. Incidentally he "cut his own throat," so places. Incidentally he "cut his own throat," so here had nothing to do with that
After his resignation as manager of The
Spurs, Mr. Horsbrugh opened an office in Ama rillo, Texas, as a land and cattle commission agent He soon afterwards had informtion from his friends in London, that if he could find a buyer price, a sale could be put over, as most of the whole Board of Directors were sick of the mess now brewing. Notwithstanding the opposition, that would be offered by the Bond Holder, a
could only vote the shares he held.
Surugh the in touch with Mr. Wetherbee Horsbrugh got in touch with Mr. Wetherbee o
S. M. Swenson \& Sons of New York and received the following letter

## S. M. SWENSON \& SONS Bankers

## Fred Horsbrugh, Esq

Amarillo, Texas.
Referring to our previous correspondence regarding the Spur Ranche I write you again and this time with something of a definite nature. I have succeeded in the extent that they will entertain a purchase if the price is right. On this point, you know from the purchase made some years ago, of the Pace Ranche that they want and will only buy at a figure that will
appeal to them.
Land and Cattle Company as principals, to the Espuela Land and Cattle Company as principals, and which will
place you in proper shape with the Cattle Company to your brokerage and commission in case the sale is made, and then let the Espuela Land and Cattle Company correspond direct with Mess. S. M. Swenson \& Sons whose card I enclose and which you can forward to the other side, I judge that will be sufficient to open the matter betwe
sale be consumated direct. your people that in case no trade is made, the matter
will be kept confidential and that no one but the Espuela Land and Cattle Company, S. M. Swenson
\& Sons, you and I will know anything about the matter having ever been even entertained or thought of mission between you and myself will be even cut. secure the consideration of my people to the extent
above indicated and hope something may materialize that will mean dollars and cents to us.
Yours very truly

Mr. Wethertions having been made with London Mr. Wetherbee wanted further information re garding the Ranch, and the following letter from will entertain any reader interested in this stoy
w. O. Wetherbee, Esq
marillo, Texas
st April 1905
New York
Dear Sir:
I have yours of 28 th this morning. In regard to the amount of taxes paid on lands and cattle on the siderably in the lase fifteen years and to a great extent depends on the feeling that is felt in the different counties by the Boards of Equalization. The Spur
Ranche is in Four Counties: Dickens, Crosby, Kent and Ranche is in Four Counties: Dickens, Crosby, Kent and Garza, and these the first three are organized and the last named, Garza, is not. It is attached to Borden
County for Judicial purposes, and the taxes on personal property such as cattle, horses, etc., is payable at Gail, property such as cattle, horses, etc., is payable at Gail, other named counties have boards of equalization and
fix values. As a rule I have thought it best to be repfix values. As a rule I have thought it best to be rep-
resented on those boards as much as possible. However resented on those boards as much as possible. However
taxes have always been too high, and subject to no little solicitude, I have known the entire taxes on all little solicitude, I have known the entire taxes on al
the lands and cattle, belonging to the Spurs in all four counties, to be as high as over $\$ 11,000$, and as low as $\$ 9,000$. I think it would be safe to regard the intermediate amount of $\$ 11,000$ as enough to cover one
year with another, the entire taxes for all real and personal properties in the four counties. In the matter of Operating Expenses, "Taxes acon the leger, sometimes approximating to one third of the entire American expenses. However of late
years these have increased all over, as I dare say you have noticed on the S. M. S. ranches; it just naturally costs more annually to run a cow now-a-days than it
did. I remember some years ago when I had the entire
eeonomy ard orderliness. These I had on board wages
and board allowance, they getting what supplies need-
add board allowance, they getting what supplies need-
ed, at whilseale prices from the Compan's store.
They were charged with these, and in return, they
fupplied meals. Part of these such as neighbors with
sumber at certain rates agreed upon every month when pay-
at
ing wages. All others such as cow? theives, kinfolk, wife's relations, etc., they were entitled to charge
dollar a meal if they felt like it, but we did not pay anything. The reason for this was that it stopped the "drift" or army of bums, and men out of work who prowl the country, from imposing too long on free
"chuck." They had orders to care for any one passing "chuck." They had orders to care for any one passing
through the country on business, but were admonished that they might have to if necessary, ask their guest that they might have to if necessary, ask their guests
to "pull out" next morning, if the weather was not too bad. The drift stopped when it was found out that to stay meant imposing on the man and wife and not on the Company. Another thing that was an economy
was The Store. By reason of this a considerable saving was The Store. By reason of this a considerable saving
was effected in supplies, material of all kinds, machinery, wagons, etc. By rules of trade the Company could only buy from retail establishments, at the railroads, By establishing the store, the wholesale, or jobbing firms were dealt with exclusively by the store, and of course the Company was the principal customer. A
saving of $\$ 2,000$ can be effected that way. The Store deals with the country out there, selling such thing
deal as are necessary, such as underclothing, tobacco, cigar and other luxuries, of the trade which it is not intended to encourage. Of course the men in the employ of the Company, who lived at such camps had fence riding calf branding, and general range work in their dis tricts to attend to. Besides staying at camp the wife
had to look after cooking, etc. Wages account rose and fell from $\$ 7,500$ to $\$ 10,000$, of course supplies ac companied it up and down, it depending on the number of men employed.
Replying to your query as to the pasture I have to say that none of it can be called rough. What you
call the winter pasture means I think what we used to known as the West Pasture, which took in the lands in Crosby and Garza Counties. What is known as the East Pasture, is in Dickens and Kent, and consists
mainly of Block I. H. and G. N. which has 408 sections in it. There are some other lands in the East Pasture, between this and the West Pasture there is a high shinnery hill, which does not belong to the Company they have only small portions of it. This strip is three miles wide and fourteen miles long. The reason of its existance is, that long ago, when selecting the lands
that were to be donated to the H. \& G. N. Railroad, the surveyors did not like this shinnery ridge and stopped the West line of Block 1, and jumped three miles be fore beginning Block 2. This strip was made Public Domain, afterwards added to the school fund, it has a lot of Nestors which are fenced off, and my under standing is that most of them can be bought ou piece of range for though mostly shinnery, it is there that the cattle like to go when changing rang

Shinnery is a very valuable adjunct to a cow range, but it must have water near by, as in this case. It is
an old saying, that if you want to get beef to kill, you have to go to the shinnery, and at some times of the
year it is crowded with cattle. There are a hundred forms of grass and weeds in the shinnery, and the cows
value it as a welcome change at certain periods. I have always wished that these surveyors that laid off
the Railroad lands in 1870, had not felt so smart and the Railroad lands in 1870, had not felt so smart and
had included that three mile strip; it is valuable. The West Pasture has 70 sections ( 44,800 acres) of
the North end in Crosby County fenced off. This is a very fine pasture being shut in by brakes of the
plains, and has natural water and windmills. It is well watered and sheltered without being too rough, and ever saw. I call it the best cow and calf or steer pour in America; this is in Crosby County. South of it is also a very fine cow country. There are some roughs but not much of it, in the extreme South down in Garza; and it is also a bit rough for a mile or so in
places back from Catfish Creek, which runs down all the East side of the pasture, and there is some shinnery enerally as Block 1, in Dickens and Kent County ye it is not so rough, none of it , as the S. M. S., rough parts, and I call the worst of it as good or better, than The S. M. S. North range near Matador. All over the grass is fine, and though we had some trouble two years ago and last year because it did not rain, there is a which bids fair to last, due attention being given and constantly directed towards shipping out old cows, constantly directed towards shipping out old cows,
enough, as well as annual draft of steers, so as to prevent overstocking. In the matter of water, Duck Creek runs down in a meandering fashion, all through the middle and South East of Block 1, it also has good tributaries. Down the West side of the same Block,
Red Mud runs North and South. Besides these and their tributaries there are several wind mills with wooden tanks and over flow dirt tanks, also large reservoirs or tanks. On the West side Catfish runs the entire length down through Block 2. McDonald Creek runs down Block 8 running into Salt Fork of the Brazos which comes in in the South West in Garza,
and meanders through a considerable portion of the Garza portion of the range, before going ion of the 7, Kent County, there are also small creeks. In addition to these there are about forty large dirt tanks, most of
which I had constructed in needful parts, some of which I had constructed in needful parts, some of
which would swim a horse a third of a mile when the which would swim a horse a third of a mile when the
dam was full. There are also some thirty (30) wind mills with basins attached. These are in various parts

American expenses of The Spur property down to $\$ 30,000$. This included every account in the ledger, and conisitod of

The Spur team went to Girard Fri-
day night and played the powerful
Cardinals. Losing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard team has play-
ed 26 games with teams all over the
tate and have only lost ten. They
lost one point to the team that went
almost to the end in the State finals
last year.
The Spur Squad consists of Sack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Harold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guards; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year.
The Spur team went to Girard Fri-
day night and played the powerful
Cardinals. Losing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard team has play-
d 26 games with teams all over the
tate and have only lost ten. They
ost one point to the team that went
olmost to the end in the State finals
ast year.
The Spur Squad consists of Sack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Farold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guards; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year.
The Spur team went to Girard Fri-
day night and played the powerful
Cardinals. Losing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard toam has play-
ed 26 games with teams all over the
state and have only lost ten. They
lost one point to the team that went
almost to the end in the State finals
last year.
The Spur Squad consists of: Jack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Harold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guarrs; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year. last year.
The Spur Squad consists of: Jack
The Spur team went to Girard Fri-
day night and played the powerful
Cardinals. Losing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard toam has play-
ed 26 games with teams all over the
state and have only lost ten. They
lost one point to the team that went
almost to the end in the State finals
last year.
The Spur Squad consists of: Jack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Harold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guarrs; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year.
The Spur team went to Girard Fri-
day night and played the powerful
Cardinals. Losing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard team has play-
ed 26 games with teams all over the
tate and have only lost ten. They
lost one point to the team that went
almost to the end in the State finals
last year.
The Spur Squad consists of Sack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Harold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guards; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year.
day spur team went to Girard Fri-
Cardight and played the powerful
Cosing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard toam has play-
ed 26 games with teams all over the
state and have only lost ten. They
lost one point to the team that went
almost to the end in the State finals
last year.
The Spur Squad consists of: Jack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Harold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guarrs; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year.
The Spur team went to Girard Fri-
day night and played the powerful
Cardinals. Losing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard toam has play-
ed 26 games with teams all over the
state and have only lost ten. They
lost one point to the team that went
almost to the end in the State finals
last year.
The Spur Squad consists of: Jack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Harold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guarrs; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year.
The Spur team went to Girard Fri-
day night and played the powerful
Cardinals. Losing 23 to 32 to the
Cardinals. The Girard team has play-
ed 26 games with teams all over the
state and have only lost ten. They
lost one point to the team that went
almost to the end in the State finals
last year.
The Spur Squad consists of: Jack
Powell, center; Cleo Rogers and
Harold Taylor, forwards; Billy Sparks
and Charles Hurst, guards; Wayne
Kissinger and Joe Ousley, forwards;
Charles Christenson and Billy Dee
Bell, guards.
We hope to have another County
Championship team this year.

## CITY federation meet

The City Federation meets Jan The program to be given by 1917 Study club at this meeting promises
to be educational and entertaining to be educational and entertaining.
A study in contrast, "The Old With

HARKEY - VAN PELT
A marriage of interest to a large
circle of friends was solemnized Saturday night, December 31st at Dickens City, when Herman
made Doris Harkey his bride
Mrs. Van Pelt is a daughter of Mr and Mrs. D. J. Harkey, a pionee family of Dickens City. She is a graduate of Dickens High School and
has a high school education and the has a high school education and the
attributes essential for the establish attributes essential for the establish-
ing and maintaining a happy home Mr. Van Pelt is connected with the Highway Construction Departmen and was recently transferred to
Kansas where they will for the pres

MRS. WM. O. LEACH LONDON
BRIDGE HOSTESS THURSDAY
One of the loveliest social affairs
on the new years calander was that
of Thursday afternoon when Mrs. Wm. O. Leach entertained her
Wm.
bridge club at her home 103 East Hill St.
Contract bridge was the diversion
during the party hours with two tables in play.
Mrs. Busbee was high score winner for club members and Mrs. A delicious refreshment plate was ent and enjoying the occasion: dames Truman Green, Buzbee, Chas
Hardwick, A. A. McKimmey, Harve Hardenck, A. A. Mclimmey, Harvey
Giddens, H. Holly, and V. V.
Parr.

## Nervous, Weak <br> Ankles Swollen!

## 



FRIDAY JAN. 17


see<br>L. H. PERRY<br>FOR Fire Insurance




$\qquad$












For A Good Span Work Mules
good set of block tolsmith


## Personal

## of Croton spent Monday in Spur at- tending the auction sale, shopping ond greeting friends.

 Jefferson oil field shooting a nickle Eve while glass flares, in the back-
ground, were putting on a millionground, were putting on a million-
dollar fire works display.
The shortest poem ever written
was entitled "Cooties" and is as

## follows:

Had 'em."
Saw Andy Rhodes, Eastland oil Saw Andy Rhodes, Eastand of
c.perator, recently, He drilled one of

the most famous gushers in the | Eastland County boom-the Sailor |
| :--- |
| Perkins well, named for the young | farmer who owned the (therkis was

was serving in the Navy Was serving in the Nav) when the
during the World War)
spouter came in for 6,000 barrels
day of $\$ 2.50$ oil. He became celeday of $\$ 2.50$ oil. He became cel
brated as the "millionaire gob." Did you ever stop to think wh a placid and unspectacular federal judge leads? No opening new highways; no crowning
queens. His picture appears in queens. His picture appears in
papers just twice; once, when he is sworn in and, the other time, when
he dies-unless he happens to get impeached.
In that book, "Forgotten Men o Ame to write some of these times Robert G. Ingersoll will have a place. He once declared:
a sea has ebbed and flowed in the $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { a sea has ebbed and flowed in the } \\ & \text { human heart, with its countless waves } \\ & \text { of hope and fear beating agains the }\end{aligned}\right.$ shores and rocks of time and fate was not born of any book, nor of any
creed, nor of any religion. It wa creed, nor of any religion. It was
born of human affection, and it will continue to ebb and flow beneath the
mists and clouds of doubt and darkness. as long as love kisses the lip
of death."

## AUCTION SALE

R. P. HARVEY FARM $21 / 2$ miles East of Atton sale starts at 1:00 P. m.
warpenter sell at public auction some real values in first class wasters in all sizes, and 5 to 7 tons of steel and iron.
save youndy yaur needs, Mr, Farmer-anda attend this sale. It may save eou many dollars in things you need
Oherss interested please remember the date.

BERT EHRESMAN
Auctioneer

| ESTABLISHMENT AND MAIN- | cust |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| TENANCE OF A BAND BY THE |  |
| CITY OF SPUR |  |


| cordance with the law in reference to regular municipal elections are provided by the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas. <br> The polling places shall be in the City Hall of Spur, Texas. <br> PASSED AND APPROVED this the 10 th day of January, A. D. 1939. <br> E. J. COWAN, <br> Mayor of The City of <br> Spur, Texas <br> ATTEST: <br> Truman J. Green, Clerk of The City of Spur, Texas. |
| :---: |


| LOST-Heavy duty commercial tire |
| :--- |
| LaSd wheel for Chevrolet between my |
| and in Highway community and |
| home in Highe. Liberal Reward. - Raymond |
| Spu-2tp |
| Powell. |
| DR. BAKER COMING |
| The eyesight specialist who has |
| fitted several hundred citizens satis- |
| factorily in this county will be at |
| the Wilson Hotel Tuesday, Jan. 17th |
| only. Scientific testing equipment |
| and the newest styles in spectacle- |
| ware, at moderate prices. |
| WANTED Girl wants work and <br> room and board in Spur; prefer <br> housekeeping or as nursemaid. <br> Dorothy Darden, Girard, Texas. |


| TO BE WELL GROOMED |
| :---: |
| IS A GOOD INVESTMENT |
| It's proven every day - in $\mathbf{S}_{\text {in }}$ |
| SPUR BARBER SHOP |
| Ernest George, Prop. |

Still Coughit


## KELLEY-BROWN AGENCY

REAL ESTATE - IN INSURANCY
List Your Property With Us Phone 22

## These Fine Rains Bring

## TRACTOR TIM

-and time for you to cine your tractor for tire efficien
Economy is the by-word for profits farming. O. K. Tire Welding can save you many dollars-guaranteed to be the strongest part of your tire.
0. K. RUBBER WELDING SHOP

NOW LOCATED IN SUNSHINE SERVICE STATION
CUSTOM HATCHING
and we are looking forward to one of the greatest seasons that BECAUSE
Our Baby Chicks are from blood-tested and selected flocks,
and they receive special care from start to finish. We are now ready to take orders ior custom hatching, and
promise you as good service as any place in West Texas
"Don't Raise Chicks For Fun-Raise Them For Profit"
AFTON HATCHERY Yit
Jesse Bass, Prop.
HEADOUARTERS
FOR
AUTO PARTS
BATTERIES
TIRES \& TUBES

Day \& Nite Phone 14

