

## OUR WASHINGTON NEWS LETTER

By Congressman O. C. Fisher

### THE VALLEY OF CHANCE

Washington is a city rich in the history and traditions of by-gone days. Among the spots enshrouded with the secrets of a near-forgotten past, is a plot now trash-strewn and covered with underbrush. It's known to historians as the "Valley of Chance"—a half mile beyond the District line in Maryland. They say that spot is soaked with enough blood to do justice to a battlefield. Many dramatic chapters in Washington's history were written there—the old duelling grounds where men met to avenge their names and in defense of honor.

The first man to be wounded there was a congressman, Barent Gardener of New York, in a duel with Rep. George W. Campbell of Tennessee in March, 1808. The match stemmed from a verbal battle on the House floor, and Gardener was seriously though not mortally wounded. After that fracas, Mr. Gardener was reelected to Congress and Rep. Campbell was appointed minister to Russia.

Five years later, Lt. Col. Thomas Flournoy, of Andrew Jackson's army, fought a duel at the same place and wounded his opponent. Shortly after that, Ensign Edward Hopkins, whose some was in sight of the valley, was mortally wounded while engaging in the "Code Duello" there.

But the place was not nationally known until General Armistead T. Mason, an ex-senator from Virginia and Col. John M. McCarty, first cousins, settled a long-standing quarrel in 1819. They met in a violent snow storm and faced each other only 12 feet apart. Both fell—Mason was dead and McCarty seriously wounded.

It was the historic duel between Commodores Stephen Decatur and James Barron, in which Decatur was killed that made the Valley of Chance world-known. That occurred in 1820—March 22.

In 1826, Senator Randolph made aspeech on the Senate floor accusing Henry Clay, then Secretary of State, of forging a letter from the Mexican Minister to Washington. Clay promptly challenged the Senator to a duel and they met in the Valley of Chance. Shots were exchanged but neither was wounded. Clay demanded a second firing but Randolph refused. The secretary then advanced to shake hands, exclaiming: "I trust in God, my dear sir, that you are untouched! After what has happened, I would not have harmed you for a thousand worlds!" "You owe me a coat, Mr. Clay", replied Randolph, smiling, as he showed a bullet hole through his cloak.

The two exchanged cards the following Monday and were warm friends after that.

Congress finally passed an anti-duelling bill for the district in 1839 following the death of Rep. Jonathan Cilley of Maine. This one resulted from a debate on the House floor and Rep. William J. Cravens was Cilley's opponent. But duels continued at the Valley of Chance. As late as 1847, two Army Lieutenants blasted away at each other in a dawn battle there. But by the 1850's public opinion had changed. No longer was a man considered a coward if he declined a challenge or if he apologized.

The saga of the duels at the Valley of Chance finally ended in 1868 when Gen. Lawrence, U.S. Minister to Costa Rica, and Baro Kuss-eron, Secretary to the German Legation, met and exchanged fire but without results. They then patched up their quarrel, but President Johnson fired Gen. Lawrence out of the diplomatic corps.

Folks over in Maryland still hope a suitable marker will be erected at the Valley of Chance before the site is obscured forever.

### CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME

It's odd the way folks flock to Washington to see the Japanese cherry trees in bloom. The trees—hundreds of them—line the lake shores about the Jefferson Memorial and along the banks of the Potomac. It's a sort of tradition that these famous white and pink combinations of color are in the height of their one-week glory on Easter day.

But this year, it looks like no blossoms for Easter. As if to remove any doubt about this being a late spring, the Capital City found itself covered with a two inch blanket of snow on March 28. So, there

## COMMUNITY CENTER CAMPAIGN STARTS

The drive to raise funds for the new community center here got under way here Tuesday night with a meeting of the solicitors at the bank. The committee members all drew names for the money-raising and began work on Wednesday of this week. The project is estimated to cost around \$12,000. Such cost would include everything that goes to make the place a real community center—one that every one would be proud of. The building is to be moved from Abilene as soon as state highway permission to move the building in a unit is received. J. T. Davis is working on the highway department to secure such permission.

Present at the meeting at the bank Tuesday night were J. T. Davis, Jeff Davis, Anna Lee Johnson, Roland Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. McEntire, and H. L. Hildebrand.

A framed wood scroll bearing the names of the donors will be placed in the center, so that all may see who had a part in making the building possible.

## DAVIS PALOMINOS WIN AT EL PASO

W. R. Davis, Sterling Palomino breeder, has returned from the El Paso Horse Show, with a bunch of firsts and grand champion ribbons with his group of Palomino horses.

Mr. Davis took two firsts, two seconds and the grand champion ribbon with Golden Don Marvel.

Two other Palominos, raised by Davis, and sold to an Arizona breeder, two years ago, took one first and one second and the grand champion mare.

## UNION GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE TODAY

2:0 to 3:00 P. M.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Piano and Violin Prelude  
Invocation—Rev. Malcom Black  
Scripture—Rev. O. M. Cole  
Vocal Solo, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"—Betty Jane Donalson  
First Speaker, "Crucifiers Then"—Rev. B. B. Hestir  
Vocal Solo, There Is a Green Hill"—Gounod, Rev. Ed H. Lovelace  
Second Speaker, "Crucifiers Now", Rev. C. D. McEntire  
Mrs. Clyde Everitt, pianist  
Miss Betty Jane Donalson, Violinist  
The public is cordially invited.

## Scouters Meet And Plan Building Program

The Boy Scout Troop Committee met at the City Park Monday night of this week and discussed plans of raising money and completing the Boy Scout Cabin. The meeting was called by Chairman Homer Pearce.

The Boy Scouts met with the group for supper before the business meeting.

Committeemen present at the meeting were Dr. Wm. J. Swann, J. T. Davis, A. A. Berryman, Homer Pearce, John Walraven, R.L. Lowe, and Ted Brown.

## LEGION SPONSORING A CARNIVAL HERE NEXT WEEK

The Stockton-Curry American Legion Post of Sterling City is sponsoring a carnival here all next week in Sterling City. The name of the carnival is Burdick's Shows.

An advance agent of the carnival, a Mr. Lynch, was in Sterling Wednesday making the final arrangements for the show.

## P. T. A. NEXT THURSDAY

The Sterling City P. T. A. will meet at the school auditorium on Thursday afternoon of next week, and the entertainment will be under the direction of Joe David Crossno. Following the opening and devotional, the program "Building Better Bodies" will be given.

The election of officers for next year will be taken care of during the business session.

will be some cancellations at the hotels. That big day of grandeur and color will likely be postponed a week or so this year.

## SCHOOL TRUSTEE HERE SATURDAY

There will be school trustee election here at the courthouse next Saturday, April 5 for the purpose of electing two school board members. The two whose terms are expiring are Lee Augustine and John Reed. Reed is now president of the board. Augustine has asked the voters not to return him to office, as he feels that he has served long enough. He said that there were others with more tangible interest in the school, and that he would like to retire.

Lee Reed is the election judge.

## GIFT TEA HONORS RECENT BRIDE

Mrs. Tommie Augustine, who was Miss Marjorie Humble before her recent marriage, was honored with a gift tea last Saturday afternoon in the home of Mrs. J. A. Revell. Hostesses for the affair were Mrs. Revell, Mrs. Clyde Everitt, Mrs. Mud Allen, Mrs. Riley King and Mrs. Lee Hunt.

Greeting the guests at the door were Mrs. Revell, the honoree, her mother—Mrs. Tom Humble, and the mother of the groom—Mrs. W. D. Augustine. Mrs. Lee Augustine poured tea the first hour and Bonnie Ruth King poured the second hour. Mrs. C. C. Ainsworth was at the guest register book, and Miss Lora Mae Humble showed the gifts.

The dining table was laid with imported linen cloth, with a centerpiece of white gladioli and other white flowers. Daffodils were used in decorations throughout the house.

The calling hours were from 3 to 5 o'clock. About 75 guests called.

The American Legion is moving the hall it got from the government to the lot across east from the courthouse. The building was on the Will Davis ranch bombing target during the days of the flying school at Big Spring.

## SON BORN TO HILLS

A son, named Robert Scott, was born to Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Hill of Ballinger last week. He weighed eight and one-fourth pounds. Mrs. Hill is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Dearen of this city.

**NOTE**—The following is taken from the Shannon Hospital School of Nursing publication, where Miss Peggy Jean Hinshaw, daughter of the Jim Hinshaws, is taking nurses training: Phi Theta Kappa

Two pre-clinicals, Misses Hinshaw and P. Allen, were made members of the Phi Theta Kappa, the SAC Chapter of the National Honor Society. The requirement for membership is that the student be among the upper ten per cent in their grades. Orchids to these young ladies, the Shannon is proud of you.

## Son Born To Brattons Last Saturday

A son, named Jackson Loomis, was born to Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Bratton last Saturday, March 29 in a San Angelo hospital. The baby weighed six pounds and ten ounces.

Mr. Bratton is with the soil conservation office here in Sterling.

Grandparents of the baby are Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bratton and Mr. and Mrs. Loomis Robertson, all of Comanche.

## Humble-Augustine WEDDING

Miss Marjorie Humble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Humble, became the bride of Tommie Augustine, Friday afternoon, March 21, in the home of the bride on the Rio Concho ranch with Rev. C.B. Stovall of Lamesa officiating.

The double ring ceremony was read before a mantle flanked with floor standards of gladioli and candelabra. Miss Bonnie Ruth King of Sterling City and Miss Martha Ray Cudd, college roommate of the bride, lighted the candles.

Mrs. Tommie Johnson played the wedding music, and accompanied Miss Sue Everitt of Texas Tech as she sang "Always" and "I Love You Truly."

The bride wore a soft blue street length crepe dress with brown accessories. She carried a white Bible topped with an orchid with a cascade arrangement of white carnations and net. Her only ornament was a necklace belonging to the bridegroom's mother.

The bride's attendants were her sister, Miss Lora Mae Humble, who was dressed in pink with an iris corsage, and her roommate at Texas as Tech, Miss Jean Edwards, who was costumed in yellow with a gladioli corsage. Weldon Phillips served as best man.

At the reception immediately following the ceremony, the bride's table was centered with a wedding cake shaped like an open book bearing the names of the couple and scores of traditional nuptial music. The bridegroom's sister, Mrs. Delbert Cooper of Lubbock, and his cousin, Mrs. William Foster of Sterling City, assisted in serving. Miss Mary Welch of Texas Tech presided at the guest register. The couple made a wedding trip to old Mexico. For travel the bride wore a palomino gaberdine suit with brown accessories. She is a graduate of Sterling High School and a former student of Texas Tech. The groom is a graduate of Sterling High School, and has recently returned from service in the Pacific.

## THE METHODIST CHURCH

Church School 10:00 a. m.  
(Goal for Attendance 100)  
Morning Worship 11:00 a. m.  
**Sermon Subject: "Easter, Then and Now"**  
The pastor will be in Water Valley for the evening service.

## SOFTBALL SEASON OPENS NEXT WEEK

The 1947 Summer Softball Program will get underway on April 15. There will be three teams in the league this year. The American Legion, Woodmen of the World, and the Lions will sponsor the teams. A meeting was held on Tuesday to submit the names of players eligible for each organization. The Legion will play only Legion members and the Woodmen will play only Woodmen. The Lions will play Lions and any other individuals that are not members of the other organizations. Hal Knight will be the official scorekeeper.

Workouts will start on April 7 with the Legion working out Tuesday night, the 8th, the Woodmen will take the field, Thursday night, the 10th, the Lions will practice, and on Friday night all three groups will have a workout.

League games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday nights with Saturday night left open for independent games. Games will start promptly at 8:00 P. M. There will be an admission charge of 25c for each game for adults. Any child of school age will be admitted free. This money will be used to purchase balls, bats, and to pay the light bill.

The league executive committee will be headed by G. W. Tillerson as president. Chesley McDonald will be his assistant. Woodmen will be represented on the committee by Boots Williams and Kenneth Garms; the Lions by Worth Durham and H. A. Chapple, and the Legion by Bubba Foster and Jake Martin.

The schedule below is the schedule for the first five weeks of play:

April 15—A. Legion — W. O. W.
17—A. Legion — Lions
22—W. O. W. — Lions
24—A. Legion — W. O. W.
29—A. Legion — Lions
May 1—W. O. W. — Lions
6—A. Legion — W. O. W.
8—A. Legion — Lions
13—W. O. W. — Lions

## LIONS TO SPONSOR CANCER DRIVE

The Lions Club members saw colored films on "Weed-No-More" and "Pestroy" at the Wednesday luncheon. A Mr. Cook of the Sherwin-Williams Co. showed the films. After the luncheon he went to Claude Collins' ranch to try out Weed-no-more on some bitterweed.

The club voted to sponsor the drive to raise money for Cancer education and treatment. Rev. Ed. H. Lovelace was named chairman to head the drive.

Roland Lowe announced that the first class of the First Aid Course would start tonight at 7:30 in the high school gym. A Mr. Winn of San Angelo is to teach the course.

Guests at the luncheon were Mr. Cook, Claude Collins, Jr., Mr. Womack, and Mrs. Wyckoff. The regular guest (and one of the club) was Rev. B. Hestir. The prize went to Roland Lowe.

## 17,000,000 Americans Doomed To Die

from cancer. These figures are based on the present death rate from this malady.

One person out of every eight dies of cancer in the U. S. each year. This is one death every 3 minutes.

From Pearl Harbor to V-J day our government spent \$317,000,000 to lick the enemy forces. Our loss was 280,000 lives.

During the same period only \$2,000,000 was spent on cancer research and a death from cancer during that period totaled 607,000.

This adds up to this—Cancer took more than twice as many as the war yet the U. S. spent only 1/159,000th on cancer research.

**NO ONE IS SAFE FROM CANCER—PROTECT YOURSELF AND LOVED ONES.** Millions of those now doomed to die need not die of cancer if America will rally to the cause.

The American Cancer Society is trying to raise \$12,000,000 for research and treatment of this disease in 1947. Our county has been assigned the small sum of \$200. Be ready to respond when a member of the local committee sees you.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Davis and their little son, Scotty, have moved back to Sterling City from Arkansas.

## Would You Believe It?

**300,000 TONS**  
ANNUAL OUTPUT OF WAXED PAPER. IN U. S. EQUALS COMBINED WEIGHT OF 2 BATTLESHIPS, 2 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, 6 CRUISERS, 20 DESTROYERS, 20 SUBMARINES.



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**"GIVES YOU TEXAS"**

A cynic says, "Life isn't fair to us men. When we are born, our mothers get the compliments and the flowers. When we are married, our brides get the presents and the publicity. And when we die, our widows get the life insurance and the winters in Florida."

If only the other industries could have reconverted as promptly as the fireworks factories did!

Mark Twain once worked on a newspaper in a Nevada mining town and the readers ranked him as a humorist, below Dan DeQuille who today is remembered only because he once worked on the same paper with Mark Twain.

And Abraham Lincoln was once defeated for the Legislature—but nobody knows the name of the man who beat Lincoln.

The author of the following lines, entitled "Liquor and Longevity," is unknown but it is strongly suspected that he is not a member of the anti-saloon league:

The horse and the mule live 20 years  
And know nothing of wines and beers.  
The goat and the sheep at 20 die  
And never taste of scotch and rye.  
The cow drinks water by the ton  
And at 18 is almost done.  
The dog at 15 cashes in  
Without the aid of rum and gin.  
The cat in milk and water soaks  
And then at 12 short years it croaks.  
The modest, sober, bone-dry hen  
Lays eggs for nogs, then dies at 10  
All animals are strictly dry  
They sinless live and swiftly die.  
But sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men  
Survive for three score and ten.  
And some of us, though mighty few,

Stay pickled till we're 92.

My friend, John Gould, wrote in the Wichita Falls Daily Times:

There ought to be a symphony of Texas, wrought by one with the art and the affection to compose it, and he could put into it the howling of coyotes and the swish of the baffled sea against the granite wall at Galveston, and the tramp of marching feet and the industrious clatter of an oil rig and the bright music of a mockingbird singing in the rain, and the plaintive bellow of a newly-branded calf, and the crunch of Sam Houston's men gnawing raw corn after San Jacinto and the voices of children repeating the pledge to the flag, and the sound of an old hymn at a brush arbor revival and the whirr of airplanes, and the cry of a mamale vendor calling his wares to the passers-by.

You should know, too, the smells of Texas, the smells of saddle leather and chili and pine forests and sheep-dip and wild plum blossoms and gasoline and sweat.

But when you have learned all this, not yet will you know Texas as she would ask to be known. Not even her own sons and daughters know her as they should; not even they have caught all her nods and her mysteries, her shadings and her overtones.

But they know that there is something that draws men to her and makes them Texans partaking of her heritage. They know that wherever, under the flag, whether in Iceland or Rangoon, there is one called Tex, he is one of whom men know that he will not fail in the crucial hour.

Texas is a catalyst which works a change without itself being changed. It is a salute and a challenge. It is a prayer and a song. It is a land that one must love.

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday School 10:00 a. m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a. m.  
Subject: "Lillies and Sepulchures"  
Training Union 6:30 p. m.  
Worship Service 7:30 p. m.

Sunday is a new day of a new month. This last month there were 27 additions to the First Baptist Church—10 of those who came were for baptism.

Now, this is the first Sunday in April—let's make April a record month for the Kingdom's work.

Our goal is 150 in Sunday School—Will you be one of that 150?  
"We can if I will."

**Graveside rites for Infant**

Graveside rites were held here Thursday for the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Dearen. Rev. Ed. H. Lovelace officiated.

The baby was born Wednesday, March 6, at the Shannon hospital. It had been named Truda Gale.

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### Seniors Begin Work On Annual Play

Last week the Seniors of the local high school began work on their annual class play "Abigail Goes Haywire", a farce comedy in three acts by Richard Hill Wilkinson.

The seniors found that it was next to impossible to select a three-act play because there are only six members in the class. But with the help of two freshmen girls, Fern Garrett and LaVerne King, they feel that they will be able to present a very commendable piece of work. Evelyn Vernon, Senior Class sponsor, is director of the play.

In addition to the freshmen named above, the following seniors are cast in the play: Lora Mae Humble, Bonnie Ruth King, Billy Vern Davis, Norvin Brown, Joe David Crossno and Joseph Blaneck.

"Abigail Goes Haywire" is the story of three girls who bought a summer home and before long got into mortgage difficulties. As is life's habit there came into the picture three young men, as varied a group as ever one did see—a famous author, a carpenter, and a hilariously funny real estate agent. It's a jolly moving picture of "who's who" with first one case of mistaken identity, then another and finally a third. The couples, after an hour and a half of bantering fun, do pair off rightly, but not until Abigail goes haywire. A humorous colored housekeeper and a bewildered book publisher add many a laugh.

The seniors plan to present their play the night of April 25 at 8:15 in the school auditorium. Proceeds from the production will help finance a trip to Carlsbad Caverns the first week-end in May.

Mrs. R. A. Garrett returned to her home here last week-end after a stay in El Paso for a medical check-up.

Rubber Stamps at News-Record

### RUPTURE

SHIELD EXPERT HERE

H. M. SHEVNAN, widely known expert of Chicago, will personally be at the Cactus Hotel, San Angelo, Tuesday only, April 8, from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.

Mr. Shevnan says: The Zoetic shield is a tremendous improvement over all former methods, effecting immediate results. It will not only hold the rupture perfectly no matter the size or location but it will increase the circulation, strengthen the weakened parts, and thereby close the opening in ten days on the average case, regardless of heavy lifting, straining or any position the body may assume. A nationally known scientific method. No under straps or cumbersome arrangements and absolutely no medicines or medical treatments.

Mr. Shevnan will be glad to demonstrate without charge. 6509 N. Artesian Ave., Chicago 45 Large incisional hernia or rupture following surgical operation especially solicited.

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R. P. BROWN  
Consignee

### SLATONS DONATE BOOKS TO LIBRARY

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Slaton of San Angelo have donated three books to the Sterling Library. Two of the books are memorials and one is just a donation.

"Ernie Pyle" was given in memory of Mrs. Hank Davis. "When I Was a Child" was given in memory of Judge B. F. Brown. The other book donated was "Getting the Most Out of Life."

FOR SALE—One 9X12 wool rug. Can be seen at the Methodist parsonage.

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Mrs. Allie D. Scott, mother of Dearen and Dan Dearen went to Mrs. A. W. Dearen is seriously ill Athens last week to be with Mrs. at her home in Athens, Texas. Mrs. Scott.

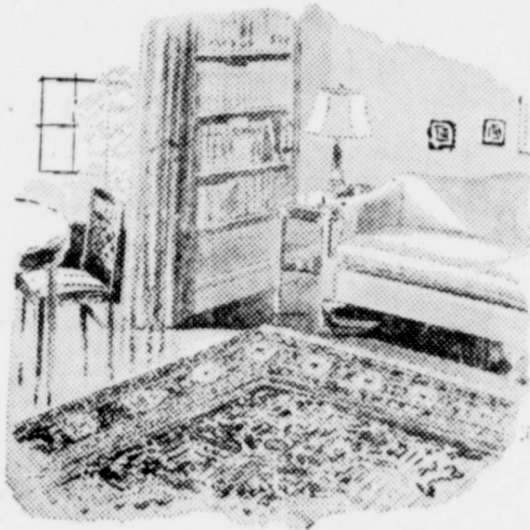
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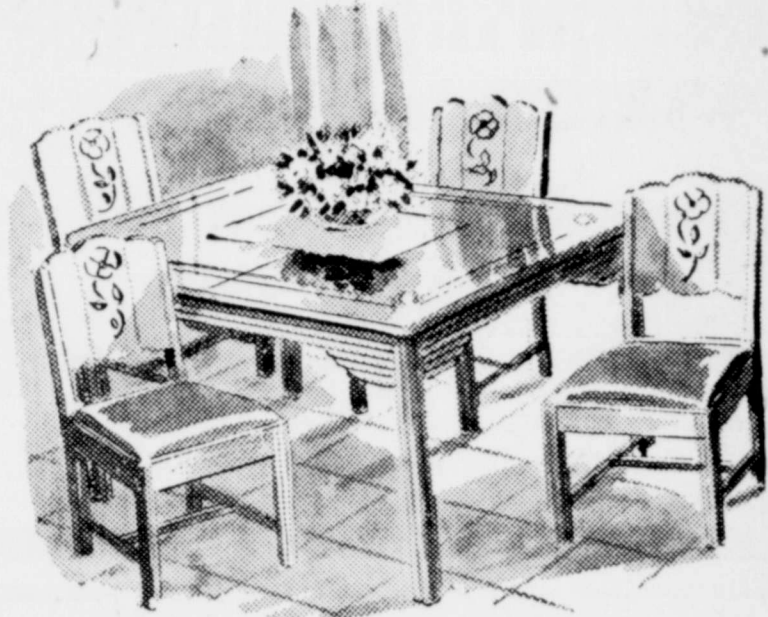
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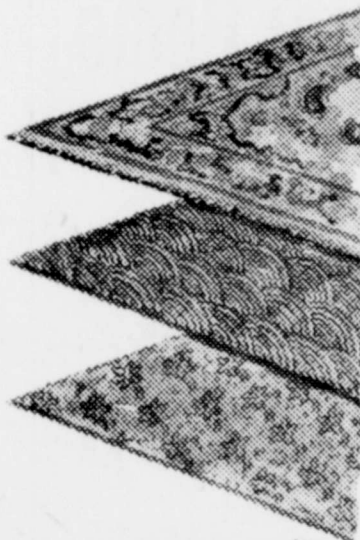
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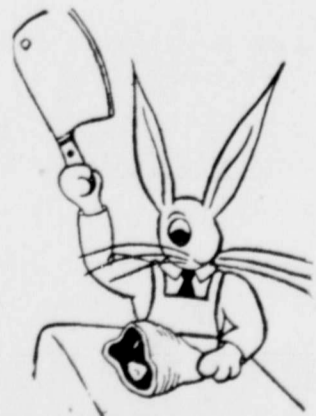
Rubber Stamps at the News-Record



- Marshmallows .. 19c
- Honey Butter ... 56c
- Wax Paper ..... 19c
- Bananas, 2 lbs. . . 25c

- FANCY WHOLE BEETS, No. 2 can ..... 23c
- WHITE SYRUP, 1/2 gallon ..... 49c
- CHEESE SPREAD, 5-oz. glass ..... 19c

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**FRESH MEATS**  
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## THE HISTORY OF STERLING COUNTY

By IRA L. WATKINS

(Continued from Last Week)  
The pioneers had their sorrows, struggles, hardships and privations; but they also had their pastimes and amusements. They had picnics, barbecues, and fish fries. They didn't have rodeos then, for the cowboys got all the riding and roping they wanted every day on the open range. Occasionally, after 1900, roping contestants would be held, but such a thing as a commercial rodeo was to come a long time later. Sometimes the young folks met (as they still do in some parts of the country) at a neighbor's house and played what is known as ring games. Some of these were "Old Joe Clark" and "Shoot the Buffalo". On Sundays, people would gather at neighbor's homes and have "singing". Perhaps the favorite amusement for old and young, rich and poor, was dancing. Dances, always given at ranch homes, lasted all night. People would come for miles around in wagons, buggies and on horseback. The whole family came; the smaller children would be put to bed on quilts spread on the floor. The older ones danced or looked on until sleep drove them to a pallet. Many young men escorted the girls on horseback. The girls all rode side-saddles then and every girl had a saddle horse. The guests enjoyed a midnight supper, after which dancing was resumed. Sometimes the food was placed on the table before the dance began and everyone could at any time he chose, eat, and as often as he chose, all night long. The musical instruments used were fiddle, guitar, and mandolin or banjo. Often an organ was added to the orchestra. They danced the four-section "Virginia Reel", the Waltz, the Schottische, the Heel and Toe Polka, and the square dance. One of the square dances, as called by Tom Blair, went like this:

Honor your partner and the lady on the left.  
Eight hands up and circle to the left.  
Break and walk back.  
Swing on a corner.  
Now you're partners and promenade eight.

First couple out.  
Right hands cross and how do you do.  
Left hand back and how are you. Swing 'em right and wrong.  
All night long is the same old song.

Now your partner and half promenade.  
Balance to your partner.  
Corner your left; partner your right.  
Round right and wrong.  
All night long is the same old song.

When you meet your partner swing 'em once and a half.  
Double the dose, kill or cure.  
When you meet your partner, swing and promenade.  
Swing ladies to the center; gents on the march.  
Round and round the little wheel goes; where we stop nobody knows.

Skip your partner; swing and pass 'em by.  
Swing and promenade.  
Balance to your partner.  
Corner with your left; partner with your right.  
Round right and wrong.  
Double the dose; kill or cure.  
Swing and promenade.

Second couple out.  
Right hand etc. ....  
Third couple etc. ....  
Fourth couple etc. ....

Ladies to their seats; gents outdoors.

Pioneer wedding ceremonies did not differ from those of today. It is not known whose was the first marriage within the present bounds of Sterling County while it was still a part of Tom Green County. However, after the county was organized, the first recorded marriage was that of Mr. J. P. Daily and Mrs. S. C. Mayshaw. The ceremony was performed by County Judge P. D. Coulson in Connally and McFarland's Grocery Store. The wedding was reported as follows by the STERLING COURIER: (48).  
Immediately after the ceremony

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Sterling City, Texas

was performed and before the couple left the floor, they indulged in a loving embrace greatly to the amusement of the crowd, who responded with enthusiastic cheers. A new broom from Mrs. Connally and a can of peaches from Mr. Connally made up the list of presents. The broom was presented with the following ceremony:

'In sunshine use the brushy part,  
'In storms, the other end.

Such was the life of the Sterling County pioneers in the period of early settlement from 1880 to 1890. This decade saw the county change from one controlled by a few cattle kings, who carried on ranching on a big scale, to a country pretty well filled with settlers who carried on cattle raising on a smaller scale. As soon as the great cattlemen saw that any effort to stem the tide of immigration would be futile, they became more amicable with the settlers, and soon the two were conducting their cattle businesses with a more genial attitude toward each other. After a short period in which the big cattleman and the settler operated side by side, most of the huge ranches were finally absorbed by the settlers. As settlers bought up the free ranges, the cattle kings had to diminish their operations. Under the land laws it was very hard for a big rancher to acquire vast holdings of land. The tax rolls of 1891 show that the E. C. Kellogg estate rendered for taxation only twelve sections of land but six thousand head of cattle. (49). Twelve sections of land will ordinarily graze from three hundred

and fifty to four hundred head of cattle. This information from the tax rolls shows that the big cattle companies did not own all of the land on which they ranged their cattle. When this free range was bought by settlers, the big cattlemen had to get rid of their giant herds, or else buy more land for themselves. Some of them became bankrupt. Only one of the four principal great ranges of early Sterling County remains. This is the U Range on the upper North Concho and it is greatly diminished in size from its original extent in the free range days.

Thus we see that the big cattlemen was finally, simply "choked" out by the settlement of the county. It did not all happen in the decade from 1880 to 1890. That period saw only the beginning of the cattle king's exit. It was perhaps 1900 before the county could be called a country of small ranchers.

This decade of the '80's also saw the introduction of the windmill to Sterling County. Coming in during the same period were the wire fence and the pure-bred Hereford cattle. These things were soon to produce drastic changes in the cattle industry of Sterling County. This period saw the county change from a virtual wilderness of the 70's to a region well enough populated for organization as a county by 1890.

48. THE STERLING COURIER, Dec. 3, 1891.  
49. STERLING COUNTY TAX ROLLS, 1891.

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Said plain on the 12th ( The file n ing No. 489. The name said suit ; joined pro f husband, C. tiffs, and Ma unknown he more, Arthur known heirs Austin Elli heirs of Aus Washington known heirs ton Elliott, ; The nature stantially as Suit to es tiff, Nora F. acres of lan the South p more Surve; 59, Certifica No. 416, Vo Texas (and of said surv and adjoins No. 13, S. I gether with interest in gas and oth under said ; that she an claiming goe the thereto, and under June 13, 19 possession t joring the same under enclose 500( aggregate), improvemen paying taxe crued and l have contin interruption date of filli Issued th 1947.

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JACK DOUTHIT, Publisher

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**CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS**

TO: Margaret Gilmore and the unknown heirs of Margaret Gilmore, Arthur G. Nason and the unknown heirs of Arthur G. Nason, Austin Elliott and the unknown heirs of Austin Elliott, and George Washington Elliott and the unknown heirs of George Washington Elliott, GREETING:

You are commanded to appear and answer the plaintiff's petition at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 28th day of April, A.D., 1947, at or before 10 o'clock A.M., before the Honorable District Court of Sterling County, at the Court House in Sterling City, Texas.

Said plaintiff's petition was filed on the 12th day of March, 1947.

The file number of said suit being No. 489.

The names of the parties in said suit are: Nora F. Coulson, joined pro forma herein by her husband, C. L. Coulson, as plaintiffs, and Margaret Gilmore and the unknown heirs of Margaret Gilmore, Arthur G. Nason and the unknown heirs of Arthur G. Nason, Austin Elliott and the unknown heirs of Austin Elliott, and George Washington Elliott and the unknown heirs of George Washington Elliott, as defendants.

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to-wit:

Suit to establish title of Plaintiff, Nora F. Coulson, in and to 37 acres of land, more or less, out of the South part of Margaret Gilmore Survey No. 1, Abstract No. 59, Certificate No. 1808, Patent No. 416, Vol. 35, Sterling County, Texas (and being all that portion of said survey which lies east of and adjoins Survey No. 13, Block No. 13, S. P. Ry. Co. Survey), together with an undivided one-half interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals, in, on and under said land, plaintiffs alleging that she and her privities in title, claiming good and perfect legal title thereto, of right, in good faith and under duly recorded Deed, on June 13, 1904, entered into actual possession thereof, using and enjoying the same, enclosing the same under fence (which did not enclose 5000 acres of land in the aggregate), erecting and placing improvements on the same, and paying taxes thereon as they accrued and before delinquency, and have continued to do so without interruption from June 13, 1904 to date of filing of this suit.

Issued this 12th day of March, 1947.

Given under my hand and seal of said Court, at office in Sterling City, Texas, this 12th day of March A.D., 1947.

(Seal) W.W. DURHAM, Clerk  
District Court, Sterling County, Texas.

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS**

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Said plaintiff's petition was filed on the 12th day of March, 1947. The file number of said suit being 488.

The names of the parties in said suit are: Rufus W. Foster and T. Foster, as Plaintiffs and Margaret Gilmore and the unknown heirs of Margaret Gilmore, Arthur G. Nason and the unknown heirs of

Arthur G. Nason, Austin Elliott and the unknown heirs of Austin Elliott, and George Washington Elliott and the unknown heirs of George Washington Elliott, as Defendants.

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to-wit:

Suit to establish title of Plaintiffs in and to 73 acres of land, more or less, out of the north part of Margaret Gilmore Survey No.1, Abstract No. 59, Certificate No. 1808, Patent No. 416, Vol. 35, Sterling County, Texas, together with an undivided one-half interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals, in, on and under said land, plaintiffs alleging that they and their privity in title, claiming good and perfect legal title thereto of right, in good faith and under duly recorded and adverse possession thereof, using and enjoying the same, enclosing the same under fence (which did not enclose 5000 acres of land in the aggregate) erecting and placing improvements on the same, and paying taxes thereon as they accrued and before delinquency, and have continued to do so without interruption form June 13, 1904 to date of filing of this suit.

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(Seal) W.W. DURHAM, Clerk  
District Court, Sterling County, Texas.

**BAKE SALE SATURDAY**

The Wimodausis Club is sponsoring a bake sale Saturday afternoon of this week in the lobby of the Palace Theatre, reminded Mrs. Fowler McEntire this week. Buy your Easter pies and cakes from the club here Saturday.

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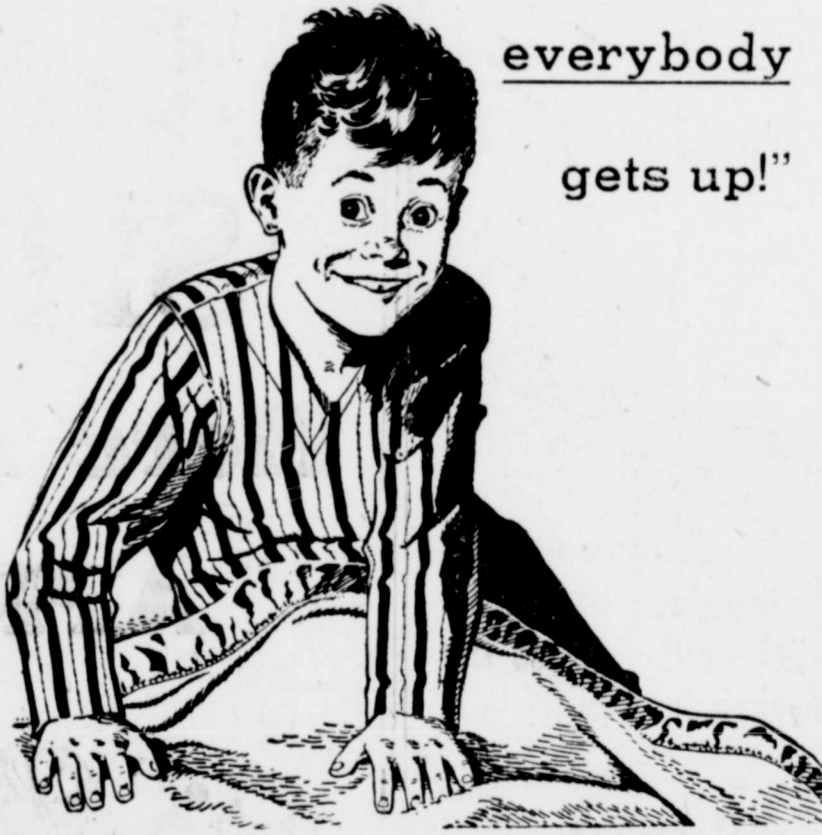
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### SWING OF SOUTHWEST FARM MARKETS

By United States Department of Agriculture

Numerous weak spots appeared at southwest livestock, fruit and vegetables markets last week, according to the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Other farm products registered net increases for the period.

Cotton scored net gains of around \$1.00 per bale after early advances partly melted later in the week. Spot activity slackened, as normal offerings found only moderate demand. Cool nights hindered new crop growth in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Grain markets ran the gamut of recent price ranges, as erratic trade first snapped up, later backed off from scanty offerings of very dear wheat, corn, and sorghums. Friday's close quoted mostly net inflations of 2 to 27 cents, but wheat lost 2 cents in the week's melee.

Rice remained firm. Scattered carlots arrived in consuming areas, and some moved to Cuba. Some feeds advanced. Meat scraps went up \$5 to \$10 per ton and bran and shorts \$1 to \$2. Unsatisfied demand for prairie hay resulted in higher prices, while poorer qualities alfalfa also improved. Limited

supply of peanuts found active demand.

New potato loadings increased in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Cabbage strengthened early but weakened later on. Carrot sales dragged; and Winter Garden spinach fell much lower. Citrus fruits moved slower with little price change. Some south Texas onions arrived at Fort Worth, where Texas green beans sold around \$8.00 per bushel. Trading on farmer's items slowed at Denver, with onions dull, and parsnips barely steady at \$1.50 per bushel. Sweet potatoes weakened slightly in southern Louisiana.

Egg and poultry prices saw very little change last week. More hens and roosters moved to market to augment an adequate supply of fryers and broilers. Eggs came in freely too, but demand held up well for both eggs and poultry.

Wool interest centered in well grown good staple finewools which found a ready market after being graded. Most sales this week consisted of revalued 1943 and 1944 Texas wools of fine staple 12-months growth at \$1.00 to \$1.01 per pound clean basis.

Weakness appeared in cows at most southwest markets and in other classes here and there. Bulk of medium and good slaughter steers and yearlings moved at \$17 to \$23.50 at Fort Worth; and \$19 to \$22.50 at Oklahoma City and Wichita. Common to medium kinds brought \$13 to \$17.50 at Houston; and medium light yearlings \$18.50 to \$21.50 at San Antonio. Denver sold medium to low choice steers at \$20 to \$25.35.

Lambs lost mostly 25 cents at Wichita; old crop lambs dropped 50 cents at Oklahoma City; and feeder lambs fell 50 cents or more at San Antonio. Other classes of sheep and lambs fully held their own last week. Spring lambs averaged \$22 at San Antonio; \$18 to \$23.50 at Fort Worth; and \$23 to \$23.50 at Wichita.

Hogs slipped down mostly \$1.00 to \$1.25 last week. Closing bulk of good and choice butchers brought \$24.50 at Fort Worth; while closing top price was \$22.50 at Oklahoma City; and \$25.75 at Wichita. Week's top at San Antonio was \$25.

### SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS COLUMN

As a part of his complete soil conservation program Lester Foster plans to build seven water spreading systems on his Glasscock County ranch this spring. These spreader dams and terraces will add extra water to 840 acres of range land.

Ten road blocks, three spreader dams and a number of diversions for the control of accelerated gully erosion were constructed with a bulldozer in W. N. & L. R. Reed's River Pasture last week. Numerous other small diversions and spreader dams are planned for construction on the north part of the ranch in the near future. Many overfalls in small gullies are of such nature that a number of years would be required for revegetation without the aid of mechanical practices. The diversions and dams not only give the grass a chance to spread over barren areas thus stopping further soil loss but divert runoff water onto range land where it is used for grass production.

Tommy Foster states that sheep in his Askey pasture are "rolling fat". This pasture has been deferred for several years during the growing season and stocked lightly with cattle during the remainder of the year for the purpose of giving the grass an opportunity to reduce bitterweed infestation. Bitterweed has been largely reduced to a few problem areas such as old waterings and bed grounds and the grasses and good weeds have increased to the extent that sheep have been grazed all this winter without supplemental feed and are "so fat that they are round". Deferral of this pasture has not only reduced bitterweed below the problem stage, but has built up a grass reserve for use following extreme drought years such as the North Concho River Soil Conservation District experienced in 1946.

FOR SALE—One 9X12 wool rug. Can be seen at the Methodist parsonage.

### HOSPITALITY

#### WHEN'S THE MEETIN'?

April 8—A. F. & A. M., Sterling Chapter  
 April 9—Wimodausis Club  
 April 10—Sesame Club  
 April 10—Parent-Teacher Association  
 April 15—Order of the Eastern Star  
 Every Wednesday—Lions Club

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