

# STERLING CITY NEWS-RECORD

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AROUND  
THE  
COUNTY  
by



ARTHUR BARLEMANN, JR. COUNTY AGENT

Girls and boys who are interested in participating in the Tom Green County Western Fun Day can pick up more information and entry blanks at the county agent's office here. The Tom Green agents have supplied us with this information for those who might be interested. The date of the event is Saturday, May 20 at the San Angelo Fairgrounds. Entries are due not later than May 12.

Events scheduled are various types of roping, barrel racing, flag racing, pig sacking, goat sacking, and several other events. The age groups are 4 years old and under with a boot scramble only, 5 to 8 years, 9 to 13, and 14 to 19.

Entrants do not have to be 4-H club members to participate. Any girl or boy may enter.

There are large numbers of pillbugs, or sowbugs if you prefer, appearing now. Snails have also been found in large numbers in some locations around town and homeowners are asking about controlling these pests.

The pillbugs can be controlled with either dusts or sprays; recommended dusts are Sevin, chlordane, or lindane while sprays containing Sevin are recommended. The dusts and spray can be applied to the feeding areas. Usually, these areas are under lumber piles, near the side of the house, or under flower pots or pans.

Snails can be controlled with dusts or sprays containing Sevin, or with commercially prepared baits containing metaldehyde. The dusts or sprays should be applied to feeding area which will be similar to those for sowbugs or pillbugs. Baits for snails should be put out either in the early morning hours or late evening hours.

Persons who were planning on aerial spraying mesquite this year should take a close look at their individual situations before making contacts regarding the application. At the present time, the situation is far from favorable due to the late freeze which has killed the foliage on most of the mesquite in this area. A few areas, especially hilltops, escaped damage.

In view of the situation due to the freeze and the fact that the trees are slow to put out more foliage coupled with the drought conditions, spraying might best be postponed. The county ASCS committee has postponed taking applications for assistance on this program; they will decide on May 5 whether or not applications will be taken.

It might be well to consider two-way chaining this year in place of the spraying. There is a big IF involved here also: If moisture conditions become more favorable later this year whereby the mesquites will pull up when chained.

## Baptist Youth Meeting

The 'Jackets for Jesus', an athletic group from Howard Payne College of Brownwood, will be at the First Baptist Church here this weekend, April 22-23. They will be in charge of a youth fellowship at the Charlie Davis home on Saturday night. The youth are to meet at the Baptist Church

## HOSPITAL NOTES

Patients in the Sterling County Hospital on Thursday morning of this week include: Alton Humble  
Mrs. Mattie Meyer  
Dismissals since Thursday morning of last week include: Mrs. Aaron Clark  
Mrs. Foster Ditmore and infant son, Dewayne Michael, born April 16  
Haze Taylor  
Patients in the Sterling County Nursing Home on Thursday morning of this week were: Mrs. Cliff Carpenter  
Mrs. Lucy Norman  
Mrs. Lilly Revell  
Mrs. Henry Merrell  
B. O. Bailey  
Mud Allen  
Larkin Longshore  
Mrs. Allie Foster  
Earnest Turner  
Mrs. J. E. Bynum  
Estes Orange  
Mrs. Larkin Longshore  
Mrs. Joseph (Sybil) Miller  
Mrs. Henrietta Long  
W. J. Williams  
Mrs. John Lane  
Mrs. Robbie Grace  
Mrs. Eliza Dolan  
W. R. Morgan

## Nursing Home News Column

**Surprise Party**  
Sponsored by the FHA girls and Mrs. Early Barton, sponsor, an Easter party was held in the home. An Easter Parade was sponsored by Mrs. Raymond Thomas Foster and Mrs. Worth B. Durham. Patients made Easter hats from aluminum foil pie pans, old flowers and ribbons. L.W. Longshore and E.L. Turner got surprises. Mrs. J. A. Revell was first prize hat winner with Mrs. Sybil Miller second. Rabbit cookies and drinks were served.

A birthday party for Betty Carpenter was held on April 8. In charge was Mrs. Larry Glass and visitors from the Methodist meeting—with the Tom Asbills and C.A. Tuckers leading the group.

A party for Ernest L. Turner was given on April 15—with leaders being Mrs. Johnnie Donaldson, Mrs. L.C. Alexander and Judy Copeland.

Mrs. Eliza Dolan will be 97 on the 20th (Thursday). A lot of Water Valley people are coming to her party. Although confined to a wheel chair, she has a fantastic memory and keeps up with current events and the news.

A large crowd was present at the last meeting of the Volunteer Service League. The League voted to buy TV tables for each person to use. Hobbies and crafts for the patients to engage in were discussed; and the FHA girls are planning to help in establishing such a program.

It is thought that such a program of crafts could be started and the things sold in bazaars periodically.

at 7 p.m. and go together out to the Davis home.

This youth group will also be in charge of both morning and evening services on Sunday. Everyone is to bring their food and eat dinner together in the church basement. Those that come from Brownwood Saturday will be staying in homes provided and all will leave after the evening service Sunday.

## LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club met at noon Wednesday in the community center. Guests present were Sgt. Eddie Boyd of San Angelo, Herb Edwards, R.T. Caperton, Lynn Rich and Bobby Myrick.

It was announced that the annual ladies night and introduction of the new officers would be held here on the 18th of May at 7:30 in the community center.

The club voted to sponsor the Little League program in Sterling and the baseball association will manage and operate the program.

Lion Jack Peel made the report of the baseball association and gave particulars. The Little League play on Tuesday and Friday nights. The Pee Wee team will play six games a year, three at home and three away. The Pony League team will play on Monday and Saturday nights—as well as the men's softball team.

The Little League season is to open on May 2 with the Astros playing here and the Giants playing in Robert Lee.

Dan Glass said that the city council had decided on numbering for houses in Sterling and more street signs had arrived for erection.

## Heavy Showers Fall Wednesday

Starting about 4:30 Wednesday afternoon heavy, pelting rains blew in with a cold or cool western front. Some hail was in the rain, but not damaging.

Severe weather alerts were out for this area and some anxious heads kept peeking out to the north and west.

On Tuesday, power coming into Sterling City from the Texas Electric Service Company at Colorado City, had a break and Sterling City was without power for 15 minutes that afternoon.

## Daughter to the Troy Murrells

A daughter, named Kathren Elizabeth, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Troy Murrell in Austin on April 18. The baby weighed seven pounds and seven ounces.

'Papa' Troy is a student in the University of Texas Law School. This is the first child of the couple.

Grandparents of the new baby are Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Murrell of Sterling City, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Jackson of San Antonio. Great grandparents are Mrs. T. H. Murrell of Sweetwater and Mr. Ingle of San Antonio.

## Texas Tech Rodeo FIVE STERLING STUDENTS IN TEXAS TECH RODEO ASSOCIATION

Texts Tech Rodeo Association President, Jesse Swagerly, has announced that the Sterling City area has 5 members in the Rodeo Association. These members include Frank Price, Bethany Wells, Mackey McEntire, Pam McEntire and Jaynell Bodine.

The rodeo club members are working on preparations for Tech's Intercollegiate Rodeo to be held April 20-22 in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. Performances will be at 8:00 p.m. each evening. Celebrity for this year's rodeo is Ken Curtis, Festus of Gunsmoke. The club will also be sponsoring dances at the National Guard Armory both Friday and Saturday nights.

There will also be an al-

## LITTLE LEAGUE SET-UP AND SCHEDULES

Colorado River Little League Baseball Schedule for 1972

**OFFICERS—**  
Kenneth Peel, President, P. O. Box 693, Sterling City  
J.D. Mumford, vice president P.O. Box 194, Robert Lee  
Winnie Waldrop, secretary-treasurer, P.O. Box 145, Robert Lee

**MANAGERS—**  
Ronnie Baker, CARDINALS, Box 289, Robert Lee  
Glenn Womack, INDIANS, Box 288, Robert Lee  
Bill Jackson, YANKEES, Rt. 1 Box 31, Bronte  
Lynn Rich, ASTROS, Box 543, Sterling City  
Clifford Stephens, GIANTS, Box 701 Sterling City  
T.R. Bullard, METS, Box 384, Carlsbad.

**SCHEDULE —** (Team listed first denotes home team)

**MAY 2**  
Cardinals—Giants  
Astros—Indians  
Yankees—Mets  
MAY 5  
Giants—Indians  
Cardinals—Mets  
Yankees—Astros  
MAY 9  
Mets—Giants  
Indians—Yankees  
Astros—Cardinals  
MAY 12  
Giants—Yankees  
Mets—Astros  
Cardinals—Indians  
MAY 16  
Astros—Giants  
Yankees—Cardinals  
Indians—Mets  
MAY 19  
Giants—Cardinals  
Indians—Astros  
Mets—Yankees  
MAY 23  
Indians—Giants  
Mets—Cardinals  
Astros—Yankees  
MAY 26  
Giants—Mets  
Yankees—Indians  
Cardinals—Astros  
MAY 30  
Yankees—Giants  
Astros—Mets  
Indians—Cardinals  
JUNE 2  
Giants—Astros  
Cardinals—Yankees  
Mets—Indians  
JUNE 6  
Cardinals—Giants  
Astros—Indians  
Yankees—Mets  
JUNE 9  
Giants—Indians  
Cardinals—Mets  
Yankees—Astros  
JUNE 13  
Mets—Giants  
Indians—Yankees  
Astros—Cardinals  
JUNE 16  
Giants—Yankees  
Mets—Astros  
Cardinals—Indians  
JUNE 20  
Astros—Giants  
Yankees—Cardinals  
Indians—Mets

## NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS OF BALL PLAYERS

Jack Peel, president of the Sterling Lions Baseball Association, is asking that all parents of all boys that will play in Little League Pee Wee and Pony League to meet at the community center at 7:30 on Tuesday, April 25. He said he wanted to acquaint them with the new set up tying the local league with the Lions Club.

umni reception beginning at 6 p.m. each evening of the rodeo at the Villa Inn.

Tickets for the rodeo are \$4, \$3, and 2.25 for reserved seats and \$1.50 general admission. These may be purchased by writing the Hub Lions Club, Box 4459, Tech Station, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

## A GIFT OF LIFE

Your contribution to the American Cancer Society in memory of your loved one will help support a program dedicated to the conquest of cancer. Your memorial gift will not only do honor to the dead. It could help provide a gift of life.

Memorial gift funds may be sent to your local American Cancer Society office.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

## Donkey Ball Game Here April 28

The senior class of Sterling High School is sponsoring a donkey basketball game here at the school gym on April 28 at 7:30 p.m.

There are 500 tickets available and there are to be sold in advance, said class sponsor Milford Wiley.

Adult tickets will cost \$1, students 50c and children 25c.

## SCHOOL LUNCH ROOM MENUS

(All Type A lunches served with 1/2 pint milk, bread and butter)

### LUNCHES

**MONDAY, APRIL 24**  
Chicken Fried Steak  
Pilaf and Cheese  
Blackeyed Peas  
Cookies  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 25**  
Meat Loaf  
Beets  
Potatoes  
Apple Crisp  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**  
Tamales  
Pinto Beans  
Cole Slaw  
Fruit Jello  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 27**  
Sloppy Joes  
Pork and Beans  
French Fries  
Peaches  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**  
Ham  
Sweet Potatoes  
Sweet Peas  
Cookies

### BREAKFASTS

**MONDAY, APRIL 24**  
Scrambled Egg  
Juice  
Biscuits  
Milk  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 25**  
Doughnuts  
Peaches  
Milk  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**  
Luncheon Meat  
Eggs  
Biscuits  
Grape Juice  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 27**  
Waffles  
Milk  
Grapefruit Sections  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**  
Rice  
Biscuits  
Apricots

## FHA News Column

**FHA GIRLS TO STATE MEETING**  
The Sterling City Future Homemakers of America will attend the state meet in Fort Worth this weekend. Sherri Blank, president-elect of the local chapter will be the voting delegate at the meet.

Lisa Horwood has been selected to sing with 7 other girls in a choir.

Adults accompanying the girls will be Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Barton, Mrs. Joseph Blank and Mrs. Stan Horwood.

## Three High Schoolers to Regional Meet IN LUBBOCK THIS WEEK END

Three Sterling City students will compete in the Regional UIL contests at Lubbock this weekend. Two are in literary events and one in athletic.

David Gaston will compete in high jump. He placed first in that athletic event in district competition last weekend in Forsan. He jumped 5 feet and 10 inches.

Allen Price will compete in ready writing at Lubbock. He placed second in that literary event last weekend in Forsan.

Clark Kilpatrick will compete in number sense. He had placed second in that event at Forsan last weekend.

The one act play from Sterling placed sixth last weekend but Debbie Hopkins was named to the all star cast and Lisa Horwood got honorable mention for the all-star cast.

## Mitchel-Davis Wedding in Angelo

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Becknell was the setting for the wedding of Miss Loyce Yvonne Mitchel and Douglas Eugene Davis. The Rev. Loy Mitchel officiated at the double ring ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Rev. and Mrs. Loy Mitchel of San Angelo and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Davis of Ozona.

Maid of honor was Miss Sallie Mitchel, sister of the bride. Best man was Kenneth Davis, brother of the groom. Randy Mitchel, brother of the bride, ushered.

The bride was given in marriage by her grandfather, Doc Daves of Sterling City.

In the houseparty were Mrs. Charles Daves of Odessa and Miss Debbie Rudder of San Angelo.

Following a short wedding trip the couple will make their home in San Angelo.

## New PTA Officers Installed

The Sterling PTA met Monday evening in the school auditorium. Officers for next year were installed and Chesley McDonald spoke on HUMAN RELATIONS. Mrs. McDonald acted as installing officer.

Mrs. Adele Fleming's one-act play students presented the play that they had presented in district competition. The tenth grade got the room count prize.

The officers installed were as follows:

Mrs. Jerrie Wylie, president  
Mrs. Wanda Foster, 1st v.-p.  
Mrs. Diane Blackburn, 2nd  
Mrs. Nona Gay Hopkins, 3rd  
Mrs. Gail Hughes, secretary  
Mrs. Virginia Stephens, trea.  
Mrs. Hugh Lackey, parliamentarian  
Mrs. Merle Thompson, hist.  
Mrs. Joyce Salvato, music  
Bobby Dodds, publicity.  
Mrs. Celia Ruth Colvert has been president this year.



**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES**

Notice is hereby given, that Meteorology Research, Inc., 464 West Woodbury Road, Altadena, Calif. 91001 (State of Texas Weather Modification License No. 72-3), intends to engage in an operation to change or attempt to change by artificial methods the natural development of any and all atmospheric cloud forms or precipitation forms which occur in the troposphere, for and on behalf of the Texas Water Development Board located at P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711, and will conduct a program of weather modification involving research, development, and associated investigations in atmospheric water resources leading to application of practical procedures for beneficially managing precipitation in Texas and other Southern Plains and Gulf States areas as follows:

1. Area in which equipment will be operated; In the vicinity of San Angelo, Texas, within the area bounded by Ballinger westward along State Highway 158 to the west boundary of Glasscock County; thence southward to the southwest corner of Reagan County; thence southeastward to the southeast corner of Crockett County; thence eastward to the southeast corner of Sutton County; thence northward to Menard County, then along the south and east boundaries of Menard County; thence northeast to Brady, and along Highway 283 to the Colorado River; thence northwest along the river to Ballinger. The area includes portions of the counties of Runnels, Coke, Sterling, Glasscock, Reagan, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, Menard, Schleicher, Crockett, and Sutton.

2. The primary target area will be: Concho River Drainage.

3. The areas adjacent to target area which may be subject to effects of the operation are: Those lying within 25 miles of the operating area described above.

4. The materials and methods to be used in conducting the operation are: A ground network consisting of rain-gages, a weather radar, and a radiosonde set for taking upper-level atmospheric measurements; a cloud seeding aircraft equipped with pyrotechnic racks and silver iodide flares for below-cloud seeding, and a dispenser for seeding small quantities of hygroscopic materials below smaller clouds; and additional instrumented research aircraft for making meteorological measurements in clouds.

The operation will extend during the period beginning about 1 June 1972 and ending about 1 August 1972.

Individuals who consider that their interests will be adversely affected by the operation proposed in this Notice of Intention may communicate their objections for consideration to:

Weather Modification Activities Coordinator  
Texas Water Development Board  
P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711.  
METEOROLOGY RESEARCH INC.

Dated 4 April 1971  
(Signed) Theodore B. Smith  
Vice President, Research

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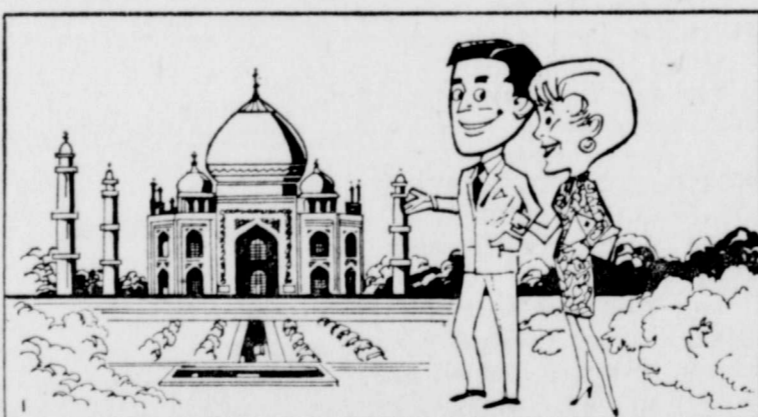
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BIG SPRING, TEXAS

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given by the Parks and Wildlife Department that a public hearing will be held at 8:00 p.m. on May 3, 1972 at the County Courthouse at Sterling City for the purpose of gathering information concerning proposed hunting, fishing and-or trapping regulations for the above-named county.

As the result of action of the Texas Legislature, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission is responsible for the setting of season, bag limits, and means and methods of taking the wildlife resources in Sterling County. All interested persons are urged to attend and comment upon the proposed regulations.

**LIONS CRIPPLED CHILDRENS' CAMP**

Members of Lions Clubs throughout Texas this month are pausing to pay recognition to their camp for crippled children which has given over 12 thousand handicapped youngsters a new dimension since it was opened in 1953.

The camp, located at Kerrville in the Hill Country of Central Texas, is free to crippled, blind, deaf or mute children from the ages of seven through sixteen. The 17 permanent buildings and other improvements dotting the 504-hill-side acres represent an investment of more than \$700,000.

At the camp, these youngsters who have been denied a normal childhood through no fault of their own learn to shed their shyness imposed by their handicaps. By mutual association with other handicapped children and by skillful and gentle counseling, these youngsters have found the freedom to grow, mentally and spiritually, into useful citizens of tomorrow.

While the Lions are paying tribute to their camp, we would like to pay tribute to the Lions and their friends who have supported this great venture of the heart. We know a man never stands so straight as when he stoops to help a crippled child.

**Highway Work for Sterling Scheduled**

The Texas Highway Commission, in their March meeting in Austin, approved the 1973-1974 Consolidated Highway Program.

J. A. Snell, District Engineer of San Angelo, stated that the new program provides funds totaling \$4,400,000 for purchase of right of way and construction of new projects in District 7, as well as additional finance for projects already approved.

A project in Sterling County that is included in this program is described as follows:

Purchase right of way and construct grading, structures and surfacing on State 158, from Coke County line, west a distance of 6.4 miles. Estimated cost—\$488,000.

**ADOPTION OR ABORTION!**

Adoption or abortion? Is there a choice? Unmarried mothers do have a choice—Today The Smithlawn Maternity Home of Lubbock extends a compassionate hand to the young lady who wants to take advantage of their confidential maternity care and know that her baby will be adopted into a solid Christian home.

The Smithlawn Maternity Home has cared for more than 600 unwed mothers and the adoption of their babies in the past decade.

Texas oil and gas dollars paid for 22.7% of State cost of public education; 52.1% of State cost of teacher retirement.

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- Preston Smith helped establish more new state colleges and universities than all previous governors combined.
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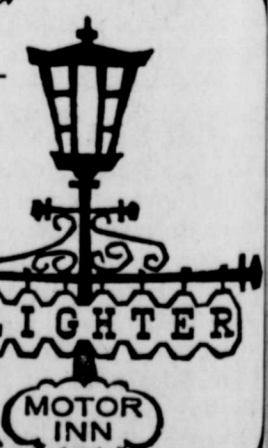
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STERLING CITY, TEXAS, APRIL, 1972

STERLING COUNTY NOW 80 YEARS OLD

## Area Has Interesting History

### Chapter I

#### The Spanish-Indian Period

Long before the coming of the white man to West Texas, that part of the country which is now Sterling County was a favorite hunting ground of the American Indian.

He roamed this area, unaware of the lighter complexioned people of other continents whose materialistic ambitions were later to bring about such a great change in the life of the red man. This change in the American Indian's world began with the coming of the Spanish explorers and missionaries to the New World in the early part of the sixteenth century.

From 1535 when Cabeza de Vaca was stranded on the Texas coast until nearly three hundred years later, the history of West Texas is, to a great degree, the story of the relations between the Spaniards and the Indians.

Among the Indian tribes which have roamed and camped on Sterling soil are the Lipans, Kickapoos, Kowas, and Comanches. It is believed by some that the Wichitas also lived in this area before the coming of the Spaniards.

The Lipans and Kickapoos roamed the valleys of the Colorado, San Saba, and Concho Rivers. The native home of the Kickapoos was somewhere east of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, but when the Anglo-Saxons began to settle that region these Indians were pushed west and southwest into Texas.

The Lipans were, at first, friendly with the white man of West Texas but became his enemies when their chief, Flacco, was murdered by a white man. As long as the Lipans were on friendly terms with the white man, they aided the latter in his conflicts with the hostile Comanches of Texas.

This enmity and intermittent warfare between Lipan and Comanche was ended by a peace treaty in 1845. The Kickapoos were at times friendly with the Comanches and at other times made war on

them. They possessed guns obtained from Arkansas River traders. The Comanches feared and respected these Kickapoo guns and as a rule tried to avoid trouble with that tribe.

The Comanches came to Texas from the northwest. When the white settlers began to move into the upper Mississippi Valley, they pushed the Sioux Indians out of that country into the area of the State of Colorado.

The Sioux, in turn, pushed the Comanches out of that section down into Northwest Texas. The Comanches then took up, as their main range, the headwaters of the Canadian, Arkansas, Brazos, and Colorado Rivers.

Sterling County was in an area which roughly marks the southern edge of Lipan and Kickapoo ranges. Apparently no great number of Comanches ever hunted farther south than the North Concho River.

The Kiowas originated in the North Yellowstone Country and drifted south into the Panhandle of Texas. In Texas the Kiowas and Comanches clashed and the two tribes warred many years, until about 1790 when they made peace. The Kiowas drifted farther south than the Panhandle — at least as far south as the Concho Rivers.

The names of two tributaries in the Concho River System bear witness to the presence of two Indian tribes in this section in early days. Kiowa Creek, which heads in south Sterling County, is a tributary to the Middle Concho, and Kickapoo Creek is a tributary to the South Concho. Also, near the city of San Angelo is to be found a section of the country known as Lipan Flats.

Thus it seems that Indians from the four above mentioned tribes, Lipans, Kickapoos, Kiowas, and Comanches, have roamed and hunted at one time or another on Sterling County soil. Whether they shared the North Concho hunting grounds or whether each tribe occupied it at different times is a matter of conjecture. Perhaps when tribes were on friendly terms

**Editor's Note:** This history of Sterling County was written by I. L. Watkins. Some parts had to be omitted because of space shortage.

they shared it and when on unfriendly terms, the stronger tribe claimed it.

If the arrow heads which Sterling County boys pick up could speak, or if Tower Hill could suddenly find a way of releasing its secrets, no doubt we would stand amazed at stories of a culture and a civilization which prevailed on the very ground where we walk every day. That civilization is gone, and only in our imagination can we reconstruct the drama that was enacted in what is now our own back yard.

Interesting Indian remains have been found in Sterling County. About fourteen miles south of Sterling City is Dripping Spring, which in recent years has ceased to flow. At this place are to be found signs which indicate that the spot was once a favorite camping ground of the Indian. On one rock is found two smoothly rounded out holes which appear to have been used as mortars in which the Indians ground their corn. Numerous arrow points and flint chips in the vicinity indicate that arrows were once manufactured here.

Another interesting landmark yielding remains is Tower Hill, located about five miles south of Sterling City. This hill is mentioned in the field notes of an early land survey of the area in 1858. It was a fortified hill, the fortifications being intact when the first settlers came to the Sterling Country. It is easily accessible only from the west side, the east side being somewhat precipitous. The hill was, therefore, easy to defend. No one knows when or by whom the hill was named or when or by whom it was fortified. It is supposed, from the type of fortification (rock walls with loop holes to fire through) that it was fortified by white men.

If that were so, it possibly could have been fortified by soldiers from Fort Chadbourne, which was established in 1852, or by soldiers from some other army outpost. Also, it is possible that the Texas Rangers could have fortified it. There have been found old bullets and old bullet marks on the rocks of the hill and also about a dozen old gun barrels of the cap-and-ball type. There are all indications of a battle or battles at this place.

About the year 1920, W. F. and Tom Kellis dug up a skeleton, supposed to have been that of a Comanche chief, who had been buried in a small cave on the east side of the hill near the top. The skull was enveloped in a beaded mantle, the cap piece of which was a silver cup with this inscription on its pedestal: "T. Warner — STER — for the best Carlyle Colt 1830."

A totem in the form of a crouching bear, made of red pipestone, has been identified as a Comanche totem. Four finger rings of brass, a nose ring of six karat gold, four brass ankle rings, a silver ornament made of a Spanish dollar, and numerous loose beads were among the remains. A bullet was taken from a hole in the base of the skull.

It showed the "neck" of the mold and the rifling marks on the bullet. Doubtless, the Indian was killed by this bullet which apparently was fired from a "Navy Six" Colt revolver of the cap-and-ball type. The bullet used in this type of gun came into use in 1846 and was replaced by the brass cartridge in 1870. This would indicate that the Indian was killed sometime between 1846 and the time settlers began to come in.

Indian possession of West Texans lands was disturbed by the coming of the white man, the first of whom were the Spanish explorers. There is no record of the first Spaniards to set foot on Sterling County soil. Cabeza de Vaca was likely the first white man in West Texas, having been stranded on the Texas Coast in 1535. On his route to Mexico, he passed through the Western part of the

state, but it seems that he did not come as far north as the Concho Rivers.

For the next two hundred years after 1535, many Spanish exploring expeditions crossed and recrossed West Texas and very likely, many of them traversed Sterling County territory. In 1540, Coronado crossed West Texas in his search for the Gran Quivira, a rich and populous Indian district. Juan de Onate in 1601, who was searching for the Seven Cities of Cibola, crossed the buffalo plains. Juan de Salas, between the years 1611 and 1629, led an expedition into the vicinity of Fort Belknap.

Penalosa in 1662 went into the Quivira country, traveling from New Mexico through the heart of West Texas and the plains. Spanish explorers who very likely crossed Sterling County were Castillo in 1650 and Guodalajara in 1654. They reported to have come across the plains in a southeasterly direction from New Mexico, passing near Big Spring and on across Sterling County.

One significant witness to early Spanish occupation of Sterling County and vicinity is the name which the Concho River bears. It is the Spanish word for "shell" and no doubt the river was named by the Spaniards themselves, but just when it was named, no one can be sure. One account says that Coronado on his expedition through Texas in 1540 mentions a river which he calls the "Middle Fork Concho", because of the presence of an unusual number of large shells, some of which contained pearls.

A second account relates that two Franciscan fathers visited the Conchos in 1850. They were on their way from El Paso to visit East Texas Indians. A map in the General Archives at Mexico City shows two rivers which the padres are supposed to have named. The north one they called Rio Concho or River of Shells and the south one they called Rio Perla or River of Pearls.

Still a third account tells us that about 1581, the Spanish missionaries of the vicinity of

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PAGE 2 STERLING CITY NEWS-RECORD

## Spaniards Explored Area

the present town of Presidio were told by the Indians that there were abundant fish and game and many pearls on a river "twenty sleeps" to the east. Guided by the Indians, the missionaries fitted out a searching expedition and sent it eastward to find the coveted pearls. Legend has it that after crossing the Llano Estacado, the expedition struck the waters of the North Concho at a point near the place where the U ranch headquarters now stand. They found fish and game in plenty and pearls beyond their expectations. They explored the three tributaries of the Concho and called the south fork Rio Perla del Sur or South River of Pearls. They called the middle fork Rio Perladel Media, or Middle River of Pearls, and the north Concho, they called Rio Perla del Norte, or North River of Pearls. Afterwards, other Spanish explorers changed the names to North, South, and

Middle Concho Rivers because of the super-abundance of shells in the streams. From these accounts, one would conclude that there is little doubt that the Spanish named the Concho River, and that this stream was familiar to not a few of West Texas' early Spanish visitors. In all the Spanish occupancy of Sterling County it appears that they were after all, only visitors. Any effort on the part of the padres to establish missions in the Concho Country or to bring civilization to the Indians was futile because of the extreme hostility of the tribes of this section of Texas. The Comanches were especially hostile to the missionaries. After the long period of Indian and Spanish occupancy of the Sterling area, white men of Anglo-Saxon descent began to filter in, sometime in the early 1800's. We do not know who the first

Anglo-Saxon was to visit Sterling County, but likely he was with some exploring expedition. One such expedition passed near Sterling in 1839. The Governor of Chihuahua wanted to establish a more direct trade route from Chihuahua to St. Louis, which would eliminate an out-of-the-way journey to El Paso. A white man, Dr. H. C. Connally, headed this expedition which went from Chihuahua to the present site of Presidio, Texas; then through these West Texas counties: Presidio, Brewster, Pecos, Terrell, Crockett, Schleicher, Tom Green, Runnells, and Coleman. Possibly, also Sterling County may have been crossed by fur trading expeditions which operated extensively in the Southwest during the first half of the nineteenth century. Texas Rangers, too, in the capacity of Indian fighters, were among the early Anglo-Saxons to visit the Concho country. Chief among the Rangers, who saw service in this section was Buck Barry. A member of Barry's famous company, M.A. Harrison, who

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## Named for Captain Sterling

resided in this area in the late '60's and early '70's, once told this story of a Sterling County Indian experience:

The Rangers were camped at a spring near Camp Elizabeth. Harrison was away from camp skinning a buffalo when he was attacked by a bunch of Comanches. He mounted his horse and tried to escape, but in running down a rock hill north of the camp, his horse fell and one of Harrison's legs was broken.

The firing brought the rangers to the rescue, and after a sharp skirmish, the Indians fled. Harrison was brought to camp where he had to remain two weeks before he could ride.

After the coming of the Rangers to this section, was the introduction of Federal Troops. General Robert E. Lee crossed Sterling County during the summer of 1856. Lee was stationed at the time, at Camp Cooper. He was in command of an Indian searching expedition, and his route took in Sterling County.

The first white man to settle for any length of time on Sterling soil was Captain W. S. Sterling, for whom the county was named. Little is known about him beyond the fact that he was a buffalo hunter, rancher, and Indian fighter, and that sometime in the sixties he pitched his camp on a creek in what is now known as Sterling County. Here he hunted buffaloes for their hides. He shipped the hides to Fort Concho and engaged in the business as long as there were any buffaloes in the country.

The Fort Worth Gazette, in its Semi-Centennial Edition in 1893, says of Captain Sterling that he was an old frontiersman without fear and was distinguished for his unselfish devotion to the cause of justice and humanity. The Indians feared him for his cool courage and the deadly crack of his Winchester. This publication states that Captain Sterling was in the Sterling County area in 1866.

Sometime after his sojourn in Sterling County, Captain Sterling went to Arizona and served as U. S. Marshal. Here

he was ambushed and slain by Apache Indians near Fort Apache, Arizona. In 1888, W. N. Hiler, who came to Sterling County in 1876, pointed out to W. F. Kellis the remains of a half-dugout near the mouth of Sterling Creek as Captain Sterling's home during his stay in Sterling County.

Most accounts give the sixties as the period when Captain Sterling lived in the area which was named for him, but evidently he had at least visited that section, if not settled there, prior to 1860. Sterling Creek, named for Captain Sterling, is mentioned in the surveyor's field notes as early as the year 1858.

Sterling County had its share of buffalo hunters during the period of the great West Texas buffalo slaughter which took place in the middle seventies. Among them was E. L. Rasbury and a party of hunters who came up from Menard in 1874. The party holed up for the winter in a dugout at the mouth of Sterling Creek.

Rasbury was only about sixteen years old but he showed his ability as a buffalo hunter by averaging more buffaloes per day than any other of the party. He made camp hunter. He accounted for as many as twenty-five to forty buffaloes in a single day. The party marketed their hides at Fort Concho where they secured provisions for their hunt.

Among the other buffalo hunters were S. J. Wiley and his brother who brought a hunting party to Sterling County in the winter of 1876. The Wileys later became permanent settlers in this county. Buffalo hunters in the Sterling section obtained their supplies from either Fort Concho or Big Spring, which was at that time nothing more than a buffalo supply camp. Possibly, however, most hunters obtained their supplies from Fort Concho, for that settlement was their chief market for hides.

Fort Concho had been established in 1867, a few years prior to the period of intense buffalo hunting. First it was called Camp Hatch, then Camp Kelly, and finally in 1868 it was

named Fort Concho.

It was established in good time, for the period from 1867 to 1874 saw an unusual number of Indian depredations in West Texas.

The fort maintained an outpost defense about fifty miles up the North Concho.

It was located about eleven miles up the river from the present site of Sterling City. This outpost was Camp Elizabeth, and it is thought that the date of its establishment goes farther back than the beginning of Fort Concho in 1867. It is believed that Camp Elizabeth was first established as a Ranger camp for Texas Rangers about 1853.

In 1874 it was taken over by Fort Concho, and used mainly as an outpost hospital until 1886, the date of its abandonment.

It consisted of officers' quarters, hospital, farrier shop, and rock corrals. The buildings were made of rubble stone and mud mortar.

The farrier shop and hospital were each about twenty by fifty feet in size, and the officers' quarters were about twenty by thirty feet.

The soldiers slept in tents

which were stretched near the officers' quarters. There were two target butts, one for long distance practice and the other for short distance shooting.

The presence of a parade ground between the camp and the river suggests that these defenders of the frontier knew the advantages that skilled horsemanship provided in combatting the Indian menace.

Water was obtained from a spring on the North Concho River, which was only a few hundred feet from the fort. There were a great many negro troops stationed at the post.

At the time the camp was abandoned in 1886, the buildings were intact and became the hideout for crooks, loafers, and other objectionable characters. This annoyed the U Ranch people so much that the roofs of the buildings were torn down. The U Ranch owner then gave the rocks in the walls to the Kellis family who took them and built a small dam across the North Concho at a place about eight miles above the present town of Sterling City.

An interesting story concerning the activities of the military forces stationed at

Camp Elizabeth was told once to Uncle Bill Kellis by an old buffalo hunter and Indian fighter. He related that he and a company of buffalo hunters were camped one time during the 70's at Big Spring. The Comanches attacked the group. They laid seige to the camp for two days, and on the night of the second day the old hunter and a companion volunteered to go to Camp Elizabeth for help.

They crept past the Indians on foot at night. Unfortunately, however, as they were nearing Camp Elizabeth, they were discovered by a band of Indians who attacked them on horseback. When an Indian came within range, the buffalo hunters with their powerful buffalo guns, would shoot the redskin's horse from under him.

The old man pointed out that the Comanches were almost harmless when set afoot. A running flight was kept up for awhile. They were within a mile of Camp Elizabeth, but finding themselves on a rocky hill, the hunters decided to build a defense rather than try to reach the fort. While one worked on the defense, the other stood guard with his rifle, shooting

STERLING CITY NEWS-RECORD

PAGE 3

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# Soldiers Pursue Indians

the Indian's horses from under them if they came near enough.

The firing was heard at the fort and soon a bugle sounded a charge, and as a group of Cavalry men approached, the Indians were obliged to flee for their lives. The two hunters were carried into the camp where they were fed and given a much needed rest, while a force of troops rushed to Big Spring and rescued the besieged hunters.

The old rifle pit may still be seen, and this fact lends credence to the old man's story. When W. F. Kellis was surveying that part of the country in 1908, he made the old pit a bearing to a land corner and so recorded it in his field notes at that time. He had previous to that time found empty cartridges in the pit.

During the time that Fort Concho and Camp Elizabeth were occupied, an expedition was made through Sterling territory by Colonel Wm. R. Shafter, a colonel in the Twenty-fourth Infantry stationed at Fort Concho. It was an Indian scouting expedition and consisted of nine troops from the Tenth Cavalry, three companies of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantries.

They had sixty-five wagons, each pulled by six mules, a seven hundred mule pack train, and a beef herd. He reported, concerning the North Concho Valley, that for sixty miles from Fort Concho it was well adapted to grazing, having sufficient wood for all necessary purposes and good running water the entire distance.

An interesting sidelight on the activities of Fort Concho soldiers is their haymaking experiences about the middle 80's. On the Divide in Sterling County between the Colorado and North Concho watersheds, buffalo grass in the early days grew to great heights—sometimes to two or three feet. Fort Concho soldiers observed this and for a year or two just prior to the great drouth of '86 and '87 came out to the Divide and cut this grass and baled it for the purpose of feeding their horses during the winter months.

That part of the country is a

considerable distance from any running water; so in order to have water for their horses and possibly themselves while they made hay, they dug a well in the bed of a dry lake. They did not strike water, but when it rained and filled up the lake, water would run over the top of the well and fill it also. After the lake dried up again, the plastered walls of the well retained their contents, thereby furnishing the soldiers with water when they came to cut their hay. This old well, which still stands, afterwards caused many a settler to wonder about its origin.

The period in Sterling County history of Spanish-Indian occupancy, of buffalo hunting, and military activities was also a period of land granting, making locations, and surveying.

On June 7, 1842, a land grant was made by Sam Houston, then President of the Republic of Texas, to Henry F. Fisher and Burchard Miller, which permitted them to establish a colony in the territory along the Pedernales, Llano, San Saba, Concho, and Colorado Rivers. So far as the writer knows this is the earliest land grant which included Sterling County.

By the terms of this grant, Fisher and Miller agreed to settle six hundred European families within eighteen months. Somehow, they failed to carry out their part of the contract, but their time was extended ten months.

On June 24, 1844, Fisher and Miller made a trade with a German emigration concern whereby two-thirds of the grant went to the foreign company and the company was to take over the obligations of settlement. The result was that during the next few years, a great many Germans came to Texas.

This accounts for the numerous German communities in the Lower Concho River Valley.

A great deal of the land on the waters of the Concho Rivers was located by Fisher and Miller and the German Emigration Company. The earliest land survey in Sterling County on record was made

April 15, 1853, for Christian Fritz. It was a survey of three hundred and twenty acres of land issued to Fritz by G. H. Sherwood, Commissioner of Fisher and Miller's Colony. The survey was made by J. S. McDonald, District Surveyor of the Bexar District. There were surveys made at the same time for George A. Rein, Christian Meniecke, and Frederick Pfanne, all of land issued by the Fisher-Miller Colony. For

Johann Melcher and Leo Wagener, surveys were made in 1854.

In April, 1858, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company began its survey in Sterling County. The surveying was done by F. Giraud and most of it was done in 1858. The Texas Pacific Railroad Company made most of its surveys in 1873, 1875, and 1876. The Houston and Texas Central

Railroad Company made its surveys in 1867 and 1872, and the Waco and North-western Railroad Company made its surveys in 1873.

In the 1850's, 1860's, and early 1870's, surveying parties had to have soldiers to guard them from the Indians. The surveying gang would have to be brought into camp before darkness set in, and the camp was always guarded at night.

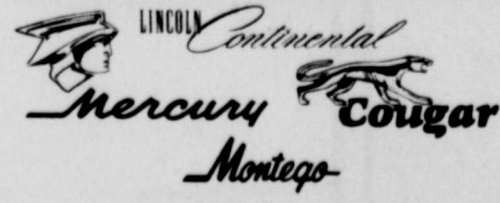
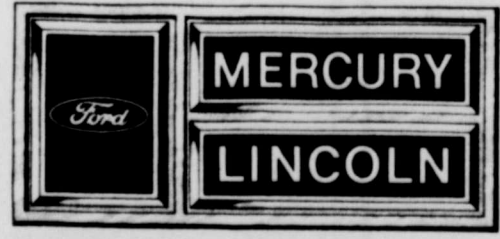
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## Ranchers Follow Forts

After Sterling County lands were surveyed, after Federal troops had pushed the Indian out of the way to the westward, and after the hunter had removed the buffalo from the grasslands, then Sterling County was ready for settlement. That settlement was soon to come, and when it did, it brought the dawn of a new era in the county's history — the era of the cattle kings.

### Chapter II The Open Range and Early Settlers

The first period of the history of Sterling County, the period of Spanish-Indian occupation, exploring expeditions, Texas Ranger activities, buffalo hunting, army defense against the Indian, and land surveys was followed by a period of ranching on the open range carried on chiefly by great cattle companies.

This era of the cattle kings was short in Sterling County, lasting only approximately from 1870 to the middle 1880's.

By this time the settlers were coming in to share the land with the cattlemen, to engage in agriculture to a limited degree, and to make homes for themselves and their children.

The big ranchers tried hard to keep the settlers out but finally had to submit to the inevitable and either accept them or move on to the less settled regions.

Among the first ranches to be established near Sterling County were the Chisholm Ranch in 1862 and the Tankersley Ranch in 1864. Both of these ranches lay southeast of Sterling County in what is now Tom Green County. No ranches were established in Sterling County territory until after Federal troops were stationed at Fort Concho in 1867. The establishment of the new line of Forts, of which Fort Concho was a part, after the Civil War, furnished cattlemen the necessary protection from the Indian and made possible the establishment of ranches in the "wild" part of Texas.

It seems that the big ranches in Sterling County were established in the 1870's. Most of them were begun by big cattlemen and ranch companies that had been driven out of Texas counties by the settlers farther east.

The story is the same all across Texas. As soon as a line of forts would be established, the cattle kings would come in to enjoy the benefits of free grass and water; after a few years, then, the settlers would push them farther west.

The larger ranches to be established in Sterling County in the 1870's were the Half Circle S owned by Peacock Brothers; the M S, established by Schuster, Henry and Company; and the U Ranch, established in 1876 by D. A. Earnest and W. J. Holland. The M S outfit was owned by an English cattle company and was run by an Englishman, M. Z. Smissen. Earnest and Holland sold their outfit to M. B. Stephenson, who in turn sold it to W. R. McIntyre in 1880.

Most of these companies drove their herds to Sterling County from East Texas counties. Some of the cowboys who came through with these outfits later became Sterling County's most valuable citizens.

When the cattlemen got their herds into the country, they located at some place on the North Concho River or some of

its tributaries. There they would lay claim to a certain range area extending up and down and on both sides of the stream.

They always located near a stream so that they and their cattle would have access to water. Seldom did these ranch companies take the time and trouble to buy any land.

The land was free to anyone who could make use of it. Some of them did not at first own an acre of the land which they claimed as their range. Others bought only a section or two of railroad land where they set up their ranch headquarters and then ranged their stock over an area for miles around.

The U Ranch was located on the upper North Concho. It set in about six or eight miles above the present town of Sterling City and extended northwestward to the headwaters of the river into what is now the eastern edge of Glasscock County.

The Half Circle S had two range areas. One began about Sterling City and extended up the Concho and Lack Creek back deep into Glasscock County. This range also extended for some miles north of the North Concho. This upper Half Circle S range was separated from the lower by the M S Outfit, which set in about Sterling City and extended down the river for three

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## Indians Hassle Ranchers

or four miles. It too extended north of the river up toward the Divide and southward up Sterling Creek to about the western boundary of the county.

The lower Half Circle S was a strip of land three or four miles wide immediately below the M S. This range, as all others, extended northward and southward from the river. The Half Circle S headquarters were located in this lower range.

Below the Half Circle S lay the Doak Range, only part of which lay in the present bounds of Sterling County.

In the southern part of the county, on the headwaters of Kiowa Creek began the huge 7D Range, a large ranch about sixty miles wide, which lay on the Middle Concho south of Sterling County. The range areas claimed by these early Sterling County cattle companies probably varied in size from eighty-five thousand to two hundred thousand acres.

In spite of the proximity of Fort Concho and Camp Elizabeth to these Sterling

County ranches, the Indians proved to be a considerable source of annoyance during the '70's. In 1876, a lively fight occurred between the Comanches and a force of Rangers and cowboys about a mile west of the present U Ranch headquarters. None of the white men were hurt, but it is thought that some of the Indians were killed.

These Indians were pursued for two days and overtaken near the present town of Midland. Andy Jones and a Mr. Manning acted as scouts. About the time the party was nearing the Indians, the cowboys spied a beaded moccasin in the trail. One of the number dismounted, and as he stooped to pick the moccasin up, a shot from the leader of the Indians rang out and the white man fell dead. Jones dismounted and fired on the group of Indians, who soon withdrew.

The party abandoned the pursuit. The dead member was his grave was marked with rocks.

This incident seems to mark

an end of Indian disturbances in Sterling County, for settlers coming into the country in the early '80's recall no memories of the presence of Indians at that time.

The chief menace from the Indians to the big cattlemen of the '70's was the stealing of horses and cattle. This danger had not entirely disappeared by 1880, for M. B. Stephenson, in a letter to W. R. McIntyre dated March 21, 1880, mentions the possibility of Indians stealing some of his "three's" and beeves before he could get them gathered.

Because of the absence of fences there was nothing to hinder Indian cattle and horse theft except fear of the soldiers at Camp Elizabeth and the cowboys Winchester.

The era of the huge cattle companies, as has already been pointed out, was a relatively short one in Sterling. Beginning in the early '70's and ending in the '80's, it at best was no more than twelve to fifteen years long. Settlers began to filter in by the early '80's and thereafter the story of the free range is the story of its joint occupation by cattle king and settler. Among the first settlers to come to Sterling County were R. W. and W. L. Foster. They drove a small herd of cattle through from Coleman and settled on Sterling Creek in the year 1881 at a point about eight miles south of the present site of Sterling City. Others to come in at about the same time were Finous Bates, J. G. Soulard, W. N. Hiler, J. B. Hiler, W. A. Jackson, Henry Bade, David Longacre, William Weible, Dane Holloway, and Enoch Sparks.

These early settlers might be classed as "settler-cattlemen." They were not cattle kings, yet they engaged in the cattle business. They came to Sterling seeking a better place to make a living and intending to establish homes, develop the country, and leave a heritage for their children. Sharing the free range with the cattle barons, most of them began with small herds and little money. Some had neither herds nor money and got their start as cowboys on the huge ranches.

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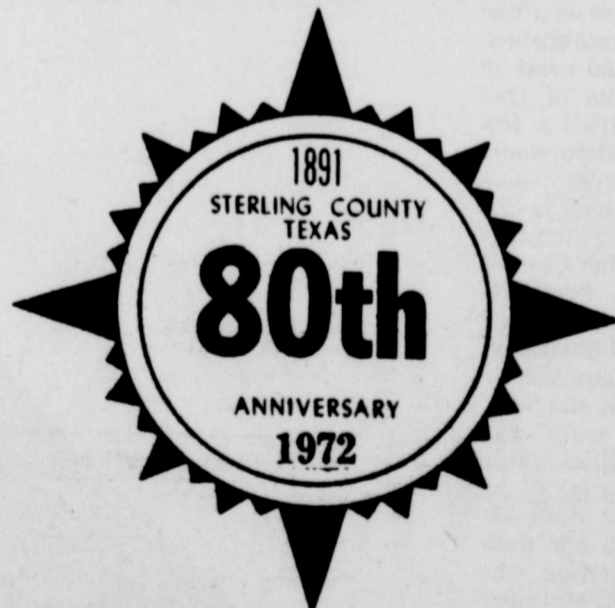
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## Squatters Called Nuisance

As far as the big ranchers were concerned, these first settlers were an unwelcome lot. The cattlemen viewed these so-called squatters as a nuisance, tried to keep them out, and even tried to run them out after they came. When a man came in and "squatted" on the land a cattleman claimed for his range, the latter would try to make the settler believe he had to leave. By running a bluff the cattlemen might scare the settler enough to keep him from filing claim to the land. If a cattlemen thought he could intimidate a settler or convince him he had "squatted" on some one else's land, he, as a rule, didn't hesitate to do so. When R. W. Foster settled on Sterling Creek in the range area claimed by the M S Outfit, the manager of the ranch brought his map over and showed Mr. Foster he had settled on a section of railroad land, which the rancher claimed as his own. Mr. Foster

saw from the map that immediately west of the railroad section was a section of school land which, he knew, the rancher did not own; so he moved his family up the creek a mile and settled on the school land. Seeing that Mr. Foster was not to be bluffed into leaving, the cattleman gave no more trouble.

The favorite time to attempt to run the squatter out was when he first arrived and before he had time to buy any land. The Kellis family located in the '80's on the upper North Concho in the U Range Area. The stockmen went to their home, loaded up the household goods, took them to Montvale, and dumped them in a corral.

Another settler, Earl Bailey, as late as 1893 located on a section farther up the Concho. He put up a house and windmill and grubbed a few acres of land preparatory to putting it into cultivation.

Before he could close a deal for the land, the stockmen had stolen a march on him and had bought it themselves.

When settlers began coming into Sterling County, most of the land was owned by the State of Texas and by railroad companies. At about this time, school land was placed on the market. Railroad land could also be purchased. Even though the wire fence had not been introduced, most settlers

bought as much land as they could afford. They ran their stock on this land and at the same time shared the free range with their neighbors, the big ranchers. After a cattleman saw that he couldn't run a settler out of the country, the two often became the best of friends.

The price of the land at this time ranged from one dollar to three dollars per acre. Under the Seven Section Act, one man

could buy as many as seven sections of state land. All the land at that time was classified into three groups: watered land, agricultural land and dry grazing. When a person bought land, he did his own classifying. This practice resulted later in a great many fiercely contested law suits, in which a late comer would claim that the original purchaser had not classified his land right and therefore should forfeit his title to it. The three

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# Much Land Homesteaded

classes of land sold at different prices; the dry grazing land was the cheapest, the agricultural land next, and the watered land highest. Whenever land was "taken up", the purchaser would pay one fortieth of the value of the land as a down payment. He could hold the land as long as he kept up five percent interest. The purchaser had to live on his land a certain number of days each year for a certain number of years. Anytime after a man had lived his claim out, he could pay the remaining thirty nine fortieths of its original value and the land was his own. Whenever this latter payment was made it was said to be "patented", and this gave the owner undisputed title to the land.

three cents an acre. There was very little incentive, however, for anyone to lease land as long as the range was open and grazing free. The only motive would be to keep squatters from settling on particularly desirable land. As late as 1901, railroad land leased for five cents an acre.

The coming of the settlers caused most of the large cattle companies to make some sort of effort to acquire legal possession of their land. They realized that if they did not do this, the influx of settlers would absorb all the grazing land and that they would be forced to move on or go out of business. Even this expedient did not prevent the huge ranches from being greatly diminished in size, for under the land law, there was a limit to the number

Railroad land could be leased in the early days for as little as

of sections of land one man could acquire. Residence regulations also worked a hardship on them. Some big ranchers took up school land in their son's and even their daughter's names.

A great many people even suspected that occasionally an unscrupulous cattleman would take up land in his horse's name. Often, too, the rancher would have one of his cowboys take up land. The rancher would furnish the money for the down payment and build a shack on the land where the cowboy would "bach" a part of each year in order to fulfill the residence requirements. Later the cowboy would deed the land

over to the cattleman. In spite of their efforts to acquire as much land as possible, the big ranchers saw their expansive ranges diminished in size by the coming of the "settler-cattleman." Loss of grazing territory together with the drouth of 1886 and 1887 even drove the Half Circle S into bankruptcy.

A very few of the early settlers engaged in agriculture. The Kellis family built a small dam across the North Concho and engaged for a time in truck farming. Some people, after a few years, began to raise sorghum and other grains as

feed for their horses. After a few more years others began to experiment with cotton growing; however, very little of that crop was grown until about the time of the organization of the county in 1891.

The first house in which W. L. Foster lived was cut in Dallas, shipped to Colorado City, and then hauled to his ranch in a wagon. Carpenters came out from Colorado City and put it together for him. The first house in which Mr. and Mrs. Nil Reed lived, about 1889, was a one-room box house. A porch covered with cedar branches was added to make it cooler. Their method of refrigeration contrasts sharply with that of

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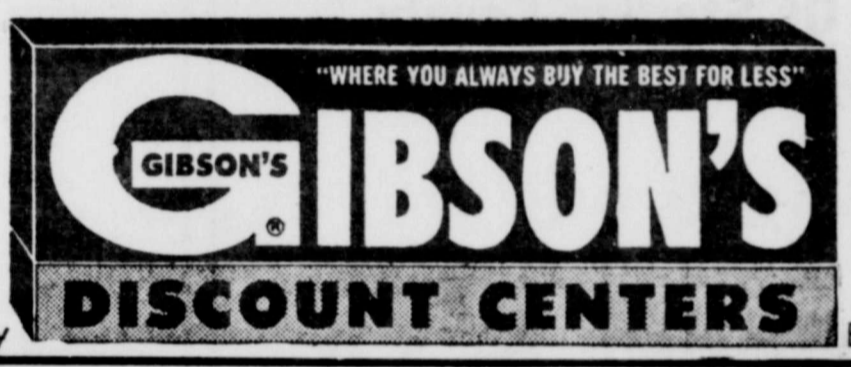
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## Plenty of Wild Game

today. In order to keep their milk from souring, they built a milk house of pickets and covered it over with growing vines. A pit was dug inside, a wooden box placed in the pit, and the space around it filled in with gravel. Water from the well was poured into the box, and their milk was kept there.

The early settlers found plenty of wild game in Sterling County when they first came. There were many deer, wild turkeys, quail, a few prairie chickens, and vast herds of antelope. There were a few beavers and the streams were alive with fish. Ten and twelve-pound catfish were common, and as late as 1899 catfish weighing as much as twenty-one pounds were caught in the North Concho.

There were hundreds of wild horses to be found in this section in the early 80's. They did not become extinct until the early 90's, after the range had become partially fenced. The Sterling Courier in July, 1891, reported that a Mr. Allen and a

Mr. Beaty had succeeded in catching five wild mustangs out of a bunch of seven. Many of the wild horses were captured by the early settlers.

Besides game and wild horses there were also in this area, many lobo wolves, coyotes, panthers, bobcats, and wildcats. The buffaloes were all gone by the time most of the settlers came in. One herd came through in 1883 or 1884. A few were killed by settlers, mostly because of the desire to taste the meat and for curiosity's sake. The buffaloes had been killed out in the 70's but their bones still remained in the early 80's. Bone hauling was for a few years a very profitable occupation. In 1882, two families moved out on Sterling Creek, where they piled and hauled buffalo bones to Colorado City and sold them for \$12 per ton. These bones were used for making fertilizer. Often a settler would take a wagon load of bones to Colorado when he went after supplies. Other bonehaulers came out

from San Angelo, thus it was only a short time until the buffalo bones had been cleared from Sterling County.

The disappearance of the wild life from the area has a parallel in the drying up of the streams and springs of the county. In the 80's the North Concho flowed a much greater volume of water than it does at present. At present, it stops flowing entirely for brief periods in the summers of dry years. Sterling Creek ran continuously but has since dried up and runs now only when it rains. The numerous springs along its banks have disappeared. This phenomenon puzzled many old timers in this region.

Another thing which has

caused many to wonder is the fact that when the country was first settled, the creek and river valleys were almost completely free of mesquites; but now, after fifty or sixty years, dense mesquite thickets have appeared in some valleys, and a few of these bushes are to be found in every valley. Hackberry trees on the hills have also disappeared to a large extent during the same period.

A romantic angle to Sterling County's early history is to be found in the story of ranching on the open range. The business of cattle ranching and the work of the cowboy were entirely different than from present day ranching on the fenced range.

The life of the cowboy in those days was necessarily a hard one. His was a man-sized job; his day was long and his pay none too high. By daybreak he was in the saddle "pounding leather", and he stayed there till nightfall called him in. Sometimes he must even ride at night, during storms or other emergencies. Through the snow, sleet, and rain of winter and the dry, hot winds of summer, the cattlemen's work had to go on.

The cowboy slept on the ground under the stars and depended upon his "tarp" to protect him from the elements. Often in winter he awoke covered with snow. He must be

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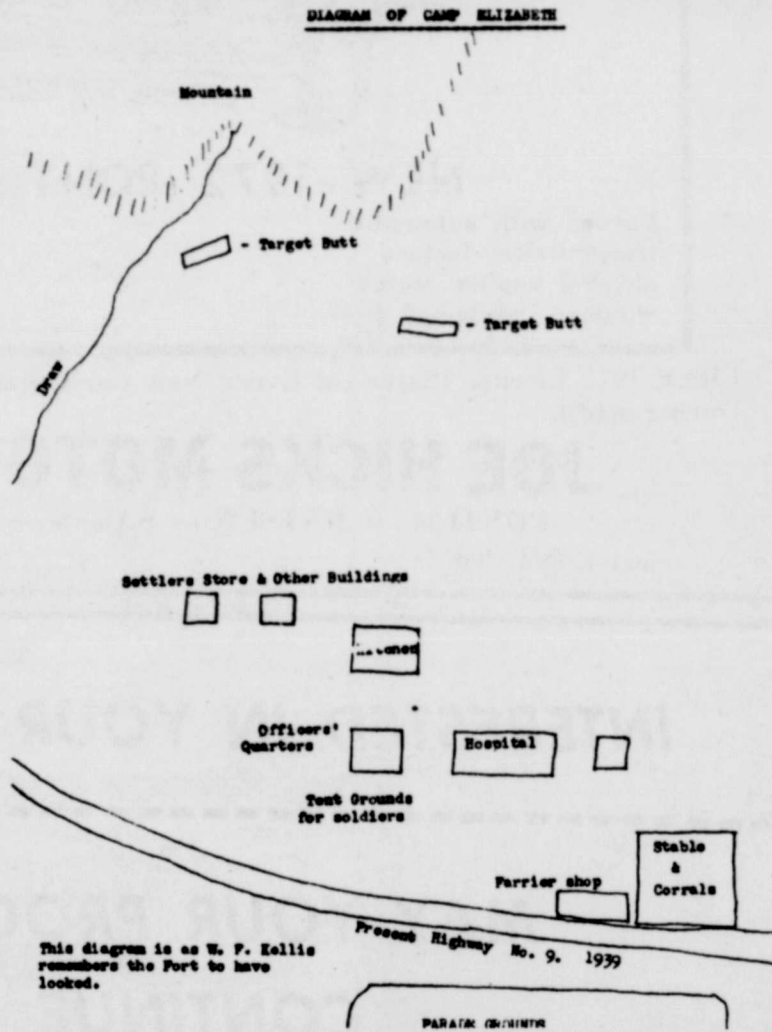
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away from his family for weeks during roundup time. For this rugged and uncompromising life the cowboy was usually rewarded with good health. His life in the open, in the high, dry West Texas climate, his coarse but substantial diet, and his long hours in the saddle made him of tough and wiry fibre. His food tasted good to him and the smell of bacon frying and coffee boiling at five A.M. must have been an ideal beginning of the cowboy's day.

Everyone's cattle ranged at large and always became mixed as they strayed away from their home ranges. This situation made branding necessary and also called for general roundups. In the winter, cattle would drift southward to the Pecos River and sometimes as far south as the region of Devil's River. They were driven southward by blizzards and "northers."

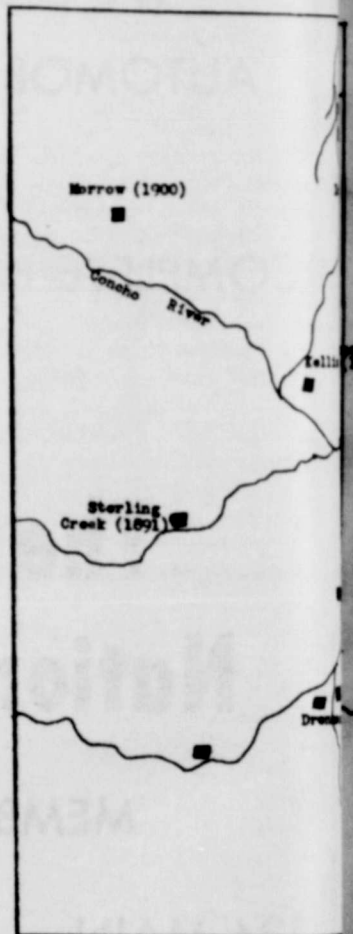
As a rule the North Concho Valley was practically devoid of cattle during the winter months. Ranchers, in the winter, stationed a part of their forces in line camps along the Middle Concho and the Pecos Rivers. At times cowboys were sent to



"ride line" beyond the Pecos. A line camp was one of a long chain of shacks or cabins running east and west across the county. Cowboys from ranches north of this line would spend the winter months in these cabins, and when cattle drifted from their home ranges to the line camps, the cowboys would turn them back north. Each day they would ride eastward and westward from their camps.

There were two roundups each year, the general roundups in the spring and the fall roundups which were somewhat more local in nature. The spring roundups began in March with what was known as the "drive back." With the coming of warm weather and grass, many cattle drifted back toward the home range of their own accord. Those that did not were brought on the "drive back" by the cowboys who had been in line camp during the winter.

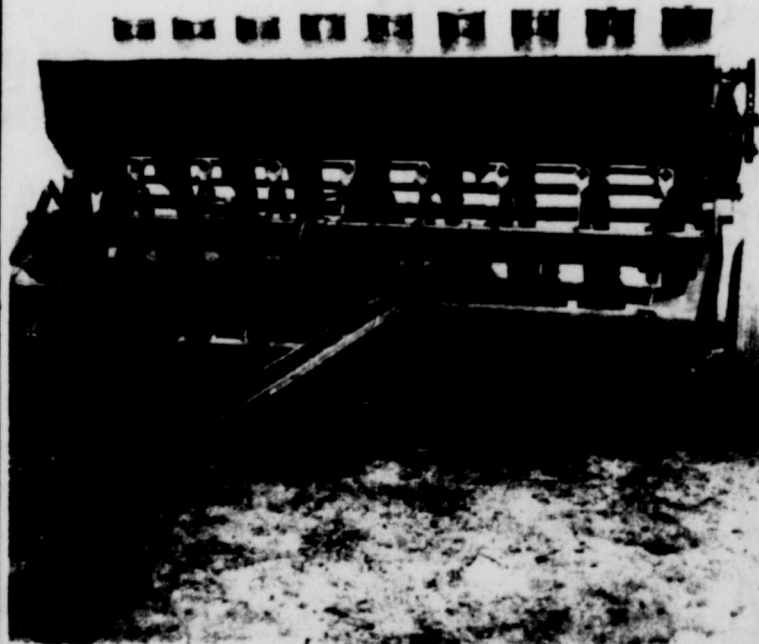
These roundups for Sterling ranchers were held along the Colorado, North, Middle, and South Concho's and their tributaries. A general roundup would likely begin in the region



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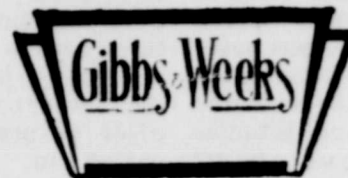
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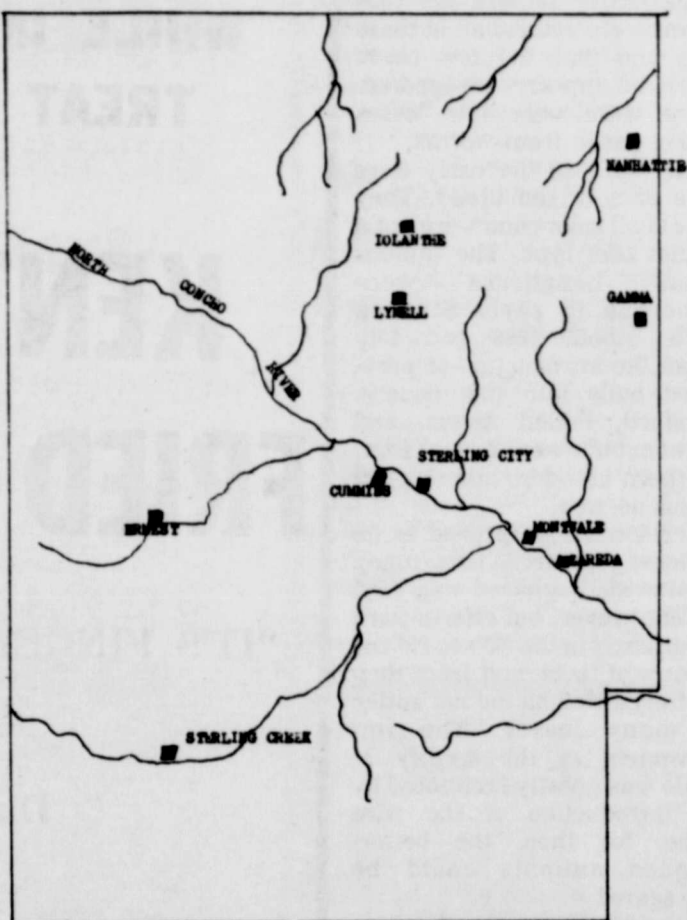
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of the main Concho River. The outfits would work up the Concho westward and finally toward the North Concho Ranges. The spring roundups were for the purpose of branding the spring crop of calves and also for throwing the herds back on their home ranges.

The roundups were held each year at certain roundup grounds on the various rivers. The present site of Sterling City was once a roundup ground. Every rancher had his representative at the roundups to claim and brand the calves that belonged to his outfit. The larger outfits had their "stray wagons," which were chuck wagons that followed the stray cattle as they were driven back to their home range. The smaller cattlemen usually brought their herds back to their home range, along with the herds of neighboring larger outfits.

Each outfit on the roundups also had its "corn wagon," which was a wagon loaded with feed for the horses. Each ranch represented had its own chuck wagon and prepared its own meals. The calves were branded while the cattle were



APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS OF EARLY POST OFFICES IN STERLING COUNTY

held under herd. These spring roundups lasted about three months and by the time they were over, most of each rancher's cattle were on their owner's range. The cattle did not drift much during the summer months, for there was usually plenty of water and grass in Sterling County then.

The fall roundups were not as extensive as the spring roundups and were for two purposes: to brand the calves they had missed in the spring or that had been born since the spring roundups and to gather steers to be shipped to market. The fall roundups had to be finished by the first blizzard, for then the cattle began to drift southward and were very hard to handle.

The steers to be marketed were driven in the herd to Colorado City, which was the nearest railroad point until 1889, when San Angelo got a railroad. As soon as the fall roundups were over, the cowboys would go into line camp for the winter.

Experience in trail driving for Sterling county cattlemen are varied and interesting. As has been mentioned, Sterling cattle were driven to Colorado City to market. It took two or

three days to make the trip. Sometimes herds were driven as far as Fort Worth, especially before 1882.

The various cattlemen of this section would often throw their herds together and move the one large herd to market. One fall, R. W. Foster had charge of such a herd and among the riders was J. L. Glass of the Circle S Outfit. On the first night out they had just got the herd settled down for the night when a thunder storm struck. Fear gripped the herd and when lightning struck near them, they rose as one and began to stampede.

J. L. Glass and another cowboy succeeded in cutting off a few herd from the main herd, and by hard work for the rest of the night, kept them herded in a little draw not far from the camp. Next morning the cattle all had to be gathered from an area of several miles' radius. The cowboys always had to make some sort of noise while the cattle were in herd. This seemed to sooth their nerves and keep them from becoming excited.

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PAGE 12  
STERLING CITY NEWS-RECORD

## Cutting Horse Indispensable

herd slowly milling in a circle. There was greater danger of a stampede when the cattle lay down and became quiet, for then some sudden noise would scare a few of the wilder ones, the fear would spread with lightning swiftness, and immediately the whole herd would become panicky.

One of the cowboy's best friends when cattle were worked in the open herd was the "cutting horse." This was a horse used for separating calves, cows, or steers from a mixed herd. Every cattleman had his "cuttin' horse" which he had trained for that special function. This horse was never ridden except for cutting cattle.

The cowboy would roundup on one horse and change his saddle to the cutting horse when he got ready to work the herd. A well trained cutting horse was indispensable to the cattleman, for it enabled him to separate herds which, without stockpens,

was a difficult job.

A steer anywhere in the herd could be pointed out to an intelligent cutting horse and only seldom would the horse fail to bring the steer out. His performance as he pivoted on his hind legs, or jumped to one side or the other, was equal in beauty and grace to that of the bird dog as he points his game.

Most of the cattle on the open range were wild because of their wide range area and the fact that they were roped a great deal. They would often be hard to pen when they arrived at Colorado City at the loading pens. Sometimes it took two or three days to get them penned. One fall, a bunch was giving their owner unusual trouble and after several experts were called in, the herd still remained unpenned.

At last when everyone was about ready to give up, a stranger dropped into town. He heard about the cattle and said

that he could pen them up. He was furnished all the help he wanted and went to work by having the cowboys drive the cattle in a wide circle.

The stranger rode in front of the herd. Each time he would make a circle he rode by the wings to the stockpen gate. He soon had the herd following him, and as he circled around by the pens, led the cattle into the wings and on through the gate. Needless to say, this cowpuncher became the hero of the day.

Occasionally cattle were taken from the Sterling Country to ranges beyond the Pecos. Whenever this was done, it was often necessary to swim the herd across the river, especially if the river happened to be on a rise or if a crossing were not near. C. L. Coulson was once moving a herd to the Pecos country, and when he got to the river, the cattle did not want to go into the water. He roped a steer and dragged him across, horse and steer both swimming, and the rest of the herd followed.

A thing which today occupies most of a rancher's attention during the warm months of the year, the doctoring of cattle for screw worms, was virtually an unknown practice on the open range. Early settlers say that worms were not as bad in those days and that the few cases which did appear were ignored. There were very few losses among cattle from worms.

The cattle in the early days were of a mixed breed. They were of all colors and were not a special beef type. The famous Texas Longhorns were numerous in early Sterling herds. About 1886 and 1887 began the introduction of pure-breed bulls into this county. Hereford, Polled Angus, and Durham bulls were bought from Northern breeders and shipped to this section.

Herefords soon proved to be the most popular. At first, many of these thoroughbred bulls died of Texas fever, but efforts were begun early in the '90's to rid the country of ticks, and from then on, the cattlemen did not suffer so many losses. The improvement of the quality of cattle was greatly facilitated by the introduction of the wire fence, for then, the better-blooded animals could be segregated.

Fencing began in the late '80's, but not a great deal was done until up in the '90's toward fencing the ranges.

No famous cattle trails, such as the Chisholm and Dodge Trails, ran through Sterling County; however, two or three of sectional importance may be mentioned. One of these ran up the North Concho northwest and was used by the cattlemen of this section for moving their herds to the Plains, to New Mexico, or other places in the Northwest. Another trail was the one which followed pretty closely the present highway from Sterling City to Colorado City. It was perhaps one of these trails to which the Sterling City News referred when it mentioned that Sterling was a county "through which a main trail route is located."

The early settlers and cattlemen of Sterling County were subjected to a very serious drouth in 1886 and 1887. A great many cattle died from starvation and thirst during those years. Many bogged up in water holes along the rivers and stream beds. These water holes would be practically dry and when cattle would crowd into them for water, they would bog up and die. As many as twenty cattle were often found bogged in one water hole.

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## Drouths Occur Frequently

from dead cattle during this drouth. It is remembered by Sterling people as the "starving time." The valleys along the water courses were nearly barren. In spite of the hardships this drouth inflicted, it did not drive many people out of Sterling County.

Another drouth prevailed in 1916, 1917, and 1918. By that time, however, the windmill had long been in use, so the cattle did not suffer from water. Ranchers, too, had learned how to meet drouths; therefore the losses were not so heavy as they were in 1886-1887.

The first windmill was erected in Sterling County about 1886 by the Half Circle S Ranch. It seemed at first that windmills here would be a failure, for this introduction was during the period of the great drouth. The mill was a small one and so was the pipe; consequently it could not begin to furnish water for the great number of cattle which came there for water. A year or two later, the same ranch put up

several large mills with a three-inch pipe.

Watering cattle by windmill this time proved to be successful, for these mills furnished all the water Half Circle S cattle wanted. By 1892, wells were being drilled and windmills erected all over the county.

The story of the cattle industry in Sterling County is necessarily related to the story of the sheep industry. The first sheep in the vicinity of Sterling came into Tom Green County in 1877. They were driven from California by a man named John Arden. He was about three years in driving them through.

The first sheepmen were called "drifters." These men had no range of their own but drifted their sheep from one section of the country to the other, grazing their sheep on the free range. Drifters usually drove their sheep from the Rio Grande and Devil's River country to Colorado City in the spring. There the sheep would be sheared, the wool sold, and

the lambs marketed. They ranged in the Colorado section until fall, when they would again drift to the Rio Grande and Devil's River for the winter.

The cattlemen despised the sheepmen but there was never any serious trouble between them in Sterling County. Whenever a "drifter" crossed a cattleman's range with his flock, the dispute rarely proceeded beyond the verbal stage.

A few of the early Sterling settlers, in the early '80's, had sheep. Among these were S. J. Wiley and Bill Hiler. Hiler had sheep as early as 1886. In 1891 there were rendered taxation, in newly organized Sterling County, 10,537 head of sheep. There were a few large flocks. Thomas Brennand had 2500, W. C. Brennand had 2600, and A. B. Powell had 1100.

When settlers first came to Sterling County, they had to go long distances for their supplies. They might go to San Angelo or to Colorado City. At that time, San Angelo consisted of very little more than Fort Concho and a general store. For several years after the coming of the railroad to Colorado City in 1882, that town was the favorite trading center of Sterling County people. As soon as San Angelo got a railroad, in 1889, trade from this section gradually began to turn toward that place. By the end of the year 1895, the Sterling City News carried more advertisements from San Angelo business houses than it did from Colorado City; and by 1897, there was seldom an advertisement from Colorado City.

Big Spring early enjoyed a profitable trade from Sterling County, especially from the people on the Upper North Concho. When the railroad was extended from Colorado City to Big Spring, a great many people on the Concho who engaged in truck farming marketed their produce there. The roundhouse there furnished the market. Many people caught fish from

the Concho and marketed them at Big Spring.

During the first half of the 1880's, people had to go either to

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# Men Did Most of Shopping

San Angelo or to Colorado City for their mail. They usually went to Colorado. Whenever one rancher went to town, he would bring his neighbor's mail for miles around. About 1884, a Post Office was created at a little store called St. Elmo, about four and one-half miles southeast of the present site of Sterling City, and there the people would get their mail twice a week. The mail came on a semi-weekly hack which ran between Colorado City and San Angelo.

The chief means of transportation for the early settlers was the wagon. Trips to Colorado or San Angelo were made in the wagon and three days were allowed for the trip. They went to town the first day, bought their supplies the second day, and returned the third. While at town, they stayed in the wagon yard. The men usually did most of the shopping. The trip was rather long and tiresome for women and children, and someone had to stay with the homestead. Perhaps once a year, the entire family went to town.

Most ranchers bought large stocks of supplies, often as much as one thousand pounds of flour and five hundred pounds of sugar. As soon as the ranchers got established and got a little cash ahead, they discarded their wagons for lighter and faster vehicles, "hacks" and buggies.

Freighting was done in the early days by burro trains and Ox wagon trains. The burro trains were operated chiefly by Mexicans. A train consisted of about twenty burros hitched in pairs to a string of several wagons. The Ox wagon trains were similar; several oxen pulled a string of wagons.

The life of the pioneer woman was necessarily hard. The rearing of the family was left largely up to her, for the men were away among the cattle for a good part of the year. Actual dangers were of course few in number but soldiers passing through the country from Fort Concho to Camp Elizabeth made many a pioneer woman feel uneasy. The soldiers often hunted wild turkeys near ranch

houses, and there was a danger from stray bullets. The ranch woman usually milked several cows and made most of the clothes for her family. Cooking, sewing, carrying water, and chopping wood some of the time made her life one of hard work.

The pioneer women had their own methods of preserving food. To preserve butter, salt would be poured into water until a brine was made which would float an egg. Then butter would be placed in the brine, where it would stay fresh several months. Whenever the rancher-husband came in off the fall roundups, his wife would likely have several pounds of butter stored away in the brine solution. The butter would then be taken to Colorado City and sold. It must have been a good preservative, for the customers always sent orders for more. Beef was part of the pioneer rancher's diet the year around. Even in summer months, beeves were killed and the meat hung up high in the wind and sun. There it would be kept without spoiling until it was eaten. It was as good as any meat when served. "Jerked" meat was also a favorite dish of the pioneers. To jerk meat they would cut it up into strips, then hang it up and let it dry.

Conveniences were unknown to the pioneer household. They had no window screens. For light at night they used both kerosene lamps and candles, which they molded at home. The earliest kerosene lamps were very crude. They were made of tin, had no globe, and looked very much like an inverted funnel.

They had a round wick and a handle similar to that of a

candle stick. Soon these lamps were replaced with the more modern type with globes. After a few years, sometime in the '90's, ice could be obtained at the saloons in Sterling City. In 1896, Will Mann opened an ice cream parlor. This was a red letter day for Sterling County children.

Water was obtained in the early days from springs along the creeks and rivers. A family usually tried to settle near a

spring, but when they could not, they had to haul water in barrels. After a few years, people discovered that in some places in the North Concho River Valley, water could be obtained at a depth of twenty five or thirty feet. These wells were dug by hand. Often the husband dug the dirt up in the bottom of the well while the wife drew it out with a bucket and rope.

There were no schools in the

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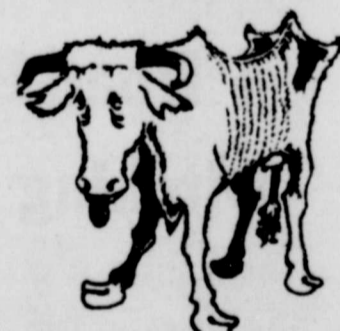
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## First Doctor Came in 1887

Sterling section until about 1885; so until that time, pioneer children either did not go to school or were sent by parents to stay with relatives and go to school in Eastern Texas counties.

The country was without a physician until 1887, when Dr. P. D. Coulson moved out from Coleman County and settled a few miles down the river from the present site of Sterling City. Before that, whenever any member of the family was ill, home remedies were applied. The medicine chest usually consisted of nothing more than a few pills, a bottle of turpentine, and a bottle of castor oil. Fortunately there was not a great deal of illness, due perhaps to the outdoor life of the pioneer and the healthful climate.

Before the coming of Dr. Coulson to the country, women in childbirth did not have the advantages of an attending physician. The midwife took his place. Grandma Hansen and Aunt "Puss" Allen were favorite midwives. Whenever

one of these women could not come, any neighbor woman could be called in. There were no anesthetics and no antiseptics except hot water and soap. In cases of very serious illness, a person would be taken to Colorado City or San Angelo, or perhaps someone would go to one of those places and bring a physician back.

In the earliest pioneer days, if sickness happened to result in the death of a person, he was buried wherever he died. Scattered over Sterling County are the graves of persons who passed on before any cemeteries were started. The oldest marked grave known is one located on a little hill about one half mile east of the present ranch of Mrs. G. W. Cook. The stone is marked "Meek, a boy. Died July 4, 1877."

At present there are three cemeteries in the vicinity of Sterling City. The first of these, known as the Foster Cemetery, was begun in 1883 with the burial of the three weeks old baby daughter, Fay, of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Foster. When the

child died, they buried her on the range about a mile north of their ranch house. This burial occurred in July and Mrs. C. A. Ar. nstrong was buried at the same place in November of the same year.

Soon others began to bury their dead at that place, and thus the Foster Cemetery was begun. No funeral ceremonies accompanied these early burials, for in the early '80's, there were no preachers in the country. The bodies were laid away in homemade wooden caskets.

A group of cowboys buried R. C. Shouse at the Foster Cemetery in 1884. Their only effort at the ceremony was to hang their pistols on the mesquite tree beneath which they laid the man to rest.

Sterling County's second cemetery was started in the year 1889 at the little town of Montvale. The oldest marked grave there is that of Mrs. B. E. Hayes, who died August 5, 1889. A little boy, Lonnie Ferguson, was buried at the same place in December, 1889. Other graves were soon added, and the cemetery thus started was called the Montvale Cemetery.

After Sterling City became the county seat in 1891, some people wanted a cemetery which would be closer to town. Montvale was three miles away and the Foster Cemetery was about seven. So upon the death of Mrs. Mary A. Blackburn in January, 1892, a place for her burial was picked on the gentle slope of a hill about a mile south of town. This was called the City Cemetery.

The Pioneer's 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 contests 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 games 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.

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

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## Big Ranches Crowded Out

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 and took place in Connally and McFarlan's Grocery Store.

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 county 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 settler operated side by side, most of the huge ranches were finally

absorbed by the settlers. As settlers bought up the free range, 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.

Thus we see that the big cattleman 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 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.

### Chapter III Organization and Development

After the period of the Indian occupation, the story of Spanish exploration, the era of the cattle kings, and the coming of the settler have all been dealt with, there remains to be traced the history of the county after its organization.

This latter period witnessed the completion of the settlement of the county, the rise of three small towns and the fall of two of them, a change from a county of many small communities in the 1890's to a county as a single community in the 1920's, the organization of the county, the development of schools and churches, important developments in the ranching industry, experimentation with cotton growing, and the coming of the automobile and a railroad to the county.

This period properly begins with the creation of the county on March 4, 1891. Up to this time, Sterling had been a part of Tom Green County which was established out of Bexar Territory in April, 1874. Tom Green County then consisted of all that portion of Bexar Territory which lay north of a line running due west from the southwest corner of Concho County to the Pecos River.

This region, which shortly was made into sixty-seven West Texas counties, was divided into four roughly outlined "land districts" for surveying purposes only, and these districts were attached to the counties of Clay, Jack, Young, and Palo Pinto.

Until this vast territory could be organized into counties, surveying had to be done by the district surveyor of one of the districts. Sterling territory was in the Palo Pinto District. This fact explains why Sterling County lands which were surveyed in 1874, 1875, and 1876 were surveyed by the district surveyor of the Palo Pinto District.

By August, 1876, fifty-four counties on the Plains had been created by the legislature, and this act brought the Northern boundary of Tom Green County down to a line from the northwest corner of Runnels County westward to the state line. Sterling was a part of this strip of territory until 1891.

Before the county was organized, three little towns had sprung up along the river; Montvale, Cummins, and Sterling City. The first store of any kind in the county is supposed to have been one which existed at Camp Elizabeth in the late 70's and early 80's.

About the year 1883, a little store was established about four and one half miles down the river from the present site of Sterling City. This store was at first known by some as "Hogeye" and by others as "Wildhog." The official name, however, was St. Elmo.

There was a Post Office in this store at St. Elmo. It was the first post office to be created in the Sterling area. The postmaster was either a Mr. Burrus or a Mr. Rogers. About 1884 this store was moved a mile or two up the river westward. This was the beginning of Montvale. The post office was also moved and the name changed to Montvale. B. Z. Cooper operated a general store and a blacksmith shop at this place. R. B. Cummins operated a saddle and harness shop.

The Coopers also had a feed lot and small pasture for travelers' horses. Over the gate of this pasture was the sign: "Pastur." and the sign on the front of the store read: "STO." By 1890, there were at Montvale, an organized church, a



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## County Created in 1891

school, and a hotel, besides several business houses. The church, which was a Methodist organization, was the first in the Sterling section. This also was the first school. In December, 1889, Montvale was surveyed and plotted by H. B. Tarver, County Surveyor of Tom Green County.

About the year 1889 or 1890, R. B. Cummins moved up the river four and one half miles above Montvale. Here he set up his saddle and harness shop and before long a little town began to grow up at this place. The town was called Cummins after the saddler. From advertisements in the North Concho News, we learn that by July, 1891, the following business houses existed at Cummins: Concho Valley Saloon, owned by F. C. Sparkman; Swift and Reeves, Dry Goods and Groceries; J. E. Armstrong, Groceries and Provisions; A. J. Kellis, Blacksmith; Main Street Barber Shop owned by A. G. McGee; and Pruett and Hines, Meat Market. There was also a post office and a school at Cummins at this time.

In January, 1891, the townsite for Sterling City was donated by R. C. Stewart. The place for the townsite was about one and one half miles east of Cummins and about three miles up the river west of Montvale. In February, 1891, the townsite was surveyed and plotted by H. B. Tarver. In a short time businesses were being established at Sterling City.

Some of these had existed

previously at Montvale. Part of the population of Montvale had moved to Cummins before Sterling City was begun. Apparently by the summer of 1891, most of the business houses of Montvale had moved out. The editor of the Sterling Courier on June 11, 1891, mentioned that Sterling County contained two small towns, Sterling City and Cummins.

By June 11, 1891, about twenty families had moved into Sterling City and the business houses consisted of one hotel, one restaurant, one dry goods and grocery store, one meat market, one feed stable, and one barber shop. There were also a lawyer, a land agency, and a newspaper.

H. S. Jones ran the dry goods and grocery store, W. T. Latham ran the meat market, R. E. L. Culp operated the Barber Shop, and P. M. Sandifer was proprietor of the City Hotel. By July 1, the population was estimated at one hundred. There were two newspapers in the county by June 11: The North Concho News, which had begun May 7 and was edited at Cummins by W. L. Thurman, and the Sterling Courier, begun at Sterling City in June by S. R. Ezzell.

In the midst of the rise of these little towns, Sterling County was organized. The Texas Legislature on March 4, 1891, created Sterling County out of the territory of Tom Green County. The newly created county was to pay her pro rata share of existing debts

and liabilities of Tom Green County.

A petition, signed by one hundred and fifty Sterling citizens, asking permission to be organized into a county, was heard in the Tom Green County Commissioner's Court on April 10, 1891. The court granted the petition and ordered that an election be held on May 20 for the purpose of electing county officers and of determining the location of the county seat.

In a few issues before the election, the editor of the North Concho News devoted a great deal of space in his paper to boasting Cummins for the county seat, and to listing the disadvantages of having the capital located at Sterling City. He argued that Cummins was two miles nearer the center of the county, that the title to the land on which Sterling City was located was not clear, that Cummins had better natural drainage than Sterling, which was likely to be boggy and infested with mosquitoes, and that a dam, mill, and gin were under contract at Cummins. The people of Sterling City retaliated by having a circular printed and distributed for the purpose of advertising the advantages of their city as county seat.

The election was duly held on May 20, 1891, and the total vote gave Sterling City ninety-four and Cummins ninety-eight. The

following county officers were chosen: Dr. P. D. Couison, County Judge; C. N. Rutherford, County and District Clerk; W. T. Sullivan, Hide and Animal W. M. Sampson, County Treasurer; W. N. Hiler, Sheriff and Tax Collector; S. W. McClure, County Attorney; W. J. Cosby, County Tax Assessor; W. T. Sullivan, Hide and Animal W. M. Sampson, County Inspector; C. W. Holt, County Surveyor; A. B. Powell,

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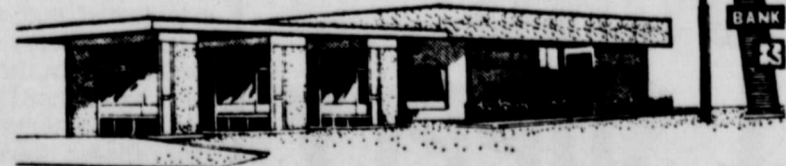
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## County Seat Battle Hot

Commissioner Precinct No. 1; Thomas Brennand, Commissioner Precinct No. 2; W. L. Foster, Commissioner Precinct No. 3; and B. M. Jones, Commissioner of Precinct No. 4.

An official count was made on May 25, and it was found that some irregular voting had taken place. One box was thrown out because it had no poll list, and two others were thrown out because they had no instructions to judges. When this was done, the results gave Sterling City and Cummins each sixty-one votes for the county seat.

The election of the county officers was not affected by throwing these boxes out, but another election had to be called for determining the location of the county seat. This election was set for July 7, by Judge P. D. Coulson. Governor Hogg then selected Souldard's Ranch house as the temporary county seat.

The month of June saw a warm campaign for county seat. Each town went so far as to donate a lot to anyone who would improve it before the

election. The editors of the North Concho News at Cum-Sterling City, true to the practice of frontier journalists, engaged in a vitriolic personal warfare.

They argued over the scenery, the water supply, the drainage, the elevation, and even over the depth to which a wagon wheel would cut into the mud of their respective towns.

The second election for locating the county seat, held on July 7, gave Sterling City one hundred and sixteen votes to one hundred and three for Cummins. The location of the county seat was the determining factor in the struggle for existence of Sterling City and Cummins, and within a few weeks after the election business houses began to move from Cummins over to Sterling City.

By August 6, the Concho Town Company, which had been boosting Cummins, abandoned that town and laid off an addition on the West side of Sterling City. In September, the North Concho News sold out to

the Sterling Courier. The population of Sterling City had increased from about one hundred in July to three hundred in September.

By the end of the year 1891, there was not much left of Cummins, and it disappeared entirely within the next year or so.

As soon as it was determined that Sterling City was to be the county seat, preparations were begun for building a courthouse. In July, 1891, the county voted \$2500 bonds to finance the building of the courthouse, which was completed before Christmas at a cost of \$1800. It was a wooden, two-story structure about thirty feet wide by fifty feet long.

In 1891, the population of Sterling County was estimated at 1000. From 1890 to 1895 or 1896, Sterling County editors gave much space to advertising and boosting the county. Advertisements two and three columns wide hailed Sterling County as "the garden spot of the P. C. C. Country." The P. C. C. Stood for Pecan, Colorado, Concho Country.

By 1891, the country had already become one of numerous small communities. The following communities existed then: (1.) Sterling City, (2) Mulberry, on Mulberry Creek, (3) China Valley, about six miles east of Sterling City, (4) Divide, northeast of Sterling City on the divide between the Concho and Colorado watersheds, (5) Kellis, six miles up the Concho from Sterling City, (6) Hackberry, in the northern part of the county, (7) Sterling Creek, on the upper part of the creek by the same name, and (8) Lacy, on Lacy Creek.

Among the early teachers at Montvale were Professor M. O. Davis and a Professor Griffin. It was one of these men who taught the first school there. In the year 1887, a Professor Lee taught at Montvale. The enrollment for that year was about seventeen pupils. Professor Lee was a young man and wore a long black beard and a "stovepipe" hat.

A school house was built in 1889 on Sterling Creek at a place about six miles south of Sterling City. This was called Foster School and the first teacher was Miss Mae Anderson of Colorado City. Miss Anderson had previously been a tutor in the home of R. W. Foster.

This school house was a two-story building and the upper story was used as a meeting place for the Masonic Lodge. School was held here until about 1896 or 1897. In the same year a school house was built at Kellis, about six miles up the river from Sterling City. W. F. Kellis was the first teacher there.

In addition to the Montvale, Kellis, and Foster schools, there were by 1891 schools at Divide, which community was also known for a time as Humble; at China Valley, five or six miles east of Sterling City; at Crawford Slide, about five miles north of Divide; and at Cummins. The number of school pupils in the entire county in 1891 was estimated at two hundred and fifty.

By 1895 schools had been established and school houses built at Mulberry, Iolanthe, and Hackberry. In 1891 a school had been established in the Sterling Creek community. In the fall of 1897 funds were raised by subscription and a school house was built about two miles south of the old Foster school. This school was known as Hillside.

This school house was located on what is now the ranch of C. L. Coulson. Lacy school house was built on Lacy Creek in the spring of 1898. Drennan School, a few miles west of Hillside

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## Schools Came Early

school, was built in 1901. It is thought that Morrow school house, in the northwestern part of the county, was erected about 1899.

As has been pointed out, these school houses were built with money raised by the community wherein the building was erected. They were all one-room, one-teacher schools, and it was indeed a heterogeneous group which attended them. There was a wide range of ages and sizes of children. Some of these pupils rode horseback long distances to school, even as far as six or eight miles. The length of the school term varied in the different schools and in the same school from year to year. Sometimes school held for two or three months and occasionally it held for as many as ten. The length of the term depended upon the amount of money available. The school simply ran as long as the money lasted. School terms were usually held in the fall and winter months.

While Sterling County was developing her schools and

increasing in population, she was also giving due attention to her churches. The first church to be organized within the present bounds of the county, as has already been mentioned, was a Methodist Church at Montvale. It was organized sometime in the middle 80's. The first pastor a Reverend Mr. Allen, was a circuit rider and worked out of San Angelo.

As the organization period of Sterling County saw development of community, church and school, it likewise witnessed a turning point in the ranching industry. The coming of the wire fence marks this significant change in ranching. The first wire fence in the county was a drift fence put up by the big ranchers of this section and farther north. This fence was about one hundred miles long. It originated near San Angelo, crossed Sterling County about the latitude of Mulberry Creek, and ran on to the foot of the Staked Plains.

It was built in the middle 80's, and its purpose was to catch

cattle as they drifted southward during the winter. It eliminated a great deal of line riding. Soon after this fence was built, smaller ranchers began to fence their pastures. Most stockmen began by fencing a small pasture for their saddle horses. One of the first ranches to be fenced was that of Henry Wade. The fence was of smooth wire and threaded through holes bored in the posts.

While there was some fence cutting, there was never any serious trouble in Sterling County. The big ranchers, as soon as they acquired all the land they could, began to fence their ranges. They fenced before the smaller rancher. The result was that the latter found himself being fenced off from valuable range that had formerly been free grazing and often from the only source of water for his cattle. In desperation, then, the little rancher engaged in fence cutting.

The M S Range had been fenced by 1891. In that year a proclamation by Governor Jim Hogg was run in a Sterling County newspaper regarding the matter of fence cutting. The proclamation stated that on June 3, 1891 and at other times in 1891 unknown persons did cut the wire fence enclosing the pasture lands of M. Z. Smissen, and that a \$150 reward was offered for the arrest and delivery of each of the said unknown persons. In the December 10, 1891 issue of the Sterling Courier, Sheriff W. N. Hiler ran a notice offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the capture and arrest of the person who cut Thomas Brennand's fence about November 23, 1891.

Wire fencing must have been fairly well completed by 1903, for in that year a great many notices were run in the Sterling City News-Record by land-owners warning trespassers to stay out.

Cattle prices fluctuated in the early days as they do at present, but the general price level was somewhat better in the early 1900's than it was ten years earlier. In 1893, three and four yearold steers were selling for \$11.75 to \$14 each, and in 1901 only yearlings were bringing around \$13.75. Cattle prices have since increased from that level.

Along with the development of ranching in Sterling County comes the development of agriculture. The county has always been primarily a ranching country; nevertheless some farming has been carried on. A great many ranchers have from the first grown feed for their horses, having raised such crops as sorghum, oats, and cane. Some of the people along the river have always engaged in truck farming.

There have also been efforts to develop the cotton growing industry in the county. Some of the first cotton to be planted was planted by Judge J. H. Kellis in 1889. It was ginned at Ballinger. The first cotton gin in the county was erected at Sterling City about the year 1895. It was abandoned after two years.

Another gin was built by J. P. Gressett about 1906. He was killed in a gin accident soon after and the machinery was moved away. The Sterling Gin Company built a gin in 1916 and abandoned it after two years. As late as 1927, the Colorado Gin Company built a gin at Sterling City. It proved no more successful than the others had been and was also abandoned after two or three years' operation. Sterling has never been, generally, a cotton raising county, although that crop has always been grown on the Divide, where the yield has

been fairly good. Cotton acreage reported to the editor of the Sterling City News in 1897 amounted to 223 acres; however, there were probably some who did not report.

The story of Sterling County since 1900 is to a great degree a story of steady development. By 1910 the county was almost completely settled. In fact, in that year it had a greater population that it has ever had. Being a grazing country, it will not support as great a population per square mile as an agricultural county will.

United States Census figures show that the population of Sterling County in 1900 was 1127 and by 1910 it increased to 1493. By 1920, however, there were only 1053 people in the county, less than there were in 1900. The increase from 1900 to 1910 is due to the new settlers coming into the county.

Prospects of Sterling City's getting a railroad were good during that period, and this prospect served as an incentive to settlement. The railroad was being built when the census of 1910 was taken, so a great many of the population in that year were temporary residents,

laborers on the railroad. The decade from 1920 to 1930 saw an increase in population. The figure for the latter year was 1431, all permanent residents of the county.

The first telephones in Sterling County were simply neighborhood telephones. Lines were supported on pasture fences. In 1897, the Rust Brothers of San Angelo offered to put in a telephone line from San Angelo if the people would raise a certain sum of money. The people did so and the line was completed in that year.

In 1923, a \$50,000 brick school building was erected at Sterling City, and in 1938, a \$23,000 gymnasium was added. Electricity came in 1927. The highway through the county was paved in 1930.

Thus with the coming of the railroad, electricity, and telephone, the building of the highway, and the erection of modern schools, churches, and a courthouse, a pioneer ranching county has been transformed by the efforts of its stalwart settlers to a county of modern conveniences for the enrichment of the lives of the young generation which has inherited it.

## Best Wishes To The Old Pioneers

MAY THE COMING YEARS  
BE EVEN GREATER

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As the result of action of the Texas Legislature, the Texas Parks and Wildlife

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Phone in your p of news—your visitors, your News-Record 378

**1972 Politic Announcem**

The following c nounce their forr for the offices b to action of th Primary May 6 For Sheriff, Tax Collector: F. J. (JIM) C. For State Legisl District: RENAL B. RC For County Con Precinct 1: C. W. SMITH For County Con Precinct 3: BILLY R. BY For County Tri BETTY GARI For County Att WORTH B. D For State Sena: W. E. (Pete) :

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RUBY P Call 8-4451



**STERLING CITY NEWS-RECORD**

JACK DOUTHIT, Publisher  
 Entered November 10, 1902, at the Sterling City postoffice as second class matter.  
 Published Every Friday

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
 \$9.00 A YEAR IN COUNTY  
 \$3.50 A YEAR IN STATE  
 \$4.00 A YEAR OUT STATE

NEWS established in 1890  
 RECORD established in 1899  
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Cards of Thanks, reader or classified ads are charged for at the rate of 5c per word for the first insertion and 3c thereafter.

Phone in your personal items of news—your visits, your visitors, your parties, etc. News-Record 378-3251.

**1972 Political Announcements**

The following candidates announce their formal candidacy for the offices below, subject to action of the Democratic Primary May 6, 1972:

- For Sheriff, Tax-Assessor-Collector:**  
 F. J. (JIM) CANTRELL  
**For State Legislature, 63rd District:**  
 RENAL B. ROSSON  
**For County Commissioner, Precinct 1:**  
 C. W. SMITH  
**For County Commissioner, Precinct 3:**  
 BILLY R. BYNUM  
**For County Treasurer:**  
 BETTY GARRETT  
**For County Attorney:**  
 WORTH B. DURHAM  
**For State Senator, 25th Dist:**  
 W. E. (Pete) SNELSON

**"YOUR HEAD IS MY BUSINESS"**

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**City Barber Shop**  
 Andrew Coronado, Prop.

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FOR AUTO, FIRE AND CASUALTY AND LIFE INSURANCE, Use Your Local Reliable and Tested Agent—**DURHAM INS. AGENCY**  
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**POSTED**—All land operated by me posted against trespassing and hunting. Violators prosecuted.  
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 No. 8-4321 Sterling City, Tex.  
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**Vanity Beauty Shop**  
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 Call 8-4451 for Appointment

**FOR SALE**—2-wheel trailer. Will be at home until 2:30 p.m. daily. Mrs. Margaret (Vernon) Blackman.

**CARD OF THANKS**

I want to thank everyone for the cards, visits and everything while I was hospitalized, and a special thanks to Dr. Swann, the nurses, cooks and all at hospital.  
 BETTY GARRETT

**'Wanted by the FBI'**

**CLERICAL EMPLOYEES**

Attention: High School Graduates, Business, Junior and Senior College Students  
 The Dallas Office of the FBI, through its Special Agent in Charge, Mr. J. Gordon Shanlin, has announced it is again in urgent need of clerical employees to fill the positions of Cler and Typist at Bureau headquarters in Washington, D.C. These positions present an excellent opportunity for young people, male or female, who are at least 16 years of age, United States citizens, and have at least a high school education, provided they can pass a rigid investigation of loyalty, reputation, and character, and are in good physical condition. No previous experience is required. Future vacancies are also anticipated in the Fingerprint Clerk and Stenographer positions.

The entrance salary for a Clerk is \$4,897 (GS-2) per year with a raise in thirty to ninety days to \$5,524 (GS-3) per year, if their work is satisfactory. A twenty word spelling test must be passed to qualify for the Clerk position.

As openings occur, applicants for the Clerk position who are interested, are considered for the Fingerprint Clerk position which starts at \$5,524 (GS-3) per year. Successful candidates are considered for promotion to \$6,202 (GS-4) per year after six months; to \$6,938 (GS-5) per year after one year; and to \$7,727 (GS-6) per year after two years experience in fingerprint work.

A Typist starts at \$5,524 (GS-3) per year. Applicants for the the Typist position must pass a ten minute typing test of 45 words per minute and a twenty word spelling test.

A Stenographer starts at \$6,202 (GS-4) per year. To qualify for the Stenographer position applicants must pass a three minute dictation test at the rate of eighty words per minute; pass a ten minute typing test at the rate of forty five words per minute; pass a twenty word spelling test; and a twenty word vocabulary test. Qualified Stenographers must be willing to accept a Typist position until vacancies for the Stenographer position exist.

The FBI is only interested in above average young men and women. Many FBI clerical employees continue their college education on a part time basis in the Washington, D.C. area while working at these full time clerical jobs. Young men who obtain a four year college degree from an accredited college and who have been employed in a clerical capacity with the FBI for two years and meet the other requirements are considered for the Special Agent position at a starting salary of \$11,517 (GS-10) per year.

The FBI provides counseling services to its new employees to assist them with housing, transportation, and other needs. If close friends or young married couples apply at the same time and are found acceptable, every effort is made to afford them appointments at the same time.

The FBI does not come under Civil Service in that the FBI has its own application forms, tests, investigates, and hires its own employees rather than draw them from a Civil Service list or register.

An application and detailed information can be obtained by

**BOYS RANCH ROUNDUP**

Chairman for West Texas Boys Ranch has announced that I. W. Terry has been appointed Wagon Boss for Sterling County. Owens said—We are very fortunate to have a man like I.W. Terry working for the Ranch in Sterling County. West Texas Boys Ranch is presently caring for 72 boys who need our help, that's why we are so pleased to have Mr. Terry working with us in the Annual Roundup. West Texas Boys Ranch has served over 700 boys since it was organized in 1947. Of that number one boy has been from Sterling County.

West Texas Boys Ranch is supported entirely by tax-deductible donations by the public and Annual Roundup is one of the most important money-raising events undertaken by volunteers for the Ranch. All proceeds from Roundup go into general operating funds to purchase bread and butter, shoes and socks, and to meet the operating expenses of the Ranch. Through Roundup livestockmen are invited to donate livestock or cash to help maintain the Ranch as a home for the dependent and neglected boys of West Texas. The spring phase of Roundup was kicked off at a Wagon Boss meeting held in San Angelo on aMrch 11. Arrangements to haul donated livestock will be made by local Wagon Bosses or the Roundup Chairman. Most area livestock commission companies do not charge commission on livestock donated to West Texas Boys Ranch.

**Sterling Alumni Meet SET FOR JUNE 17**

The Sterling Alumni Association has set June 17 as the date for this year's meeting. The meeting and dance will be held here in the city park—with the dance on the slab. This year's president is Mrs. Nan Davis, Billy Ralph Bynum is vice-president. Roland Lowe is secretary treasurer and the dance committee is composed of Bill Davis, Pat Foster and Frank Price.

**HELP WANTED**

**HOMEMAKERS . . .** Earn extra spending money without leaving home. Occasional telephone interviewing. Experience not necessary. No selling. Must have private telephone. Send letter including name, phone number, education, any work experience, and names of references to: **American Research Bureau,** Field Operations, 4320 Amendale Road, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

calling or writing; the Special Agent in Charge, FBI, 200 Mercantile Continental Building, Dallas, Texas, 75201, telephone Area Code 214-741-1851, or by contacting the nearest FBI Office whose telephone number will be listed in the front of your telephone directory.

Completed applications should be sent to the above address as soon as possible as processing of such applications can be instituted as much as six months prior to an individual's availability. Upon receipt of a completed application, the interested applicant will be contacted promptly and arrangements made for personal interview and appropriate tests at a time and place convenient to the applicant.

Vacancies for the position of Clerk, Typist and Stenographer occasionally exist in our Dallas Office for which interested and qualified applicants may be considered.

The many benefits of working for the FBI such as annual leave, sick leave, health and life insurance, and retirement benefits should be thoroughly considered when choosing a career.



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**The First National Bank**

of Sterling City  
 Sterling City, Texas 76951

**Member F.D.I.C.**

**FOR SALE**—15 foot boat, 5 horse Sea King motor and trailer complete for \$250. See A. W. Anderson.

**FOR SALE**—to be moved. The Foster Estate house just north of hospital. See H. L. Hildebrand.

**WANTED**—Person to operate Shell Station here. Call Rainbow Oil Co., San Angelo, 655-7676.

**For Dependable Livestock Hauling**  
 OR ALL KINDS OF TRUCKING USE

**Paisano Trucking**

**BILL BARRETT, Mgr.**

Sterling City, Tex. Ph. 378-4081  
 (IF WE CAN'T HANDLE IT, WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN)



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**Sterling City News-Record**

**YOUR PRINTING HEADQUARTERS**

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- Lodge and Club Booklets

Also - Rubber Stamps, Adding Machine Paper and Stationery —

**News-Record**

Phone 8-3251 Box 608 Sterling City



### Church of Christ Singing Meet Held

Over 200 junior high and high school youngsters poured in from as far away as Carlsbad, N. M. for a singing-worship workshop here last Saturday, sponsored by the Sterling City Church of Christ. James Jackson, former high school and college choral conductor and now minister of music and education at the White Rock Church of Christ in Dallas, worked with the young congregation for one and one-half hours on singing techniques as well as the meaning of worship in song. The hymns were used in that evening's service. "Let No Man Despise Thy Youth," a choral setting of I Timothy 4:12 composed by Jackson especially for the Saturday gathering, was rehearsed and included in the final worship period.

Afternoon and evening sessions included a student led devotional, "Avenues to God"; a sharing period during which religious songs popular with young people were presented by visiting groups; and a panel discussion, "The Christian Young Person and His Music," led by Jackson, Tommy Hicks of San Angelo, and Bryan Bost of Midland. An old fashioned Sterling County barbecue provided a delicious interruption to the day's busy schedule with beautiful weather adding flavor to the city park feed.

Bryan Bost of Midland delivered the final message—Worship in Song, It's Nature and Meaning. The service was concluded with the singing of How Great Thou Art.

Planned and led by the young people of the local Church of Christ, the day was termed unique and inspiring by participants from some twenty visiting churches. "We had about as good attendance and quality as we had hoped for," said Pat Books, local preacher. "Our young people are a great asset to the church here, and all of us were proud to join them in this effort."

### Young Couples Bridge Club

The Young Couples Bridge Club met in the Tommy Foster home on April 13. Hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond T. Foster.

Dinner and bridge comprised the evening's entertainment.

Members present included Mr. and Mrs. Jim Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Glass, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Glass, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Horwood, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Stewart, and Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson.

Guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Hopkins.

High woman in bridge was Mrs. Lynn Glass, high man Jim Davis and low was James Thompson.

Albert McGinnesses father, Sam McGinness of Eldorado, visited the McGinnesses here last week.

REMEMBER  
THOSE  
YOU LOVED  
WITH A  
MEMORIAL GIFT  
TO THE  
AMERICAN  
CANCER  
SOCIETY

### CITIZENS OF TOMORROW



REYMUNDO AMADOR  
Reymundo is the little son of the Steven Amadors of Sterling City.



CHRIS AND CAMIE BEARDEN  
Chris and Camie are the children of Mrs. Ann Bearden.



LAURA BLACKBURN  
Laura is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Blackburn.



We could save one out of two. We don't.

Cancer is not necessarily a killer. Many cancers are curable today. Doctors have the knowledge...the skills...the equipment to save 1 out of 2 cancer patients!

Yet each year, more than 90,000 people die needlessly. Because they do not go to their doctors in time. Early diagnosis and proper treatment could have saved them. Be a life-saver. Yours. See your doctor regularly!

American Cancer Society

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES  
AREA DIRECTOR  
VENDING AT ITS BEST  
\$995.00 starts you Part Time  
(4 hours weekly)  
EXTRA MONEY IS ALWAYS HELPFUL  
\* Man or Woman \*

Our company gets approved locations that you okay in writing—at no charge. Call or write for additional information and please include your address and phone number.

HANDI-SNAX, A Division of DM Corp. 3318 E. Highway 67, Mesquite, Texas 75149.  
Phone: a-c 214-270-4448

In case of fire, phone 8-4771

### THE DAY THAT INVOLVES EVERYONE



May 1 is Law Day USA. The first of May has been set aside by joint resolution of Congress, and Presidential proclamation as "a special day of celebration by the American people in appreciation of their liberties" and as an occasion for "rededication to the ideals of equality and justice under law."

The annual nationwide event is sponsored by the American Bar Association in cooperation with 1,000 state and local bar associations

throughout the country. It is not a "lawyers' day," but rather an occasion for honoring the place of law in our lives, for learning how the law and our legal system operates, and for examining how the law can better serve our people and nation.

It is a day, too, when all the people of the United States are asked to consider their individual duties as responsible citizens: Such as: 1) The duty to be informed on issues of government and community affairs, 2) To

respect the rights of others, and 3) To practice and teach the principles of good citizenship.

That Law Day USA occupies only a single calendar day merely is symbolic. It is an annual reminder that while the principles embodied in the observance are constant, their vitality cannot be taken for granted, but must be nurtured and sustained by every citizen every day of the year.

TEXAS OIL COMPANY needs good man over 40 for short trips surrounding Sterling City. Contact customers. We train. Air mail A.S. Dickerson, Pres., Southwestern Petroleum Corp., Ft. Worth, Texas.

Phone in news of your visits or visitors to the News-Record. 378-3251.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY  
Unusual opportunity for man or woman to restock new type coin dispensers with high quality packaged food products. Handling brand names only. No selling. Dependable person can net VERY HIGH EARNINGS. Part or full time. Requires \$1150 to \$3250 cash secured by inventory and equipment. Write for personal interview, giving phone number to Inter-State Dist. Co., 455 East 4th South, Suite 206, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

NOTICE—The Volunteer Service League meets every second Monday at 7 p.m. at the Sterling County Hospital and Nursing Home. Please arrange to be present.

FOR SALE — Galvanized storage tank 6x5 ft. A1 condition. \$100.00. Mrs. Ray Lane

REWARD NOTICE  
A reward of \$500.00 will be paid by the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association to any person (other than law enforcement officers) giving information causing the arrest and final conviction of any person or persons found butchering or stealing any sheep or lambs or goats belonging to any Association member in good standing. When two or more persons give information, the above sum will be divided at the discretion of the Board of the Association. When two or more defendants are involved in a single crime, the total reward is limited to \$500.00, but the conviction of one defendant, even though the other defendants are acquitted will entitle the claimant or claimants to said sum of \$500.00. All claims must be submitted within ninety (90) days following conviction. If, upon conviction, a defendant confesses other thefts, no additional reward will be paid. All deviations concerning the payment of such reward and the conditions of payment will be made by the Board of Directors of the Association. TEXAS SHEEP & GOAT RAISERS ASSOCIATION

Call in your new items to the News-Record. 378-3251.

### Spotlight on HEALTH

#### PROFILE OF A COLD VICTIM

What are your chances of catching a cold? According to a booklet on the subject, they're especially good if you're female, live in a large city in the western or north-eastern part of the U.S., and are the mother of a child under 6 years of age. Young children are the greatest cold-spreaders. Your chances are further enhanced if you're going through a period of stress and strain. "Contentment preserves one even from catching a cold," the great philosopher, Nietzsche once said.

The booklet, which discusses the common cold, is distributed by Winthrop Laboratories, the makers of Neo-Synephrine nose drops and nasal spray that are widely used in the U.S. and abroad.

Keeping up one's resistance helps to avoid the common cold, according to the publication, which advises getting sufficient fresh air and exercise, well-balanced meals, and as much sleep as possible in a well-ventilated bedroom. In cold weather areas, an extra hour a night is recommended.

Early stages of the common cold are the most contagious. Every sneeze fills the air with thousands of virus-laden droplets. To help

prevent spreading a cold to the rest of the family, to friends and to co-workers, everyone should have his own glass, cup, silverware and towels. Hands should be washed thoroughly and often, preferably with a liquid antibacterial skin cleanser. pHisoHex is the one that is used in most U.S. hospitals to help prevent spread of infections. Particularly during the cold season, it is wise to keep a handwashing preparation in the kitchen, as well as in the bathroom.

Your chances of catching a cold will be reduced if pre-



cautions are taken. However, the Winthrop booklet also states that it is not completely possible to avoid a cold. Just breathing the air that someone with a cold has merely talked into offers the possibility of infecting a healthy person.

### PRODUCTION WORKERS NEEDED FOR EXPANSION!

FIBER GLASS SYSTEMS, Inc.  
1 1/4 Miles North of IS20 on Lamesa Highway

STARTING WAGE \$2.00 Per Hour  
(Higher with desired experience)

#### BENEFITS

1. Two weeks paid vacation after first year employment
2. Fully paid hospitalization and life insurance—after 60 days
3. Sick leave
4. Wage review very six months
5. Paid holidays (six)
7. Borrowing fund

An Equal Opportunity Employer

The Texas Department of Public Safety is offering immediate career employment qualified young men. Contact your nearest DPS office or a trooper for more information.

PRESERVE Those Precious Memories. Metalize your baby shoes. Bronze, gold, silver or clear glass. Morgan's Bronzing Service, 21 E. 17th, Phone 653-1541, San Angelo, Texas.



### HUMBLE CHARTERED LUBRICATION

Your car's moving parts will be carefully lubricated point-by-point with just the right lubricant.

WE WASH CARS



Murrell's Humble Service Station  
Phone 8-2591  
Sterling City, Texas

### Beth's Beauty Shop

In the Home Ph 378-487  
MRS. BETH WELLS  
LICENSED OPERATOR

#### CANDY SUPPLY ROUTE

Instant income.—NEED man or woman to restock and amazing coin dispenser with brandname merchandise.

If you have the drive and determination to become successful, then write us today. Earnings can exceed \$900 per month.

To qualify you must have a good car, be able to devote no less than 8 SPARETIME hours a week, and have the necessary capital of \$1550.00 to \$3450.00.

For information write: STRATEGIC FRANCHISES 500 South Ervay—Suite 629 Dallas, Texas 75201.

#### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Refilling and collecting money from new type high quality coin operated dispensers in this area. No selling. To qualify you must have cash references, \$600 or \$2,900 cash. Seven to twelve hours weekly can net excellent monthly income. More full time. For personal interview write Petex Distributing Company, 3112 (A) Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75247. Include phone number.

### MEN NEEDED in this area to train as LIVESTOCK BUYERS

LEARN TO BUY CATTLE, HOGS AND SHEEP at sale barns, feed lots and ranches. We prefer to train men with livestock experience. For local interview, write age, phone, address & background to: NATIONAL MEAT PACKERS TRAINING 1805 East Ave. Ft. Worth, Texas 76103 ATTN: Dept. WT-241

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VOL. 80



ARTR

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