



**SUMMER 1991**

**SPECIAL  
SPORTSMAN'S  
PREVIEW**



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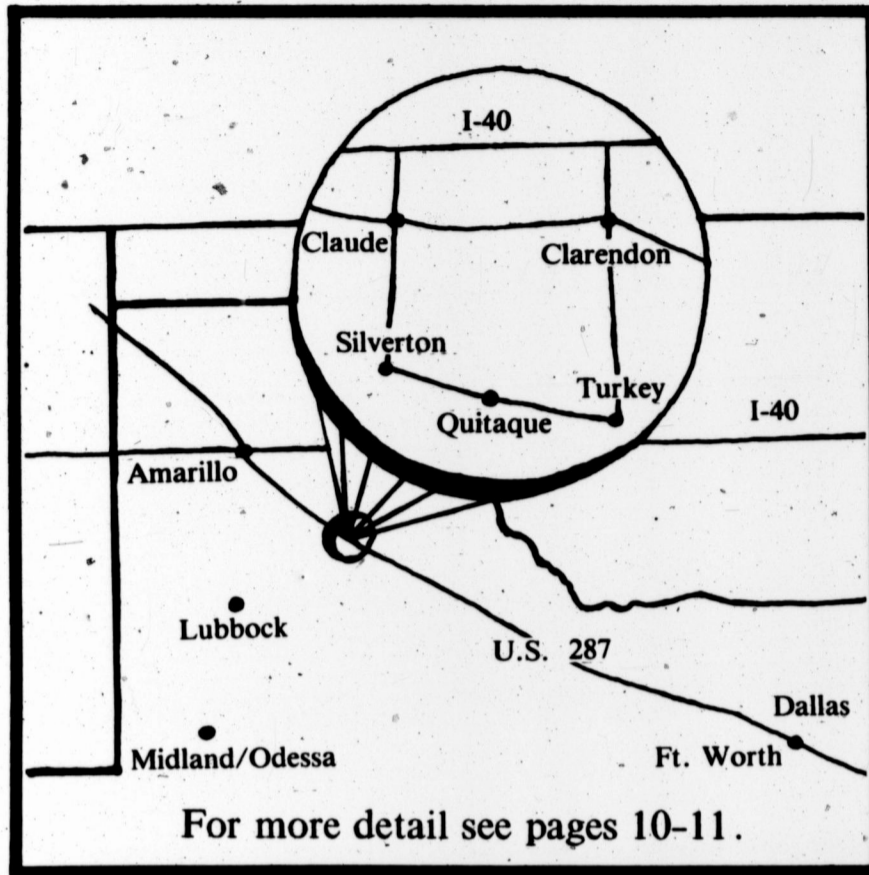
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*Prairie Dog Gazette Staff:  
 Kevin Welch, Judy Welch,  
 and Pat Sikes*

# SETTING THE SCENE



For more detail see pages 10-11.

"The West of the Heart" is this region of the Texas Panhandle where the Llano Estacado tumbles down the rugged Caprock Escarpment, finding comfort at last in the gentle, rolling plains. A drive through the land stirs up ancient dust. Every particle, as it settles, has a tale to tell. Here, still, the values of the West's most potent symbol, the quintessential cowboy, remain in the hearts of the people.

**Clarendon** - One of three earliest centers of Panhandle government. Donley County seat, 1890. Settled 1878 as a "Christian colony." Strict moral codes of colonists conflicted with free-spirited life of cowboys, prompting nickname "Saints' Roost." On Salt Fork of Red River, cattle range of JA, RO, and many other pioneer ranches.

**Claude** - Armstrong County seat, 1890. Established as a stop on FW&DCR line and named for train engineer. Nearby landmark is JA Ranch Headquarters, still home of original owner Adair's descendants. To the east is the site of house and grave of legendary plainsman Col.

**Area Lakes**  
**Greenbelt**, near Clarendon, 3-1/2 miles North from US 287 on TX 70. Spring-fed 1,990 surface acres. Northern Pike Capital of Texas. Permit required. Public marina, ramps, bait house. Concessions. RV parks. Contact Manager, Greenbelt Water Authority, P.O. Box 665, Clarendon, TX 79226, phone 806-874-3650.  
**Mackenzie**, 12 miles NW of Silverton via TX 86W or 45 miles S of Claude via TX 207S. An 896 surface-acre reservoir in historic Tule Canyon. RV hookups. Ramps,

Charles Goodnight in the town named for him.

**Quitaque** - In Briscoe County. Probably named for early Quitaca tribe which scouted for Spanish explorers. Gateway to Caprock Canyons State Park. Sidewalk museum recreates ranch/farm life and times. Heart of infamous Comanchero-Indian trade territory. Nearby campsite of tragic 1841 Texas Santa Fe Expedition.

**Silverton** - Briscoe County seat, 1892. Named by Mrs. Z.T. Braidfoot, wife of ranch settler, for aesthetic appeal. East of historic Tule (Indian name for "marsh grass") Canyon and region of U.S. Cavalry-Comanche wars. Landmark 1894 jail house represents Old West struggle for law and order.

**Turkey** - In Hall County. Originally named "Turkey Roost" for wild turkeys on nearby Turkey Creek. Grew around a line camp cabin which became general store and settlers' mail exchange. Official post office established 1892. Museum, memorial and annual celebration honor Western Swing King Bob Wills.

floating docks. Contact Mackenzie Water Authority, Rt. 1, Box 14, Silverton, TX 79257, phone 806-633-4326.

**Theo**, in historic Caprock Canyons State Park, 4 miles NW of Quitaque on FR 1065. One of two Texas habitats for salt water herring on 120 acres. Annual rainbow trout stocking in December. Concessions. Various shelters and comfort facilities. Vehicle access fee; overnight is extra. Contact Superintendent, Caprock Canyons State Park, P.O. Box 204, Quitaque, TX 79255, phone 806-455-1492.

## Looking For "The West Of The Heart"

The Prairie Dog Gazette covers an area of Texas that possesses beauty and significance on many levels.

The land itself, varied and rugged, includes the sharply rising Caprock Escarpment and several systems of canyons (the best known being the Palo Duro). Rolling pastures and a bit of the smooth High Plains provide contrast.

The sky stretches high and wide. Occasionally, the thunderheads or blustery northers cloud it, but normally its vivid blue clarity reminds us of nature's immensity.

It was in this environment that the men and women of the frontier era lived, some of whom we now find in the pages of history books. Cattlemen established the prototypical ranches described in prose, songs and, most popularly, on film. Women battled the hardships of the wilderness to create homes and some semblance of the civilization they had left behind. Dreamers had a huge canvas on which they painted what is now commonly thought of as the legendary Wild West. Cowboys, Indians and eventually, frontier towns abounded here.

In the Prairie Dog Gazette you can find stories about this land and its people -- present and past. These detail the individual brushstrokes which, when seen together, blend to form a picture of the American West. The reality of life in an untamed land may seem harsh; nevertheless, for the people who remain to call this place home, the adversity and challenge forge an unbreakable link with the joys, courage, and hopes of our predecessors.

This compelling heritage reaches beyond the bounds of the region itself. Taken as a whole, the lives and land of our territory represent more than mere history. They have been transformed into "The West of the Heart" by imaginations throughout the world.




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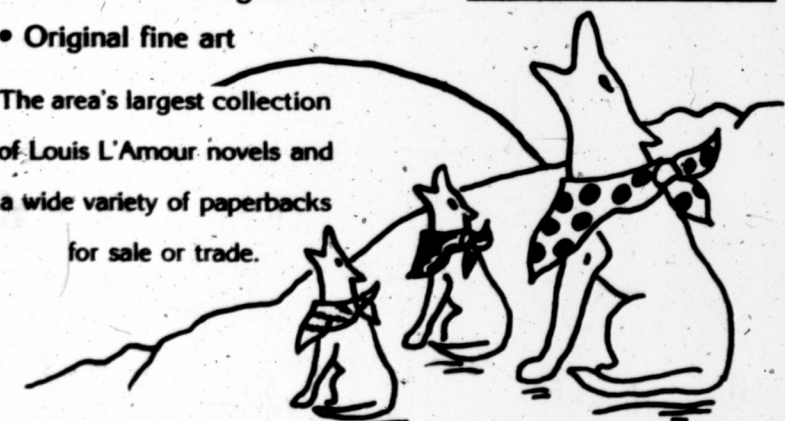
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# Schott's Vision Conquered Caprock

Pioneers in the rugged land of this area knew they had to carve out a place for themselves. William E. Schott was no exception, although he did his carving a little more literally and ambitiously than most. Besides founding a large ranch, he also built the first road to conquer the Caprock Escarpment.

When Schott was born in Canton, Ohio in 1870, his future seemed to be that of an urban carpenter/contractor. His father even let him serve as carpentry intern in the family building business until 1885.

The appeal of frontier life and the restrictions of life in the city, however, led William Schott westward. He arrived in Sherman, Texas to work for his brother, a livestock trader. There the young man stayed for several years learning the techniques of herding and

husbanding cattle.

Schott, not unlike many of his contemporaries, continued his westward movement as land became scarce in the eastern areas of the fledgling state of Texas. On the way to New Mexico's wide-open spaces lay the Texas Panhandle. Here William stopped short of his original goal and filed a Squatter's Right Claim for land east of Silverton.

To provide access to government and commercial centers on the plains, Schott began the task for which he is remembered best — the Schott Cap Road. With horse teams and hand tools he built the first (and rather steep) road up the Caprock, sometimes following an ancient Indian foot trail. The road allowed passage from the Rolling Plains to the High Plains and specifically to the new Briscoe County seat of

Silverton in 1892.

While Schott expanded and improved his Rincon Ranch, he did the same for roads in his area of the country. Eventually even cars could conquer the Caprock on roads Schott built and then lengthened to the eastern reaches of Briscoe County.

As a demonstration of William Schott's engineering skills, one of his roads up the escarpment is still used frequently by his grandson John. However, another of those roads was "improved" by engineers in 1952, but rapidly eroded, becoming no more than a man-made arroyo.

The legacy of this leader in Briscoe County's development lives on in the niche he carved for himself and others — the Rincon Ranch (still family owned) and the road network which includes the Schott Cap Road.



On the courthouse square in Silverton, a 1967 official medallion marks the Briscoe County jail house as a Texas Historic Landmark, "a lasting reminder of what courage and dedication mean in preserving law, order and integrity." Construction of the two-story jail was completed in August 1894 for \$4,687. It was built of rough native stone, hewn by hatchet and hauled eight miles by horsedrawn wagons from nearby Tule Canyon. The first jail administrator was Sheriff Miner Crawford. The jail remains unchanged today except for replacement of the original padlock. The first floor is furnished with a rolltop desk and bed. Some families of early sheriffs resided there. During World War II, Red Cross workers used the rooms to sew. As late as 1975, the jail was a hold-over lock-up for prisoners enroute to Tulia or Floydada.

**Correction**

We were happy to hear from Rev. Everett Stevens who read our Spring issue so thoroughly. He spotted a mathematical error in one of the "fillers", and advised us that \$240.00 bought 160 acres of prairie land rather than 16 acres. We learn from our mistakes. Thank you!



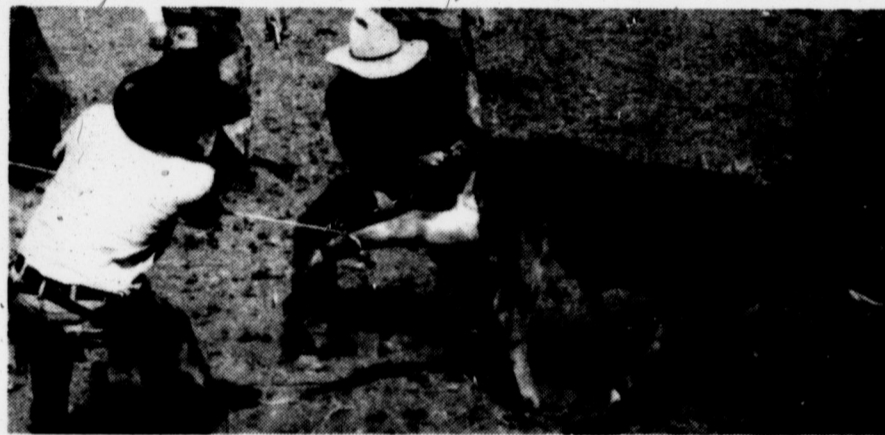
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# Cowboys Make Their Mark: A Spring Ritual



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As the grass begins to grow green in the Spring, cowboys ride out to perform an ancient ritual. Hieroglyphics painted on the walls of Egyptian tombs, some 4,000 years ago, portray herdsmen placing a red-hot marker on the hides of their cattle. Contemporary cattlemen use the same method to make their mark of ownership. Winter wanes and crews of cowboys come together for the Spring roundup.

In North America, Mexican vaqueros popularized the custom of branding cattle, and the practice quickly became entrenched. Until the open ranges were fenced, cowboys tended to branding and other roundup chores wherever the herd might be grazing.

Modern cowboys now gather the cattle into pens. Ranchers organize crews to brand, ear tag, dehorn, and vaccinate calves, (castrating the bulls) brought in from their pastures.

Of course, the need to rope the calves has not changed from the open-range days. However, some techniques oldtimers might find surprising are branding irons heated with butane burners instead of wood fires, insect-repelling eartags, and vaccines administered to treat maladies ranging from respiratory to venereal diseases.

A coming change even 20th Century cowboys may find hard to imagine involves another form of permanent identification for cattle. Technology now promises to provide safe, affordable encapsulated transmitters to be placed beneath the skin of calves' ears. Computerized scanners will read them, just as brand inspectors now read the mark of "the iron."

Techniques may vary with time, but the Spring roundup of calves remains on every rancher's calendar.

## Yankie's Windmill RV Park



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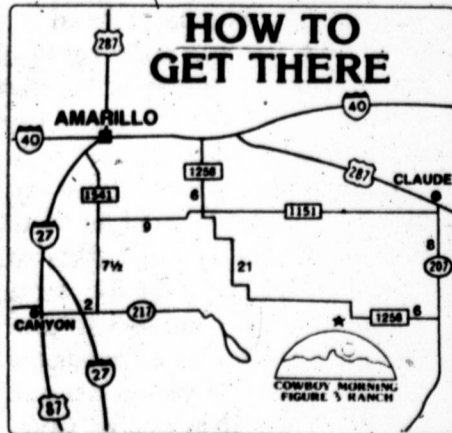
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## Cowboy Morning

Figure 3 Ranch -- Palo Duro Canyon

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Adult \$19, Children \$14.50 age 4 to 12, free under 4 years.

# Palace Hotel Perishes In Blaze

After the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway entered Claude in 1887, many businesses were established to serve the needs of the new Panhandlers. Wood buildings with false fronts and boardwalks housed stores, livery stables, blacksmiths and other enterprises. During this period of growth, a landmark of Claude was erected. It was known as the Palace Hotel and stood on the corner north-east of the courthouse square. Built in 1890 by J.M. White, it was one of the largest hotels in the Panhandle.

John A. Reck recalls that travelers were met at the depot and encouraged to stay at the Palace. The green three-story frame structure was "L" shaped with a veranda on the south and west sides. Guests entered the lobby on the southwest corner of the ground floor. The dining room was on the south side next to the lobby and held approximately 10 tables. These two rooms were lit with hollow wire gas mantle lights while other rooms used kerosene lamps. John White and his wife were the cooks at one time, and John was famous for his coconut cream pie.

The next room on the southeast corner was the kitchen and was the only room with running water. The remainder of the building was dedicated to 34 guest rooms; each held a bed, dressing table and a chair.



Palace Hotel circa 1904 photo courtesy of Kim Wright

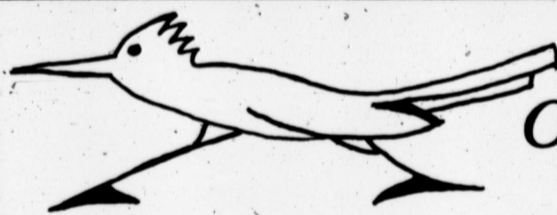
The Palace Hotel saw many owner-managers as well as guests. W.H. Bowie was the first operator. Several other owners followed. Late in the hotel's life, Major and Fanny Robinson purchased the Palace. Eventually, they turned the management over to their daughters, Mattie Woods and Mary Adams.

Early Sunday morning on April 21, 1921, a fire was discovered on

the second floor. The flames quickly spread throughout the structure and the building (with eight head of hogs in the backyard) burned to the ground. The loss was estimated to have been over \$10,000.

After 31 years of operation, the Palace Hotel was transformed from a landmark to a memory.

--Kim Wright--



Out Where the Best Begins

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK of CLAUDE, TEXAS



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# “Mother Of The Panhandle”

Mary Ann Dyer Goodnight, “Molly,” was the first Caucasian female resident of Armstrong County and the Texas Panhandle.

Mary Dyer was born in Madison County, Tennessee on September 12, 1839. She had seven brothers, but was the only daughter of Joel Henry and Susan Lynch Miller Dyer. In 1854, her father, a prominent lawyer, brought the family to the Texas Cross Timbers. They loaded household goods on a wagon to find the “broad, rich prairies of the then New Texas.” Susan Dyer died in 1864 and her husband died two years later. Mary Ann then reared her three younger brothers and taught a prescription school in a log cabin at Weatherford, Texas.

While living in Weatherford, Mary Ann met a young trail driver named Charles Goodnight. Both had responsibilities, but after several years were married on July 26, 1870, at Hickman, Kentucky. They moved to Pueblo, Colorado, along with the two youngest Dyer brothers who still lived with their sister.

When grass ranges became overcrowded, and a money panic occurred in 1873, Charles Goodnight decided to move his cattle to the Texas Panhandle.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodnight and John and Cornelia Adair, Colonel

Goodnight’s partners, set out for Texas in 1876. There were four wagons, a wagon with a bed called a “light ambulance,” six months’ provisions, horses and hands, plus 100 Durham bulls. Mrs. Goodnight and Mrs. Adair would take turns driving the ambulance. When she was not driving, Mrs. Goodnight would ride a pacing pony named “Paddy.” Mary Ann took charge of the outfit when her husband would ride ahead to look for water.

When the party reached the edge of the Palo Duro, the bulls were released in the canyon while “all hands were put to road building.” As they entered the canyon on October 23, 1876, a herd of 1,000-1,500 head of buffalo could be grazing. After two weeks, the Adairs departed for “civilization” while the others camped for approximately seven months until a two-room cabin was built.

After the departure of the Adairs, Mrs. Goodnight, her husband and the cowboys settled down to make their home in Armstrong County. Mrs. Goodnight patched the cowboys’ clothes, sewed on buttons, doctored the sick and sympathized with the rough but tenderhearted. Annie Dyer Nunn and May Desper wrote that Mrs. Goodnight preferred Alpaca-lawn over calico,

hats over sunbonnets, and outdoors over indoors. She instructed cowboys how to cook, made cakes or jellies when it suited her, and enjoyed riding or driving.

Prior to moving to the town of Goodnight in 1887, Mary Ann had been distressed by the slaughter of the buffalo. Young buffalo calves were saved and brought with them to their new home. The Ladies’ Home Journal of February 1901 featured an article entitled “The Buffaloes of Goodnight Ranch—Showing the Only Herd in the World Owned by a Woman.” When educational facilities were needed due to the increase in population, Mrs. Goodnight and her husband built the Goodnight College which opened in 1898.

Mrs. Goodnight enjoyed entertaining. This was often the greatest opportunity for social contact with young people. Many parties were held in the yard under tall, old trees decorated with Japanese lanterns Mrs. Goodnight brought from California.

Mary Ann Goodnight died on April 11, 1926, and was buried in the cemetery at Goodnight. Although she did not have children of her own, she has been given the title, “Mother of the Panhandle.”

--Kim Wright--

**Flea Market Antiques**  
Old West Treasures

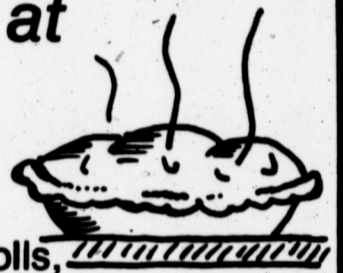
We’re open when  
the Indian is on the porch

Hwy 287 - On the Square in CLAUDE

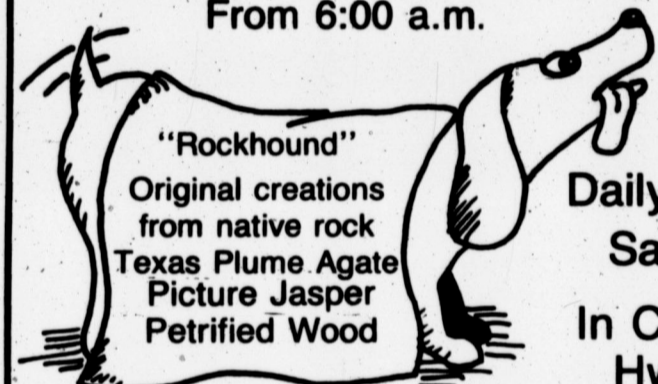


**Just Like Momma’s  
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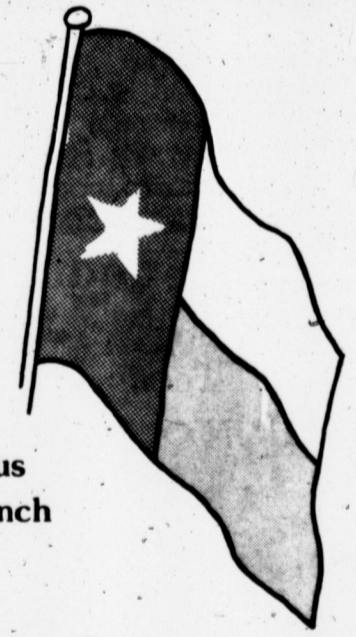
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## Hunting Preview



photo Randy Stark

Brian Payne and Dennis Farley with Russian Boar

## 1991 Hunting Season Calendar

Sept. 1-Nov. 9	-	Mourning Dove season, North Zone
Sept. 21-29	-	Teal Duck season
Sept. 28	-	National Hunting and Fishing Day
Sept. 28-Oct. 6	-	Antelope season
Oct. 1-31	-	Archery season, deer and turkey
Oct. 19-20	-	Prairie Chicken season, Panhandle
Nov. 2-Jan. 5	-	Regular Whitetail season, most of Texas
Nov. 2-Jan. 5	-	Regular Turkey season, most of Texas
Nov. 2-Jan. 19	-	Aoudad Sheep season, Panhandle
Nov. 2-Feb. 23	-	Quail season, statewide
Nov. 2-Feb. 23	-	Chachalaca season
Nov. 9-Feb. 9	-	Sandhill season, Zone A
Nov. 23-Dec. 8	-	Four county Panhandle Whitetail season
Nov. 23-Dec. 8	-	Regular Mule Deer season, Panhandle
Dec. 14-29	-	Pheasant season, Panhandle

At press time, these dates were the proposed hunting seasons for the Panhandle of Texas. They have been compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Final dates will be released in late August and are distributed through various outlets including businesses which sell hunting licenses.

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## Hunting Preview

### Wildlife Abounds In Area

Although the populations of Deer, Pheasant, Ducks, and Geese. game animals have varied through the years, this region offers many opportunities for the outdoorsman to hunt or just observe wildlife.

Some of the more common game animals include: Quail, Dove, Antelope, White-tail Deer, Mule

Two species that have dwindled or disappeared are the prairie chicken and buffalo. In the early days of settlement, hunters found plentiful numbers of these animals. However, farming and large-scale hunting quickly reduced their

numbers. Buffalo only exist in captive herds now. The clouds of dust raised by the "drumming" (or stomping and wing flapping during mating season) of prairie chickens are rarely seen.

The activities of man have actually benefitted some species of game. Although many trees were cut for building and fuel by early settlers, shelter belts and the advent of fossil fuels have increased habitats for small mammals and birds. The work forces of the WPA planted many trees to form the shelter belts during the late 1930's. Trees along creeks and draws were spared the ax when coal oil, then butane became popular for heating fuel. The percentage of farming land has decreased, providing range land habitats. For good or ill, mesquite trees have spread their cover throughout the area.

Other acts of man have provided game animals. Although opinion varies on the merits of having Russian Boars nearby, these range through the canyons after being introduced in the recent past. Another relative newcomer is the Aoudad Sheep, which resides in the rough land, especially in the southern part of the region. Until just a few years ago, the Aoudad were protected but are now numerous enough to be hunted.

### TULE RANCH

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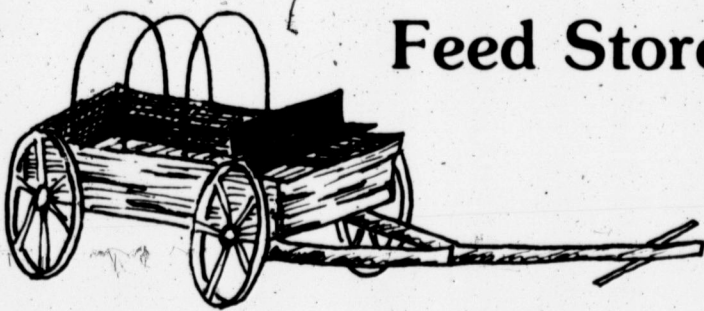


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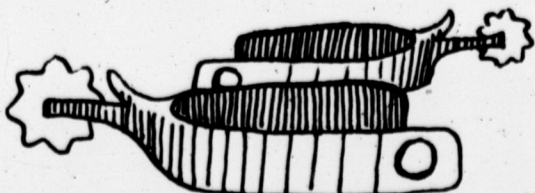
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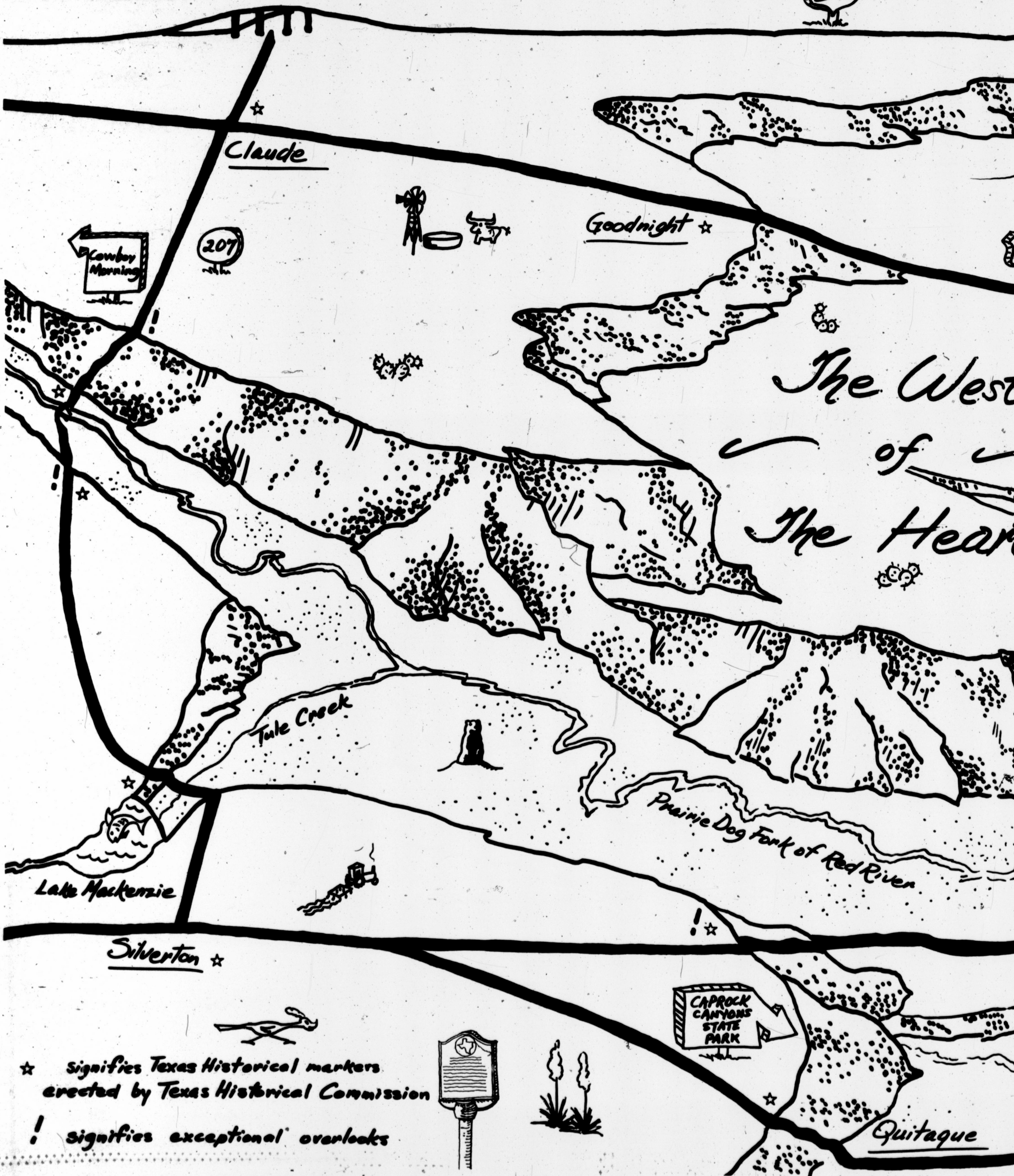
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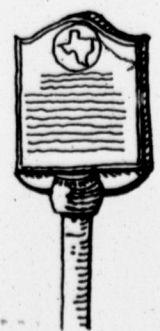
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# Colonists And Monument Reunited

For the contemporary explorer, lonely cemeteries on wind-blown prairies often stir the emotions more than city cemeteries can. Even specific markers and plots can send shivers through the soul. One example of this phenomenon can be found in the Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon. The plot is guarded by a huge gray monument and enclosed by a stately black iron fence. Inside are 11 flat stone markers, each of which simply and mysteriously identifies a "Saints' Roost Colonist-1878."

Who were these people who perished during the first eight years of the colony's existence? Shopkeepers, farmers, cowboys? Mothers, babies? Why did they die? Of broken hearts or broken bodies? From snakebite, consumption or childbirth? Did loved ones weep bitter tears or feel blessed relief?

The author of the inscription was Sam M. Braswell, member of the Lions' Club committee which commissioned the monument to commemorate the lonely graves. The Texas Centennial Memorial Commission erected the monument beside Highway 88 (now TX 70) near the original cemetery.

In 1966, the old Clarendon cemetery was relocated along TX 70 south of town prior to the construction of Greenbelt Dam. The original burial site is now underwater at the north end of the lake.

After reinterment at the present Citizens Cemetery, the graves were without their markers. The Highway Department stored the monument behind its buildings in Clarendon; there it remained for several years. Later, the Department requested that Wallace Monu-

ment Company store it with other forgotten and discarded headstones.

In 1990, while researching old newspapers for another project, Jean Stavenhagen learned about the monument's existence and wondered what happened to it. She followed a question trail to Wallace Monument Company which recognized the description of a heavy stone, fallen and covered by weeds in the firm's "boneyard." With Jean's encouragement, the company repaired the historic "imperishable" monument. On September 18, 1990, the stone was delivered, secured and restored without ceremony to its rightful place in Citizens Cemetery.

*The Prairie Dog Gazette* is grateful to Jean Stavenhagen for her research contribution to this story.

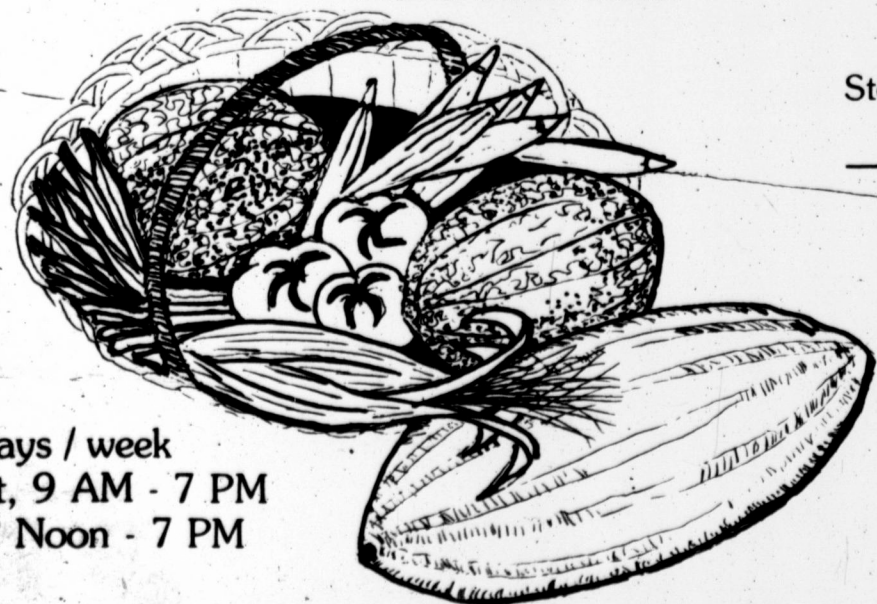


Cemetery Monument Dedication, July, 1938. Recognized at the ceremony as some of the former residents of Old Clarendon were Katie McClellan, Marcella Gentry, Addie Atteberry, Walter Taylor, and Claudia Biggers.

*Photo courtesy of Clyde Price*

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# McMurtry's Characters Walked This Land

While textbooks and biographies are filled with historical accounts that may seem abstract, the lives and loves of a few of the people from the early days of this region have been made personal and even eternal. The novels of Larry McMurtry put a light back in their darkened eyes and make them charter members of "The West of the Heart."

Perhaps the best known example of this metamorphosis is Col. Charles Goodnight who rides again in McMurtry's most popular novel *Lonesome Dove*. Historical facts about Goodnight contribute to the character of Captain Call. But more importantly, they help illuminate a character who represents part of the universal image of the American West.

Some past local residents of more personal interest to McMurtry are his eight uncles who began migrating to Donley and Briscoe counties in 1896. As they came of age, these members of the McMurtry clan came to the Texas Panhandle because it was the center of cowboy action. McMurtry explains their desire to move here in his essay "Take My Saddle From The Wall: A Valediction."

"They bespeak the region...to themselves they were cowboys first and last, and the rituals of that faith they strictly kept...they themselves had enacted the pure, the original myth."

Throughout his novels, McMurtry touches on the strength of the cowboy myth, its character, and its uneasy clashes with modern values. *Horseman Pass By* and *Leaving Cheyenne* are among his more overt treatments of this theme, with the help of his local ancestors' stories. They had lived this history, working on the legendary RO, JA, and Matador ranches, in addition to their own spreads around this area. The hardship and risk they faced shaped them as cowboys, gave substance to the symbolic Man of the West, and eventually -- thanks to their nephew Larry -- made for entertainment and insight for contemporary readers.

# Burton Library



The "Athens of the Panhandle" and "Saints' Roost" are two names by which Clarendon has been known since its founding.

Education, including the publication of newspapers, establishment of institutions for formal schooling, and provision for a library was a high priority for this pioneer community.

Gabie Betts Burton was one of the torch-bearers. Among the first school teachers in West Texas, her career began in 1886 at age 15 and continued for about 15 years, many at Clarendon College. Then for 24 years, Mrs. Burton "carried the key" to the public library which now bears her name.

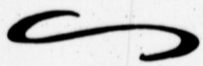
The Library continues to uphold Clarendon's historic cultural standard. One of its most recent accomplishments, through the work of Jean Stavenhagen, Clarendon High School librarian, is the preservation of the local newspaper issues on microfilm. Another was the Spring vintage clothing exhibit donated by local residents and appropriately displayed by the library staff. In the photo (left) is a French hand-sewn dress, circa 1900, made by Jamie Deyhle's great-grandmother. On the right is a dress, circa 1916, from the wedding trousseau of Rachel Swift, grandmother of Anna Beth McNabb and Jem Simmons.

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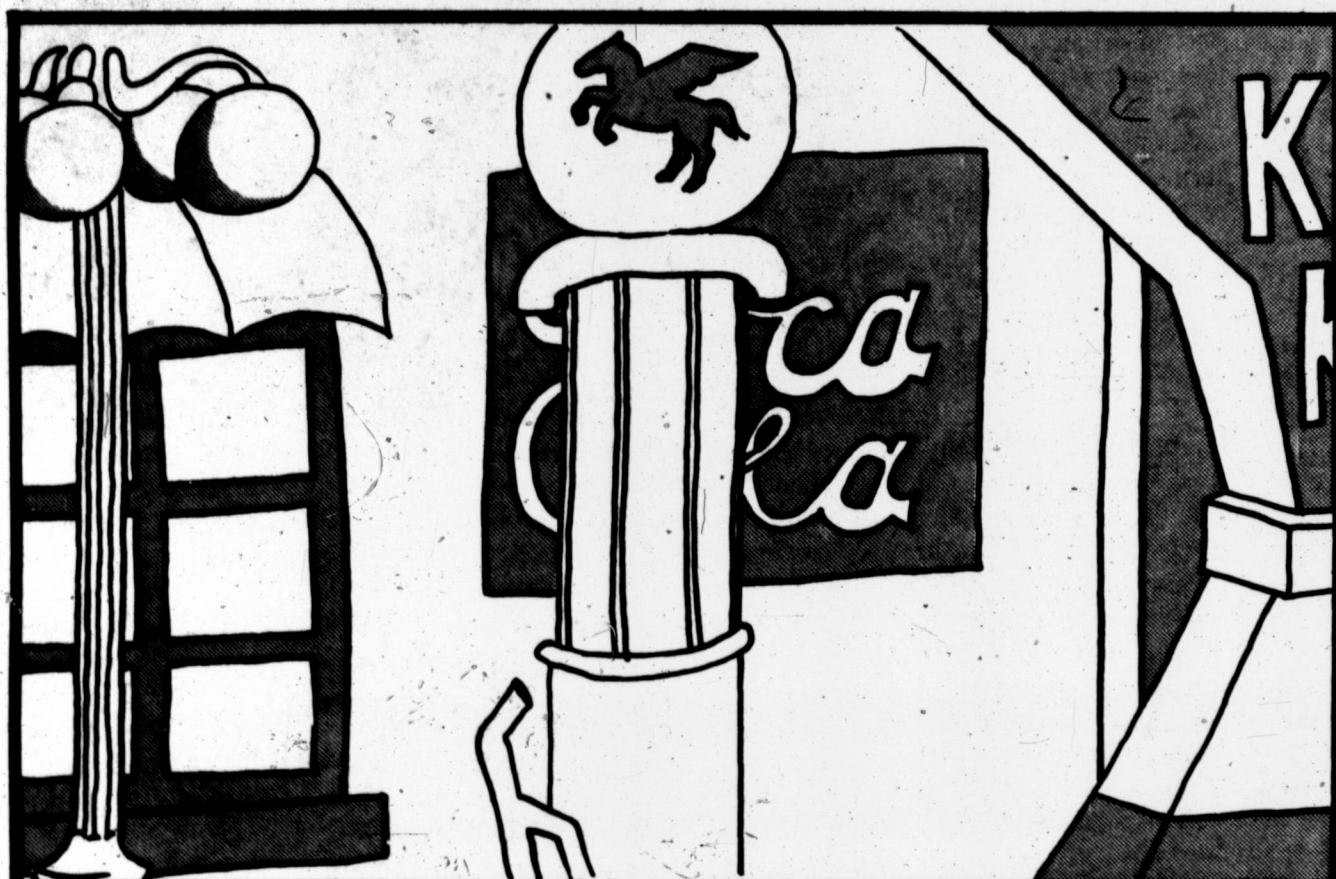
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## Frontier Vignette

Living conditions for Panhandle pioneers were primitive. Although Col. Goodnight had built a main house of large logs and planks, the most common home, both prior to and after the arrival of the railroad, was the dugout. It consisted of one room with dirt walls, roof and floor. A large ridgepole of cottonwood was placed lengthwise, with rafters of smaller logs attached for a roof. Yucca plants were placed over these supports with approximately two feet of dirt for a roof that would not leak. The size of these homes was approximately 10 x 12', but depended on the number in the family and the "man's willingness to dig."



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## Hurray For Saturday!

As in many small Texas towns, Saturdays in Turkey used to be lively, Bob Ham remembers. Folks came into town from the countryside. They would park their cars in the morning, on the main street for two or three blocks, and all around the streets. People throughout the area came for supplies for their farms and ranches, to conduct business, to visit with friends and family, and for entertainment.

"My mother even parked her car early in front of the drug store to get a good seat and watch the people go by."

Bob's dad and uncle operated the barber shop. "They stayed open on Saturday nights till 10:00 o'clock, sometimes till 12:00 o'clock, to sweep up, as long as the gents came in for a shave and haircut." Bob Wills worked for the Ham brothers before he left home to take his music on the road.

But the movies at the Gem Theater, owned by the Ham family since 1959, could keep the young folks entertained all day, Bob said. The Gem opened when silent movies were the rage. At that time the theater was across the street from its present location. The Gem didn't have an organ pit, but the Queen Theater in Quitaque did and does.

"Back in the '30's, there were stage shows in front of the screen once in awhile," usually one-night-stand vaudeville troupes of comics and musicians. Wrestling was featured sometimes at the Matador theater which the Hams also owned. "The Gem was open daily during the '40's and '50's and on Sunday afternoons," Bob said.

But Saturdays were something else. "For 9¢, kids, and for about 25¢, adults, could see a double feature or a cartoon, the Three Stooges, a serial and usually a Western movie with stars like Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry, Wild Bill Hickock--and then come back Saturday night free. Everybody looked forward to going back each week for the serial continuation."

There were no big premieres in Turkey, but, after he achieved Western swing fame, Bob Wills' movies "drew quite a few," Bob said. "Roy Rogers made a movie south of Matador and we had the film within a week of Lubbock."

When the Gem Theater closed in the early 1970's, showings were only on weekends, some in Spanish language. "The young people go to Plainview and Lubbock now. We can't compete with six screens like the big city malls."

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# Artist Puts Heritage On Canvas

Turkey resident Otho Stubbs began his art career with pencil and crayon in elementary school. Now, at age 83, advancing arthritis prevents him from producing the one-a-week paintings he once did, but he still works in his home studio.

Whether pen and ink sketch, dry-brush water color or oil painting, the subjects of Stubbs' art range from still life to lonesome-prairie landscapes to interpretations of historical incidents. He says that "my work is best known for portraying the country I am used to. I find out everything I can" to make a painting authentic.

Otho Stubbs' style has gradually evolved since he attended the Hill and Canyon School of Fine Arts in Santa Fe during 1945-46, the only formal art training he has had. A Taos artist advised Stubbs to burn the paintings which had been influenced by the Santa Fe school, and to trust his own talent.

Stubbs' depictions of Indian culture are especially striking; the intricacy of beadwork on clothing, the respect for sacred ceremonials, and the traditional methods of buffalo hunting and butchering are details to be appreciated. He refined his skilled eye for landscape and lifestyle in 1932 when he resided on Southwest Indian reservations to recover from recurring tuberculosis.

The artist's own experience in the rugged breaks and canyons as a young cowboy around the Caprock

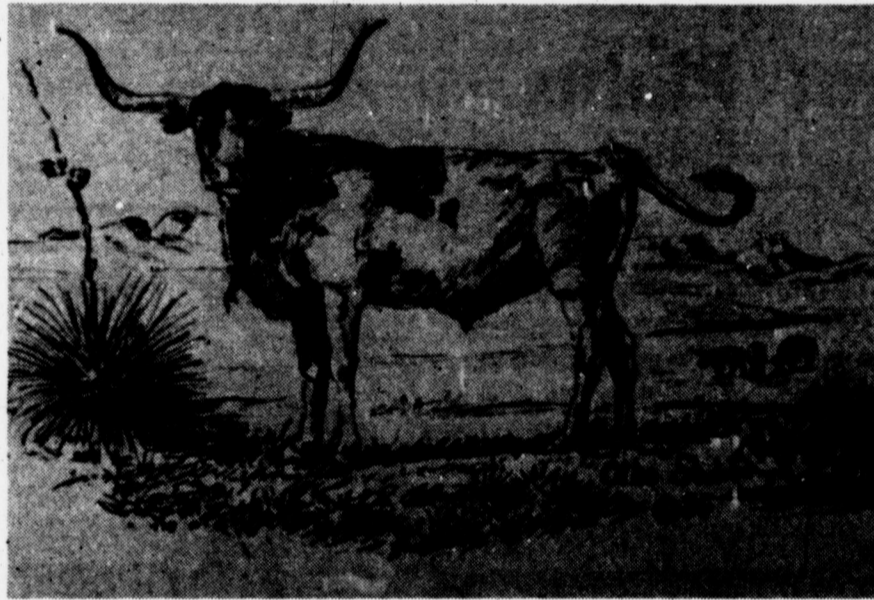
is captured on canvas. The historical background for U.S. Cavalry and Indian skirmishes, explorer and trail expeditions, and early Plains structures is well researched to preserve the integrity of the Old West sagas.

Stubbs' illustrations have appeared in *Land O' Promise* by Virginia Browder and in *Moods of the Prairie in Verse and Art* by Edwin M. Eakin. While he does not actively and commercially promote his work, Stubbs' paintings are owned by collectors all over the U.S. "I like for it to be in a good home," he says.

Otho Stubbs has spent his life amassing a museum of natural history and archeology -- but that's a story for another day.



Otho Stubbs



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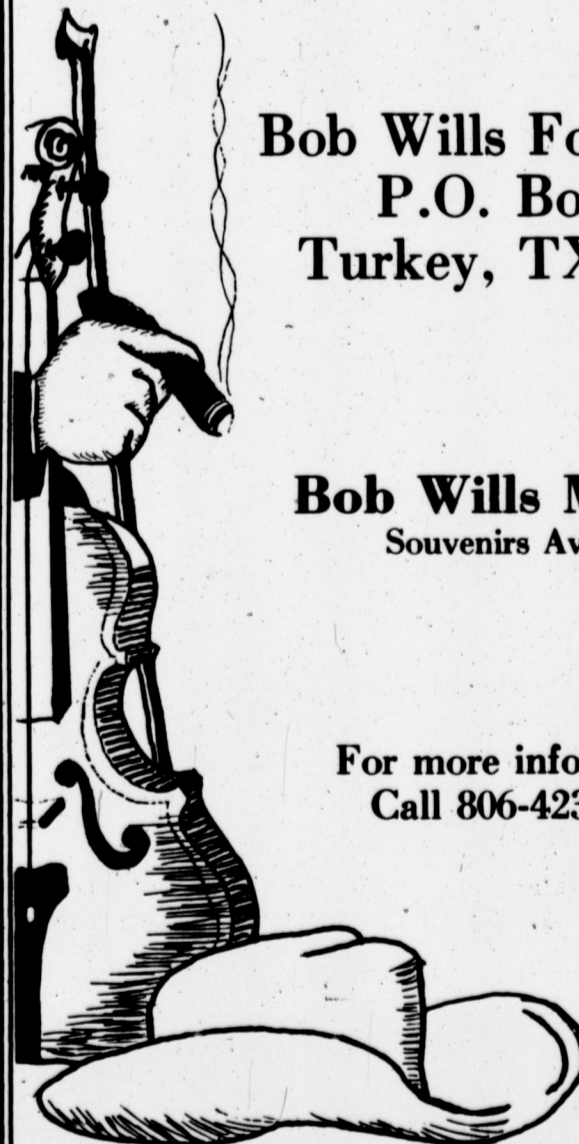
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# Early Ranch Carved From Canyons

In the vast Caprock country called The Quitaque, plentiful water from Quitaque Creek and the Tongue and Pease Rivers created ideal grazing for buffalo herds. During the 1870's, ranchers realized that The Quitaque territory could support cattle-raising. The Lazy F was one of the larger outfits to be established there.

The Baker Brothers company founded what would become the Quitaque Ranch in 1878 on Tongue River; its brand was the Lazy F. Leigh Dyer, brother-in-law of Charles Goodnight, led the Baker drive from the Cimarron range. Two years earlier Dyer drove Goodnight's cattle to the Palo Duro which established the JA Ranch, and the following year, guided the herd that was the genesis of the T-Anchor Ranch in Randall County.

The Lazy F holdings changed hands once before being sold to Col. Goodnight in 1882. (The military title was apparently honorary for his service with U.S. Cavalry Captain Baylor and Captain Cureton's Minute Men about 1857 to protect settlers in north Texas from Comanche raids, and as Indian scout in northwest Texas for Cureton's Texas Rangers during the Civil War.)

Goodnight's partner, John Adair, had instructed him to buy land to the south adjoining the JA for Adair's wife Cornelia. Contrary to the original JA financial agreement between Adair and Goodnight, the latter was forced to use JA profits for the Quitaque property.

The Lazy F operation was very successful under Goodnight's

management. Although he never recovered his share of the primary investment, Goodnight gained sole ownership of the Quitaque Ranch and 20,000 cattle branded Lazy F in 1887, two years after John Adair's death. Here, also, Goodnight cared for his personal buffalo herd, the largest in the world, and experimented with cattalo, cross-breeding buffalo with domestic cattle.

Cattle empires declined during the last decade of the 1800's. A succession of severe winters, low market prices for beef, and the advance of farming settlers onto the school lands caused Goodnight to sell the Quitaque to L.R. Moore. In 1904, Moore sold the diminished Lazy F herd to ranchers in Canada; the land was subdivided into farms. The great Quitaque Ranch and its Lazy F brand passed into history.

# Comancheros Still Haunt Plains

Mention of the name "Comanchero" still quickens the heartbeat of Texans and visitors alike. A scant 100 years ago these ruthless traders of Mexican descent came out of New Mexico with ox carts laden with trinkets, whiskey, and merchandise to trade with the Indians for stolen cattle, horses and human captives.

Three major trails led out of New Mexico to four prominent trade centers in the Texas Panhandle. By far the most famous trail began near Hatch's ranch south of Las Vegas. It followed the Conchas and crossed the Texas-New Mexico border near Tucumcari. At the head of Trujillo Creek the trail forked, with the south fork passing a few miles south of present day Adrian, Texas, then southeast to the head of Palo Duro Canyon. Coming on to the south, the trail skirted Tule Canyon, finding the end of the trail on Los Lingos Creek at the Valley of Tears in the Quitaque Territory.

There are many stories from the Comanchero Trails. This time we focus on the Valley of Tears. Sheltered by the rough breaks of the Caprock, this beautiful basin became a rendezvous point for ancient Indian tribes and finally Indians and their Comanchero cohorts in crime. In later years Comancheros admitted to taking 300,000 head of cattle and 100,000 horses out of the Quitaque.

The sedate valley on Los Lingos got its name from a much grimmer part of the frenzied barter. Numerous captives, Indian and white, were brought here. In the 1860's the Comanches were raiding the white settlements to the east and taking women and children captive. Many were later traded to the Comancheros. Wild horseback rides across the rolling plains and into the breaks brought them to the place on Los Lingos

Creek. Here children were jerked from their mothers to be traded away to the Comancheros or other Indian tribes. A now unknown person, listening to the wailing of the mothers seeing their children for the last time, dubbed it "Valle de las Lagrimas" or the Valley of Tears.

Probably the most famous captive brought to Los Lingos was a blond headed little girl, Cynthia Ann Parker. Later, she was married

to Nocona, chief of the Kwahadi Comanches. Their son, Quannah Parker, became a great leader and well known chieftain.

If you listen closely you can still hear the wails and the crys, smell the campfires, the leather, and the sweat, feel the presence of those who were here before you....in Valle de las Lagrimas.

...compiled by Steve Ulrey from material gathered by O.R. Stark

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**What's A Quitaque, Anyway?**

Quitaque: Residents of this southeastern Briscoe County town proudly insist that the correct pronunciation is "Kitty-Kway." But long before it was a town, it was a territory.

An enormous area called The Quitaque roughly spread from Palo Duro Canyon south and, west to east, between the current town of Tulia and the North Pease River beyond Turkey. Quitaque was the name also given to a creek that flows intermittently for 27 miles northeast into the North Pease River, and to a separate ranch in the huge original JA system.

The prevailing theory about the origin of the word Quitaque centers on its Indian derivation. History records a little-known Indian tribe named Quitaca, probably concen-

trated in eastern New Mexico and western Texas, which accompanied Juan Dominguez de Mendoza and Juan Sabeata on their 1683-84 exploration from El Paso to the interior of Texas.

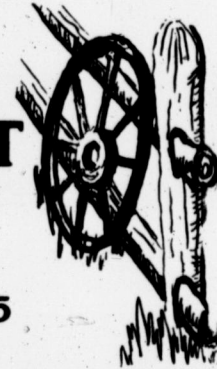
A guest book of visitors to The Quitaque would show entries for Coronado, 1540-42; Texas-Santa Fe Expedition, 1849; Comanche Indians and Comanchero traders; Col. Ranald Mackenzie and U.S. Cavalry troops, 1871-74; Col. Charles Goodnight, 1877-87; Billy the Kid, 1880.

A monument (now buried under asphalt) at the main intersection in the town of Quitaque attests to the passage of settlers along the Ozark Trail. In 1890, Quitaque was a stage stop, and by 1912, a populated village with several stores.

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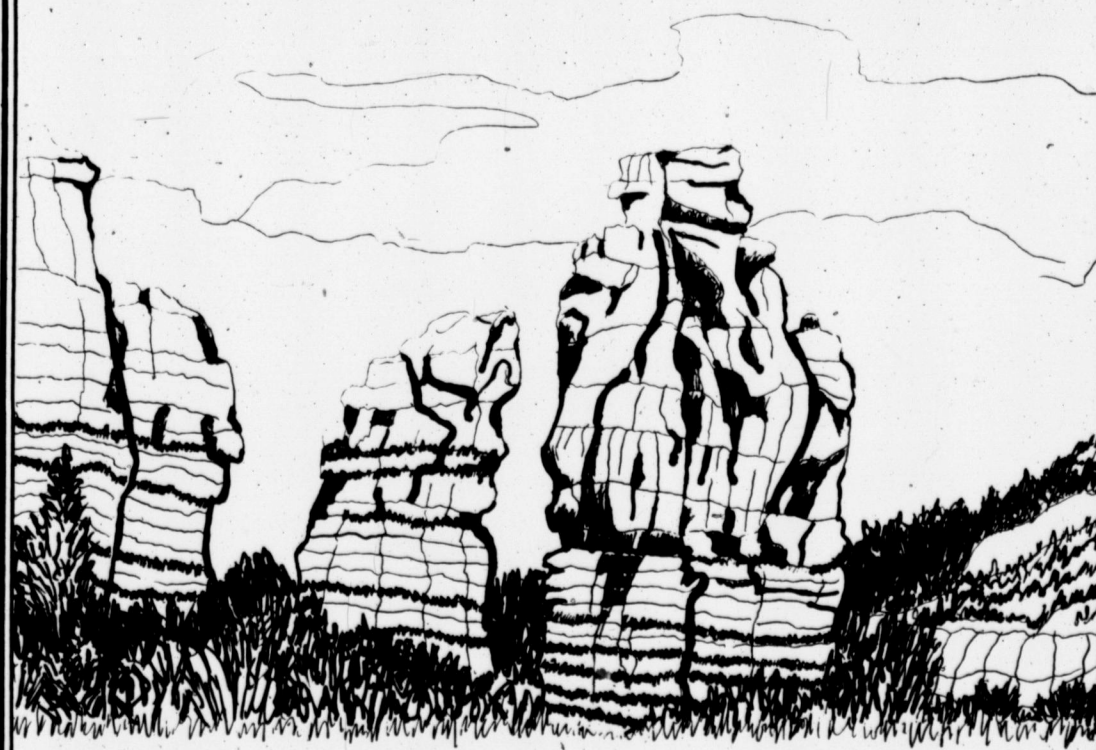
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### Ol' Pete

Our Prairie Dog Town correspondent  
Covering the spit and whittle  
tale-telling circuit.

## Boot Buyer Beware!

I was making my rounds the other day (you know, the Dairy Queen, the feed store, and James Owens' boot shop), when who should stroll into Owens' place but Grady Tyler from Quitaque.

Grady has been having his boots made by Owens for all of the 36 years James has had that shop in Clarendon. Somehow he got us all to remembering the dark days of the Great Depression. (Could somebody please tell me what was so great about it?)

Maybe the best thing about wintertime in those days, before electric refrigerators, was having your own butcher shop, so to speak. In the ranch camps, where cowboys with families lived, the ranch owner would provide a beef for hungry folks. It was wrapped in a tarp and hung up in the windmill, where steaks that got real "aged" toward springtime only needed hauling down and cutting off.

But anytime of the year, it was durn-near impossible to afford a pair of boots. Handmade boots cost about \$20, which was more than a single, young cowboy's monthly salary! Nevertheless, some enterprising boot salesmen (who no doubt were just as hungry) worked out a great plan with ranch owners to sell some "assembly-line boots."

There were only three or four high-production companies: Blutcher and C.H. Hyer out of Olatha, Kansas, Olsen-Steltzer from Henrietta, Texas and Nocona.

The salesman would show up with a saddle, borrow a horse from the rancher, and head out with a tape measure, tracing paper, and a receipt book, scouting for customers amongst the ranch hands. For the grand sum of 7 or 8 hard-earned dollars, a poor cowboy could keep his feet protected from all manner of evil just waiting for him out there on the range.

I guess what got us to thinking about those times was that article in the Texas Monthly magazine about Los Angeles boot salesmen. First of all, they ride Harleys, not horses; they won't let you pay by the month unless it's by American Express; but your choice of leather is almost endless. "How about something nice in a hot pink sea bass -- or maybe a gold lamé?"

Now I don't know about you, but I never met up with a hot pink sea bass, and I had to look up in the dictionary how to spell lamé (I know what gold is, thank goodness).

Seems the boot salesmen out there in California will tell you that the reason you need these boots is so you can have an "attitude." I asked James Owens about that, and he gave me a look that made me realize (in a heartbeat) that you don't have to wear black pointy-toe "roach killer" boots to have an attitude.

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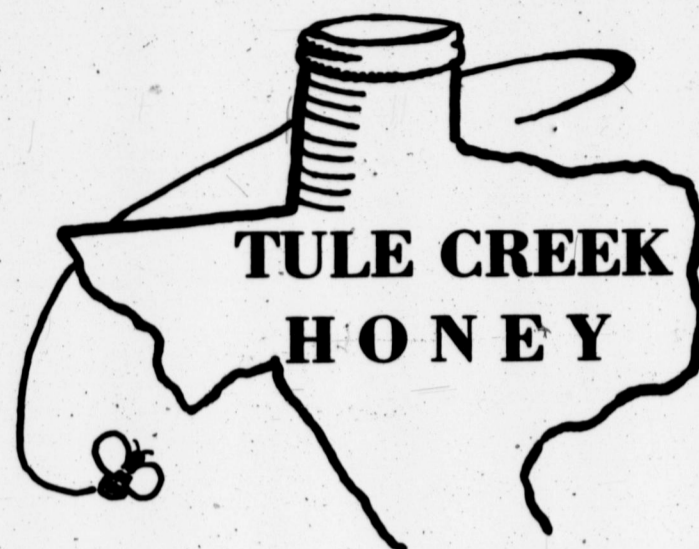
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# CALENDAR AND ATTRACTIONS

## SILVERTON

### Attractions

Briscoe County Courthouse, 1922. County organized 1892. Jail House Museum, 1894; Briscoe County Courthouse.

### Special Events

1st Sat, monthly, Caprock Jamboree, 7:00 pm, Silverton Show Barn. Cowboy music. 6:00 pm, mesquite-grilled hamburgers. Contact 806-847-2619.

July 13 (tentative), Rocking W Ramblers, Silverton Show Barn. New Mexico cowboy music. Contact 806-847-2619.

Aug. 7, Briscoe Co. Roping, and Aug 9 & 10, Rodeo, 7:00 pm, Wood Memorial Rodeo Pen, Silverton. Contact 806-823-2236.

Aug 10, Briscoe Co. Celebration, 10:00 am, Courthouse lawn. Live entertainment, games, crafts, contests, flea market, 3:30 pm parade. BBQ follows. Contact 806-847-2619.

## QUITAQUE

### Attractions

Sidewalk Museum, Downtown. Storefront displays depict heritage.

### Special Events

1st Sat, Dec., Caprock Country Christmas, all day. City-wide

Prairie Dog Gazette welcomes calendar entries for public events. Please submit written information to P.O. Box 1286, Clarendon, TX 79226. Include contact name and phone number. **Prairie Dog Gazette**

celebration, Open House at shops, businesses. Activities and entertainment.

**Briscoe County Centennial, 1892-1992.** Monthly events during 1992 to celebrate. Contact Quitaque City Manager, 806-455-1456, or mail inquiry to Quitaque Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 207, Quitaque, TX 79225.

## TURKEY

### Attractions

Bob Wills' Museum, City Hall. Bob Wills' Memorial, TX 86W at Turkey city limits, Main St.

### Special Events

July 19, 20, 21, Memorial Roping, 9:00 am, Fri & Sun; 8:00 am, Sat. Burses Arena, Flomot (From Turkey, take TX 70S to FR 2009; follow signs 4 mi.) \$3/person. Benefits Dusty Burses Scholarship, Ranch Mgt. program, Clarendon College. Contact S.C. Burses, 806-983-2977.

verifies to the best of our abilities each entry at press time; however, we cannot be responsible for changes in activities. We suggest calling sponsors of the events for confirmation.

Last weekend in Apr. annually, **Bob Wills' Day**, all day, Bob Wills Center. Texas Playboys Reunion. Old fiddlers' contest, dance, parade, BBQ.

## CLAUDE

### Attractions

Armstrong County Courthouse, 1912. County organized 1890. In the Claude area, the flat terrain and brilliant sunsets have made perfect film settings you will recognize from TV commercials and movies ("Hud," "Sunshine Christmas," and "Indiana Jones: The Last Crusade").

## CLARENDON

### Attractions

Donley County Courthouse, 1890. County organized 1890. Saints' Roost Museum, TX 70S off US 287. Open Sun, 1-5 pm, and by appointment. Contact 806-874-3517, 2546 or 3839. Take time to drive around town to see turn-of-the-century architecture, from prairie style to formal Victorian.

### Special Events

Sept 14, **JA Ranch Reunion Dance**, 8:00 pm, Clarendon Community Center. Public welcome.

Following events sponsored by Clarendon-Donley Co. Chamber of Commerce, Contact 806-874-2421:

Saturdays, May 18-Aug 31, "Saturday Live in Downtown Clarendon," 8:00 pm/Jun-Jul-Aug, Kearney St. locations. Fun booths, live music (country western, gospel, bluegrass). Saturdays, Jun 1-Aug 31, Live music concerts, 9:00 pm, Lake Greenbelt west of main marina. C-W, bluegrass.

1st Sat, Aug/Sept/Oct, Trades Days, 10:00 am, Downtown Clarendon. Vendor booths, farm produce, local merchants.

## HALL COUNTY

Sept. 20-21, Hall County Picnic. Parade, doll show, arts and crafts show. Contact 806-259-3253.

## GENERAL

### Attractions

All the highways of the area provide beautiful views; however, TX 207 south of Claude and TX 256 east of

Silverton have especially dramatic views of canyonland! Landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Hotel Turkey, Turkey
- JA Ranch, between Clarendon and Claude
- S.W. Lowe House, Clarendon

Historical markers:

- Armstrong Co. Courthouse Square, US 287, Claude.

- Dugout, TX 207, between Claude and Silverton.

- Overlook, TX 207, near Briscoe Co. line.

- Lake Mackenzie overlook, TX 207.

- Briscoe Co. Courthouse Square, TX 86, Silverton

- Comanchero Trail picnic area, TX 86, between Silverton and Quitaque.

- Sites within towns of Clarendon and Claude.

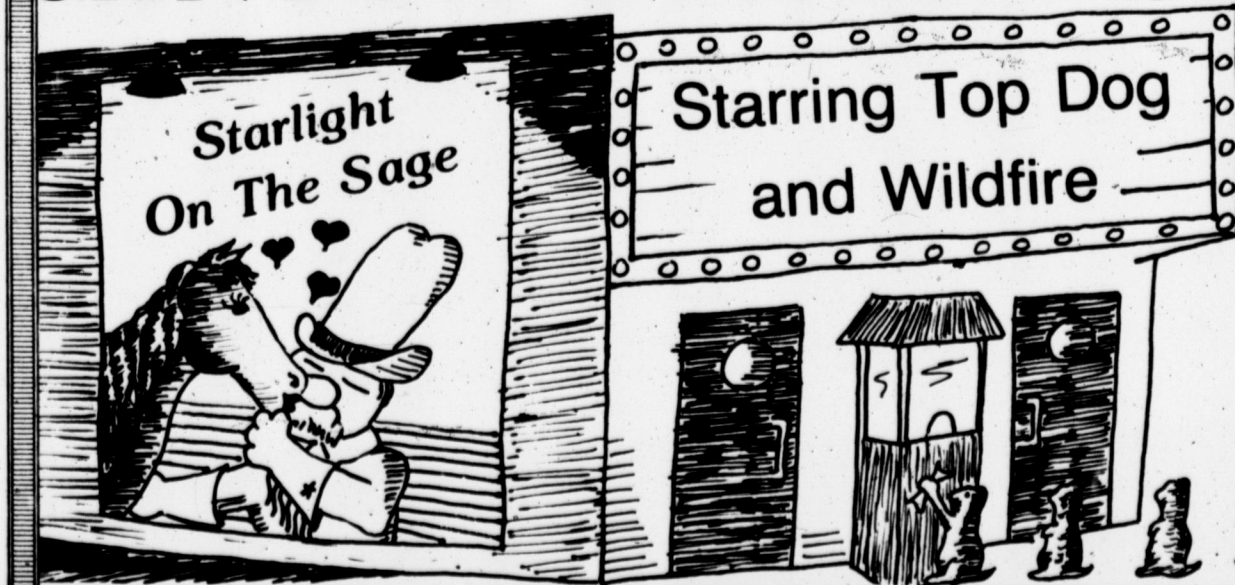
- Goodnight House, US 287, Goodnight

Caprock Canyons State Park, 13,960 acres, recreation and archeological sites, north from Quitaque. Contact 806-455-1492.

Three lakes in the region offer recreation and summertime respite: Greenbelt near Clarendon, Mackenzie northwest of Silverton, and Theo in Caprock Canyons State Park.

Goodnight Cemetery, north of US 287 at Goodnight. Goodnight's grave and a feeling of lonesome prairies.

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