

THE ROPES PLAINSMAN

VOLUME XXVIII—NO. 17

ROPEVILLE, HOCKLEY COUNTY, TEXAS

5c A COPY

THURSDAY, SEPT. 4, 1963

If there is an X in this box it is notice your subscription has expired and an invitation to renew.

WE TRAVEL

Through the goodness of heart of our daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Thomas, the editor and wife were treated to a vacation trip which lasted for 12 days and carried us into seven different states.

Heretofore when we have taken extended trips they have been to the west—Arizona and California—but none of us had ever been east—so we headed east.

Just this side of Benjamin we blew out a nearly new tire, and were tied up for several hours before we could get it replaced.

Benjamin is one of the older towns in the state of Texas, being established in the early eighties. On the south side of the square are some relics of the past, and east of the square is an old stone jail which has stood for years. It has been replaced by a modern prison, as has the old courthouse which we suppose had been torn down and the new one built.

The court house there now is a modern building, as is most of the town along the highway. It has a modern water system and one man told us, "Before we got the water system we hauled and drank branch water." Passing through the town is the Santa Fe Railway which, when first built back in 1904, was the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient—a dream which bankrupted the builder. The thing which actually saved it was when oil was struck on railroad property near San Angelo. We remember riding a passenger train on this road back in 1922 and the seats were full of holes, and it was hardly possible to find one in which one could sit.

The first night of our trip we spent in Seymour—not a far distance from home. This old town also brought back memories of some forty years ago. Back in the early twenties we had been working in Oklahoma on a job where a printer had gone on vacation. When he returned we wired all the money we had to our family living in Rotan and took off afoot.

We were lucky. We caught a ride into Wichita Falls, pawned a ring and tie pin set, and bought a ticket to Dundee—that was all the money we had. When we arrived at the end of our train ride we took off once more afoot and was picked up by a trucker. We were no more than five miles out of town when one of the most severe hail and rain storms we had ever witnessed hit us.

The roads became a solid sea of mud and the truck went off in the ditch. There it stayed. But again, luck was with us. A man driving a car stopped, but finding he could not help the trucker, asked us to go with him. We reached Seymour where we stayed all night. I saw the old hotel where I slept that night. It is still in use.

Leaving Seymour we took off for Jacksboro. Along the road we could see where a railroad once ran. Part of the dump was still there, and gaps where the bridges had been. We learned that the railway had been built in 1904 or 1905, and had been dismantled in 1912—it was a branch from Jacksboro to Seymour.

We passed through Jacksboro and went on to Chico—there is not much there, but Please Turn To Page 2

Tragedy Touches Homes Of Ropesville People

When we picked up our daily newspaper on Tuesday morning and read, "10 Perish In Texas Wreck", it never occurred to us the tragedy, occurring near Dayton, 39 miles east of Houston, would reach its grim fingers to the Ropes community.

However, folks killed in the wreck were cousins of Mrs. Abb Russell and J. C. Pointer of this community. They, together with Mrs. Jack Bennett of Levelland and Mrs. Hattie Pointer of Lubbock, left immediately for the scene of the tragedy.

According to the report, the car which struck the Odom

automobile skidded on the wet pavement and was struck in the center and almost ripped half in two, scattering bodies along the highway. Blood was so thick on the pavement the fire department had to be called to wash it away.

Killed were Carl E. Odum, 33, Mrs. Carl Odum, 33, June Robinson Odum 34, Matt S. Odum 37, Keith Edward Odum 6, and Peggy Odum 12. Seven were riding in the Odum car and the lone survivor, Troy Lynn Odum 9, is in critical condition. Peggy lived several hours but never regained consciousness. The four in the other car were killed.

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE NEWS

South Plains College will offer Bible courses in the fall evening school. Bible 234 (Paul and His Writings) will meet on Monday evenings (ONLY) from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Bible 237 (Comparative Religions) will meet Tuesday evenings (ONLY) from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Bible 234 consists of a brief study of the life of the apostle Paul and the problems he faced as a leader of the church as portrayed in his epistles.

Bible 237 is a study of the history, doctrines, literature, and practices of the major living world religions with special emphasis on Judaism and Christianity.

Registration begins at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of South Plains College Monday evening, Sept. 9, 1963. For further information, contact Frank Hunt, Director of Evening School, South Plains College. Phone 894-4545.

MRS. BROWN BREAKS SHOULDER AND HIP

As we go to press Wednesday night we learn that Mrs. J. M. Brown fell and broke her hip and shoulder. She was rushed to West Texas Hospital in Lubbock by ambulance.

E. HOBBS HAVE VISITORS SUNDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Emory Hobbs had as visitors last weekend Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Owens of Loop. Others visiting last week were their grandchildren Larry, Garry and Billy Gryder, and Myrl and Steve Dorsett of Brownfield.

ENJOY OUTING IN LUBBOCK PARK

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hudson, her mother Mrs. Rainwater, and their son, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Hudson, enjoyed Sunday in Mackenzie State Park in Lubbock.

VISITORS IN PRICE HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Leverett of Fort Worth were visitors in the Sid Price home last weekend. Mr. Leverett is Mrs. Price's brother.

Sorghum Association To Be Organized

SORGHUM ASSOCIATION TO ORGANIZE

All farmers in the Ropes community are urged to attend a meeting in the Women Building at the Fair Ground in Levelland Sept. 5, at which

time a Grain Sorghum Producers Association will be organized. The object of the organization will be to fight midge, secure a better market for milo and do research.

Elementary Build'g Is Thing of Beauty

Those of you who saw the old elementary school building, if you were to enter it today you would think you were in a brand new building. In fact, but for the outside walls, it is a new building.

with two new rooms added. A modern bookroom has been installed large enough to take care of the books; a new medical center has been created, and the principal's office has not only been enlarged, but there is an outside office enclosed in glass, and a private office adjoining it. Ventilation has been increased by pacing a glass pane, beside each door which works on the order of Venetian blinds, giving air coming in the window access to the hall.

New drinking fountains are installed, and rest rooms for boys and girls with each two classrooms. The lighting has been changed to glass panels in the ceiling. All windows have been replaced with aluminum windows. On the east, where the new rooms were added, is an exit which would aid in emptying the building in a matter of minutes in case of emergency instead of jamming the halls with pupils.

Another much needed improvement is the cafeteria where the kitchen has been partitioned off from the rest of the room; a new ceiling and other improvements.

This building and cafeteria were ready for use when the school opened Wednesday.

Work on the new mammoth Junior High building will be let this month and building operations will begin almost immediately and is to be completed before the 1964-65 session.

Rev. Alejo Vela Receives Degree

Rev. Alejo Vela, pastor of the Ropes Baptist Spanish Mission, this past week received his B. A. degree from Wayland College in Plainview.

Rev. Vela started his college work in Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., in 1956 where he went for two years. He was forced to drop out and went to work in the steel mills in Chicago in 1958. He came to Lubbock in 1959 as Associate Pastor of the

Parkdale Baptist Church, and commuted 100 miles three times a week to attend Wayland in Plainview.

While the normal time for completing the course is four years, Rev. Vela had to take six and a half years due to the fact he had to stop at times and work to support his family, consisting of his wife and six children. He was one of four past thirty years of age in the graduating class.

RAIN SWAMPS MOST OF TERRITORY FRIDAY

Rain, ranging from one-fourth to two inches, fell over the Ropes territory Friday of last week.

Thunder showers had been playing around most all week, with one east of Ropes starting at Bill Patman's place and extending past Alvin Ryals, giving a downpour of at least two inches in a matter of minutes. Three hours later "flood" water was running as rivers in the bar ditches.

Friday morning, seemingly, the rain spread out and became general in scope, with better than two inches falling in town—the downpour lasting more than two hours. It then moved toward Lubbock, inundating the Wolforth area and flooding streets in the Hub City.

At the time it rained many farmers were irrigating, but the sky juice put an end to that. Crops are looking fine. No crops were damaged, so far as we know.

TEXAS TECH NEWS

Texas Tech conferred 135 master's degrees during summer commencement Thursday evening, August 29th.

Lt. Gov. Preston Smith delivered the principal address during ceremonies in Lubbock municipal Auditorium. A total of 552 graduate and undergraduate degrees were conferred during the exercises.

Among those from Ropes receiving master's degrees include:

School Of Engineering "Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering": Joe Donald Gamble, whose home was at Wolforth, but has moved to South Texas. Mrs. Gamble taught Home Ec in the Ropes school last term.

Also: School of Arts and Sciences "Master of Education": Roland Kenneth Sams, who was principal of Ropes High School but only this summer moved to Hedley, Texas.

MRS. W. BURKS IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Wilburn Burks, who is in a Lubbock hospital, is reported to be much improved and will be able to return to her home at an early date.

IN LUBBOCK

Mrs. J. T. Allen and children and Mrs. Carl Allen were looking after business in Lubbock Monday.

J. A. GOTCHER IS HONORED ON BIRTHDAY

We failed to state last week that Jim Gotcher was honored on his birthday at the home of his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Sims, with a turkey dinner and all trimmings.

The affair was attended by Garth Gotcher and family of Foyada, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Gotcher of Plains, sons of the Gotchers; grandson, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Sims and children; the hosts and honoree and wife.

It was a very pleasant affair, hugely enjoyed.

No, Jim didn't say which birthday.

S. PRICES ATTEND "HOME COMING"

Mr. and Mrs. Sid Price, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jordan, Loyd and Linda of Meadow, and Mr. and Mrs. Jehue Price of Lubbock attended "Home Coming" at the Farmer Community Sunday. A basket lunch was served at noon, and in the evening group singing and talks by ex-teachers were enjoyed.

This is where Sid and Inez Price went to school. Also, their daughter Reba went her first three years there.

fall Sid began his ginning career in the community. He had the pleasure of seeing his first manager, Mr. Carroll Davis of Lubbock.

Ropes-Amherst In Scrimmage

The scrimmage between Ropes and Amherst was held last Friday night in Amherst. The plans were to scrimmage at Ropes, but the heavy rains caused the site to be changed to Amherst.

The Eagle team made a fine showing even though they did not have all the boys coming out in condition to play. They suffered from the usual early season jitters at first, but soon settled down to turn in a creditable performance.

The Eagle line looked especially good at times on defense and spilled the Amherst ball carriers for losses several times. Ronald Snider probably stood out more on defense than any other single Eagle, but the entire line had a chance to play.

J. D. BEATYS RETURN HOME

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Beaty and Brady returned the first part of this week from El Paso, Old Mexico, New Mexico and other points.

Arriving in El Paso Sunday they went over into Old Mexico where they witnessed a bull fight—which, according to Mrs. Beaty, was not very appetizing. They went on to Hobbs where they saw a very interesting air show put on by the Blue Angels. Then they toured Carlsbad Caverns before returning home Tuesday.

WHO'S WHO PTA NIGHT

Thursday, Sept. 12, at 8:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria the Ropes PTA will have its annual get-acquainted night for parents and teachers.

A program will be presented by Mrs. Petiet and Mrs. Terry's fourth graders.

This meeting will be the official PTA membership registration night. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

WE TRAVEL
From Page 1

it is a relic of another day. Buildings of undetermined age lined the square on one side, while on the other were modern businesses. Off to the left, by the huge lime quarry, were ruins of building presenting a mysterious picture.

From here we went to Decatur. We went there especially to see the court house which appears to be built of granite, the exterior giving off a reddish hue. Within is an arrangement such as we have never before seen. The offices on the ground floor are built in a circle, while in the very center is a stairway leading to the upper story and to the basement below. The building itself is unique in that mammoth stone columns support the overhanging roof, and even goes on up to the top of the structure. It is designated as a fallout shelter. We were told it was erected in 1895, which would make its age 68. And, believe me, it appears as if it is good for several hundred years.

Leaving here we took off for Fort Worth and Dallas where we reserved a cabin at Irving for the following Saturday night so we could visit Six Flags Over Texas. And, cabins in that area are usually reserved two weeks in advance—if you drive in looking for a cabin without a reservation you may have to sleep in the street.

By this time the sun was wending its way toward the west, so we hurried to Pittsburg, Texas. It was here, 38 years ago, we learned about the daily newspaper business and, we also learned that people in that section of the state do not even think as people who live on the South Plains—it is as if you were

going into a different country—it was then a city which observed the Old Southern Traditions.

It is interesting to note how the town is laid out. There is one long, main street on which the buildings extend to a street in back of the main street. A partition run thru the stores with one section opening on the main street, and the other facing the back street or colored section.

One of the first changes we noted was that Negroes were on the front street. When we lived there no Negro was allowed on this street, nor was he allowed to enter businesses—he did his trading on the back street. So, we took a look at the back street—there was only one business in operation. Then we thought we would see what the changes were in the stores in the front section.

Entering one store there were several Negro customers. They were being waited on with all politeness, and as they paid for the items, the cashier used her sweetest voice when she thanked them and asked them back. It was not thus when we lived there.

We remember asking about this when we lived there and was told by a county officer, "There are three Negroes to one white person in this area and if we ever let them get the upper hand they'd run us out of the county. Pittsburg, it is alleged, was one of the places where many years ago a Negro was chained to the railroad track and burned.

Scarcely realizing we had been away from Pittsburg so many years, we decided to stop in and see our friend, Bert Lockhart. In the office of the Gazette we saw a gray headed man and immediately asked him, "Are you Bert

Lockhart?" "No," he said. "I am his son-in-law."

"Where is Mr. Lockhart?" I asked.

"He passed away two years ago at the age of 92."

I never realized how long I had been away from there. I knew several other people, but they were out in the graveyard. I didn't stop to think that when I lived there I was only 25 years old, and the people I knew were in their forties and fifties. That reminded me of how fast one generation passes and another takes its place.

More next week.

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ODOMS RETURN HOME MONDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Odom of Ropes, accompanied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Gossett of Portales, N. M., spent a week in Truth or Consequences, N. M., returning home Monday. Earl took the hot baths while there.

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SPECIALS

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