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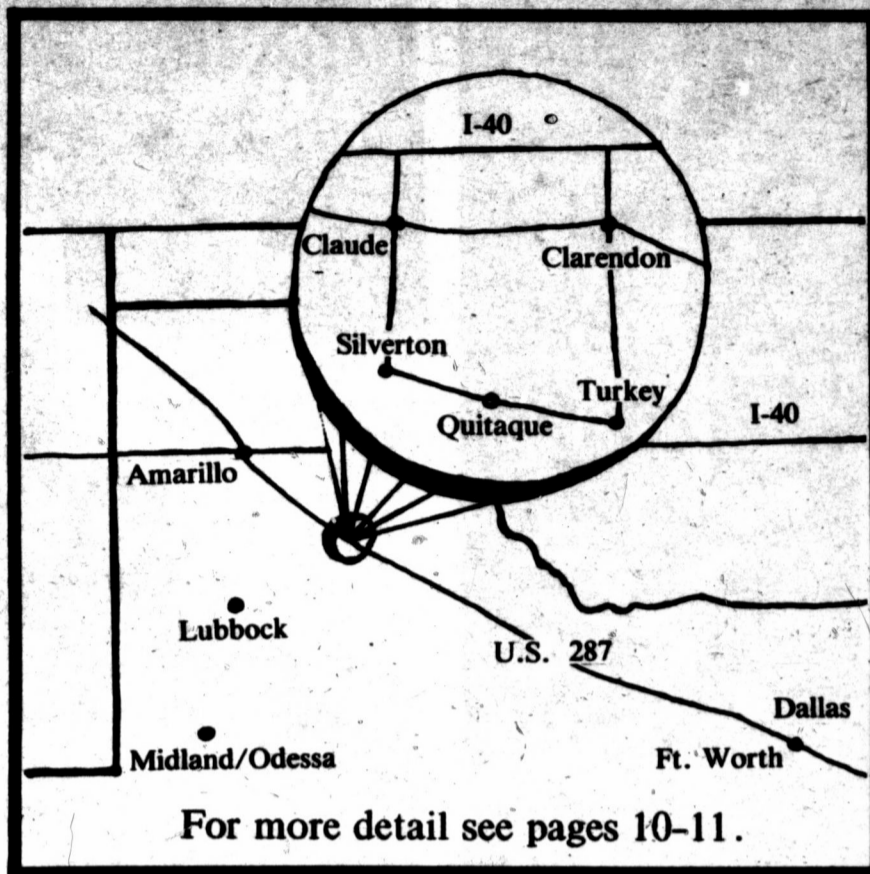
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A Joint Venture

One short year ago, the *Prairie Dog Gazette* set out with the primary goal of communicating the varied texture of life in and around the canyonlands here in the Panhandle. We felt most of our readers would be visitors to the region.

However, as the year passed, responses from residents of the area, from Pampa to Plainview to Dalhart, made us understand that interest in our heritage lives on here at home as well.

This heritage, the link to our predecessors, has been like a family heirloom, so close to our daily lives that its broader significance is hard to realize.

When we see an ad campaign featuring boots and saddles and the weathered faces of cowboys, they just look like our neighbors. But we must remember that the ads are created by New York's Madison Avenue or Hollywood and circulated around the world.

The producers of these commercials hope to identify their products with the tradition, adventure, and solid values inherent to our land and its people.

The feelings that our region evokes are so strong that natives, who have been "displaced" in other parts of the country for years, read the *Gazette* and write to us, obviously homesick and hungry for more.

We appreciate the information and encouragement from all our readers. You have provided important clues to our history and character, helping us to tell the world about "The West of the Heart."

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Quantity prices, subscription rates, and advertising rates are available on request.

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

Remembering 1942 ...

Imagine the smooth sounds of the Glenn Miller Band, as high school seniors swayed to the music in late 1941, faces aglow.

Also imagine being assembled in their school auditorium to hear Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, declare war on Japan in a radio broadcast Dec. 8, 1941.

The lives of people around the world were catapulted into the terror of war, suddenly and dramatically changed forever. The 68 members of Clarendon High School's Class of 1942 were no exception.

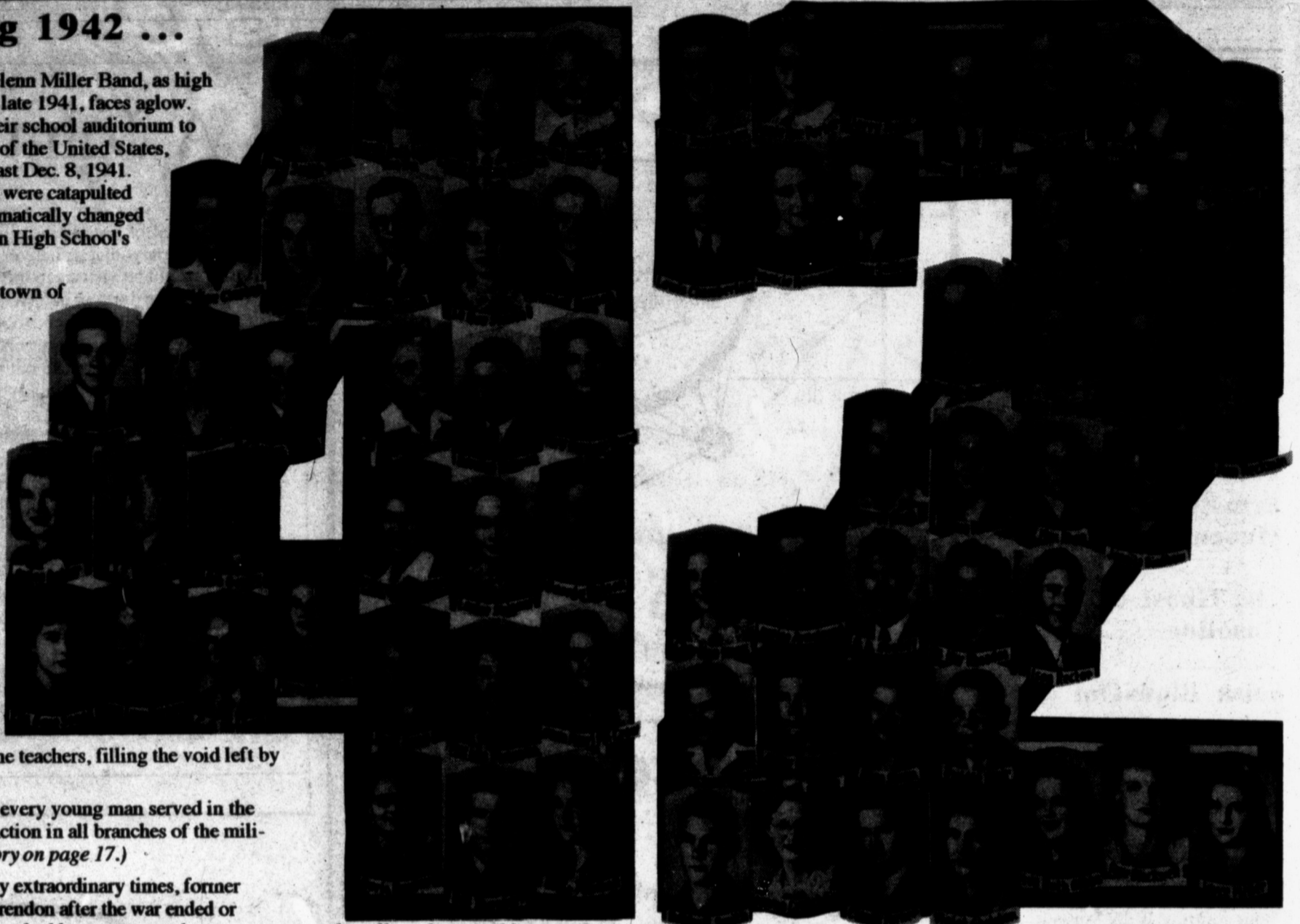
They came not only from the small town of Clarendon, but outlying communities with pleasant sounding names like Sunnyview, Windy Valley, Goldston, Ashtola. School buses were a new concept, enabling older students to have a better high school education. Almost half had been classmates since the first grade.

Although the nation was in the throes of economic depression when the students became enrolled, times were somewhat more prosperous during their high school years.

As America "geared up" for war, many of the young women would soon enter the work force in jobs related to our defense - munitions plant assembly work, bookkeeping, nursing - on military facilities in the Panhandle area. Still others became teachers, filling the void left by men called into military service.

Within a year of graduation, almost every young man served in the armed forces. They served with distinction in all branches of the military around the globe. (See related story on page 17.)

Transformed into men and women by extraordinary times, former classmates either returned home to Clarendon after the war ended or established careers elsewhere. Plans that had been postponed were now pursued - college, homemaking, ranching, business - building and developing their own unfulfilled potential and that of the land and their community. No matter where the future led, an undeniably special bond had been formed during those years. Even after half a century, that bond seems stronger and better than ever.



The Gazette is grateful to La Rue (Shadle) Pittman and Redell and Frankie (Hommel) Henson for the use of their senior class picture and background material. We salute the Class of 1942 on their 50th Reunion, June 12-13.



Courtesy Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the impact of horses on our world.

This exhibit is based on "Seeds of Change," developed by the National Museum of Natural History and made possible through the generous support of the Xerox Corporation.

Beginning May 16, the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum will host...

Seeds of Change: The Horse Returns

A year-long, Columbus quincentenary exhibit organized in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution Exhibition Service

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MBNA America
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Early Church Reflects Faith Of Pioneers

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Clarendon is not only the oldest Episcopal congregation in the Panhandle, it is also the oldest church in the Panhandle that has been in continuous use since its founding.

The first claim is based on a date sometime in mid-November, 1887 when nine people gathered in the sitting room of the J.B. McClelland ranch home on Kelly Creek. According to a 1935 church history written by Mrs. McClelland, "Rev. Mr. Townsend" served Holy Communion and "Mrs. I. W. Carhart played the hymns...on the piano and everyone sang. It was a beautiful service."

By 1890, services were conducted in the Clarendon school building. Mrs. McClelland wrote that one of the church members would go early "taking kindling, coal, matches, prayer books and hymnals, the organ (a portable Mason and Hamlin) and other necessities, then make the fire, shivering all the

while, air and dust the room, place the chairs in order and arrange the improvised altar. After all this was done, the priest was sent for and the service held."

In 1891 a Philadelphia woman, Elizabeth A. Groff, offered \$350 toward the building fund if she were allowed to name the church. "We gladly consented," wrote Mrs. McClelland, "and she named it 'St. John Baptist,' very appropriately, as it was at that time truly 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness' as far as the Episcopal Church was concerned in this part of the world."

In 1896, Mrs. Groff's will designated that a chalice and other communion serving pieces be placed at St. John in her memory. The original Communion Service, given by Bishop Garrett, was donated to Saint Andrew's in Amarillo, which was a struggling mission church in a town much smaller than Clarendon in 1896.

The original Gothic building cost approximately \$1,500 plus \$160

for the large west window. The land was a gift from R. E. Montgomery, representing the Clarendon Town Site Co. for the Fort Worth & Denver City Railroad. "There were many and varied efforts made to raise funds," Mrs. McClelland recalled, including "oyster suppers, Saturday Markets, teas, sewings, cake sales, lawn fetes, cookbooks, organ recitals, plays, crusades, operettas, musicales and pageants."

The first funds for building St. John were raised at a ball and dinner at The Cain Hotel in late 1889. Mr. R. E. Montgomery brought a band from Fort Worth to perform, a first for frontier Clarendon.

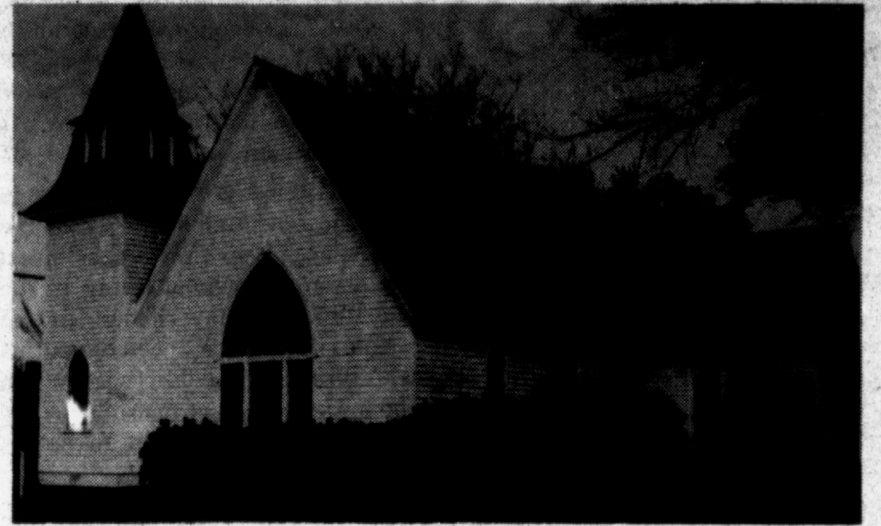
The cornerstone was laid in January, 1893 and consecrated shortly after Easter the same year. The altar cloth at that special service was "a beautiful new damask tablecloth which belonged to Mrs. T. S. McClelland and the hangings on the lectern and credence shelf were hem-stitched linen pillow-

slips," wrote Mrs. J. C. McClelland. "The silver plates to our syrup pitchers were used to take up the offering."

Mrs. McClelland's history hints of the life and hardships on the prairie at the turn of the century: The boy who drove the buggy for

clergy to visit parishioners, the priest who stayed only briefly because the climate was too severe, the priest who drove his team of horses and covered wagon between Clarendon and Wichita Falls for three years to conduct services at

Continued on page 17.



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Clarendon



Women's Auxiliary on Mrs. J. B. McClelland's porch, circa 1908-1911. Courtesy Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Neece.

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Corinne Goodnight: In The Shadow Of A Giant

Editors' Note: This is the second installment in a series about Corinne Goodnight, the second wife of pioneer rancher Colonel Charles Goodnight. They were married less than three years when the Colonel died in 1929 at age 93. Corinne lived in the shadow of a man whose life was already legend. The collection of personal papers she left behind casts a glimmer of light on this mysterious woman.

Stepping back to the situation immediately prior to the marriage of the Colonel and Corinne, he had moved to Clarendon from his ranch home and namesake town of Goodnight in late 1926 after the death of his wife, the former Mary Ann Dyer. He had been alone for about a year except for the company of his ranch manager and foster son, Cleo Hubbard.

Corinne Goodnight, her maiden name, lived with her parents at Reed Point, Montana, until, at age 17, the 1918 influenza epidemic took all her family except her and a younger brother, Thomas. To support the two of them, she became a telegraph operator for the Northwest Pacific Railway in Butte. At the same time Corinne sent Thomas through high school and Montana State University. Railway passes issued in her name indicate that, as a NPR employee, she took the opportunity to travel at no cost. Imagine a young, single woman in the 1920's with the courage to follow her own sense of adventure!

Accounts differ about how Corinne came to know the Colonel. According to one, a sheep shearer met her in the Butte telegraph office; he mentioned the coincidence of having recently worked for a Texas rancher by the name of Goodnight. Corinne then wrote the Colonel to inquire if they might be related. Another account claimed that Corinne read a newspaper story

of the Colonel's life in "cow country" and decided to write him.

For whatever reason, Corinne and the Colonel corresponded, some said, for months, and some, for years. Finally, the Colonel suggested that Corinne visit him over the Christmas holidays. The Associated Press reported on March 5, 1927, that for months thereafter, "...she has been the Colonel's constant companion...and has driven him by automobile along the old trails so familiar to him in his early life and experience."

The occasion for such coverage was the sensational news that the Colonel, "perhaps the most picturesque cowman living in the Southwest today, if not in the whole of America," celebrated his 91st birthday by publicly joining in the legal contract of marriage with a woman young enough to be his granddaughter.

Six months after this headline news, another big story broke, announcing that Corinne was assembling a manuscript for publication...the biography of Colonel Goodnight and "the early-day history of Texas." Writing about the proposed project, an Amarillo newspaper correspondent said, "(Corinne) is dark, has wonderful raven hair which she wears becomingly, deep, wide-set blue eyes, a piquant, tip-tilted nose, and a chin which connotes determination. When she smiles, which is practically all the time, she displays teeth like rare old mother of pearl. And that smile lights up her face like a ray of sunshine..."

With the same determination and devotion that compelled Corinne to care for and educate her brother, she assumed the dutiful role of biographer and history teacher.

Very likely, the unorganized quality and sheer quantity of data which Corinne was producing

overwhelmed her. Judging from samples of her handwritten notes on tablet paper, calendar sheets and across magazine advertisements, she had to quickly grab whatever paper was handy for notetaking because, wrote an Amarillo interviewer in 1927: "...as (the Colonel) feels in the mood, he reminisces...She does not write shorthand, but painstakingly makes her memoranda in long hand...The manuscript she already has prepared is remarkably clear and concise and free from efforts to be flowery. In fact, it is unnecessary to do fine writing in recounting the history of Col. Goodnight's life. The events ... are thrilling enough without needing bolstering by the typewriter of an author."

It is even more likely that Corinne's manuscript became the working basis for the eventual book by J. Evetts Haley entitled Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman. On June 17, 1929 in Clarendon, Charles and Corinne signed a homemade contract with Haley to furnish him "with manuscript purporting to be the history of (Goodnight's) life and something of the history of the Panhandle." In exchange for the manuscript, Haley agreed to give the Goodnights "one-third of all royalties from the publication and sale of the book into which this manuscript may be made."

Not until late January, 1936, however, did publication approach reality -- some nine years after

Corinne began her project, six years after the Colonel's death, and seven years after Haley bought the manuscript rights. Haley, by then with the Department of History at the University of Texas, wrote to Corinne, who was living in Los Angeles, that Houghton Mifflin Company would publish the book in the late spring.

During the editing process, about one-third of the manuscript was deleted, including most of the material concerning the Colonel's later days. "While this will be disappointing to you," Haley explained, "it seemed best to emphasize his activity when he was at his prime." It effectively diminished and devalued the part Corinne had played in Charles Goodnight's life, almost as if she had never existed.

In payment for her effort, Corinne's one-third advance royalty was \$333.34. Haley hoped for a second printing but expected limited sales; he said he would inform her

of the publisher's six-month report. (A second edition was printed in 1949 by the University of Oklahoma Press.)

That same spring, Corinne wrote a friend at the First National Bank in Clarendon where she kept a checking account. At her request he recommended a local firm where she could order a monument for "Uncle Charlie." Perhaps she did not act on the recommendation. Local residents claim that Corinne did nothing for the Goodnight cemetery plot where Charles is buried next to Mary Ann and other Dyer relatives. After clearing an overgrowth of grass, large markers and a fence were placed by the town's people.

A book, stone marker, museum statue and cattle trail across Texas were to perpetuate the Colonel's legend. But what was to be Corinne's estate for the nearly three years as nurse and housekeeper, chauffeur and secretary?

To be continued in our Summer issue.



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Armstrong County Builds A Place For Their Past

The Armstrong County Museum in Claude is taking its first tentative steps. But its supporters are so determined to see the project grow that the day the door opens for tours is a believable dream.

One of the project's chief proponents, Milton Bagwell, reports that the museum will probably open this summer.

After retirement and return to his native county, Bagwell was largely responsible for testing the museum idea with individuals from all segments of the community. The urgency of the project became apparent as people began to realize that much of the Armstrong County story would be lost if it were not preserved before those who had lived it passed on.

In the spring of 1990, a museum board of directors organized and incorporated. Beaumont attorney Tony Chauveaux, descendant of the earliest settler family, helped lay the legal groundwork. The board began its membership campaign

toward a goal of 300 supporting family memberships.

Late in 1990, heirs to the B. C. Wooldridge estate donated three empty buildings containing approximately 5,000 sq. ft. on N. Trice Street in Claude to house the museum. Renovation work began in 1991 on the properties. They are part of the six-unit, fireproof complex known as the Cavins-Watson Building which dates to 1915. Early occupants were a grocery store and ice house.

To preserve, collect and display the rich heritage, geology and history of Armstrong County for future generations is the purpose of the museum board, the supporting membership and the volunteer workers.

There is much to reclaim and to treasure: the progression of the land - over hundreds of millions of years - from ancient ocean floor to great plains and rugged canyons. Armstrong County was the habitat of prehistoric Indians and animals,

the historic setting for Spanish exploration. It was also the relatively recent stage where human drama was enacted - two battles of the Red River Indian Wars, the Goodnight cattle trail drives and the railroad town settlement of Claude.

The museum building renovation project should be completed within a few months.

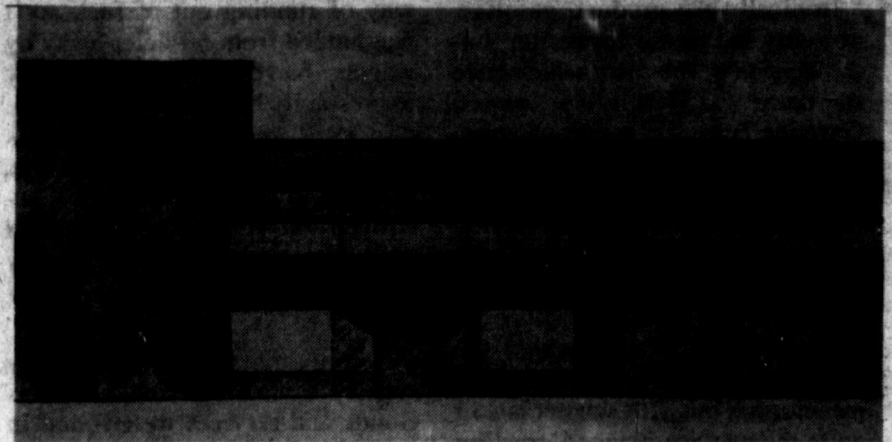
Houston architect Lettie Harrell Baird, daughter of local ranchers, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harrell, has designed a new exterior facade. Its concrete panels will be covered with native rock from Armstrong County and the Palo Duro Canyon. Local artists have been commissioned to paint historical episodes of the area.

A one-room school house that served a community about five miles northeast of Claude around 1918 was saved from destruction and moved across the street from the Museum. This building will be restored to recall a time when one teacher instructed 18 pupil through 11 grades, all in one room.

"The salvage of this important link with the past must be credited to the efforts of Mr. Bobby Wood who recognized the importance of the building and contacted our museum organizers," said Bagwell.

Already the museum has numerous members from not only Armstrong County, but across the nation. Inquiries about memorial gifts, membership categories or donations may be addressed to Armstrong County Museum, Inc., Box 450, Claude, TX 79019.

Milton Bagwell expresses the sentiments of many by saying, "It is truly a proud past and it will be a proud future."



Artist's rendering of the future Armstrong County Museum's facade.

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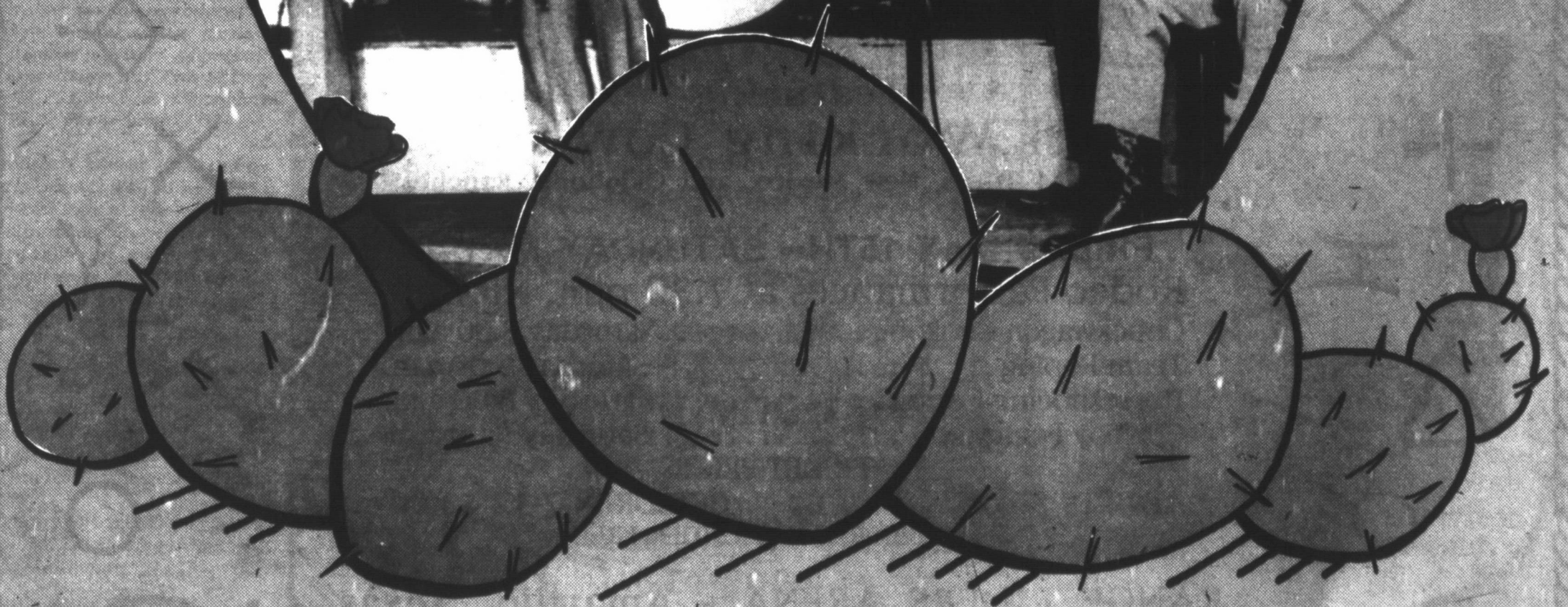
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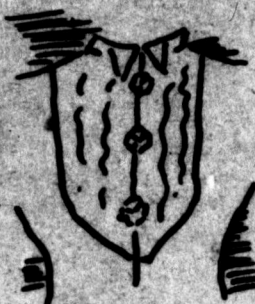
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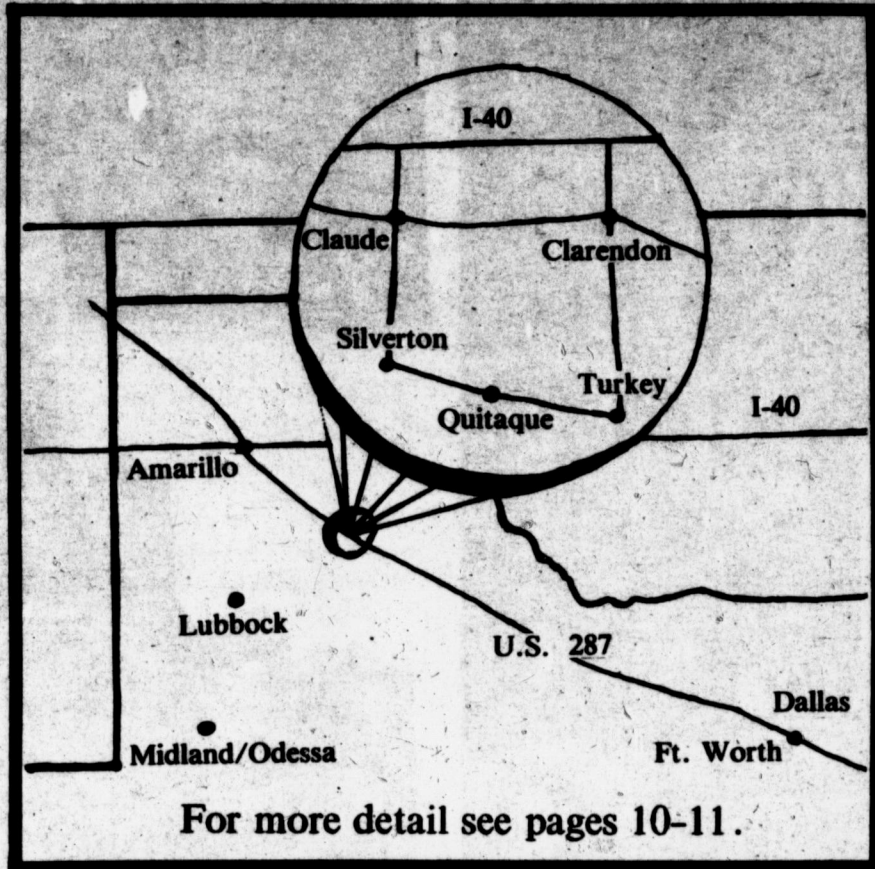
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For more detail see pages 10-11.

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The feelings that our region evokes are so strong that natives, who have been "displaced" in other parts of the country for years, read the *Gazette* and write to us, obviously homesick and hungry for more.

We appreciate the information and encouragement from all our readers. You have provided important clues to our history and character, helping us to tell the world about "The West of the Heart."

Stay All Night With The Wagon

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Remembering 1942 ...

Imagine the smooth sounds of the Glenn Miller Band, as high school seniors swayed to the music in late 1941, faces aglow.

Also imagine being assembled in their school auditorium to hear Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, declare war on Japan in a radio broadcast Dec. 8, 1941.

The lives of people around the world were catapulted into the terror of war, suddenly and dramatically changed forever. The 68 members of Clarendon High School's Class of 1942 were no exception.

They came not only from the small town of Clarendon, but outlying communities with pleasant sounding names like Sunnyview, Windy Valley, Goldston, Ashtola. School buses were a new concept, enabling older students to have a better high school education. Almost half had been classmates since the first grade.

Although the nation was in the throes of economic depression when the students became enrolled, times were somewhat more prosperous during their high school years.

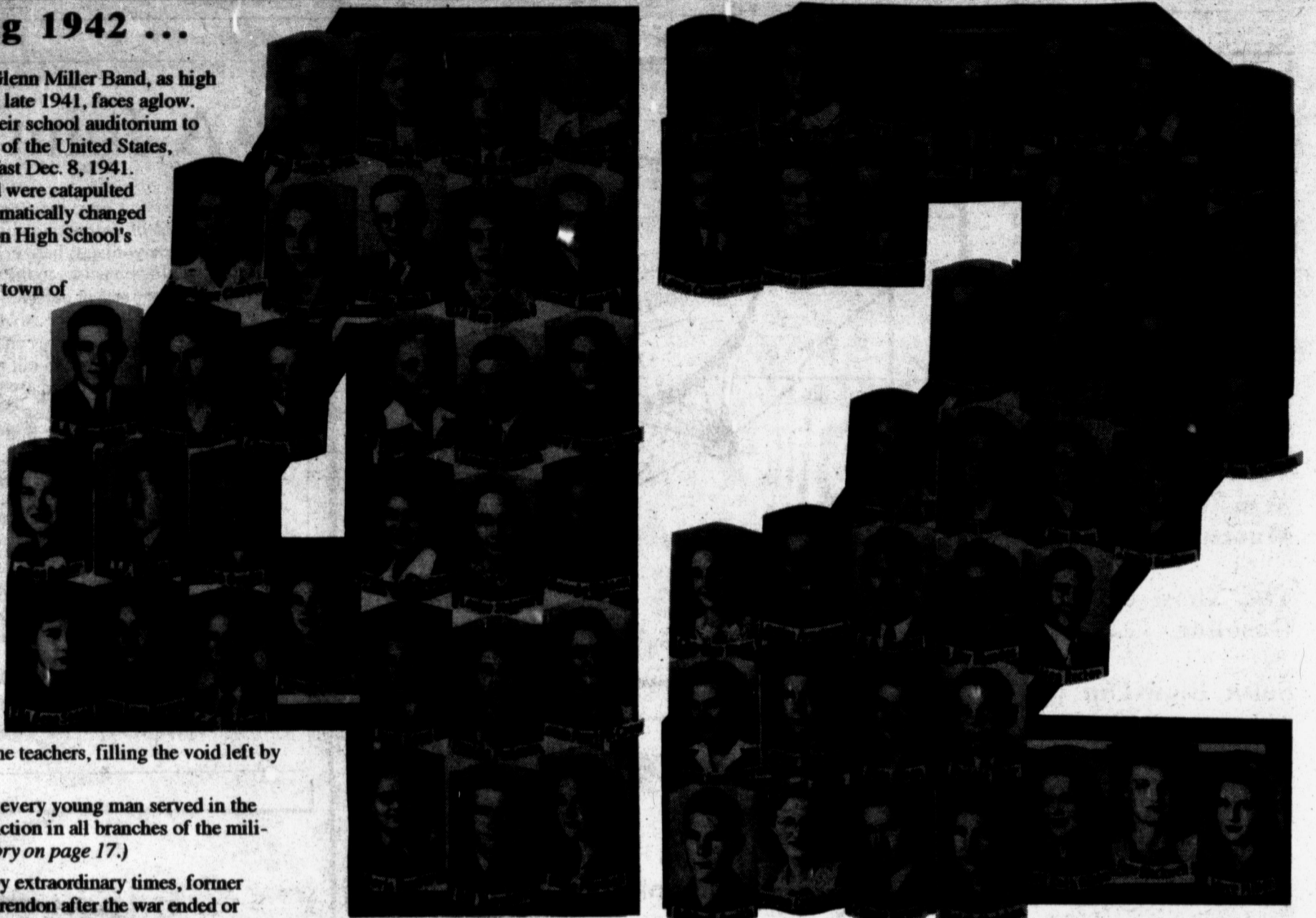
As America "geared up" for war, many of the young women would soon enter the work force in jobs related to our defense - munitions plant assembly work, bookkeeping, nursing - on military facilities in the Panhandle area. Still others became teachers, filling the void left by men called into military service.

Within a year of graduation, almost every young man served in the armed forces. They served with distinction in all branches of the military around the globe. (See related story on page 17.)

Transformed into men and women by extraordinary times, former classmates either returned home to Clarendon after the war ended or established careers elsewhere. Plans that had been postponed were now pursued - college, homemaking, ranching, business - building and developing their own unfulfilled potential and that of the land and their community.

No matter where the future led, an undeniably special bond had been formed during those years.

Even after half a century, that bond seems stronger and better than ever.



The Gazette is grateful to La Rue (Shadle) Pittman and Redell and Frankie (Hommel) Henson for the use of their senior class picture and background material. We salute the Class of 1942 on their 50th Reunion, June 12-13.



Courtesy Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the impact of horses on our world.

This exhibit is based on "Seeds of Change," developed by the National Museum of Natural History and made possible through the generous support of the Xerox Corporation.

Beginning May 16, the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum will host...

Seeds of Change: The Horse Returns

A year-long, Columbus quincentenary exhibit organized in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution Exhibition Service

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Early Church Reflects Faith Of Pioneers

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Clarendon is not only the oldest Episcopal congregation in the Panhandle, it is also the oldest church in the Panhandle that has been in continuous use since its founding.

The first claim is based on a date sometime in mid-November, 1887 when nine people gathered in the sitting room of the J.B. McClelland ranch home on Kelly Creek. According to a 1935 church history written by Mrs. McClelland, "Rev. Mr. Townsend" served Holy Communion and "Mrs. I. W. Carhart played the hymns...on the piano and everyone sang. It was a beautiful service."

By 1890, services were conducted in the Clarendon school building. Mrs. McClelland wrote that one of the church members would go early "taking kindling, coal, matches, prayer books and hymnals, the organ (a portable Mason and Hamlin) and other necessities, then make the fire, shivering all the

while, air and dust the room, place the chairs in order and arrange the improvised altar. After all this was done, the priest was sent for and the service held."

In 1891 a Philadelphia woman, Elizabeth A. Groff, offered \$350 toward the building fund if she were allowed to name the church. "We gladly consented," wrote Mrs. McClelland, "and she named it 'St. John Baptist,' very appropriately, as it was at that time truly 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness' as far as the Episcopal Church was concerned in this part of the world."

In 1896, Mrs. Groff's will designated that a chalice and other communion serving pieces be placed at St. John in her memory. The original Communion Service, given by Bishop Garrett, was donated to Saint Andrew's in Amarillo, which was a struggling mission church in a town much smaller than Clarendon in 1896.

The original Gothic building cost approximately \$1,500 plus \$160

for the large west window. The land was a gift from R. E. Montgomery, representing the Clarendon Town Site Co. for the Fort Worth & Denver City Railroad. "There were many and varied efforts made to raise funds," Mrs. McClelland recalled, including "oyster suppers, Saturday Markets, teas, sewings, cake sales, lawn fetes, cookbooks, organ recitals, plays, crusades, operettas, musicales and pageants."

The first funds for building St. John were raised at a ball and dinner at The Cain Hotel in late 1889. Mr. R. E. Montgomery brought a band from Fort Worth to perform, a first for frontier Clarendon.

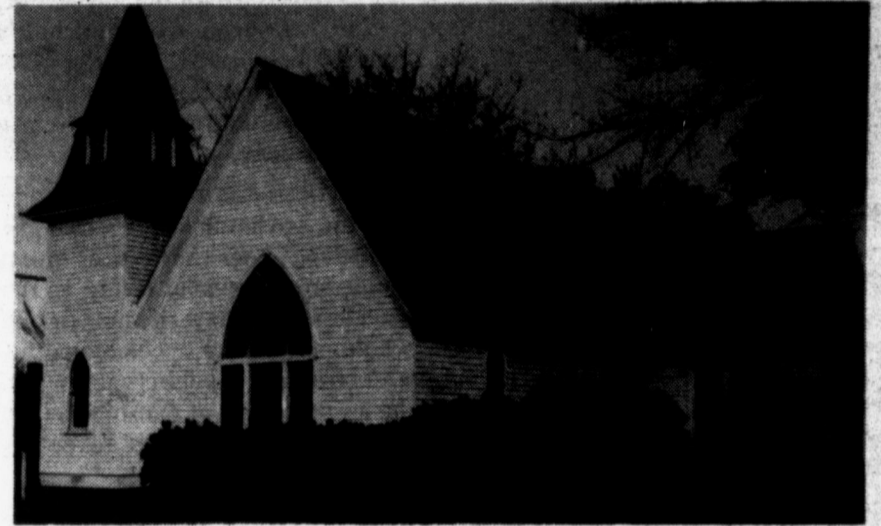
The cornerstone was laid in January, 1893 and consecrated shortly after Easter the same year. The altar cloth at that special service was "a beautiful new damask tablecloth which belonged to Mrs. T. S. McClelland and the hangings on the lectern and credence shelf were hem-stitched linen pillow-

slips," wrote Mrs. J. McClelland. "The silver plates to our syrup pitchers were used to take up the offering."

Mrs. McClelland's history hints of the life and hardships on the prairie at the turn of the century: The boy who drove the buggy for

clergy to visit parishioners, the priest who stayed only briefly because the climate was too severe, the priest who drove his team of horses and covered wagon between Clarendon and Wichita Falls for three years to conduct services at

Continued on page 17.



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Clarendon



Women's Auxiliary on Mrs. J. B. McClelland's porch, circa 1908-1911. Courtesy Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Neece.

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Corinne Goodnight: In The Shadow Of A Giant

Editors' Note: This is the second installment in a series about Corinne Goodnight, the second wife of pioneer rancher Colonel Charles Goodnight. They were married less than three years when the Colonel died in 1929 at age 93. Corinne lived in the shadow of a man whose life was already legend. The collection of personal papers she left behind casts a glimmer of light on this mysterious woman.

Stepping back to the situation immediately prior to the marriage of the Colonel and Corinne, he had moved to Clarendon from his ranch home and namesake town of Goodnight in late 1926 after the death of his wife, the former Mary Ann Dyer. He had been alone for about a year except for the company of his ranch manager and foster son, Cleo Hubbard.

Corinne Goodnight, her maiden name, lived with her parents at Reed Point, Montana, until, at age 17, the 1918 influenza epidemic took all her family except her and a younger brother, Thomas. To support the two of them, she became a telegraph operator for the Northwest Pacific Railway in Butte. At the same time Corinne sent Thomas through high school and Montana State University. Railway passes issued in her name indicate that, as a NPR employee, she took the opportunity to travel at no cost. Imagine a young, single woman in the 1920's with the courage to follow her own sense of adventure!

Accounts differ about how Corinne came to know the Colonel. According to one, a sheep shearer met her in the Butte telegraph office; he mentioned the coincidence of having recently worked for a Texas rancher by the name of Goodnight. Corinne then wrote the Colonel to inquire if they might be related. Another account claimed that Corinne read a newspaper story

of the Colonel's life in "cow country" and decided to write him.

For whatever reason, Corinne and the Colonel corresponded, some said, for months, and some, for years. Finally, the Colonel suggested that Corinne visit him over the Christmas holidays. The Associated Press reported on March 5, 1927, that for months thereafter, "...she has been the Colonel's constant companion...and has driven him by automobile along the old trails so familiar to him in his early life and experience."

The occasion for such coverage was the sensational news that the Colonel, "perhaps the most picturesque cowman living in the Southwest today, if not in the whole of America," celebrated his 91st birthday by publicly joining in the legal contract of marriage with a woman young enough to be his granddaughter.

Six months after this headline news, another big story broke, announcing that Corinne was assembling a manuscript for publication...the biography of Colonel Goodnight and "the early-day history of Texas." Writing about the proposed project, an Amarillo newspaper correspondent said, "(Corinne) is dark, has wonderful raven hair which she wears becomingly, deep, wide-set blue eyes, a piquant, tip-tilted nose, and a chin which connotes determination. When she smiles, which is practically all the time, she displays teeth like rare old mother of pearl. And that smile lights up her face like a ray of sunshine..."

With the same determination and devotion that compelled Corinne to care for and educate her brother, she assumed the dutiful role of biographer and history teacher.

Very likely, the unorganized quality and sheer quantity of data which Corinne was producing

overwhelmed her. Judging from samples of her handwritten notes on tablet paper, calendar sheets and across magazine advertisements, she had to quickly grab whatever paper was handy for notetaking because, wrote an Amarillo interviewer in 1927: "...as (the Colonel) feels in the mood, he reminisces...She does not write shorthand, but painstakingly makes her memoranda in long hand...The manuscript she already has prepared is remarkably clear and concise and free from efforts to be flowery. In fact, it is unnecessary to do fine writing in recounting the history of Col. Goodnight's life. The events... are thrilling enough without needing bolstering by the typewriter of an author."

It is even more likely that Corinne's manuscript became the working basis for the eventual book by J. Evetts Haley entitled Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman. On June 17, 1929 in Clarendon, Charles and Corinne signed a homemade contract with Haley to furnish him "with manuscript purporting to be the history of (Goodnight's) life and something of the history of the Panhandle." In exchange for the manuscript, Haley agreed to give the Goodnights "one-third of all royalties from the publication and sale of the book into which this manuscript may be made."

Not until late January, 1936, however, did publication approach reality -- some nine years after

Corinne began her project, six years after the Colonel's death, and seven years after Haley bought the manuscript rights. Haley, by then with the Department of History at the University of Texas, wrote to Corinne, who was living in Los Angeles, that Houghton Mifflin Company would publish the book in the late spring.

During the editing process, about one-third of the manuscript was deleted, including most of the material concerning the Colonel's later days. "While this will be disappointing to you," Haley explained, "it seemed best to emphasize his activity when he was at his prime." It effectively diminished and devalued the part Corinne had played in Charles Goodnight's life, almost as if she had never existed.

In payment for her effort, Corinne's one-third advance royalty was \$333.34. Haley hoped for a second printing but expected limited sales; he said he would inform her

of the publisher's six-month report. (A second edition was printed in 1949 by the University of Oklahoma Press.)

That same spring, Corinne wrote a friend at the First National Bank in Clarendon where she kept a checking account. At her request he recommended a local firm where she could order a monument for "Uncle Charlie." Perhaps she did not act on the recommendation. Local residents claim that Corinne did nothing for the Goodnight cemetery plot where Charles is buried next to Mary Ann and other Dyer relatives. After clearing an overgrowth of grass, large markers and a fence were placed by the town's people.

A book, stone marker, museum statue and cattle trail across Texas were to perpetuate the Colonel's legend. But what was to be Corinne's estate for the nearly three years as nurse and housekeeper, chauffeur and secretary?

To be continued in our Summer issue.



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Armstrong County Builds A Place For Their Past

The Armstrong County Museum in Claude is taking its first tentative steps. But its supporters are so determined to see the project grow that the day the door opens for tours is a believable dream.

One of the project's chief proponents, Milton Bagwell, reports that the museum will probably open this summer.

After retirement and return to his native county, Bagwell was largely responsible for testing the museum idea with individuals from all segments of the community. The urgency of the project became apparent as people began to realize that much of the Armstrong County story would be lost if it were not preserved before those who had lived it passed on.

In the spring of 1990, a museum board of directors organized and incorporated. Beaumont attorney Tony Chauveaux, descendant of the earliest settler family, helped lay the legal groundwork. The board began its membership campaign

toward a goal of 300 supporting family memberships.

Late in 1990, heirs to the B. C. Wooldridge estate donated three empty buildings containing approximately 5,000 sq. ft. on N. Trice Street in Claude to house the museum. Renovation work began in 1991 on the properties. They are part of the six-unit, fireproof complex known as the Cavins-Watson Building which dates to 1915. Early occupants were a grocery store and ice house.

To preserve, collect and display the rich heritage, geology and history of Armstrong County for future generations is the purpose of the museum board, the supporting membership and the volunteer workers.

There is much to reclaim and to treasure: the progression of the land - over hundreds of millions of years - from ancient ocean floor to great plains and rugged canyons. Armstrong County was the habitat of prehistoric Indians and animals,

the historic setting for Spanish exploration. It was also the relatively recent stage where human drama was enacted - two battles of the Red River Indian Wars, the Goodnight cattle trail drives and the railroad town settlement of Claude.

The museum building renovation project should be completed within a few months.

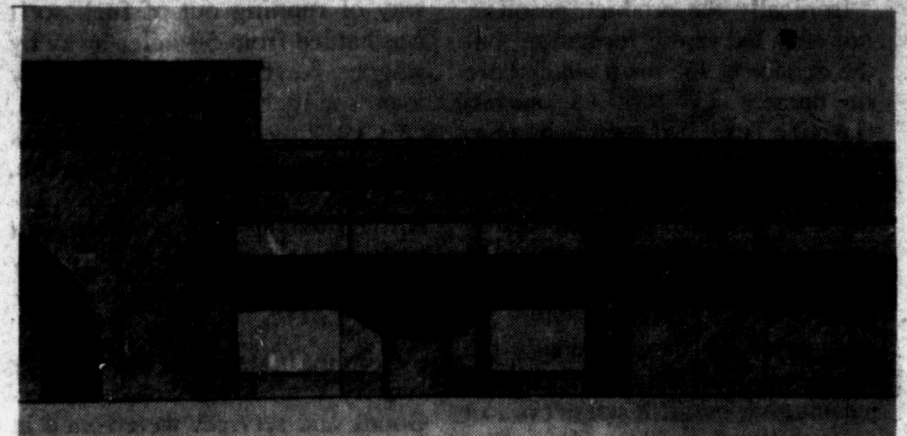
Houston architect Lettie Harrell Baird, daughter of local ranchers, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harrell, has designed a new exterior facade. Its concrete panels will be covered with native rock from Armstrong County and the Palo Duro Canyon. Local artists have been commissioned to paint historical episodes of the area.

A one-room school house that served a community about five miles northeast of Claude around 1918 was saved from destruction and moved across the street from the Museum. This building will be restored to recall a time when one teacher instructed 18 pupil through 11 grades, all in one room.

"The salvage of this important link with the past must be credited to the efforts of Mr. Bobby Wood who recognized the importance of the building and contacted our museum organizers," said Bagwell.

Already the museum has numerous members from not only Armstrong County, but across the nation. Inquiries about memorial gifts, membership categories or donations may be addressed to Armstrong County Museum, Inc., Box 450, Claude, TX 79019.

Milton Bagwell expresses the sentiments of many by saying, "It is truly a proud past and it will be a proud future."



Artist's rendering of the future Armstrong County Museum's facade.

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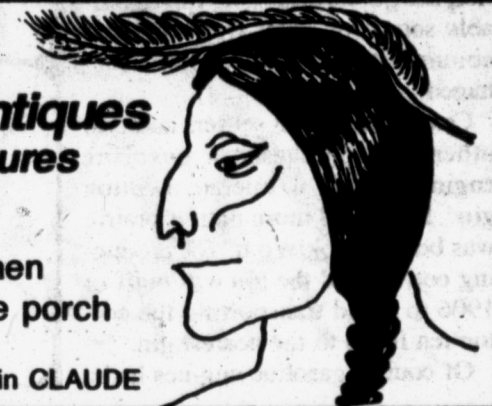
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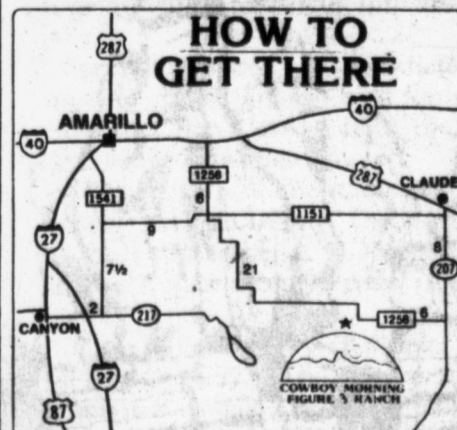
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Coming from Turkey or Silverton
Go to blinking light at Hwy. 70 and Hwy. 256,
then 2 1/2 miles North on Hwy. 70 Follow signs.

Ghost of Gasoline Revisited

Ironically the product, gasoline, not only led to the formation, but the demise of the town which bore its name. Within 41 years, Gasoline, Texas had come and gone.

However, in between the impersonal dates of 1907 - 1948, marking the passage of time in merely scientific terms, images of people, carrying out their various activities, emerge. These glimpses capture the essence of the human spirit - the urge to build something meaningful, but, if it doesn't last in quite the way we planned, trusting that something worthwhile will result from our efforts.

Gasoline, Texas, although resigned to the pages of history for the most part, represents a microcosm of a particular era in the development of America. It poses the question: What have we gained since then...and what have we lost?

In a spot which would later be home to many, three families came to settle near present day Quitaque in 1903. They dug a water well (with the help of a mule-driven drill) in 1906. That deed may not seem like much of an achievement today, but the decision (not to mention the good fortune) to find a reliable source of water was crucial if community life was to be sustained.

One of these first settlers and two other men purchased a gasoline engine in order to operate a cotton gin. More and more native prairie was being "broken out" for producing cotton, and the gin was built in 1906 to avoid transporting the cotton ten miles to the nearest gin.

Of course, gasoline engines had a

way of running out of fuel, so it was hauled from 50 miles away by wagon. Nevertheless, the pathway to prosperity had been charted.

In 1912 the gin burned but was repaired in 30 days; in 1914 a fire, believed to be set intentionally, destroyed the gin, but it was rebuilt again. A third fire in 1938 finally brought an end to the gin's operation.

Cotton farming was not the only activity around Gasoline, however. Goods and services were found in the general store, barbershop, cafe, drugstore and post office.

Eventually some real luxuries were available - a physician set up a practice, telephones became more common, electricity replaced kerosene lamps.

From the very beginning, citizens placed great emphasis on schools, growing from one room to another four-room building, with some 90 pupils in lower grades and 45 in higher grades at one point in time. As in many other rural communities, consolidation with other school districts occurred. For Gaso-

line, 1946 marked its merger with Quitaque's schools.

Church services, a meeting hall, theatrical presentations, athletic teams, picnics, "singings," and many other activities enlivened the community and must have implanted sweet memories. An annual reunion of former residents and their descendants still takes place.

Somewhere between a thriving blacksmith shop and a fledgling automobile dealership, times changed. A slower pace began to accelerate with increased transportation and the lure of a wider world. Tractors replaced men in the fields, buses carried children to larger schools, automobiles took families to new amusements.

And Gasoline was part of it all.

Editor's note: Reading the history book compiled by the Briscoe County Historical Survey Committee conjures up vivid images. Footprints of Time in Briscoe County 1876-1976, (Taylor Publishing Co. 1976) is indeed a labor of love, but also a valuable chronicle, for families and historians alike.

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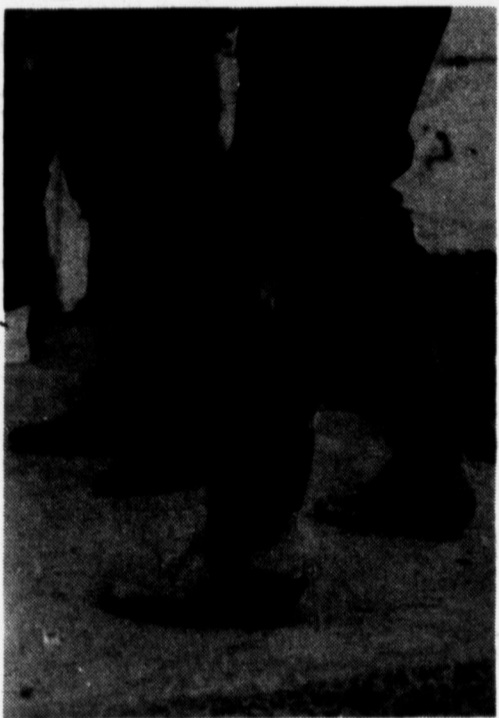
They came carrying jars of homemade salsa, they came wearing ugly boots, they came with red feathers in their hair... and they left with smiles on their faces.

Last October, the Prairie Dog Gazette hosted "The Wild West Texas Salsa Blow-Out!" to celebrate our first year of publication.

We thought you might like to see a few snapshots taken at that event. On the right is Phyllis Bowman of Quitaque, winner of the Red Hot Mama contest. She tried to bribe us not to run this photo, but we needed to fill the space somehow.

On the left Master of Ceremonies, Joe Davis of KLSR Memphis introduces the 2nd Place and Honorable Mention winners, Richard Romero in the center and Wes Henson in the foreground. We really enjoyed the leftover salsa they brought.

In the lower left photo, as you can see, there was quite a collection of "manly footwear" displayed in the Ugly Boot Contest.



Cowboy Gathering

Many of us somehow feel closer to God in "the great outdoors." Those sunrises and sunsets make us very much aware that Someone must be Up Yonder, turning those lights on and off.

For cowboys, who live most of their lives right in the middle of nature, there is very little doubt. The cycles of life - man's and beast's alike - are a familiar, yet wondrous plan.

But sometimes, like stray cattle, it gets a little harder to find the gate.

Springtime seems an appropriate time to "gather up" and head for a Cowboy Camp Meeting. It's a fine, time-honored tradition.

Mark May 21 - 24 on your calendar now and just follow "The West of the Heart" straight to Johnnie Burson's place near Silverton (it's God's Country, for sure).

There will be plenty of wonderful food, scenery, singing, and programs for women, children, and men. Contact: Johnnie Burson, Box 304; Silverton, TX 79257, (806) 847-2524.

You'll be glad you did!

BIG TIME

BIG TEXAN

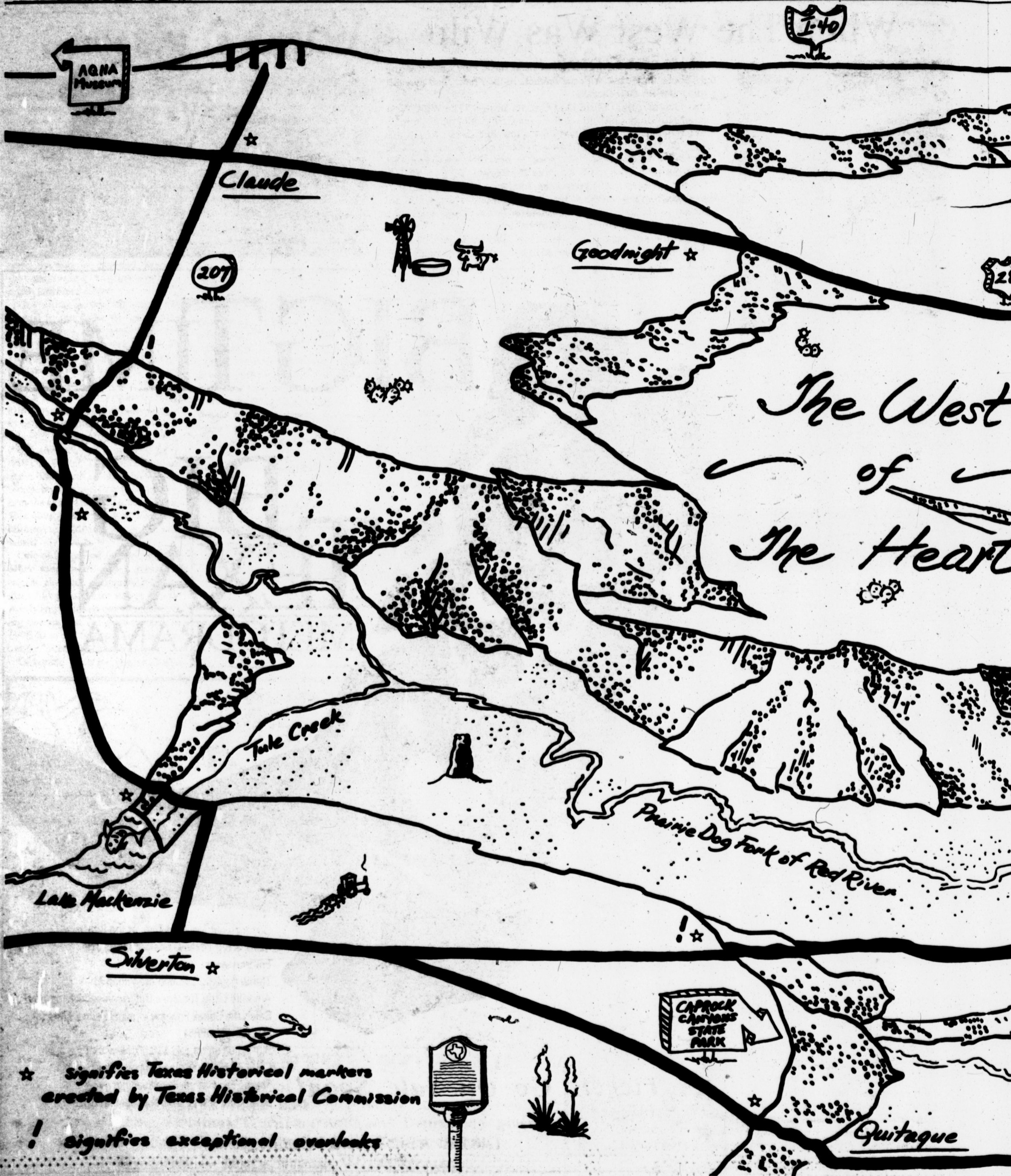
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Along The Trail

"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 the 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 the Salt Fork of the Red River, cattle range of JA, RO, and many other pioneer ranches.

Claude - Armstrong County seat, 1890. Established as a stop on the Fort Worth & Denver City Railroad line and named for a train engineer. Nearby landmark is JA Ranch Headquarters, still home of original owner John Adair's descendants. To the east is the site of the house and grave of legendary plainsman Col. Charles Goodnight in the town named for him.

Quitque - In Briscoe County. Probably named for the early Quitaca, Indian tribe which scouted for Spanish explorers. Gateway to Caprock Canyons State Park. Sidewalk Museum recreates ranching/farming 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-Southern Plains Indian wars. Landmark 1894 jailhouse represents Old West struggle for law and order.

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

Area Lakes

Greenbelt Reservoir - 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, several bait shops nearby. Concessions. RV parks. Contact Manager, Greenbelt Water Authority, P.O. Box 665, Clarendon, TX 79226, phone 806-874-3650.

Lake Mackenzie - 12 miles northwest of Silverton via TX 86 West or 45 miles south of Claude via TX 207 South. An 896 surface-acre reservoir in historic Tule Canyon. RV hookups. Ramps, floating docks. Contact Mackenzie Water Authority, Rt. 1, Box 14, Silverton, TX 79257, phone 806-633-4326.

Lake Theo - in Caprock Canyons State Park, 4 miles northwest of Quitque 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, Quitque, TX 79255, phone 806-455-1492.

Points of Interest

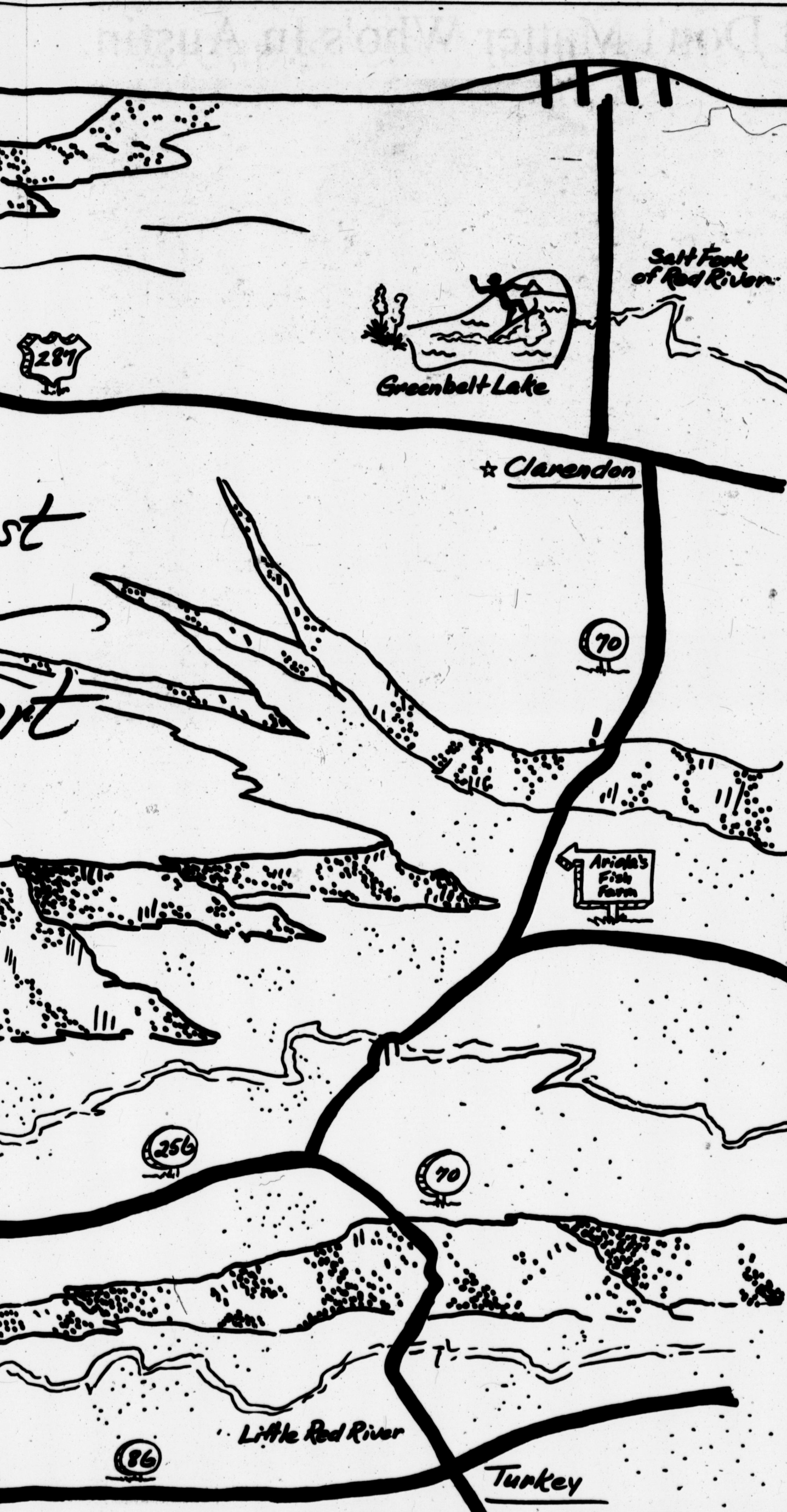
All the highways of the area provide beautiful views; however, TX 207 south of Claude and TX 256 east of Silverton have especially dramatic views of canyonland.

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

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

Historical Markers:

- Armstrong County Courthouse Square US 287, in Claude.
- Dugout (pioneer family home), TX 207 between Claude and Silverton.
- Overlook TX 207, near Briscoe County line.
- Lake Mackenzie overlook TX 207.
- Briscoe County Courthouse Square TX 86, in Silverton.
- Comanchero Trail picnic area, TX 86, between Silverton and Quitque.
- Hotel Turkey, One block north of TX 86, in Turkey.
- JA Ranch, between Clarendon and Claude.
- Sites within towns of Clarendon and Claude.
- Col. Charles Goodnight's House US 287, near the community of Goodnight.



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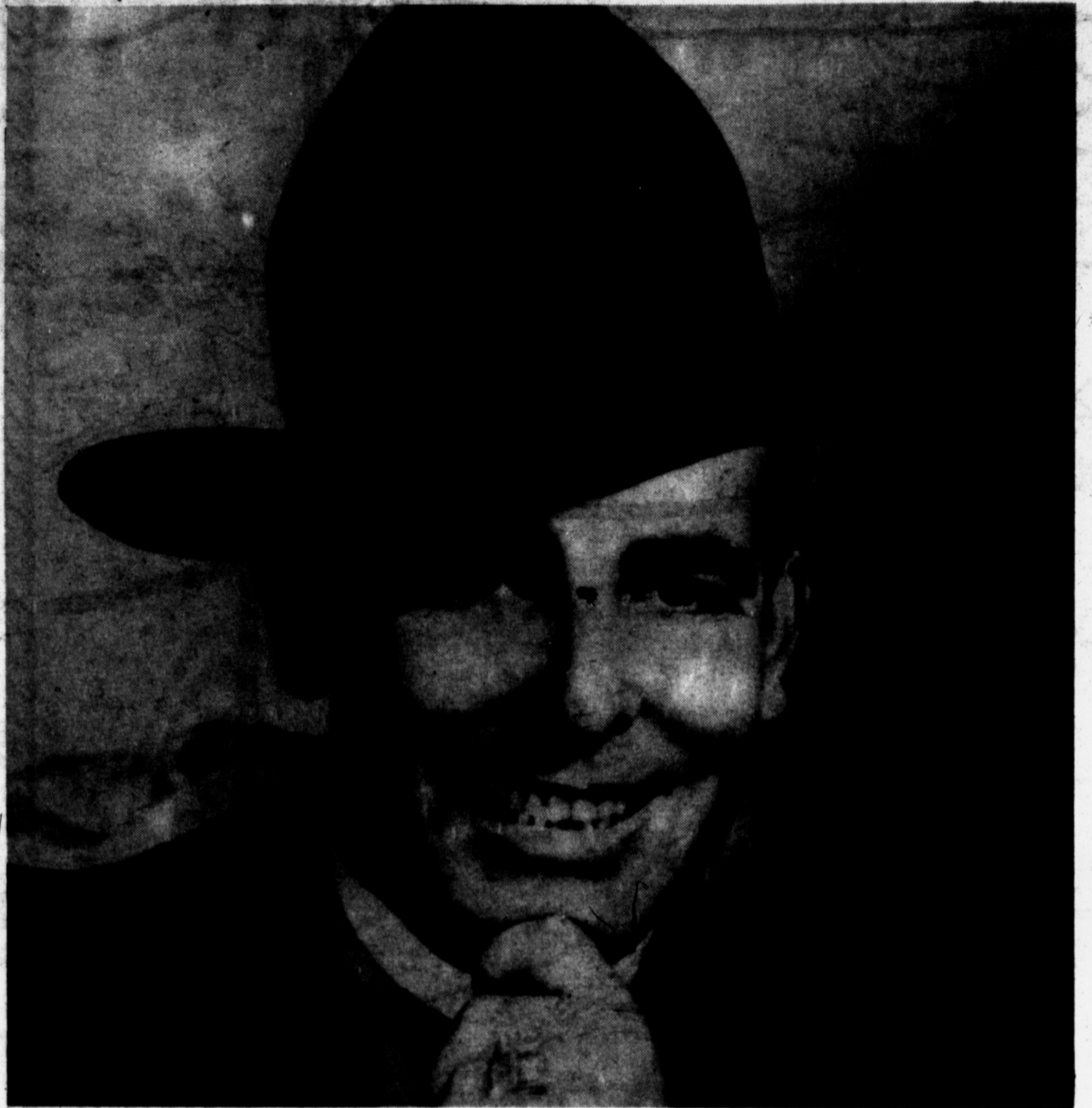
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Bob Wills Is Still The King!

From his birth in 1905 until his death in 1975, James Robert (Bob) Wills was a true "man of the people."

Although his life was never really rich in an economic sense, it was filled with shining treasures few ever attain.

Wills lived much of his childhood in the Texas cotton fields of Limestone County, and later Hall County. The Wills family was never more than marginally successful at farming, but were proud members of a long line of musicians, mostly fiddle players.

Jim Rob (as he was called at the time) accompanied his father and other family members at ranch dances in the region surrounding Turkey, Texas around 1920. These dances did not provide a huge income but they did help get the family through poor farming years.

They also provided Bob Wills with experience in performing that no wealthy child could ever get from stuffy violin lessons. During this time period he and his father, John, wrote the still haunting "Faded Love."

Before too long Bob began a life of travel which continued until his retirement. It was on this long road that he melded the varied influences

he had encountered into what is now called "Western Swing."

In the autumn of 1929 he left the Turkey area, never to return as a resident, but he always considered it his "home town." Even after becoming nationally known, Wills never denied this emotional tie.

Bob Wills was not a musical virtuoso, but intuitively knew how to reach deep within his audiences' souls. He surrounded himself with the right band members to make it seem easy. Through radio broadcasts with the Wills Fiddle Band, Aladdin Laddies, Lightcrust Doughboys and, of course, the Texas Playboys, Bob came into homes throughout the Southwest.

He brought with him music that was both familiar and new. Folk melodies, New Orleans Jazz, and Big Band Swing were all woven into Western Swing. Above all else, it was dance music.

His presence in people's homes, via radio, was very important. Throughout his career there was a special intimacy between the band leader and his audience, just as he and his band shared a common groove while improvising choruses in their hit songs.

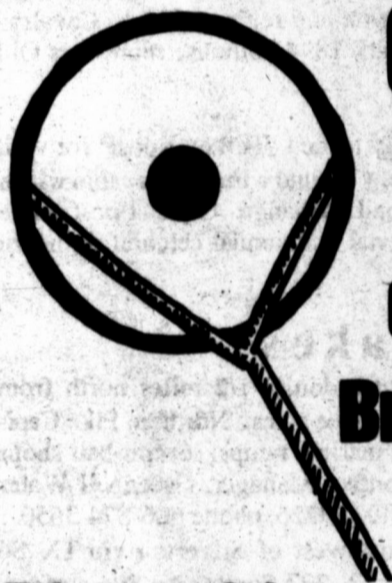
During the years while Bob and

the Texas Playboys were headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, they shared their personal lives with the audience, helping ease the burden of the Depression. They even played at the funerals of their fans at no charge and were repaid with great devotion (not to mention marriage proposals and birthday cakes).

When a performance got so inspired that Bob just had to holler "Ah Hah!", there was always a response from the people around him. He was not the sort to retire to compose masterpieces in private. Mixing it up right in front of the public was more to his liking. As he pointed out to his band members, their job was to entertain the customers by making the best music possible. That meant not being afraid of trying something different to thrill the audience more than the last performance did.

Longer than any stone monument, the world's memory of Bob Wills endures. From the musicians who keep his songs and style alive, to the couple who requests "San Antonio Rose" at the bandstand on Saturday night, all who are ever touched by his music know they are in the presence of West Texas royalty, a man of the people, but also, the King of Western Swing.

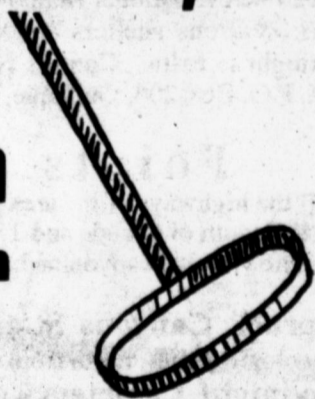
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Group Keeps Memory Alive

The legacy of the King of Western Swing is kept alive all year by the people of his adopted hometown. Since 1971 the members of the Bob Wills Foundation have erected an impressive monument, preserved mementos from Wills' past, and organized the annual Bob Wills Day celebration in Turkey, Texas.

The Foundation organized as a group of volunteers in 1971. As in the beginning, they work closely with the Wills family. Over twenty years ago Fort Worth, Texas and Tulsa, Oklahoma were trying to establish memorials. With the help of Bob and his wife Betty, Turkey and Hall County residents beat both of the larger cities to the goal.

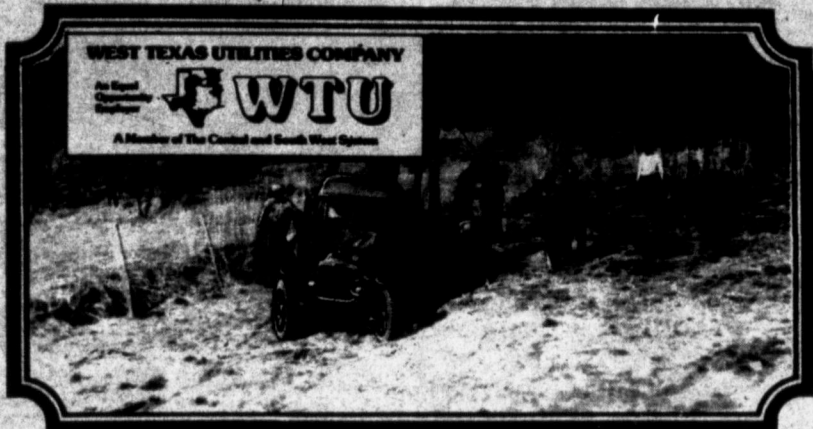
While the Foundation itself is headed by six rotating committee members, the entire community has participated in all the projects that honor Wills.

Examples of their teamwork include the community center housing the Bob Wills Museum and the Wills monument at the west edge of town. The City of Turkey donated the school buildings to the Foundation when the district was consolidated with Quitaque schools. These buildings are now the Community Center, hosting the museum and Bob Wills Day activities. The large monument on Hwy. 86 was dedicated in 1972 by Bob Wills himself (not many are so honored in their lifetime). The funds were obtained in the form of a loan from the local bank on a note signed by 40 citizens. In two short years the \$15,000 note was paid in full.

On Bob Wills Day the population of Turkey swells from around 600 to more than 6,000. The Foundation provides almost two days of activities and grand entertainment. Most of the events are free except the Old Fiddler's Contest, two dances, and Saturday's barbecue lunch.

This year's festivities will be the 21st annual celebration hosted by the volunteers of the Bob Wills Foundation with the cooperation of the Wills family.

Bob Wills Day
April 25, 1992



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Wills and his horse Punkin, 1947. Courtesy Bob Wills Museum.



Playboys 1940. Wills, fiddler Jesse Ashlock. Courtesy Bob Wills Museum.

Bob Wills Events

Friday Night 12 p.m., at the Center. Featuring Texas Playboys.

Saturday:

10:30, Downtown.

at 11:00 at the Bob Wills Center.

Contest at Noon, at the Center & Gym.

2:30 p.m. at the Ball Field

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Ol' Pete's Mailbag

Whenever I get into town to pick up the mail, I sort through the bills and junk mail, trash 'em, then take the "good stuff" out to the pickup.

Even before I start down to the bank (before they send the sheriff after me) or the feed store for some good conversation, I read those hand written letters. You know the kind: Notebook paper with coffee spots on them.

Here's a few excerpts I'd like to share.

"...quite a newsy little paper. My daughter lives in Denver and when she visited your town Thanksgiving week she got a free copy of Autumn 1991 and sent to me, which I have enjoyed very much. The first time I was ever through your town was in 1924. My father took me with him to visit the ranch he had previously purchased, three miles north of the little town of Channing, TX."

Noble Threadgill, Arlington, TX

"My husband and I grew up in Roaring Springs and Quitaque in the 40's and 50's. You interview (on the Gem Theatre) brought back memories. If you didn't get to Turkey early on Saturday, especial-

ly in the fall, you had to park on the dark side of the street. To a kid, a half block of darkness seemed like a mile"

Bonita Christian, Amarillo, TX

(Telling about) "...the time I spent in Col. Goodnight's bunk

house. I have a photo of that. We found (the Gazette) very interesting and are sharing them with others."

Glenna Garrison, Amarillo, TX

"My roots are deep in the Panhandle. T.D. Hobart, my grand-

(continued on page 18)



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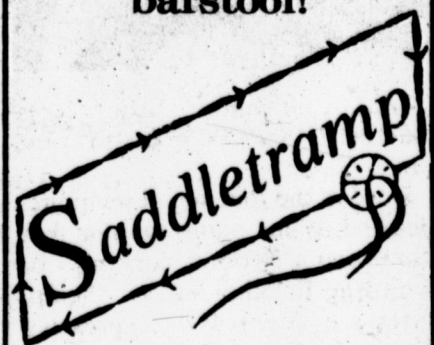
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Artist Carves A Reputation

On a 1972 field trip from Texas Tech, J. Christopher White first encountered Tule Canyon and Silverton where he now makes his home. The purpose of the trip was to observe eagles in the canyon. However, this sculptor discovered the raw materials and atmosphere he needed to create a successful career.

In 1978 he returned to the area where he found friendly people with strong values and, just as important, the site of unique wood for sculpting.

White obtained much of his formal art education at the National Institute of Fine Arts in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. While in Mexico he also did missionary work with prisoners, an accomplishment in which he takes great pride and hopes to repeat.

Sometimes, the artist says, "my career seems to grow as slowly as the 2,000 year-old trees I work with." These trees, mesquite and the somewhat rare West Texas juniper, have the tight grain, density, and unique shapes that enhance White's sculptures. Although mesquite is more than plentiful in Texas, the juniper (*juniperus texensis Van Mull*) is only found high on cliffs from Big Spring to Amarillo.

When an idea for a sculpture occurs to White he seeks out the wood he needs, usually in rugged, picturesque Tule Canyon. Some of the trees are fallen, while others were cut to clear rangeland in the 1920's. His love of the wood is apparent when he notes that the media is beautiful in itself. The mesquite usually has the look of ebony because of the minerals it absorbs after it has fallen and lies beneath the earth. Hours of patient sanding by White make the wood extraordinarily smooth and reveals intricate patterns formed by the closely spaced grains.



Above: White, the artist. Below: Fine wood sculptures by White.



As his talents have become recognized around the world, most of White's sculptures are commis-



sioned by art patrons. Major pieces take more than 400 hours to complete.

Beyond the time wood sculptures demand, White points out that they vary from wood carving or whittling in other ways. "Sculptures are devoted to expressing form, character, and movement," while carvings are meant to show the appearance of a recognizable subject.

Some of White's impressive works can be seen in his gallery/studio on the courthouse square in Silverton.

It may not be Manhattan, but life in the Silverton area seems to inspire the heart and hands of J. Christopher White.

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Lest We Forget

Obra Gerald Spier, Seaman 1st Class, had joined the U.S. Navy in January of 1941 while still a Junior in high school. He was assigned to the *USS New Orleans* at the time Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. It was one of the few battleships to survive the attack. In the Captain's absence that Sunday, the Officer-in-Charge gave the order to break the locks on the ammunition compartments, while the Chaplain introduced the crew to his original song, "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," which eventually became a wartime hit. The forward magazine of the ship had been struck by a torpedo, severely damaging the bow. The crew camouflaged the ship with

palm trees and "backed it up" all the way to Australia. A new bow was shipped from the states, and after replacement, the ship was put back into service. At the fifth Battle of Savo Island (near Guadalcanal in the Pacific) on November 30, 1942, Seaman Spier was killed as he was loading 5" projectiles out of the ammunition room. The *USS New Orleans* was finally destroyed that day. Obra Spier was the third casualty among the thirty-two U.S. servicemen from Donley County who lost their lives during World War II. A medal was recently received by the Spier family commemorating Obra Spier's naval service at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

Historic Church

Continued from page 5.

the church twice each month; the 25 cents monthly membership dues to launder choir vestments ("white lawn capes and black skirts for the women, and white cottas and black cassocks for the men") and pay the boys who pumped the organ.

The handsome pipe organ, still in use at the church, was built December 2, 1912. One-third of the \$1,500 cost was contributed by Sir Alfred Rowe, owner of the RO Ranch and St. John choir member. Rowe was a passenger on the *Titanic's* maiden voyage when it sank in the North Atlantic on April 15, 1912. J. B. McClelland contributed \$500 and Chester Heath contributed his \$300 commission from the organ company for which he worked. The organ was originally pneumatic, requiring hand pumping; by 1936, it had been electrified.

The Woman's Auxiliary - always the backbone and work force of any church - made other acquisitions possible with the meals "all of the best-prepared, cooked and bountifully served on tables covered with snowy damask, sparkling glass and silver...at great personal sacrifice as they were compelled to miss many of the services and were physically exhausted afterwards," Mrs. McClelland remembered. Women's work financed the 1926 Parish House and many of the 1933 "great improvements," which refurbished the church.

"We should remember," concluded Mrs. McClelland, that "no work

for Him shall be in vain,' and with this inner knowledge, what need we more? The workers 'in the vineyard of our Father' are seen now as well as in the past."

In 1971 the Texas Historical Survey recognized St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church as an historical site and honored the structure with a commemorative marker.



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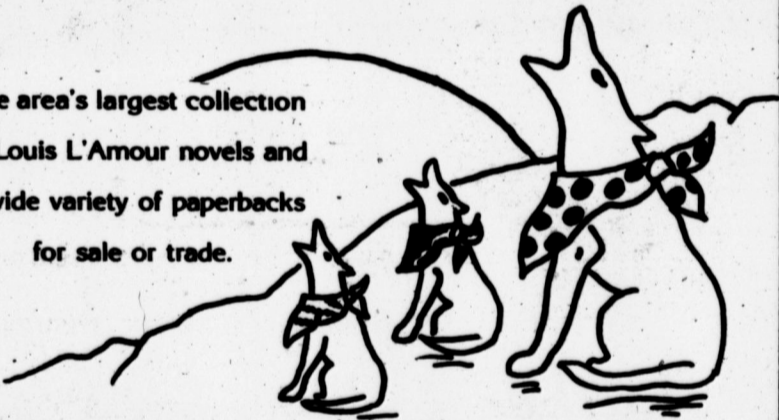
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Pete's Mailbag

(continued from page 15)

father came to this area in 1891. He later was manager of the JA Ranch, so I am very interested in all of this area."

J.David Fatheree, Pampa, TX

"...my early childhood spent on the Bairfield Ranch...look forward to more history...I feel a certain kinship to that area!"

Leslie G. Speir, Espanola, NM

"Both my parents worked at the JA Ranch...had a few pictures but mostly stories of by-gone days."

Freddie B. Roach, Texhoma, OK

"I picked up a copy of the great Autumn issue at the First National Bank in Quitaque - my home town of which I am proud. Please send copies to (three of my friends in other parts Texas)."

Harold Bogart, Nacogdoches, TX

"My mother, Opal Messer sent me...the Gazette. I was born and raised in Clarendon and still love and miss my little home town!..."

Katrina Hutson, Vanderbilt, TX

"... interested in Corinne Goodnight. We have read several books about Charles Goodnight but none of them have ever said what happened to Corinne."

Kent & Loretta Flaherty, Pampa

Many nice folks wrote asking for more on the second wife of Col. Goodnight, Corinne (see page 6).

We enjoy all your letters, including one from Bill Topp, Otisville New York. I wish space and time permitted printing them all.

Keep 'em coming; otherwise I'll have to open up that durned old bank statement.

Most sincerely, Pete

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Briscoe County Courthouse, 1922. County organized 1892. Jail House Museum, 1894, located on the Courthouse Square.

Special Events

First Saturdays in June, July and August: Caprock Jamboree at

7:00 pm., Silverton Show Barn. Live Western music. Grilled hamburgers served at 6:00 pm. Call (806) 847-2619.

April 18 - 19: Trail Ride, part of Briscoe County's centennial celebration. Ride from the plains into picturesque canyons. Bring your horse, its feed, and \$150 for the trip, which includes meals. Call (806) 823-2125. Jerry Patton at City Hall.

May 21 - 24: Cowboy Camp Meeting. A special experience for men, women, and children. Call (806) 847-2524, Johnnie Burson.

QUITAQUE

Attractions

Sidewalk Museum, Downtown. Storefront displays depict heritage.

Special Events

Briscoe County Centennial, 1892 - 1992. Monthly events to celebrate. Contact Quitaque Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 207, Quitaque, TX 79225 or Call (806) 455-1456.

TURKEY

Attractions

Bob Wills Museum, City Hall. Bob Wills Memorial on Texas Highway 86 West, Main St.

Special Events

April 24: One of two dances held in conjunction with Bob Wills Day. Former Texas Playboys featured. 9 - 12 p.m., at the Bob Wills Center.

April 25: Bob Wills Day. Parade 10:30 am, Barbeque 11:00 am, Concert 2:30 pm, Dance 7 - 11 pm featuring Jody Nix & the Texas Cowboys. All day concessions, visit the Museum, Arts & Crafts, Movies and TV shows of Bob Wills.

CLAUDE

Attractions

Armstrong County Courthouse, 1912. County organized 1890. In the Claude area, the terrain and brilliant sunsets have made perfect film and television settings, such as "Hud," "Sunshine Christmas," and "Indiana Jones: The Last Crusade."

Special Events

July 10 - 11: Caprock Old Settlers Reunion. Barbeque on the Courthouse Square, Rodeo both days. More details in next issue.

CLARENDON

Attractions

Donley County Courthouse, 1890. Country organized 1890. Saints' Roost Museum, Texas Hwy. 70 S off US Hwy 287. Open Saturdays

and Sundays, 1 - 5 pm and by appointment. Call (806) 874-3517, 2546, or 3839. Take time to drive around town to see turn-of-the-century architecture, from prairie style to Victorian.

Special Events

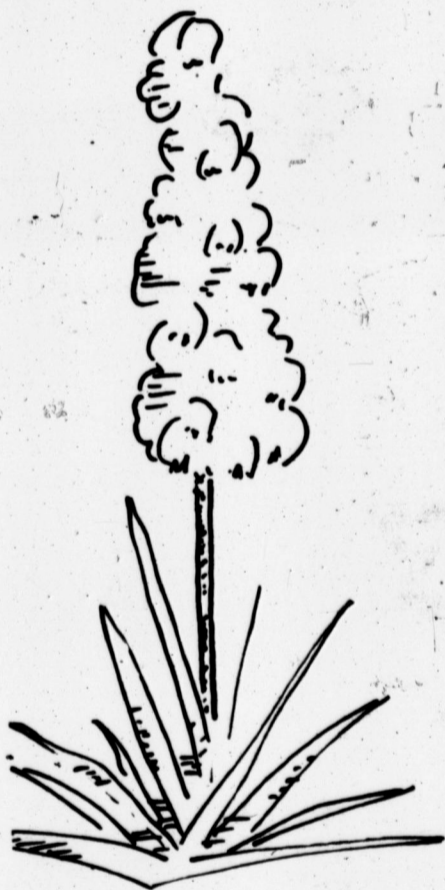
May 2: Saints' Roost Day, sponsored by Les Beaux Arts Club. 10 am - 5 pm at the Saints Roost Museum and grounds. Dancers, arts & crafts, art exhibits, Mountain Men, great chuck wagon food. Call (806) 874-3649.

June 7 - 13: Elderhostel, a successful international program for senior citizens, hosted by Clarendon College and held on their campus. Field trips to historic places, extra-curricular field trips to Texas Musical Drama, Panhandle Plains Museum, Dinner at Clarendon Country Club, Beach Party at Greenbelt Lake. Three courses offered: Western Dance, Archaeology of the Region, and History of Ranching. Stay in campus dormitories, all meals included, or local participants can come for days only. Also looking for area people to welcome these visitors who come from far and wide. Call Kelvin Sharp, Clarendon College, (806) 874-3571.

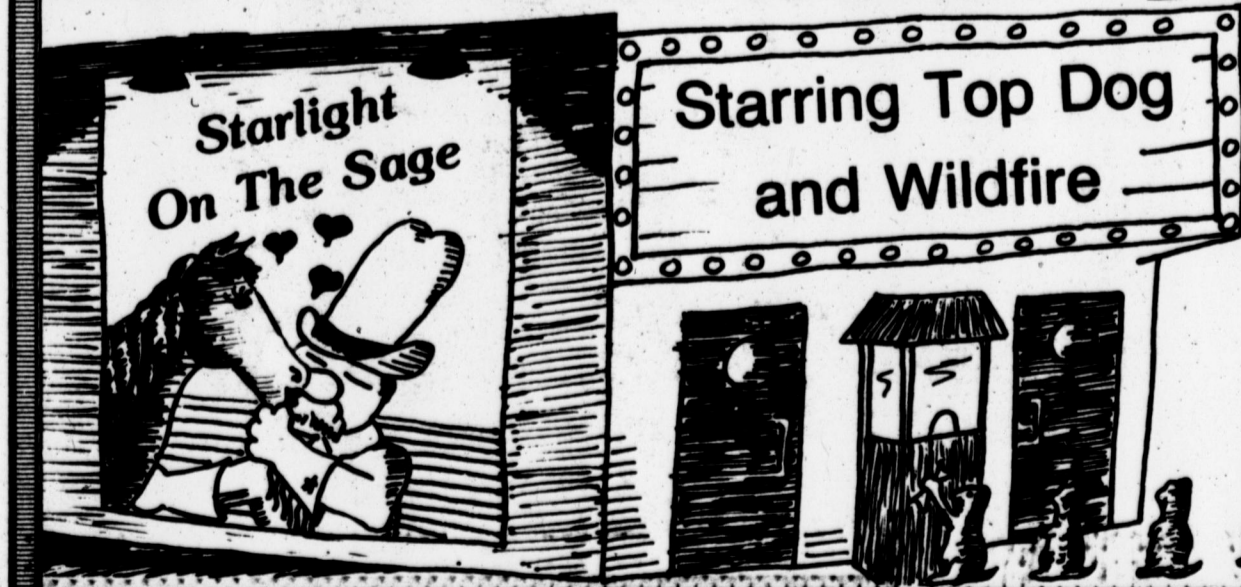
June 29: The Great American Race 2 - 5 pm. on the Donley County Courthouse Square. 100 Pre-World War II cars in the race (from

Charleston, S.C. to Costa Mesa, CA). Visit with drivers and take photos. Refreshments available.

First Weekends of Each Month, April thru November: Trade Days, at the intersection of Hwy. 287 & Hwy. 70 South. Antiques, Food, Arts & Crafts. For information or reservation for booths, call (806) 874-3935 or 874-2861.



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You're Invited to the 21st Annual **BOB WILLS DAY**

Friday Night Dance 9:00 pm- midnight
Saturday April 25th: Parade 10:30 am,
Barbeque 11:00 am, Old Fiddlers Contest
at Noon, Texas Playboys Concert 2:30 pm

See the Bob Wills Museum
Souvenirs and Recordings Available
View Bob's Movies & Television Specials
Saturday Night Dance with Jody Nix 7:00 pm



The Last Saturday in April