

Visitor
Guide

PRAIRIE DOG GAZETTE



SUMMER 1995

Festival Has Brightened Autumn For Years

While the notion that the Texas Panhandle is a flat wasteland is an exaggeration, there are few enough trees in the region to make each one special. The shade they provide on a cloudless summer day is appreciated, but their brilliant colors on a cool fall day also bring a smile to folks in the Panhandle.

The largest celebration of the area's vegetation, as it makes a final flash before the gray of winter, is held in the northeastern Panhandle town of Canadian. For 38 years it has served as host to visitors to the surrounding river valley of the same name.

The Fall Foliage Festival has grown (there were 5,000 visitors last year) to include a diverse range of events held over two days. This year's festival is slated for October 21 and 22.

One of the focal points for viewing is the Lake Marvin Wildlife Management Area. An eight-mile drive winds through almost 600 acres of trees and native grasslands. According to Georgia King of the Canadian-Hemphill Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Marvin area contains at least 275 plant species.



A view of the foliage at Lake Marvin, the centerpiece of Canadian's Fall Foliage Festival. It's even better in the autumn's blazing, living color.

They range from cottonwoods to numerous varieties of oaks to wild plum trees.

As you might expect, wildlife is abundant at Lake Marvin. Common Panhandle species include quail, turkey, raccoons, and deer. Uncommon species can sometimes be seen there, too, in the form of bald eagles and trumpeter swans. During the fall, ducks and geese

stop at the lake as they migrate southward.

Close-up views of Lake Marvin flora and fauna are available on several hiking trails, including the Big Tree Trail which leads to a landmark 100-foot high, 21-foot in diameter cottonwood tree.

During the festival the community will host a tour of homes on Saturday, a photography exhibit

featuring area scenery, and a two-day arts and crafts show.

With an eye to the past, a quilt show will feature approximately 100 handmade quilts, while the River Valley Pioneer Museum opens its doors to visitors. For those whose taste runs to the hotter side, the "Hogtown Satidy Night" Chili Cookoff will serve up a little bit of Texas on Saturday afternoon.

Canadian has come a long way from its founding in 1888 as the settlement known as Hogtown, but the natural beauty of the area remains and it is showcased every year at the Fall Foliage Festival.

Thanks!

Through all the help that we received in the Texas Panhandle Star, we have found my daughter.

My family and I wish to thank all the people who responded, with a special thanks to the person who sent us the papers that led us to her. After talking with my daughter we found out she was also looking for me.

Thanks so much and may God bless you.

Linda F. Story

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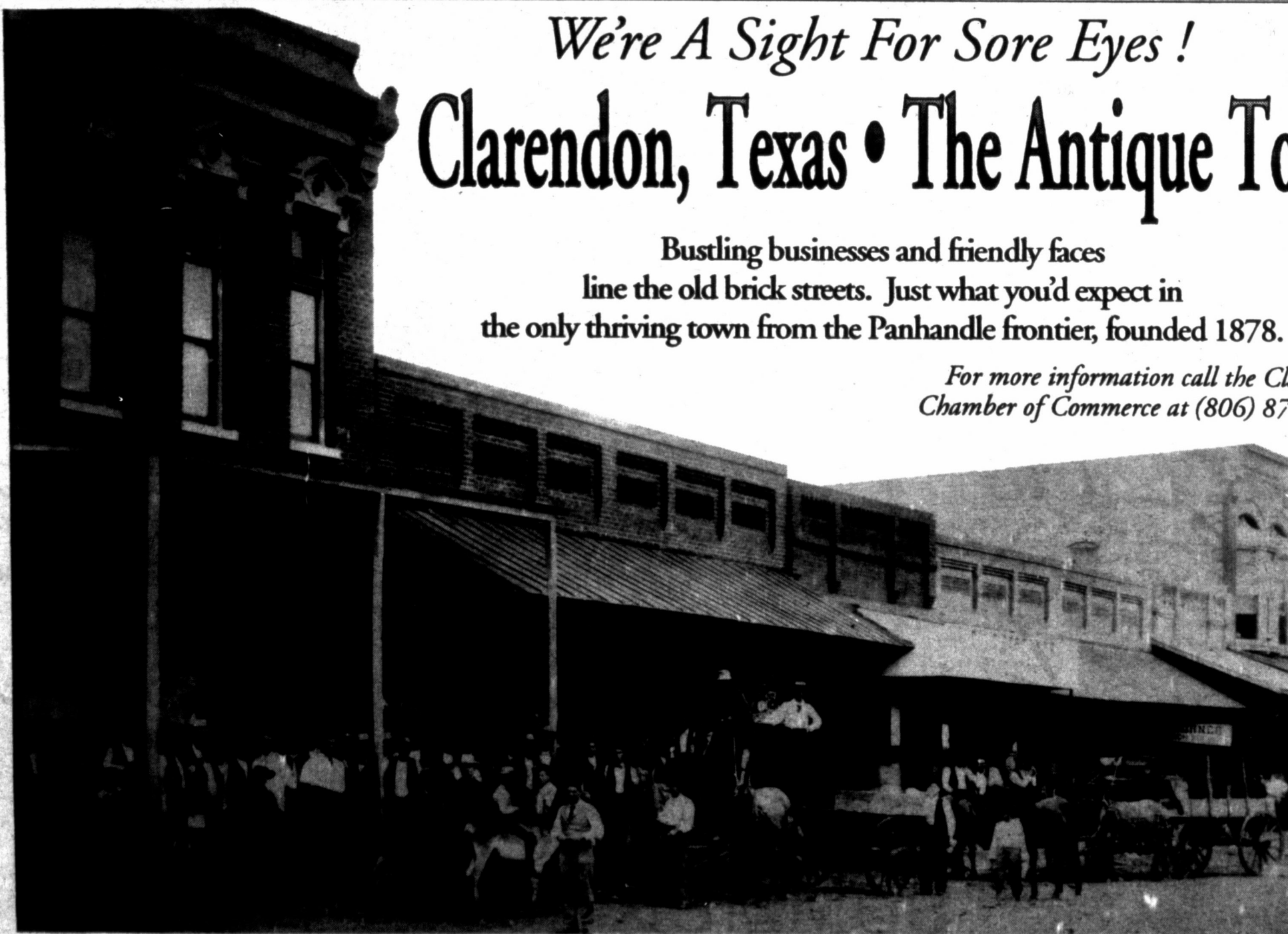
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Clarendon in 1906. Photo courtesy Saints' Roost Museum.

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About Our Cover: The painting of the cowboy in action is by Dianne Sweatt of Memphis, Texas.

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Even In Simpler Times People Debated "What's In A Name?"

In the short span of 12 years (1890 to 1902), a Panhandle resident could have lived in Twist, Twist Junction, Denrock, and Dalhart without ever moving. In early Texas, the name of a settlement was a serious subject. In many cases, the postmaster or the railroad company had to tack a sign on somewhere for identification purposes, and their choice of names didn't please everyone. However, it was usually the final word.

For example, up in Wheeler County, when the Rock Island Railroad laid out the town, a railroad mogul picked the name Wheeler or Wheeler Center. Frank Exum, the owner of the first General Store, applied for a post office permit, and immodestly changed the town to Exum.

Irked by this arrogant display, the

railroad company changed the name to Shamrock, honoring an Irish sheep rancher who lived near the townsite since 1890. The railroad considered naming the town Nichols or Georgetown (the sheep rancher's full name was George Nichols and must have been a popular fellow - at least with the railroad).

Sometimes the earth-shaking decision of naming a town was actually done in error. A postal clerk at Tule Creek turned the name into Tulia Creek by misspelling the name on the postal permit application. History was changed with the casual flick of a pen. The town remains Tulia to this day.

The case of Memphis, Texas outlines



Ol' Pete
Prairie Dog
Town
Correspondent

the intricacies of finding a suitable name. Every name suggested by the original postmaster was turned down by the postal inspector. Finally, in exasperation, the postmaster held up a misdirected letter from Memphis, Tennessee, and suggested that the name Memphis, Texas be used. His rationale was that "at least the town will receive one letter." To the postmaster's surprise, the inspector went along with

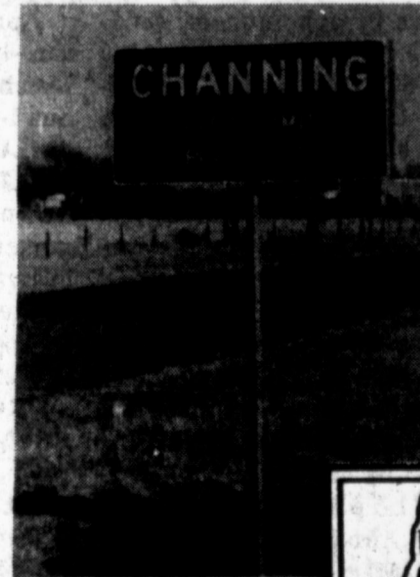
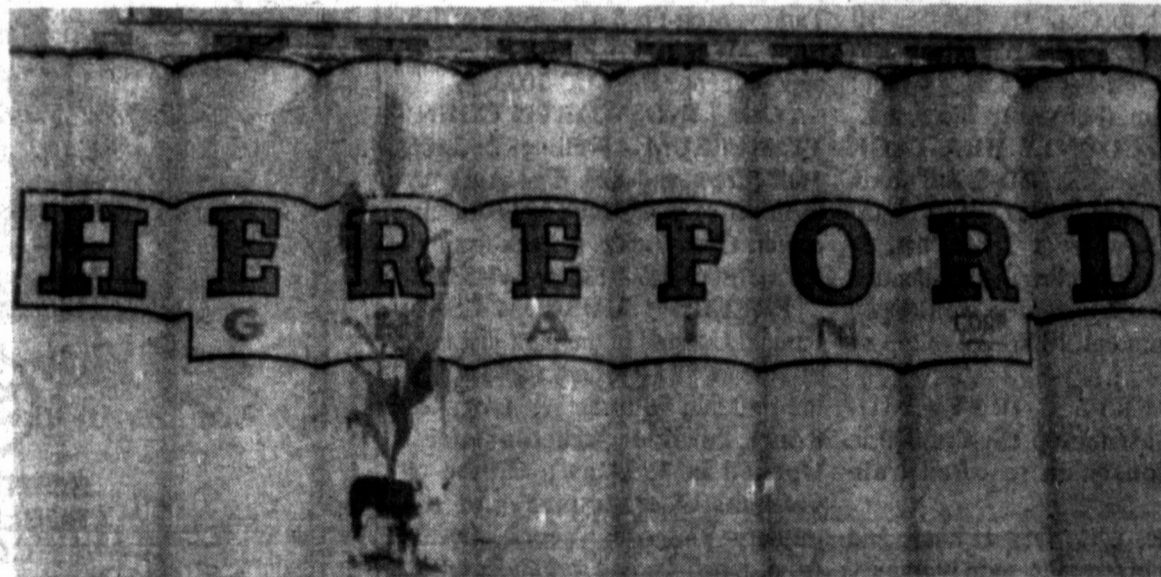
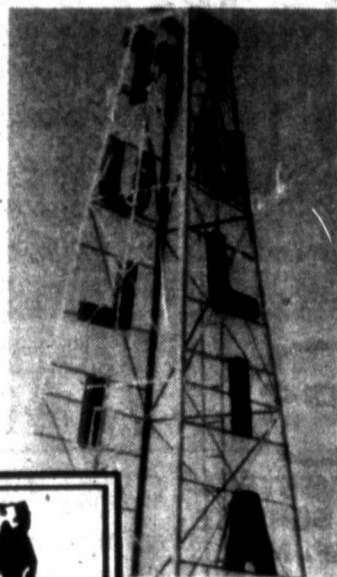
the idea.

Later, some Hall County residents petitioned to have Memphis' name changed to Greasy Neck, although the petition was denied. It's kind of a shame, when you consider all the overlooked

possibilities. How does the Greater Greasy Neck Chamber of Commerce sound? Just trips off the tongue, doesn't it. Why, their football team's name (another serious subject in Texas) could have been the Greasy Neck Groaners or Gladiators.

There's a story behind every Panhandle town's name. Hereford was originally Blue Water; Canadian was once Desperado City; and Claude was renamed for the engineer of the first train to stop in what was, until that fateful day, Armstrong City.

You don't have to go far if you're searching out these and other great stories. The local museums and libraries of the Panhandle will gladly guide you on your quest to discover "what's in a name."



The Past Lives In Area Museums

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE HERITAGE CENTER MUSEUM - Amarillo: 2601 Interstate 40 East at Quarter Horse Drive. The comprehensive history of this most western of horses. Tue-Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (806) 376-5181.

AMARILLO MUSEUM OF ART - Amarillo: 2200 S. Van Buren. Changing art exhibits plus a growing permanent collection from Russell to Rembrandt. Tue, Wed. & Fri 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thu 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sat & Sun 1-5 p.m. No admission. (806) 371-5050.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY MUSEUM - Borger: 618 N. Main St. Dedicated to the oil boom days of Hutchinson County. No admission, (806) 273-6121.

JULIAN BIVINS MUSEUM - Old Tascosa, now Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, 36 miles NW of Amarillo on Highway 385. Housed in old Tascosa Courthouse. Has skin of largest rattle snake ever killed and longest braided rawhide rope plus huge barb wire collection. Mon-Sat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No admission. (806) 534-2211.

RIVER VALLEY PIONEER MUSEUM - Canadian: 118 2nd St. Fine displays of early pioneer life and high plains living through the 1940s. Tue-Fri 9 a.m. - Noon and 1-4 p.m.; Sat & Sun 2-4 p.m. No admission. Closed Monday. (806) 323-6548.

PANHANDLE PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM - Canyon: 2401 4th Ave. on WTAMU campus. THE Museum of the Panhandle, the largest and oldest state supported museum in Texas. Takes more than one visit to appreciate. No admission. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun 1-6 p.m. (2-6 p.m. in the Fall). (806) 656-2244.

CHILDRESS COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM - Childress: 210 3rd St. NW located in old post office built in 1935. No admission, Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Other days and tours by appointment. (817) 937-2261.

SAINTS ROOST MUSEUM - Clarendon: Route 70 South. Located in former Adair Hospital. Area museum focusing on ranching and farming in Donley County. No admission. Sun 1-5 p.m. Other days and tours by appointment. (806) 874-2259.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY MUSEUM - Claude: North Trice Street. Pioneer history of county settlers and ranchers as well as Palo Duro Canyon and JA Ranch. Tue-Sat 12-4 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m. Closed Mon. (806) 226-2181.

CASTRO COUNTY MUSEUM - Dimmitt: 404 West Halssel St. Pioneer artifacts, 3 windmills and a half-dugout home. Houses the largest collection of Italian World War II POW artifacts in Panhandle. Mon-Fri 1-5 p.m. (806) 647-2611.

DALLAM-HARTLEY COUNTY XIT MUSEUM - Dalhart: 108 E. 5th St. Houses a fine collection focusing on 3-million acre XIT

Ranch which once sprawled across the Panhandle, but goes far beyond ranch history. Tue-Sat 2-5 p.m.; First Sunday each month open house 2-5 p.m. No admission. (806) 249-5390.

MOORE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM - Dumas: Dumas Ave. and West 8th St. in Lew Haile Annex. Good displays of flora and fauna of High Plains and ranch life thereupon.

No admission. Oct. through April Mon-Fri 1-5 p.m.; May through November Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (806) 935-3113.

CRABB ART CENTER - Dumas: 234 E. First. Home of the Moore County Art Association. New displays monthly. Open weekends 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.; Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.. No admission. (806) 935-5312

LAKE MEREDITH AQUATIC & WILDLIFE MUSEUM - Fritch: 104 N. Robey St. The only museum with aquariums in Panhandle. Displays over 20 species of fish indigenous to Lake Meredith. Dioramas depict area wildlife and vegetation. A pleasant surprise. No admission. Tue through Sat 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 2-5 p.m. (806) 857-2458.

DEAF SMITH COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM - Hereford: 400 Sampson Street. Creative displays of pioneer life in the 1800s and 1900s attractively exhibited. Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. No admission. (806) 364-4338.

LIPSCOMB COUNTY MUSEUM - Lipscomb: Main and Willow Streets. Open the last Sunday of each month and by appointment. No admission. (806) 862-4781.

McLEAN-ALAN REED HISTORICAL MUSEUM - McLean: 116 Main Street. Pioneer settlers of Gray County are remembered with artifacts and mementos. Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-4 p.m. No admission. (806) 779-2731.

DEVIL'S ROPE MUSEUM - McLean: corner of Kingsley St. and Old Route 66. Large collection of barbed wire artifacts and tools. Includes the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Mother Road exhibit. No admission,

April 1 to Oct. 31, Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun 1-4 p.m.; Nov 1 to March 31, Fri-Sat 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun 1-4 p.m. (806) 779-2225.

HALL COUNTY HERITAGE HALL - Memphis: 101 S. 6th St. on Town Square. "Not your usual museum" with a little bit of everything including a two-headed calf and three-toed lobo wolf. Open by appointment. (806) 259-3253 or 259-2511.

ROBERTS COUNTY MUSEUM - Miami: on Highway 60 in town. Housed in restored train depot.

Includes early dugout home and complete blacksmith shop dioramas. Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 2-5 p.m. Closed Sat and Mon. Call

(806) 868-3291 for information.

OLD MOBEETIE JAIL MUSEUM - Mobeetie: 1 mile south of highway 152, Old Mobeetie. Housed in first jail in Panhandle. Focuses on first settlement in Panhandle. No admission. Daily 1-5 p.m. Closed Wed. (806) 826-3427 or 845-2353.

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM - Pampa: 116 S. Cuyler Street. Outstanding arrowhead collection, clothing, furniture and dishes. Unique History Wall. No admission. Tue-Sat 1:30-4 p.m.; Sun 1-5:30 p.m. (806) 669-8041.

CARSON COUNTY SQUARE HOUSE MUSEUM - Panhandle: 5th and Elsie Streets. Award winning museum. More than a morning's worth. No admission. Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sun 1-5:30 p.m. (806) 537-3524.

MUSEUM OF THE PLAINS - Perryton: Highway 83 north of city. General history exhibits of Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. Tours by appointment only. (806) 534-6400.

BRISCOE COUNTY SIDEWALK MUSEUM - Quitaque: Highway 86. Historic memorabilia displayed in store fronts.

PIONEER WEST MUSEUM - Shamrock: 204 S. Madden Street. Housed in former Reynolds Hotel. Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. No fee (806) 256-2501.

STATION MASTER'S HISTORICAL MUSEUM - Spearman: 30 S. Townsend. Two-building complex includes a station master's home and office. No admission, Tue-Sat 1-5 p.m. (806) 659-3008.

SHERMAN COUNTY MUSEUM - Stratford: Main Street downtown. No admission. Weekdays 2-5 p.m. Closed Sat & Sun. (806) 396-2582.

SWISHER COUNTY ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM - Tulia: 127 SW 2nd St. in Swisher Memorial Building. Historical displays through the 1930s and 40s. Complete collection of military uniforms from pre-Civil War through Desert Storm. Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (806) 995-2819.

BOB WILLS MUSEUM - Turkey: 6th and Lyles Streets. Dedicated to the king of western swing music who grew up in Turkey. Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to noon; 1-5 p.m. Weekends by advance appointment. (806) 423-1033.

COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY MUSEUM - Wellington: 1406 15th Street and 824 East Ave. "A little bit of everything" plus an art center. Open 7 days a week from 1-5 p.m. (806) 447-5133 or 447-5327.

FREEDOM MUSEUM USA - Pampa: Located in the park just East of Hobart St. (It's hard to miss, it's the building with the self-propelled 8-inch howitzer parked outside.) Opened in 1994 as a tribute to veterans of all branches of the military. Built over a period of years from donations and volunteer labor, museum contains memorabilia and artifacts concerning military service.

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Men On Quest For Coronado Clues

By Bill Russell

If the slightest shred of evidence could be found, every gulch between Old Mexico and the center of Kansas would put up "CORONADO CAMPED HERE" signs. But a chance discovery by a Floydada man may just have Floyd County on the way to the sign painter by this fall.

"Everyone likes to believe that the Coronado expedition of 1540-41 camped in their canyon," said Don Blakeslee, Ph.D. of Wichita State University. "Up until now there has been little or no proof, but the evidence turning up in Blanco Canyon looks very good."

This "evidence" includes two crossbow arrow points, one of iron and one of copper, unearthed by Jimmy Owen who has made a life-long hobby of collecting Indian artifacts.

"When I found the iron arrow point I knew it was not Indian," said Owen who has unearthed hundreds of metal Comanche and Comanchero arrowheads made from barrel hoops. "This was a completely different type of a thing."

Later, a few miles away in the same canyon, Owen unearthed a copper tip formed to fit a crossbow shaft.

"The second point could have been made from the sheet copper carried by the Spanish while the expedition was on the trail," Owen said. "The iron arrowhead had to be

made at a forge." The Coronado expedition was the only one whose men were known to be armed with crossbows, according to the professor.

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado left Mexico 455 years ago in search of the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola. With him were 300 Spanish adventurers and 1,500 Indian auxiliaries. Coronado never found his treasure, but his two-year journey took him through what are now the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Kansas.

The exact route of the expedition has remained a mystery. Over 30 possible routes have been speculated upon by historians and archaeologists.

Blakeslee, a professor of anthropology, said the search for evidence of Coronado's passing has been intense; in fact, several instances of bogus artifacts being "discovered" have been exposed.

The two crossbow arrowheads are not the only clues linking Coronado to Blanco Canyon south of Floydada. Years ago, a farmer plowing a field near a playa lake at the rim of the canyon turned up a chain mail gauntlet. Since then, scientists have dated the gauntlet as being from the 1500s.

At the edge of the canyon a large area of charred earth and rocks can be seen. Coronado's expedition records describe building huge fires on a canyon rim as a beacon to

guide widely scattered hunting parties back to camp. There are also a large number of pot shards in the canyon. Expedition reports tell of a savage hail storm that stampeded livestock and broke every clay pot in camp.

Professor Blakeslee is in the process of obtaining funds for an exploratory dig in Blanco Canyon which he hopes will get underway about Labor Day. If the preliminary results are encouraging, a full scale excavation will be undertaken next year.

"If we can establish that Blanco Canyon was one of Coronado's campsites we will be able to plot out the rest of the expedition's route from surviving written records," said Blakeslee.

In the meantime, Owen, recovering from a broken foot, has been given a task he is anxious to start.

"I'll be out there looking for other evidence," Owen said. "If I can find some African trade beads of the type carried by the expedition, or maybe the bones of pigs and sheep the Spanish slaughtered for food while in camp, it will add more evidence pointing to Blanco Canyon."

Owen plans to use a new strategy when he next takes his metal detector into the canyon. He is going to scan the steeper portions of the canyon floor.

"If that hail storm did scatter the camp in Blanco Canyon, it probably set the pack animals to bucking up the canyon to try to get away," Owen said. "There is a chance that in all of the confusion some material in the packs was scattered some distance away from the most likely



Jimmy Owen, of Floydada, is in search of Coronado's trail.

camping sites."

If Owen is able to discover one or two of those "lost" articles, or if the summer excavation turns up additional indications of Spanish presence 455 years ago, anthro-

pologists will be able to add another page to the early history of the Texas Panhandle. Then Floyd County could boast "WE CAN PROVE CORONADO CAMPED HERE!"

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Pioneer Rancher Charles Goodnight's Motion Picture Saved

By Kevin Welch

His life was as grand as the canyon he made his home. In many ways Colonel Charles Goodnight was a mirror of changes in the frontier West and the Panhandle of Texas, one of the last areas of that frontier to be settled. He saw it all - from the wild prairie to the birth of motion pictures.

In 1875, when he came to the Palo Duro Canyon, a rugged slash across the smooth Panhandle plains, Goodnight already had led a life of western adventure. By that time he had helped establish the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail and scouted for the Texas Rangers in their quest to protect pioneers from bandits and Indians.

In the Palo Duro, Goodnight founded the Panhandle's first permanent ranch (the JA) with the financial backing of John and Cornelia Adair. As Goodnight consolidated and expanded the ranch, settlers began to fill the

Panhandle's broad, arid expanse, and the frontier was tamed with windmills and barbed wire fences.

Goodnight eventually severed his ties with the JA, establishing his own ranch between Clarendon and Claude.

In the years following the settlement of the Panhandle, he dabbled in various businesses and built up a herd of buffalo, a step that helped save the breed from near extinction.

Those buffalo played an important role in one of Goodnight's last business ventures, the production of a motion picture called "Old Texas."

The film was shot in the Palo Duro Canyon in 1916 by the Wiswall brothers of Denver, Colorado. It includes broad panoramas of the canyon, Kiowa Indians who only recently had been placed on reservations, and Goodnight himself.

Although the story, introduced by the 80-year-old Goodnight, has




The Colonel himself (seated man with beard) introduces the film "Old Texas" in this scene. Photo courtesy of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

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many elements of a silent film era cowboy melodrama, it also includes scenes of the Indians hunting one of Goodnight's buffalo from horseback.

The authentic hunt is cited by Byron Price, Executive Director of the Cowboy Hall of Fame, as one of the things that make "Old Texas" a significant film. Price also noted the film provides historical information such as a view of Palo Duro Canyon in 1916. "The first thing that comes to mind is that there wasn't as much vegetation then," he said.

After a few showings to small groups the film faded into obscurity

with the onset of World War I and corresponding decline in film making.

Were it not for an accident, the motion picture could have been lost forever.


While Price was the executive director of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, he found some still photographs taken while "Old Texas" was being made. The photographs had been discovered in a suitcase, abandoned at the Amarillo train station. It is unclear who brought them to the museum but they were placed in the archives where Price rediscovered them later.

Price then began tracing the film but came to a dead end. In the meantime, he took his present job at the Cowboy Hall of Fame. "I concluded 'Old Texas' was lost but it was in a vault less than 100 yards away from where I was writing an article about it at the Hall of Fame," he said.

The reason the movie languished so long is that the film reels were labeled "New York Zoological Society." There is no record of how they got to Oklahoma City, the site of the Hall of Fame.

"Old Texas" is an important
Continued on page 8.

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Panhandle Captured On Film

Continued from page 7.

artifact for the Panhandle, both for its historical content and as an example of the business ventures Goodnight tried late in life, most of which were not successful.

Tom Christian, Armstrong County rancher and history enthusiast, said "The making of the film was a very big event for the Panhandle. I can remember my father saying that crowds of up to 10,000 would show up for the filming sessions. A lot of them came by train and camped out at the Goodnight place."

From riding the wild frontier to producing a motion picture depicting that history, Goodnight lived life on a grand scale - the stuff that Texas legends are made of.

"Old Texas" is available on videotape from the Palo Duro State Park gift shop by calling (806) 488-2760.

One of the most well-known contributions of Colonel Charles Goodnight is the chuckwagon. For many it symbolizes the cowboy's life on the open range.

Goodnight invented the chuckwagon, a sort of "meals on wheels," in 1866. Essentially, the chuckwagon was a standard wagon with a "chuck box." This box stood on the rear of the wagon and had numerous drawers and shelves to hold food and cooking utensils.

The chuckwagon functioned not only as a portable kitchen but also as a "branch office" for cowboys during cattle drives and on ranches when work was being done far from permanent headquarters.

Today, chuckwagons primarily



Charles Goodnight strides away from Kiowa Indian film actors.

are seen at western festivals such as the Charles Goodnight Chuckwagon Cookoff scheduled for September 30, 1995 in Clarendon,

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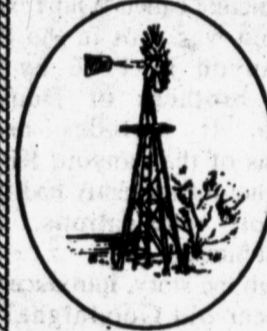
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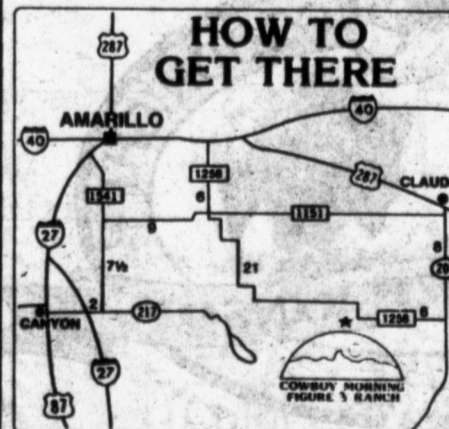
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Adrian's Bent Door On Route 66 Undergoing Renovation

By Bill Russell

Nobody bothered to tell Bob Harris that you can "never go home again." In fact, Harris has not only come home to Adrian where he grew up, he has embarked on a project that will make "home" more like what it was when he left, 50 years ago.

"The Bent Door Cafe was the biggest thing going in Adrian," said Harris. "Just about everyone in town worked at the Bent Door at one time or the other. Everyone ate at the cafe and came here to dance on Saturday night. I want to make it

middle to conform to the shape of the slanted glass observation panels of the tower. Harris trucked the tower top to Adrian and built the cafe around it.

"I didn't name it the Bent Door," Harris said. "People just started calling it that."

The cafe became "the place to be" in Adrian. Harris put in a large basement complete with dance floor, pool tables and a domino table. There was also an outdoor dance floor surrounded by picnic tables for fair weather frolics. People came from miles around to spend an

"The place was a mess," Harris remembered. "It was a sad thing to see. The new mayor had promised to clean up the town and had condemned the old Bent Door. I don't know what made me do it, but

I just couldn't let that happen." Harris contacted the absentee property owner and bought the place over the telephone. Then he called the mayor and asked for a postponement on the demolition

order. The delay was granted. "Everybody told me there was no way I could restore the place to the way it used to be," said Harris. "I took that as a challenge." *Continued on page 10.*



Bob Harris at the door that gave the Bent Door Cafe its name.

like it was when I first built it."

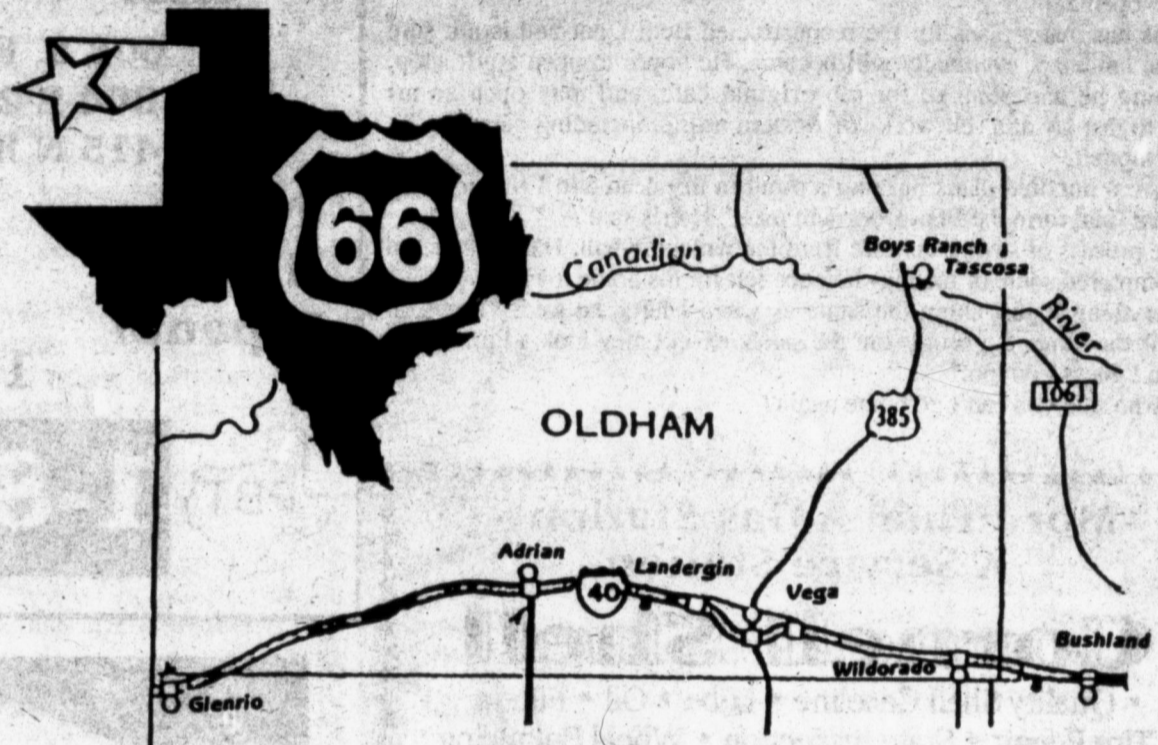
Harris built the Bent Door on land he purchased after returning from a stint in the Navy during World War II. The original cafe had burned down and Harris built his new building from materials salvaged from surrounding military installations that were being closed. He bought the entire top of the control tower building from the airfield at Guymon. This included a steel door that had been bent in the

evening at the Bent Door.

But Harris didn't stay long after completing his project. "I've had sawdust in my shoes all my life," he said. "I just had to see what was over the next hill, so I moved on."

Harris traveled extensively, attending college, working at a wide range of jobs and starting a family. Then, early this year, he came back to his old home town for a visit and found the Bent Door scheduled for demolition.

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ROUTE 66

Man Returns To Landmark

Continued from page 9.

At press time all of the "add-ons" hiding the original control tower are torn down and Harris is in the process of stripping off rotted and damaged material from the building. To the untrained observer it looks as if a bomb had scored a direct hit, but Harris sees something else.

"I was really surprised to see how well I had built this place 50 years ago," he said with a note of pride in his voice. "If those other buildings hadn't been tacked on, it would have been in good shape today."

The Adrian Post Office has arranged for a local stamp cancellation commemorating the restoration of the historic cafe, but the postmaster has doubts about how soon the restoration could be finished.

"The cancellation was scheduled for Sept. 9 and the postmaster asked if I wanted to delay that a couple of months," said Harris. "Well, I took that as another challenge and said no, I'd stick with the original date, so we're going to open Sept. 9."

Harris has many plans for the reconstructed Bent Door and is not sure what the landmark eventually will become. He hopes to open a gift shop, something he had planned for the original cafe, and may open an art gallery to display and sell works of western artists, including paintings by his late mother.

"I have a hundred plans buzzing around in my head and I'm not really sure what final form the Bent Door will take," Harris said.

In the process of saving his cafe from the wrecking ball, Harris seems to have recaptured some of feelings he once felt for his home town.

"Everything is just about the same as when I left," he said. "The high school is the same, the people are the same, except they look a little older, but then I guess I do too."

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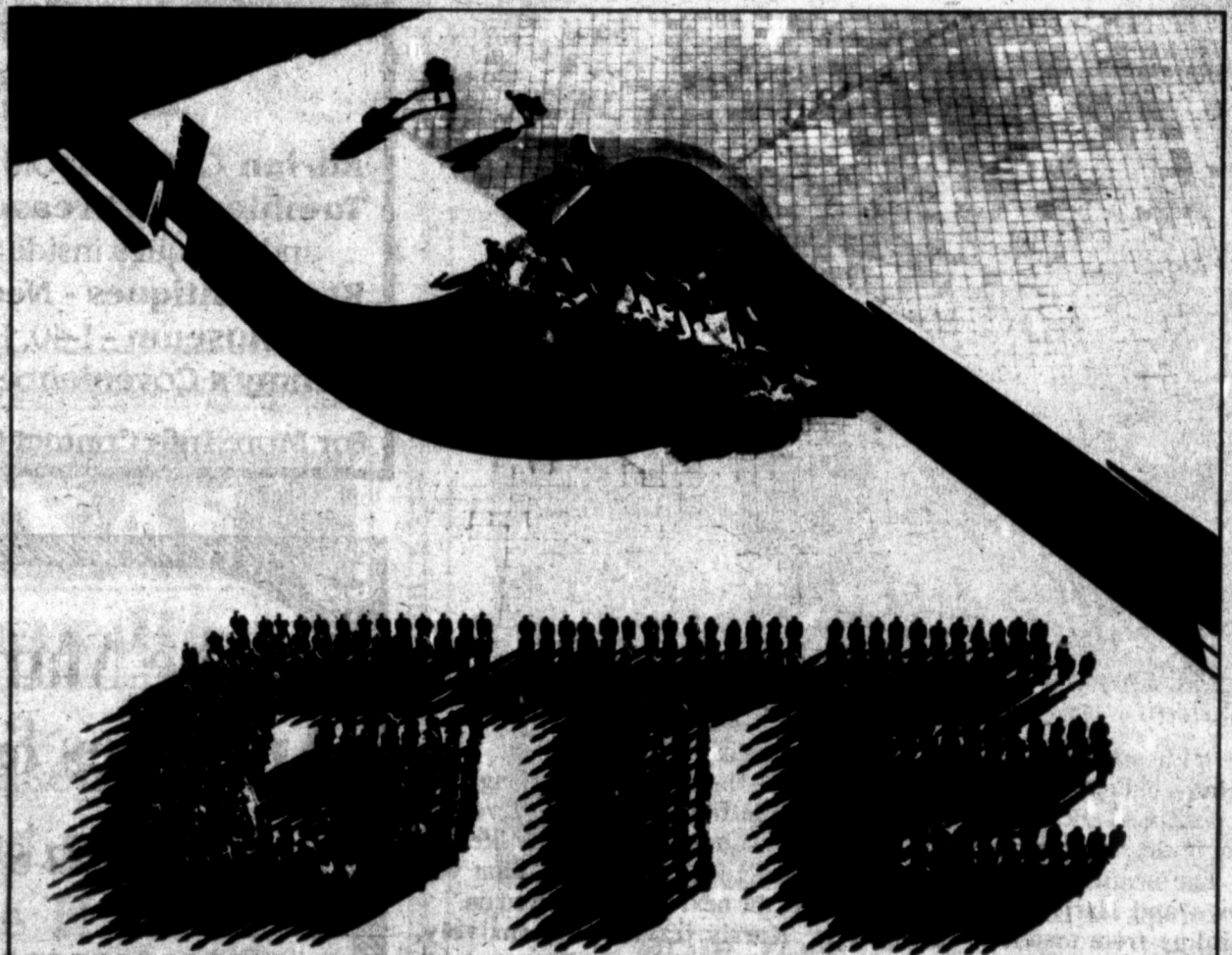
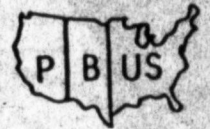
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Horses And Automobiles Collide In Early Amarillo

By Kevin Welch

"Hit the trail for Amarillo," was the slogan boosters used, as The West began its transition into the age of the automobile. The year was 1917 and the event the boosters were promoting was the Ozark Trails Association's convention.

Railroads had come to the Texas Panhandle only 30 years previously and horses remained the primary mode of travel. However, automobiles were increasingly popular, and businessmen thought each one carried a golden egg in the form of tourists and economic expansion. The only thing missing was a system of roads to bring those automobiles to the Panhandle.

When a promoter and resort owner from Arkansas, W. H. "Coin" Harvey, began a crusade to build a trans-continental highway system called the Ozark



Ozark Trails marker in Dimmit.

Trails, businessmen across the Panhandle were ready to participate. The first phase of the system was to connect St. Louis, Missouri and Memphis, Tennessee in the east with Las Vegas, New Mexico on the Santa Fe Trail in the west. The highways envisioned by Harvey were not high-speed asphalt roads. Instead, they consisted of packed gravel, clay and/or sand, depending on locally available materials.

Harvey trumpeted these byways as "enabling travelers to go from St. Louis to Amarillo at 25 miles per hour."

As construction of the Ozark Trails moved through Oklahoma toward Texas, Amarillo readied

itself to play the role of host city for the association's 1917 convention.

J. L. Pope of Amarillo, in a story in the *Amarillo Daily News*, said his city should set an example in "this mighty movement for the advancement of civilization. The very woods, rocks, hills and plains are vibrant with the atmosphere of good roads."

Pope's excitement mirrored that of the entire city, whose 17,000 person population would increase by 10,000 during the convention. The *News* reported that the opening day parade was at least six miles long. "It would take a Philadelphia lawyer and a modern Shakespeare to describe" one particularly impressive section of the parade, according to the *News*.

In preparation for the convention, one mile of water line and electric wires were installed from downtown Amarillo, north to St. Anthony's Sanitarium (current site of St. Anthony's Hospital). Although this area is now engulfed by the city, at that time it was undeveloped land and served as the site of a tent city built especially for the convention.

The tent city filled approximately 20-30 blocks of land with about 1,000 tents. The center of activity was the auditorium tent, which measured 120 ft. by 160 ft., according to the *News*, and could accommodate 4,000-5,000 people. It was connected to Amarillo by the newly-gravelled Polk and Taylor Streets.

The "business district" of the tent city included tents serving as restaurants, dry goods stores, gas stations, barber shops with baths, a laundry and ladies' restrooms.

Tents could be rented by conventioners for \$6-\$12 for the duration of the meeting. These ranged from simple accommodations to three-room tents with four cots.

Blankets could be rented for 50 cents per pair.

As amateur historian Steve Ulrey of Wellington said, "It was a remarkable era we won't see again. The JA Ranch was still a huge enterprise, and the XIT Ranch was still selling land."

At that time, the Ozark Trails was marked not with signs but with white and green insignia on rocks, trees, fence posts and telegraph poles.

The Texas Panhandle was so undeveloped that cattle guards were installed to replace gates on the route from Amarillo to Palo Duro Canyon, almost 20 miles away, in order to solve a problem brought about by the increase in automobile traffic.

As the *News* described the situation, "Some careless parties heretofore...had left a number of

these gates open, to the great trouble of the ranchmen."

When 10,000 people "Hit the Trail for Amarillo" in 1917, the end of the

horse and buggy era began to fade and the interstate network of roads was just over the wide plain's horizon.

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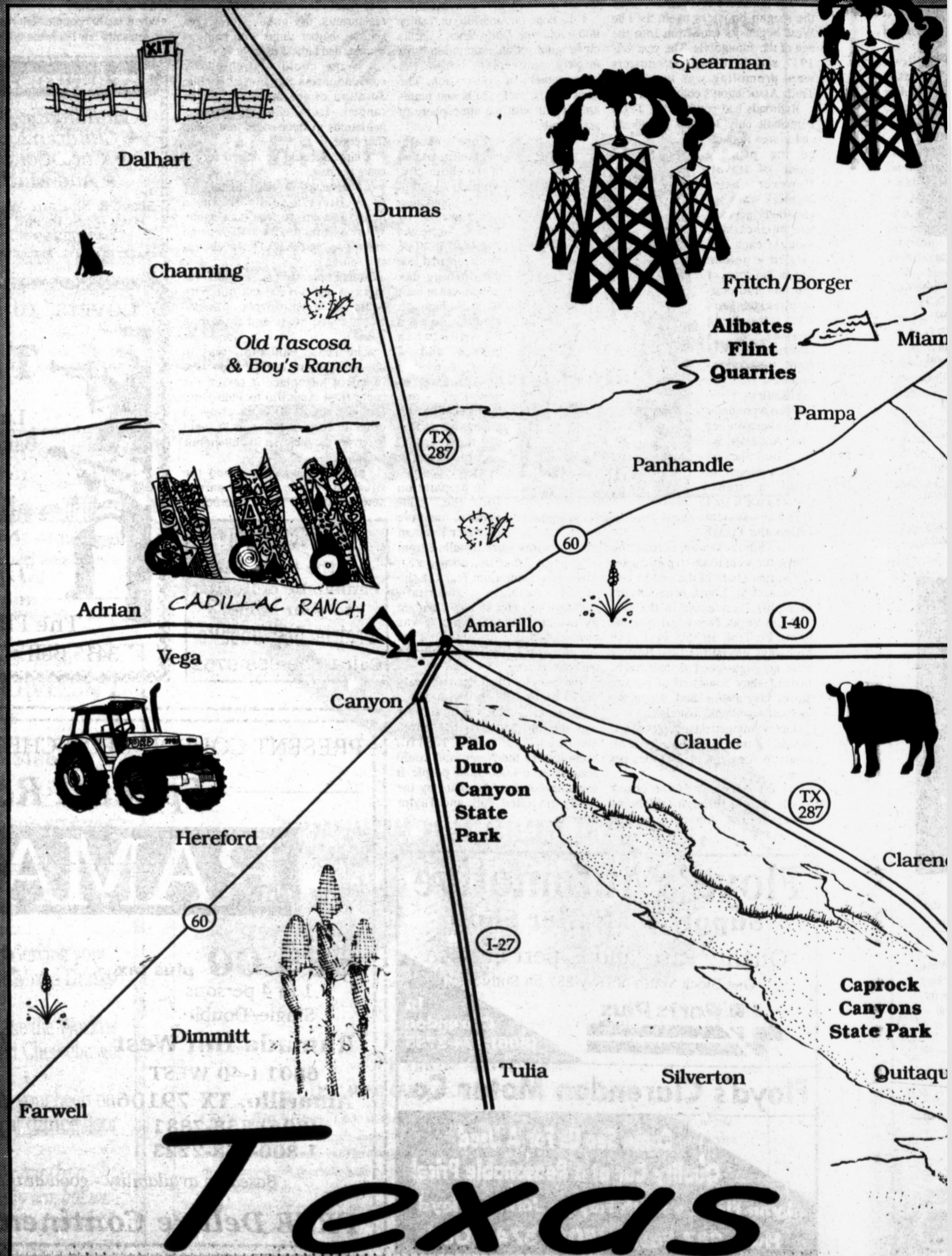
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FRYER LAKE - Pleasant recreation spot along Wolf Creek 12 miles southeast of Perryton off U.S. 83. (Not shown on most maps.) A 700-acre lake complete with fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking and RV camp sites.

GREENBELT LAKE - 5 miles north of Clarendon on Texas 70. A 1,990-acre reservoir on Salt Fork of Red River offers water recreation for a large area of the Panhandle. Facilities include boat ramps, a marina, swimming, water skiing and fishing for bass, crappie, walleye and catfish.

LAKE MARVIN - 10 miles east of Canadian on Highway 60 North, then turn on to Formby Road. A tiny 63-acre lake offering fishing, camping and nature trails,

LAKE MEREDITH - On Texas 136 one mile east of Fritch. About 16,504 acre lake built by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, this blue gem nestles among cliffs of Canadian River valley. Facilities include boat launching ramps, marina, camping, and picnic areas. Fishermen take walleye, bass, crappie and catfish. Administered by National Park Service. Details and map available at Park Headquarters.

LAKE McCLELLAN - 28 miles south of Pampa via Texas 70 and FM 2477 east. Small (376 acres) recreational lake with wooded picnic areas, camping with RV hookups, boat launch ramps, swimming and fishing for smallmouth bass, crappie, blue catfish.

LAKE MACKENZIE - 12 miles northwest of Silverton on Texas 86 West or Texas 207 North. A 910-acre lake in scenic and historic Tule Canyon. Facilities for picnicking, camping, RV hookups, boat ramps plus a swimming area. Popular with water skiers. Fish caught include bass, walleye and catfish.

PALO DURO RESERVOIR - 10 miles north of Spearman on Highway 760. 2,400 acre reservoir offers recreation on its north shore. Facilities include fishing, camping, playgrounds, a kids' fishing pond, and RV hookups with water and electricity.

PARKS

CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK - Located 3.5 miles north of Quitaque on FM 1065. Park covers 13,960 acres of one of the state's most scenic regions. Spectacular landscapes at end of Cap Rock, colorful cliffs and canyons, abundant wildlife. Facilities: sightseeing, hiking and horseback trails, picnicking, fishing and swimming in 100-acre lake. Some primitive campsites with RV hookups. (806) 455-1492.

PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK - Located 12 miles east of Canyon on Texas 217. At 15,103 acres one of the state's largest parks. On the tabletop expanse of the plains the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River has carved a canyon of breathtaking beauty. Colorful canyon walls plunge a thousand feet into the canyon. Facilities: scenic drives, horseback trails and seasonal horse rentals, campsites with water and restrooms, interpretive center. Admission charged. (806) 488-2227.

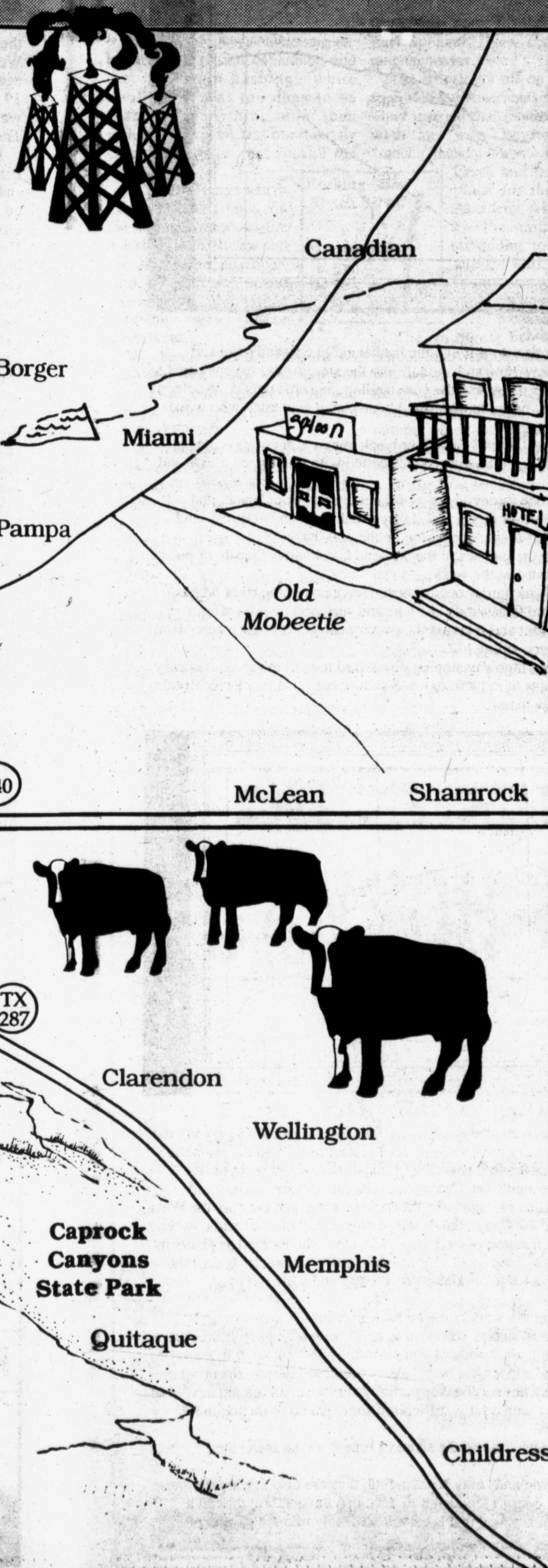
PIONEER AMPHITHEATER - Palo Duro State Park includes the Pioneer Amphitheater, the setting for the outdoor musical drama TEXAS, performed nightly except Sundays from June through August. Separate fee required. Chuckwagon dinners available. (806) 655-2181.

BUFFALO LAKE WILDLIFE REFUGE - Features 4.5-mile auto interpretive trail. Activities include picnicking, bird watching, photography. Campsites with tables but no water. Open daily 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Refuge headquarters 3 miles south of Umbarger on FM 168.

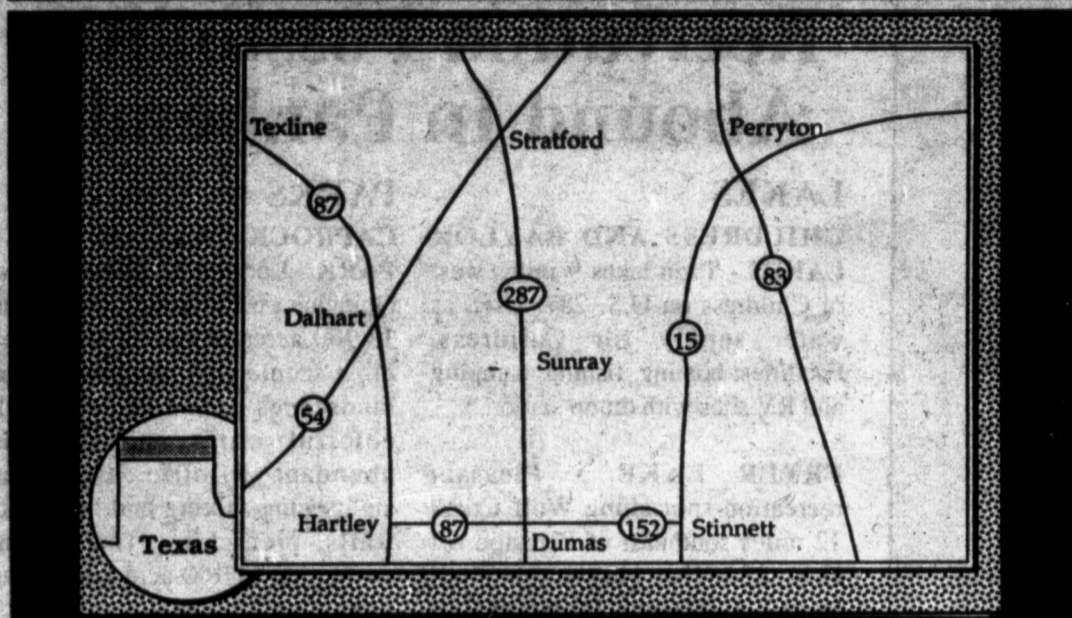
LAKE MEREDITH RECREATION AREA - Eight primary and several secondary recreation parks fringing the lake offer facilities ranging from off-road vehicle trails to picnic and camping areas.

ALIBATES NATIONAL MONUMENT - A true "diamond in the rough" and well worth the extra time needed to visit. Flint quarries mined from about 10,000 years ago until the 1800s can be visited.

The multi-colored flint mined here was prized by flint-using societies. Still under development by the National Parks Service, entry is by guided Ranger tour. Tours conducted twice daily from Memorial Day to Labor day. Tours limited to 25 and form up at Bates Canyon off Texas 136 about 6 miles south of Fritch.



See Following
Page For
An Overview
Of The
Panhandle



HIGH PLAINS

Heritage and history lie close to the surface of the Panhandle High Plains and have an uncanny habit of jumping out to alert the nodding passerby. Small towns that have difficulty raising a quorum at city council meetings boast a thriving historical society and a museum. Casual questions about pioneers and cowboys bring interesting and informed responses.

In Channing the past leaps out at you in the form of a Victorian XIT Ranch headquarters building being carefully restored.

Between Sunray and Stinnett a forest of historic windmills suddenly looms beside a modest farm house.

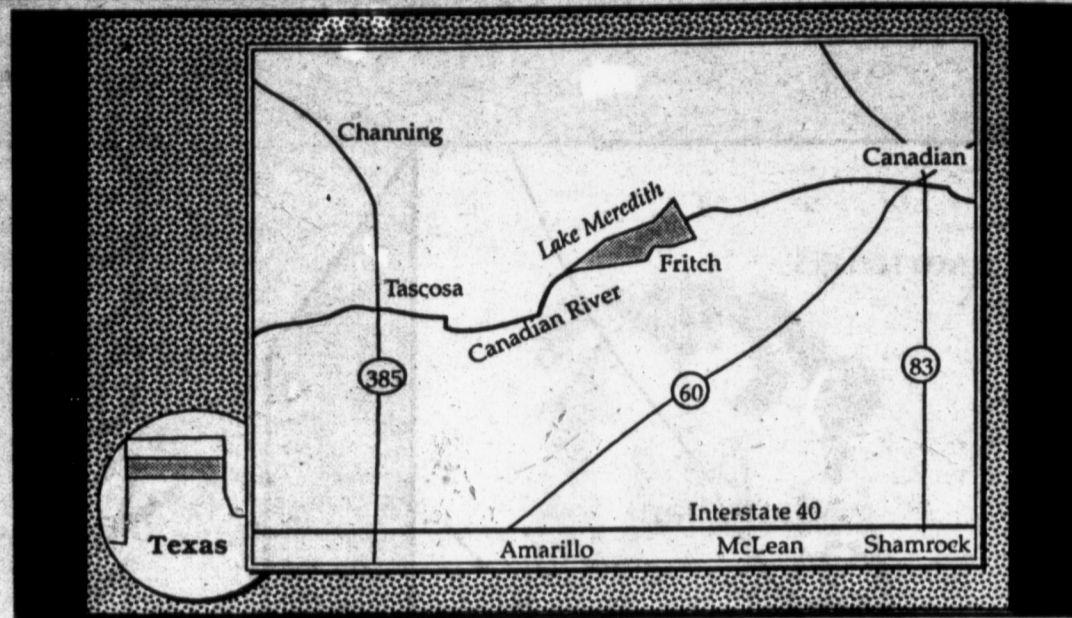
The bustling city of Dalhart boasts a robust and growing museum and additional museums and historical monuments dot the top tier of Panhandle counties.

There seems to be more sky than land in this country dotted with playa lakes and nodding pump jacks bringing oil to the surface.

"The distances are great but so are the people," said a lifetime resident of the High Plains. "Sometimes the wind is so keen you can use it to sharpen your pocket knife, but it keeps the 'skeeters' away and turns the windmills."

It was across the grand vista of these high plains that the explorers, warriors, ranchers, pioneers and oilmen trekked, fought, mapped, drilled, and came to realize that the uniqueness of this "Top of Texas" had come to reflect itself in the people who called it home.

"You can't get lost up here," said one resident. "You can look back and see yesterday, look forward and see tomorrow, and look around and see today. What more could a person want?"



CANADIAN RIVER BREAKS

The Canadian River, which winds its way through the Panhandle like a sandy-flanked snake, was the magnet which first drew men and animals into the area. And everyone came to the Canadian River Breaks - from dinosaurs like the one standing on a cliff outside the city of Canadian to the gunfighters, lawmen, buffalo and buffalo hunters and cattlemen who wove the true fabric of the Old West.

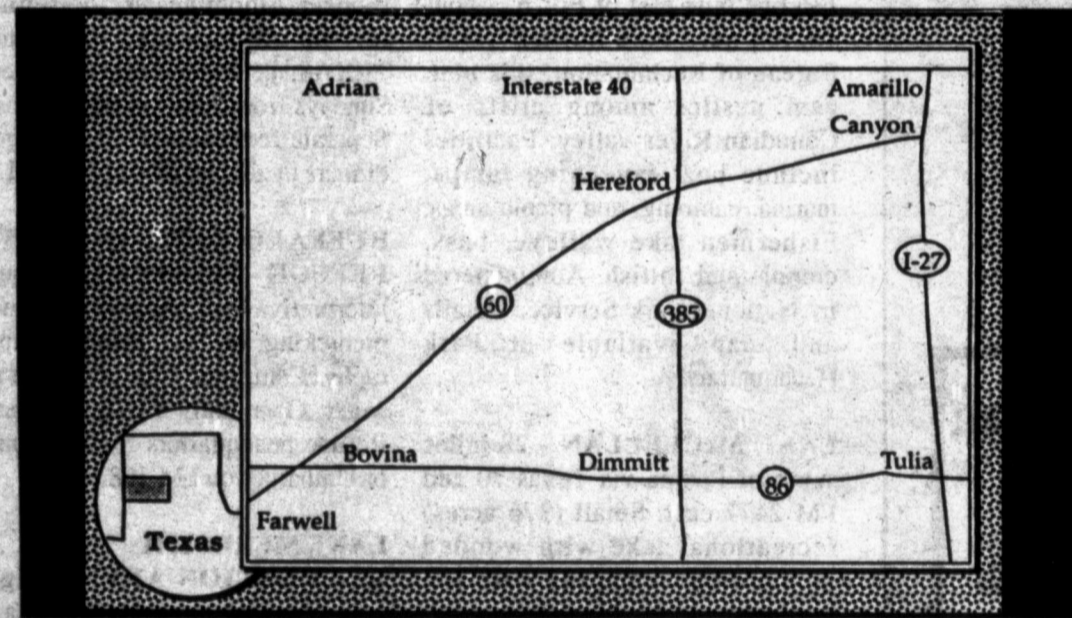
In some places the High Plains drop abruptly into river break country, in others it glides gently into tree-lined ravines and gently rolling grasslands dotted with flat topped mesas and softly clattering windmills.

Billy the Kid and Bat Masterson rode through here as did Pat Garrett, Kit Carson, and Chief Quannah Parker. Stands of cottonwood, ash and shinnery oak line sandy bottom land and an amazing variety of wildflowers erupt each spring on the grasslands.

The heritage of the west is alive in the ranches of the area and Canadian is the site of one of the first, if not the first, organized rodeo in the world.

Little Lake Marvin, northeast of Canadian, is one of the hidden gems of the river breaks area. Part of the Black Kettle National Grasslands, the lake and surrounding area offer a panoramic picture of just how beautiful and relaxing the country can be. It holds a new vista, just waiting to be explored, over every rolling hill.

Stopping at an old cemetery along a highway sloping downward toward the river, it is easy for the eye to erase the few overt signs of modern day and picture the Canadian River Breaks as the Indians or the buffalo first saw them.



SOUTH PLAINS

The rolling hills of grass and the open spaces of the South Plains inevitably make the traveler think of the isolation Coronado and his men must have felt when they first crossed the prairie in search of the Seven Cities of Gold.

Coronado never found his gold, but those who followed him did, because the gold was not locked up in seven fabled cities, but was beneath his feet, in the soil itself.

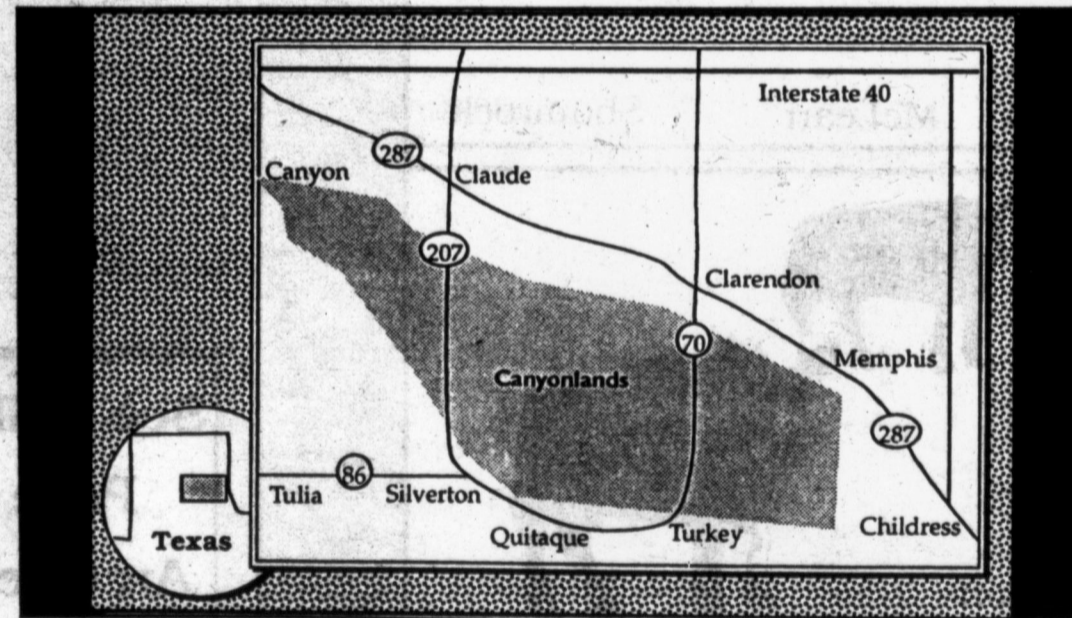
Although the vast fields that grow those crops of gold may resemble an empty sea to some travelers, it is always surprising to consider just how many people from far away places have come this way since Coronado.

A group of German Catholics found a home for themselves and their religion in Nazareth. The Farwell brothers came from city streets of Chicago to oversee a cattle empire on the empty prairie, and thousands of Italian prisoners of war captured in the North African fighting of World War II gazed out over the plains from their camp near Dimmitt and admired the sweep and grandeur of the land even while longing for their homes.

The South Plains has always showcased the gold its land contained. Vast herds of cattle wandered across the railroad tracks, stopping trains at Bovina and giving the town its name. Those herds of cattle now have shorter horns and are confined to feed lots, but they are still there.

Grain elevators soar into the big sky, dwarfing the more modest farm houses that dot the land. Sugar processing plants and meat packing plants are also signs of the productivity of this land. There can be little doubt that the South Plains is a significant part of the nation's "breadbasket."

Now people come from far away lands to buy cattle and grain and to study the techniques and methods used to "mine" the renewable gold of the Panhandle South Plains.



PANHANDLE CANYONLANDS

These Canyonlands could have been created exclusively for a John Ford movie, pitting the U.S. Cavalry against the Indians in a dramatic struggle for the land itself. Did the dramatic canyons, formed by the tributaries of the Red River, help shape the western myth and mystique, or was it the other way around? The Canyonlands begin as sharp chasms and gradually spill into rolling plains. They are dynamic, they are exciting, and they are the West.

Without a written or spoken word the Canyonlands tell of huge cattle ranches and cowboys striving to survive against a hostile frontier; of trail drives and men who loomed as giants in their own time. The land also speaks of the quiet, determined family digging in against the harsh winter northers and laboring dawn to dark to carve a living and a life out of an unforgiving land.

The vistas can be breathtaking, but the work could be backbreaking.

"It is beautiful, so beautiful it almost makes you want to cry," wrote one pioneer woman. "But you can live with it because you work so hard you seldom get to look up at it."

The natural landscape of the Canyonlands has been largely preserved despite the onset of the modern age. Some of the old ranches survived or partially survived and remain devoid of development. When cattle are being worked it is difficult in some places to distinguish between the 19th and 20th centuries.

But its ability to delight the eyes and confuse the sense of time does not mean the Canyonlands are an illusion.

Although the ranches of the Canyonlands may be changing, they are also staying the same. The rough land, etched by erosion, doesn't lend itself to development and will remain a picturesque reminder of the western heritage that is carved so deeply into the psyche of America.

Cowboys Became "Cow Servants" On British Ranch

By Bill Russell
The cultural chasm separating the Indian tribes of the Panhandle and the westward-pushing white civilization was too deep to be spanned by anything other than violence. But that was not the only cultural collision that rocked the prairie.

In Collingsworth County the rift between the British owners of the Rocking Chair Ranch and the American cowboys who rode for the brand yawned so deeply a solution was never worked out.

The head-to-head confrontation between the two kindred but dissimilar cultures never turned deadly, although gunfights broke out several times.

Now that the years have cooled tempers, some aspects of the battle between the British nobility and the American cowboy resemble comic opera.

Seeking to cash in on the much advertised "beef bonanza" in Texas, the Right Honorable Edward Marjoribanks, Baron of Tweedmouth and John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, purchased the 230 section Rocking Chair Ranch in 1883. The sale included 14,745 head of Longhorn cattle and 159 horses and was negotiated by two land speculators

from New York, J. John Drew and Earl Spencer. Drew stayed on as ranch manager.

The British got off on the wrong foot with the Americans right away. They insisted that ranch be spelled with an "e." They ordered a "ranche" headquarters built on Elm Creek and laid out site plans for the town of Aberdeen, which would be the county seat. According to the Baron and the Earl, the whole county was to be run in the manner of an English country estate.



The youngest brother of the Baron, Sir Archibald Marjoribanks, was sent to the Panhandle to oversee the operations of the Rocking Chair. The young Englishman knew nothing about running a Panhandle cattle ranch and seemed determined not to learn. He refused to mingle with the cowboys but imported a pack of purebred hounds for hunting excursions with other Englishmen living on ranches in the area, including the Kowe brothers of the RO Ranch next door.

The young snob insisted that he be called "Sir Archibald" at all times by the "cow servants" which is what he ordered the cowboys to be called. Settlers in the county were to be referred to as "cottagers" and regarded as indentured servants of the "ranche."

One can imagine how this was received by the cowboys and settlers whose direct descendants had fought a war to escape this sort of treatment. No one in Collingsworth County was about to kowtow to the self-styled "upper crust." Unimpressed by the haughty Englishman, everyone began calling him "Archie" or "Marshie" or worse and paid no attention to his rules and edicts.

Rocking Chair riders called it "Nobility Ranch" and began stealing whatever they wanted from "Sir Archibald." The homesteaders joined in.

Drew stayed on at the "ranche" and exaggerated the role young Archie was playing in the day-to-day operations when he wrote the owners in London.

True to his upper-class beliefs, Sir Archibald never mixed with the "cow servants" or bothered to learn anything about the actual operation of the Rocking Chair.

Consequently, Majoribanks didn't realize he was being skinned as slick as a rube buying snake oil from a traveling medicine drummer.

Despite the open looting, the ranch managed to show a little profit for the first few years, but then the books began to show a steady decline. This prompted an unannounced visit by the Baron and the Earl in 1888. The owners demanded an immediate cattle

count, and they got one.

Drew had the "cow servants" drive the dwindling Rocking Chair herd rapidly around and around a


nearby hill and past ranch headquarters while he and the Baron attempted to count them. After the
Continued on page 16.



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Civilized Life Came Hard In Panhandle

Continued from page 15.

cattle and cowboys were nearly worn out by repeated circuits, Drew and the Baron compared tallies. The nobleman, unwilling to admit he had been unable to keep up with the count, agreed with the final bogus tally presented by Drew. The Baron commented, however, that the herd seemed to have a large number of cattle with twisted left horns. Everybody had a quiet laugh at the Baron's expense for not realizing that he had been counting the same steer over and over. Drew promised to rid the herd of the deformed animals.

Despite the rigged count the herd was still short. Drew blamed it on the thieving "cottagers" who were homesteading on the state land checkerboarded throughout the ranch. The Britishers accepted the explanation and went home mollified.

The British owners finally wised up in 1893 and filed charges against Drew for theft. But the owners of "Nobility Ranche" were to pay for their haughty attitude once again. Drew was well liked in the county, and an impartial jury could not be found. A friendly judge dropped the charges completely and Drew left Collingsworth County a wealthy man.

The saga of the Rocking Chair Ranche was not quite over. There were still people remaining in the county for the Baron and the Earl to offend. Before long they did just that.

It was a squabble over the location of the county seat that finally spelled the end of the English country estate in the Texas

Panhandle. The British wanted it to be Aberdeen on ranch land. The "cottagers" and cowboys wanted the county seat to be Pearl (two miles north of present Jay Wellington) in the "nester" part of Collingsworth County.

Although several gunfights broke out and Texas Rangers had to be called in to prevent a bloodbath, nobody was actually killed. At that time Collingsworth County became known as "Killingsworth" County because of the lingering dispute.

The feud was settled by a Ranger brokered compromise. The county seat would be Wellington, a town in the "nester" part of the county but named after the British nobleman

who had defeated Napoleon. Aberdeen and Pearl became ghost towns.

The British finally gave up in 1893. They hired former Ranger G. W. "Cap" Arrington to manage the ranch while its sale was being negotiated. In 1896 the Rocking Chair "Ranche" was purchased by and absorbed into the Mill Iron Ranch.

The Baron, Earl and Sir Archibald went home, possibly to regale their countrymen with tales of "cow servants," "Cottagers," and the difficulty of living a "civilized" life in the wild, wild west of the Texas Panhandle.

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Claude Man Has Big Time Creating Small Buildings

By Bill Russell

It started as a way to pass the time. Now Raymond Bagwell of Claude has no idea where it will end or what it will produce.

"I started building miniature houses about 10 years ago to kill time in the winter," Bagwell said. "I had to get out of the house and find something to do."

A decade later Bagwell has no idea how many buildings he has constructed, but some of them are on display at the Armstrong County Museum. His favorite is a model of the JA Ranch bunkhouse.

The display also includes models of the Mount Pleasant School, the Claude Methodist Church, the Palace Hotel and the first house, a half dugout, the Bagwell family built and lived in after coming to the Panhandle in 1890. Others have been given away as gifts to friends and family.

Bagwell constructs on a scale of 1-inch to 1-foot and the replicas are built using old photographs for plans.

"One day I was looking at an old Kodak of the first house the family lived in out on Mulberry Flat and wondered if I could build a model of it. It wasn't as hard as I thought it was going to be."

Difficult or not, the results are amazing. Houses, churches, schools and business buildings appear so lifelike under the muted museum lighting it is possible to believe one has stumbled into a living, miniature world.

Stoop to peer inside the church and you will see tiny wooden pews and a lectern. The porch of the JA bunkhouse is complete with benches and a rocking chair.

"I don't know why I put all that stuff inside," Bagwell said. "No one hardly ever sees it."

All of Bagwell's creations are made from scrap wood. Ends of planks are ripped to provide miniature siding or notched to resemble shingles.

"I used to try and paint all of my buildings, but that got old fast," Bagwell said. "I haven't been able to find a miniature painter."

His wry sense of humor is evident in the things he builds. Among the structures on display at the museum are a windmill, two outhouses (a one holer and a two holer) and a replica of the scaffold used at the last legal hanging in Clarendon in 1910.

"I thought I'd build something to remind folks how nice it is to have inside plumbing and piped water," Bagwell explained. "I also threw in a reminder about law and order."

The museum display is but the tip of the Bagwell iceberg. At home his sprawling workshop is a delight and guarded by two friendly, rotund former cowdogs, Hank and Beulah. The shop is littered with tools, sawdust, and such treasures as a set of miniature horse drawn farm



Raymond Bagwell's replica of the historic JA Ranch bunkhouse.

implements, tiny oil derricks, tractors, steam traction engines, windmills, and a Rube Goldberg marble maze that features hand carved wooden channels with a xylophone section that plays as a marble runs over it.

"Kids just can't get enough of this thing," Bagwell said, a twinkle in his eye as he starts a marble on the trip down the intricate web of channels. A full size wooden clock

with carefully crafted gears stands nearby. It does not run.

"One of my many failures," Bagwell explained. "I used ash wood to make some of the gears and it warped. I keep it around to remind me I'm not quite perfect. My other reminders went into the stove."

Bagwell's sense of humor leads to some outrageous statements, but he is serious when speaking about his creations.

"I will keep making them until I can't any more," he said. "Every time I build a house I saw in a picture I learn something new. I don't expect to ever know it all, so I don't expect to ever be able to quit building."

What's next? Bagwell has been studying an old photograph of a clapboard school once located on

the JA Ranch.

"I might just try this one," he said thoughtfully. "It looks like it had nine-foot ceilings, wouldn't you say?"

We didn't feel qualified to speculate on the ceiling height, but it is a better-than-even bet that a replica of the JA schoolhouse will appear in the museum next spring.

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Auction Evolves Along With Livestock Industry

By Judy Welch

The history of the Amarillo Livestock Auction parallels the history of the West. It plays an important role in the Panhandle of Texas, just as it has for many years.

Although Spanish cattle roamed Texas for over three centuries, it took less than 30 years to develop a thriving beef industry.

After the Civil War, young men took their chances in the wide open west, rather than eek out an existence on cash-poor farms. Early ranchers figured that cattle, which brought no more than \$4 a head in the bankrupt South, would be worth the long walk to eastern markets, fetching 10 times as much.

The new cowboys rounded up the wild Longhorns, and the stockmen crossbred them with domesticated cattle from England, producing beef that was well suited for the expanding American table.

By the time the railroad finally reached Amarillo in 1887, there were huge numbers of cattle waiting for a ride. Amarillo was the



J. R. Taylor, in 1950s, surrounded by some of the thousands of cattle marketed at the Amarillo Livestock Auction. Photo courtesy Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

largest rural shipping point for 10 years, between 1892 and 1897. Many times both cattle and cattlemen found it necessary to "cool their heels," waiting for more freight cars to arrive.

Amarillo's first "boom" was because of beef. By 1910 its population had grown from 482 in 1890 to almost 10,000 people. In a brief period, hotels to accommodate cattle buyers, banks to transact cattle deals, and other businesses to meet every need were established.

A central location for the convenience of both buyer and seller was welcomed in 1904, when O. H. Nelson built the Western Stockyards in Amarillo. Nelson was

a leading stockman from Donley County who improved cattle bred in the Panhandle by importing Herefords and Durhams.

After Nelson died in 1930, ranchers, like most Americans, struggled to get through the Depression years. The Amarillo Livestock Auction, established in 1935, was the successor to the Western Stockyards.

In 1945, E. B. Johnson and Jay Taylor took over the reins, guiding the company through a period when the Amarillo Livestock Auction was the largest in the United States. Its biggest year was 1979, when 715,000 head of cattle passed through the gates.

Today, Taylor's nephew, J.R. Taylor, has reduced his role at the auction and looks to the future. Packing plant conglomerates now own or control many of the cattle fed for slaughter so that they are no longer sold at auction. However, Taylor doesn't see Amarillo Livestock Auction as fading away any time soon.

"As long as we have the smaller operator, they need a market," Taylor said.

Cattlemen have been selling beef on the hoof in Amarillo for almost a century and the Amarillo Livestock Auction is still the destination of many a cattle drive (even if it is in a trailer pulled by a pickup truck).

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Leader Of Cowboy Strike Loses It All For Loyalty

By Bill Russell

The Canadian River Cowboy strike of 1883 was a work stoppage short in duration and long in consequences. It began with no chance of success and ended changing the way in which the cowboy was regarded. In the process it destroyed the one man who exhibited all of the traits that would later form the "mystique" of the range rider.

In early spring, 1883, the "floating outfits" of the large ranches in the Canadian River area came together at an LS Ranch supply depot above the mouth of Frio Creek, east of present day Hereford. In the days before fences, "floating outfits" (chuckwagon, wagon boss and cowboys) followed drift cattle and brought them back to their home ranges.

Discontent had been building among the cowboys as the big ranches (LS, LX, LIT, LE, and T-Anchor) consolidated control in the Canadian River Breaks. Wages ranged from \$25 to \$35 per month for cowboys while cooks generally received the high end of the scale and wagon bosses earned from \$50 to \$60 depending on experience. Riders were seldom given raises and a steady trickle of new ranch rules, governing everything from personal grooming to permitted recreational activities, rankled the normally free-wheeling range riders.

The "floating outfits" got together for a community feast at Frio Creek which was followed by a "gripe" session. By the time the complaints ended a strike had been decided upon.

No one is sure who first suggested a strike, but Tom Harris, wagon boss for the LS is usually credited with the idea. J.W. "Waddy" Peacock of the LIT and Roy Griffin of the LX were also in the forefront as the plan took shape, and helped word the infamous strike document, copies of which were sent to all of the ranch owners in the Canadian River valley.

The demands were simple - higher pay.

The strike ultimatum said the cowboys would not work for less than \$50 per month after March 31 of that year. The demands also included provisions for "good cooks" to receive \$50 while foremen and wagon bosses not less than \$75.

"Anyone violating the above obligations shall suffer the consequences," the ultimatum warned, but it proved to be an empty threat. The document was signed by Harris, Griffin, Peacock and 17 other cowboys. Arrangements were made to collect a strike fund, and having crossed the proverbial "Rubicon," the floating outfits hitched up and crossed Frio Creek to camp 30 miles southwest of Tascosa on Alamocitos Creek to wait out the strike. Harris was elected chairman of the newly formed 'Cow Boys Association.'

The strikers were counting on the approaching spring roundup to force ranch owners into accepting their



J.W. "Waddy" Peacock was one of the signers of cowboy's strike notice.

demands in short order.

It didn't work out that way.

Worried at first, owners contacted Harris and offered a deal. Harris was told that \$50 per month would be paid to every cowboy he was willing to certify as a "top hand." Harris stayed true to his rank and file and refused to choose between "top" and "regular" hands. It was the last serious offer the owners would make.

Cowboys from Montana, New Mexico, Kansas and Colorado

flocked into the Canadian River area to sign on for the roundup. The word spread like wildfire and ranchers had no trouble filling vacant bunkhouses with "scab" riders.

The strikers lost heart. Meanwhile, strike funds were squandered in the saloons and brothels of Tascosa. Ranch owners refused to rehire striking cowboys and a blacklist was compiled and circulated.

Harris tried to form a "syndicate ranch" in which blacklisted strikers

could buy shares. The endeavor failed through lack of support and Harris lost everything.

By winter it was all over and the big ranch owners had won. The cowboy was no longer a free-spirited plainsman. After the strike a cowboy was just a hired man on horseback.

Many of the cowboys involved in the strike drifted away or turned to

rustling and claiming stray cattle. Harris remained in Tascosa until his death, working as a clerk to repay his debts, deserted by his friends.

Harris fit the profile of the rugged individualist so important to the cowboy myth. Throughout the strike he had refused to compromise his principals, sell his fellows short, or cave in to the pressure of power and money.



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Prehistory Just Below The Surface In Roberts County



At left, Betty Arrington, in the Roberts County Museum, examines the only existing pot definitely linked to the Red Deer People.

By Bill Russell

Sinking a shovel into the soil of neighboring Roberts and Hemphill Counties can lead to much more than the planting of a row of petunias or the setting of a fence post.

It can open a window to the distant past, when Paleo Indians

hunted mastodons and camels while laying the generational groundwork for a mystery tribe that followed.

"It seems that somebody is always turning up something interesting," said Betty Arrington of Miami. "This area must have supplied half the museums in Texas with fossils."

Continued on page 22.

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Remnants Of Mystery Indian People Found Near Miami

Continued from page 21.

The discoveries in the two Panhandle counties have been dramatic and have led scientists to designate a "Hemphillian Land Mammal Age" of history to classify the fossils and artifacts recovered.

A farmer plowing a field nine miles west of Miami in 1933 started the historical ball rolling when he turned up the remains of prehistoric animals, including mastodon, camel and rhinoceros. A mastodon rib containing an embedded Clovis spear point was later discovered by Roberts County Judge J.A. Mead who had been called to the site to investigate.

Judge Mead had a deep and continuing interest in archaeology. For many years he conducted amateur excavations and accepted artifacts discovered by others into his huge collection. The items were displayed for all to see at the County Courthouse, which became an informal museum of paleontology as well as the center of county government.

Judge Mead did his best to classify all the finds from the two counties and never flagged in his efforts to interest scholars and scientists in the growing collection.

He met with mixed success. A few articles were written for scholarly publications and museums from all over the state petitioned for, and received, portions of the Mead collection. Many area residents felt free to take portions of the collection home.

What is left now forms part of the Jack Mead Paleontology Exhibit at the Roberts County Museum in Miami. Curator Jane Bright sadly reports that this is only a small portion of the original collection.

"If we had all of the original collection we'd need a bigger building to house it," she said.

According to Bright and Arrington, the original rib bone which had contained the Clovis point was recovered from a Dallas

Museum and is now on display in Miami.

The Coffey Ranch quarry in neighboring Hemphill County has turned up a treasure trove of fossils from under a layer of volcanic ash. Saber tooth cats, bone eating dogs, Hemphillian rhinoceroses and large camel remains were recovered there. Remains of huge land turtles also have been unearthed in both counties.

The area was rich in wildlife and the Paleo people who hunted them. They left behind spear points, scrapers, awls, and other tools throughout the Canadian River breaks.

Arrow points have been turned up by ranchers digging fence post holes, women planting flower gardens and kids digging fire pits at campsites.

"Whenever anyone starts digging around here, they are careful to keep looking into the hole," Bright said. "The entire county is very aware of what might turn up."

In tracing the history of the Hemphillian age, a more modern tribe of Indians have come to light, a tribe that remains a bit of a mystery.

"We know they lived here, raised crops, hunted and made crude but distinctive pottery," said curator Bright. "But we don't know what name to put on them."

For want of a better title, this culture is being called the "Panhandle Red Deer Creek People." Anthropologists speculate they were of Apache or Kiowa-Apache ancestry. These people inhabited the sandy bottoms of Red Deer Creek from about 700 A.D. to 1450 A.D.

The Red Deer People farmed, growing corn, beans, squash and possibly cotton.

They hunted deer, buffalo, antelope, wild turkey, prairie chickens and other small game. They lived in mud huts which were possibly covered with buffalo skins in the winter.

Artifacts recovered indicate they traded with other tribes from as far away as California, New Mexico, and Minnesota.

Only one pot definitely linked to the Red Deer People has been recovered and restored. It was excavated from the bank of Red Deer Creek near Miami after being

spotted by a cowboy working cattle. The clay pot was in pieces, but when it was restored it was found to be missing only one small shard. The medium-sized pot displayed a unique pattern of crosshatching thought to be unique to Red Deer People.

The reconstructed pot is on

display in Miami. "It is only one piece of a mystery," said Betty Arrington. "With the wealth of discoveries around here I'm sure more clues will turn up. Soon somebody will sink a shovel into the ground and turn up another piece of the puzzle and we'll know a little more."

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Special Events & Activities Fill Calendar Throughout The Panhandle

Caprock Jamboree

First Saturday of every month from 7-11 p.m. See the best country and western jamboree between Dallas and Amarillo at the Briscoe County Show Barn, 6 blocks south of historical jail. Free admission. 6 p.m. mesquite grilled hamburgers with all the trimmings. Silverton, (806) 823-2524.

Cowboy Morning

Ride to the rim of Palo Duro Canyon in team-drawn wagons. Enjoy an authentic chuckwagon breakfast, then try your hand at roping, branding or cowchip-tossing. Open April through October, Daily June-August. (800) 658-2613 for reservations or information.

Country Opry

"Have fun fiddlin' around" is the motto of this live music entertainment in Hereford. Fourth Saturday of every month. For more information call (806) 364-3333.

Trade Days in Clarendon. First full weekend (Fri., Sat., Sun.) of every month through September. Call (806) 874-2421 for information.

Cotton Boll Trade Days in Memphis. First weekend following first Mondays of each month. Call (806) 259-3144 for information.

July 29 & 30 - Amarillo

At the Civic Center - Gun & Knife Show Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 29 & 30 - Farwell

Border Town Days: Parade, Entertainment, & Open Houses.

August 5 - Amarillo

Texas Inter-Tribal Indian Organization's annual Craft Show & Auction, Noon 'til 8 p.m. at Sam Houston Park. Native American dancing, story telling, games, food.

August 9 - 13 - Amarillo

At the Civic Center - Old West Days.

August 11 & 12 - Amarillo

At the Civic Center - Budweiser Rough Stock Challenge at 8 p.m.

August 11 & 12 - Silverton

Friday and Saturday night. Rodeo at 7:30 p.m. and dance at 9 p.m. Three/Quarters Band. Saturday

afternoon. On the courthouse square: Music, Arts, & Crafts, Parade at 3 p.m. & Bar-B-Que following parade. For information call (806) 823-2125 or 823-2486.

August 19 - Claude

Armstrong County Museum & Gem Theatre presents performance "Joplin and Company," at 7:30 p.m.

August 19 & 20 - Amarillo

Texas Inter-Tribal Indian Organization's Homecoming Pow-Wow at Tri-State Fairgrounds. Native American Dances, Arts & Crafts Show. Call (806) 358-3277 or 358-7728 for information.

September 15 & 16 - Silverton

Silverton Bluegrass Festival: On the courthouse square. Starts at 4 p.m. on Friday and all day Saturday. Free admission, concerts & jam sessions. For more information call (806) 823-2125 or 823-2486.

September 16 - Claude

Armstrong County Museum & Gem Theatre presents "A Panhandle Showcase of Talent," at 7:30 p.m. Call (806) 226-2451.

September 15, 16, & 17 - Memphis

Hall County Picnic and Old Settlers Reunion: Arts & Crafts, Chicken Drop Bingo, Art Show & Sales, Cowboy Breakfast, Brand New Opry Show, Children's Activities. Sept. 15: Hamburger Cookout on the courthouse square at 11 a.m. Sept. 16: Parade at 3 p.m. Bar-B-Que dinner on the square at 6 p.m. Street Dance at 8 p.m. Sept. 17: Golf Tournament. (806) 259-3144.

September 23 & 24 - Tulia

At the Swisher County Museum: Quilt show. Exhibit quilts and contest quilts. For information call (806) 995-2819. Arts & Craft Fair.

September 30 - Clarendon

Col. Charles Goodnight Chuckwagon Cookoff & Camp Gathering. Special appearances by entertainers Red Steagall, Andy Wilkinson and Keene Ridge Riders. Authentic chuckwagons, music, cowboy poetry and western arts on the grounds of the beautiful Saints' Roost Museum.

From mid-morning thru evening. Call 1-800-299-5263.

September 30 - Panhandle

Museum Day at the Carson County Square House Museum. Come see a variety of special exhibits and enjoy entertainment and special activities. For more information call (806) 537-3524.

October 3 - Memphis

Culpepper & Merriweather Circus: Performances at 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Call Chamber of Commerce for information, (806) 259-3144.

October 7 thru 15 - Claude

The 80th birthday celebration of the opening of the Gem Theatre. Exciting shows scheduled. Call (806) 226-2451 for information.

October 13, 14 & 15 - Childress

Childress Army Airfield 50 Anniversary Reunion Celebration of the Ending of World War II. Exciting Air Shows, Dances, Meals, Memorial Service and many activities. Contact Jenny Lou Taylor at the Childress County Heritage Museum, (817) 937-2261 for information.

October 21 - Quitaque

Fall Foliage Tour. Gorgeous scenery of Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway, also Valley of Tears. Wonderful food and fun in Quitaque. Call (806) 455-1700 for information.

October 21 & 22 - Silverton

Texas Caprock Arts Festival: Sixth Annual Juried Art Show & Sale at the Briscoe County Show Barn. Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. & Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Entry deadline September 16. Call (806) 823-2125 or 823-2486.

November 11 - Claude

Western entertainer, Andy Wilkinson, a descendant of Col. Charles Goodnight, and Phil

Wedding perform on the stage of the Old Gem Theatre.

November 18 & 19 - Farwell

Christmas on Parade - Arts,

Crafts, & Business Open Houses.

December 2 - Quitaque

Caprock Country Christmas festival. Call (806) 455-1700.

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