

SPRING 1994

# Fake Towns Cause Scandal

In 1540 Coronado crossed the Texas Panhandle in search of the legendary Seven Golden Cities of Cibola.

He never found them.

Three hundred and forty-two years later the United States Post Office came to the Panhandle trying to locate at least seven cities which seemed to have disappeared. The towns of Silver City, Hayes, Trujillo, Fischer, Moonesville, Haze and Dorsey had vanished.

In 1870 there were only three established settlements in the Panhandle: Moberg in Wheeler County, Tascosa in Oklahoma County, and Clarendon in Donley County. But in far off Washington, D.C. the United States Post Office believed the Panhandle was alive with cities and was paying a handsome sum to have mail delivered to them.

According to postal records, Silver City in Oklahoma County was inhabited by 10,000 people, all of whom used the U. S. Mail at a

furious pace, requiring daily stagecoach service just to keep the avalanche of letters and parcels moving.

There was also Haze City, located near a landmark identified as "Antelope Peak" in Hutchinson County, and Trujillo in Oklahoma County with a burgeoning population, all steadfastly using the mail. There was a Moonesville and Fischer in Potter County and Hayes in Moore County. The elusive settlement of Dorsey moved at least three times, according to early post office records.

Like Coronado's Cibola, many of these places simply did not exist. It was all a hoax designed to get the federal government to pay dishonest stage coach line operators to deliver the mail to nonexistent places.

In 1882 a belated investigation was launched and the plot began to fall apart. The majority of the suspicion fell on Stephen W. Dorsey, a senator from Arkansas,

and his brother John who owned and ran a stage coach line. That line had the Star Route contract for all of the Panhandle's phantom cities.

The government paid out between \$143,169 and \$622,208 for these postal services. That was a lot of money in 1870.

A somewhat tardy on-site investigation by the postal service showed the entire city of Hayes consisted of a Torrey Ranch line shack, population two cowboys. Fischer was an abandoned supply camp for buffalo hunters and Trujillo was an overnight camp used by Mexican shepherds. The population of Silver City consisted of a grizzled ex-buffalo hunter and his mistress. The metropolis of Dorsey and the aptly named city of Haze were never located.

After the investigation and attending scandal some officials involved in the hoax resigned and a few went to jail. Senator Dorsey just faded away, much like the cities of his imagination.

# Squabbles Erupt Over Shifting Borders

By Bill Russell

"I have been a resident in the same house for 45 years," said Emma Gladdings one day in 1896. "And I have been a resident of two states, the Indian Territory and two counties during that period."

In that year Greer County, along with the redoubtable Mrs. Gladdings, about 5,000 other folks and 60,000 head of cattle were abruptly amputated from Texas and grafted onto Oklahoma.

Even when Greer County was laid out to be one of the biggest in Texas in 1860 there must have been some doubts as to its permanence. While the other Panhandle counties were platted in 900 square mile blocks, Greer encompassed 3,480 square miles and was attached like an unwieldy appendage to Wheeler County in the southeast Panhandle.

The boundaries of Greer were drawn along lines of an 1819 treaty which set the dividing line between United States and Spanish territory. The treaty map designated the 100th meridian and the Red River as that boundary, but it mislocated the meridian and showed only one fork of the two-pronged Red River.

Oklahoma was not happy with what it saw as a great land grab by Texas. Oklahoma filed suit and the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The legal battling took 35 years and was not made any easier when all three joint survey commissions, charged with identifying the 100th meridian, failed to agree on the same line.

Finally the court ruled in favor of Oklahoma and Texas lost Greer County.

Even then boundary problems continued and court cases were still being sorted out in 1906. The Red River refused to stay within its banks, demonstrating quite a fondness for meandering. Sometimes land that was in Oklahoma suddenly found itself back in Texas when the river shifted, and vice versa.


When oil exploration began in the Red River basin about 1950 the problem of the wandering river was taken more seriously.

A firm line was drawn regardless of the course of the river. When this decision took effect another little chunk of Texas went to Oklahoma.

"Something ought to be did," said J.J. Smith, who, after many years of being a Texan, suddenly found himself a resident of Oklahoma. "If some two-bit jackleg surveyor can turn a Texan into an Oklahoman somebody ought to do something."

The people and cattle of Greer County might have said the same thing back in 1896.

**Joe T. Lovell**  
Real Estate  
**FARMS • RANCHES • RESIDENTIAL**  
(806) 226-3801; (806) 874-3511; (806) 248-7977  
Associates in Claude, Groom, & Clarendon

  
**BARNEY'S**  
**MARINE**  
J Fishing Tackle J Bait J Permits & Licenses  
J Boat & Motor Repair J Boat & Camper Storage  
874-2033 • Hwy. 70 N. near Hwy. 287  
Between Clarendon and Greenbelt Lake

**A few words about pride.**  
To a world striving to communicate, we provide quality communications products and services. In an era of technological advances, we are a leader in innovation. Yet our pride is being part of the communities we serve—the cities and towns which look to GTE for answers to communications needs. We're proud of those communities and we're proud to be part of them.  
A proud community supporter.   
THE POWER IS ON

Local Agent *You're in* Johnny Hoggatt  
 **CENTRAL BAIL BONDS**  
Kenneth Knowles, OWNER, MGR.  
*Country*  
SE HABLA **1-800-999-9368** ESPANOL   
  


**FIRST NATIONAL**  
**BANK of CLAUDE** Since 1904



*Out Where the Best Begins*  
Member FDIC

**AFTER SHOPPING AT THE NEW STEIN MART,  
COME NEXT DOOR AND EAT LUNCH OR DINNER WITH US!**  
**TEXAS COUNTRY HAMS & DELI**  
Convenient & Friendly  
Delicious Hickory Smoked Hams  
Spiral-sliced, glazed With Honey & Spices



**HALF HAM \$5 OFF • WHOLE HAM \$10 OFF**  
1 coupon per person • expires 4-15-94 | 1 coupon per person • expires 4-15-94

**NOW SERVING OLD FASHIONED SANDWICHES  
CHILI • SALAD BAR • DESSERTS  
3305 BELL • 353-4267 • 800-699-4267  
OPERATED BY TOM NORMAN**

# CONTENTS

"All the world's a stage," might have been the motto of stagecoach companies who "staged" seven fake towns. 2

Can A shifty river turn a Texan into an Oklahoman? 2

Grab for Roberts County Seat turns into "Indian" war. 4

A Jewel in the Crown of Texas-The beautiful Palo Duro Canyon. 5

Running Irons: a choice between cattle currency and a necktie party. 6

T.D. Hobart faced a formidable task as executor of the vast JA Ranch. 7

Right out of a dime novel, gunslingers barged into history. 8

Park Ranger guides visitors through a long tunnel of time at Alibates. 9

Vivid for Visitors! Panhandle history is well preserved by area museums. 10

Hereford Hits the Headlines (again) as "Town Without A Toothache." 11

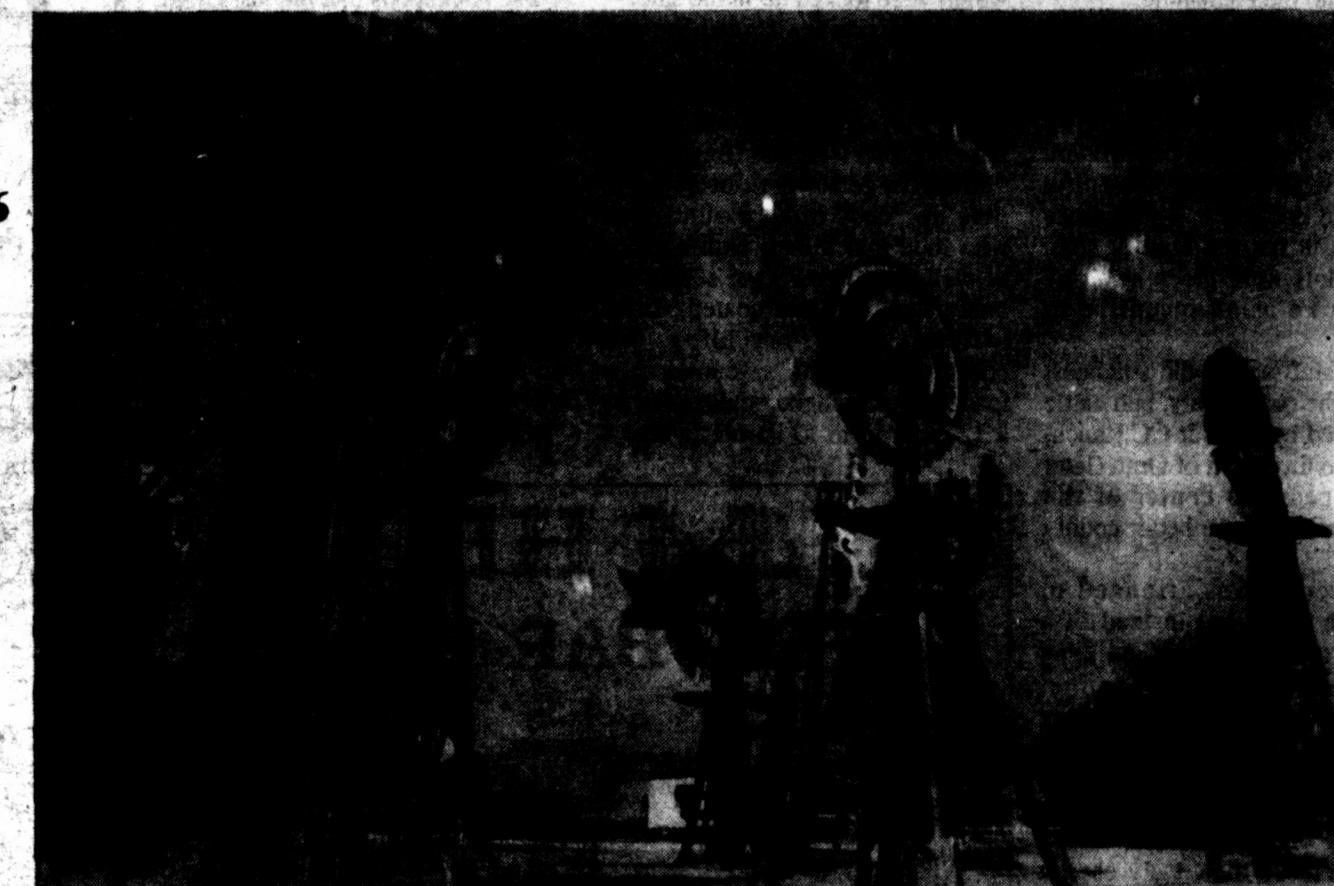
Maps Of Area. 12-17

How did sheep mix with cattle? 20 Boom and "busts"- the wild times of early oil exploration. 21

Did Coronado get his kicks on Route 66? 22

He's not Don Quixote because he loves windmills. 23

*Prairie Dog Gazette is published periodically. Copyright©1994. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher. Address all correspondence to: Prairie Dog Gazette; P.O. Box 1286; Clarendon, TX 79226; Phone 806-874-3541.*



Harnessing the wind to deliver water, more precious than oil. Read about a Panhandle collection on page 23.

## Fearless Forecast: Sunny Today & Hot Tamale

I hate deadlines!

But you do, too. Why, the very word says it all: miss that "line" and you're dead.

It's a threatening word, all right, especially from an editor.

But, being hooked up with this publishing-outfit, I guess it just goes with the territory.

It's not like I wasn't holed up all winter with nothing better to do. And I thought about what our readers might like to hear from Oi' Pete, I really did. I thought and thought until I was plumb tuckered.

Finally, I decided to make a fresh start, pull back and get a whole new perspective. Okay, Mr. Editor, so we're expanding this year to include the entire 26-county Texas Panhandle. That's a pretty big assignment.

Let's see now, where is that map? (There's nothing like a map to help you get your bearings.) Ah yes, the United States of America. Better yet, the Western Hemisphere. The Texas Panhandle lies about halfway between the North Pole and the Equator. It's



Oi' Pete

Our Prairie Dog Town Correspondent

almost halfway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

No wonder this part of Texas has always been a major crossroads. People trekked across these parts from everywhere - from wherever the original Indians started (the jury is still out on this question), to the European explorers, to Americans in cars getting their kicks on Route 66.

And you know what else occurs to me? We're definitely a busy crossroads when it comes to weather. There's an old joke that goes, "There's nothing between the North pole and the Texas Panhandle but a barbed-wire fence

(correct pronunciation "bob war").

And, of course, there's those tall tales about the wind, not to mention droughts and temperature extremes. It can be "brass monkey" weather in Dalhart and banana blossom time in Childress. The lowest temperature ever recorded in Texas was in Tulia on February 12, 1899 at 23 degrees below zero.

The way "Big John" Harris, Amarillo's KFDA-TV weatherman remembers it, the hottest temperature in the Panhandle was Childress, at 118 degrees in 1941. The driest year for Texas was 1917 when an average of only 14.3 inches fell statewide. The soggiest year was 1941 when that total reached 42.6 inches.

Harris said he was told by a Baptist preacher in Clarendon about "the wind that blew a mattress through a keyhole without opening the door," during a tornado near there in 1970.

"My mother lived through a tornado northeast of Childress in the early 1940s that picked up a few steers and deposited them on the other side of the road without any injuries to the steers," Harris said.

According to the Channel 10 weather wizard, the Rocky Mountains create havoc in trying to forecast weather here.

"That is true because the winds slope down the lee side of the mountains, rapidly warming the air much like the cylinder of a bicycle pump warms that air the faster you pump, due to compression," Harris said. "These winds are called Chinooks."

Particularly during springtime, "dry lines" play ping-pong over the Panhandle. They are the line of demarcation between moist air in the east and dry, hot air to the west.

"A dry line is basically a fence between these two types of air, a focal point where these two factors converge to produce thunderstorms," Harris said.

Texas weather of fact and fable has been the subject of stories, movies, books, lies and prayers. They say that the weather in the Panhandle is so crazy that it makes the people who live here more sane.

That may or may not be true, but it sure gives old prairie dogs something to write about!

# Citizens On Warpath For County Seat

When the final votes were tallied in 1889 Miami had been selected the county seat for the newly formed Roberts County. The vote was a close one, however, and when it was discovered that all 41 sons of a Mr. John Henry Buzzy of the Toboggan Creek Ranch voted for Miami, some people began to ask embarrassing questions.

The answers to those questions led to the hiring of a gunfighter, the theft of the county charter and an "Indian war" that almost resulted in the transfer of a company of Texas Rangers into the Panhandle.

It all started in 1888 when the Santa Fe Railroad established an "end of the tracks" town 45 miles from the town of Panhandle. Railroaders dubbed the city Miami, an Indian word meaning "Beautiful Place," and decided it would make a dandy site for the county seat. Free city lots were given away by the Santa Fe as an incentive to growth.

But Miami was in the southeast corner of the new county, and cattle interests, led by the Bar CC Ranch, thought the tiny town of Oran (later Parnell) near the center of the county would make a better county seat.

An election was arranged to decide the issue, but instead of a decision, the vote caused an even more vehement controversy.

For starters, the Buzzy family could not be located by election investigators and Toboggan Creek was a dry wash with no ranches.

Stuffed ballot box or not, Miami citizens grabbed the county charter documents and locked them up in a

heavy safe in the new town which now boasted a municipal water well built by the railroad and telegraph links to Fort Elliott. A school, a newspaper and two hotels soon followed. The town handled more freight per week (up to 1,500,000 pounds) than any other town in the Panhandle.

The Parnell faction was still unhappy about the rigged election, but even after a district judge ruled in its favor, Parnell did not become the county seat. Miami refused to turn over the charter and records which were locked up in the safe.

A local rancher tagged the two factions with the names of Indian tribes, names that stuck. The Miami group were the Kickapoos and the Parnell group were the Diggers.

The Diggers were not about to give up. They hired a gunfighter who rode into Miami with a group of well-armed cowboys, seized the bulky safe, and intimidated Miami officials into revealing the combination. The safe was then loaded onto a wagon, and hauled by a 12-mule team to Parnell where a

full-time guard was posted and a two-story courthouse built up around it. Texas Rangers, who had just about become convinced that the Indian troubles were over, were put on alert when a trickster sent a telegram to Austin warning of a battle brewing between the Kickapoo and Digger Indians in Roberts County. "Bloodshed can be expected," the telegram warned.

A company of Rangers was actually ready to leave for the Panhandle before the practical joke was discovered.

The Kickapoos had the last laugh, however. Being far from the railroad, Parnell never thrived. County citizens having court business in Parnell were forced to either stay in tents or camp under the stars because the one hotel was so small.

In 1892 another election was held and Miami won again, this time without the help of the prolific but bashful Buzzy family. There were no objections to the movement of the county's safe back to the "Beautiful Place."



Visit With Us At

**Cactus Inn Motel**  
A famous historic Route 66 motel restored to its finest

Interstate 40 Exit 142-143 • McLean, TX  
Gordon & Jane Sheplor • (806) 779-2346  
Non-smoking rooms available



Tues. - Sat.  
10 - 4

Sunday  
1 - 4

**DON'T MISS**

**DEVIL'S ROPE MUSEUM**

**Largest Historical Barbed Wire Museum In the World**

**Largest Route 66 Museum on Old Route 66 Today**

First Phillips 66 Service Station in Texas - Fully Restored  
McLean, Texas • (806) 779 2225

**More Than A Gas Station - A Service Station**

**CORNELL SHELL**

- Quality Shell Gasolines
- Lube • Oil • Filters
- Tire Repair • State Inspections
- Wheel Balancing
- Chipped Windshields Repaired

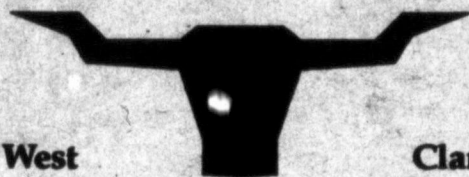
Hwy 287 in Clarendon

**SAM HILL'S**

**PIT BAR-B-Q**

11:00 a.m.  
to 9:00 p.m.

Hwy 287 West



Catering Service Available  
Clarendon

*Put Your Rooms in Bloom!*

Bronnley Soaps, Teapots, Picture Frames, Satchets, Stained Glass Lamps  
And always a good selection of Victorian and English Antique furniture.

**The English Rose**

Antiques & Liniques

6203 Amarillo Blvd. W  
(between the VA Hospital and Las Tiendas)

Amarillo • 359-7905

**LAWNDALE CHARITY**

**BINGO**

Hotline for details- 371-7511 • 27th & Osage in Amarillo  
**TWO SESSIONS PER NIGHT • Mon. -Sat. 7 & 9 • Sun. 3 & 5**

**Monday & Tuesday**

12 Faces for \$10  
(all games- 5 games per session)

**Wednesday**

Both Sessions \$15  
(all games-12 Faces-both sessions)

**Thursday**

Both Sessions \$15  
(includes 1 special - 6 games)

**Friday**

Both Sessions \$15  
(includes 1 special - 6 games)

**Saturday**

12 Faces for \$10  
(all games included-7 games both sessions)

**Sunday**

1st session  
12 Faces for \$10  
(includes 1 special - 5 games)

2nd Session

12 Faces for \$10  
(all games included - 5 games)

Benefiting: Family Hospital Center #17501098457  
Panhandle Planned Parenthood #175128534- Catholic Family Services, Inc #17508181470  
Texas Panhandle Mental Health Authority #17561761218  
Amarillo Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse #175115334970

**WE HAVE NEVER FAILED TO PAY MAXIMUM PRIZES**

# Painted Desert In A Grand Canyon: The Palo Duro

Tufts of swaying grass stretch far into the horizon on the plains. Then without warning the ground seems to fall away, confusing the senses. This must be a mirage! Welcome to the Palo Duro Canyon.

The canyon, which knifes with dramatic suddenness through the peaceful prairie, is 1,000 feet deep and 100 miles long. It has been described as a combination of the Painted Desert and the Grand Canyon. Upon reaching the bottom it is difficult to believe that the quiet little Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River actually carved the canyon out of the rocks of time. Without a doubt it is the most striking natural feature of the Panhandle.

From any angle it is breathtaking. Colorful layers of rock and soil from the Pleistocene, Ogallala, Trujillo, Tecovas and Quartermaster periods of geologic history lie exposed. They whirl in stripes of red, white and gray across the rippling walls to create what are aptly called "Spanish skirts."

Fantastically shaped spires of rock seem to leap upward from the canyon floor while gnarled cedar trunks cling with timeless tenacity to its steep walls. These cedars give the canyon its name. Palo Duro means "hard wood" in Spanish.

Aside from providing generations of geologists with a natural classroom, the canyon has meant many things to the people making its acquaintance.

Prehistoric hunters roamed its depths stalking now extinct mammoths and giant bison. Later Comanche and Kiowa Indians found a respite from the winter winds beneath the protective walls of the Palo Duro and cut arrow shafts from the cedars growing there.

When Coronado came through around 1540 he found

shelter in the canyon with fresh water, an abundance of buffalo, wild fruit for his men and lush grass for his animals.

Coronado soon discovered that the canyon had a less comfortable side. Thunderstorms frequently travel up the Palo Duro and a savage hailstorm battered the Spanish camp, injuring men and animals and frightening even Coronado himself.

But as Coronado found out when hailstones the size of musket balls pelted his men and drove off his stock, the canyon is more than a safe haven.

The decisive battle of the Red River Indian war was fought there and hikers say the ghosts of the 14,000 Indian ponies slaughtered by the cavalry still stampede along the canyon floor on moonlit nights.

The canyon has given birth to other legends as well. Rumors of buried gold still waft like the early morning mist along the canyon walls. Perhaps fueling the speculation is the story of a buried treasure of Spanish coins (allegedly left by a band of Texas traders lost in the canyon enroute to Santa Fe in 1841). It was recovered in 1871 by the son of one member of that ill-fated party.

Mexican buffalo hunters, Comanchero traders and sheep herders occasionally joined the Indians, and in 1875 a sheepman who had visited the canyon guided cattleman and trailblazer Charles Goodnight to the caprock rim of the Palo Duro. Goodnight decided then and there the Palo Duro would be the site of his new ranch.

Goodnight entered the canyon via an old Indian trail a year later and with his cowboys drove the buffalo out. It is estimated that the drive forced over 10,000 bison off the

range needed for cattle. Goodnight then established the Old Home Ranch, the first in the Panhandle.

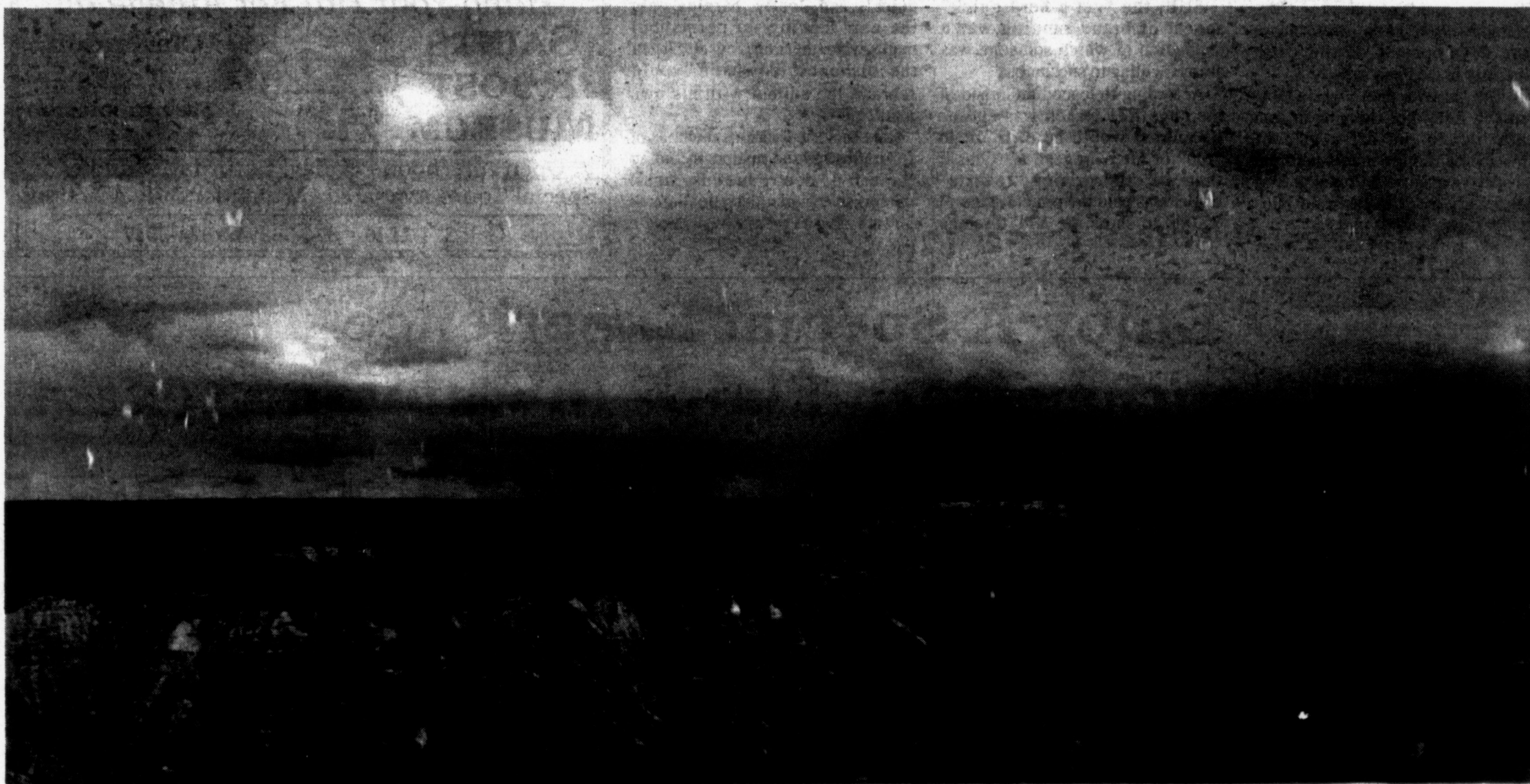
Even after Anglo settlers arrived the canyon remained a place of surprises. About 1890 cowboys began reporting a white man living "wild" in the Palo Duro. Settlers cutting cedar for fence posts in the canyon also reported provisions that disappeared overnight.

Several years later a "gully washer" storm dislodged rocks covering the entrance of a cave. Inside was found a skeleton wrapped in an Indian blanket. The remains were surrounded by crude handmade weapons and utensils. Evidence suggested that the cave had been occupied for a long time.

In 1933, 15,000 acres of the canyon were made into a state park, the largest in Texas. As soon as it was accepted as a state park, a Civilian Conservation Corp camp was established in the canyon and 800 workers built cabins and completed other public works. Today, thousands of visitors use the roads and facilities they built.

The dramatic walls of the Palo Duro have been witness to many mysteries and dramas. They now provide the backdrop for a musical drama. Each year since 1965 numerous visitors fill the 16,000 seat amphitheater in the park to see the production of *Texas*, a musical history of the Panhandle.

Despite the presence of man and the passing of time, Palo Duro Canyon shows little sign of being tamed. The wind and rain continue to carve rock formations into fantastic shapes and at night the mournful howls of coyotes drift along with the breeze. Meanwhile, at the bottom of the canyon, a rippling ribbon of water meanders along, continuing to etch patterns of beauty into the earth.



This photo is titled "Storm Over The Palo Duro". It was photographed with a special landscape camera by Louise

Daniel of Amarillo. Her work has been shown at the Square House Museum in Panhandle. For custom pictures

of ranches, farms or other landscapes contact her at (806) 355-4636 or 3805 Overlook • Amarillo, TX 79109.

Get The Next Issue Of The  
*Prairie Dog Gazette* Delivered Straight To You!  
 Call 1-800-658-9752 Or Send \$3 Per Issue To:  
 PO Box 1286 • Clarendon, Tx 79226

# Currency For Cattle Too Tempting For "Rewrite Men"

By Bill Russell

The idea of using a brand to mark livestock probably occurred to the first human to amass more than three animals of any one species. Pictographs on the walls of Egyptian tombs show oxen being branded about 2780 B.C., and Mesopotamian texts describing methods of fire branding cattle and dye branding sheep and goats are nearly as old.

The first brand in the New World was that of Hernan Cortes who, after subjugating the natives of Mexico, settled down to ranching. His Three Latin Cross brand was the first in the Western Hemisphere. The Coronado expedition probably drove the first branded cattle into the Panhandle when they brought along a small herd to provide an on-the-hoof commissary for his men.

There is no written record of when the first "running iron" was used to change a brand. That is not the kind of thing usually included in the history books. But the "rewrite man" of the range was certainly active at an early stage in the development of the cattle industry in the Panhandle.

The "rewrite man" was a cattle rustler. Instead of charging in, guns blazing, to run off a sizeable portion of another man's herd, this rustler would use a "running iron" to modify an existing brand into a mark claimed as his own.

## The first brand in the New World belonged to Hernan Cortes. He used it in Mexico and called it the Three Latin Cross.

The running iron could be a branding iron with a straight tip or a simple cinch ring held between two green twigs and heated over a small fire kindled in a sheltered draw, out of sight for prying eyes. A good rewrite man, aided by a couple of ropers, could change a large number of brands in a busy afternoon.

The brand rewrite man was not all that easy to catch. Even though you, as a rancher, might notice the few cows belonging to a "nester" seemed to bear twin calves each season while yours remained unusually barren, it was a difficult thing to prove. So-called "stock detectives" were hired to look into such matters, and as often as not a man surprised using a running iron was dealt a harsh form of frontier justice.

Still, the "get a herd quick" appeal of brand running was a temptation to which someone was always willing to succumb.

According to legend the brand of the huge XIT Ranch was chosen because it would be difficult to "run" or alter. Legend also has it that one enterprising "rewrite" rustler was paid the princely sum of \$5,000 to show the XIT foreman

how he was running that brand into his Cross within a Star brand. The payment also came with the understanding that the rustler would henceforth leave XIT cattle alone.

About 1886, when open-range cattle ranching was at its peak and brand registration had not yet come into being, ranchers would take out ads in the newspapers showing their brands and all of the most common "hot iron" variations. All animals with the brands shown in the newspaper, the advertisement announced, would be considered the property of the parent ranch.

Sometimes hot iron rustling was an "inside" job. Cowboys who were running a few cattle on the side would "cold" or "hair" brand animals at branding time. This was done by pressing the iron on quickly and lightly, burning only the hair leaving no permanent marks when the hair grew out. Then the dishonest cowhand would rebrand the animal with his own mark.

Ranchers tried various methods of frustrating rewrite rustlers including the use of decoy brands, small unobtrusive marks designed to trap unwary rewrite men into slapping a

brand on an apparently unmarked animal. One rancher bought several rolls of new silver dimes and inserted them through a slit in the skin on the flank of his calves. By feeling for the dime just under the skin the animal could be identified no matter which brand it wore. This worked for a while but soon the rewrite men just slit the skin to remove the dime, adding ten cents to his ill-gotten gains.

Sometime later tattoos, usually placed on the lip of an animal, were tried, but proved ineffective.

"The tattoos were destroyed by growth and coloration and were sometimes obscured by growths inside of the lip," explained Kenneth Chambers, brand inspector for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. "All-in-all the tattoo wasn't the answer to rustling."

Today modern technology may have come up with the ultimate

weapon against the rewrite rustler, a tiny microchip which can be placed just about anywhere. But it may be a case of too much too late.

"Microchip branding is just too expensive for range cattle," said Chambers.

Microchips have been successfully used to mark more expensive livestock, such as ostriches, but are apparently no longer needed for cattle.

"I've been inspecting brands for 20 years and I've only come upon one case of a changed brand," said Chambers. "Rustling is still a big problem, but rustlers today don't bother to change the brands. They just load them up in a truck and haul them off."

It seems the rewrite rustler has gone the way of the unfenced ranges and the cattle drive and is now just one more part of the history and legend of the Panhandle.

*Hang Your Hat For Awhile at*

**SAINTS ROOST MUSEUM**  **Clarendon, Texas**

**Free Admission**

---

Open Afternoons Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
Special Tours Available - Watch for July 4 Action

---

Call 874-2546 • 874-3839 or 874-3517

## Enjoy A Special Experience With A Southwestern Flair - In Canyon, Texas!

C

In the midst of many popular attractions, you'll find specialty shops, art galleries, and great food.

**Spanish Skirts on the Square**  
404 15th St.  
Fine Art, Weaving and Decorative Art.  
Rugs and Vests.

**Canyon Grill**  
419 16th St.  
Fine Food,  
Fresh Coffee!  
Homemade Desserts

**Books & Saddles**  
1408 4th Ave.  
Bronzes, wood carvings  
Western oils,  
Old West books,  
Custom-made Saddles.

**Thompson's China and Gift Shop**  
405 16th St.  
Texas souvenirs, fine collectibles, Hallmark Cards & accessories

**Country Friends Crafts**  
1509 4th Ave.  
Handcrafted Southwest Jewelry, Pottery, Texas T-shirts & Wall Plaques

**Cowboy Cafe**  
Come on in for all the fixin's!  
Home-Style Cooking,  
1410 Hereford Hwy.  
(next to 57 ft. Cowboy)

CANYON

# Hobart Left Holding Reins Of JA

Most of Timothy Dwight Hobart's life was spent settling West Texas, especially the Panhandle. As a representative of land companies who owned large parcels of property, he broke these plots into smaller farms that average settlers could afford.

These efforts helped lead to the end of the era of huge ranches. The last years of his life were dedicated to dissolving the vast JA Ranch. It was a trying task that was never completed.

Anyone involved in agriculture knows the frustration of coping with forces beyond their control. Mother Nature and market prices can negate the best plans and efforts of farmers and ranchers. Hobart faced these same forces as co-executor of Cornelia Adair's estate.

He had been manager of Adair's JA ranch for six profitable years before she died. The ranch was composed of 550,000 acres, 25,000 head of cattle, about 400 horses and 38 employees.

Along with Dallas lawyer Henry Coke, Hobart assumed total responsibility for the liquidation of the estate. Their authority was clear, Adair's will said they "shall in all respects ... manage and deal with all the property ... as if they were absolute owners thereof."

Since the ranch was founded in 1876 it had been successful, so Adair could not have known the difficulty Hobart and Coke would face in their role as executors. She stated in her will that the ranch was not to be sold until "the Executors think they are getting a satisfactory price for it." At the time of her death British and American governments demanded \$1.5 million in estate taxes, and drought and a worldwide economic collapse loomed. These factors combined to make her wishes almost impossible to fulfill.

Even before the hard times began, Hobart wrote to his associate Coke, "We are both of us too old to have this thing indefinitely hanging over our heads." The year was 1923 and Hobart was 68 years old.

Hundreds of prospective buyers came to view the JA but none ever consummated a deal.

After several dry years and bad cattle prices, the executors proposed selling some land and all the cattle to pay the taxes and to make the ranch less expensive to run. However, the Public Trustee in England opposed selling part of the ranch and leasing the pastures to others.

The spring of 1929 had been wetter than usual, leading Hobart and Coke to believe that the trustee had caused them to miss an opportunity to move closer to settling the estate. October of 1929 would prove them correct.

By 1930 cattle prices had fallen 30-50 percent and a five-year drought had begun. In 1932 Coke died, leaving the burden of the estate on Hobart's shoulders.

The strain of dealing with the JA moved Hobart to write in 1933 that "I have often felt like shrinking from the responsibility but I do not recall that I have ever run from it, hence, I reckon I am too old to begin now."

Struggling against the uncontrollable weather and global economic depression, the lone executor sank deeper into despair. Early in 1935 he wrote, "the little grass that is left is completely saturated with dust and some of the cattle are dying as a result of it."

A few months later, approaching the age of 80, Hobart died, his task unfinished. The JA passed into the hands of Adair's British relatives and remains the property of Montgomery Ritchie, her grandson.

**Oneta Sanders Real Estate**  
 House, Farms &  
 Commercial Buildings  
 874-2533 • Clarendon • 720 S. McClelland

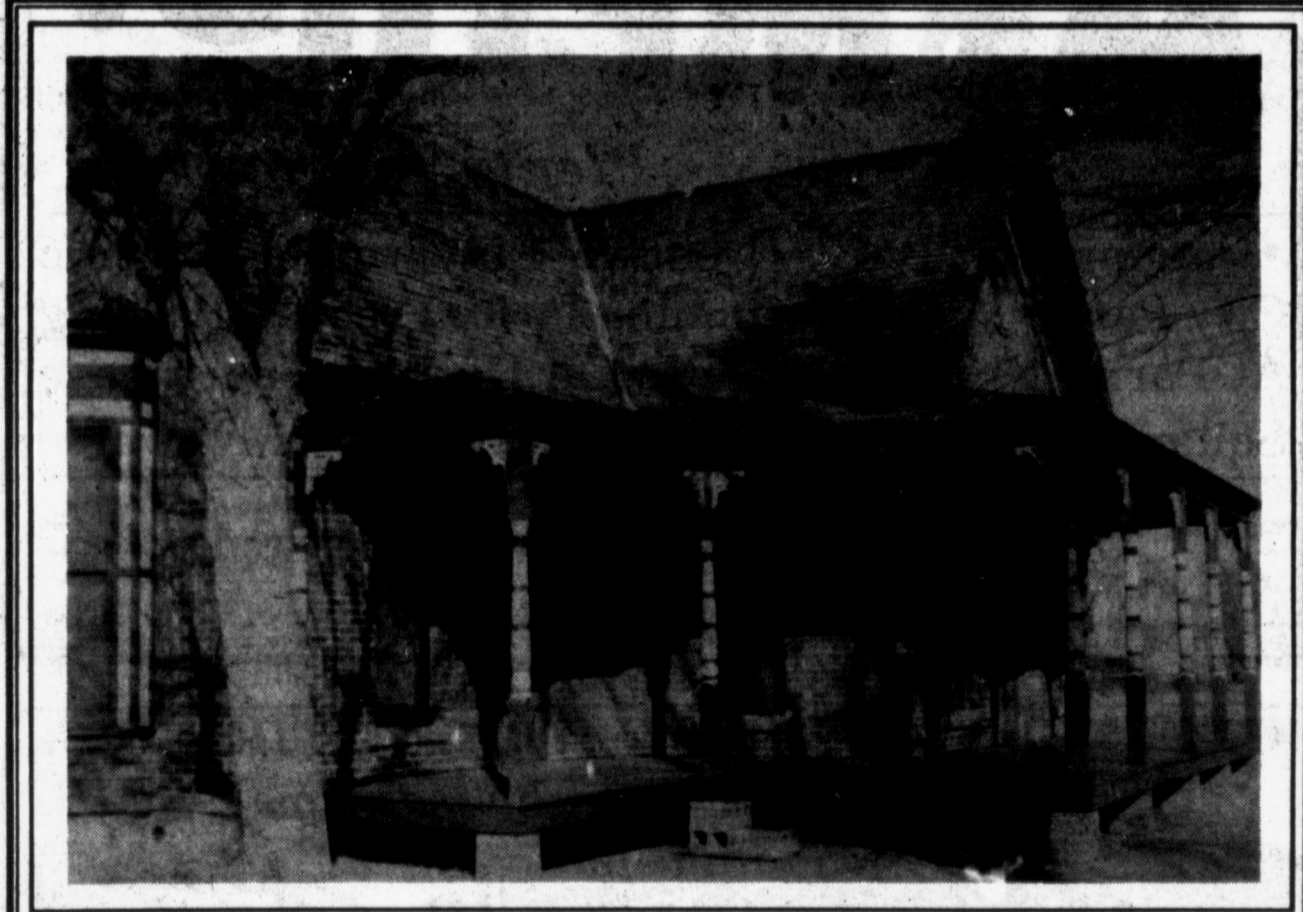
**Childress Heritage Museum**  
**The Past Never Grows Old**

All visitors Welcome!  
 Open 9-5, Mon. -Fri.

Will open Saturdays for special tours.

210 3rd St. NW • Childress • 817-937-2261

If you're in Childress mid-July, Join the Fun when the King & Queen of the Old Settlers' Reunion are crowned at our museum!

It was love at first sight and has become a labor of love. That is the way Patricia Kirkemide talks about the XIT General Office Building in Channing. Her husband, Bill, bought the abandoned building and the couple are in the process of restoring it as nearly as possible to its original state. Bill, a Tennessee veterinarian who once worked for the Matador Ranch, purchased a retirement home in Channing ten years ago. Shortly thereafter the couple bought the XIT building and started restoration work. It's an on-going and slow-going project, according to Mrs. Kirkemide. There is no grant money and things are being done when they can be worked into the budget and the weather allows. Patricia does the research for the restoration and has even found an error in the date on the historical marker at the site. "I've been through a lot of records and am pretty familiar with the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon," Mrs. Kirkemide said. She also acts as historian for Hartley County. Mrs. Kirkemide believes that the Victorian style building may be the last surviving XIT structure and is working to get the historical marker error corrected.

**THE ORIGINAL**



**Cowboy Morning**  
**Figure 3 Ranch -- Palo Duro Canyon**

Tom and Anne Christian are waiting to show you the beauty of their ranch, where their family has been making folks feel welcome since 1903. And their crew might even show you some of the skills that made cowboys famous ... right after breakfast .... Chow Time!



**HOW TO GET THERE**



Ride in a horse-drawn wagon to our campsite on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon. Breathtaking scenery will be revealed. Experience The Best of the West! The aroma of mesquite campfire coffee, fresh Panhandle eggs and sausage, sourdough biscuits & gravy will lead you to our famous chuckwagon breakfast!

OPEN APRIL TO OCTOBER (DAILY FROM JUNE THROUGH AUGUST).  
 BY RESERVATION ONLY 1-800-658-2613 or 1-806-944-5562  
 OR WRITE: COWBOY MORNING (Since 1981), Route 1, Box 69,  
 Claude, Texas 79019-9712  
 Adult \$19, Children \$14.50 age 4 to 12, free under 4 years.

# The Good And The Bad - Hair Triggers On The Frontier

By Bill Russell

Today a trip through the Texas Panhandle may seem like an easy journey over well maintained roads and highways through rural counties and peaceful towns. But as the quiet miles roll by and the panorama of the Plains delight the eye, the traveler should understand that traversing the Panhandle was a much different proposition in the past.

If that traveler listens carefully and uses only a little imagination, those peaceful counties and quiet towns come alive, alive with the roar of gunfire and the sibilant whisper of foul deeds.

## A "Bat" For Masterson

Young William Barclay Masterson came to the Panhandle for adventure and hooked up with a buffalo hunting outfit as a skinner just in time to participate in the opening round of the Red River War. At the age of 18 he was at the battle of Adobe Walls in Hutchinson County.

After the big-gunned hunters drove off the Kiowa-Comanche war party Masterson gave up the life of a buffalo skinner and moved into Mobeetie adjacent to Fort Elliott. The brash youngster convinced the city founders that he was a civil engineer and surveyor. The town was just forming in 1856 and someone was needed to survey and lay out town lots.

Masterson began plotting the town with more enthusiasm than skill (they still argue over boundary lines around Mobeetie) and took up with a young saloon girl named Molly Brennan. Ms. Brennan had cast off the town bully, an army deserter named "Sergeant" King to take up with Masterson. One night King took exception to the new arrangement and pulled a gun. In the best western dime novel tradition Molly threw herself in front of her young lover and took a bullet in the abdomen ending her life. The same bullet hit Masterson in the groin, laming him for life.

As he fell, reportedly with Molly in his arms, he triggered off a shot that concluded King's brief career as a gunfighter and bully.

Masterson, who had fought off the Indians at Adobe Walls and killed the town bully, became a folk hero in Mobeetie. He was nursed back to health by an admiring citizenry who forgave him his poor surveying job in the bargain.

But Masterson was forced to use a cane for the rest of his life, a cane which he wielded like a "bat" to quell disturbances later in the tough towns of Tascosa, Dodge City, Kansas and Tombstone, Arizona.

William Barclay Masterson gained his fame as a tamer of frontier towns, but he got his "bat" in the Panhandle.

## Poison For A Prosecutor

Gunfire was not the only method used to settle scores in the Panhandle of old. When "Deacon" Jim Miller rode into Memphis in Hall County in 1899 he brought along a bottle of arsenic as well as his deadly shotgun. Miller was already suspected of being a hired killer and playing fast and loose with other people's livestock. Yet the people of Memphis didn't delve too deeply into anyone's past in those days, and Miller was made to feel welcome. He was even given a part-time job as deputy sheriff and purchased an interest in the Memphis Hotel.

Miller was a charmer, well spoken and polite who did not smoke, chew, drink, or use profane language. He always wore a black frock coat and never missed a church service or revival meeting. However, his faults seemed to be that he killed people for money, usually using a shotgun, and rustled cattle and horses between murder contracts. Although it was never proven, Miller is widely believed to be the man who shot and killed Pat Garrett (who brought down Billy the Kid) during an ambush in New Mexico.

While the chilling Mr. Miller

resided in Memphis, cattle and horses began to disappear from nearby ranches with startling regularity. Despite long searches and exhaustive investigations, Deputy Miller was never able to get a line on the culprits.

Later, another deputy confessed that he and Miller were part of a group of rustlers stealing cattle and horses and driving them to Mexico for sale.

When this came to light Miller left town, but before he departed it seems he made sure one prosecuting attorney would not continue to investigate a murder Miller was suspected of in south Texas.

The unwary prosecutor made the mistake of putting up at the hotel partially owned by Miller. Following a hearty dinner the lawman took sick and died. The coroner at first ruled death by natural causes, but after Miller left town that diagnosis was changed to arsenic poisoning.

Miller had been seen in the kitchen of the hotel while the dead man's dinner was being prepared, but he was never charged in the

case. Miller received his just desserts however. In 1909 he was lynched from the rafters of a barn in Ada, Oklahoma after being implicated in another shotgun killing.

## The Kid Loses A Shootout

In 1879 Tascosa was the toughest town in the Panhandle, but changes were in the wind.

A still limping Bat Masterson was hired on as sheriff and a new district attorney was appointed for the 25 northernmost counties of the Panhandle. The new D.A. was Temple Lea Houston, the youngest son of Sam Houston, one of the

founders of Texas.

The handsome Houston was probably the most underrated gunfighter of the Old West. He was reputed to be lightning fast on the draw and amazingly accurate when he pulled the trigger. He had come out on top of several gunfights although he was only 19 when he took the post of district attorney.

One of the largest stumbling blocks to the imposition of law and order in Old Tascosa was none other than William Bonney, Billy the Kid.

In Our next issue look for more on The Kid and other local gunmen.


*White Deer Land Museum*  
In Pampa, Texas

Restored Land Office Building

Tours: Tuesday-Sunday  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- over 22 rooms •
- Elevator •

116 S. Cuyler • Pampa, TX



VISIT

MEMPHIS!

We've Got  
Plenty To Show You

---

•Community Built Creative Playground •Scenic City Park •Public Swimming Pool •Free RV Parking At Park •Numerous Shops On Historic Courthouse Square (2 blocks South of Highway 287) •Museum

---

★ "Old-Fashioned" 4th of July Festival With Fireworks ★

This invitation brought to you by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce

Don's Place

THE MARINA

On Lake Greenbelt

Lake permits • State Fishing License  
Bait • Groceries • Fishing Tackle  
Ice • Gasoline • Boat Motor Oil  
Dry Storage and Wet Boat Slips

Just follow the Boat Ramp signs from Hwy 70 N, (4 miles north of Clarendon).  
We're at the South Boat Ramp (806) 874-5111

GREENBELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Serving your Electrical Needs Now  
and the future  
in 9 Counties and the City of Howardwick




706 10th Street

For Outages (1-800-527-3082)

Wellington, Texas

(806) 447-2536



# Hidden Treasure Awaits At Ancient Indian Quarries

By Bill Russell

Park Ranger Ed Day is the Ranger in charge of the Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument near Lake Meredith.

He is also a time traveler. He slides back 12,000 years in time as smoothly as a new automobile shifts gears. Ed has no elaborate sci-fi time machine and the Park Service has not mastered the art of Century Shifting. All Ed Day needs to slip into the past is a hammerstone, a deer antler and a chunk of Alibates flint.

In Ed Day's deft hands a hammerstone strike separates a shower of razor sharp shards from the flint mother stone. Ranger Day sorts through the multi-colored flakes of hard, brittle flint with a practiced eye. He selects one that suits his fancy, picks up his antler, and steps back 12 centuries as he begins to create an arrowhead that would have made any Paleo-Indian proud.

"We call these bird points," Day tells those watching as he chips away at a small arrowhead. "But of course they were used to hunt big game, not birds. The small points penetrate best."

Ranger Day is in the past, practicing an ancient art with ancient tools. He has been knapping flint for about 30 years and produces exquisite arrowheads from the multi-hued stone.

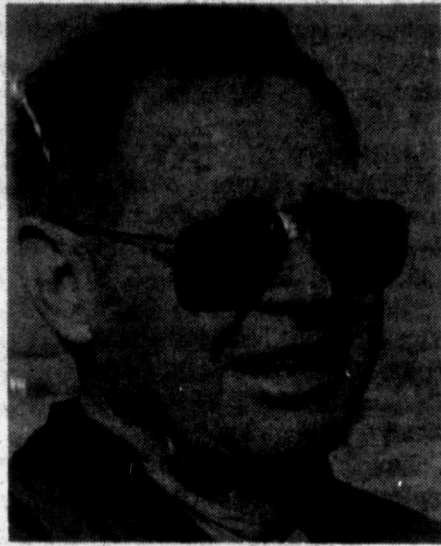
The Alibates National Monument is somewhat like a chunk of its flint. It is a hidden treasure nestled in the flint hills, just waiting to be discovered and waiting to be completely developed. Today there is a small modular building which is supposed to be a visitors center. But there are no graphics, maps or displays. There is one chair that Ed Day claims to have "borrowed" from headquarters and a small three-legged stool he sits on while knapping flint.

There are the flint mines of course and the Ranger will lead parties of visitors up the slopes to view the ancient quarries where Paleo-Indians mined chunks of brightly colored flint and exported it in two-pound size chunks all over the west.

"This was a very important site in the ancient world," Day explains.

Named for an early settler and cowboy who probably knew little geology or archaeology, the Alibates (pronounced AL-uh-bates) quarries were an alfresco hardware supermarket for Paleo-Indian cultures of 12,000 or more years ago. From the distinctive colored flint (or chert) mined here pre-historic craftsman were able to forge the arrowheads, spear points, knives, axes and scrapers vital to survival in a long gone age.

"All those years ago we could kill



Park Ranger Ed Day.

game with our brain," Ed Day explained, using the "we" as if he were back with those early hunters. "We could run animals off a cliff or into a trap. But once we did so, we had to do something with them, and believe me, human teeth and fingernails wouldn't do the job on a tough buffalo hide."

Although the Alibates quarry was commented on by Lt. James W. Abert who mapped the Canadian River area in 1845, it was not until Dr. Charles Gould re-discovered them during a water survey in 1904 and brought them to the attention of

archaeologists that the true significance of the stone workings was fully understood. Soon distinctive Alibates flint artifacts were being identified all over the western United States and northern Mexico, indicating that Alibates stone was prized by cultures who had never seen the High Plains where it was mined.

"The Indians loved things of color and beauty," says Ed Day, displaying some of the gem-like pieces he has crafted. "Flints from this area were important trade items."

But Ranger Day does not obtain the flint he crafts at the National Monument. Instead he prevails upon local ranch owners to provide his raw material.

"I tell them that the flint at the Monument is for all of the people of the country, not just for me," he said. "If every one of us took a little piece from the quarries, pretty soon there wouldn't be anything left."

Day reports that between 2,000 and 3,000 visitors a year drop by his unfurnished visitor's center. In order to get the center completed he needs to attract more visitors, yet to attract more visitors he needs to offer something more than a single



Tools of the time-travel trade. Ed Day uses these antlers and stones to turn Alibates flint into arrowheads during his demonstrations.

ranger working flint with an antler.

"It's a Catch-22 situation for sure," says Day, coming back somewhat reluctantly from his journey into the distant past. "These

quarries were the sharp edge of civilization about 12,000 years ago, but I guess now we are sort of a backwater, too far from the interstate highway."

**The**  
**OASIS**

*Slip On Down And Enjoy Our*  
**Great Dance Floor & Western Music!**  
**Beer, Wine, Setups and Pool Tables!**  
**Near Lake Greenbelt**

7.7 miles north of Clarendon on Hwy 70 • 874-2615

**Comfort, Style, and Affordability**

Free in-room movies      Free Local phone calls

**Hampton Inn**

**Free Continental Breakfast**

1700 I-40 East • Amarillo • (806) 372-1425  
For reservations call 1-800-Hampton

**BEADS READS BEADS**  
**And More Beads!**

Czech Glass Beads  
Seed 10/0 • 11/0 • 12/0 • 13/0  
Pony • Crow • Bugle

African Trade Beads & Much More  
Native Craft Supplies  
Southwest & Native Handcrafted Items  
Jewelry • Watches

*Las* THE BEAD SHOP  
*Cañadas* Next to  
TRADING COMPANY Hastings  
4321 W. 45th, Amarillo, TX 358-0562

**CONTRAST STUDIO**  
"The Natural Difference"

Decorator Services, Cow Hide Rugs

Select Style Woodtone, Fabric & Tile

5 Piece Dining Room Set  
Also Available in 7 Piece Set

**Southwest Furniture & Accessories**  
Quality < Craftmanship > Custom Designed

**VISIT OUR SHOWROOM**  
Downtown • 118-B West 6th • Amarillo  
Carol Manning-Potts (806) 379-6858 Ray Potts

# Area Museums Paint Heritage Of Sweeping Plains

## AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE HERITAGE CENTER MUSEUM -

Amarillo: 2601 Interstate 40 East at Quarterhorse Drive. The complete and 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 rattlesnake 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 WTSU 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 2-6 p.m. (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** - Dimmit: 404 West Halsel 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 XII MUSEUM** - Dalhart: 108 E. 5th St. Houses a fine collection focusing on 3-million-acre XII 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.

**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. (806) 868-3291.

**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) 826-3289.

**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.



Ceramics, Porcelain Dolls, Texana Gifts, Dolls, China, and Old World Santas

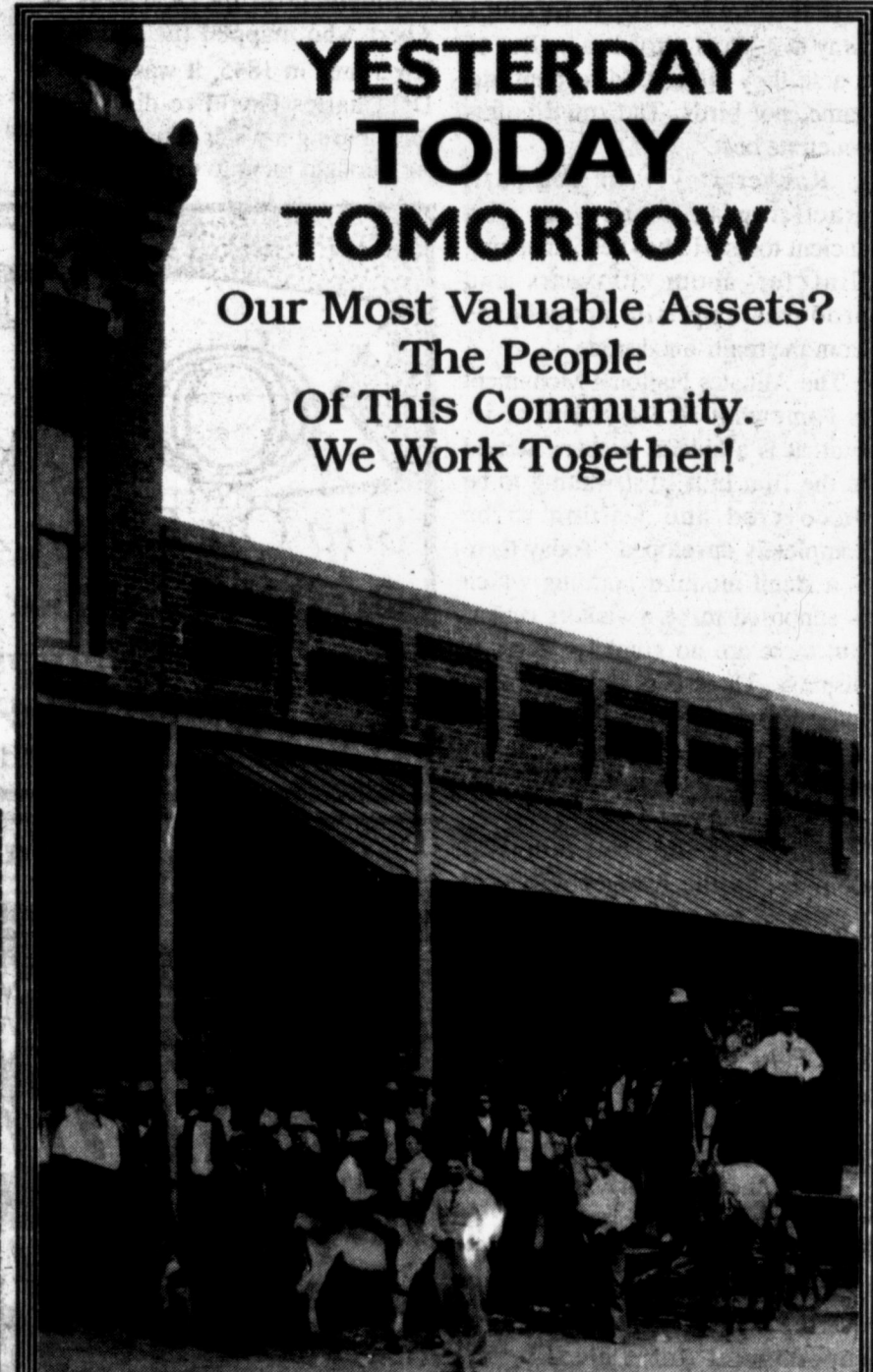
## Two J's China and Gifts

Open 10 - 6 Tuesday-Saturday

219 Main St. • Turkey, Texas • (806) 423-1340

## YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW

Our Most Valuable Assets?  
The People  
Of This Community.  
We Work Together!



Clarendon, 1906, Photo Courtesy Saints Roost Museum.

## First Bank & Trust

Clarendon • Member FDIC

★ *Where the Stars Come Out to Play* ★

## CAPROCK JAMBOREE

*Great Entertainment for the whole family!*

★ **LIVE WESTERN MUSIC** ★

*Performed by musicians from across the Southwest*

FREE admission \* Mesquite-grilled hamburgers available from 6:00 p.m. \* SHOW at 7:00 p.m.  
First Saturday Night of Every Month

Briscoe County Show Barn, Silverton, Texas  
For booking bands, call (806) 823-2524

# "Town Without A Toothache" Made Big Headlines

By Bill Russell

The report from the dentist about cavities in Hereford made quite a splash when it came out in *Colliers Magazine* in 1942, and catapulted the county seat of Deaf Smith County into the national limelight. But only for a while.

What had promised to bring an end to dental decay in America only succeeded in giving Hereford a nickname that still sticks and adding an interesting footnote to Panhandle history.

"The Town Without a Toothache" was the nickname *Colliers* hung on Hereford when it broke the story of the amazing lack of dental problems there.

"The town may possibly contain the answer to your own dental difficulties!" *Colliers* trumpeted.

Alas, it was not to be.

The entire affair started when Dr. George W. Heard, a 74-year-old dentist who had moved to Hereford from Alabama due to his wife's health, began to notice that Hereford natives had few dental problems, very few dental problems.

Heard was puzzled by this absence of decay and began to question old-time residents. He found that not only did they have few cavities, but area dogs, horses and other animals generally displayed a fine set of teeth at any age.

Finally, a tenacious Dr. Heard convinced the Texas State Dental Officer, Dr. Edward Taylor, to listen to what he was saying. Taylor came to Hereford and did a random study on the teeth of the folks living there.

He drove around to 56 homes, picked at random, and checked the teeth of the people in the homes. The ages ran from 2 to 60-plus. And in the group of 43 people who were native Hereford born he didn't find a single cavity.

Needless to say Dr. Taylor was amazed. He zipped back to Austin, collected his wits and some helpers,

and came back to Hereford to conduct a large scale examination on school children. This survey looked into the mouths of 810 kids and found less than one half DMF (decayed, missing or filled) tooth per child.

"This is the lowest DMF figure ever recorded per child in the civilized world," Dr. Taylor wrote. "Elsewhere the figure is from 5 to 10 per child."

During this study another surprising fact surfaced. It appeared there was less decay in Hereford natives than in newcomers to the city.

So the indefatigable Dr. Taylor, with the spy Dr. Heard at his side, took another long look into people's mouths. This time newcomers to Deaf Smith County were targeted, and it was found that those recent arrivals showed evidence of old decay, but the process had stopped!

Study followed study and it was discovered that the farther away from Hereford one lived, the more prone one was to tooth decay.

It was astounding, but why was it true?

The two doctors and an ever increasing number of scientists began looking for answers to that question. Fluoride was investigated, but Gatesville in the center of the state had exactly the same amount of Fluoride in its water as Hereford, and although the decay rate in that city was low, it was still far above the rate in Hereford.

Chemists at Texas Technological College gathered field samples of meat, milk, wheat, vegetables and fruit grown in Deaf Smith County and although they found it very high in phosphorus content, everyone was unwilling to attribute this single fact to the defeat of tooth decay.

Unable to pinpoint the cause and therefore replicate those conditions, the dental world began to forget about Hereford and the near-perfect molars and bicuspid to be found

there. Dr. Heard published a slim book in 1952 entitled *Man vs Toothache* in which he attributed the Hereford phenomenon to the mineral rich soil and the consumption of home grown raw vegetables and fruits.

"Any town can be a town without a toothache if people choose it," wrote Dr. Heard. "Popular foods served today are disease creating."

In the book Dr. Heard immortalized numerous Hereford natives with photographs of their teeth. Ironically, Dr. Heard was especially harsh on sugar and red meat, just as a burgeoning beet sugar industry was building in the area which had always been a cattle raising and fattening Mecca.

Despite the lack of scientific evidence confirming local water as

the reason for Hereford's phenomenal lack of dental decay, Theodora Lynch, wife of eccentric millionaire J. Paul Getty was convinced.

In 1950 the Getty's purchased a parcel of land just outside of town near a railroad siding and drilled a water well. Soon special tank cars filled with Hereford water were rattling along the tracks bound for New York and California. The liquid consignments were delivered to friends and acquaintances of the Getty family.

No reports of a sudden drop in cavities on the east and west coasts were ever received back in Hereford, but the land near the tracks is still owned by the Getty family despite attempts by the city to buy it

Today the good teeth of Hereford are commemorated by a Historical Plaque in the center of town inscribed with the nickname. No dental studies are currently being conducted and the telephone book lists six dentists with offices in the city.

If the water, vegetables and grain of Deaf Smith County did hold the secret to stopping dental decay, science could not unlock the secret. If the people of Hereford still have fewer cavities than the rest of the civilized world, they aren't saying much about it. But then, nobody is asking.

That could, however, be one of the reasons for the number of bright smiles with which a visitor is greeted to the "Town Without A Toothache."

## The Main Place For Antiques & Collectibles? America's Main Street!



Find a vast array  
of curiosities and gifts  
in Amarillo at these shops  
along 6th Street.  
(A segment of Route 66)

*Carousel*  
**Antiques**  
& Collectibles  
2806 W. 6th • Reva Venable

*Puckett*  
**Antiques and Collectibles**  
Gifts for Everyone! Crystal, Silver,  
Old & New China and Furniture  
2706 W. 6th • 372-3075 or 376-6575

**CLAY AND COMPANY**  
**A.N.T.I.Q.U.E.S**  
Decorative Objects,  
Accessories and Antiques  
604 S. Maryland • 371-7274

**Wilson Electric Co. Inc.**  
Lamps • Shades • Parts • Supplies •  
Repairs  
*We have it all!*  
2920 W. 6th • 372-3451

**DENNIS the Price Menace**  
**LIQUOR - BEER - WINE**  
Your choice-anytime-cheap price  
6th at Georgia

**Time and Again**  
Antiquarian Book Shop  
Old, Rare, Used, Out-of-Print Books  
Hardback Books Only  
3207 W. 6th • 371-0271

Pat Judkins welcomes you to  
**People's Pawn**  
Buy • Sell • Trade  
3303 W. 6th

**Delightful Treasures**  
Thousands of collector Dolls & Toys,  
old & new. Visit our charming museum!  
3306 W. 6th • 379-7107

*Treat the whole family!*

**Luby's**

*Good food  
from good people.*

Two Convenient Amarillo Locations:

2101 S. Coulter  
(I-40 W. at Coulter)  
(Summer Hours):  
10:45 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
(806) 358-6886

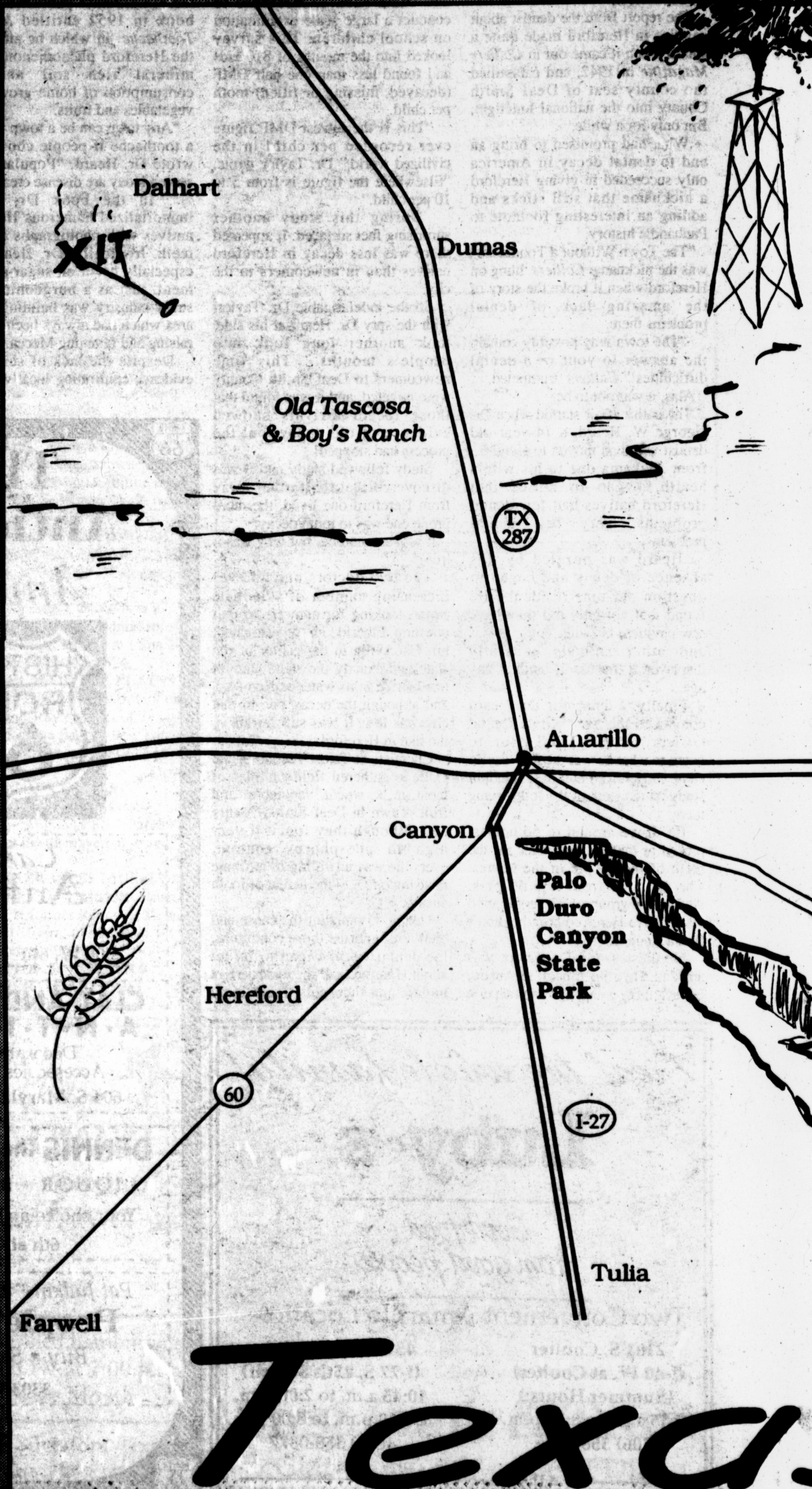
4530 Canyon Drive  
(I-27 S, 45th St. exit)  
10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
& 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
(806) 358-0877

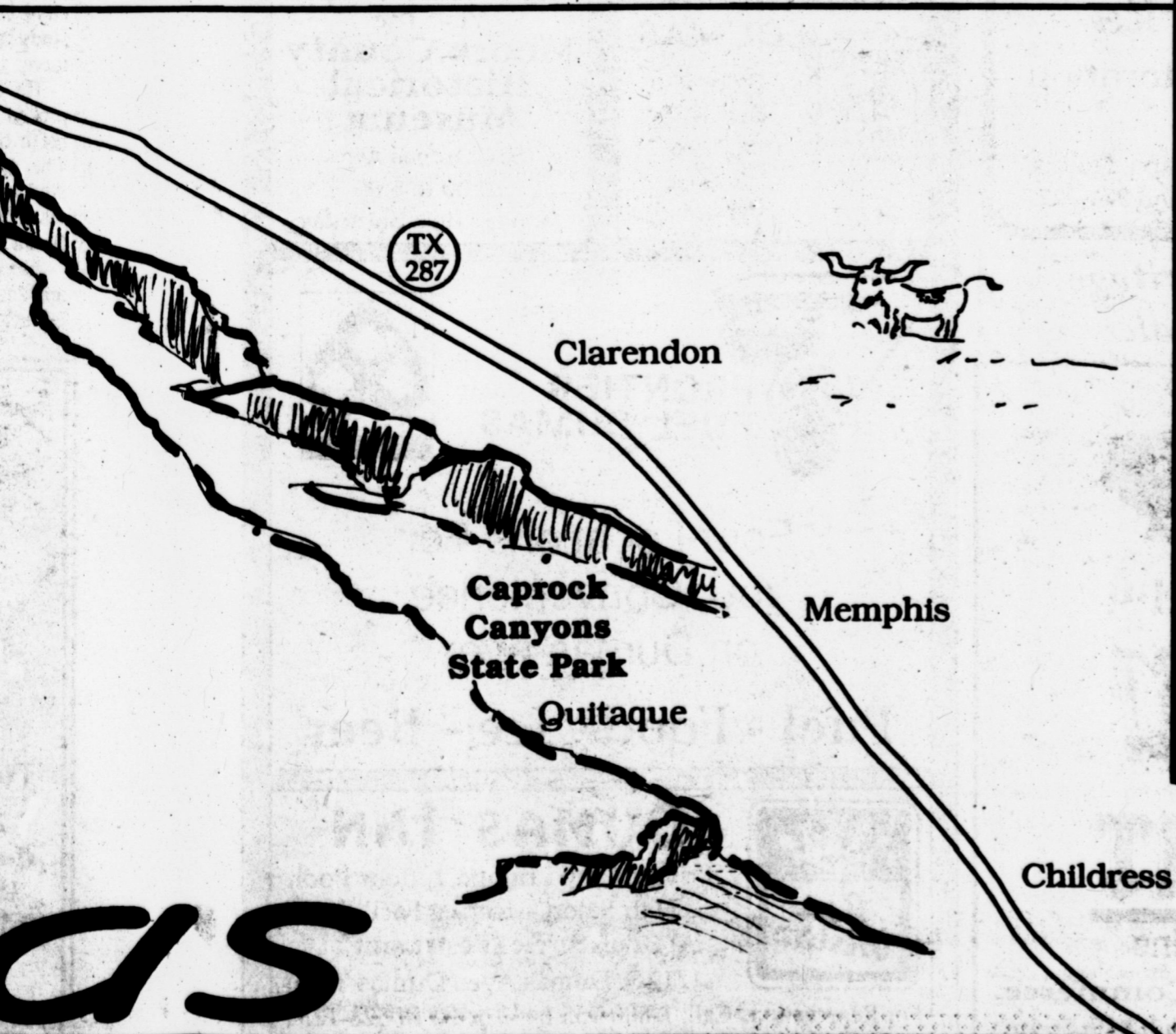
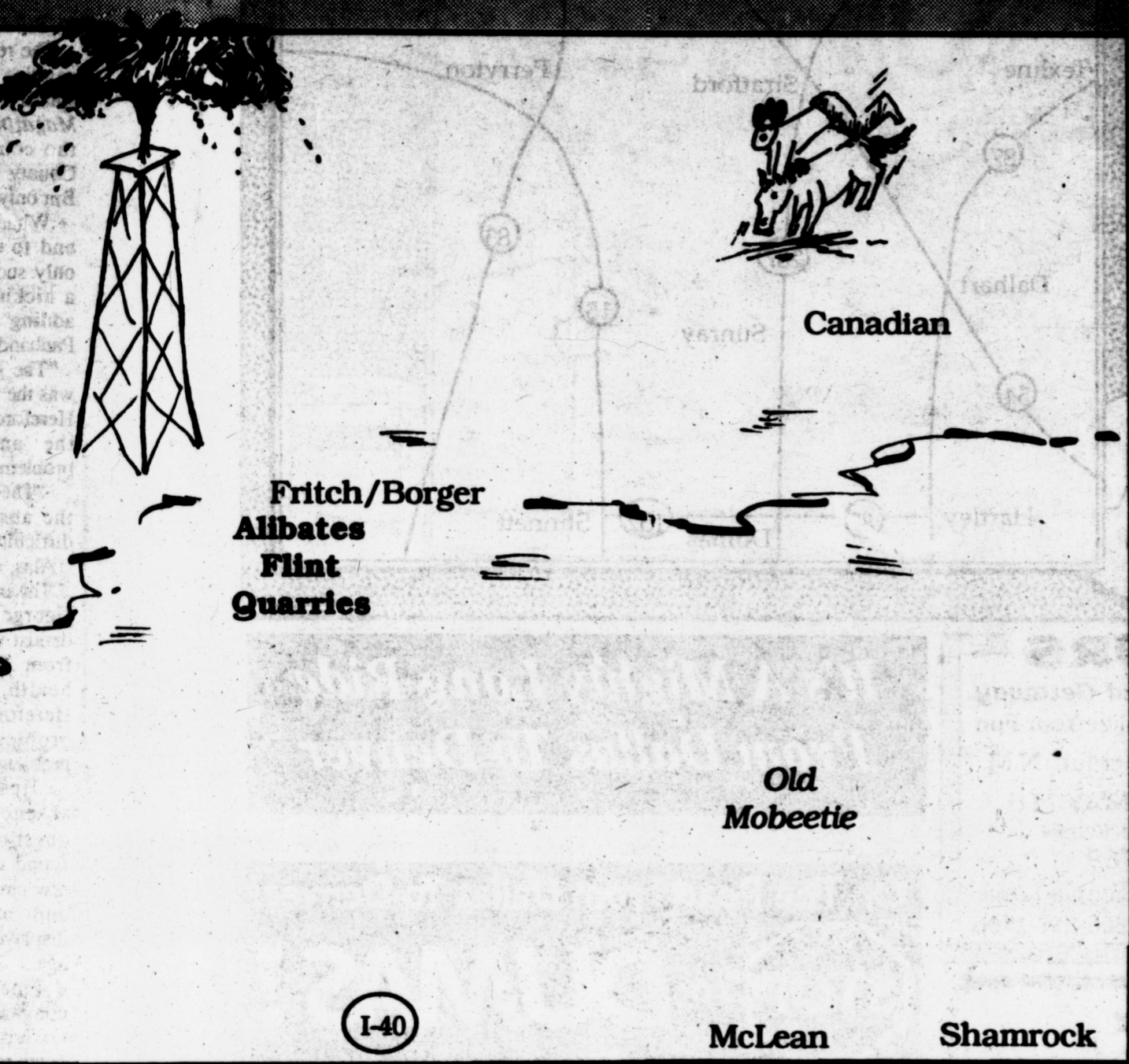
All Buses Welcome!

**Amarillo, Texas**

W  
E  
L  
C  
O  
M  
E

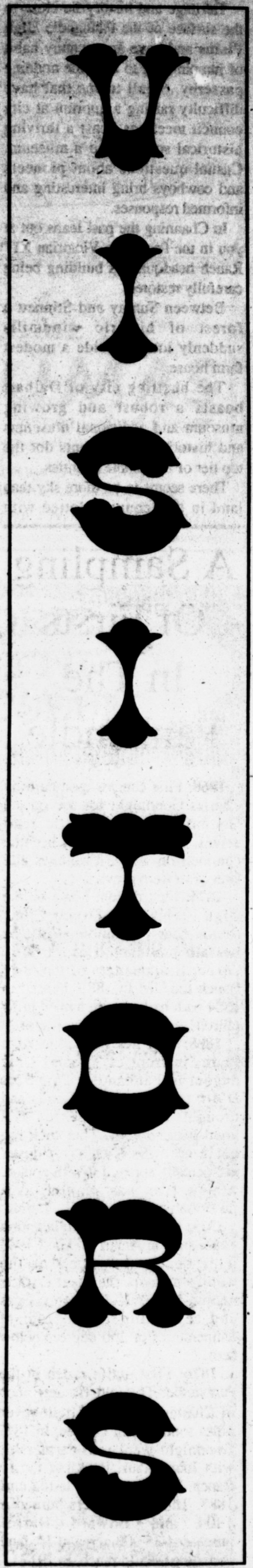
New Mexico





For More  
Detail  
See Next  
Four Pages

Oklahoma



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 XIX 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

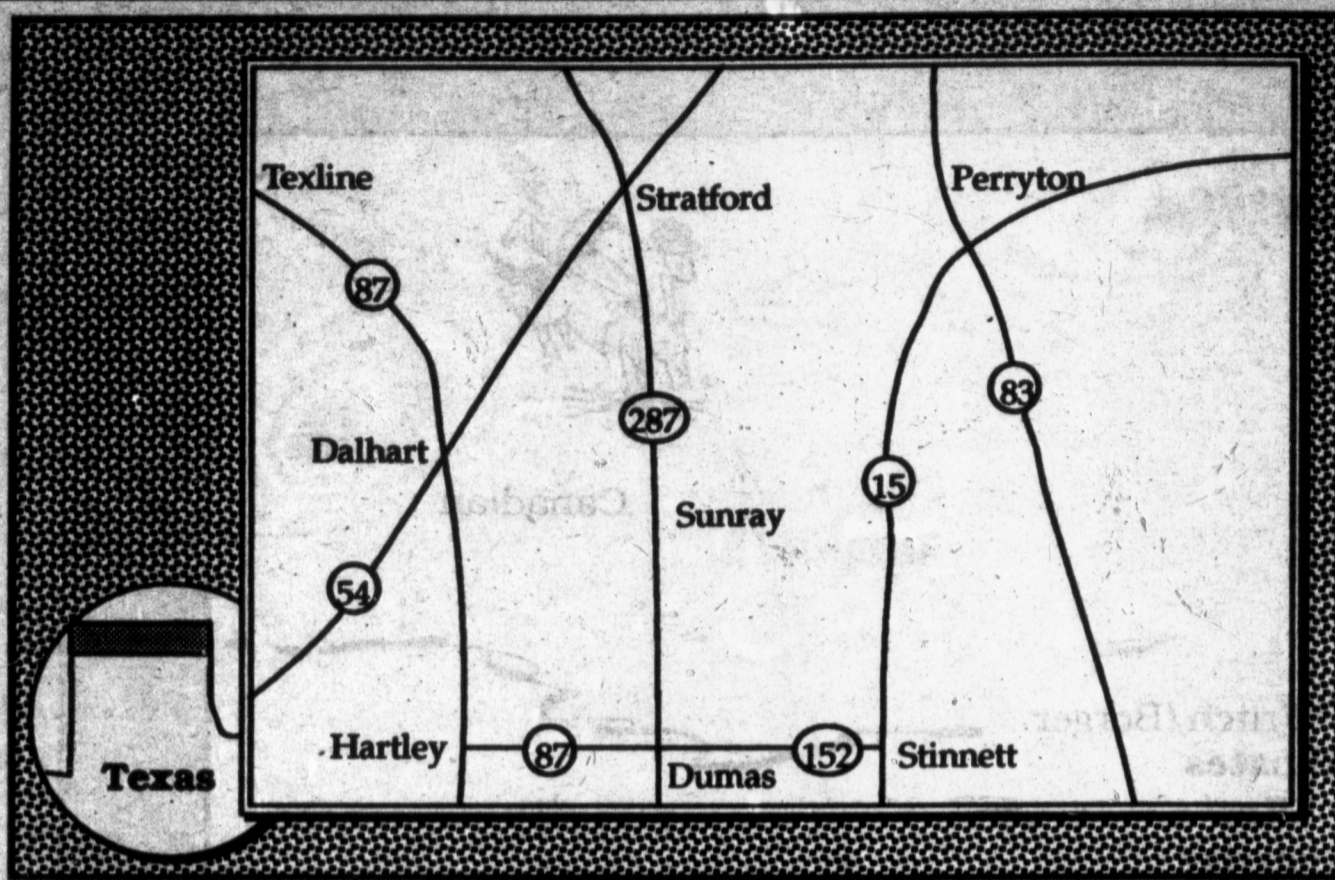
playa lakes and nodding pump jacks bringing oil to the surface.

"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, laid down roots 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?"

What more indeed?



## A Sampling Of Firsts In The Panhandle

1868: First chuckwagon built by Charles Goodnight for use on the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail drives. The chuckwagon became common on western ranches and later in western movies.

1874: First dugout home on the High Plains. The Dixon Creek Ranch near Panhandle. Built by buffalo hunter and scout Billy Dixon. Headquarters of the 6666 Ranch founded in 1882. Fenced in 1884 with barbed wire hauled in by railroad from Dodge City, Kansas.

1888: First tree planted in High Plains in front of Thomas Cree dugout in Panhandle. This *Bois D'Arc* tree survived blizzards and droughts and was regarded as a good luck symbol. That luck ran out in the 1970s when a crop duster accidentally sprayed it with poison. A new tree was planted as a memorial in 1990.

1929: First helium plant in nation established in Amarillo. Until 1943 it produced almost all of the world's helium. The plant extracts helium by liquifying natural gas and separating the helium at temperatures of 300 degrees below zero.

1876: First major ranch in the Panhandle. The Old Home Ranch of Charles Goodnight built seven miles southeast of Claude. In 1877 Goodnight went into partnership with John Adair, founding the JA Ranch. The partnership lasted until 1887. The headquarters burned in 1904 and Edward Harrell purchased 35,000 acres of JA land, including the old ranch, in 1917.

1874: First town in the Panhandle, Mobeetie, originally a trading post.

### VIP FUN TOURS

Let Us Book Your Next Action Filled Getaway  
Large or Small Groups • V.I.P. Can Personalize Your Fun  
Now Booking to "The Downs" Albuquerque, N.M.



KENTUCKY DERBY MAY 7TH  
Advanced Reservations Required  
1-800-530-4769

Reva Forrest  
806-358-1750

Sylvia Lowe  
806-358-1706

### CLARENDON Wagon Works

Sales & Restoration  
Clarendon, Texas

Jenks Boston  
(806) 874-3678

Larry Helms  
(806) 874-3217

Enjoy The Beauty & Heritage  
Of The Texas Panhandle

Kick up your heels



## DALHART

Where the *best* begins

Dalhart Area Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 967, Dalhart, TX 79022 806-249-5646

It's A Mighty Long Ride  
From Dallas To Denver

On The Road From Dallas To Denver?

STOP In **DUMAS!**



DUMAS

119 W. 17th  
Dumas, TX  
(806) 935-6222  
Toll Free  
1-800-800-8000

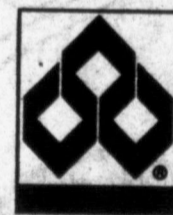


Visit the  
**Moore County  
Historical  
Museum**

810 Dumas Ave.  
10:00 to 5:00  
Monday thru Saturday



FRONTIER  
FUEL-DUMAS



Four Locations For  
Your Convenience  
on Dumas Ave.

Fuel - Food - Ice - Beer

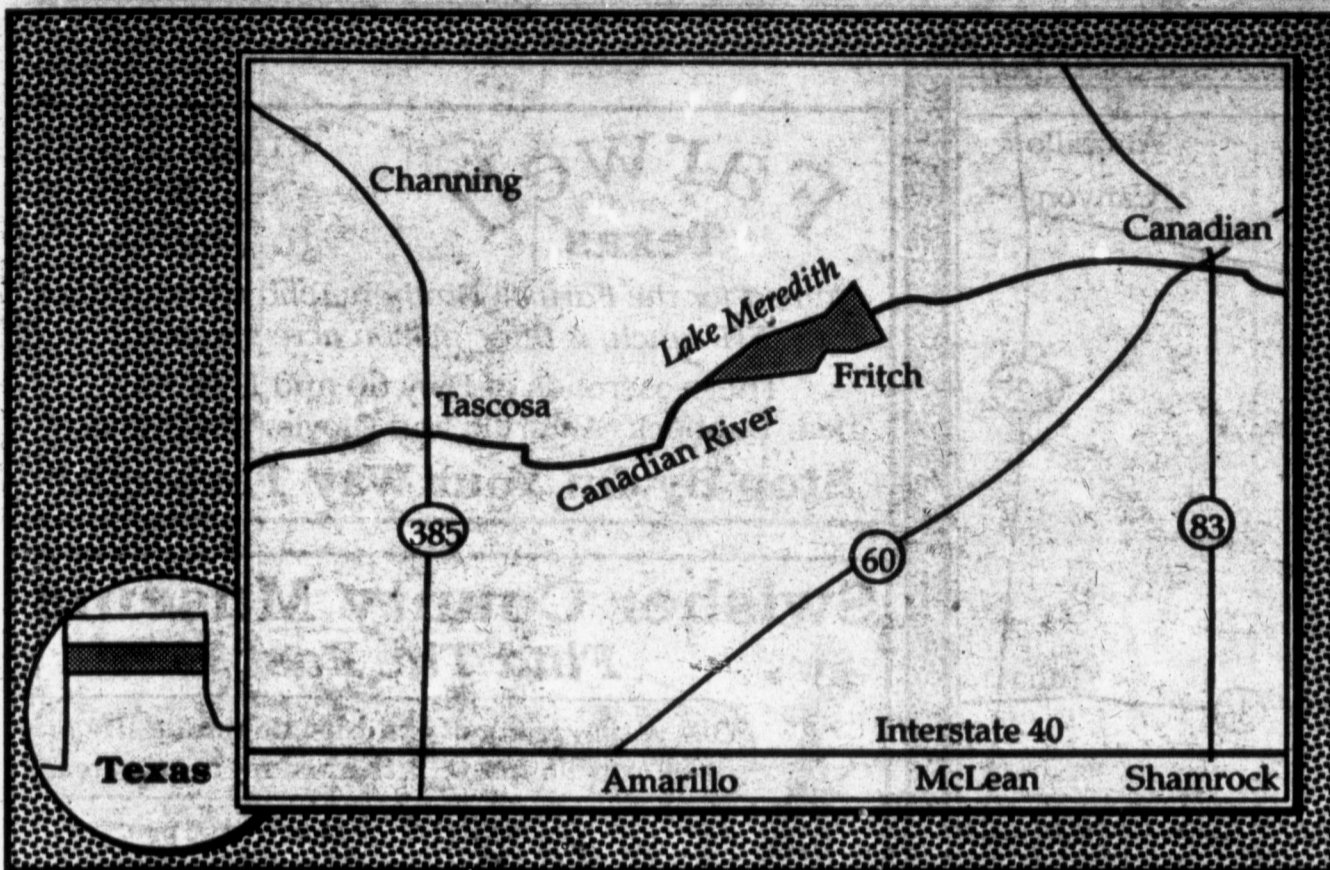


**DUMAS INN**

Private Club Lounge, Indoor Pool,  
Hair Salon, Meeting Facility,  
Full Service Restaurant

1712 S. Dumas Ave., Dumas Texas

For Reservations Call: 1-800-935-6441 or 1-800-528-1234



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 Riverbreaks—from dinosaurs like the one standing on a cliff outside of 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 Quanah Parker. Stands of cottonwoods, 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.

## Right Out Of A John Wayne Movie



G.W. "Cap" Arrington - Photo Courtesy Panhandle - Plains Museum

Cap Arrington was a man for his times when the times called for a man. After action in the Civil War and a shooting scrape in Alabama that led to a brief exile in Honduras and a name change, Arrington came to Texas where he enlisted in the Frontier Battalion in 1875. The battalion fought the Comanche Indians who had an abiding hatred for any and all "Texans."

Arrington battled Indians along the Texas frontier and when the savage tribes had been broken he stayed with the Rangers in cleaning up small pockets of outlaws and renegade Indians who sought refuge in the less settled parts of the state such as the Panhandle.

Arrington retired from the Rangers in 1882 and served as deputy and Sheriff of Wheeler County. In 1887 he was indicted for the murder of an accused cattle thief in Oldham County, but the verdict was "not guilty" after a trial in Clarendon.

Despite his rough and violent life, he found time to raise a family. Many relatives still reside in the Panhandle, including granddaughter Elizabeth Brady of Claude. Brady remembers her grandfather as "very strict" but "very close" to his family.

In later years Cap would visit with Charles Goodnight over cigars and "toddlies." What tales those two must have told.

## MITCHELL'S RESTAURANT



Whether you eat to live, or live to eat  
The food we serve just can't be beat.

Best Chicken Fried Steak, Homemade Pies  
And Rolls In The Texas Panhandle!

Open 7 Days A Week 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
I-40 & Hwy 83 • Shamrock, TX • (806) 256-3424



Welcome To

## DUMAS

Halfway between Dallas & Denver  
400 motel rooms • 25 restaurants

Dumas Dogie Days  
(first weekend in June)

Home of the Ding Dong Daddy

## HISTORIC MOBEETIE JAIL MUSEUM

Wheeler County Heritage Day - June 17 & 18  
(includes a cavalry re-enactment by 4th Cavalry  
Company E, gunfighters from Palo Duro Canyon  
and Bob Izzard among others.)

15th Mobeetie Bluegrass Festival July 22-24  
43rd Old Settler's Reunion - Labor Day

Weekly 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. • Closed Wednesdays  
Special Tours By Appointment  
Admission Free - donations accepted  
Call 1-800-826-3427 or (806) 845-2353



## Fritch !

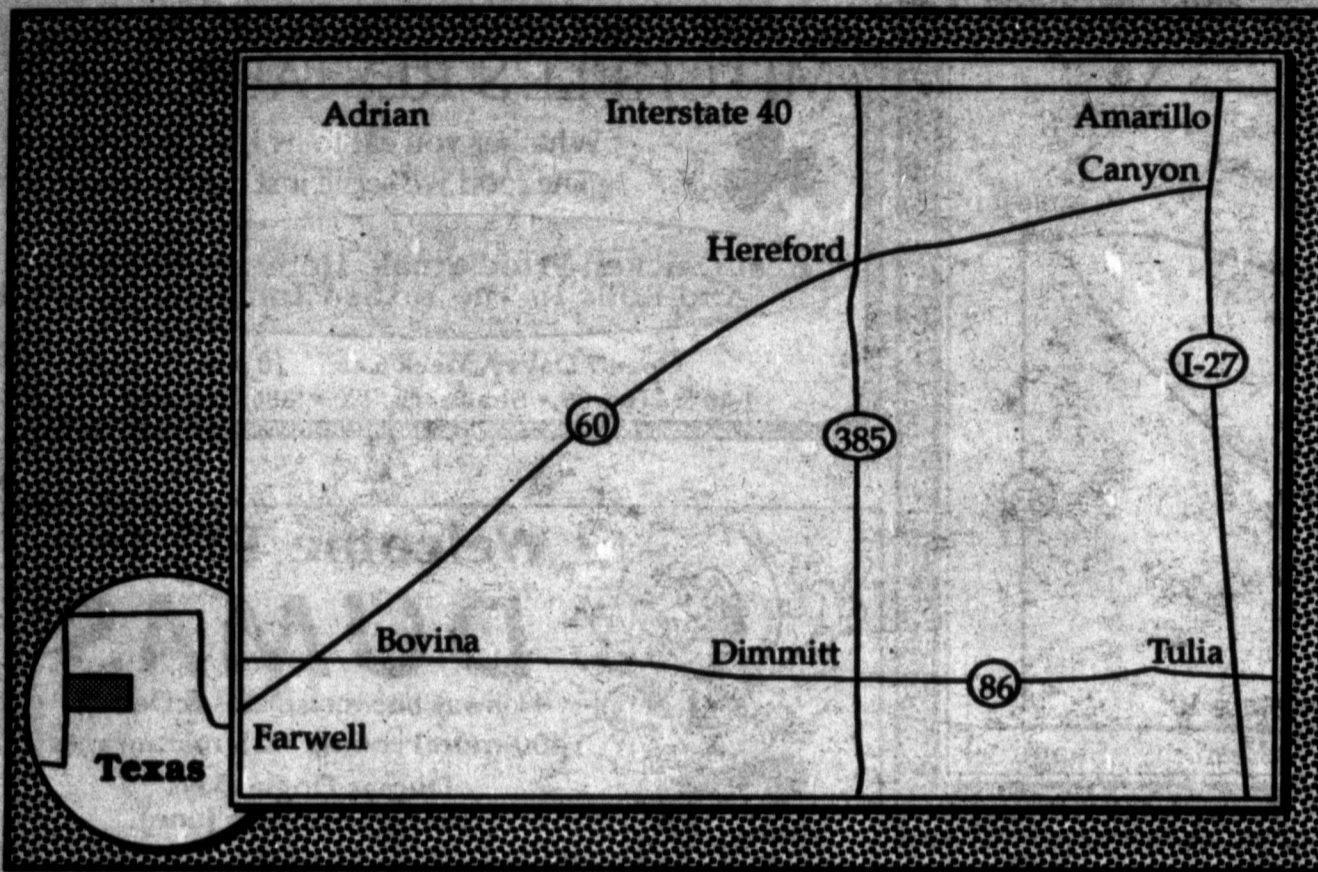
Gateway to recreation  
at Lake Meredith and  
Indian history at  
Alibates Flint Quarries.

We've even tamed the local wildlife.

See our exhibits at the Lake Meredith Aquatic &  
Wildlife Museum including 11,000 gallons  
worth of aquariums and six amazing dioramas  
with animals in their natural habitats.

Just 40 minutes North of Amarillo

For More Information Contact  
Fritch Chamber of Commerce • (806) 857-2458



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.

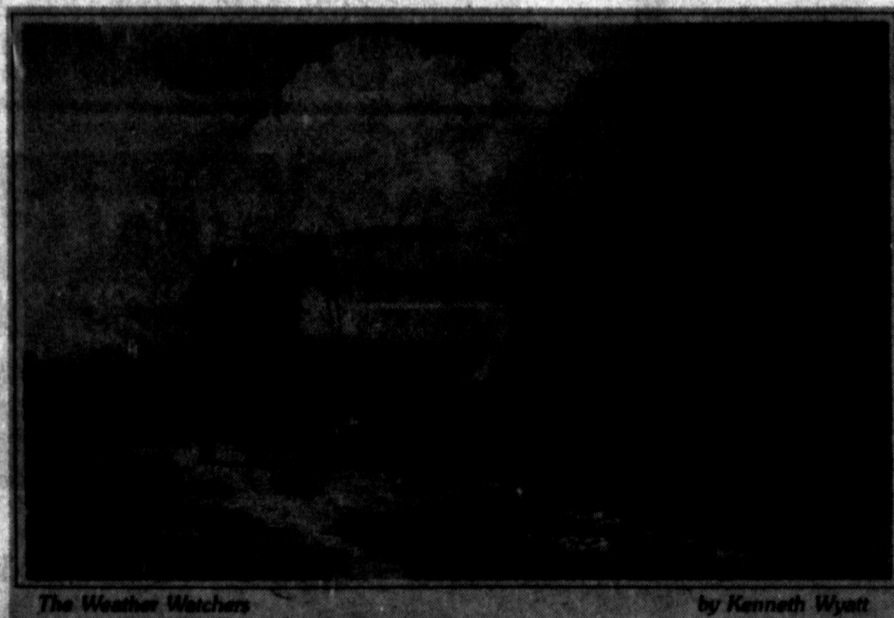
A group of German Catholics found a home for themselves and their religion in Nazareth. The Farwell brothers came from city streets of Chicago to oversee a cattle empire on the empty prairie, and thousands of Italian prisoners of war captured in the North African

fighting of World War II gazed out over South 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.

Visit the gallery/studio of the internationally known artist  
**KENNETH WYATT**



The Weather Watchers

by Kenneth Wyatt

View original paintings, fine art prints, bronze sculptures, collectible pewters, Jewelry, numerous books, note cards, and Christian art.

All by Kenneth Wyatt and available for purchase.

310 Comanche Trail  
Tulia, Texas 79088  
(806) 995-2239

Free Catalog  
Lithographs and Books:  
*The Twelve Apostles* available

## Farwell Texas

From the  
**XIT**  
to Today

Named for the Farwell Brothers who founded the XIT ranch, A three million acre spread.

The crossroads of Hwy 60 and Hwy 84 near Lubbock, Amarillo and Clovis, New Mexico

**Stop By On Your Way Through!**

## Swisher County Museum Find The Past Here



Our wide variety of exhibits, depicting life on the Texas Plains, tells the history of our area.

Open Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Call for appointments for weekend tours  
(806) 995-2819 or 995-4318

127 S.W. 2nd (Hwy 86) • Tulia

You'll have a basket full of fun  
at the Swisher County



# PICNIC!

We welcome everyone to celebrate  
our county's 104th birthday.  
Old-fashioned Texas fun for the family.

July 10  
Steer  
Roping

July 15 & 16  
Rodeo  
& Dance

July 16  
Parade &  
Public Barbecue

For more information call (806) 995-3726 or 995-2296



From  
**Cowpokes**  
To **Oil Folks**

Say You Saw Them At The Museum

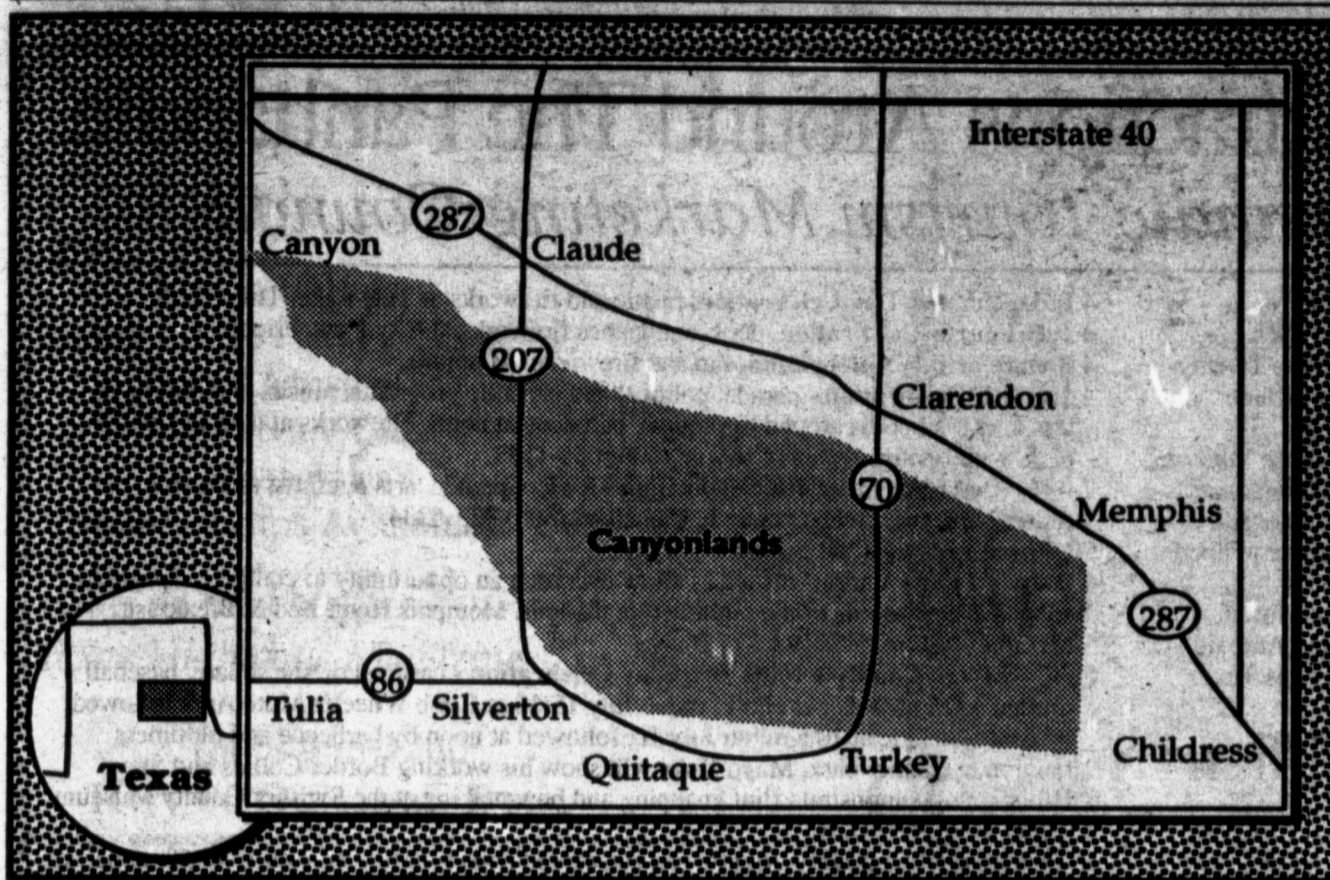
PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Largest Historical Museum in Texas

Located on the campus of  
West Texas A&M University

**CANYON**  
(806) 656-2244





The Panhandle 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 can 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. The view may be nice, but the need to make a living from the land is still an imperative. Once the home of the buffalo and the longhorn, some ranchers in this area are now experimenting with ostriches, emu and llama on ranges once exclusively set aside for cattle.

But while 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.

You can take a hike or you can take a bike or  
**You Can Ride the Doodle Bus  
 on the Caprock Canyon Trailway**  
 Near Quitaque, Texas

A motorized trip into nature and the past 2 hour and  
 4 hour interpretive tours Saturdays & Sunday afternoons.  
**Call (806) 983-3639 for reservations**

**MAGNOLIA Bed & Breakfast**  
 Relax in 19th Century Setting  
 1911 Greek Revival Manor  
 Authentic Mid-Victorian antiques  
 Full Plantation breakfast served  
 600 Ave. D NW • Childress  
 2 blks S. of Post Office on Hwy 287  
**(817) 937-6916**

**Spend a Day In Quitaque!**  
**2nd Annual Trailway  
 Celebration - June 4th**

Experience the beauty and history everyday at  
**Caprock Canyons  
 State Park & Trailway**

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
 OF QUITAQUE** member FDIC

## What About Bob?

Call  
**1-800-657-7110**  
 to order these  
 popular gifts.

Cowboy Poetry and  
 Western Heritage  
 books & tapes  
 also available at  
 Heritage Times gift shop

**Fiddlin' Man**

An hour-long video  
 journey into the  
 world and music of  
**Bob Wills.**  
 Rare film footage  
 and interviews.

# Hotel Turkey

*A country bed & breakfast  
 Turkey, Texas*

Founded 1927 in Turkey, Texas. A historic living museum and  
 Rated in top 10 of best accommodations in Texas Highway Magazine.

Visa, MasterCard, and American Express Welcome

*We're waiting for Your Call*

Give us a ring  
 to reserve your  
 place in history.  
 Built in 1926,  
 our hotel has been  
 restored for  
 your enjoyment.  
**Call (806) 259-2198**

**Historic Memphis Hotel  
 Bed & Breakfast**  
 Conveniently located on Hwy 287 in Memphis, TX

# Selected Events And Attractions Around The Panhandle

## Compiled By The Panhandle Tourism Marketing Council

### APRIL

#### Throughout Month:

"Spring Flowers" Exhibit - Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle. Twenty-eight brilliantly colored paintings by Adrienne Burruss of Amarillo. Media include watercolor, acrylic and pastel.

"Buggy, Wagon and Sleigh Wrenches" Exhibit - Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle. traveling display of handmade wrenches techniques of their manufacture.

"Leatherworking" Exhibit - Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle. A traveling display of tools and equipment for working leather, including a fully equipped cobbler's bench.

"Texas Women: A Celebration of History" - Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle. This traveling exhibit from the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio uses photos, artifacts, diary excerpts and quotations to explore the various roles Texas women have played.

"Daughters of Spider Woman: Navajo Weavings" - Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon.

3 Community Easter Egg Hunt, Tulia.

5-6 Sesame Street Live - At the Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo. (806) 378-4297.

9 Walk the Historic Streets of Canadian - Walk to benefit MS. (806) 323-6234.

10 D.A.T.A. - Sports Card & Toy Tractor Show & Auction, Dimmitt.

16 Archeological Awareness Week Program - featuring lunch and investigation of three sites in Caprock Canyon State Park. Buses available from Canyon or Panhandle. For more information, call (806) 455-1456.

16 St. Jude's Bicycle Race - Fritch, (806) 857-2458.

15-17 Best of Texas Festival - (806) 376-5417.

17 Big Game Awards - Amarillo Civic Center (806) 374-1497.

18-22 Week of the Young Child - Educational activities designed to introduce preschool children to the museum. Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon.

21-22 Lions Club Circus, Community Building, Friona.

23 Taste of Texas Fiesta, Amarillo. (806) 355-9548, ext. 11.

23 Lakeshore Clean-Up - sponsored by the National Park Service at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.

30 Old West Motorcycle Trail Ride & Poker Run - begins in Amarillo at the Radisson Inn to Cowboy Morning for breakfast, tour through Silverton to Caprock Canyons State Park for lunch. Return through Wayside and on to Nance Ranch. Registration fee \$25. Required to raise \$150 in pledges to participate. Proceeds benefit area Special Olympics. Call (806) 358-1985.

30 Bob Wills Day - Parade, arts and crafts show, fiddling contest and dance, Turkey.

### MAY

#### Throughout Month:

May-June Exhibit featuring acrylic paintings of regional history scenes by Borger artist Wally Criswell. Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle.

4-8 Southwest Music Festival - Civic Center, Amarillo.

7 Saddle-Up for St. Jude's - 10-mile trail ride to help support St. Jude's Children's Hospital at the Bar H Dude Ranch, Clarendon. 1-800-627-9871.

14 Small Fry Fishing Tournament - Lake Meredith National Rec. Area, (806) 857-2458.

19-21 Coors Ranch Rodeo - Tri-State Fairgrounds, Amarillo (806) 376-7767.

21 Museum Day - Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon. In celebration of the 17th annual observance of International Museum Day, a variety of activities are planned to emphasize the unique cultural and educational role of the museum.

28-30 Funfest - Thompson Park, Amarillo. Games, prizes, food, entertainment and fun for the entire family.

29-June 3 Cattle Drive - Spend 6 days and 5 nights on the range punching cows the way they did in the old West. Bar H Dude Ranch, Clarendon. 1-800-627-9871.

### JUNE

4 Annual City-Wide Garage Sale Day - Dimmitt, Texas.

4 National Trails Day - Parade, arts & crafts show, antique car show, barn dance featuring top-name entertainer, Quitaque. (806) 455-1456.

4 Quitaque Quest-Caprock Trailways Bike Race - three races set at 5 miles, 18 miles and 40 miles, Quitaque. Wilburn Leeper, (806) 455-1121 for information.

7 Country Caravan - Country music from South Plains College. Barbecue at 7 p.m., show begins at 8:30 p.m. on the east side of the courthouse, Canyon.

9 Bar B Que & Country Caravan - Meal served 6-7 p.m., Donations, \$5.50 adults, \$3.50 children under 12. Free Country Caravan performance (Levelland College) begins at 8:30 p.m. in Conner Park, Tulia, Texas.

9, 16, 23 & 30 Starlight Theater - Sponsored by the Amarillo Parks & Recreation Department. (806) 378-3000 ext. 2300 for details.

11-12 ISRA Steer Tripping - at Wood Memorial Arena in Silverton, on June 11. AB&C Roping. Seniors over 50 roping on June 12. Open Roping, Trophy Saddle to be awarded. (806) 823-2125.

11 Annual Fishing Derby - Southeast Park, Amarillo.

### JULY

#### Throughout July:

July-August "Kiowa Indian Art: Exhibit at the Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle. Prints of 30 watercolor paintings by the famous "Five Kiowa" artists will be exhibited for the first time. The prints were made in France in 1929, and only 750 portfolios were produced.

4 Independence Day Celebration, picnic and fireworks at Tule Lake, Tulia.

4 July Fourth Celebration, cook-out, games fireworks at City Park, Friona.

4 Fourth of July Celebration, fun and fireworks! Memphis.

4 July 4th Celebration - parade, political and patriotic programs, music, entertainment, arts & crafts booths around the square, barbecue at noon. Fireworks at dark in Conner park, with booths in park, Canyon. (806) 655-1183.

2-4 107th Annual July 4th Celebration - Rodeo, parade, arts & crafts, turtle race, old timers barbecue, cowboy church. Canadian, (806) 323-6234.

9 Germanfest Suds 'N' Sound - Nazareth.

9 Bicycle Tour - Various distances allow everyone an opportunity to compete. Spaghetti supper & entertainment the night before the tour. Memphis Hotel Bed & Breakfast, Memphis. (806) 259-2198.

11-17 Swisher County's 100th Birthday Celebration - carnival on the square, baseball tournament in Mackenzie Park; rodeo July 15-16 at Cobb Wheeler Mote Area followed by dance; parade at 10 a.m. on July 16, followed at noon by barbecue and oldtimers reunion at Conner park. Mayo Duke will show his working Border Collies and Steve Hillock will demonstrate flint knapping and bow making at the Swisher County Museum Tulia. (806) 995-3726.

16 Picnic Day Breakfast - All you can eat, served from 6-8:30 a.m. Adults \$3.50, under 12 \$2. At the Senior Center, 127 SW 2nd, Tulia.

29-30 Hart Days Celebration - Hart.

30 Border Town Days - Farwell.

### AUGUST

6-7 MS Wild West 150 Bike Tour - Ride the High Plains of Texas to benefit MS. Race begins in Amarillo and circles through Canadian. (806) 323-6234.

13 Kar Krankers Klub Car Show - Fritch.

9-14 Old West Days - at the Civic Center, Amarillo. Variety of activities featuring a taste of the Old West. Displays, cowboy poets, art and craft shows, chili, rib and red-bean cook-offs, gunfights, parade, rodeo. (806) 378-4297.

9-13 Castro County Harvest Days - Fair, Arts & Crafts Show, Parade, Rodeo, Car Show, Street Dance, Barbecue, Square Dance.

12-13 Briscoe County Birthday Celebration - Rodeo and Dance both nights, homecoming celebration, parade and barbecue, Silverton. (806) 823-2125.

18-21 Caprock Cowboy Camp Meeting - Gospel meeting on the ranch. Recreation vehicles and tent camping welcome. Free admission, meals furnished, Silverton. (806) 823-2524.

### SEPTEMBER

3-5 Discover '94 - at MediPark in Amarillo. Sponsored by the Don Harrington Discovery Center. Weekend includes displays, activities, food, fun and a grand finish with symphony and fireworks. (806) 355-9547.

4-5 Boys Ranch Rodeo - Rip-roaring rodeo action featuring the residents of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. Located at Boys Ranch arena near Old Tascosa.

4-9 Cattle Drive - Spend 6 days and 5 nights on the range punching cows the way they did in the Old West. Bar H Dude Ranch, Clarendon. (800) 627-9871.

10-11 Michael Martin Murphey's Texas WestFest - at Pioneer Amphitheater in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Featuring fine western art, Indian village, mountain man encampment, live entertainment. (806) 655-2181.

### ONGOING:

"Texas" - June 8 through August 20, at 8:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, see the nation's best attended outdoor musical drama. Song, dance and dynamic special effects tell the story of the Panhandle as it was in the late 1800s at 8:30 nightly. Pioneer Amphitheater, Palo Duro Canyon State Park. (806) 655-2181.

Regional History and Oral History Videotapes - available through the Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle.

Free Opry Show - Every 3rd Saturday beginning in May. Family entertainment at the Memphis Hotel Bed & Breakfast, Fifth & Main, Memphis.

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.

Caprock Jamboree - First Saturday night of each 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) 623-2524.

Creekwood Ranch Old West Show & Chuckwagon Supper - May through October (weather permitting). Visitors are greeted by characters in period costumes, ride wagons across the plains, view buffalo herd and arrive at "campsite" for dinner. Wagons return as the sun sets. Second "campsite" brings you cowboy music and poetry under the Texas stars. Overnight accommodations after June 1. (800) 658-6673 for reservations.

Bar H Dude Ranch - Working Texas cattle ranch offers chuckwagon breakfasts and suppers daily. Bunkhouses available for overnight visitors. Bar H Hoedown is held every Thursday night from May through September, Clarendon. (800) 627-9871 for info.

Big Texan Opry - Live Entertainment every Tuesday Night at the Big Texan Steak Ranch on I-40. Shows at 6:15 and 8:15 p.m. (806) 372-6000 for reservations.

Panhandle Plains Historical Museum - Located in Canyon, this museum represents the state's oldest and largest collection. Ongoing exhibits through the fall of 1994 include: "Outdoor Recreation in the Texas Panhandle"; and, "Finished in Beauty: The evolution of Navajo Weaving, 1860-1960."

# SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

## Fantastic Food!

Lunch Buffets  
Friday Night Fajitas Special  
and Music

Only "Private Club"  
in these parts  
(Memberships Available)

You've read about us in  
*Texas Highways Magazine*



(806) 455-1200

Hwy 86 Quitaque Texas

*Enjoy The Beauty & Heritage  
Of The Texas Panhandle*

## Karol's Kountry Korner

We're famous for our baskets  
of Homemade Goodies and  
other delights, including  
Native Mesquite Jelly  
And Salsa.

Charming Antiques,  
Original T-Shirts and  
Broom Skirts.

**Main Street • Quitaque**

# Empty Saddles In The Old Corral

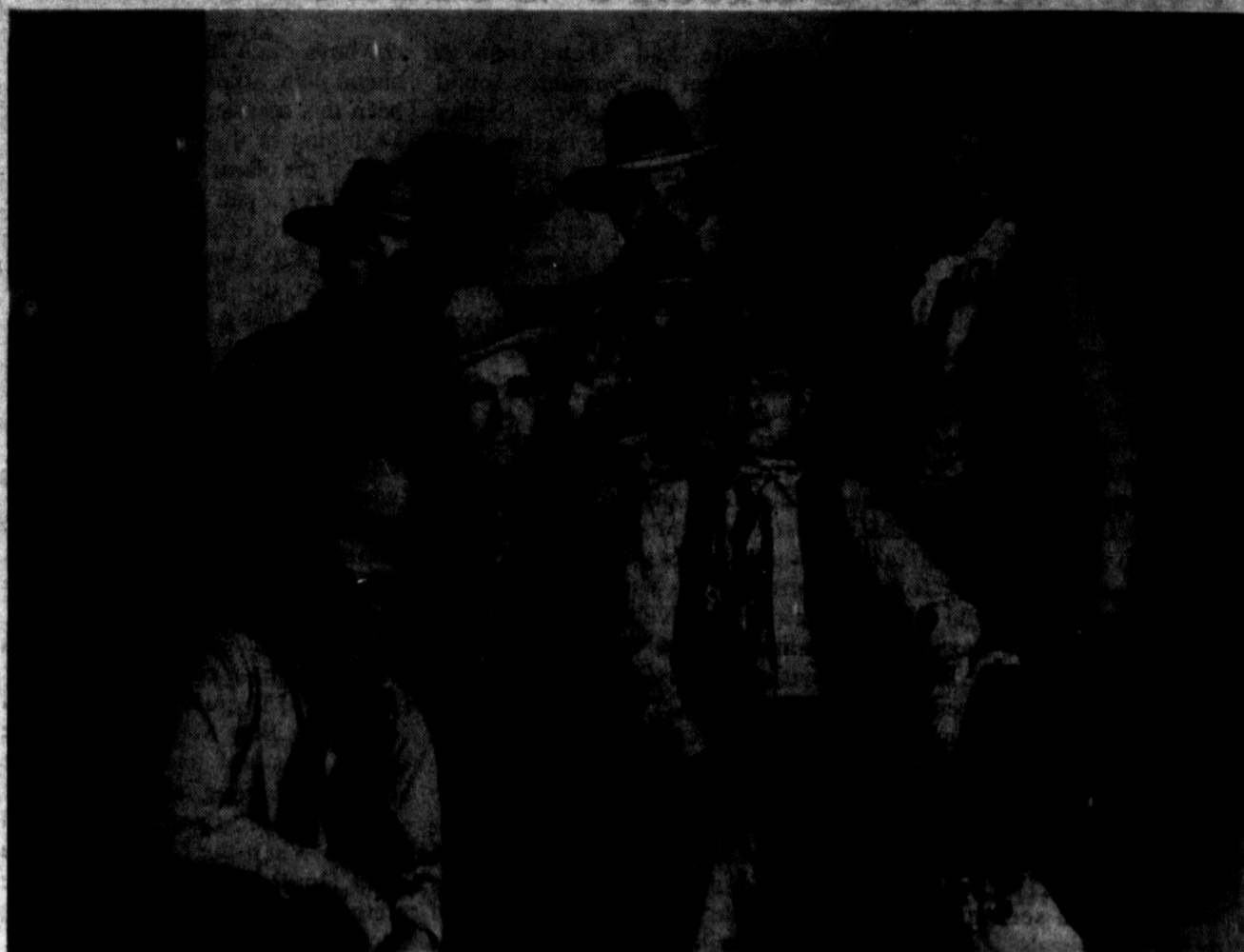


Photo courtesy of the XIT Museum in Dalhart.

Pictured above are the members of the first board of directors of the XIT Reunion, circa 1937. The celebration is held the first full weekend in August.

That first year a tradition was begun that continues at the celebration to this day. A former cowboy with the XIT Ranch was filled with excitement at the prospect of returning to Texas for the reunion. Just before departing his Montana home, he died of a heart attack.

The wife of this cowpuncher arranged for a horse to be led in the celebration's parade. It was to be wearing an empty saddle, a traditional sign of mourning for these horsemen.

As a result of this first display, a horse has carried that empty saddle in the parade ever since and the Empty Saddle Monument was built in Dalhart. It is dedicated to the memory of the cowhands who worked for the famous ranch which flourished from 1880 to 1912.

## American Quarter Horses have been the choice of cowboys for more than a century. Now there's a museum where you can see why!

### Visit the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum.

2601 I-40 East at Quarter Horse Drive (Exit 72A)  
Amarillo, Texas (806) 376-5181

Through April 30,  
open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday thru Saturday

Open daily May 1 - August 31.  
Monday thru Saturday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.

COMING IN JUNE!

"Cowboys & Images," a watercolor exhibition by William Matthews,  
and American Quarter Horse demonstrations in the Justin Arcja  
(call for schedule)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB MOOREHOUSE



## OLD TEXAS CRAFTER'S MALL

GIFTS

DECOR

GIFTS

A DESIGNER ATMOSPHERE FOR DESIGNER CRAFTS  
Country • Southwest • Victorian • Contemporary

Open 10-6 Mon. - Sat.

4310 W. 45th • Amarillo • 353-0519



# Hispanic Culture Surfaced Early In Region's History

By Bill Russell

Early Hispanic settlement in the Panhandle was significant, but of short duration. It ended with a reign of terror and a shower of money, but while it lasted it came as close to "the good life" as any early Panhandle settler was able to achieve.

Spanish settlement of the Panhandle might have come much earlier if the buffalo had been a more pastoral animal.

Sixty years after Coronado first trekked through, Vincente de Saldivar Mendoca led 60 men as far north as the Canadian River Breaks. Upon arrival in prime buffalo country Saldivar's men felled cottonwood trees and build a huge corral. The object of the expedition was to capture a herd of about 10,000 buffalo and drive them south to be used as food at the missions and settlements.

It must have come as quite a shock to Valdivar to discover that the bison had other ideas about domestication. The awkward appearance and seeming docile nature of the animals had fooled the Spaniards into believing they could be easily rounded up into herds like cattle.

After several exhausting weeks the erstwhile roundup had netted exactly zero while more than half the men and some of the horses had been injured. Frustrated and angry Valdivar slaughtered a large number of animals, jerked the meat, rendered the fat, and went home in 1599. Dreams of a vast buffalo ranching settlement in the Panhandle went home with him.

Other than the pathfinding expeditions of Pedro Vial, Corporal Jose Mares and Don Francisco Amanguac which followed, Spanish Mexico showed little interest in the Panhandle. The paths being sought by these early explorers was for the most direct route between the Spanish enclaves of San Antonio and Santa Fe.

For almost three centuries the

Panhandle had been Spanish territory, yet the Spaniards found nothing to keep them here. Neither did the French or the English who were also exploring in the region. When Mexico gained its freedom from Spain in 1821 the new nation showed little official interest either. But some of her citizens residing in what is now New Mexico were very interested, unofficially of course.

By 1870 Mexican shepherds brought their flocks across the border into the Canadian River area in Oldham County. The miles of free grass were irresistible to the *pastores* who constructed temporary buildings and stone pens for their animals. In 1876 Casimero Romero arrived in a large blue painted wagon with his family to settle. Others followed and the Canadian River breaks were dotted with Mexican settlements called "plazas."

It was a good, easy life at the dozen or so Mexican plazas in the Panhandle despite, or perhaps because of, the isolation. There was more grass than the thousands of sheep could eat. There was water, game, good garden soil, lush pasture for milk cows and goats, no taxes to pay, no fences to hinder grazing, and even canyons and ravines to shelter the sheep when winter's north winds whistled down the plains.

Plazas held numerous fiestas and *bailes* (dances) for the entertainment of everyone who happened to be in the neighborhood. Anglo

cowboys often rode many miles to attend these affairs, and it may have been this notoriety that brought the beginning of the end of the "good life" of the plazas.

In 1877 a pair of gringos arrived with a herd of sheep and several bags of \$20 gold pieces. They had heard of the good grazing and wanted to grab a piece of the life the Romeros, Sandovals, Trujillos and Ortigas were enjoying. But the Casner brothers had no way of knowing about a gringo-hating killer named Sostenes l'Archeveque who haunted the plazas like an evil wraith. l'Archeveque murdered the Americans and was murdered in turn by his own people in a Rasputin-like episode.

A reign of terror by the Casner's relatives caused several of the *pastores* to pull up stakes and return to New Mexico where the grass was not as free, but the chances of living much better. The rest hung on, riding out the bad times. When the Casner vendetta had finally run its course, life returned to something resembling normal.

It did not last.

The final straw came when W.M.D. Lee purchased ranch land along the Canadian in 1882. Lee had founded both the LE and LS ranches and had bought the plaza land for his growing herds of cattle. Goodnight had made a deal with the Mexicans, leaving the Canadian area to their sheep while they left the Palo Duro to his cattle. This

worked for Goodnight, but Lee had made no such deal.

Everyone knew that sheep and cattle could not graze the same range, and everyone had heard of wars between sheep herders and cattle ranchers. The plaza dwellers braced themselves for more gunfire and death.

But Lee fought with money. Although he spoke little Spanish, he set out with a satchel full of dollars beside him on the buggy seat, to buy all of the plazas. Soon the *Dons* began to move their flocks back towards New Mexico. Lee had purchased the land, then paid the squatters to vacate. To the *pastores*

it seemed like the best deal they were going to get. By 1883 all of the Mexicans were gone except Romero who had given up his plaza and was engaged in other business ventures.

Today the only traces of Hispanic times in the Panhandle, beyond artifacts in museums, are a few crumbling rock walls that once had been plaza homes and sheep pens. These ruins still dot the Canadian River breaks. Old timers used to say they could hear the sounds of guitars on the wind near the old plaza sites. But today those old timers are gone, as are the Mexican windsongs.

**THE LINE SHACK RESTAURANT**




"TRUE WEST TEXAS COOKING!"


**HWY 287 NORTH • MEMPHIS • 259-3848**

Choice Texas Beef!  
Super Salad Bar  
(best in the area!)  
Lots of Variety  
In Our Buffet  
And Menu

**SMART ENERGY CHOICES**



*At SPS we believe that making a smart energy choice always means making a smart environmental choice. A clean environment enhances the Quality of Life we all enjoy, it also makes our area more attractive to industries looking for greener pastures. For the future development of our area...*



**SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY**

*There's Not A Better Choice!*

**Field & Road Service**

High Performance Tires, Cars, Trucks,  
Tractors (wet or dry), Expert Mounting,  
Computer Balancing, Fast Service, Fair Prices



ORCUTT CITGO

Hwy 287 • Memphis, Texas • 259-2498

The Prairie Dog Gazette  
Is Your Best Guide To  
The Shopping, Food and Fun In The  
Panhandle Region. The Gazette Would  
Also Like To Urge Everyone To  
"Drive Friendly,"  
Buckle Up,  
Help Prevent Grass Fires,  
And Please Don't Litter.



When it comes to protecting your property, don't rely on luck.

We've got hands-on experience with every aspect of individual and commercial insurance. Visit us for all your needs!

Auto and Home Owners Insurance  
Bonds  
Life, Health, Disability Insurance

**Fatheree INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

- Call or Come By Today -  
500 W. Kingsmill • Pampa • 665-8413

# Black Gold Brings Boom And "Busts"

By Bill Russell

In 1916 geologist Charles N. Gould, who had already answered several important geological questions about the Panhandle, was asked one more.

Dr. Gould's answer to this final query dramatically changed the course of Panhandle and U.S. history, led to one of the most violent and lawless episodes in anybody's history, and provided an economic basis which, even today, helps sustain at least half of the Panhandle's counties.

The question was "Do you happen to know of any place near Amarillo or anywhere in the Panhandle that might look favorable for oil?"

The answer was a definite "Yes." Dr. Gould had surveyed Panhandle water resources in 1904 and 1905 and in the process discovered the Alibates dolomite field, which also answered a few questions troubling the archeologists of the period (see our story on the Alibates Flint Quarries in this edition).

Having had the question of possible petroleum and gas reserves posed to him by the Amarillo pioneer N. C. Nobles, Gould recalled his view from a ridge near the Alibates field- a view of geological structures indicating vast reserves of both. Dr. Gould came out from Oklahoma for another look, just to make sure. When Nobles heard Gould's reply he immediately secured gas and oil leases from R.B. Masterson and Lee Bivins who owned 70,000 acres of land straddling the Canadian River, and started drilling.

The Masterson No.1 well came in at 2,605 feet on December 13, 1918 and was the forerunner of the world's greatest natural gas field.

It wasn't until 1921 that the first oil well, the Gulf No. 2 came in, producing 175 barrels of oil per day. But the oil from these early wells was of poor grade and there wasn't much use for natural gas, so exploration and drilling languished

until 1926 when the Dixon Creek Oil Company brought in a gusher on the Smith Ranch near Borger.

## The Rush Was On!

Rumors reported the well to be pumping 10,000 barrels per day of high grade "black gold."

Wildcat drillers traveled to the towns of Borger, Panhandle, Canadian, and Miami, which still depend on oil revenues, and a dozen other boomtowns that faded away long before the oil did.

Borger was the wildest of the boomtowns, with people flocking in by any means, including ox wagon and parachute. A tent city sprouted from the prairie as a total of 35,000 people pushed into Hutchinson County in a 90-day period. Tent space for sleeping was being rented out eight hours at a time and anything providing a little shelter was in great demand.

Oil drillers were not the only people who flocked to the new fields. Con men, gamblers, prostitutes, crooked politicians and bank robbers cruised through the workers like sharks through a school of tuna. There were more robberies per day than prayers, at least one bank robbery took place in an average week. Although prohibition was the law of the land, bootleg whiskey gushed forth as freely as oil.

## You Could Smell Them For Miles

The stench of these boomtowns could be picked up miles away. There was no water supply and no sanitation systems. It was a rainy year in 1926, and the streets turned into an evil smelling gumbo while the air carried a mixed aroma of crude oil, sewage, unwashed clothes and people, not to mention the garbage. Gas blowout fires often filled the air with carbon and noxious vapors which rendered men unconscious but did little to control the flies.

Boomtown law was a joke. After three Borger law officers were gunned down Governor Moody

sent in 10 Texas Rangers.

After a brief investigation the Rangers arrested the entire Borger police force and nearly all the members of city government. They ran an estimated 1,200 prostitutes out of town in a single day and destroyed the largest illegal whiskey still ever found in Texas. The Rangers set up a new police force and the governor appointed a no-nonsense District Attorney for the area before the lawmen left.

## The Sharks Returned

But the sharks were not that easily driven off. By September of 1929 the District Attorney had been shot to death in his back yard and the governor was ordering another cleanup. This time he called in the National Guard and declared martial law. In Borger guardsmen took control of City Hall and disarmed the police force. A detachment was sent to Stinnett to do likewise. The guard stayed in the boomtowns until civil authorities proved they could and would maintain law and order.

Things were changing rapidly in the oil fields by then. Larger oil companies had moved in with advanced drilling techniques that required less manpower. Churches were being built and families arrived to settle. A massive municipal cleanup was begun, sewer and water systems were established in the larger towns while some of the smaller boomtowns began to fade back into the prairie.

By 1931 the boom was over even though the oil kept flowing.

## Oil Remains Important

Starting with a single gas well in 1918, the Panhandle now has more than 7,000 gas wells and an intricate web of distribution pipelines.

From the Gulf No. 2 in 1921 and Dixon Creek gusher in 1926, came more than 10,000 oil rigs now nodding quietly in the pastureland.

"Oil!" snorted one ranch owner

in the 1920s when a well came in on his property. "I was hoping they'd hit water!"

Water is a valuable resource, but in the long run much of the Panhandle benefitted from an equally precious liquid.

The answer Dr. Gould gave to N.C. Noble back in 1916 set in motion a series of events neither man could have imagined. Today, it is difficult to imagine what the Panhandle would be like if Gould would have answered "No."

## ARMSTRONG COUNTY MUSEUM

*Heart of Our Panhandle Heritage*

Claude, Texas - 120 N. Trice  
(1/2 block off Hwy 287)

Hours: Tuesday -Saturday 12-4, Sundays 1-5

**New Attraction Opening May 21st ...  
Old Gem Theater, Western Entertainment**

## COYOTE DEN Paperback Exchange

**Great Selection!**

*Thousands of New & Used  
Paperback Books, Including  
Louis Lamour, Danielle Steele  
and other popular authors.*

*"We Also Have  
Unique Gifts,  
Collectibles and  
Watkins Products."*



Hwy 287 E. • Clarendon • 874-2357



Oil brought all sorts of men together in the Panhandle. From roustabouts to geologists- they gambled on gushers.

## CLARK'S



**BIG BEEF!**

*Old-Fashioned  
1/2 lb. Burger*

Great Flea Market "Finds", too!

Hwy 287 W. in Clarendon

# Finally, Road Builders Weren't "Just Passing Through"

Long before settlers decided to give the Panhandle a try, others were laying trails to get through or around it without getting lost in its vast, relatively unmarked prairies. When people finally did decide to settle here, one of the first things they did was to begin exploring the best way of getting out again, driving huge cattle herds to Dodge City and sending grain "down-state."

Trails, tracks, roads and highways have always played an important part in the lives of Panhandle residents as well as those "just passing through." The Panhandle has emerged with one of the best road and highway systems in the nation, becoming one of the major crossroads of the southwest.

### The Bison Didn't Care

All of this trail blazing started sometime in the distant past with the buffalo who didn't care if they were lost, and the Native American hunters who followed the herds.

When Coronado led his band of treasure hunters through in 1540, he was so daunted by the wilderness of grass he left large piles of rocks, bones and buffalo chips to help him find his way back. Most of the earliest roads in the Panhandle were founded for the purpose of moving goods and people through, rather than into, the area. The Great Spanish Road was blazed by Pedro Vial in 1786 for the purpose of getting trade goods from Fort Smith, Arkansas to Santa Fe, New Mexico. This trail later became the path followed by Route 66 of TV and popular song fame.

### Traders and Goldhunters

A Santa Fe trader, Josiah Gregg, established another trail in 1840 following tracks which had been used off and on since 1605. In 1849 Colonel R.B. Marcy escorted a party of 500 gold seekers through the Panhandle enroute to the California gold fields using a slightly different route.

The users of these trails were, for the most part, not interested in

staying in the Panhandle. They were just passing through. Even the trail blazed by Charles Goodnight from Palo Duro Canyon to Dodge City, Kansas in 1879 was to move cattle out of the Panhandle.

### Cowtracks and Wagon Ruts

In the words of a traveler writing in 1848 the roads were "little better than cowtracks, a mere collection of straggling wagon ruts, extending for more than a quarter of a mile in width from outside to outside, it being desirable in this part of the country, to avoid the road rather than follow it."

### A Penny a Mile in Good Weather

Everything that came into the Panhandle, food, cloth, lumber, wire, tools, fence posts, mail and people, had to traverse such trails. Freight rates varied with the season. The standard charge was one cent per mile per 100 pounds in good weather and double that when it rained. For passengers the going stagecoach rate was 10 cents a mile including meals. That tariff also doubled when wet weather set in.

Heavy wagons with iron axles were used for freight. The wheels of those boat-shaped wagons were sometimes five and a half feet high. They could carry up to 7,000 pounds and were drawn by 20 to 25 mules or 30 oxen. Mexican freighters used wooden-wheeled carts which traveled in trains of up to 150 vehicles.

Railroads were extended into the Panhandle in 1887, just in time to save a faltering cattle industry battered by severe drought and huge prairie fires. With the arrival of the rails freighting by wagon all but ceased and the roads, sad as they were, declined even further.

The three initial towns of the Panhandle, Tascosa, Mobeetie and Clarendon, went into decline when they were bypassed by the rail lifeline. Clarendon moved to the tracks. The other two withered and all but died.

### Miles of Mudholes

In 1907 public roads were the

responsibility of each county. Some counties raised money and actually built and maintained roads. Others didn't. In 1923 Governor Pat Neff complained that in the entire state it was difficult to find 90 consecutive miles of paved highway.

Motorists were warned to "wear top hats" so they could be more easily located when they drove off the pavement.

In 1925 the state took over the responsibility for most major highways, leaving local roads to the counties.

### Ribbons of Asphalt

Texas crashed into the automobile and highway age in one single swoop in the mid and late 20s.

The famous Colorado to the Gulf Highway, State Route 287, spun a ribbon of asphalt through the Panhandle, running roughly north and south during the late 20s. This route had been lobbied into existence by the Colorado to Gulf Highway Association formed in Childress. In 1913 Association members A.W. Read and W.P. Dial pioneered the route, driving by map along dimly marked trails, through canyons and fences and over unsettled rangeland in an expedition rivaling the trail blazing efforts of the early pioneers.

Then came the equally pioneering effort of the federal government. The "magic highway" linking Chicago and Los Angeles was completed in time to carry waves of immigrants fleeing the Dust Bowl. Route 66 cut across the top of the Panhandle running east and west.

### An Intricate Web Formed

Today Texas has more Interstate Highway miles than any other. By the 1980s Texas had more miles of

paved road than any other state, more highway bridges, more automobiles and more Farm to Market secondary roads.

As we glide along the Panhandle

motor arteries today it is difficult to imagine how it was in the beginning when one could see, in the distance, the point at which a full day's travel would end.

**Windy Valley Originals**

Southwest Creations in Barbed Wire, Iron & Stone

Work represented by  
Old Texas Crafters Mall in Amarillo

Studio & Gallery located 4 miles east of Clarendon on  
Hwy. 287 & 4 miles south on FM 1260 • (806) 874-3466

**Lacey's**

Dry Goods

Main St.  
Turkey, Texas

Family Owned for 60 Years

Justin Boots  
Fabric & Notions  
Bargain Store  
Fashions for all ages  
Wranglers

**CLARENDON COLLEGE**

Where students receive individual attention

April 16 • Ex-students Reunion & Banquet  
• Spring Intramurals  
(Rodeo & Specialty Events)

June 5-11 • Elderhostel, senior citizens enrichment program. Classes & field trips on Western Heritage

**Education At Its Finest**

Pre-registration begins April 18 for fall semester  
Campus tours available by appointment  
Call (806) 874-3571 for more information

\*\*\*\*\*

**Coors** **OUTFIT RANCH RODEO Presents**

**Cowboy Roundup U.S.A.!**

**May 20 & 21**

at the Tri-State Fairgrounds  
in Amarillo, Texas

Real Working Cowboys  
Wild & Woolly Entertainment!

RODEO at 7:30 p.m. & much more!

Proceeds Benefit  
CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

Advance tickets at  
Luskey's Western Store, I-40 W. at Georgia in Wolflin Sq. (806) 353-4341

\*\*\*\*\*



# Wind Delivered Water, The Elixir Of Life To Prairie

By Bill Russell

The grand and eloquent names of the windmills of Hansford and Hutchinson Counties were like music to the ears of young J.B. Buchanan as he traveled along rural Panhandle roads in a buggy with his parents. He would ask their names, and would repeat them as the buggy rattled along.

"Monitor, Flying Dutchman, Elgin Mogul, Terrible Swede, Star, Sun, Eclipse and Halladay Vaneless," the youngster would chant as he jounced past the ubiquitous wind machines of the prairie.

"I always loved those windmills and was quite taken by them as a kid," said Buchanan at the age of 89. "I suppose you could say I still am."

So "taken" that he has a small forest of windmills at his farm located approximately 13 miles north of Stinnett on SH 136, then about five miles east on FM 281. The collection, which includes such exotic types as the Dempster No. 4 Vaneless Umbrella type that folds up when out of the wind and the Currie Mill with wooden bearings, draws visitors from throughout the southwest and even brought a representative from the Smithsonian Institute.

"I gave the Smithsonian a wooden Eclipse I found in its original box from the Fairbanks Morse Company," Buchanan said. "They seemed pretty happy with that."

Buchanan has been collecting windmills since 1965. His unique collection has been on TV and the subject of numerous magazine and newspaper articles. He was able to travel to Washington, D.C. a few years ago to see the windmill he had donated. He said it made him feel proud.

Keeping his large collection turning is quite a chore, and Buchanan is hoping others will soon take an interest in his awesome whirring, clanking, creaking collection.

"I rebuilt most of them as close as I could to the original," Buchanan said. "But they are like old houses, you have to take care of them. I fear I've slowed up some in that department over the past few months."

"There is no doubt," wrote one western writer, "that Winchester and Colt received a lot of credit for settling the Southwest that in reality belongs to the windmill."

The golden age of the American windmill came along just as windmills in Europe were on the decline. The man who whirled in this golden era was Daniel Halladay who is credited for inventing the American type mill in 1854. Halladay pared down the elaborate European mills to the bare bones and marketed them for one purpose only, to pump water. On the frontier the windmill was the answer to the cattleman's and settler's prayers and a bonanza to the thirsty steam engines of the



An exotic Dempster Umbrella type windmill on Buchanan's farm.

railroads. A cheap, clean source of power to pump water was what the frontier needed.

When the giant XIT Ranch was formed, wells were dug and over 600 windmills erected. "Wind-millers," whose only job was to keep the mills turning, traveled the vast ranches in specially equipped wagons. In Panhandle City there were so many windmills a European visitor remarked that he expected to see the entire town become airborne at any minute.

Before Halladay began shipping mills into the Panhandle, cattlemen and settlers constructed makeshift mills, nicknamed "go-devils" and "battle axes", with awkward wooden paddles or cloth sails that often broke down. When Halladay's mills began to arrive, the entire Panhandle seemed to breathe a sigh of relief.

Halladay's basic design was so functional that the windmills of today have undergone only slight changes. The longevity of the mills

attest to their importance.

The American West was not the only region to benefit from Halladay's re-introduction of wind power. In the sprawling Pampas region of Argentina shiploads of windmills allowed for the watering of immense herds of cattle and the building of spacious cattle estates. Down under in Australia the windmill marched along with the rancher and settler into the "outback" regions of the continent.

Today windmills of a different sort are beginning to dot the Southwestern United States. These

windmills are for the production of electricity.

If the ghost of Daniel Halladay were to visit the Panhandle tomorrow, it would probably have trouble identifying these twin-bladed generators, but would be able to recognize most of the windmills still pumping water on ranches and farms.

If the ghost chanced to visit the J.B. Buchanan farm near Stinnett, it might even be able to say hello to some old friends with names like Mogul, Eclipse and the Terrible Swede.

You're Always Welcome at the

## HITCHIN' POST

Liquors • Wine  
Cold Beer

Snacks • Gasoline  
Lake Permits

5 miles north of Clarendon on Hwy 70

## Tejas

WESTERN OUTLET STORES

3701 PLAINS BLVD. SUNSET CENTER  
AMARILLO, TEXAS • 356-6692

Brand New Shipment  
LADIES ROCKIES \$18<sup>99</sup>  
Slightly Irregular

Over 300 Ladies  
WRANGLER TOPS \$9<sup>99</sup>  
1st Quality • Reg. Up to \$49.95

Men's  
WRANGLER SHIRTS \$9<sup>99</sup>  
1st Quality • Reg. Up to \$39.99

New Shipment  
Men's 13MWZ  
Cowboy Cut DENIM \$11<sup>99</sup>  
Slightly Irregular

New Shipment  
Wrangler 22 MWZ  
Relaxed Fit JEANS \$18<sup>99</sup>  
Slightly Irregular

New Shipment  
WRANGLER RIATA  
JEANS \$19<sup>99</sup>  
Slightly Irregular

Girls SILVERLAKE  
JEANS \$15<sup>99</sup>  
Reg. \$34.99-\$37.99

Straw Hats  
Are In!  
All at least 1/2 of  
Reg. Retail Price

While They Last!  
COMFY JACKETS \$110.00 \$39<sup>99</sup>

Large Selection  
TONY LAMA &  
JUSTIN BOOTS  
ALL AT DISCOUNT

New Shipment  
Wrangler Brush  
Poplar Shirts 1st Quality \$24<sup>99</sup>  
Reg. \$54.99

OPEN 10 AM to 7 PM MON. - SATURDAY  
OPEN SUNDAY 1 to 5 PM

## Angle In To Anglin's RV TRAILER PARK

Cable TV • Full Hook-ups  
Coin Laundry • StormCellar  
Hwy 287 E • Clarendon • 874-3234

## Palo Duro Indian Trading Company

Original Southwestern and  
Northern Plains Indian Art & Artifacts

Pottery • Jewelry • Kachinas, Rugs  
Bead work • Baskets • Fine art • Collectibles

Open Monday - Saturday • (806) 374-4364  
2801 I-40 at Nelson (between Grand & Osage)



**WELCOME VISITORS**

**When You're On Hwy 287 This Is The Place To Stop!**

**Full-line Breakfast**

**Open 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Seven days a week**

**A Pleasant Pause For The Whole Family, With Kids' Playground, Clean Restrooms and Quick Service With a Smile.**

**Clarendon Dairy Queen**

**THE RANGE**

**Western Wear**

**233 North Main In Hereford • (808) 364-8332**



**The Madal Family Invites You To Enjoy Great Selections At Down-To-Earth Prices!**

**HATS & BOOTS**

**Resistol & Bailey Hats • Hatbands  
Hat Cleaning & Shaping  
Tony Lama Boots • Roper Boots (most brands)  
Boot Bags, Creams & Conditioners**

**ACCESSORIES & GIFTS**

**Belts (name cut out or stamped free)  
Montana Silversmiths Buckles  
Turquoise and Silver Jewelry  
Vests, Moccasins, Billfolds, Spurs, Spittoons,  
Leanin' Tree Cards & Mugs, Texas Souvenirs**

**FASHIONS FOR EVERYONE**

**Wrangler, Levi, Lee, Rocky Mountain,  
Men's Suits, western & conventional,  
Ranger suits, sport coats  
Pioneer leather wear  
Walls' coveralls & jackets  
FOR THE KIDS  
Jeans, Jackets, Shirts, Belts, Buckles and Hats**

**TAKE THE BEST OF THE WEST HOME WITH YOU!**

**Layaway Plan • Visa, Discover, MasterCard and American Express Welcome.**