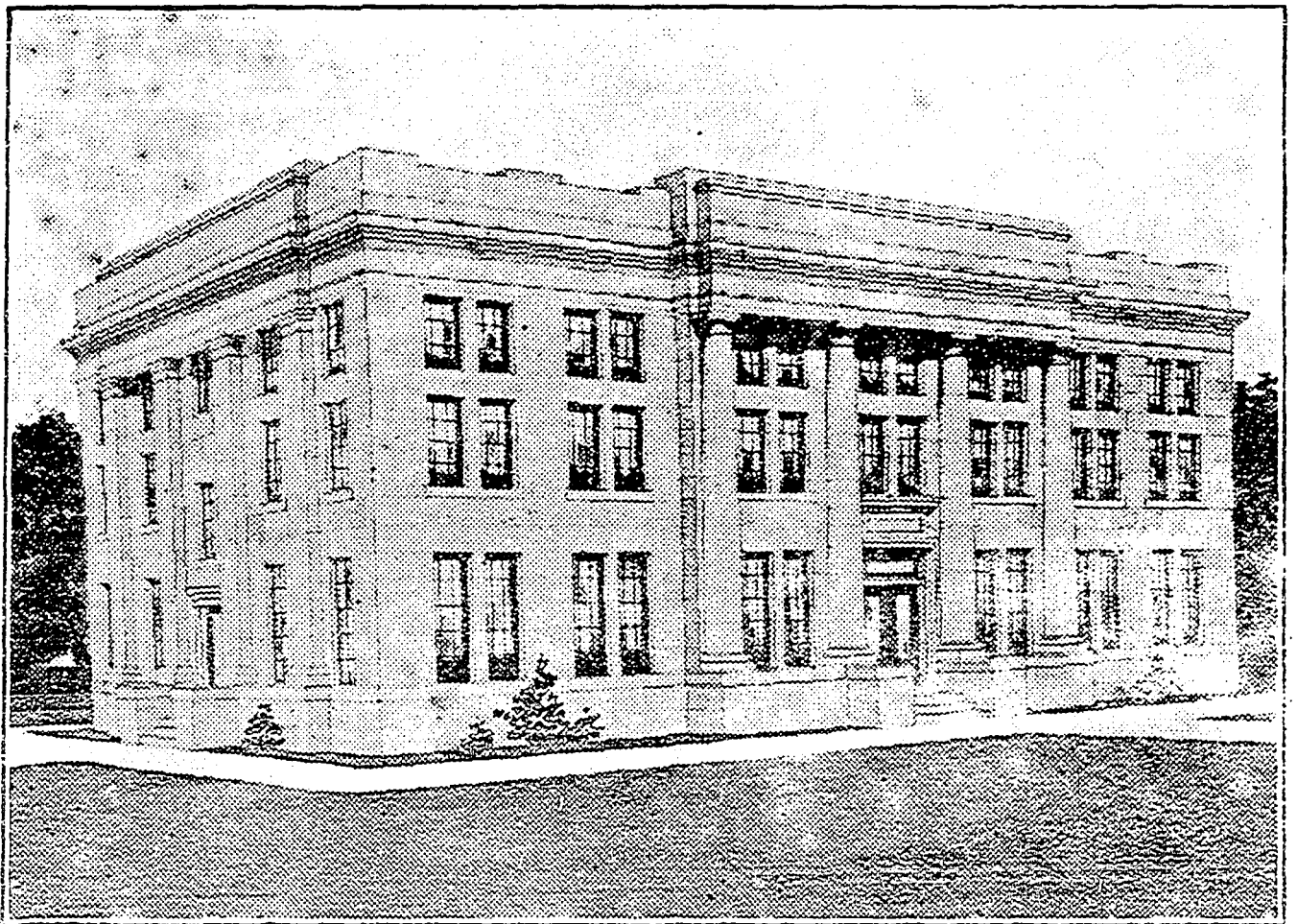


SCHLEICHER COUNTY

OR

EIGHTY YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS



SCHLEICHER COUNTY COURT HOUSE

SCHLEICHER COUNTY

or

Eighty Years Of Development In Southwest Texas

Edited by

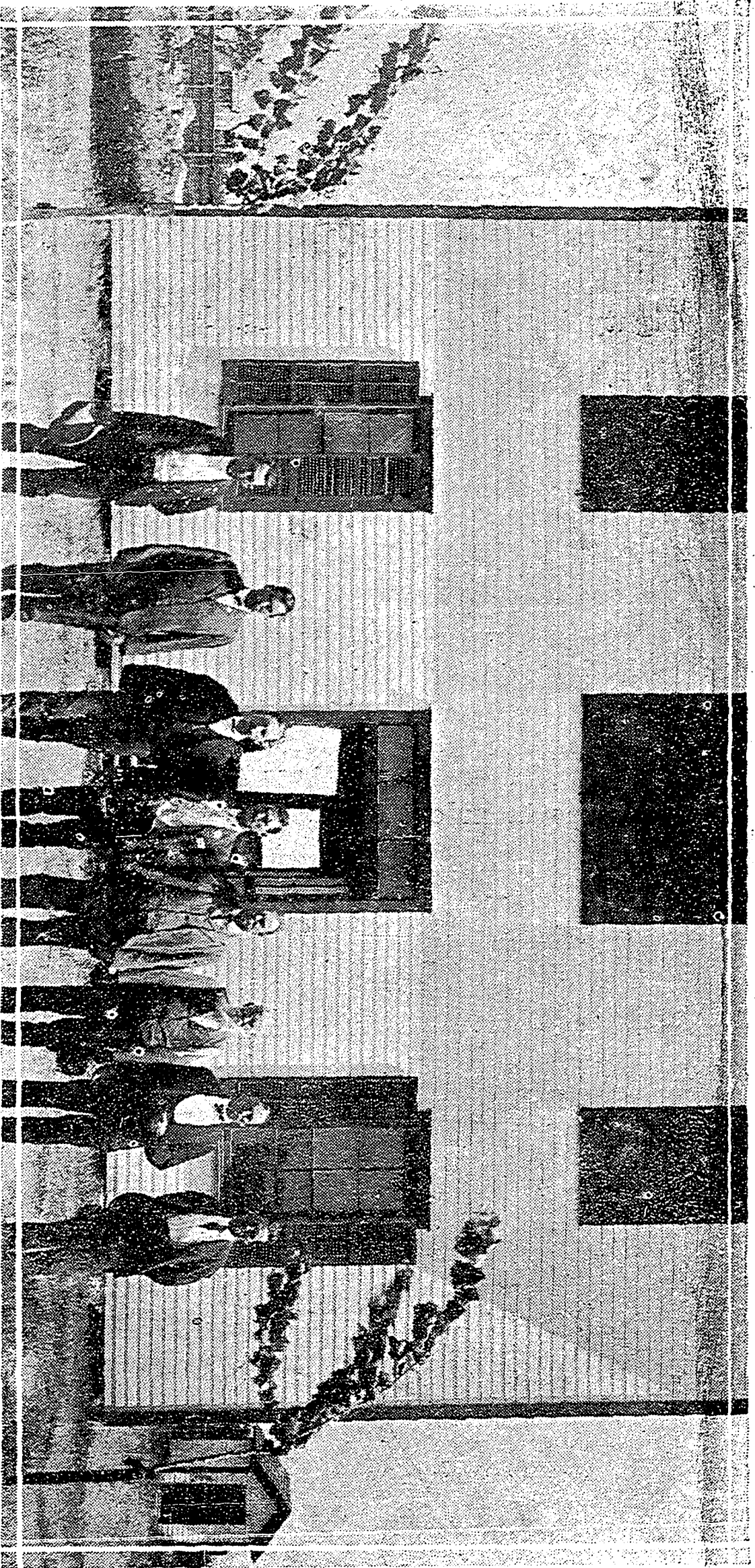
R. D. HOLT

Superintendent of Schools, Eldorado, Texas.

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

Eldorado, Texas.

1930



Early County Officials of Schleicher County. From left to right they are: J. A. Whitten, County Judge; C. C. Doty, Tax Assessor; F. C. Bates, Jr., County Clerk; Henry Mills, Sheriff and Tax Collector; P. H. McCormick, County Treasurer; E. C. Bates, Sr., Justice of Peace; E. B. Cozens, lawyer and Jacob Campbell, lawyer and later County Judge. In background is the old court house which stood where the present court house stands. Picture taken in 1902.

FOREWORD

The purpose of this little historical booklet is fourfold. First, it is an attempt to get into readable form and present to the public some material concerning the history of Schleicher County which the pupils of the American History classes of the Eldorado High School have been collecting during the past three years. Second, it is an effort to preserve the local history of Schleicher County and Southwest Texas while some of the old settlers are still living and who can supply first-hand information. Third, it is hoped that the people from other sections, who perhaps have never even heard of Schleicher County, may learn something of the history, resources and possibilities of the section of Texas. Fourth, it is intended as a kind of a memorial to mark the coming of the railroad into the County, which event is the fulfillment of the dreams of those pioneers who first settled and ever worked faithfully to develop Schleicher County and West Texas.

That area of Texas which is now included in Schleicher County can boast of neither a long nor an eventful past, in comparison with many of the older counties of the state. The story of its development, however, is typical of the other counties of the Edwards Plateau region and of Southwest Texas and as none of this has ever been written it is believed that this material may be some slight contribution to the written history of the state.

This booklet is not intended as a complete history of Schleicher County. In general it represents the work of the students of the American History Class of the Eldorado High School and they, as amateur historians, lay no claims to perfection in the writing of history. Conscientious effort has been made to verify all statements made and reliable authority is cited in the original manuscripts but have been omitted here due to lack of space. Only a few biographical sketches of the old settlers of this section have been used due to lack of space but with no intention of slighting any person.

We acknowledge our thanks to those persons who have made possible the printing of this material and especially are we indebted to those old settlers who have co-operated so heartily in furnishing information to us.

Eldorado, January 1, 1930.

R. D. Holt

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GUSTAVE SCHLEICHER

From: Fulmore, Z. T., The History and Geography of Texas
as Told in County News

Gustave Schleicher was born in Darmstadt, Germany, November 29, 1823. He was educated at the University of Giessen and chose the profession of Civil Engineer, and after graduation was engaged in several works of internal improvement in Europe. In 1847, in company with thirty-nine former students of German Universities, he formed what was known as the "Colony of Forty", and purchased a large body of land in what is now Llano and other counties where they engaged in farming and stock raising upon the most scientific methods; but the location was beyond the settled portion of the country, and Indian depredations and other causes soon rendered the enterprise impracticable. With a number of his associates he moved to San Antonio in 1850, and there he soon mastered the English language, and in 1853 was elected a member of the lower house of the Legislature, more to get an inside view of American institutions and customs than for any honor or emolument on his own part. At the close of his term, in 1854, he was chosen surveyor of the Bexar land district, an area of country larger than New England. After serving in this capacity five years he was, in 1859, elected a member of the State Senate. When the Civil War began, in 1861, he entered the engineer corps and served in the Confederate army with the rank of Captain throughout the war. At the close of the war he engaged in railroad work, laying out and superintending the construction of the railroad from Cuero to Indianola. He was elected to the Forty-fourth Congress, re-elected to the Forty-fifth and again to the Forty-sixth. He died January 10, 1879, in Washington, D. C. His remains were removed to San Antonio and buried there.

He was one of the most cultured men in the history of Texas. Being a close student of political history, his carefully prepared addresses were always educative and upon a high plane and models of literary form. In summing up his qualities, President Garfield said, "He has done justice to the scholarship which Germany gave him and the large and comprehensive ideas which life in the new world inspired him". Senator Bayard of Delaware said of him: "It has been said to be more than once how admirable would Schleicher have been a cabinet officer, and what a loss to our country that his powers and talents for administration could not have been exemplified in the highest office of the government."

A DESCRIPTION OF AREA NOW PART OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY, 1849

“From Texas to California in 1849”—Diary of C. C. Cox, in
Southwestern Historical Quarterly. Vol. XXIX, No. 1,
Page 45.

“May 28th. We are nooning on Good Spring Creek, or the South branch of the River Concho, a small but rapid Stream that winds its way through the hill in a North Easterly direction. The road from the San Saba to this creek passes over a rugged and poor country—destitute of Timber, and affording no water, the greater part of the year. Last night and night before we camped in the Open Prairie without Water—and having thrown away our supply after meeting Maj. Neighbors our stock necessarily suffered much. We discovered a few Antelopes on the road, but could not kill any—Prairie Dogs are numerous—they are about the size of a Rabbit, and seem quite fierce when anything approaches their towns. This portion of Texas is exceedingly poor, and so barren that I am of the opinion it will always be uninhabited.”

Editor's note:

Mr. Cox was on his way to the California gold fields, traveling with a party equipped with light wagons and pack mules. From the headsprings of the San Saba River, which are now in Schleicher County, they traveled through the eastern and northern portion of what is now Schleicher County and it is this area which he describes.

LETTER WRITTEN ABOUT LAND NOW IN SCHLEICHER COUNTY, 1880

Austin, Texas
Sept. 21st. 1880

E. B. Osgood Esq.
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of 17th inst just received and contents noted. In reply will say that no land worth taking can be located nearer than Crockett co. The land I located for you is pretty much all valley land and as a grazing country cant be surpassed in the State. Already several large sheep ranches have been established in the County & other parties have recently located several hundred acres with a view of establishing ranches soon. The soil in Crockett Co. is of a chocolate color and appears to be rich but of course no farming has yet been done there. The grass is principally curley mesquite which stockmen of Texas value so highly. There is so much land on the market in this State that it is hard to say what this land would bring cash.

Yours truly,
R. M. Thomson.

Editor's note:

The land mentioned above was located in what is now Schleicher County. The writer of the letter himself became owner of a large tract of land in this section, some of which is now in the Thomson Brothers ranch in Schleicher County and one of the largest ranches in this section of the state.

TRIP TO CROCKETT COUNTY, IN 1886

From: Dallas Morning News, May 16, 1886.

Alderman T. J. Murnane had just returned from an extended trip thru Southwest Texas. He journeyed by wagon from Abilene thru Taylor, Runnels and Tom Green Counties and as far south as Crockett County. Two years before, this route had led thru a broad expanse of richly grassed prairie, over which roamed countless herds of fat cattle. In Crockett County he found a "veritable paradise." The grass was "tall, thick and abundant." Settlers were coming into the region rapidly. He took the names of 85 men and heads of families who were out there for the purpose of locating. Some of the families located there were busily engaged in preparation for well-digging "for on wells they will have to depend for their permanent supply of water." The most prominent cattle outfits in the Country were Stilson and Case, Stilson, Ryburn & Thorpe, Vermont Cattle Company and the Hereford Cattle Company. The stock were of a good grade. There were but few sheepmen south of the Concho.

SCHLEICHER ROLLS UP BIG MAJORITY FOR STATE-WIDE

From: The Eldorado Success,, July 28, 1911.

At the various voting boxes in Schleicher County Saturday, State-Wide seemed to be the favorite side of the question, for every box in the county that held an election gave State-Wide a majority. Eldorado put almost four to one in favor of prohibition, this being due to the fact that Eldorado has been in the dry columns for about seven years and the good results have been felt by the sovereign voters. The returns from the different boxes were as follows: Eldorado- 131 for and 27 against; Mayer- 9 for and 5 against; Rudd- 24 for and 10 against; Vermont- 27 for and 7 against; Jackson box- 9 for and 2 against; Strother box- 6 for and 5 against. The total vote for prohibition was 206 and the total vote against prohibition was 56, thus giving a majority of 150 to the prohibitionists.

BRIEF HISTORY OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY

By Alvin Luedecke

In the early days Schleicher County was thought of as a dry open range and stockmen were slow to come in and take possession of its ranges. They finally found that the wells of Schleicher County yielded good water, and that catch tanks could be made to hold water the year round by the average rainfall. The example set by the first comers induced others to come into Schleicher County, and it was soon ready to take its place among the other ranching districts of Texas.

The sheep men were first and the cattlemen soon came to "Grand Old Schleicher" as some of them termed it. Among the first of the sheep men was C. C. Doty, who made his headquarters near the old Vermont well. The sheep men prospered as did the cattlemen.

Schleicher County was originally a part of Crockett County, which was created from the Bexar Land District. In 1887 Schleicher County was created from Crockett County but due to the lack of sufficient population it was attached to Kinney County and then to Menard County for judicial purposes. The boundaries of Schleicher County as it was created from Crockett were: beginning at the southwest corner of Menard County, thence west to the northwest corner of Sutton County, thence north to the south boundary of Tom Green County and along this boundary eastward to the west line of Menard County, and thence to the place of beginning. The area of the county, as created, was 1,355 square miles.

The area which later became Schleicher County was the hunting grounds of the Indians in the early days. Marauding bands of Indians frequently crossed its prairies and soldiers from Fort Concho and Fort McKavett often scouted for these Indians. There are many so-called Indian mounds over the country today. Indians from Mexico would sometimes have to cross the high divide, returning to Mexico with stolen horses, and here many of them met their deaths. They would usually avoid crossing the high places if possible and follow the course of Dove Creek, which is along the edge of the divide on the north, until they would be past the limits of what now is Schleicher County and then continue on their way. In 1871 the Indians raided the DeLong and Sanders ranches on the South Concho, scattering the cattle and stealing many horses. They attacked the herders and killed some of them. General McKenzie, stationed at Fort Concho followed the Indians and captured some of them, taking

them to the fort and later sending them to the Indian Territory.

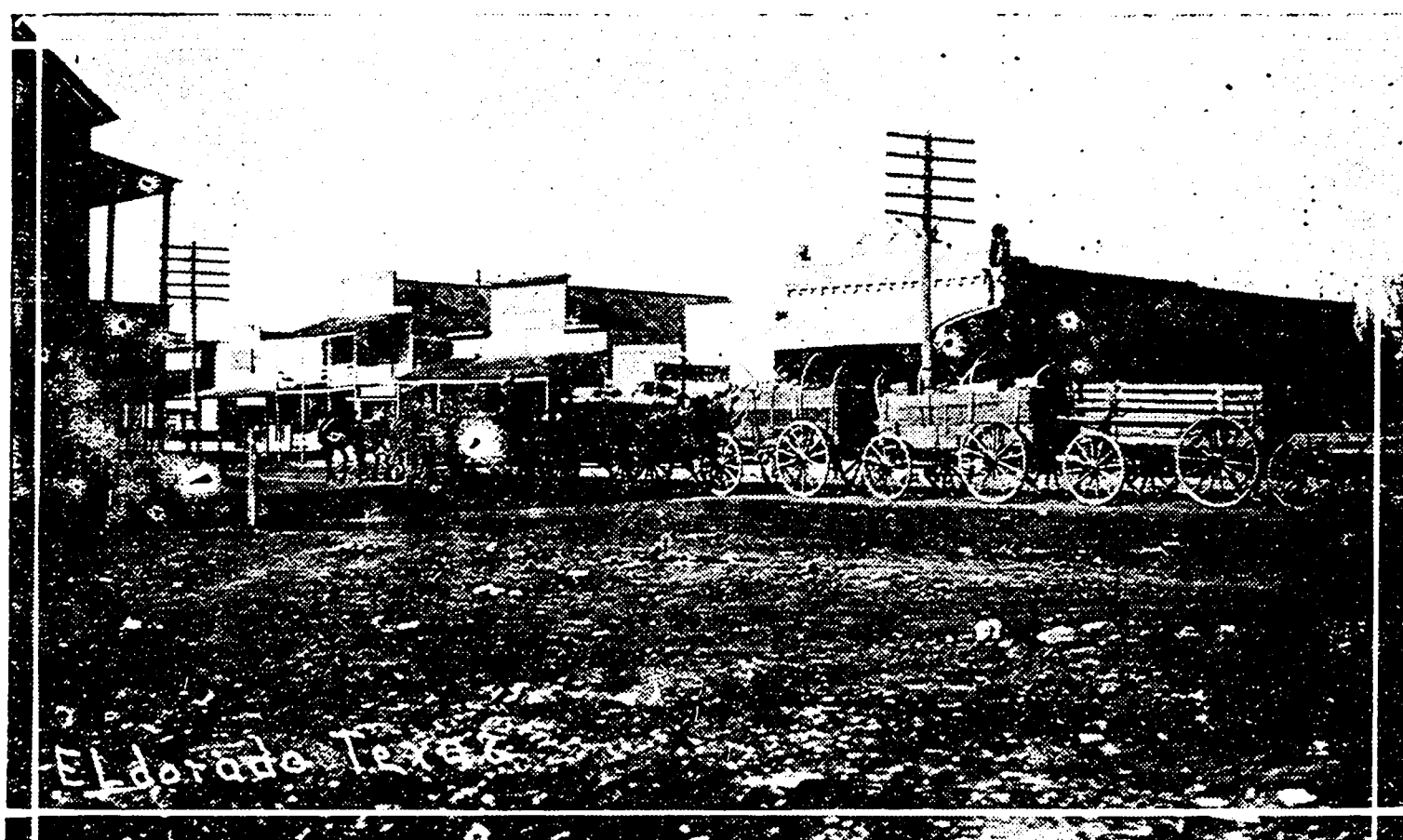
In 1864 Captain J. J. Cureton started on a buffalo hunt but when he heard that there were Indians in the vicinity he took it upon himself to find them. He appealed for help to fight them and with 17 cowboys, 150 Texas Rangers, and 350 Militia, made the attack on the Indians at Dove Creek Springs. These were Kickapoo Indians on their way to Mexico. After a severe fight the horses of the Indians were captured and many of the Indians killed but the remainder made their way into Mexico. This was the last Indian engagement of any importance near Schleicher County but small groups of Indians frequently stole horses in this section.

Schleicher County was finally organized in July of 1901 after much work on the part of some of its citizens to bring about a separation from Menard County. The first Commissioners' Court met July 25, 1901. Those present were: A. B. Priour, County Judge; F. C. Bates, Jr., County Clerk; Henry Mills, Sheriff; C. C. Doty, Tax Assessor; C. C. Yaws, W. D. Ake, and Hames Garrett, Commissioners. These were the first county officers and had just been elected to office. Judge A. B. Priour now lives in Del Rio, Mr. F. C. Bates in Sheffield, Mr. Mills at Uvalde and Mr. C. C. Doty still resides in Eldorado. At the first meeting of the Commissioners' Court the Schleicher County school house was rented for a temporary court house and orders were taken for the county record books and the necessary supplies.

At the second meeting of the Commissioners' Court, R. H. Bucklew was appointed constable of precinct No. 1 and A. D. Hobbs was appointed constable of precinct 2, under bond of \$500. each. The court also ordered that an election be held in Schleicher County, on September 10, 1901, to determine whether or not intoxicating liquor should be sold in Schleicher County. The following officers were appointed to hold the election: P. H. McCormick for precinct 1, W. S. Casey for precinct 2, N. J. Barkley for precinct 3, and J. W. Eufary for precinct 4. It also set the following salary for officers: sheriff \$25.00 per month, County Clerk, \$25.00 per month and County Judge, \$50. per month.

The third meeting of the commissioners court was a special meeting called for the purpose of considering the returns of the election determining the sale of liquor in Schleicher county. It was found that there were 25 votes for prohibition and 37 against prohibition. This meeting also appointed F. H. Andrews county attorney.

The plans for the Schleicher County court house were approved by the court on February 11, 1902. The selection of material and the construction was to be left in the hands of J. J. Rice. This court house was estimated to cost about \$2,500. It was completed in June, 1902, with a total cost of \$2,468.14. It



Top: Caught in the "Western Movement." Ox-team passing through Eldorado in 1908. Picture in front of Mrs. Robinson's store. Standing on porch from left to right are, Joe Elder, W. F. Meador, W. B. Foley, Jr., Mrs. Kate E. Robinson and Granny Perryman. Center: The old-time freighter passing through Eldorado. Notice that he has ten horses in his team and that he has five wagons. Lower: Methodist Church in Eldorado. Still in use.

was painted by J. F. Miller at a cost of \$239.35, and the first county record book bought for \$34.00. ---

Eldorado, the county seat of Schleicher county, was established in 1895, and its first large store was owned by Silliman, Gray and McCartney. C. C. Lamb had a small store and livery stable before the large store was put up. He later sold his store and livery stable to Tom Williams. A. B. Priour moved his ranch house to Eldorado and used it for a hotel. He later sold this house to Sam Holland, who used it for a hotel until 1923. C. C. West was the first justice of peace, and Doctor Robinson, husband of Mrs. Kate E. Robinson, was Schleicher County's first doctor. The Hoover Drug store was erected by Mr. E. E. Stricklen and is probably the oldest business building in Eldorado at the present time. The old house just east of the Baptist church is the oldest residence in town. It is now rented as a residence although for many years in the early history of Eldorado it was used as a hotel.

In December of 1901 the first newspaper was printed in Schleicher County. It was called "The Eldorado Paper" and was owned and edited by Mr. R. L. Carothers, who came to Eldorado from Lometa, Texas. The policy of his paper was to boost Eldorado and Schleicher County in every way possible. The first newspaper office was a frame building about 16 feet square. The press was an old "George Washington" which was inked and turned by hand. The first paper was four columns wide and 12½ inches long. The subscription list was about 200 at the first. On July 1, 1906, the paper was sold to Mr. A. T. Wright for the sum of \$700, including the house, lot, and plant. The name of the paper was changed to "The Eldorado Success" by Mr. Wright, the first issue of the paper under its new name being published on July 6, 1906. It has continued publication under the same name down to the present time but has been greatly improved and has installed the most modern machinery within the last few years. In the first part of 1929, Mr. Wright sold the paper to Mr. L. T. Barber and Miss Agnes Wright and they are the publishers of this only Schleicher County regular weekly newspaper at the present time.

A description of the Schleicher County area printed in The San Angelo Enterprise in 1900, a year before the organization of the County, gives some idea about the country. The description follows in part:

"Away up in the air, about 2300 feet above the level of the sea, up where the pure, healthful breezes blow; where the malarial germ is never found; where every passing breeze brings the flush of health to the citizens, this county is located. It is one of the very best in the western tier of counties. The county is 26 by 50 miles in extent, and in

portions is somewhat broken in character.

High hills, covered with live oak and mesquite timber, lend a picturesque character to this section of the country. Between these hills are lovely valleys and over all is spread the green mantle of mesquite grass, the ground work and basis of the mighty volume of western wealth and thrift.

After leaving the valleys you mount the hills and emerge upon one of the finest plains on which the eyes of man has ever rested. Slightly rolling in character, with a scanty growth of mesquite and an occasional bunch of live oak timber, with a deep rich soil, heavily carpeted with a luxuriant growth of the finest mesquite grass, this portion of Schleicher County is of a character to inspire the vision of the cattlemen and the stock farmer. This Divide, the prairie portion of the county embraces at least two-thirds of the area of the county”

(The description continues with the statement that the land on the divide was of a black, waxy, rich loam similar in character to the soils of Ellis, Hill, and Johnson Counties.) ,

. “There has been grown on this land, in the vicinity of Eldorado, as pretty fields of wheat, oats and corn, as could be seen in any section of Texas. Sorghum grown here, as feed for stock, yields abundantly— an average crop of two tons per acre being easily obtained in some instances. Observation has been that when the seasons are good in the strictly agricultural portion of the state the same conditions prevail here. Individual lands can be purchased at prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per acre, according to the location.

The present population of the county is about 400, and the people are wide-awake, enterprising and hospitable, ever ready to extend a hearty welcome to a desirable citizen. For the stock farmer, the Schleicher County Divide offers some of the rarest inducements in the west. The soil is here to raise his stuff, and, should he grow beyond his home needs, the market for his surplus— and always a good one— is right at his door.”

The people of Schleicher County took an early interest in public roads. On February 15, 1902, the commissioners court ordered that a tax of 10 cents on the hundred dollars be placed as a tax to go to the road and bridge fund. Schleicher County now has some of the best roads in West Texas. Eldorado, the county seat of Schleicher county is connected with San Angelo and Del Rio by the Del Rio Canadian Highway. On August 13, 1902, the commissioners court ordered that 25 cents on a hundred dollars be placed as a tax for county advalorem, and 10 cent on the hundred dollars be placed as a tax to go to the public school fund.

The first public well in Schleicher County was drilled in the corner of the public square in November, 1902, for

the purpose of watering the fifty shade trees to be set out by W. B. Silliman in February, 1902. Many election campaigns and other celebrations have been held in the shade of those trees and they even now stand in the court yard.

The first assessment of values for taxes on horses and cattle were made by commissioners court July 13, 1903, as follows: work and saddle horses \$20.00 per head, range horses \$10.00 per head, and cattle \$8.00 per head.

The first marriage license filed in Schleicher County was that of R. E. Edwards and Miss Dora Everett, September 10, 1901. The ceremony was performed by A. R. Watson. The second was that of John C. Page and Miss Kate E. Miller, December 25, 1901. The ceremony was performed by Y. F. Bamett. The first birth registered in Schleicher County was that of Mary Sutton, April 4, 1903. The second was that of Willie Hinyard, April 7, 1903. The first child born in the county, however, was Agnes West, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. West.

The Texas Almanac of 1904 contains the following information about Schleicher County:

"This county is situated in Southwest Texas, Eldorado, the county seat being about 50 miles Southwest of San Angelo. The population in 1900 was 515. The property assessment in 1903 was \$1,542,625. The county is devoted largely to stockraising. In 1903 there were assessed for taxation 51,890 cattle; 4,484 sheep; 3,171 horses and mules; 1,483 goats and 1,409 hogs. A great deal of school land has been settled on within the past two years, and the farming industry is rapidly increasing. The principal soil of the county is a black loam and when rainfall is sufficient good crops are raised."

Another description written the next year is as follows:

"Farming and ranch lands for sale cheap in Schleicher County, (the banner county of central West Texas). Schleicher County is a new country just opening up for farming, and good lands can now be bought cheap that will in the course of a few years double and quadruple in value. The soil is rich, black loam, from 2½ to 6 feet deep and very fertile. It has a clay subsoil ranging in depth from 5 to 20 feet, under which is solid rock, making it almost impervious to drought. Seasons compare favorably with the seasons of Central Texas. Corn, cotton, oats, milo-maize and all ordinary farm products are a success. No boll weevil. Our population in the county is now about 1,500 as compared with 350 four years since. Lands that sold for 60 cents per acre four years ago are now selling for \$5 per acre and still advancing. We have a fine school fund, a tip-top school in Eldorado, the county seat, and good country schools all over the county; good church buildings and live churches, but no saloons; climate mild and healthful. The

county does not owe a dollar and the rate of taxations is low. Smooth, rich, black lands with practically no clearing or grubbing, ready for the plow, can now be bought unimproved at from \$4 to \$6 per acre, and improved at from \$6 to \$10 per acre. These lands are practically the same as the celebrated "black waxy" of Hill, Ellis, Johnson and other black land counties of Central Texas. Ranch lands are for sale at from \$0.50 to \$4.00 per acre.

THAT AUTO TRUCK

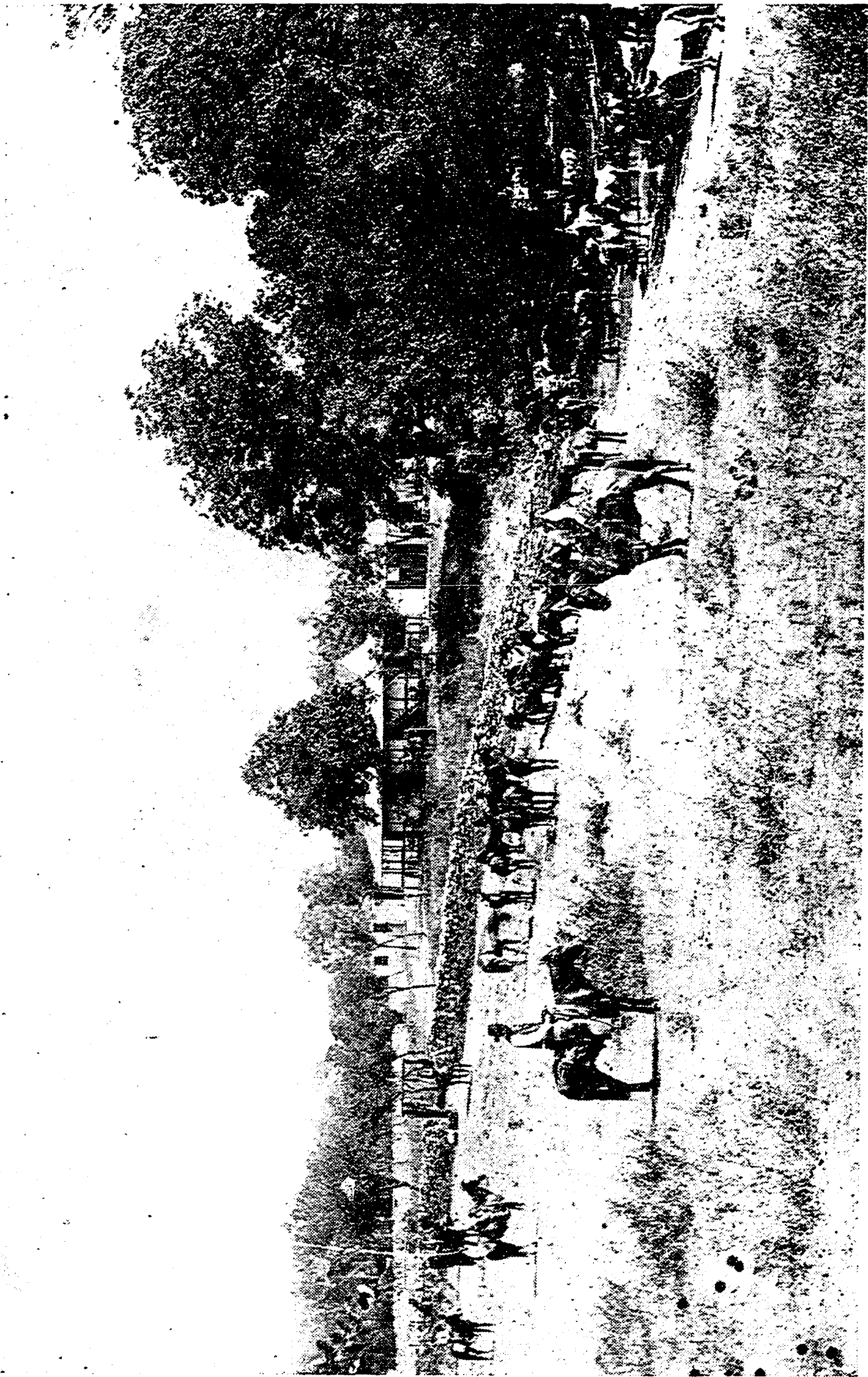
(From: The Eldorado Success, June 9, 1911.)

Last Saturday evening a monster auto truck, carrying 8,400 pounds of freight, passed through Eldorado south bound. As this was the first "Critter" of this kind that has ever made tracks in these parts, it naturally attracted a good deal of attention, the questions propounded to the driver were not a few.

The gentleman at the throttle kindly informed his hearers that "the thing" was born and raised in St. Louis; that it was neither omniverous or carnivorous, but that its only diet was gasoline, which was injected into its anatomy with a stomach pump. That, contrary to the prevailing opinion, it was not an escaped locomotive, belonging to the K. C. M. & O. railroad, as that company, nor any trust or combine, was interested in its management, movements, or meanderings a little bit and like Caesar's wife and Joe Bailey, the blamed thing was above suspicion, absolutely reliable and one of the grandest encroachments upon the future happiness and prosperity of "hoss-freighters" that ever came down the pike."

All agreed that the last sentence in the above spiel was substantially correct, for surely the gasoline passenger cars and motor trucks have, and will continue to usurp the places of horse-drawn vehicles, whether for passenger or freight transportation.

The speaker kindly omitted passing the hat around, bid his audience a sad and pathetic farewell and proceeded on his way rejoicing.



William L. Black, head quarters ranch at the Headsprings of the San Saba River

RANCHING ON TEN CENT LAND IN TEXAS

Old Timers Laughed When "Lunatic" Bought San
Saba River Ranch

by

William L. Black

From: *The Cattleman*, Vol. XIV, No. 2, July 1927.

"In 1876, I made a location of 30,000 acres of land at the headsprings of the San Saba River in what was supposed to be Crockett County but was afterwards made a part of Schleicher County. I only paid ten cents (10c) an acre for the land, and I was thought to be an escaped lunatic from a St. Louis insane asylum, for buying the land and I think my good friend, Billy Bevans, of Menard, was one of the old Democrats that had this opinion; but the land suited me, and I thought, with the splendid spring I got with my purchase, and 300-acre grove of fine pecan trees, it was reasonably cheap.

I was persuaded by one of my friends in New York to send a gentleman named Shannon too take charge of a ranch I wanted to establish for raising sheep, and I told Mr. Shannon to buy some cows as well, which he did, at a cost of \$1 a head for Mexican ewe sheep, and \$5 a head for Texas cows, with calves not counted. The arrangement with Mr. Shannon was to give him one-third net interest in the profits of my ranch investment for five years. In 1883, I made a contract with another lunatic in St. Louis to sell him my brands of B. S. cattle for \$20 a head, counting all class (including calves) but steers, over 3 years old, for which I was to be paid \$30 a head.

I took 10,000 sheep Shannon had accumulated, at \$2 a head, and moved to my ranch in 1884, to take charge of what seemed to me, a better paying business than cotton, in which I had been engaged since the close of the Civil War (1866-67) in New York. Thos. Palmer, now of Schleicher County, was the cattle foreman of the B. S. Ranch, and A. B. Priour, now of Del Rio, was the sheep foreman, who were generous enough to continue in their positions, which was gratifying to me, because I was entirely ignorant of my new business. But, it did not take me many years to become fairly well initiated.

My first experience was in 1885 in selling my first wool clip that in previous years had always sold at about 20 cents a pound. I sold wool in Abilene that year at 7 cents a pound; and I was told the low price was due to President Grover Cleveland

trying to make the United States a free trade country, which convinced me he must have been in an insane asylum himself at some period of his life.

My next experience was the renting of 30,000 acres adjoining the sections I had purchased, at the rate of 3 cents an acre by the year, all of which I enclosed with the first wire fence ever built in Schleicher County.

In 1886, I restocked my ranch with a better grade of Texas cows than I had purchased at the beginning, in 1876-77, for the same price—\$5 a head—with the calves thrown in.

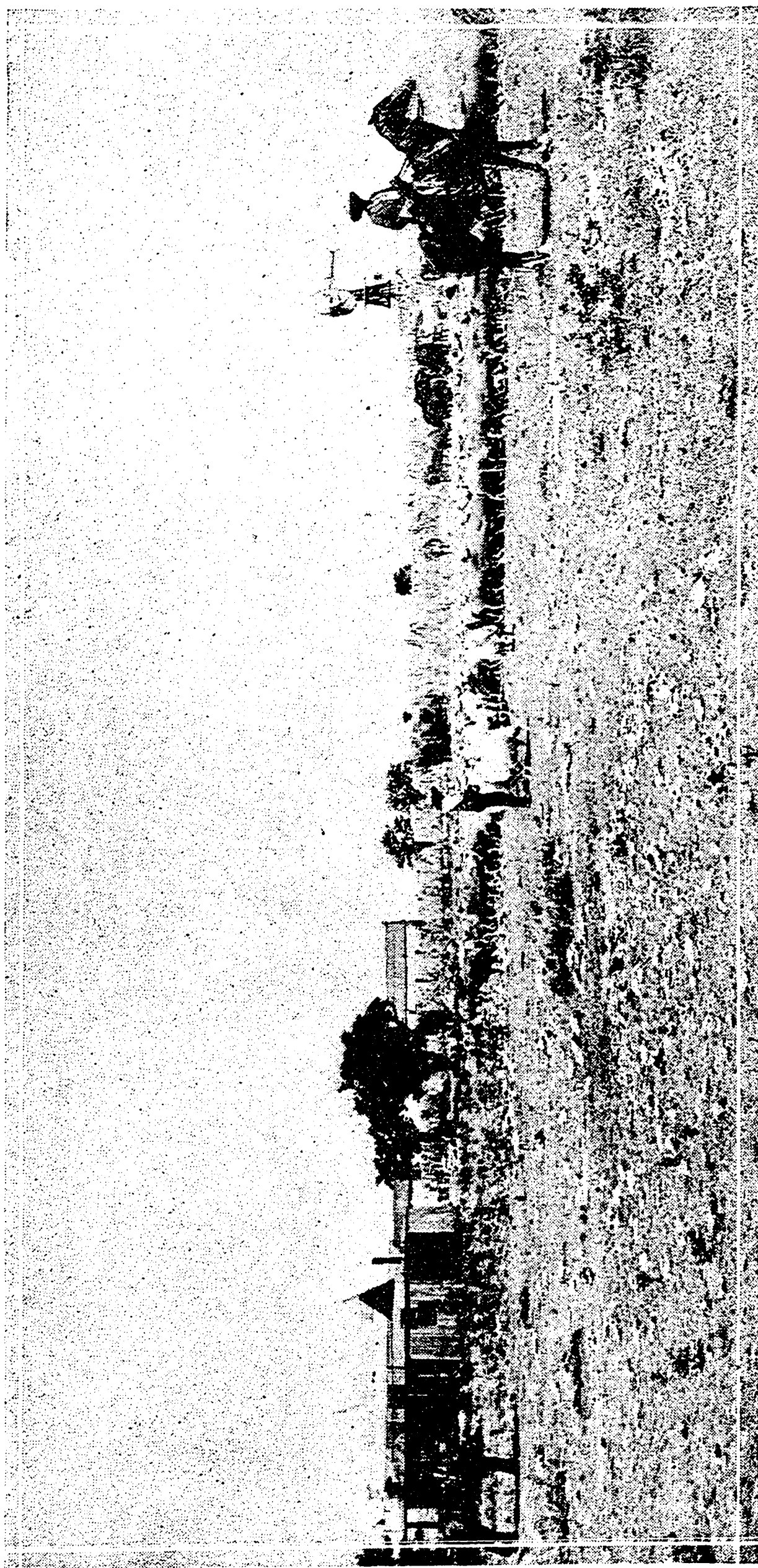
In 1889, I represented the State of Texas as a delegate to a convention of the National Wool Growers Association, in an effort to correct the mistake made by the Democrats in the Cleveland administration of 1884-1888, and the effort in a measure was successful.

In 1890, I purchased 8,000 sheep that represented a remnant of a large ranch near Knickerbocker, at 75 cents a head and sheared 40 cents worth of wool before Mr. Priour took charge of some improved Merino sheep at 35 cents a head, which he considered a fairly good bargain, and I obtained the services of C. C. Doty, now of Eldorado, with that purchase and he remained an assistant to Priour until I disposed of my entire lot of about 20,000 sheep in 1893, when Grover Cleveland was elected President the second time, in which I made about \$2 per head profit, but we had another 7-cent period of wool in his second administration which I fortunately escaped.

In 1893, owing to a financial panic I was forced to sell my cattle at from \$5 to \$7 a head and mortgage the greater part of my land, which was purchased a few years later for 75 cents an acre, by the late Dick Russell and Billy Bevans, and considering the changes that had come I think the price was cheaper than I had paid in 1876.

I still had about 8,000 Angora goats on my ranch, and I made an effort to sell Armour & Co. 1,000 fat wethers at their own price, if they would return me the hide, but they told me that they would not undertake to sell so many goats because there was a prejudice against "goat meat" and I was advised to slaughter the animals for their hides and tallow, and put the meat into two-pound cans, labeled "Roast Mutton." I decided to do this and employed an experienced canner in Chicago, who built a factory on my ranch for this purpose, and I slaughtered all of my old ewes and wethers at once.

I was not able to sell my "Roast Mutton" to Fort Worth and Dallas grocers and I contracted to sell it all to one of the Chicago packers, provided he would take enough more to fill the balance of the two-pound cans I had on hand. This left me with only 5,000 goats, from which I fortunately made a sale of 2,000 in 1897 to a Dr. James R. Standley of Platteville, Iowa, at \$1.25 a head on joint account. He wanted to sell the goats to farmers



Scene on the William L. Black "Point Breeze" ranch. Picture taken in 1886. At left is C. C. Doty and at the right is A. B. Priour.

for clearing brush on farms, and in pastures, which was a great success. That enabled me to dispose of the balance of my 5,000 goats, and about 10,000 more that I purchased to ship to the northwestern states, up to 1900 when I published the first book ever written about the Angora goat industry, which is now recognized as a strong competitor of the sheep industry. My opinion is that in time mohair will become a more important Texas product than wool.

In 1916, I had the only real misfortune of my Texas career, in the loss of my dear wife. In 1920, I transferred what was left of my old ranch to my eight children, and it is now owned by a grandson, H. Leslie Jones, a son of my oldest daughter, who first married Dr. Harry A. Jones of Sonora, who was beloved by many of the early settlers of Schleicher County.

THE FIRST PARTY BOLTER IN SCHLEICHER COUNTY

According to Si McCartney, one of the early settlers in the County, the first party bolter appeared in the early history of the county. At a county convention, held at the old courthouse, the argument waxed rather warm and several speakers were trying to be heard at once. The hubub was great but above all the noise suddenly there broke out a loud howl, mournful and prolonged. It was Frank Bates' dog, which, with his tail between his legs and howling at every jump, jumped from the window of the court house and ran for dear life. He had bolted the convention. He was the first party bolter in the history of Schleicher County.

The first justice of peace in Schleicher County was Mr. C. C. West, who still lives in Eldorado and who has one of the most beautiful homes in West Texas. He was first appointed justice of the peace at Verand, the first settlement in the county. One day the children came into the house and asked, "Ma are we justices of the peace too, just because daddy is?". Mrs. West replied, "No! No! Certainly not. Just me and your Pa, Just me and your Pa!".

C. C. DOTY

by

Wilma Milligan

Christopher Columbus Doty was born April 16, 1857. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Doty, lived in Barry County, Missouri.

After the civil war ended he attended a small country school about three months. He had no opportunity to go to school from then on but he often sat up at nights and worked arithmetic by the light of a rag twisted and placed in a cup of grease. In this way he completed his education.

When C. C. Doty attained the age of twenty one, he decided to leave his home state and seek a home in a more adventurous state. He had often heard of the advantages of West Texas, so in 1879 he came to Texas, and stopped in Ellis County for a short while, but soon he drifted on to Uvalde County, where he worked one year and then went to San Antonio. He spent only four months in San Antonio for he had decided to come farther west.

In 1880 he came to what is now Schleicher County. He came up to Schleicher and returned by way of San Angelo after some sheep. At San Angelo he met Mr. Wash DeLong. When Mr. DeLong found out that he intended to bring sheep to Schleicher County, he looked puzzled and warned him of a certain dangerous cattle man, who strictly opposed sheep.

Mr. Doty got the sheep and brought them to the Concho River. Here he made his camp and was doing nicely until a cattle man rode up, ordered him to leave within three days or suffer the consequences. He intimated that the consequences would be death at the end of a cattleman's rope. This man was the cattle man Mr. DeLong had spoken of. He claimed to control all the surrounding land.

At the end of the third day Mr. Doty was still at his camp. The cattle man rode up accompanied by two of his cowboys. He asked why Mr. Doty was still on his land and Mr. Doty replied that he had decided to stay there if it made no difference with him. At this unexpected answer, the old man turned and rode away.

A short time after the trouble with the cattle man, C. C. Doty drew a map of the disputed territory and sent it in to the land commission at Austin. The commission looked over the map and wrote Mr. Doty that only four hundred acres of land belonged to the man.

Soon another sheep man came in with a bunch of half starved sheep. The herder was an old man. He had not been in the country but a few days when the cattle man rode over, found him gone and shot his barrels full of holes. He left word for the man to move on within three days. The herder was undecided what to do. He went to Mr. C. C. Doty for advice. Mr. Doty advised him to move his camp a little nearer his own and remain there. On the third night the old cattle man came over, to find the sheep herder still camped. Upon learning that Mr. Doty had advised him to stay, he became angry and rode to the camp of Doty. Mr. Doty explained that he knew exactly how much of the land lawfully belonged to the man. At once the cattlemen changed his attitude. He became very friendly, when informed that if he caused another disturbance, there would be fifty-thousand sheep brought in within three months. He became a staunch friend of C. C. Doty and even wanted his cowboys brand Maverick cattle for him.

In 1880 there were no Indians in Schleicher County. Mr. Doty saw only one bunch of buffalo but turkey, antelope, deer, and other game was plentiful. He killed only what game he used for meat. At this time he could have killed more game in a day than he has in a whole life time. He always had a kind feeling for birds and animals; therefore he did not enjoy slaughtering them.

When C. C. Doty came to this section, parts of the country were destroyed by fire each year. The land timbered with cedar was often fared by flames. The grass burnt rapidly and in the fall men had to fight large prairie as well as cedar fires.

In 1882 he drilled the first well to be drilled below the South Concho and erected the first windmill between San Angelo and Del Rio.

While living here he had one neighbor ten miles away. His nearest neighbor on the East was thirty two miles away at Ft. McKavett. On the South his neighbor was ninety miles away on the Devils River.

The years of 1882-83 brought forth big crashes in prices. At this time he lost 1000 head of sheep..

In 1886 he took charge of 7000 sheep on the Kickapoo and while he had charge of these sheep, Mr. Doty lived a real sheepman's life, sleeping in the open, working hard and making little. It was not un-common for him to work all day and come in at night to roll up in wet blankets to sleep a few hours and rise before day break.

When he sold these sheep he went to San Saba County but he did not remain there long. When he returned to become foreman of W. L. Black's sheep ranch. Mr. Black paid him a considerable sum for his work as ranch foreman and altogether C. C. Doty had saved \$2,500.00 since 1883. He took this money and put up a store at what is now Christoval. Soon his store was pro-

gressing. The ranchmen and cowboys were giving him their trade. Life as a storekeeper was very interesting. The cowboys who came in for tobacco or other supplies were always willing to stay awhile and tell him the news from their particular part of the country.

In connection with the store he established a post office. This also added to his trade for the people who came there for mail bought supplies from him instead of going twenty-five miles to San Angelo. As Mr. Doty had founded the town, he was called upon to name it and the fact that he wanted it called "Alice" showed that Miss Pancost must have been playing a pretty important part in his life. He finally sent in the name "Christoval," the spanish word for Christopher. Authorities misread the word and named the town Christoval.

While running the store he lived in an adjoining side room. One night he awoke to find the whole store in flames. He aroused his friend who was spending the night there. As they ran out side the store crashed in. Nothing was saved. The contents, account books, his clothes, home and all other property perished within thirty-five minutes.

Again C. C. Doty was left without property but he immediately adapted himself to the situation and began anew. He decided that life might be more pleasant with a companion, so on the third day of June, 1889, he married Miss Alice Pancost. They were married at Christoval. Miss Pancost had been a resident of Concho County for several years. Before coming there she had lived in San Antonio.

The young couple moved to a place on Dove Creek where he was in charge of fifteen hundred acres of irrigated land. C. C. Doty did not work on Dove Creek over two years. When he quit this work, he engaged in the cattle business. He worked with cattle until 1896. He was a progressive cattleman but the work was hard and cattle raising was quite different to what it is now. In 1886 Mr. and Mrs. Doty decided to lease a ranch, and settle down. The ranch they leased was about three miles above the Concho Springs. The land was not fenced so he and a partner set to work and fenced it. He and Mr. Shepperd, his partner, had nine sections. They stocked the land with cattle and both men helped with the work. They kept up this work with cattle on the same ranch for six years.

In 1901 Schleicher County was organized. C. C. Doty was elected tax assessor of the county on August 19, 1901.

In 1901 the county put state land on the market. They used a plan which resulted in land rushes. The man who got his application and money in first, got the land. The first land rush occurred in August, 1901. Mr. Doty was time keeper.

After eight years as tax assessor, Mr Doty took new interest in ranching and stock business. Since that time he has sold and owned several small ranches near Eldorado. He and

Mrs. Doty and their daughter, Marie, did not live on these places very much.

In 1909 C. C. Doty went to work in the First National Bank in Eldorado, as a bookkeeper. The bank had not been organized very long at this time. In 1910 the bank deposits were \$78,000. The surplus was \$8,000. He worked in the bank for two years. The year 1910 was better than the following year for the deposits then were only \$52,000. When he entered the bank he sold a small leather business and intended to work in the bank longer than two years, but he found indoor work unpleasant, so in 1910 he left the bank.

From 1910 to 1924 he worked on his various ranches. He also devoted part of his time to filling the office of Justice of Peace for Schleicher County. For the past fifteen years, he has been Justice of Peace in Eldorado. As Justice of Peace he has united many people in marriage. He does not perform marriage ceremonies with the indifference of many officials. He is very sincere in wishing all those whom he marries a happy wedded life. In this office he fines law breakers also. Mr. Doty always tries to be as lenient as possible on young people who are paying their first fine.

In 1924 he sold all his ranch land and stock and bought a small leather repair shop in Eldorado. He repaired shoes saddles, etc., for a year. In 1925 he sold the shop and bought a small grocery store from Mrs. Bud Douglas. The store was in the northern district of Eldorado. He moved across the street and is still a grocery-man.

In 1882 Mr. Doty became a church worker. He organized the first Sunday School between San Angelo and Del Rio. This first Sunday School was organized at Christoval. The people met on what is now the Baptist Encampment Grounds. In those days people had to go several miles to church and Sunday School. C. C. Doty rode fifteen miles to superintend this Sunday School. Mr. Doty was superintendent of a Sunday School for twenty years but was not a member of any church until 1907, when he joined the Methodist Church of Eldorado. He still has membership with this church.

C. C. Doty has the distinction of being the first settler in Schleicher County. He came here eleven years before the county was organized. He built the first house, drilled the first well and erected the first windmill in the county. He has now been in the county fifty years and he has seen the county develop into a progressive farm and ranch district. When he first saw Schleicher County, it was a broad open state, unfenced, and uninhabited.

Cattlemen claimed the country then but by 1910 sheepmen had gained an equal footing with them. Soon small bits of land began to be cultivated and now as Mr. C. C. Doty approaches his seventy third milestone of life he sees many progressive

farmers in the southern and western parts of the county. When he came here good land sold for fifty six cents per acre. Now good ranch lands sells for twenty five dollars an acre or more.

At present C. C. Doty is seventy three years old. He is active and still does his work. He has many friends both young and old. He has gained these friends through being a friend, for he has befriended many.

HE DIDN'T STARVE OUT

(From: The Eldorado Success, August 22, 1913.)

About 16 or 17 years ago our friend T. G. Chaney, who ranches nine miles north of town, settled on a section of land and everybody predicted that he would soon starve out as at that time it was thought that farming was a complete failure in this county. But time has proven different. From a camp under the liveoak trees, with a couple of ponies hobbled nearby, sprang a beautiful farm and home. A thing that a few years ago was thought an impossibility has since proven a profitable industry. A farm of more than a hundred acres, a four-section ranch, plenty of farming implements and a well-furnished home now surround the former camp site. . . . This only goes to show what a man can do with a farm in Schleicher County.

THE FIRST ELECTION HELD IN SCHLEICHER COUNTY

(From: The Eldorado Success, May 5, 1911.)

The first election ever held in Schleicher County was the State-wide Prohibition election of 1887 and was held a short time after the county was created from Crockett County, which was also in 1887. Mr. C. C. Doty, who still lives in Eldorado, was the presiding officer of the election. Mr. Doty related that the election was held at Point Breeze, a place about five miles southeast of the Twin Wells in the eastern part of the county. Only twenty three votes were cast and all of these except one were against State-wide prohibition. The one vote for prohibition was cast by Geo. Champie. A large portion of the voters in the county in this election were Mexicans. At that time the people of Schleicher County got their mail at San Angelo, where most of the supplies were secured.

WELLS MADE A BARREN AREA INTO LAND OF PLENTY

Windmills Brought Civilization To Schleicher County

The occupation of the Edwards Plateau of Texas by man was long delayed on account of the scarcity of water. That portion of the Plateau which is now Schleicher County was devoid of any sort of permanent surface water. The high divide of the county furnishes the source of the San Saba and Devils Rivers but only "dry draws" exist in the upper courses. "Pot holes" along these draws sometimes catch water and hold it for some time after a rainy spell and the lakes on the divide hold water temporarily but these could not be depended upon for stock water. Stock men settled along the Conchos, the San Saba, the Devils and Pecos Rivers but that vast area between these streams was shunned until the high prices of the eighties and the mad scramble for new ranges caused stockmen to finally enter the area now included in Schleicher County. Nomadic stockmen had drifted their stock across the divide area during rainy years. Hunters, both Indians and whites, had found that game was very plentiful, but nobody actually wished to make a home in such a place until water could be provided. It was left to some progressive pioneer to bring this about.

In 1880, Mr. C. C. Doty, who is the oldest resident in Schleicher County in point of years in the County, came to the ten mile water hole and located there with a flock of sheep. This water hole is located on a "draw" about eight miles south of the South Concho and about ten miles north of the present town of Eldorado and near the ranch now owned by Calcote Brothers. Mr. Doty's uncle, Mr. W. T. Moore, had brought the sheep from Uvalde County but soon after his arrival Mr. Doty bought the flock and took charge. He believed that the water-hole would be permanent and so established headquarters there. Grass was plentiful and the range was ideal. His nearest neighbor was over ten miles away. For two years all went well. The sheep were in good condition and the lamb crop showed a satisfactory increase.

But in 1882 calamity threatened this pioneer sheepman for, in the summer of that year, the water hole began to dry up rapidly. Something had to be done, and at once, or else the sheep would have to be moved to a new range. Mr. Doty and his Mexican herders dug into the bed of the "draw" just below the water hole and found plenty of water at a depth of only five feet. Before long it was necessary to begin using this well to supply the camp and stock with water. Eventually it seemed that this

supply of water was gradually weakening and besides it was next to impossible to water 4,000 sheep in this way.

Bored First Well On Edwards Plateau

Mr. Doty believed that by boring a well deep enough he could get an unlimited amount of water and so started to work on this prospect. The boring of wells and the use of windmills was just beginning in West Texas at the time and their success had not been fully demonstrated. Before leaving such an ideal range it was worth the trial so Mr. Doty went to Ben Ficklin, the County seat of Tom Green County, to confer with Mr. C. B. Foote who had the only well drill in this section of Texas at the time. According to "The Texas Wool", of July 1881, later changed to The Texas Wool Journal and still later to The Texas Stockman, Mr. Foote had bored a number of wells in Tom Green County and had found abundant water in several places.

Mr. Doty stated his business to the owner of the well drill. It did not take Mr. Foote long to say that it was foolish to try to drill a well south of the Concho River in that desert country. He ridiculed the idea at considerable length, and further objected by saying that he might get the drill hung in the rocks and that he might have no end of trouble on such "a wild goose chase". However, he finally consented to move the drill to the Ten-Mile Water Hole for the sum of \$25 in cash and demanded \$1 per foot for drilling but could quit and move the drill whenever he wished. Needless to say, Mr. Doty did not accept this proposition. Instead, he ordered a drill from Fort Scott, Arkansas, and in due time went to Abilene to the railroad to receive it.

Within eight days after he had returned and set to work with the horsepower drill, water was struck in the well. This was in July of 1882. The well was only 52 feet deep and is still in use on the ranch of J. F. Runge, in Schleicher County. Mr. Doty relates that there was so much water that it seemed the well had been bored into the Concho River. The water was so clear and pure and cool that it proved to be more important than a gold mine or an oil well in a region shunned by man because of lack of water. Mr. Doty erected a "Star Windmill" over the well and thus brought to an end the period of the "barren prairie."

The land was so worthless that Mr. Doty did not even try to buy the land upon which the well was located. He did not own a foot of land and saw no reason why he should spend money for land when there was so much of it unoccupied and when there were no prospects that it would ever be occupied and valuable. This well was drilled in what is now Schleicher County and has claims to being the first well on the upper Edwards Plateau of Texas. Its importance cannot be overestimated for it opened up a veritable stockmans' paradise to settlement and to civilization. After it was shown that good water could be found others follow-

ed the example of Mr. Doty and the rapid change in West Texas was begun. The Schleicher County area was soon occupied by cattlemen and sheepmen.

Other Wells Drilled

Following the example of Mr. Doty other men moved into the Schleicher area and drilled wells. The second well drilled was by "Old Man" Moss, in the winter of 1882-83, in the eastern part of the county. The first well drilled on top of the divide was by C. C. West, about 1886 or 1887. Here the wells ranged from 250 to 300 feet in depth but in the lower parts of the county water was found at shallow depths. After the first well was drilled it was only a short time until wells dotted the whole county and all the range was taken. In 1884-85 the Vermont Ranch Company drilled four wells at various points in their eighty-section pasture. At the head-quarters well they installed a steam engine to pump the water, this being the first steam engine used in the County.

Mr. T. J. Johnson, who owns a ranch located on part of the old Vermont ranch, relates that once he saw 3000 head of four year old steers watered at one time at the east well on the Vermont Ranch, after the steers had been without water for three days in the summer, without diminishing the supply of water in the well perceptibly.

The first well was drilled in Eldorado in 1895 and for several years this was the only well in the little village. In 1902 the County had a well drilled on the Court House Yard.

For many years after the first well was drilled Cattlemen believed that their cattle would not thrive on well-water. They considered a running stream essential. This was probably due to the fact that cattle raising had always been carried on along streams and to the fact that the first wells bored on the Plateau were of limited capacity due to the small size of the pipe and to occasional lulls in the wind. Probably this prejudice against well-water explains why sheep were brought in more than cattle during the early occupation of the Plateau. But it was soon found that cattle did well on well-water and when wells were properly equipped and storage facilities provided, the range was rapidly stocked with cattle.

In reference to the water supply of Schleicher County, a description written in 1910 stated that inexhaustible wells furnished an abundant amount of soft, pure and cold water. This supply could not be affected by weather conditions for the supply was the same during the wet and dry seasons. As evidence that the supply was inexhaustible it was pointed out that all the rivers of this section—Spring and Dove Creeks and the Concho River on the north, the San Saba on the east, the Llano on the southeast and the Devil's River on the south—all drew their water supply from the Schleicher County Divide. This meant

a higher source of water than any surface streams and the water was there anywhere that a well was drilled..

Caves Contain Running Water

There are at least two caves in the county, both northwest of Eldorado which contain running water. From the top both of the caves resemble wells which have been dug. In the cave located on the Whitten ranch, winding passages lead down some 200 feet to a stream of clear, pure water. The flow of this may be heard long before it is reached. The story is told that in the early days two outlaws, Ketchum and Adkins, hid in the cave on the Roach ranch, about twenty miles northwest of Eldorado and accidentally discovered that it had water in it. From that time on for several years made this ranch their headquarters. Water being found in this cave is said to have been the cause of boring wells in that vicinity.

Wells And Windmills Brought Changes

Now windmills dot the entire face of the country. Wells, windmills and wire fences brought a permanent settlement to an area formerly uninhabited. Thus the development of this Plateau area really began with the time when man harnessed the West Texas wind and made it produce that one essential which had been lacking, "WATER."

The First Steam Engine In Schleicher County

The first steam engine to be brought to Schleicher was installed on the old Vermont ranch at the head-quarters well. So great was the demand for water at this well that an ordinary windmill could not be depended upon to supply enough for the families on the ranch and for the stock. Wood was used for fuel and it was not always an easy task to get this fuel. When the Vermont company failed to prosper and finally quit the ranching business, the old steam engine was discarded. Parts of it may still be seen on the ranch of Mr. Edd Finnigan near the well where it was used. A few years ago Mr. Finnigan took a part of the boiler, set it on a concrete base, and made it serve as one of the supports of a metal water tank. An outlet pipe runs from the tank through the tubes of the old boiler to the ground and has never frozen during winters when other ranchmen were having plenty of trouble with frozen pipes. Thus a part of Schleicher's first steam engine is still serving a useful purpose.

THE ORGANIZATION OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY AND ELDORADO AS THE COUNTY SEAT

By F. C. Bates Jr.

Schleicher County, until the spring of 1901, was under the jurisdiction of Menard County for Judicial purposes. W. B. Silliman, C. C. West, and a few other citizens who visioned the bright future of the little city of Eldorado, and Schleicher County, and who struggled not in vain to get cut loose from Menard County, circulated various petitions, the law, I think requiring the signatures of some 50 legal Tax Payers to present to the Hon. Commissioners Court of Menard County, and that she be allowed to govern her own affairs within her borders. The petition I think had 52 signatures to it when presented to the Honorable body at Menard. At that time not even one more signature was obtainable, as this just about constituted the citizenship of the entire county. After duly considering said petition by said Commissioners Court of Menard and finding out to their satisfaction that this petition was strictly in accordance with the law, we were granted our freedom, and the Court at Menard so ordered, adjudged, and decreed that from that day henceforth, Schleicher County should Judicially "Paddle her own Canoe." They ordered an election held for the election and installation of all county officers to govern the affairs of said Schleicher County. After said Election the Hon. J. D. Scruggs, then county Judge of Menard County, drove through from Menard to Eldorado, via the buggy route, and qualified each newly elected officer. The members of the first official family of Schleicher County who were successful in the heated campaign for the various seats were: H. J. Y. Mills—Sheriff & Tax Collector; A. B. Priour—County Judge; F. C. Bates, Jr.,—District and County Clerk; C. C. Doty—Tax Assessor; Jack Allen—County Treasurer; F. C. Bates, Sr.,—Justice of Peace; Wm. E. Murphy—County Commissioner, Precinct No. One; W. D. Ake—Commissioner Precinct No. Two; John Jones—Commissioner Precinct No. Three; cannot recall the Commissioner from Precinct No. Four.

Schleicher County's first court house was the building now standing just east of the water works, known as the Silliman, Campbell, and Evans building. The Rock Vault, that still stands intact there, was built and used for the keeping of the records. First, before describing to you the hectic memorable days of the big school land runs of Schleicher County, under my administration as County Clerk, in August 1901, I want to relate just how the little settlement of Eldorado was (before its organization)

all tied up in traffic jams, etc! ! I have stood on the store front of the old McWhorter Store building (later occupied by A. T. Wright), and with an old time "44" winchester killed antelope leisurely grazing in the late afternoons in the big Lagoon near where the court house now stands.

**My Experience As County Clerk Of Schleicher County During
The Hectic And Memorable Days Of The Big School Land
Rush of 1901, 02, 03, Inclusive.**

First, there is no outsider that can, or ever will, realize the position and great responsibility placed on the shoulders of the county clerks during these times when homes for mothers and children and bread and meat were involved. The Legislature of our state in passing this school land law placed all unused school land on the market for sale to actual home seekers and to those who held a preference right on the limited acreage on which they could file. This legislative body made a fatal mistake in the mode of filing these applications, which mistake, came very near running into bloodshed and in some instances did so. They set out, in this law, that the first application filed with the county clerk was entitled to the award cards of these lands. There, of course, came the old questions or saying (that Might is right) largest crowd who had charge of the clerk's doors, sometimes several days before the land was actually on the market, as a rule, generally got the land. The first tract of this land that came on the market for sale was some 100 sections or more, the lease expiring at midnight on the 21st of August, 1901. At 12:01 o'clock, one minute after midnight, I opened the clerk's doors to receive the applications and the surge against the little frame court house, heretofore described, by such a mass of humanity shook the entire building and the frame walls were moving back and forth, as each man was trying to get his applications to the first one. One instance in particular that happened that nite shall always be fresh on my memory, which occurrence was as follows. While I was busy filing some applications that came into my hands first a very large man rushed up to my desk and in an instant pushed his big 45 six shooter in my face and remarked "I demand that you file these applications at once." I was busy on some papers previously handed me and passed his ultimatum up, thinking that if he did shoot and the ball hit the target that he would not get any land at all as the clerk would be out of commission (temporarily at least). Just about the time he demanded that his ultimatum be carried out the second time, one of the big, specially deputized officers of the peace by the name of Sam Littlepage, who weighed 200 or more pounds (a close relation of uncle Phil McCormick who now lives in Eldorado) came with his ultimatum by striking him between the eyes with another big 45 "man eater", at the same time saying, "put up your gun, be a man and wait for your turn." The hard boiled Gentle-

man, after receiving the blow, stamped the floor after which he remarked, "Gentlemen, please hand me my money, applications, and gun and I promise to leave things with you as there will be land left here when I am dead and gone."

During this particular filing some \$2,000.00 came into my hands, to accompany the applications to Austin. This was all in silver and currency and as there were no banking facilities in Eldorado at this time, I had made agreements to deposit this amount in the Bank in San Angelo, tho this plan was frustrated by my receiving a phone call the next morning after the filing that the Outlaw, Oscar Finley, and his band were laying in wait for me in the underbrush near Christoval to relieve me of taking this money farther on. Consequently my plans were changed and with our sheriff and six special deputies we made our own road, via the woods, south to Sonora and this money was safely deposited in the First National Bank of that city.

A great many of the home seekers, who at that lonely day did acquire good homes in Schleicher County, sold their fine claims for a nice bonus and went back East from where they came. It was merely a money making proposition to them and not, in fact, seeking a home for mother and the babies. On the other hand the citizenship that now lives within the confines of Schleicher who did, in fact, acquire their land and homes under this school land law, are still in Schleicher. (I know them all.) They came west seeking a home, acquired it, and are still with same, and a better class of citizens than the ones I referred, do not exist.

I went into the clerks office in Schleicher County (as its first clerk) a poor man from a financial point of view, served the people during these memorable School Land days and held that office for 8 years. I came out of office as I went in. (A poor man.) While I coveted a home on some of the fine school land that came on the market at \$1.00 per acre, now worth from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per acre, and could, as a matter of fact, have filed my own application in advance of any other, and today could have been the owner of 4 of the best sections of land in Schleicher County by taking advantage of my official capacity. I have no regrets, however, to make along this line even unto death.

In conclusion I wish to say—that I love the people of Schleicher County. (love Schleicher County.) Some of the best friends, the most loyal and true that I ever expect to have in this world, live in Schleicher County.

Schleicher County would be my home today had not land that was once sold for a song got to where it was so valuable and high I could not follow my avocation there—that of the Sheep and Goat business. Consequently I had to go to other fields and am now permanently located on the banks of the Pecos River in what is known as the Trans-Pecos Country where at one time the Hon. Roy Bean was law west of the Pecos.

THIRTY FAMILIES NOW PROSPER ON SCHLEICHER COUNTY RANCH

by

R. D. HOLT

From: (San Angelo Standard-Times, October 6, 1929.)

The Vermont ranch of Schleicher county has long since passed into history, and in passing it repeated that old story of numerous ranches in western Texas—the change from the open range to the fenced pasture and then the breaking up of the big pasture into stock farms.

About the only actual evidences of the Vermont ranch which remain today are the strands of barbed wire on various ranches north of Eldorado, parts of an old steam engine, and the old cemetery on the ranch of Ed Finnegan. marking the site of the old ranch headquarters and also the site of the first town and post office in Schleicher County.

In 1884, a corporation known as the Vermont Company, composed principally of stockholders living in Winsdor county, Vermont, purchased 25,460 acres of land (almost 40 sections) in Schleicher County. This purchase became the neucleus of the Vermont ranch. The purchase price was \$14,500, or approximately 57 cents an acre. Frank Pierce, the son of the secretary of the Vermont company, and Sim Frances, the nephew of the president of the company, were sent to Schleicher county as managers of the ranch. No doubt their experiences on the ranch would make some interesting reading.

Vast Tract Fenced

The forty sections purchased, together with the alternate sections of school land, were enclosed in the winter of 1884 with a three-wire fence. This 80 sections was the first pasture of any size which was fenced with barbed wire in the area between San Angelo and Del Rio.

In speaking of this fence, C. C. West who is one of the oldest settlers in Schleicher and was the first justice of the peace at Verand, stated that at one time he was riding the fence and came upon hundreds of deer in a bunch. They became frightened and ran into the fence tearing it down for at least a hundred yards.

Five wells were drilled on the Vermont ranch and wind-mills erected at them. At the headquarters-well, a steam engine was installed to pump the water when the mill would not work. The corrals constructed covered about ten acres of ground. Also a substantial ranch house was built and other improvements were made. The expenditures of the company for improvements on

the ranch alone were enormous. C. C. Doty, the first tax-assessor of Schleicher county and the first sheepman in the county, relates that in stocking the ranch the two young managers asked him to go with them to the South Concho, where they bought 5,000 head of sheep to put on the ranch. Several thousand head of cattle were also placed in the pasture.

Just at this time, the great profits in the cattle industry in Texas were attracting many outsiders into Texas and most of these had expectations of getting rich quickly, and beginning about 1884 they were doomed to disappointment. The Vermont company was no exception to this. Their expenses were found to be greater than their income and after two years of ranching the cattle and sheep were sold and the pasture leased until it could be sold in 1894. The "Yankee" owners had not made a go of the ranching business in West Texas.

Verand First Town

On this old Vermont ranch was established the first town within the bounds of Schleicher County, although the county at that time was a part of Crockett County. This little town, called Verand, consisted of a store and post office and a hotel. A few families settled here, but all of them moved to Eldorado when it was started in 1895. There was a stage line which passed through Verand, and no doubt the inhabitants of this small village had visions of the growth of their settlement, for a time.

After the sale of the Vermont ranch in 1894, it changed ownership several times within a period of a few years. In 1904, J. F. Taylor, of Coleman, became the owner. Two years later, the land became involved in litigation, but after due time Taylor heirs were given possession of the land.

In 1901, however, "actual" settlers began to go into the Vermont pasture and file on the alternate sections of school land, this being allowed under the land law at that time. The first to file on land in the pasture was T. G. Chaney who bought four sections of school land on February 25, 1901, at \$1 per acre. Before long he had some of the land in cultivation and was raising cotton. He raised the first bale of cotton ever ginned in Schleicher county. This was on September 20, 1904. In March of 1929, Mr. Chaney sold this land for \$18 per acre.

Farmers Ridiculed

When the actual settlers first began to file on the school land in the Vermont pasture and in other parts of the county, the cattlemen ridiculed them for their folly in believing that a man could make a living on four sections of land. The actual settler was called a "one gallis fellow" and the cattlemen seemed to believe that a man with only four sections would have to "chase old Beck" up and down the cotton rows for a living. In October of 1903, "The Eldorado Paper" stated:

"Whoever dares to assert that West Texas will ever be

worth a whoop for anything but the raising of cattle, horses, sheep and goats, is at once branded for a four-section crank without brains enough to grease a gimlet."

But in spite of the opposition of stockmen, the filing on the school land continued and after all was over the school land in the Vermont pasture was taken up by settlers. In October of 1904, there was considerable excitement over a "land rush" at Eldorado occasioned by settlers filing on school land in the Vermont pasture. After a time, the Taylor heirs sold their remaining holdings, except one-half of a section, and the Vermont pasture was a thing of the past.

After the break-up of the 80 section Vermont pasture had once begun in 1901, the time was near at hand when it was found practicable to continue the division still further. Gradually, this has been going on to the present time. The average amount of land held by each of the landowners in the old Vermont pasture is probably between one and two sections although some own much more than this and some own less than a section. Each of the small ranches and stock farms has some sheep and cattle on it now and it is safe to say that more stock are raised on the old area of the big pasture, and the grade of stock raised has improved beyond description.

Homes are Modern

During the 80's and 90's, there were five ranch hands or cowboys usually employed on the Vermont ranch and they could boast of few of the modern comforts of life. There are now some 30 families, or at least 150 persons, which make their living from the same area and each family has a comfortable home and all the modern conveniences of life. Each land owner can boast of his garden, his orchard, his chickens and turkeys, milk cows and hogs, as well as sheep, goats and stock cattle. Some of the owners raise cotton and have always made good crops but some do not raise any cotton. All of them raise feed, however. Surely the evolution of the old Vermont pasture during the last 45 years tells a story of the progress typical in West Texas.

Some of the owners of land in the Vermont pasture are Meador, Robinson, Nolan, Whitten, Bailey, Jones, Finnigan, Wilton, Bodine, Calcote, Farrington, Kerr, Milligan, Tisdale, McElory, Johnson, Cheek, McClatchey, Richardson, Enochs and Wardlaw.

THE VERMONT RANCH

By J. C. BULLION

The history of the Vermont ranch is typical of the history of many of the large ranches in West Texas. As late as 1885 and 1890 the plains of West Texas were almost treeless. These plains were covered with buffalo grass that sometimes grew so tall as to touch a mounted man's stirrups. There were no running streams and therefore, little water was available. Although surface water was scarce, grass was to be found in abundance everywhere and game was very plentiful. Deer, elk, antelope, and wolves were the most common animals, but bears, panthers, bob-cats and many other kinds of animals were also found.

Bands of wild horses roamed about the plains. These horses came from the stock which the Spaniards lost when they first explored in West Texas and the Southwest. These little horses were called mustangs.

Even as late as the 70's Indians were still roaming at large in this part of West Texas and very few settlers ventured out-side the frontier forts. These were Fort Concho, Fort Mason, Fort McKavett, Fort Stockton, and one or two others.

In the late seventies and eighties men with large herds of cattle would bring them out in this country and drift them from place to place. These cow outfits built no permanent homes or fences. They had to stay near the streams.

Then the sheepmen came in with their flocks of bleating ill-smelling sheep. They moved their flocks from place to place also, but not as much as the cattlemen. The cattlemen hated the sheepmen and did all in their power to keep them off the range but they could not. The coming of the sheep opened the way for permanent settlements and in 1884 a company of men from Windsor County, Vermont, bought 25,475 acres of land in what is now Schleicher County. They paid \$14,502 for their land.

The men got the land from different railroad companies. This land had been given to these companies by Texas for building railroads in different parts of the state. It had been divided into alternate sections, the railroad companies having one section and the state one adjoining, called alternate sections.

The land bought was named "Vermont Ranch" and Sim Frances and Frank Pierce were put in charge of it. The ranch consisted of about 80 sections of land. 40 sections were patented while the other 40 were kept by the state. The borders of the ranch went almost as far north as the South Concho River.

Sheep, horses and cattle were kept on the ranch. The first sheep on the ranch were bought by Mr. C. C. Doty. He went up the North Concho and bought five thousand for the ranch owners.

The first cattle on the ranch were the typical Texas Longhorns. These were very small and did not weigh very much but they were tough and hardy.

The ranch house was located in a small valley surrounded by low hills. The house was a low wooden structure with several rooms and was inclosed by a picket fence.

There were ten acres of corrals near the ranch house. The corrals were made of stout barbed wire stretched tight between strong cedar posts set close together.

About a quarter of a mile from the ranch house was the town of Verand. There was a stage station, a store, a hotel, a school and several other buildings in the town. The town was watered by a well. Mr. C. C. West was one of the first property owners of the town.

There was a well and a dirt tank about a hundred yards from the ranch house. Water was pumped by a steam engine, parts of which are still on the ranch land. This well watered as many as fifteen hundred cattle at one time. There were four other wells on the ranch.

In the winter and spring of 1885 the Vermont Ranch was fenced. This fence was built by Mr. E. E. Stricklen and, with the exception of a small horse pasture built near this ranch by Mr. Doty, it was the first fence to be put up between San Angelo and Del Rio. The wire used in building this fence was big and strong and had long, sharp barbs attached to it. Eighty sections were fenced.

The men who worked on the ranch were typical cowboys of the West. They wore boots and spurs, large hats, and guns. The food of the cowboys on the ranch consisted mostly of beans, coffee, bacon, biscuits, and wild game.

In 1903 Mr. Jim Garrett, the boss of the Vermont Ranch gave a party and invited all the people in the surrounding country to attend. The party was a light and enjoyable affair and there were many present. People came to this party on horseback and in every kind of vehicles pulled by horses. Everybody enjoyed the games that were played and the refreshments that were served.

The Vermont Ranch was run by the Vermont Company for two years but they had lost money on it and they leased it to Mr. Palmer and Mr. Talbert in 1883.

Palmer and Talbert kept the ranch leased until some time in the nineties.

Finally many people came in and began taking up school land on the ranch. The alternate sections of the ranch were soon taken up. The large ranch owners did not like for this land to be taken up and they did all in their power to prevent it. Ranchers took up all of the land possible and they had much trouble with the settlers. From 1901, on up to the present date, the old Vermont Ranch has been cut up into smaller ranches until at present there are twenty eight ranches on the old Vermont Ranch which was one of the largest ranches in West Texas.

“LAND RUSHES” IN SCHLEICHER COUNTY

More than once the thriving little County-site of Schleicher County has had booms which justified the name “Eldorado”, meaning “land of gold”. One of the first of these booms came with the school land rushes from 1901 to 1905; another followed the building of the Orient Railroad dump and the accompanying excitement of the sale of town lots around the original town-site of Eldorado about 1910; and the third boom, brief but breezy, took place in August of 1929 when a showing of oil was found in the Whitten Well, five miles northwest of Eldorado. All of these events caused excitement but old-timers, in referring to the “land rushes”, always imply that these efforts to satisfy land hunger caused the greatest excitement of any happening and they refer to this period when Schleicher was young, as a tough and turbulent time.

Land Law Of 1901 Caused “Rushes”

Prior to 1901 the cattlemen just about had their own way in the Edwards Plateau region for they generally held undisputed possession. The land law of 1901 was designed to change things, however, in that it intended to enable the little man or the actual settler to acquire a home. The alternate or even numbered sections of school land, located in specified counties including Schleicher, were to be placed on the market at an average price of \$1 per acre with forty years to pay for it at 3 per cent interest. The maximum amount that one man could buy was four sections. Instead of filing an application for purchase of the land with the Commissioner of the General Land Office at Austin, as under the former laws, the application was to be filed with the County Clerk of the county where the land was located. The clerk was to advertise that the land would come on the market at a certain date and the man who first filed an application for a tract of land, together with one-fortieth of the purchase price of the land and the interest for one year, was awarded the land. This law instituted “land rushes” in West Texas.

Land Rushes Caused Activity And Excitement

Filing on land under the provisions of the law of 1901 led to a mad scramble whenever land came on the market. The men who desired to file applications to settle on the lands, accompanied by all the friends and followers they could collect,

would line up at the door of the county clerk's office sometimes two or three days before the land was actually to come on the market. They would eat and sleep in line. Sometimes there were periodic struggles to take the ones in line out so that another group could get the coveted position near the door. At night the land seekers were sometimes serenaded and generally there was considerable fun and joking. The different factions "razzed and rawhided" each other continually but always in a good-natured manner.

The first "land rush" in Schleicher took place on August 26, 1901. The county clerk's office was to open at 12 o'clock at night but long before that time there was a crowd outside and these had divided into two distinct factions. Within the clerk's office there were three men, including the county clerk, to take care of the records. One of the men was to note and record the exact time when an application for land was made, another was to count and guard the money which was thrust thru the door to accompany the application, and the third was to record the application itself. At twelve the rush began. The two teams worked against each other trying to get to the door first. Men rolled, ran, crawled, walked on the shoulders of other contestants, or made their way toward the slot in the door of the clerk's office in any way possible. When one contestant was jerked down or pulled out of line he passed or threw the rolls of the applications and the money for the filing fee to some man on his side. The rush continued for several hours but finally the land was filed upon and the crowd left without anyone being seriously hurt.

There were many land rushes in Schleicher and practically all of them caused excitement. A rush in September of 1903 is described by The Eldorado Paper as follows:

"Eldorado was again treated to a land rush, tho not of great numbers, it was a warm little push. It was occasioned by the coming on the market of one section of land in the G. W. Stephens pasture, and two parties were in the push, with their followers. At the court house Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock about twenty of our citizens gathered to participate in the rush, while fifty spectators were on hand to see the work well done. Just before the time was up, the "settlers" dispossessed _____ and his followers and were enabled to file the application of Miss _____ first."

Contest Between Cattlemen And Actual Settlers

The land rushes were primarily a contest between the cattlemen and the settlers who wished to come in and buy the land formerly used by the cattlemen. The cattlemen had the land in the country divided among themselves and had fenced the alternate sections of school land within their pastures in many cases. To see some settler come within their pastures and settle on land this was not pleasing to the cowman and when school land within his enclosure came on the market it

was certain that the cowman with his cowboys and friends would be on hand to try to reach the clerk's office first to file on the land. The settlers would also band together and help one of their number reach the door of the county clerk's office first. The land rushes came to be a scrimmage in which both the cattlemen and the settlers were trying to hold their opponents by force long enough to allow one of their own side to rush to the clerk's office with all the applications for that group. In wrestling about the courthouse yard many of the contestants often had most of their clothing torn off. It was a rough and tumble game, much like football, except that both sides had the same goal—the door of the county clerk's office.

The cattlemen and the settlers were very antagonistic toward each other and sometimes the feelings ran high on each side. The former had held the land for years and derided the "four-section-crank" for believing that a man could make a living on only four sections of land, which was the maximum amount of land one man could buy under the law. The cattlemen charged that the so-called settlers were merely bonus hunters who did not intend to actually settle down but wanted to get footholds in the cattlemen's pastures so as to make the pasture man buy them out. The settlers on their side charged that the cattlemen were organized for the purpose of keeping out settlers and they believed this was not just.

In 1903 a writer, signing himself as "Actual Settler," in the Eldorado Paper, stated:

"God created these beautiful sloping hills of the West that we might have homes, and to tell me that we do not have law to protect us is a slam on the intelligence of civilization. . . . Be it ever so humble there is no place like home."

Charges Of Secret Organization And Hired Men For The Rushes

In 1904 the cattlemen charged that of the 200 qualified jurors in Schleicher County there were about 125 who were organized into an "Actual Settlers' Organization" which held secret meetings. At the same time the settlers charged that the pasture men were also organized and brought in hired men in the rushes. The Eldorado Paper, in September of 1904, carried the following notice in reference to this subject:

"I understand that The Standard (San Angelo) reports both parties went outside of the county and hired "squads" of men for the "rush." Please say on behalf of myself and brother, and settler friends, we had none from other counties, and that we had no man who was hired in any way or for any consideration, to help."

Settlers Seemed To Be Successful In Rushes In Schleicher

In Schleicher County the settlers seemed to be more successful than the cattlemen in filing on the school land for as the land came on the market the actual settlers gradually gained a foothold and the settlement of the country began. The first school land filed upon in the Vermont Pasture, an eighty-section pasture north of Eldorado, was in February of 1901, when Mr. T. G. Chaney filed upon four sections. Soon he had some of the land in cultivation and was raising cotton. After the first settlement was made and it was proven that a man could make a living on four sections of land, or less, then it was a gradual process for the big pastures to break up.

No Bloodshed Occured In Schleicher Landrushes

It is almost a mystery that no bloodshed resulted from the landrushes in Schleicher County. The older settlers in the county gave it as their opinions that if the rushes, with their attending high feeling and excitement, had taken place in the older settled portions of the state, where old prejudices, grievances and feuds were deep seated, then there would have been many lives lost during the landrushes. In Schleicher County all the people were comparatively new-comers and there was no deep-rooted trouble existing.

The sheriff was supposed to see that all the contestants were disarmed before they started the "rush" but this was not always done. Mr. C. C. Doty, the first tax-assessor in the county and one of the men who helped the county clerk during the rushes, relates that during one rush the feelings ran so high that a wholesale killing seemed almost inevitable. During the heat of the tilt between the cattlemen and the settlers a six-shooter was heard to click as it was cocked. Immediately there were at least twenty-five others also heard the click. Everything around the old courthouse became deathly still. Bloodshed was almost certain it seemed to the onlookers. Who would fire the first shot? Suddenly a voice beamed out—"The first man to shoot is a dead man!" It was the deputy sheriff speaking. He was a very large man and was noted over the country as a fighter. The men knew that he meant what he said. Nobody fired the first shot and the situation was relieved of danger. The men were hurriedly disarmed and the rush continued. It was a wonder that someone had not been killed. Ordinarily the spectators felt perfectly safe in going to the landrushes and usually there were more onlookers than there were "Pushers."

Mr. A. K. Bailey, of Eldorado, who belonged to the "Settlers' Union" during the period of the landrushes, related that during one of the "rushes" he saw that one man on the opposing side had a gun under his belt. Mr. Bailey made it convenient to go to the man and have a little "scuffle" with him to find out for certain that it was a gun. Then going to Sheriff Henry Mills, Mr. Bailey said, "Si Stevens has a gun on him. I demand that you disarm or arrest him." The

sheriff went to investigate the charge but the accused party saw him coming in time to stick the gun down in his boot leg and then denied the charge of having a gun. While the sheriff was searching him all the land was filed upon, much to the merriment of the settlers.

Mr. Bailey also relates that a man from the north who was staying at the Eldorado Hotel during one of the rushes became greatly interested in watching a "land push." In order to see all that happened, this spectator decided that he was to close to the field of battle and began to leave in a hurry, not pausing to consider the manner of his going. Frank Bates' dog seemed to decide about the same time that he would be better off elsewhere and began to run from the court house yard. The northern gentleman was just behind the dog, both running at top speed. As the story goes the man passed the dog finally and gasped, "get out of the way dog and let somebody here who can run."

School Children Played "Landrush" In Eldorado

So exciting and absorbing were the landrushes in Schleicher County that even the children played this as a game at school. The Concho Herald, in October of 1904, had the following comment to make about this:

"School land rushes seem to be quite the idea in Schleicher County. Even the children play school landrush as a favorite game. We noticed in The Eldorado Paper where the school children were playing school land rush last week and when the rush was over, one of the boys was found with a broken arm. We imagine such sport is rough on old clothes."

Strategy Used To Keep Opponent Out Of Land Rush

The Eldorado Paper, of October 1904, recounts an interesting story of how Mr. A, as we shall call him, kept Mr. B. out of a land rush. Mr. B. in a "statement" in The Paper explained how he was tricked. He recounted how Mr. A, at midnight, came to his house, about ten miles north of Eldorado on the Christoval road, and asked to borrow a horse to carry him on to Eldorado. Mr. A. seemed in a great hurry and explained that he was on his way from Christoval to Eldorado and that his horse had given out. He had received a telephone message in Christoval saying that his wife was dangerously ill in Eldorado and it was urgent that he get there as soon as possible. Mr. B. had only one horse that he could get that night and did not want to loan him as he was the best horse on the place but finally consented to do so under such urgent conditions.

Later Mr. B. found that all the plan was a "frame-up", according to his statement in the paper. No such telephone call had been made and Mr. A's wife had not been ill in months, according to the Doctor's report. Mr. B. Concluded his article in the Eldorado Paper by saying:

"Should anyone now call on me for help in case of sickness, I would not know if it was true or not. The horse was used to reach Eldorado in time to file on land in the Vermont pasture, and some of it joined my place and I wanted it, but some of the knowing ones in the party filed on it."

In the same issue of the Paper, Mr. A answered Mr. B under the title of "An up-to-now Land Rush", in which he said:

"In regard to the pitiful howl recently set up by certain parties in this town and county, concerning myself and others, I beg to say that I do not think the matter worth considering, owing to the source, but I do not think the good people ought to take a day off to pity and console those parties with the same old story that anything goes in a West Texas land rush. Come again boys."

New Land Law In 1905

The land laws of 1901 and 1903 caused much dissatisfaction and conflicts over the filing on school land. They made land rushes possible and tended to encourage the old conflicts between the cattlemen and the settlers. Due to the confusion and strife in the operation of these laws there was considerable sentiment for a change in the law long before this was done. In March of 1903 a concurrent resolution was passed by the Texas Legislature which, among other things, stated that it was reliably reported that a "rush" on the clerk's office in some counties was impending and that armed persons were encamped near such clerk's office prepared by force and intimidation "to interrupt the quiet and peace-living citizens in his effort to secure a home and prevent the fair and impartial award of these lands as contemplated and intended by our land laws." The resolution merely held up the sale of the land for 90 days and did not stop the land rushes. The Eldorado Paper made the statement that it believed this was only to bluff off the actual settler.

The law was finally changed in 1905 so that the school land was sold to the highest bidder and all sales were made directly by the Commissioner of the General Land Office at Austin and not thru the county clerk of the county in which the land was located. This new law removed the occasion for land rushes and they became a thing of the past.

Landrushes Helped To Settle The Country

In March, of 1903, an actual settler pointed out that 200 sections of land under 3 cent lease, with a few scattered windmills and one camp house, would if settled, give homes to fifty families and there would be as many bald-faced grazing over the country as ever. Settlers came into the country and proved this to be true. The old-time cattleman may not admit even now that this is true, but the land-rushes attracted the attention of actual settlers to West Texas and the division of

the big pastures into stock farms has been going on ever since. It is true that a great many of the "actual settlers" who filed on school land during the land rushes, and later on, did not live out their three years upon it but a large number did and many of these date their prosperity and actual start in life from the purchase of school land for a home.

An Account Of Settling On School Land In Schleicher County

"I made my settlement on section _____ in Schleicher County, Texas, in good faith for a good home in 1902. I went upon said land in a heavy, two horse, long buggy. I took with me three or four quilts and a pair of blankets, skillet, frying-pan and coffee pot, provisions consisting of flour, bacon, beans, potatoes, and a tarp, or heavy wagon sheet. I cut some forks with which to stretch my tent, put up the forks and connected them with a ridge pole. I stretched my wagon sheet over said ridge pole, and fastened the ends of said sheet to the ground on each side by driving stobs in the ground and tying the ends of the sheet to these stobs. I ate my dinner there and then put my bedding and provisions in the tent I had made. I put my provisions in a towsack and tied it up so that nothing could get to them, and hung it up so that nothing could get in them and hung it up in my tent. I then started back to Eldorado to file my applications, got there about two or three o'clock in the morning of 1902, and filed my applications with the County Clerk of Schleicher County soon after I got back to Eldorado, on the morning of 1902. After I filed my application, I went back to my settlement, and stayed two or three days, and then went to San Angelo, and bought me a wall tent and more provisions. I went right back to my home on section—, and stretched my tent, and have been living there ever since. I built a wire fence around my tent for a yard fence, and have drilled well on my land. It is not completed. About a week ago, the well was about one hundred and twenty feet; have timber at my place to build a house sixteen feet square; have had timber there about a month. I am living there now. Was gone from my place about six weeks at one time; carried a bunch of horses to San Angelo and shipped them to East Texas, and sold them. I am a single man; was over twenty-one years old when I filed on the land and have never before bought any school or asylum lands. The additional lands filed on by me are adjoining lands to my home section, and within a radius of five miles of my home section."

SHEEP RAISING

By Roscoe Parker

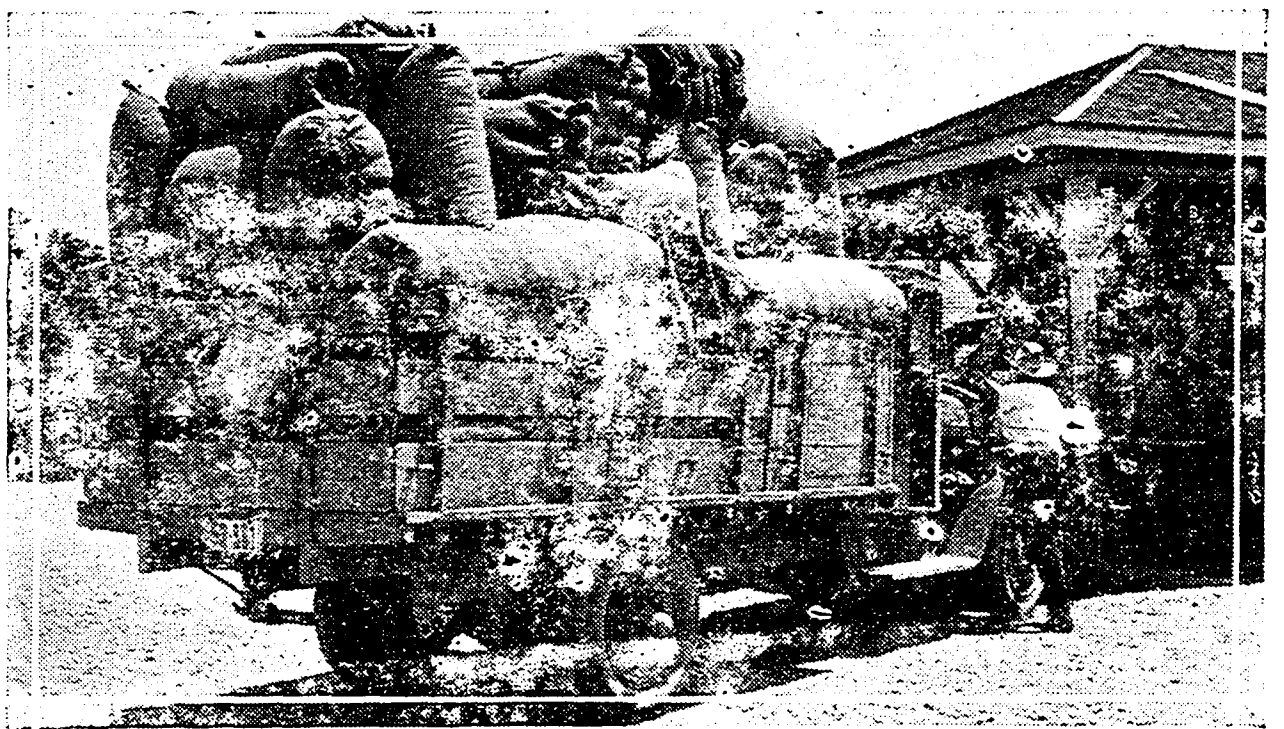
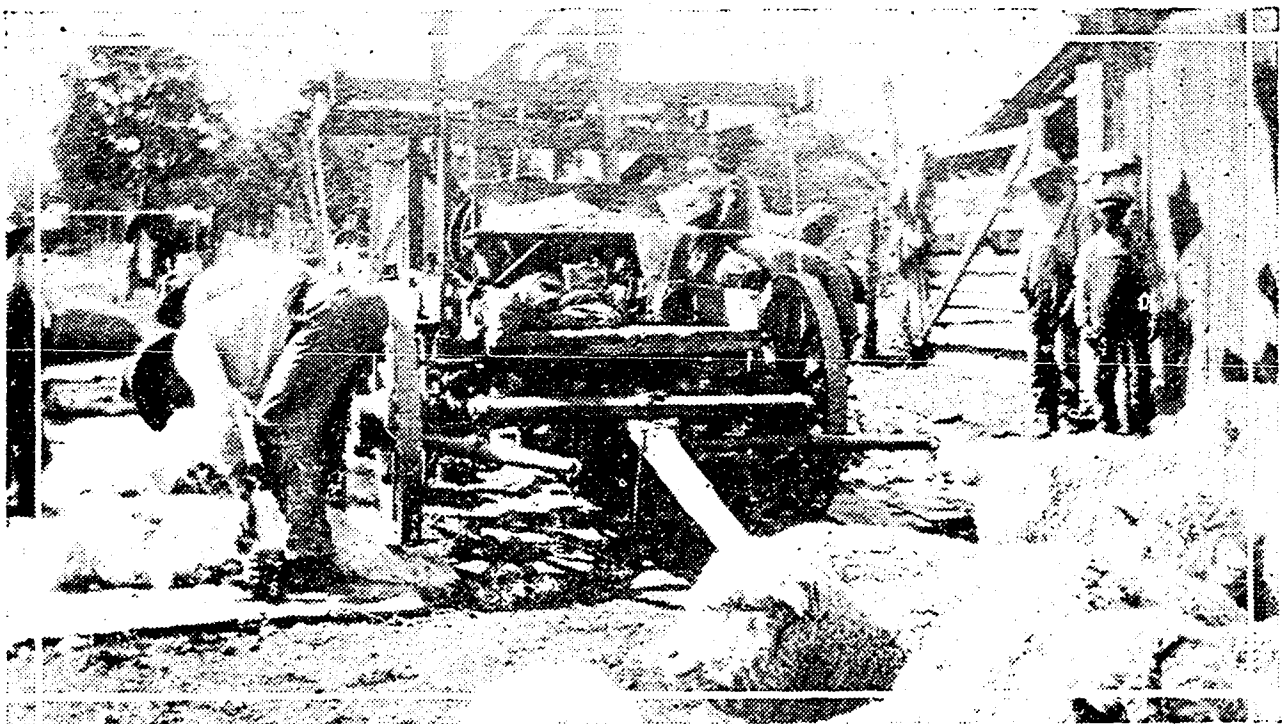
Among the first sheepmen in what is now Schleicher County was Mr. C. C. Doty, of Eldorado. He located, in 1880, twelve miles north of Eldorado on the San Angelo road. Mexicans were the chief laborers at that time and they were employed to herd and take care of the sheep.

The cattlemen came to this section of Texas before the sheepmen did and they thought that the sheep should not be brought into the country. For this reason when sheep were brought in trouble began between the two factions. This trouble lasted until the sheepmen were numerous enough to hold their own with the cattle raisers. The cattlemen still hated to see the sheep brought into the country but he had to keep quiet.

The method of handling sheep at that time was quite different from that of the present time. The sheep were divided into flocks of fifteen hundred sheep each. In order to have proper care of the sheep there was for every two flocks or every three thousand head one white man, who was "sheep rustler", and two mexicans who herded the sheep. The "Chuck Wagon" consisted of a wagon drawn by two horses on which was carried the bedding provisions and cooking utensils for the "outfit." In the rear end of the wagon was a kind of a cupboard in which was carried the provisions. A door which was hinged on to the lower part of the cupboard was turned downward. This served for the table. There were three horses with the outfit, one team and a saddle horse.

The first woven-wire or wolf proof fence erected in Schleicher County was in August, 1909, by Mr. Edd Ratliff of Eldorado. He fenced one section of land with this wire. The land fenced was located nine miles notheast of Eldorado and now belongs to Hugh Richardson. The wire was twenty-six inches high. This was tightly stretched and tacked to strong cedar posts. Three barbed wires were stretched above the net wire. It made a strong fence and was far better than the three and four wire fences which were then in use in the county. It was not entirely wolf-proof, however, for a few wolves found their way into the pasture but these could be easily found and killed. The wire for this fence cost about \$160 per mile and was worth much from the very first for it was no longer necessary to herd the sheep which had to be done before the fence was erected. For a time Mr Ratliff did put the sheep in a corral at night but before long they were not even penned at night.

Some of the large ranchmen near Mr. Ratliff ridiculed



Top—Goats on the ranch of Joab Campbell in north east part of Schleicher County. Center: Shearing crew and machine at work on ranch in Schleicher County. Now the shearing machines have as many as twenty or more drops and are operated principally by Mexican shearers. A skillful hand can shear as many as 150 sheep in a day. Lower: Hauling wool to market. Before the coming of the railroad wool and other products had to be hauled to the nearest market by trucks and before that by freight wagons.

the idea that a man could make a living from only one section of land, especially after he had spent so much in improving the section ranch, and they predicted that he would not make a success of the enterprise. Some merely looked over the new mode of fencing because Mr. Ratliff had not been in the county as long as they and thus had not had the experience. Strange to say, however, these were the very men to go broke within the next few years or if they did not go broke they lost heavily and then came over to the new method of stock raising. The example of Mr. Ratliff showed the way to a change in the method of sheep raising in Schleicher County.

The next net wire fence was erected in Schleicher County by Mr. Joe Tisdale, who erected eight miles of this strong substantial fence on his ranch northeast of Eldorado. He sold enough cattle to make a payment on the wire, which cost him \$2100. Before that time sheep had to be herded and wolves caused much trouble. Several of the cattlemen predicted that Mr. Tisdale would have to sell his land to pay for the costly experiment in fencing, but such did not prove to be the case. It was found that sheep did better in a pasture, that wolves could be located easily when they got inside the pasture and would soon be caught and killed. The fence soon paid for itself, according to Mr. Tisdale, and so well was this fence built that it is still standing, having served as the model for many other ranchmen in fence building.

About the same time Mr. Sam Jones erected a wolf-proof fence in the Mayer community, southeast of Eldorado, and Mr. F. J. Reynolds likewise fenced his pasture west of Eldorado. Mr. W. D. Ake, Sam Hill, J. E. Henderson, S. I. Nicks and Harry Jackson were also among the first to use this new system of inclosure. Soon the entire county was fenced and cross-fenced with net wire and wolves were practically exterminated, except for a few that came in from neighboring areas. The net-wire fence virtually revolutionized the sheep industry in West Texas and caused the production of sheep to increase by leaps and bounds.

The advantages of fenced-in pastures or wolf proof fencing over the open range ranching is great. Fences eliminate the herding of earlier times. They enable ranchers to better control diseases of the sheep, mainly the scab and stomach worms. They also prevent wolves and coyotes from getting among the sheep. Permanent improvements of a sheep ranch are fences, water systems, barns and troughs.

The water systems now consists of two very different kinds. The first, which is more important and more numerous, is the well and reservoir system. The water is brought to the surface from wells, varying in depth from two hundred and fifty to four hundred and twenty five feet in depth, by wind-mills or by gas engines. The water is pumped into dirt or rock and concrete reservoirs of great capacity. The water is piped from these tanks to troughs in the different pastures and

corrals. Generally there is a trap varying in size from three to five acres. Either the pastures or the corrals are accessible from this water lot, and sheep can be easily penned in these lots and easily transferred to other lots. The second is of lesser importance and is found only in rainy seasons consists of lakes, which vary in size and length of time they hold water.

Barns on a sheep ranch are of much importance and value to sheep ranchers, especially during the winter and after shearing. Many sheep would be frozen to death if there were no barns or sheds. Salt houses also are of much value to the sheep raisers. In this way the salt is kept fresh and is not wasted, thus causing unnecessary expenses. These improvements tend to reduce the death of sheep, increase the lamb crop, improve quality and reduce expenses of management.

Sheep raising is the largest and most profitable business in this section of the state. The sheep shear from eight to ten pounds of wool each year. An average of 36c has been paid for the wool of this section for the last 11 years. The sheep are sheared once a year, usually. The lambing is usually done in the months of April and March. About two hundred and fifty sheep can profitably be run on one section of land.

"Scab" or better known as "scabies" is a disease which in the past has been very hard on sheep. This disease is being stricken out of the state by means of dipping. In December 1927 there were only 327 sheep infected by the disease, 1669 exposed and 2061 dipped in the state of Texas. This disease is almost out of the state now.

Of all sheep Delaine and Rambouillet are the best wool growers. The Rambouillet is of better mutton type than the Delaine. The Shropshire is a mutton type sheep. In Texas during 1927, thirty-three million pounds of wool was sold. Of this San Angelo sold thirteen million pounds. Much work has been done by the state in sending out sheep inspectors. The principal works in the local vicinity are on "Scabs" and "Stomach Worms".

The following Table shows the number of sheep in Schleicher County from 1912 to 1929, according to the tax rolls:

Year	Number	Year	Number
1912	60,000	1920	106,000
1913	60,000	1921	110,000
1914	60,000	1922	115,000
1915	60,000	1923	121,482
1916	60,000	1924	135,218
1917	65,000	1925	173,470
1918	75,000	1926	156, 220
1919	100,000	1927	163,858
		1929	187,772

Thus, the number of sheep has increased gradually and since 1916 this has been noticeable. The average wool production per head of sheep in the county is now about eight pounds and it is estimated that the total wool production of the

county is about 1,500,000 pounds annually. In 1925 Schleicher County was fifth in Texas, in comparison with the other counties, in the number of sheep. The counties with a greater number of sheep were Crockett, Val Verde, Sutton and Edwards. All these are primarily stock raising areas while Schleicher County devotes much attention to agriculture. In proportion to area Schleicher County ranked second in 1929 in the average number of sheep per section, Sutton County being first.

At the present time much attention is being given to the breeding of registered and thoroughbred sheep in Schleicher County. At the Schleicher County Fair, in 1929, about fifteen boys who were members of the 4-H Club exhibited five feeder lambs each and under the direction of County Agent. L. E. Sumners are now feeding them. The breeder of the winning group is to be awarded a loving cup by the First National Bank of Eldorado. The breeders who furnished lambs for the feeding project were John Rae, Dick Lawhon, Rex McCormick, Jess Koy, Hensel Mathews, D. E. DeLong and others. The feeding of lambs in the area of production opens up a new industry which will probably be of great importance with the coming of the railroad furnishing an adequate outlet to market.

Schleicher County's School Land

The three leagues of school land which were set aside for Schleicher County when the county was created were located in Gaines County. On March 25, 1908 the Commissioners' Court of the county sold the 17,712 acres of land to W. L. Says, of Commanche, at \$6.10 per acre on forty years time at five per cent interest per annum. Thus a permanent school fund of \$115,128 was created for Schleicher County. The annual income derived from this land which was available for the schools of the county was \$5,756.40.

CATTLE RAISING

By Mabel McClatchey

Mr. R. A. Evans who came to Schleicher county in 1888 and worked on the open range for many years, says there were few fences then and there were many cattle on the open ranges. The cattle were all known as the Texas long horns, and were of various colors, although there were very few red cattle and the hereford cattle were unknown in Southwest Texas then. The cattle were worked on the open range and would be rounded up for miles and miles around and those that were not branded were branded then. They would have to be roped and branded as best they could. The different brands on the cattle that were already branded belonged to different ranchmen.

The cattle were of a very wild and vicious nature and, as they were guarded at night, the least little noise would frighten them and they would scatter to the four winds of the earth. They would run all night and of course would have to be rounded up again. The cowboys on guard were not allowed to get off their horses and they were not allowed to strike a match to light a cigarette. They had to be very quiet.

There were very few watering places near here in that time. The main places were Dove Creek and Spring Creek or Devils River. The stock would have to water there, as there was no wells. The wild mustangs watered only about every three days and they watered at night.

When round up time came, there would be numerous men hired by each stock owner to go with the spring roundup to gather in the cattle. The men would go to Del Rio or Juno and work back this way to Beaver Lake, which is the head of the Devils river, and by that time they would have several thousand cattle in the herd which would belong to different men. The calves would be branded then and they were branded the same as their mothers. That was the only way the men knew their stock apart. The cattle were rounded up about once a year and by these brands the other could be branded by them. The herds could travel rather rapidly. The first night the herd would be stopped but after that they would travel night and day and the herd was not allowed to stop all night. The chuck wagons would have lanterns tied on the back end and the cattle would follow the lights. At times when they got as far as the present Eldorado the herd would be strung out to a considerable distance. At times it would be around twenty five miles from the front of the herd to the very back.

In March and April the big steers were gathered and

trailed to San Angelo and shipped from there to Oklahoma to grass. They would be taken to the sage grass country which was known as the Indian territory. Some cattle would be shipped to Kansas City also.

There was much stealing of cattle done in the time of the open ranges. Some men would brand a calf that they knew did not belong to one of their herd but if it was not branded they would put their brand on it and therefore say it was theirs but this was watched and if a calf with one brand on it was following a cow with another brand it was solved out as best it could be. These big round up's would last for weeks before they could get every thing straightened out again.

In 1905 there were a few pastures fenced off in this country. Some of these were: the Vermont pasture; Colonel Black's ranch and Bob Murchison's range. These pastures or ranches, as we might call them, were not divided up into parts. There would be only a three or four wire fence around the entire property of these men and the rest of the range would be open as it always had been.

In about 1915 there were quite a few ranches in this country. All the open ranches had been fenced but some were just in one pasture and some few were divided into smaller pastures.

In 1905 a few Hereford cattle were shipped into this country. The long horns were being shipped out and the herefords were shipped in. After a few were shipped in, there began to be large numbers of that type of cattle shipped in, and they began gradually to take the place of the long horns on the ranges. The long horns were soon all shipped out so there was nothing left but the Hereford cattle and they have played the prominent part since then. The pastures were fenced with a three or four wire fence for quite a while but the net bottoms and barb wire on top of that soon took the place of most of the barb-wire fences. The wolf proof fences were then built and they play the most prominent part in the fence of today.

The ranges of this country now are cut up into small ranches. There are very few large ranches in Schleicher County. They have been cut into stock farms and much of the land has been put into cultivation. The way the cattle are handled now is very different from what it used to be. All the ranches have pens built to work the cattle in. The cattle are gathered from the pastures and put in the pens and the calves are branded. This way is much easier than the old way. The stock of the different men do not get mixed up now. Each ranch owner has his own stock in his own pastures and therefore the cattle working is not a very difficult job. When a man wants to ship some of his stock, all he has to do is gather them from the pasture and cut out what he wishes to ship and then trail them to San Angelo, the main shipping point of this

country. Some are carried to Mertzon and shipped from there.

Wells have been drilled thus solving the difficult problem of watering places for the cattle. A ranch of four or five sections will probably have three or four windmills on it and these furnish the water for the stock. The cattle now are not wild, vicious type as they were in the early days. A herd of cattle never stampede as they used to. They are a different type cattle and are tamer than the long horns. There was a certain time of the year that the most of the shipping was done in the early days but now cattle and other stock are shipped all during the year. There are not such large numbers of cattle on the ranches now as there use to be. There were only a few stock owners and they owned all the cattle but now almost every farm has a few cattle on it at least. There are very few just plain ranches in this country now and there are no great number of cattle on these ranches. Most of the ranches now have been made stock farms, having sheep, goats and cattle.

The chief classes of cattle now are: the blooded Jerseys, Holsteins, Herefords and other fine breeds. These classes have taken the place of the Texas Longhorns. In 1926 there were about 30,326 head of cattle in Schleicher County and there were about 664,966 acres of land in pastures in the County. The estimated number of beef cattle was 30,124 and the remainder were dairy cows. The estimated number of dairy cows was about two hundred and two. The sheep and goats have been brought into this country several years ago and they have taken the place of the cattle to some extent. In 1929 there were 21,518 head of cattle assessed for taxes in the County. In 1910 there were 69,702 head of cattle in the county. The decrease is explained by the fact that other industries have replaced cattle raising to some extent.

Each year the difficulties of driving cattle and sheep to market have been increasing. Lanes have been increasing in number, ranchmen along the trail routes are discriminating more and more in furnishing water and feed and in allowing stock to cross their pastures. Rail facilities are the only solution for this problem and the stockmen of Schleicher County look with great favor to the coming of a railroad to Schleicher County. In the past the ranchmen of the county have been driving their stock to Menard, Mertzon, Barnhart or else to San Angelo. The round-trip to any of these points would take the better part of the week and the difficulties were great along the road due to the number of automobiles and lack of water and grazing grounds.

The loss by shrinkage was also great when driving the stock to market under such unfavorable conditions. Thomson Brothers had scales on their ranch, which is located about eight miles from Eldorado. In one shipment there were 52 head of heifer yearlings and 25 of these weighed. The 25 weighed averaged 603 pounds. At Fort Worth, where they were

shipped, the 25 head averaged 565 pounds. Thus the average shrinkage per head was 38 pounds. The cattle were driven about fifty miles from the ranch to the shipping point and were then loaded and taken to Fort Worth in twelve hours. They were shipped promptly after being loaded.

Graduates Of The Eldorado High School In 1909

In June of 1909 the two graduates of the Eldorado High School were Missess Essa Alexander and Bertha West. There were ten grades in the school at the time and a total of 201 pupils were enrolled for the year 1909.

School Bond Election In 1909

In July of 1909 the Eldorado Independent District voted \$20,000 worth of bonds for the purpose of erecting a brick school building. The vote was 77 for and none against. In due time the contract was awarded to P. A. Williams and the building completed. It is that part of the present school building in Eldorado which is nearest to the highway.

In May 1913 the graduates of the Eldorado High School were Misses Ida Conner, Delia Hale, Cecy Black, and Dell Bearce and Messrs. Lawrence Boynton, Henry Todd and Herbert Finley.

COTTON PRODUCTION

By Ruby Chick

Before the county was organized there were two men who raised cotton on some land which is now part of Schleicher County. It is not known for certain which of these two men raised the first bale or the exact year it was raised. It was either in 1898 or 1899 and by Mr. J. F. Wagner or Mr. J. E. Garvin.

If the first bale was raised by Mr. Garvin it was on section number 112, or if it was by Mr. Wagner it was on section number 128. In 1901 or 1902 Mr. C. C. West raised one bale of Cotton. These men were the first cotton farmers in Schleicher County.

The first cotton which was raised was called the mebane cotton and was a long staple cotton. After the mebane cotton was the "half and half" cotton which was raised most of the time for quite a while. The half and half cotton was half lint and half seed. Most of the cotton now raised is the long staple.

At first there was no gin nearer than San Angelo which was about fifty miles for the men to haul their cotton to be ginned. This would take the busy cotton farmer several days to make the round trip, as wagons were the only means they had for hauling cotton. For that reason the cotton industry did not grow very fast.

The first cotton in 1898 sold for 8 cents a pound and in 1899 10 cents a pound. From that time on until 1919 the price of cotton increased. In 1919 it was higher than it had ever been before or since that time in the county. It was 42 cents then. The price from that time to the end of 1927 was 20 cents.

The soil in Schleicher County is black land and it is suited to cotton raising. It produces a longer staple than any of the adjoining counties. When there are favorable conditions one bale to an acre can be raised easily. When the county was being settled at first most all of the land was ranch land. The ranchers said that Schleicher County would never be a farming county. In 1925 there were 270 farms and there were 9,743 acres in cotton cultivation and 3,751 bales raised and ginned in Schleicher County.

The first gin was built by the citizens of the county in the Northeastern edge of Eldorado where the old gin now stands, in 1904. After the gin was run for a few years Mr. P. H. McCormick operated it and in 1908 he had full control of it. This gin burned November 11, 1911. Mr. McCormick rebuilt the gin in 1912 and from that time until now he and his



Top: Threshing oats on the ranch of S. W. Mather a few miles from Eldorado. Center: Field of Milo Maize on the farm of M. J. Wade a few miles from Eldorado. Bottom: Cotton field on the farm of Will Luedecke a few miles from Eldorado.

sons have owned the gin in Eldorado.

The second gin which was built was the Black Gin. It was operated only two seasons. This gin was in the East end of the county. The Bailey Ranch gin was built by Mr. Ira McDonald in 1915. It has been operated every year since it was built. In 1925 it was sold to Mr. McLeod and Mr. Jackson who own it now.

The Eldorado gin has ginned in all since it was built about 28,700 bales of cotton. The new Eldorado Gin was built in 1926 in the South part of Eldorado on the Highway.

September 20, 1904 the first bale of cotton ginned in Schleicher county. The cotton was owned by Mr. T. G. Chaney and it weighed 493 pounds after it was ginned. On September 21, 1904, another bale was ginned in 39 seconds. That bale belonged to Mr. R. L. Brooks. The samples of both bales were good. The gin opened a new industry in Schleicher County.

The cotton industry seems to be rather successful for there are several cotton farmers in the county who have bought land and built nice homes on it by raising cotton. If in the future the cotton crops improve as they have in the past there will be a great many more acres put into cultivation and many more bales will be raised.

It is generally recognized today that cotton can be produced more cheaply per pound than in almost any county in the state. This is due to the fertility of the soil and the ease with which it can be cultivated. Mr. J. M. Pfluger, who has farms in Schleicher, Tom Green, Mills, Brown, Irion, Commanche and Concho Counties, in 1929 said that he could raise a pound of cotton in Schleicher County for 12 cents while it costs 18 cents to raise a pound in Mills County. It is also the boast of the cotton farmers in Schleicher that cotton can be raised here with less rain than in any other place in the state. As an example, Mr. L. T. Wilson produced one-fourth of a bale per acre in 1929 with only five inches of rain after the cotton was planted.

THE MASS MEETING

ELDORADO WILL BUILD A GIN TO HANDLE THE COTTON CROP

From: The Eldorado Paper, Eldorado, Texas. Wednesday,
January 29, 1904.

"Saturday afternoon at about 3:30 the mass meeting called for the purpose of discussing the proposition of building a cotton gin in Eldorado, was called to order, and W. B. Silliman elected chairman and F. C. Bates, Jr., elected secretary.

"After the election, the chair stated the purpose of the meeting and called for the views of those present on the subject. Several responded and all expressed themselves favorable towards having a gin built here. It was then decided to organize a joint stock company with \$3,000 capital and divided into 300 shares of \$10.00 each.

"Every one present was requested to come forward and sign an agreement to take the amount of stock set opposite their names and in a few minutes stock to the amount of \$2,750. was taken.

"A committee composed of W. B. Silliman, P. H. McCormick and T. P. Dorris were elected to solicit further subscriptions and to call the next meeting.

"Now the farmers of Schleicher County can go ahead and plant cotton with the assurance that a gin will be in operation here to handle this years crop, and save them the expense and time of hauling their seed cotton to San Angelo and then hauling the seed back home.

"We understand that arrangements are being perfected to purchase all cotton offered here, of this we will have more to say in the future.

"Plant your cotton, bring it to Eldorado, have it ginned and you can sell every pound of seed you don't need right here."

THE FIRST BALE

The Eldorado Paper. Eldorado, Texas. Saturday, September 24, 1904.

"Tuesday afternoon, the manager of the Eldorado gin decided to gin out their "first bale" of cotton and after some delay on account of stretching belts, etc., they turned out the first bale of cotton ever ginned in Schleicher County.

The cotton was owned by T. G. Chaney and weighed 493 pounds ,

Wednesday afternoon, the second bale, raised by R. L. Brooks, arrived and the Company turned it out in 39 minutes, from the time they began working on it.

Pretty good time for a new outfit and green hands.

This opens up a new industry to our town and county, giving the stockmen a supply of seed at home and our farmers don't have to haul their cotton fifty miles or more, in the seed to have it ginned, and consume several days in making the trip and that in the busy season.

We have been informed that local buyers will handle cotton this season, of this, however, we do not know.

The gin is now in shape to handle your cotton and you can save time and money by having cotton ginned here."

TO COTTON OWNERS

The Eldorado Paper. Eldorado, Texas. Saturday, September 24, 1904.

"The Eldorado gin will gin cotton two days, each week, Friday and Tuesday, beginning Friday, September 30th, 1904. Any cotton left over will be ginned the following day. Charges will be 60 cents per 100 pounds, and \$1.00 per bale for bagging and ties, spot cash. Eldorado Gin & Mill Co. I. H. Elder, Pres."

ELDORADO MAN PROVES VALUE OF GOOD FARM

THOUSAND ACRE FARM BRINGS IN REVENUE OF SEVEN DOLLARS PER ACRE

(From: The San Angelo Morning Times, April 11, 1928.)

A 1075 acre farm has grossed George Williams, farmer South of town, the average of \$7,000 a year for the last seven years, known as a weather cycle. Of this amount an average of about \$4,500 has been received annually from the sale of the products from 175 registered ewes.

Mr. Williams has what is known as the model stock farm of the county and of West Texas and he has directed his operations to turning out a fine brand of sheep, many of which are bought by Crockett county ranchmen, the standard sheep raising county of the state. Mr. Williams uses winter grains as grazing grounds while the ewes lamb. He formerly lived in Kerr county where he bred sheep but since coming to this county, has taken to the Rambouillets. Mr. Williams came to this country at the age of 9 from England.

Ninety to 100 of his lambs dropped around January 10, and of this number he lost five. Winter lambing, he says, is successful, if a place is prepared for it and has the feed. Winter lambs grow to a fast maturity and are able to stand the droughts and parasites better than those born in the spring, he says. The ewes and their lambs spend two days in the sheds and are then turned in the green grain fields. A little cottonseed or oats is given the ewes in a trough near the watering places which are at the barn and reached from the several pastures. If the weather is severe the ewes and their young are placed in the barns but he is against too much "barning," as it means a greater susceptibility to cold. Lambs, however, grow better in the cold weather if there is plenty of feed, he declares.

Weight Of Lambs

Another set of lambs comes in February and then the last set in March. Here is how he expects the lambs to weigh in September: January lambs, 125 pounds; February lambs, 100 pounds; March lambs, 65 pounds. He takes the buck lambs from the flock at the age of four to five months and most of his stuff last year was sold as buck lambs. Last year one buck at the age of one year weighed 212 pounds while another weighed 204 pounds. He imports regularly some of north and central United States. He has the Butterfield, the Bullard, and other famous strains of sheep. His flock averages shearing about

thirteen pounds annually in addition to having splendid mutton qualities.

Lambs born in January at the middle of March looked to weigh fifty pounds and were sturdy fellows with broad backs and big bones. The shrinkage is 64 per cent, considered low for a farm flock, though one recent report showed a shrinkage of 50 per cent. He has been breeding sheep for thirty years.

Here is how the Williams farm is divided; area 1075 acres; 530 in cultivation, with 300 in cotton, 50 in maize, and 20 in corn, the rest in grain; two grass pastures of 540 acres total, one for bucks and the other for ewes. The sheep are in the fields for one half of the year and for the other half are on the grass. He doesn't sell feed, he buys it.

Wolf Proof Fences

There are two tenant families on the place and they handle the cotton. There are wolf proof fences around the place and the fields are cross fenced. There are seven grain pastures, affording a rotation of grazing on the grains. The sheep are taken off the grains in the middle of March. One or two pastures are held in reserve in case extra feed is needed at lambing time. Ewes with twins are placed in a separate pasture and fed more than the others.

After the sheep are taken off the grain in March they are turned back in July after the harvest time, though Mr. Williams believes he makes enough out of the grain by grazing, regardless of whether he makes a production of the ripened grain. They stay on this time six weeks until the lands are broken. Then they go back to the pasture. Then they are placed on the cotton fields in October and November where they eat weeds and help keep down the insects. Waste cotton leaves is also a good pasture.

The oats are mowed, stacked, and then fed to the horses and sheep. This saves a threshing and binding bill. Mr. Williams always seeks to have his maize gathered before the picking of cotton begins and manages to keep the Mexican labor on the place constantly occupied. If Maize isn't gathered before cotton picking time, it is almost impossible to get the labor, he cites.

Mr. Williams has never had a case of the stomach worms and ascribes that to his rotation of pastures. A ewe will go through five different fields during the course of the year. Possibly that explains the average weight of 160 pounds and the thick brisket. Scrambled oats, Mr. Williams thinks is one of the best feeds. The rotation of the sheep over the fields improves the quality of the fields all the time, he notes, and prevents the possibility of a worn out farm in a few years. He has seven pens at the barn for his sheep. A rock tank holding 60,000 gallons is connected with a number of troughs.

Mr. Williams is breeding for mutton and wool qualities of the sheep alike, he says. He has the horned bucks. They

are the most vigorous, he thinks. He uses a buck in his flock two years and then sells him. One ram sheared 35 pounds one year and was the father that year of 95 lambs.

A three-year old buck once sheared thirty-four pounds.

He has six pigs for meat and fifteen Jersey cows. He takes the children to school each morning over a paved road and carries about four gallons of milk to customers. His barn is full of feed, including corn. Corn, he says, grows best in the low places in the field. He is the lowest on feed now that he has been in many years due to the drought of last summer.

He has a number of chickens and recently sold 100 of them for \$87.00. The farm has nine blue slate turkeys.

Mr. Williams recommends care in feeding. Use less cottonseed in warm weather, he says.

The rainfall on his place for the last seven years averaged twenty one inches. Mr. Williams values his lambs at \$45 to \$50 an acre but it probably couldn't be bought at that figure, as it is making him the rate of 7 per cent acre valued at \$100.

First Men To Own Registered Sheep In This County

The first men to bring registered sheep to this county were Mr. C. C. Doty, Mr. Storms, and Mr. George Williams.

In 1880 Mr. C. C. Doty brought a few Rambouillet Rams to this county. He said that he was well pleased with the sheep and that they were the best in this county at the time.

Mr. Storms brought a small flock of Delaine ewes to what is now Schleicher County in 1882. The ewes were kept here only about one year and then moved to Crockett County.

Mr. George Williams has had great success with his sheep. He was the first to make a trade of raising registered sheep in this county. In 1916 Mr. Williams brought one hundred and twenty two Delaine sheep from the north. The sheep were sold to Mr. Halbert two years later. In 1918 Mr. Williams decided to buy more sheep from the north. He bought one hundred Butterfield Rambouillet sheep and brought them to Schleicher County. In 1921 he made another purchase of fifty-two sheep from Bullard brothers. The Rambouillet sheep proved to be successful in this country so again in 1925 Mr. Williams brought one hundred registered Rambouillet sheep to Eldorado.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY

By Dahlia Fae Johnson and Annie Pearl Finley

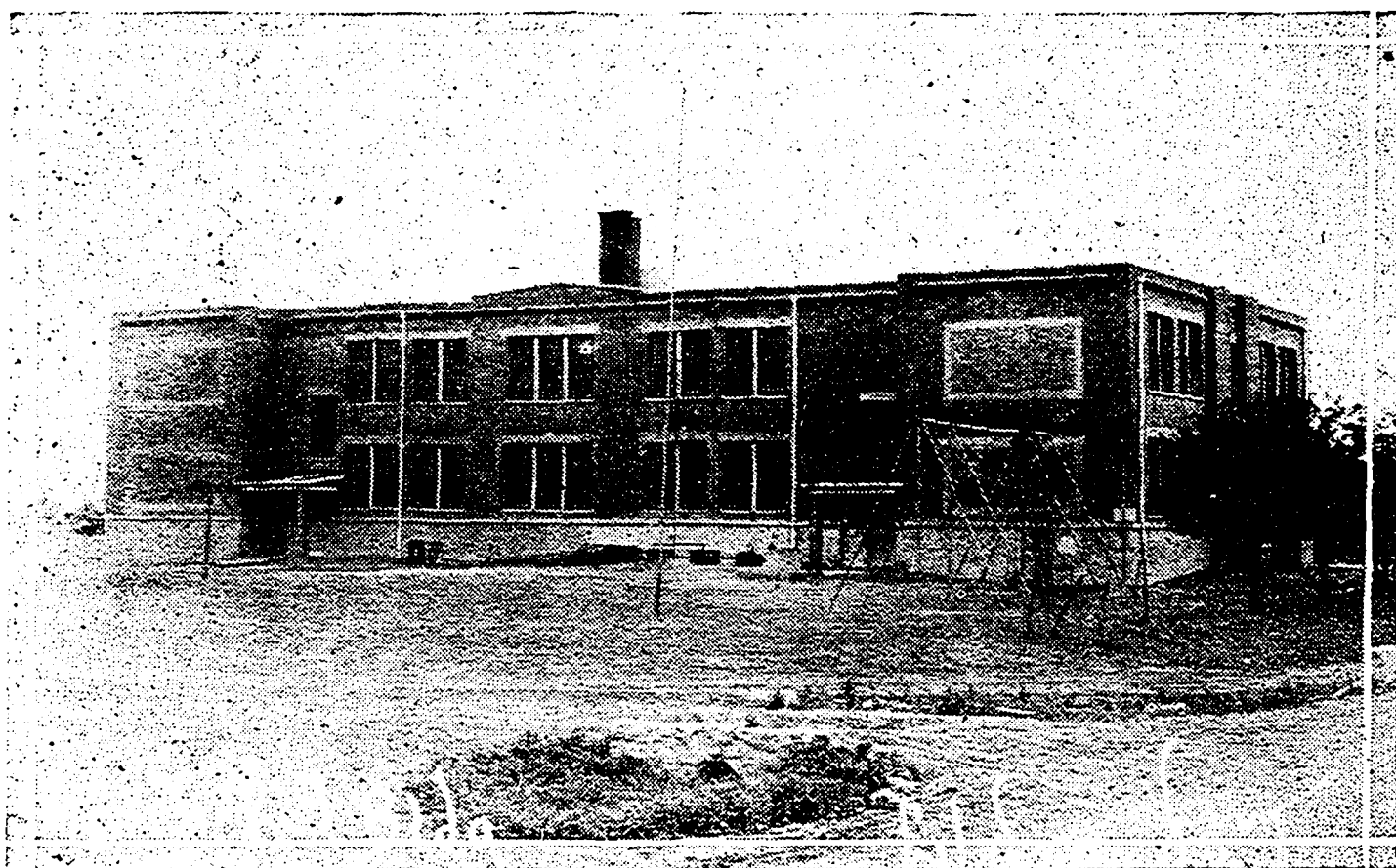
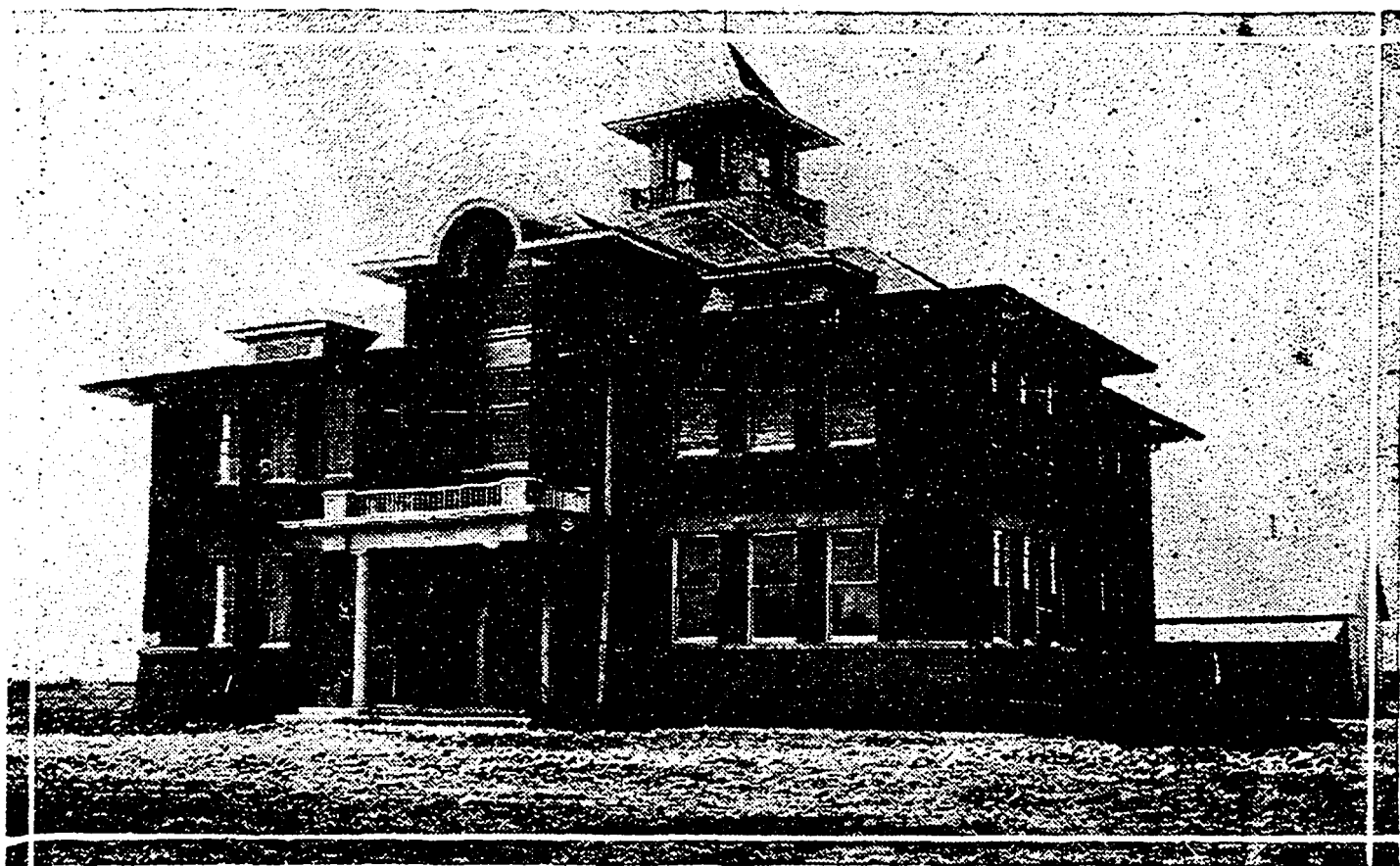
Verand—The First School In Schleicher County

The first school to be established in Schleicher County was at Verand, which was the first town in the county and was located on the old Vermont Ranch about five miles north of Eldorado. At one time there were nine or ten houses in Verand but later these were moved to Eldorado. Mr. Judd Nicks, of Eldorado, was one of the pupils to attend this school and he relates that the school house was a small one-room frame building. About ten or twelve pupils attended the school. Mrs. Tool, a daughter of Mr. W. C. Jones of Christoval, was the teacher. Later she married Mr. Hector McKinsey. Mr. Nicks relates that his father lived out on the ranch while the family lived in Verand and attended the school and in the summer moved out to the ranch. When the people moved away from Verand the school was discontinued, of course.

Eldorado School

The Eldorado School grew from a small one-room, one-teacher school. The first school building stood on the site that John Davis' Service Station now stands. This was in 1897 and E. E. Stricklen was the teacher. There were only seven pupils at first but more people moved into Eldorado and by the end of the term, there were about forty pupils. School went on this way until 1901. In 1902 the house was moved and used for a court house and is now used for a residence. In 1902 another house was built about three hundred yards back of present building. C. A. Stone was superintendent and was assisted by Miss Lee Fields. There were about seventy-five pupils enrolled. In 1903 another room was built. Lewis Wardlaw was superintendent, Mrs. A. A. Mahaefer taught with him. People began to move to Eldorado and more pupils entered school. In 1903 another room was built and the old one divided into 2 parts. This called for another teacher and Mrs. May Tisdale filled this place. Mrs. Tisdale was then Miss May McCormick.

This building was bought by J. N. Ramsey and H. W. Finley. It was sold in three parts. One part to D. C. Hill, one to "Uncle Dink" Meador, and J. B. Chick another. Mr. Hill's was used as a Hardware store and was destroyed by fire in 1923. Mr. Meador's was used as a barn and was destroyed by fire. Mr. Chick still uses his part as a residence.



Top Picture—Second school building in Eldorado. Was constructed in 1909 and remodeled and added to in 1925.

Center—Present school building in Eldorado. Is used as both a high school and grammar school.

Bottom Left—Church Of Christ in Eldorado. Still in Use.

THE OPENING OF THE ELDORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL IN 1903

From: The Eldorado Paper, Eldorado, Texas, Friday September
11th, 1903

"According to announcements through catalogue and newspaper, on September 7, the teachers, children, trustees, patrons and visitors assembled early in the morning of the above date, at the beautiful and new School house in Eldorado, to take part in and witness the opening of the public school.

The rooms have been overhauled and cleaned, two new ones added and all newly and comfortably seated and well arranged, it made us all glad that we were living in Schleicher County.

At nine o'clock the school was called to order by professor J. A. Thomas with very appropriate remarks. The children were all seated as near as possible, that they might hear what was said. Mrs. J. A. Thomas was at the instrument and the entire school joined in singing "My Country 'Tis Of Thee." Then Rev. S. J. Drake, of Sonora, was called on and led the school in a fervent prayer. County Superintendent Whitten was called on to make a speech and cheerfully responded with a five or ten minute talk on the opportunities of to-day and the importance of taking advantages of it. O. H. Elder president of School Board of Trustees following with a very appropriate speech, which showed he was interested in School work of Eldorado. Next came Judge Woodruff with one of his elegant talks, which did us all good to listen and which makes us think of the days gone by when we were boys. Then came Superintendent E. E. Stricklen who offered one of the best and most appropriate talks along this line that I have ever heard. If the superintendent put into practice what he preached in his school work he is certainly in my judgement a very fine school teacher.

We then had talks that were very instructive and encouraging from S. M. Brown, Joab Campbell and Dr. H. H. Taylor, after which the entire school sang "There's Sunshine in My Soul Today."

Professor Thomas then thanked us for our presence and proceeded in examinations which resulted in placing the pupils as following: Mrs. Thomas with first grade state certificate teacher of primary department, with thirty-five pupils; Miss Laura Hays of first grade state certificate teacher of the intermediate department, with twenty-five pupils; Professor Thomas with a permanent certificate as principal of the school has in his room twenty five pupils."

In 1904 Mr. J. A. Thomas, now district attorney, was Superintendent and assisted by Laura Hays and Miss May McCormick. There were about one hundred pupils enrolled. In 1905 another room was added. The teachers this year were Mr. F. J. St. John. and Miss Laura Hays. In 1906 another room was added making five rooms in all. J. B. Smith was superin-

tendent for the next ten years and Miss McCormick taught with him for eight years.

Miss Agnes West, now Mrs. Clifford Womack, was the first child to be born in Schleicher County and entered School at an early age. She graduated from Eldorado School. It is also interesting to note that Don McCormick was the first and only child to go to school to the first school building, the second school building and also the third building which was built in 1910. In 1910 a brick building was erected, the cost being about 20,000 dollars. It is also interesting to note that many of the first superintendents made lawyers in later life.

The records between the dates 1910 and 1916 have been destroyed.

C. A. Stone was superintendent in 1916-17. There were 263 pupils enrolled. G. M. Brown was county superintendent.

M. L. Hurst was superintendent during session of 1919-20 and 251 pupils were enrolled. M. L. Hurst was superintendent during term of 1920-21 and 240 pupils were enrolled. \$30.00 worth of Books were added to the library that year. The approximate value of the high school library was \$525, and lower grades \$225. At that time there were 13 affiliated credits. During the session of 1922-23 J. B. Bruton was superintendent.. There were thirteen teachers, three in high school, and ten in the lower grades. There were 331 pupils, fourteen of whom were graduates. There were 46 failures counting those who withdrew. J. B. Bruton was superintendent during the term of 1923-24. There were 13 teachers and 341 pupils. 42 were Mexicans, who were taught in another building north of Eldorado. There were 16 graduates this year. During session of 1924-25, J. B. Bruton was superintendent. There were 388 pupils enrolled, 12 of whom were Mexicans. There were 10 graduates.

During the sessions of 1925-27 A. B. Tyson was superintendent. 326 pupils were enrolled. There were fourteen graduates.

In 1925 the building that was built in 1910 was remodeled and added to. The value of this building is \$75,000. It contains fifteen class rooms and a large auditorium. In December of 1929 there were enrolled a total of 392 pupils in all grades and fifteen teachers were employed. There were 110 pupils in high school and 23½ credits of affiliation were maintained with the state department of education. R. D. Holt has been superintendent since 1927.

Bailey Consolidated School

The Bailey Ranch School started in 1907. The first teacher being Miss Susie Gibson. The school received its name from the Bob Bailey Ranch, on which it was built. The building was a large one-room building and it served as a church house and school building also. In 1922 it was sold to S. I. Nicks and served as a tenant house.

The Henderson School was a one-room school building. It

started in 1910. Miss Stella Maddox being first teacher.

In 1920 another School building was built. The Henderson and Bailey Ranch Schools were consolidated. There is a nice frame building of two rooms. Two teachers taught in this building. The first teachers in this building were Misses Violet Davis and Vera Bruton. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd taught in 1920-22. Miss Maggie Williams and Miss Lodice Putman taught during session of 1923-24. Mrs. Cain and Peyton Cain have taught since that time.

Bailey Ranch Mexican School

This school was established in 1926, in order that the Mexican children of that community might get an education. It is a small building located about one third of a mile from the Bailey consolidated School Building. The first teacher was Miss Fay Finley, who taught session of 1926-27-28. The name has not been definitely decided upon yet, but is goes by name of Bailey consolidated No. 2.

The Mayer School

The Mayer School is located about 20 miles East of Eldorado. It was a large two room, two teacher School. It had about 40 pupils. Then people began to leave there and finally but one teacher was needed. In 1923 this building caught fire and was burned down. A new building was built about one and one half miles from the old one. This community was named after Sol Mayer one of the first men to come to this section of Texas.

Eldorado Mexican School

The Eldorado Mexican school was established in 1916. Miss Ida Canova was first teacher. School is still taught in a one room building, built in 1916.

Vermont School

The Vermont school is a small building about eight miles north of Eldorado. It is a one-room, one-teacher school. Miss Pearl Bailey was first teacher of this school. This school was discontinued in 1927. Miss Vera May was teaching at the time.

Alexander School

The Alexander school building is a small one-room building. There is but one teacher teaching this school. It is located about 12 miles north-west of Eldorado and is in the Eldorado independent district. It received its name from Alexander Ranch on which it was built. In 1929 Miss Zadie McAngus was the teacher.

Other schools in the county in 1929 were as follows: Adams or Rudd school in eastern end of county; Kaffir school in southwestern part of the county; Cliff school in northeast part and Reynolds school in the west end of the county. All of these are one-teacher schools.

SCHLEICHER COUNTY HAS TWELVE SCHOOLS**(September 1929)**

In the common school districts of Schleicher County there are eight schools, all one teacher schools except the Bailey Ranch School which has two teachers. The schools are as follows: Adams, Bailey Ranch, Bailey Ranch Mexican, Cliff, Kaffir, Lofton, Mayer, and Station A on the Humble Pipe line. Some of the teachers in the county are Mrs. Robert Milligan, Adams school; Mr. Peyton Cain and Mrs. Cain, Bailey Ranch; Miss Blanche Newlin, Cliff; Mrs. Ford Oglesby, Kaffir and Miss Ruth DeLong, Station A.

The present enrollment in the common school districts of the county is approximately ninety, as compared with a total of 89 for last school year. The scholastic census taken last March, shows an enumeration of 114 children, all of which are white.

According to the annual report of the ex-officio county superintendent for 1928-29, the average cost per pupil in the common school districts was \$99.23. All the schools in the county had nine months term except the Bailey Ranch district and the Mexican school in Eldorado and at Bailey Ranch. In the common school districts the teachers' salaries ranged from \$100 to \$150 per month.

All of the schools in the county are now in good financial condition and at least one of the schools increases its surplus substantially each year. The county per-capita apportionment for 1929-30 is \$6.50. This is derived from the Schleicher County school lands which are located in Baines County. The local tax rate in all the common school districts is 25 cents except in the Bailey Ranch and Cliff districts where the rate is 50 cents.

In the Eldorado Independent school district the scholastic census for 1929-30 shows an enumeration of 490, of which only eight are colored. There are now four schools operated in this district, two of which are one teacher rural schools. The Mexican school in Eldorado has only a six months term and has not yet begun. The enrollment in the Eldorado district for the present term has reached a total of 390 of which over 90 per cent are enrolled in Eldorado and over a hundred of these are in high school. The local tax rate in this district is now \$1. The average cost per pupil in 1928-29 based on salary expenditures and average daily attendance was \$58.50.

In September of 1929 there was one school in Schleicher County which had claims to being the smallest school in the state. This was the Cliff School which for some time after the beginning of school had only two pupils, but later three others entered.

Teachers of The Eldorado Public Schools 1929-30

R. D. Holt, Superintendent, O. J. Curry, Principal of High School, Mrs. Anetta Bailey, Spanish, Miss Dorothy Bradshaw, Mathematics, Miss Willie Allen, English, Miss Lillian Orsborn, Public Speaking, H. R. Smart, Science. Miss Frances Armstrong,

Principal of Grammar School, Mr. Tom Redford, History in Grammar School, Miss Ruth Howell, English in Grammar School, Mrs. Otis Buie, Fifth Grade, Mrs. Payne Robinson, Fourth Grade, Miss Stella Watterson, Third Grade, Mrs. Bennie McClain, Second Grade, Mrs. Una Lee, First Grade, Mrs. H. R. Ashmore, Study Hall, Miss Catherine Hill, Mexican School, Miss Zadie McAngus, Alexander School, Mrs. Mary Davis, Reynolds School.

The First Graduation Class In Eldorado

In 1907 four girls and one boy graduated from the Eldorado High School. These were the first to ever graduate from this school. They completed the tenth grade.

They were Alvis Bearce, Lula Womack, Pearl Bailey, Minnie Strother and Clifford Womack.

The graduation exercises were held at the Baptist Church. This church has been recently replaced by the new church.

The Reverend Earls spoke to the graduates.

The Eldorado Parent Teachers Association

According to Mrs. D. C. Hill, who was one of the charter members of the Eldorado Parent Teachers Association, this organization was formed in 1913 with Mrs. P. H. McCormick as the first president. At first it was called the Mother's Club but after about three years was changed to the present name and has been in active service ever since. Mrs. Lewis, who now lives in San Angelo, was the second president. The last three presidents of the organization in the order in which they served are Mrs. Robert Milligan, Mrs. Elwood Tisdale and Mrs. Joab Campbell, who holds the office at the present time.

THE COURTHOUSES AND JAILS OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY

By Blanche Newlin

For several years settlers had been pouring into Schleicher County, but before 1901 it was unorganized. At the time when the county was organized a court house was badly needed. They used for a court house the old Silliman Building, which is located a short distance Northeast of the Woodman Hall. The following officers were elected: A. B. Priour, county judge; F. C. Bates, Jr., county clerk; Henry Mills, sheriff and C. C. Doty, tax-assessor. Four commissioners were elected. That building did not serve very well for a court house. The conveniences were few, if any, and there was no safe place for the county records. The officers were forced to use various places for offices. The Silliman Building was used for a court house until the first court house was completed in 1902.

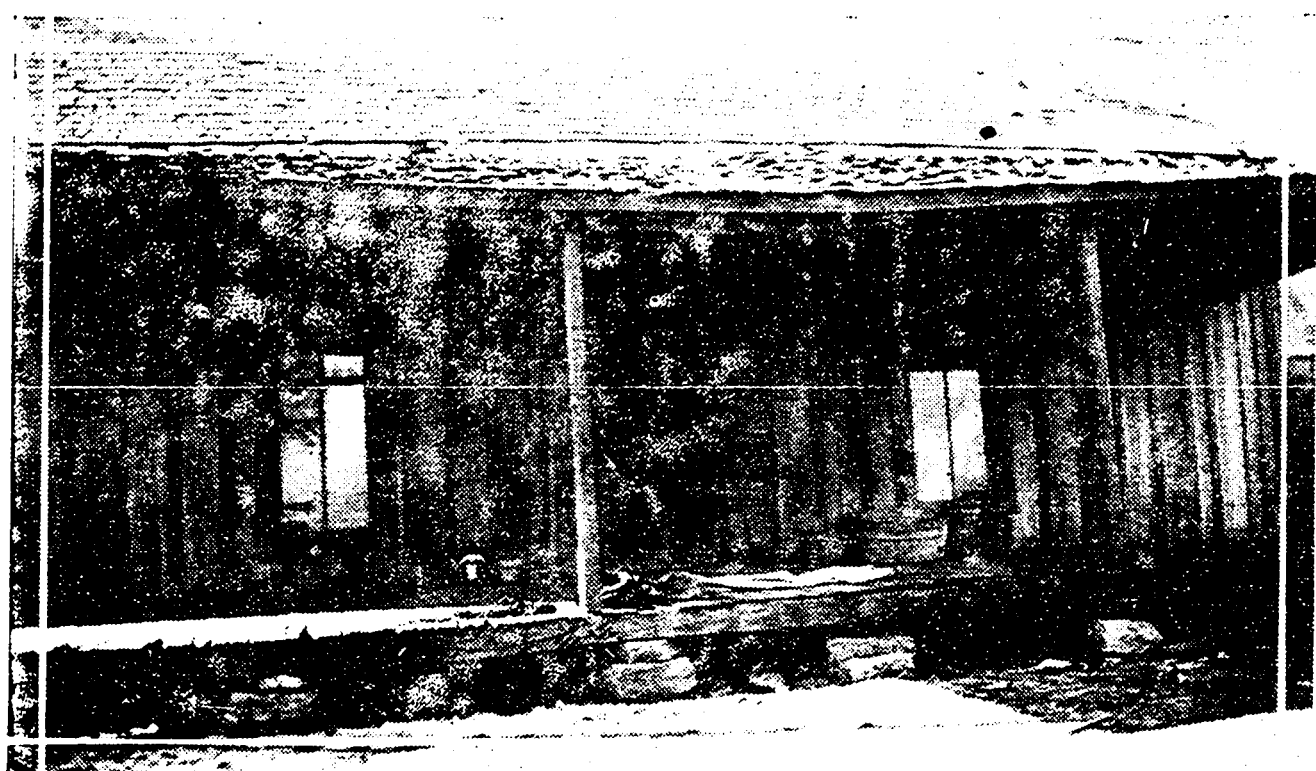
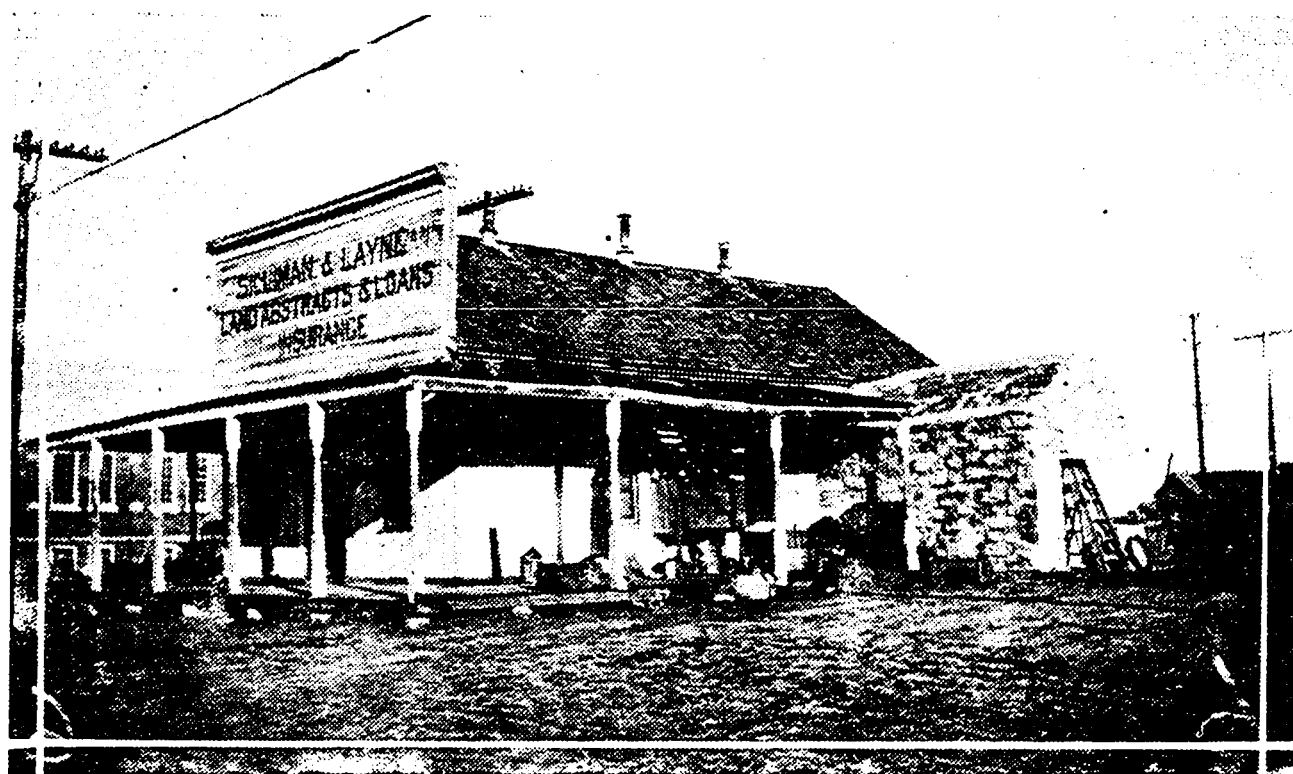
After the county was organized the citizens realized more and more the necessity of a court house, and men were soon drawing up plans for a building. Several were presented to the Commissioners Court and the bid of J. J. Rice was accepted. It provided for the erection of a court house at Eldorado, county seat of Schleicher County. The plans and specifications were filed in the county clerk's office.

The bid was to be accepted, provided J. J. Rice would provide a good bond of \$3,000 payable to the county judge of Schleicher County or his successors. \$2469.14 was to be paid to J. J. Rice when the building was completed, which was to be June 15, 1902.

The court house was to be erected in the center of the Public Square, fronting Southwest towards Main Street, Eldorado, Texas.

The court house was soon under construction. It was to be a two-story frame building. The cost was to be \$2469.14, as planned by J. J. Rice. The lumber selected by him was hauled from San Angelo on the old dirt road, by wagon. The wagons used were drawn by horses, there being from four to eight to each wagon. The usual required time was four days for the entire trip.

Within eleven or twelve months the court house was ready for use. The vault was made of stone. The old court house, by 1916 and 1917 had served the county for several years, and it was in a dilapidated condition. It needed repairs, but more than that was needed. The citizens were looking forward to a new stone building. The county records were dangerously



Top: Jail of Schleicher County Center: First Court house and school house. Notice rock vault at side of building. Was constructed to keep the county records. Located east of court house. Lower: First Hotel in Eldorado. Constructed by C. C. West in 1895. Now used for a residence.

exposed to storms and more especially to fires. The people were anxious for a new court house, so on March 24, 1917, an election was held at the court house for the purpose of voting bonds for a new court house. Those favoring the bonds were defeated in the election, however, they were relieved of the old court house, for on that very night the house mysteriously caught on fire and was ashes before twelve o'clock.

Mr. A. F. Luedecke who was sheriff at that time was staying at the Hotel. He and a friend were alarmed at the yelling taking place on the sidewalks and streets. They rushed to the East porch of the hotel and just did get there in time to see the frames part. One part of the house went one way and the other part another. By twelve o'clock everything was destroyed except the records that were in the old vault. Unfortunately the judge left some important books on his desk.

The Commissioners Court ordered that a reward of \$500 be offered for the arrest and convictions of the party or parties who set fire to and burned the court house on the night of March 24, 1917.

The County's old court house was not much more than completed and everything in order when the election for Schleicher County Jail Bonds amounting to \$8750.00 was ordered to be held. On August 15, 1905 the bonds were approved and accepted and ordered signed by county judge and county clerk and ordered sent to the attorney-general at Austin for his approval and then to be registered by the comptroller. On August 16, they decided to receive bids for the bonds, but on August 21 they reconsidered it and offered them for sale at the earliest possible moment. The bonds were sold and on June 13, 1905, the court accepted the bid of T. S. Hodges at \$8750.00 according to plans and specifications.

A part of the records were destroyed by fire, but according to observation the jail was to be erected near the Northwest corner of the court house square.

The time required for the building of the jail was approximately eight months. The lumber was bought in San Angelo and hauled by wagon to Eldorado. The rocks used were the limestone rocks found within five or six miles of Eldorado.

After the first court house burned two or three district courts were held in the Woodman Hall and the next two in the old Bearce Building and the remainder in the Woodman Hall, until the new court house was completed. The Commissioners Court was held in the jail.

The Commissioners Court met the second week in April of 1923 and considered a petition that had been presented, and ordered that an election for the erection of a court house in Schleicher County be held. The taxable valuation of the county was not sufficient for a \$70,000 bond as was desired but they were content to vote on a \$60,000 bond issue. The court is to be commended for the early interest shown in this matter. The opposition was not strong, for the people realized the need

of a court house. The records were exposed to fire and the officers of the county were in need of permanent and comfortable offices. The taxes were to be fifteen cents on the \$100.00 valuation, but other taxes were lowered seven and one-half cents so the actual raise in taxes was only seven and one-half cents. The notice of election appeared in the April 20th issue of The Eldorado Success. At a meeting at the Woodman Hall there seemed to be little opposition to the new bonds. The women were especially invited to vote.

The Court House bonds carried by a two-thirds majority, however, there was less interest shown than was expected. Out of about seven hundred voters only 232 votes were polled, there being 170 for and 61 against. The desires and wishes of Schleicher county citizens were realized and preparations were made for the erection of the building. The court accepted the bid of H. T. Phelps as architect for \$1,743.20. The bonds were issued April 10, 1923. The first was due April 10, 1924 and the last April 10, 1953, each bond to be \$1,000.00 bearing 5½% interest to be paid semi-annually. The court met August 28, and accepted the contract of The San Antonio Construction Company at \$49,960.00 with 30 days to consider the bid of \$3200.00 for a heating system, by the same company.

The court house bonds were bought by the Grey Investment Company of Fort Worth, Texas.

The court house was soon finished and it is, indeed a beautiful building, one that gives any Schleicher County Citizen the right to take pride in saying, "That is ours."

First Grand Jury In County

The men who sat on the first grand jury in Schleicher County were as follows: J. A. Alexander, Robert Bailey, C. C. West, H. J. Saunders, John Earnest, J. M. Barkley, D. E. DeLong, J. M. Stone, Geo. Tisdale, Tom Miller, J. F. Murchison and J. E. Mills.

First Case Tried in Present Court House

The first case to be tried in the present court house of Schleicher County was a case in which two negroes, Gideon Birdwell and Walter Thompson were charged with theft of a Dodge touring car from Mr. Bert Page. The jury consisted of W. E. Baker, J. B. Sammons, O. Suddeth, Chas. Mund, Sam McGinnis, Edgar Spencer, Ed Finnigan, Tom Henderson, W. W. Barber and Joe Williams.

The negroes were found guilty and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

THE PUBLIC ROADS OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY

By Glenn Ratliff

When settlers first came to this county they did not need roads because there were no fences or anything else to hinder traveling anywhere. After a time the people began to use fences to divide the land. When this began, roads had to be built to guide and help travelers and settlers from having to cut fences.

Towns began to grow up and roads were needed for people to get supplies. After the country was settled there was need of public roads. In order to get these the county was divided into precincts and a road overseer appointed for each precinct.

In 1901 the county was divided into five precincts as follows: Precinct 1, beginning at Murchison Avenue in Eldorado and ending at North of Vermont Pasture on Eldorado and San Angelo road. Precinct 2, beginning at the north line of Vermont Pasture and ending at the south county line. Precinct 3, beginning at Murchison Avenue and ending at the south county line. Precinct 4, beginning at county line on Sonora and McKavett road and ending at gate in end of lane. Precinct 5, beginning at west end of lane and ending at county line near Fort McKavett.

The way a road is brought up and built is as follows: a person or group of men present to the Commissioners Court the route and necessity of the road. If the Court decided to build the road, a Jury of Views is appointed to investigate and see about the road. The Jury of View reports to Court and the road is put in the hands of the overseer of the Precinct the road is in.

On February 10, 1919, there was ordered an election in Schleicher County to be held March 15, 1919, for the purpose of issuing 125,000 dollars in bonds at 5½% per annum for forty years, with option to pay in twenty years to build a macadamized road through the county by way of San Angelo and Sonora Road. The First National Bank of Eldorado was to handle all the funds for the next two years after this date.

On March 3, 1919, the court considered petition of J. A. Whitten and seventy-three other persons of which was to get one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars to maintain and operate macadamized road on State Highway No. 4. The Court called an election to determine whether or not the bond of Schleicher County should be issued and whether or not a tax should be levied upon property in Schleicher County for purpose of pay-

ing interest on bond and to provide a "sinking fund" for the redemption thereof at maturity.

On March 3, 1919, Commissioners Court met to decide whether they would call an election to vote on the bonds. They finally agreed to issue bonds and decided an engineer would be put over the work.

April 11, 1919, the votes of the election on the bonds were submitted to the Court and they showed a large majority for the bond. The Court appointed a committee to secure rocks and water along the road on the adjacent lands for use on the road. Mr. C. A. Womack and Mr. George Williams were appointed to meet the State Highway Commission at Austin, on April 21st. The tax rates for the year 1919 in Schleicher County were fixed at twenty-five cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of all property. The road and bridge rates were fifteen cents on the one hundred dollars.

July 14, 1919, Mr. C. C. Smith of San Angelo was given the Engineering Contract on the surveying, plating, and construction work of State Highway No. 4. Mr. Smith was to use his own car and be paid ninety-five dollars for the up-keep of his car.

August 23, 1919, the First National Bank was ordered to make the bond for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to secure road bond money.

On December 24, 1919, Mr. C. C. Smith was selected to do the surveying of the highway across the county for \$234.31 per mile south, and \$1685.50 to complete survey north of Eldorado. He was also to do the surveying of the grading and surface work of the highway and to be paid \$28,000. This order was made with the understanding that Schleicher County was to spend about \$210,000 on this road.

On September 13, 1920, the Jury of Views was appointed to review and assess highway as follows: R. P. Hinyard, Sam Holland, J. F. Craig, O. K. Enochs, and S. W. Mather.

About this time the new County Judge took his position and his idea about the road building was not for the Commissioners Court to build it but have it Contracted.

On September 21, 1920, bids were opened for building the Highway. There was only one bid and that was the bid of C. A. Womack, who was at the time County Judge. The bid was accepted and this put the Commissioners Court in charge of the road.

The work was to be done is as follows: State Highway 4 containing 11.51 miles of water bound macadamized road sixteen feet wide and twelve inches loose depth according to plans and specifications on file in the County Engineer's office at Eldorado. Nine miles of this road was to be connected with Eldorado, three miles south and six miles north. The other two and one-half miles were to be from county line south. The amount bid was \$176,820.60 with contract to do all supervising.

On May 8, 1922, the State and Federal Aid Granted



Stage coaches and Elder Hotel in Eldorado in 1904. Hotel was located where Eldo Hotel now stands, on main street of Eldorado. Those in the group from left to right are Bob Bates, E. C. Haynes, S. L. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lowe and Tot Lowe, A. T. Wright and Jim Beasing, driver.

Schleicher County was \$115,000.00 for the completion of the 11.51 miles, which was 64% of total cost. The matter of crushing asphalt for surface was contracted to Metcalfe and Thomson of San Angelo for \$1.85 per cubic foot.

The First 11.51 miles built by Commissioners Court cost \$116,280.16. But when the new Judge came in he proposed the plan of contracting.

The road between the strips of macadamized road was contracted to Rice and Bates. W. H. Martin was hired by Rice and Bates to do all work but cement and surface work. State and Federal Aid paid 62% of the cost on all the road but first 11.51 miles and paid 50% of cost on it.

The 125,000 dollar bond issue that was voted, ran out and the macadamized road was not carried all the way through the county but stopped three miles south of town.

The macadamized road was finished complete December 8, 1928 with the contracted part costing \$194,063.90 and the full cost of the road including labor, machinery, material and everything was about \$310,344.06.

First Automobile In Schleicher County

In 1909, Mr. W. D. Ake brought the first automobile into Schleicher County. Mr. Ake was one of the County Commissioners at the time and lived on his ranch about twenty-five miles northeast of Eldorado. The automobile was a two-cylinder Buick, with a chain drive. It was cranked on the side and had a rod for the steering device.

One of the first cars owned in Eldorado was by Mr. C. C. West. It was also a two-cylinder Buick and with the steering wheel on the right side. It was not very reliable for Mr. West relates that he had to walk home more than once.

First Preaching Services In Schleicher County

Mr. C. C. Doty relates that the first sermon preached in the area which is now Schleicher County was in 1882 in a picket house located about sixteen miles north of Eldorado. A circuit rider came through the country and stopped at Mr. Doty's camp on Saturday night. The next morning he asked to preach to the men. Mr. Doty called in all who were anywhere near but then the audience consisted of only three white men and two Mexicans. The sermon was characteristic of the times for it was stirring and carried a strong appeal to the eager audience of lonesome shepherders. Mr. Doty avers this was the best sermon which he has ever heard, even to the present time.

WILD MUSTANGS ONCE ROAMED SCHLEICHER AREA

As the old settlers of Schleicher County watch the work on the roadbed of the new railroad which is nearing Eldorado and see two lines of steel crossing the county they become reminiscent and sometimes talk of other days when the Schleicher County Divide had quite a different appearance. They remember the days before progress had placed her hands upon the prairies of West Texas, when mustang ponies, deer and antelope were about as plentiful and as common as jack rabbits are today. One man who has lived in the Schleicher county area for many years and who has observed many changes remarked the other day that he once roped a wild mustang on almost the same spot where a 19-foot cut is being made for the railroad. This was in the old Vermont pasture but is now on the Ranch of T. K. Jones, of Eldorado.

This area has undergone many changes and has witnessed many interesting events but most of the old-timers of the county agree that mustang catching in the old days had its share of the thrills and that there was no period in the history of the county that was more interesting.

Indians Lose Ponies

It is not known for certain how or when the first mustang ponies found their way into the area which is now included in Schleicher County. It is known, however, that the first white men to come to the area saw bands of wild horses ranging over the prairies and the first settlers south of the South Concho relate that in rainy years these ponies were rather too plentiful. One of the oldest residents in this portion of the state, Dave DeLong, of Eldorado, states that he believes that most of the mustangs originated from ponies which the Kickapoo Indians lost in the battle of Dove Creek, in January of 1864.

The Indians had, at the lowest estimate, some 1,500 ponies in the herd which they were driving to Mexico. During the fight they lost many of the horses and it is reasonable to suppose that many of them located a new range in the vicinity of Dove Creek and became the nucleus of the herds of wild mustangs which a few years later were to be found in the area.

Mustangs Put In Vermont Pasture

In 1884 when the 80-section Vermont ranch was fenced there were a number of wild mustangs inclosed by the three-wire fence. They were of almost every color but there were more roans than any other kind. They had evidently come in contact with barbed wire at some time for they would not even go near the fence, nor would they go between the posts

before the wire was stretched. On the open range it was very difficult to catch one of these wild ponies and many good horses were ruined by running the mustangs.

Within an inclosure, however, it was some what different for when one of the mustangs was hard pressed by a rider on a good horse he would apparently become so frightened that he could not run fast. He would throw his head high in the air and move it from side to side, looking backward all the time, thus losing much speed. A good roper could easily rope one of them under such circumstances and it was merely considered as a part of the day's work.

Many of the cowboys on the Old Vermont ranch captured these ponies and used them for saddle horses. They were strong and tough and could carry even the heaviest riders.

Rope Three Mustangs In Day

Si McCartney, of Eldorado, who with his father and mother, moved to the Vermont ranch in the 80's and who has spent many years on the various ranches of Schleicher County, recalls that when he was a mere boy he caught three mustangs in one day. He practiced with his rope all the time and was glad to get the chance to try to catch wild horses, when the mustangs had become a nuisance in the pasture.

The hands on the ranch were trying to catch or kill these wild ponies and one day when they were making a big drive on the mustangs, Mr. McCartney took a stand in a draw and hid in a place near where he thought the herd would come. He did not have long to wait. When the horses got near he picked out one and rode upon it and roped it. The mustangs were tired out and did not show much fight and could easily be thrown.

Every rider, in those days, carried several rawhide hobbles on his saddle and when the wild pony was thrown the rider would jump from his horse and hobble the catch by the fore feet. They would be turned loose in the pasture with the hobbles on and would later be ridden. It would not do to attempt to stake out one of them with a rope for he would have broken his neck within a very short time. Most of these ponies would pitch almost every time a rider saddled and mounted them.

On one occasion, Mr. McCartney relates, he was waiting in a draw in hopes that the mustangs would be driven by him but somehow they were upon him before he knew it and almost ran over him before he could get his rope ready.

The brush was pretty thick so he singled out one roan pony and took after it. He ran onto the pony in a short distance and caught him by the mane and by one ear. The mustang was so frightened that he didn't offer much resistance. Mr. McCartney held on, circled a few times and wrestled the pony into submission until another rider came to his assistance and threw the outlaw.

Another time Mr. McCartney and his brother-in-law,

Will Peden, caught a roan mustang stallion which was at least 12 or 15 years old. He was a beautiful animal, well proportioned and was very swift. He was the leader of a band of mares which had been inclosed in the Vermont pasture. Mr. Peden managed to rope him one day when he located the mustangs grazing in a narrow draw and then running onto the stallion roped him before he could get away. Things happened thick and fast when the stallion felt the rope tighten about his neck.

The Stallion had been surprised by the man at first, but the man was soon surprised by the stallion, for when the wild horse reached the end of the rope he jerked Peden's horse down but the rider managed to fall clear of the horse. The rope did not break. The stallion, quick as a flash, whirled and came toward the fallen horse and the rider, both of which were struggling to rise.

Another rider came to the rescue in the nick of time and roped the stallion, throwing him to the ground and holding him until he could be tied. Si McCartney, the rider who came to the relief of the first roper, recounts that the stallion's teeth were bared and looked like long tusks when he made the charge toward the fallen rider.

Peden thought his time had come and realized that his escape had been narrow, although he was highly elated over the prize which they had captured. They were never repaid for their trouble, however, for the stallion killed himself by falling and breaking his own neck before they had the chance to make a saddle horse out of him. He was considered the prize of all the wild horses which ranged over the Schleicher county area.

The first settlers into the Schleicher county area considered the wild mustangs as a nuisance, pure and simple. Gentle saddle horses were frequently enticed away by the wild bands and this meant much trouble for the owner to recapture them if this was accomplished.

With the fencing of the country into pastures during the 80's came the demand for grass for cattle and sheep and so important was the grass considered that it was too high priced for useless wild horses to eat and trample in the dust. Then followed the rapid extermination of the mustang from the prairies south of the Concho.

Some were caught and made into saddle ponies which were never the best. Some were driven out of the country and probably found new ranges in the unsettled west. Those that remained were hunted down and killed just as predatory animals have been exterminated by man when they interfered with the progress of settlement. Thus passed one of the most beautiful and most picturesque forms of wild life that has ever been known on the prairies of southwest Texas.

Roping Mustangs From Trees a Precarious Undertaking

Mr. R. A. Evans, of Eldorado, relates that on one occasion he and his brother and another man had caught a wild

Mustang pony but after considerable effort had not gentled him. They could not get him into a corral without much work and only after riding their horses down. Finally they devised the scheme of roping him from a tree. Mr. Evans selected a hackberry tree with a flaw in the trunk as the tree to rope from. This was near the present town of Christoval and between the old irrigation ditch and the river. The other men drove the unsuspecting pony near the tree and Mr. Evans dropped his rope. Although he missed the pony's neck he caught him by a rear foot. The pony pulled the tree down and ran across the irrigation ditch dragging the tree and Mr. Evans all in a tangle. It was winter and Mr. Evans says that he will remember for many a day the ducking which that pony gave him.

Another time Mr. Evans and some companions managed to get seventeen wild Mustangs in a lane near Christoval. Mr. Evans climbed a large tree in the lane and roped the horses as they were driven under the tree by the riders. The ponies, when they were roped, would choke themselves down and then the men would hobble them.

Almost Fired For Running Mustangs

Mr. Evans relates also that he was present when Si McCartney roped three Mustangs in one day. At that time Mr. Evans was working for the Half-Circle 6 outfit, with headquarters on Dove Creek. The boys of this outfit had met up with these of the Vermont Ranch and they had spent two or three days in running the Mustangs. When their boss found out about it he came near firing everyone of them because it cost more than \$60 per day to run the outfit and all the Mustangs in the band were not worth that much. Besides, they had tired out their saddle horses in the chase.

Shipped Mustangs East To Market

Only a few days ago Mr. Evans happened to find an old pen in a draw many miles west of Eldorado which he remembered as having used more than thirty years ago in running Mustangs. He and a Mexican camped near the pen on one occasion in running a band of these wild ponies. The horses would run in a circle and so he took several horses and hobbled them at various places on the range where he expected the Mustangs to run when they were pursued and as he followed them he would change mounts as he came to the hobbled ponies. He kept this particular band on the move for two or three days and kept them away from water. Finally when they did get to water they would drink so much that they would be unable to put up much fight. Mr. Evans remembers that several of the ponies killed themselves when they were roped.

The Mustangs never became gentle unless they were caught as colts under two years of age. In shipping horses to the East to market frequently several of the Mustangs would be put in with a bunch of other horses and would be sold to farmers.

SCHLEICHER COUNTY'S PART IN THE WORLD WAR

By Clemmie Green

The only war in which the United States has been engaged since Schleicher County was organized was the World War, in 1917. Although Schleicher County did not do a great part during the war, in comparison with the other counties of Texas, she did a goodly part for such a thinly populated County. This essay is intended to tell just what Schleicher County did do to help in the war.

The registration of the soldiers began on the twentieth of June, 1917. There was a presiding judge appointed for each voting district, where the men in the registration age registered. The judges were as follows: Eldorado, Brice Dabney; Mayer, J. T. Jones; Rudd, J. B. Montgomery; Vermont, J. M. Keithley; Six Mile, Charles S. Black; Thorpe, W. H. Williams; Kaffir, C. S. Chick and Cliff, J. Campbell.

The board of exemption was appointed by the Governor of Texas and were, W. F. Ford, George E. Baugh, and Doctor W. D. Patton.

There were two hundred and forty men who registered from the age of twenty-one to thirty years and there were about sixty men who registered between the ages of eighteen to forty-five years. There were only about one hundred and fifteen men inducted into service under the age of thirty one years.

On the fifteenth of June, Schleicher County bought her first Liberty Bonds, amounting to four thousand and fifty dollars, with J. A. Whitten, Vice-President of the First National Bank of Eldorado, soliciting the sales.

The first boys to go to the war were ten volunteers who volunteered in company H, at San Angelo, on the twentieth of July 1917. They were: Charlie E. Lewis, Edwin W. Wilhite, Horace G. Craig, Simon J. Gay, Rufus H. Key, Robert Samuel Sheppard, John Lawrence Neill, Bev McCormick, William B. Foley, and Herbert T. Finley.

The first call for men was for fifty six men but there were only twenty six men who were accepted and they left about the eighth of August for Fort Worth where they entered training.

On the nineteenth of September, 1917, a second call was made for seventy men but only seventeen men were accepted.

The third call was answered by eleven men. By October first Schleicher County had twenty five out of her first twenty six men in service.

Schleicher County's second Liberty Bond amounted to

eleven thousand one hundred dollars, and the Woodmens' Camp bought the first fifty dollar bond. The third Liberty Bond was sold on the fifth of May, 1918, amounting to seven hundred and fifty dollars.

The food conservation began in Schleicher County about the first of February, 1918, with J. A. Whitten as food administrator. Then on April the thirteenth the Schleicher County Citizens had a mass meeting and passed a resolution to eat no more white flour but to send it to the army.

On the twenty-eighth of June, 1918, Schleicher County subscribed forty-one hundred and thirty dollars worth of War Saving Stamps.

The first Schleicher County boy wounded during the war was Earl Booth on the twenty-fifth of September, 1918, in the battle of St. Mihiel.

On November the second Bev McCormick was killed in the Argonne Forest, France. The Cablegram of his death from the war department reached his parents Mr. and Mrs. P. H. McCormick a few days after he was killed. Bev McCormick was in the Second Division and was in some of the hardest fighting on the Western Front. The Eldorado Success also said, "Bev was one of the ten of the Eldorado boys who volunteered to give their lives for their country on July the eighteenth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and he was the only Schleicher County boy to pay the supreme sacrifice. Bev was under draft age and it was his purely patriotic spirit that caused him to enlist. He first enlisted in Company H, which organized at San Angelo and was later consolidated with Company M at Camp Bowie, where he was trained in all the modern ways of Warfare. After arriving in France, Bev was transferred from the Thirty Sixth Division to the second Division, in which he gave his life, that right may rule instead of might."

Bev was born in Mills County on June the twenty-ninth, 1896, and was the youngest of six children, four brothers and one sister beside an aged father and mother who survived him at the time of his death.

Bev was reared in Schleicher County from early childhood, and his friends are as numerous as his acquaintances. He was also a member of the Methodist Church of Eldorado and his name is on the honor roll. The Flag was raised to half mast Sunday in honor of our beloved countryman, soldier, and friend, who gave his life that others might have freedom and that the crimes of the Huns may be stopped so that the world will be a decent place to live in. (Eldorado Success, November 8, 1918).

As soon as the news reached Eldorado the friends called at the home of the bereaved parents to offer condolence and assistance to them in their hour of sadness. The condolence the Success offers is based on the Scripture that says, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' and Bev gave his life and reward will be with the redeemed of the earth, may the good seeds sown in the loss of this life reap an abundant harvest for

suffering humanity throughout the world and that everlasting peace, founded on Christianity may be built up among the nations of the earth.

The remains of Bev McCormick arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey, on the sixth of October nineteen hundred and twenty one and was then shipped to the American Legion Post at San Angelo and was then brought to the McCormick home in Eldorado.

The body was carried to the Methodist Church house, by some of the ex-soldiers of Eldorado, Eden, and Christoval, on Sunday afternoon, October the twenty-third, nineteen hundred and twenty one. There was a short but impressive sermon after which the body was carried to the cemetery and laid to rest by the ex-soldiers. The pall-bearers were H. T. Finley, Herman Murchison, Walter Patton, Luke Spurgers, J. L. Neill of Eldorado and Paul Crawford and Dewitt Holland of Christoval, all of whom enlisted in Company H. with Bev and some of them were with him on the battlefield.

"The military services were the first of the kind ever seen by many people here and people from Christoval, Mertzon, and Sonora were here to witness and partake in the service. The Schleicher County citizens came out in large numbers to pay a last tribute and honor to their beloved countryman, who fell on the battlefield of France in protecting the rights of the American people."

"The floral offering was the most beautiful that the people have ever seen. There were flowers not only from friends but were given all along the route to Eldorado after the body had reached the American soil." (Eldorado Success.)

The body of Bev McCormick was laid to rest three years after he was killed in France. The body was requested to be shipped back to America by his mother but she did not live to see it arrive.

A monument has been erected, by the people of Schleicher County in honor of Bev McCormick, who gave his life for his country. The monument was placed in the court yard of Eldorado. The monument has these words written upon it:

Honor

Erected by the Citizens
Of Schleicher County
In Memory of Bev McCormick
June 29-1896
Nov 2-1918

On the opposite side it says:

Bev McCormick
First Class Private
Company M. 23rd. Inf.
2nd. Division
Killed in Argonne Forest, France
Nov. 2, 1918

MRS. D. H. McCARTNEY, AN OLD SETTLER OF SCHLEICHER COUNTY

By Ola May Watson

Miss Delaney Hepsybeth Taylor was born January 4, 1848, at Cuero, Dewitt County, Texas.

In her early life she lived in many different places as people of those days thought one must travel in order to make a living. She moved from Dewitt County to Williamson County, from there to Llano County, then to Kimble County, then to McCulloch County, thence to Coleman County and the last place was to Schleicher County where she is still living.

Miss Taylor was a young girl during the Civil War and therefore she was not allowed to leave the house alone for fear of Rebels. Many times the Rebels would come to their home and never say a word to anyone, they would just go to the kitchen, which was located about fifty yards from the house. They would go to the kitchen and get all they could find to eat, more especially the milk which was very scarce in those days.

During the Civil War it was very hard times for everyone. They could not receive all of their mail because the Rebels would hide near the road and as the Stage Driver came along they would take everything they thought would be of any value to them then kill the driver.

At one time the people got without clothes to wear and the women went to an old factory where cotton had been stored for several years and here they got enough cotton to supply each family in town with clothes enough to keep them warm.

In the winter all of the family was not allowed to leave home at the same time because fire was so scarce. One time the family all went to church and while they were gone the fire died out so of course some of them had to go to the neighbors to borrow a coal of fire. At that time matches could not be obtained at any of the stores and the fires were started by rubbing two stones together.

Miss Taylor was married at the age of eighteen, in Dewitt County, to Joseph Benjamin Franklin McCartney. They moved to Schleicher County in 1892. As the only way of moving was by driving oxens it took them several weeks to reach the Vermont Ranch. When they arrived there they found the only house was a post office, a store, a livery stable and a hotel, all owned by one person, Mr. C. C. West.

After Mr. McCartney and his family had been on the Vermont Ranch several days he was granted some land to live on until he was able to pay for it. For each child that was born on the Ranch a lot was given them for future life but as the town was soon moved they did not receive any part for their lots.

The Vermont Ranch was large and when Mrs. McCartney moved to the Ranch there was only one family living there besides the men working on the Ranch.

The Ranch was all in one big pasture with only one small trap. There were four wells and the small town had one town well. There were only three houses between the Vermont Ranch and Christoval and only one house between the Ranch and Sonora.

The reason the town of Verand was moved was because they could not make any deed to the land. When the town moved to Eldorado, they tore up the houses and moved them. One was sold to Mr. A. T. Wright, one to Mr. Keele, and Mrs. McCartney moved her house to Eldorado.

Agnes West (Mrs. Joseph Elder) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. West was the first child born on the Ranch.

The whole Ranch was owned by the Vermont Company. In later years this land was divided up into smaller pieces and sold out to different people. There were plenty of mustang horses on the Ranch and all through the country.

The mail was carried in a four horse hack. The nearest town was Sonora and when a doctor was needed the people would have to go horse back for him.

If Mrs. McCartney's house had still been down there the road now would run exactly through the center of the house. There were only about eight families that ever lived on the Ranch and nine houses in all, counting the house that was composed of a store, post office, hotel and livery stable, was all that composed Verand.

During this time the country was very open and as there were such few people here too, if a fire broke out on the divide no attempt was made to put it out until it reached the Vermont Draw.

Mr. W. B. Silliman, now of Fort Stockton, Texas came to Vermont and told the people of the place which is now Eldorado. He told them that all the first people to move to this place would be given three lots. As all of Mr. McCartney's goats had been stolen he decided to move to the new town.

They were the first settlers ever in Eldorado and for many months only one other family moved to Eldorado. Mrs. McCartney's home is built on one of the three lots which they received.

There was one well on the section so for several years they were forced to carry their water from this well which was half a mile from their home.

After all the settlers from the Vermont Ranch moved to Eldorado, stores were built and in 1907 the first bank was erected in Eldorado.

Since Mrs. McCartney's first days in Eldorado she has seen many improvements and, most important of all, the State Highway which was built in 1923. She is hoping to see more improvements in the future.

MR. DAVE DELONG

By Mary DeLong

Dave DeLong was born eighteen miles southeast of San Angelo, Texas, at Lipan Springs, February 8, 1866.

When Dave was six years old his father, G. W. DeLong, started to the South Concho in a wagon with two yoke of oxen to get timber to build a house. While on the way his father with a discharged Lieutenant named Love, who was at that time staying with him, saw dust off the road about two miles away, going in the same direction that they were but thought that it was caused by wild mustang horses. They paid no attention to the matter and continued on their way about five miles farther when they were waylaid by Commanche Indians. The Indians had hidden in tall Sacaweesta grass, and before G. W. DeLong saw them one shot him in the left arm. The man Love was shot with a poisoned arrow through the right ear. This drove him insane instantly. G. W. DeLong killed the Indian that had shot his comrade, but as his companion was helpless, he was all alone with fourteen Indians after his life. He placed his comrade in the bottom of the wagon and began trying to protect himself. He climbed down under the wagon with only a small brass-sided, rim-fire, forty-four Winchester for protection. He shot through the spokes of the wagon as the Indians began charging with poisoned arrows and guns. After a while all the Indians except the chief went back to a small knoll and held a consultation. The chief tied to his horse ran by with a six-shooter in both hands. G. W. DeLong aimed, fired at the chief and killed him. After the Indian warriors saw their leader killed, they retreated because it is a custom of theirs not to fight after their chief is dead.

Mr. DeLong turned the oxen back toward home, arriving at mid-night. When the family found that he had been wounded, there was great excitement. At that time there was a small place called Fort Concho, where San Angelo now stands, and at this place a small hospital had been erected. Mr. DeLong was taken to this hospital that morning and here he lay for six weeks before he revived.

When Dave was eight, the family moved to the South Concho where they erected the first dam at Christoval, Texas, for the purpose of irrigation. Although only a small lad, Dave tried to assist in the digging and erection of the dam. At that time G. W. DeLong owned the land that Christoval now stands on. He also owned the land where a small ditch leads out of the Christoval river. DeLong and his sons dug this irrigating ditch for four miles so that he could irrigate all of his farm land. It took them three years to complete this work. All the assistance that they had while digging this ditch was a small plow

pulled by oxen.

The land holding system of that time provided that the person who dug a good irrigation ditch over one square mile of land received six hundred and forty acres in return. In this way Mr. DeLong settled up all the land he then owned and the land that my grandmother now has her homestead on.

Once when only a small child Dave went on a buffalo hunt with his Uncle, Bill DeLong. They came to a large herd of buffalo and his uncle left him under a tree while he rode off to shoot some of the buffaloes. Dave played around the tree until he became tired and then wandered toward the place where his uncle was shooting at the buffalo. An old buffalo with a small calf came in the boy's direction. The uncle was not watching the small boy as he supposed that he was still under the tree where he left him. The buffaloes began chasing the boy and he began running toward his uncle.

The uncle saw them then and killed the older buffalo but could not shoot the smaller one without hitting the boy. The boy was not afraid of the small calf and tried to bull-dog it, but instead the calf began wallowing the boy. They began rolling over and over on the ground and the calf was stepping all over Dave. He was being bruised very badly, but the uncle was afraid to shoot for fear that he would hit the boy. He finally had to pull the calf off the boy and then shoot. Dave was frightened almost to death. He did not feel as if he would like to bull-dog any buffalo calves after being trod all over by this one.

When Dave was about ten his father went off, leaving no one at home except the mother and a girl cousin with Dave, the eldest child. They were getting ready to go to bed one night when they heard war whoops in the distance. His mother and cousin ran for the gun, which was so large that they could hardly carry it. The old gun was filled with dirt dauber nests as it had not been used in a great while. The two women tried to clean the old gun but without much success. Suddenly louder war whoops were heard. As no help could be secured anywhere they hardly knew what to do. All the children were very frightened. They were afraid that the Indians were setting the house on fire as they could see the torches of the Indians through the windows. The noise stopped suddenly, and going to the door after a good while had passed the family could see nothing. They were very thankful, for they realized what the Indians could have done if they had attacked the house.

As Dave DeLong grew older, he did not like the occupation of farming and took to cattle raising. He bought a ranch, in 1895, sixteen miles northwest of Eldorado in Schleicher County. A post office was built here called Thorpe, Texas. Later this post office was abolished because the people thought it about as easy to go into Eldorado for their mail since they had to get their supplies there anyway.

In 1899 Dave DeLong married Anna Belle Smith and

they went to live on the ranch.

In 1905 there were two outlaws, Tom Ketchum and Dave Adkins, who were well known characters all over West Texas. They were known as bandits who held up trains. Mr. DeLong and Dave Adkins were boys and went to school together. When Dave Adkins was about eighteen, he killed a man in self-defense and got up and left the country. He was of a good family and could probably have beaten the case in court but he chose to run from the law.

Adkins became associated with Tom Ketchum who had also killed a man over his sweetheart. They began doing worse things and soon did not care, for they were hunted by officers everywhere. One day while riding in the pasture, Mr. DeLong came upon them sleeping in a canyon. Tom Ketchum had his horse trained to nicker when anyone was in sight; Dave DeLong was almost upon them when the horse nickered. Both outlaws jumped to their feet and put their guns on Mr. DeLong but recognized him and took them off.

After that they began hiding in this canyon frequently. Mr. DeLong did not care to have them there but as he had grown up with Dave Adkins and knew him well he could not ask them to leave. Tom Ketchum gave Mr. DeLong a beautiful quilt that he had made himself when they left. Some of the officers were on their trail so they left their hiding place after a period of about one year.

Mr. Dave DeLong has continued ranching in this country for many years after this incident and now lives in Eldorado.

THE GROWTH OF POPULATION IN SCHLEICHER COUNTY

The growth of the population of Schleicher County has been steady since the time the county was created. In 1890 the population was 155; in 1900 it was 515; in 1910 it was 1,893; in 1920, it was 2,000 and in 1930 it is estimated at 3,500. In 1929 the average population per square mile in the county was one and eight-tenths.

ANNUAL RAIN FALL IN SCHLEICHER COUNTY

According to records kept by the First National Bank, of Eldorado, the rainfall for the county seat since 1914 is as follows: 1914, 22.13 inches; 1915, 19.91; 1916, 16.24; 1917, 5.81; 1918, 11.32; 1919, 19.12; 1920, 21.10; 1921, 22.06; 1922, 20.21; 1923, 19.76; 1924, 18.02; 1925, 20.82; 1926, 17.74; 1927, 18.45; 1928, 17.96; 1929, 12.53.

ROBERT BAILEY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BAILEY RANCH

(By Marie Stanford)

Robert Bailey was one of the first Pioneer settlers of this county. He came here from Erath county, where he had lived for some time. Mr. Bailey moved here in 1896. He was about forty-five years of age. He came to this county for the main purpose of purchasing land and ranching. The first land he bought was ten miles west of Eldorado and today known as the Bailey Ranch neighborhood. He paid one dollar an acre for the land he purchased. Mr. Bailey bought an enormous amount of land but after two or three years had passed he purchased more land, about three sections, joining the town section. It is today known as the Albert Bailey place.

Mr. Bailey was a very educated man in some respects. He received his education in Missouri where he was born and reared. When dealing with business he was an unusually shrewd man but he would deal with anyone in a square and honest way.

At this time when cattle were sold they had to be driven to the railroad to be shipped. During his early manhood Mr. Bailey helped drive cattle into Kansas, Montana, Dakota, etc.

When anyone in that day and time had the opportunity to go up the trail successfully they thought themselves very fortunate. Sometimes they would come in contact with the Indians and have to endure many hardships. While on one of his trips up the old trail he had considerable experience with the Indians, outlaws and such. Mr. Bailey was in one of the fights with the Indians and was slightly wounded, however, they continued on the journey.

When Mr. Bailey first moved here Eldorado was a saloon town. It was a very small place and I doubt if there was a Post Office. There were not more than one grocery or dry goods store and no garages. It was just a saloon town. Eldorado was forty-five miles from the railroad and this made it very inconvenient for them to buy their groceries. There were many supplies which were necessary. There was no highway here to haul them over. At this time they hauled all their supplies by an old fashioned freight wagon. While going on one of these freighting trips they used from two to about six teams. They would carry their food to eat along with them and it usually took about five or six days to go and return. The freighters would camp out each night. Mr. Bailey went on several of these trips for himself. They bought their supplies in San Angelo.

On the large tract of land which Mr. Bailey acquired west of Eldorado, when he first came here, he established a cattle ranch and maintained it from about 1905 to 1910. Mr. Bailey

had many cattle on his ranch and he had a large yearly income, due to the ranch and cattle. While here on this ranch he made lots of money. Many times he would go to large towns and stay for months at a time. He would do this if he could find a suitable man to care for his property and ranch. Part of this time he lived in Fort Worth.

Along in about 1900 to 1905 Mr. Bailey began to sell small tracts of this land. People would come to this county wanting land and so Mr. Bailey had bought it cheap he could afford to sell it at a profit. He made a lot of money in this way. One by one he sold the tracts of land to the settlers until he did not have much left. In about 1913 or 1914 he decided to leave this country and go to the Plains.

He had three girls and three boys. Those living are Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Gee, of some distant city and Albert Bailey of Eldorado, John Bailey residing in Ozona and Tom Bailey, now living in Fort Worth.

After he had sold several tracts of his lands west of Eldorado, good fences were established and many improvements made on them. The community was called and still is called the Bailey Ranch neighborhood in honor of Mr. Bailey. On most of the sections or tracts of land he sold, farms were established and on some, ranches and farms combined.

The original size of Bailey Ranch was about thirty sections. On the average the land, today is worth from twenty-five to thirty dollars an acre. The main crops produced on the land are cotton and grain. There are several kinds of grain, some of which are cane, maize, corn, kaffir corn and higera.

F. C. BATES, SR.

(By Viola May)

Finis Campbell Bates, Sr., was born in Alabama August 22, 1832. In 1873 he moved to Texas from Saltillo, Mississippi. He came from New Orleans to Luling, Texas, over the Southern Pacific Railroad. Luling, at that time, was as far as rails had been laid. He went from Luling to San Antonio over the four horse stage routes, stopping at the Menger Hotel, which hotel by name is still standing on the same city block as in 1873.

From San Antonio, he moved to Uvalde, Texas about ninety miles west of San Antonio. This journey was also made over the four horse stage routes. After living at Uvalde for several years he moved to Batesville, the county seat of Zavalla County, the town being named after his oldest brother.

He soon moved back to Uvalde, where he was elected Tax Assessor of that county. He held this office for ten years. He took great interest in public affairs and was on the moral side of any public issue that was for good government, good schools and more churches. He was petitioned to make the race for a seat in the United States Congress, but refused.

He moved into the little settlement of Eldorado in 1897.

His house was the fourth dwelling in this little settlement on the divide. His lot was presented to him by town-site company because at that time a lot was given to anyone who would erect a home on it.

He assisted in organizing the county of Schleicher as it was then under the jurisdiction of Menard County. He, with W. B. Silliman, C. C. West and a few other citizens who saw the bright future of the little city of Eldorado and Schleicher county tried, and not in vain, to cut the county loose from Menard County. They sent various petitions to the Commissioners' Court of Menard County, praying them to grant Schleicher her freedom and that she be allowed to govern her own affairs. The law required the signatures of some fifty legal tax payers. Finally they secured fifty-two signatures and sent the petition to the Court at Menard. The petition was strictly in accordance with the law, so Schleicher was granted her freedom in the spring of 1901.

An election was then held for the purpose of choosing all the county officials. After the election, J. D. Scruggs, the judge of Menard county, drove through from Menard to Eldorado in a buggy and qualified the new officials.

Schleicher County's first Courthouse was the building now standing just north of the waterworks known as the Silliman, Campbell and Evans building. The rock vault that stands on the side of it was built and used for the keeping of the records.

F. C. Bates, Sr., held the office of Justice of Peace in Eldorado for about six years. He was always making public speeches for better schools and churches in Eldorado. In 1897, he predicted that he would live to see the day when the steel rails would be laid into that little city and it seems his visions now will come true.

Mr. Bates has never used tobacco in any form, in his life. One drink of whiskey, to his mind, to his discredit. This drink was taken one freezing day during the Civil War. He is a member of the Christian Church. Mr. Bates is now living in Eldorado with his daughter, he being 97 years old.

He is the oldest living person in the United States by the name of Bates.

MR. C. C. WEST

(By Victoria Jones)

Mr. C. C. West, one of the "old-timers" in this section of the state was born on February 16, 1856, in Williamson County, Texas, seven miles west of Round Rock on Running Brushy Creek and fifteen miles south of Georgetown. More than forty years ago he came to West Texas and with his wife and one son led the life of an open-range sheepman for many years. He herded about three hundred sheep and a few ponies over the area which is now Sutton and Schleicher Counties. While herding

sheep and leading the life of a nomadic sheepman, Mr. West and his family made their home under a liveoak tree most of the time. Mr. West would have to ride about twenty-five miles or even a greater distance to the nearest post office and for supplies and while he was away, Mrs. West would take her only son in her arms and herd the sheep.

The only fenced pasture at that time was the Vermont ranch which was located a few miles north of the present town of Eldorado. All the other land was free range and a man could herd his sheep wherever he could get the best range. There were plenty of deer, antelope and a few mustang horses. The grass was as high as an antelope's back, if there was plenty of rain.

After the Vermont Ranch had been fenced and the little town of Verand started on the ranch Mr. West moved his family to the new settlement. Here Mr. West set up the first post office ever established in the area which is now Schleicher County. The post office was in the same building with a store and in connection with both of these he ran a hotel. Mr. West relates that every article which he sold was wrapped in a paper sack as there was no wrapping paper or twine in those days.

During the eighties, Mr. West and a few men tried to organize a separate county government for this county but failed because there were not enough voters in the proposed area. About fifteen years later the county government of Schleicher was organized.

In 1895, Mr. West and his family moved to the new town of Eldorado and here he ran the first hotel in the new town. Part of the building which he used for this hotel is still standing a short distance south-east of the Baptist Church. Charley Nickels and Thomason built this house in 1895. Silliman, Gray and Murchison were the first merchants in Eldorado and among the first settlers were Peter Green, Charley Keaton, C. C. Lamb and the McCartneys. In 1898 Mr. West and the Neely brothers established a ranch a short distance west of Eldorado and about where the West home is now located. A short time after this Mr. West raised his first bale of cotton on land about where Mr. Charlie Spencer's house now stands. This was about the first cotton raised in Schleicher County. Mr. West had his cotton ginned in Menard and sold it in San Angelo. It took about three days to make the round trip to the gin at Menard.

Mr. West was the first justice of the peace in Schleicher County. While he held this office he had some interesting cases to decide. On one occasion a freighter committed suicide at the twin wells in Tom Henderson's pasture and Mr. West had to go down and get his wagon and teams. "When the boys got drunk and shot up the town we would tell them that we would shoot it to them", said Mr. West. Another case which came was that of Silliman vs Brightman, which dealt with the filing of applications on the school land during the land rushes in Schleicher County.

Mr. West still lives in Eldorado and has had much to do with the progress of the town and county. At present he owns

one of the best stock farms in West Texas and he is also the owner of the Rock Filling Station and Tourist Camp in Eldorado. The tourist camp was completed in 1929 and it is one of the best equipped and most modern in Texas, the initial cost being more than \$5,000.

MR. JOHN RAE

Mr. John Rae has been in Schleicher county longer than almost any other person and has lived continuously in the county longer than any other person. He was born in Jedburgh, Scotland, on June 23, 1861, and came to the United States in 1879.

In 1883, Mr. Rae first brought sheep into Schleicher area, about fifteen miles north west of what is now Eldorado, to winter. The sheep were graded Mexican sheep and the herders were all Mexicans. For several years he would winter the sheep in this area and in the spring would move them back to Dove Creek and herd them near water until the next winter. The Mexican herders were hired for about \$12 per month and never asked for any money in advance, except probably for a slicker or a pair of brogan shoes. Mr. Rae said he would not stay in the sheep business fifteen minutes with labor as it now is if he had to hire herders as under the old open range conditions. Mexican labor now asks for a high price and have to have as much as fifty dollars in advance. In the old days a Mexican would be given an "A" tent and provisions for a few weeks and then would be placed in charge of a flock of sheep. They could be depended upon to stay with the sheep and care for them in spite of any difficulty which might arise.

When Mr. Rae came to the Schleicher area it was all open range, of course, and wild game was so thick on the prairies west of Eldorado that fresh meat could be killed at any time. Mr. Rae always carried a carbine on his saddle and always kept the camp supplied with fresh meat. Deer and antelope were common. Antelope went in big herds and there were some wild turkey. Mr. Rae says he had deer and antelope to eat so much that he has never liked it since. Wildcats and wolves were also very common, the latter causing much trouble to the open range sheepmen and had to be trapped and poisoned. Mr. Rae once killed a panther within a hundred yards of his house. He heard the panther one morning before breakfast and went to the back door with his gun. He located the panther some distance away and killed it at the first shot but was in no hurry to go up to the the panther to find out if he was dead. The panther hide measured nine feet from tip to tip.

In 1885, Mr. Rae and Will Grinnell formed a partnership in the sheep buisness. They continued to winter sheep on the divide and drift back to Dove Creek in the spring until 1887 when they bought their first section of school land and drilled a well upon it. This well was the first in that part of the country and it inaugerated complete change. The well was 224 feet deep and

cost one dollar per foot for the first hundred feet and one dollar and twenty-five cents per foot after that. After the well was bored, a windmill was erected and from that time on Mr. Rae and his partner remained on the Schleicher Divide all the year and not during the winter only.

In 1889, Mr. Rae and Grinnell drilled their second well, which was located some distance from the first. It was drilled near a water hole which had a solid rock bottom and which held water after rains but was nothing like permanent. After a windmill was erected at this second well the water was pumped into this natural lake or basin and during the forty-one years since it has never been dry. After this the partners took up more land and gradually made more improvements, although they continued to herd their sheep for many years.

In 1891 they erected the first fence on their ranch when they enclosed about 300 acres for a buck trap and horse pasture. They used Waukeegan barbed wire for the fencing. Just a little before this they put about sixteen acres of land in cultivation and planted it in feed.

In 1892, Mr. Rae and Grinnell dissolved partnership and divided their property. They owned and had leased thirty two sections of land at the time. Grinnell, who was from New York, kept his land until 1915 when he sold it to John Willoughby at \$6.50 an acre. Grinnell now lives in California.

Other men who came into the western and southwestern part of what is now Schleicher County were Rouse and Ferguson, who bought sheep from Shackleford County and settled on land now owned by Sofge. Ed Crosson, an old bechelor and a cripple, also brought in sheep but drifted on later. S. F. Couch, who was killed in the fall of 1929 in an airplane accident, in the fall of 1887 came in and wintered near Mr. Rae on the place where Ford Oglesby now ranches. The next spring he moved to what is now Ozona and became one of the founders and prominent citizens of the county seat of Crockett County. The head springs of Dove Creek and Spring Creek were owned by Stilson, Case, Ryburn and Thorpe. Stilson and Case owned sheep and had an interest in the cattle owned by the company. Mr. Rae remembers John Young, of Alpine, quite well. John Drake, the father-in-law of Young ran the Sol Mayer ranch near Mr. Rae for several years.

Mr. Rae did not have any trouble with cattle men during the open range days. There was plenty of room and plenty of grass for all. After 1889, when Mr. Rae constructed a permanent hole of water on his ranch the cowboys made it a practice to stop there for water and to camp. In the spring round ups they would drive the cattle back northward from Devil's River and Mr. Rae's well was like an oasis in the desert to the cattle after a dry drive of fifty miles or more. It was the only permanent water between Devils River and Dove Creek and the cowmen were glad to have the opportunity to use it.

When Mr. Rae first settled in this area he did not believe that the country would ever change much for he thought it

would always be exclusively a stock country. But the country has gradually changed and farming is increasing. Mr. Rae has kept pace with the change for his own modern ranch is one of the best in the state today, with its wolf-proof fences and fine sheep.

Mr. Rae expresses the belief that the county will change more in the next ten years than it has in the last twenty years for at last the only lacking factor is being supplied, railroad facilities.

A. T. WRIGHT

Mr. Archie Wright was born in Guadalupe County on November 6, 1876. In 1880 his family moved to Tom Green County and settled on the South Concho a short distance from where the town of Christoval now stands. His boyhood life on a ranch was typical of that period of West Texas. His only spending money came from trapping in winter. The first school he attended was in a small picket house located on the site of the present Baptist Encampment grounds in Christoval. The school was for three months during the summer with the tuition rate of \$1.50 per month. Mr. George Puckett was the teacher. The last school he attended was taught by E. E. Stricklen, later a prominent ranchman in Southwest Texas.

Mr. Wright's first trip into Schleicher County was during the eighties. The family was traveling in a covered wagon and returned to Guadalupe County for a visit. He remembers that they camped one night at the well which C. C. Doty had drilled. Wild game was very plentiful and none of the county was occupied by settlers.

In 1900, Mr. Wright moved to Schleicher County and helped carry the petition for the organization of the county around to get signers. He located in Eldorado and witnessed the thrilling days of the land rushes but was merely an on looker, except in one of the contests. This was the Murphy-Oliver Push and he entered this for the one purpose of pulling his brother, Steve, out of the Murphy line. Somebody pulled Steve out of the line before Mr. Wright could get to him but he had his hands more than full in the friendly scuffle. About 800 men were in Eldorado to take part in this rush and most of them seemed to be in the court house yard. The Murphy line held the Court House for three days before the rush but the actual settlers were in the majority and were able to file their applications.

In 1906, Mr. Wright bought the Eldorado Paper and changed the name to the Eldorado Success. He published this country weekly until 1929, when he gave up active management to devote his time to other business, although he still remains the senior editor. His experiences as a country editor in this little western town were not always tame or every-day occurrences, as may be expected. His paper was an important factor in the development of the County, for he boosted those things

which were for the betterment of the community. Only two other business people have operated their business under continuous management since Mr. Wright purchased The Success. These are Mrs. Kate E. Robinson and Mrs. E. C Haynes.

Mr. Wright has seen the steady growth of Eldorado in spite of the lean years and similar frontier hardships. He remembers when coyotes came into the little town and caught chickens and he recalls one very interesting coyote chase on the main street of Eldorado in the early days. He says that the growth in 1929 was the most substantial that has ever taken place in the Schleicher County-seat.

MR. J. B. CHRISTIAN

By Joe Muller Christian

Mr. J. B. Christian was born in Paradise, Kentucky, on August 31, 1867. In 1868 his parents moved to Round Rock, Texas, and here he grew to manhood. His first work was as clerk and bookkeeper of the Mays and Black Mercantile Company at Round Rock, from 1885 to 1890. From 1890 to 1900 Mr. Christian was in the hardware business in Hutto, Texas, and in 1900 he moved to Schleicher County and entered the ranching business. He was engaged in this business from 1900 to 1915. In 1915 he became cashier of the First National Bank, of Eldorado, and in 1918 became president of that institution, which position he still holds.

In 1900 Mr. Christian traveled a large part of West Texas searching for a location and finally decided on Schleicher County, because of the wonderful possibilities he saw for it. Some of these were its good soil, prospects for a railroad in 1900, and good grass lands. The grass was mostly buffalo and tobosa, which grew higher than the grass now does.

He settled on a ranch near town and went into the cattle business. The country was wholly a ranch country, running horses and cattle on the range, and very few sheep. There were only about four sheep men in the county at that time. There was just a very little farming and only three men raising cotton in the whole county. This was hauled in wagons to San Angelo to be ginned. The round trip took three or four days.

There were just twenty-five families living in Eldorado when Mr. Christian came to Schleicher County. The town consisted of two general merchandise stores, a blacksmith shop, a small hotel, and a saloon. The road from Eldorado to Christoval went through pastures and was very rough. Mail came out daily from San Angelo on a four horse passenger coach. For a while Mr. Christian and Mr. S. A. Williams owned a grocery store and post office, being in the rear, was kept by them. The only telephone in the town was in this store also. There was only one line from Sonora, Eldorado, and Christoval to San Angelo.

In August, 1901, the first land rush took place. Mr. Chris-

tian had to sign all papers for land that was brought to him and on the night that the land was to open for sale at twelve o'clock, a regular mob had gathered outside waiting to get their certificates for land they wanted signed by the Notary Public. For a while it looked like there was going to be serious trouble. Men were climbing over one another trying to get their papers signed for land they wanted before some one else took their place.

Then in 1904, another land rush took place. A good many of the old-timers here had land leased from the State of Texas, and when this was to be sold in 1904, they knew that if they did not buy it they would have to move, so they got together and when the time came for the land to go on sale, kept the settlers away from the court house while some of their friends signed up for them. There were men scattered all over the court house lawn, wrestling, and scuffling, trying to keep the other from signing up for land they both wanted. The land sold for a dollar an acre at these openings, and for two or two and a half an acre from individuals. When they signed up for this land they could pay one fortieth down and three per cent a year for forty years.

JUDGE J. A. WHITTEN

(By Millard Cope, in San Angelo Standard Times, Aug. 18, 1929.)

"Oil Boom in Schleicher County is Attributed to Efforts of Judge Whitten"

Judge J. A. Whitten was born in Callahan County on June 19, 1865. He was reared in Breckenridge, Stephens County. He found few opportunities to receive a scholastic education but did attend the public school and later a normal school. In 1889 he was married to Miss Mollie Morris, of Breckenridge. In 1900 they moved to Sutton County and in 1901 to Schleicher County.

Judge Whitten has been a leader in the development of Schleicher County. In 1902 he was elected County Judge and served in that office for ten years. He was the first supervisor of sheep scabies eradication work in Texas. During the administrations of Governor Moody, he has been a member of the Live Stock Sanitary Commission. He has for several years been a member of the executive committee of the Sheep & Goat Raisers Association of Texas and is vice-president of the Wool Growers Central Storage Company of San Angelo. He is also president of the Eldorado Townsite Company. Judge Whitten has long been an earnest Church worker, very actively identified with the development of Schleicher County and Eldorado. He has never been too busy to give his time to the public in working for a worthy cause, such as Boy Scout work, Lions Club, Church, school or city affairs.

MR. SAM WILLIAMS

By Roberta Milligan

Mr. Sam Williams is one of Schleicher County's progressive ranchmen who furnishes a good example of how a poor man could come to this area and make a success in the stock industry provided he stayed with it. Mr. Williams was born in 1874 near the town of Burnett. When he was a small boy his parents moved to Pack Saddle Mountain and when he was fourteen the family moved to New Mexico. After two years they returned to Llano County where Mr. Williams worked for several years as a ranch hand. He made one trip to Kansas, driving cattle "up the trail" for Moore and Slater. The Indians in the Indian Territory gave them quite a bit of trouble and on one occasion relieved Mr. Williams of his hat. It was several days before he had the opportunity of getting another and so made his bandana serve as a hat. In 1896 Mr. Williams married Miss Delorah Ricketson, of Llano.

After his marriage Mr. Williams decided that he must make money and so sold his horse and saddle and bought a Georgia Stock and double shovel and went to farming. Although he worked early and late he had poor success and after five years of hard work concluded that he was no farmer. He sold his farming implements and sent his wife and two small boys to Mrs. William's mother to stay while he went west in search of a job. He found work with Charlie Collins on the T. F. Ranch on West Grape Creek. Mrs. Williams and the babies came to him later. They all lived here until 1901 when they moved to Eldorado where they lived in a tent three months.

Mr. Williams was in Eldorado and took part in the big land rush of August, 1901. He and Jim Bramblet carried \$1,500 in money and the papers for the people represented by L. H. Brightman in filing on the school land. They were the first in the line to get their papers in to the County Clerk and were therefore successful in filing on some of the school land. They were also among the first to line-up at the door of the county clerk's office. The scramble to get to the door when the rush started was long and hard but Mr. Williams and Mr. Bramblet managed to keep their places near the door. Mr. Williams says that he had to remove his pistol from his pocket because he was pressed so tightly against the wall of the building by the struggling mass of humanity. He placed the pistol under the edge of the floor and has always related since that time that there was not room enough for both he and the pistol. It was one time when there was not room for one more. When the door of the clerk's office was opened Mr. Williams tried to stand in the doorway while Mr. Bramblet placed the filing papers on the clerk's desk but the rush was so great that Mr. Williams was thrown against the wall on the opposite side of the room. The crowd paid no attention of the call of the officers to halt and confusion reigned everywhere about the little court house. Men pushed and scrambled about and it seemed certain that someone would get hurt but fortunately this did not happen.

After the rush was over Mr. Williams moved his family out to the land which he had filed upon. They lived in a tent for about a year and a half and Mrs. Williams remembers that she and the little boys gathered Mesquite leaves for a carpet in their canvas home. Some how they managed to get the required \$300 worth of improvements upon the land at the end of three years. About all that the improvements consisted of at the end of three years was a well and windmill and a one-room house, 14 feet square. In order to get the well drilled Mr. Williams traded his horse and saddle to the driller and then got the driller to credit him for the balance. He also bought the windmill on credit. He leased his 3 sections of land out for \$25 per section annually and worked wherever he could get a job. He worked much of the time on the Bird and Merck ranch which joined his place.

Mr. Williams came to Schleicher county before the county was organized and was here when the first officers were installed. He says he remembers well Mr. Douglas borrowing his buggy to go to Menard to file on the strip of land north of the Eldorado town section where Mr. Ed. Ratliff's home now stands. He recalls vividly Mr. Douglas's covered wagon, with a lantern tied on in front to give light, as it moved slowly over the rocks. Mr. Douglas had to be away several days but Mrs. Douglas and the children made the best of things and went right on with preparations for what was to be their new home.

Mr. Williams went to Llano and bought fifty head of cattle, all on credit, for \$7.50 per head. They were poor and it required 15 days to move them 125 miles. His only help was his wife and two babies who drove the chuck wagon. This was in January and it was very cold.

In 1904. Mr. Williams started into the sheep and goat business. He bought 12 sheep and 12 goats at \$3 per head from Mr. Porter. Mr. and Mrs. Williams cannot agree as to the second flock of sheep. Mrs. Williams says that there were 23 and that wolves killed 21 while Mr. Williams says 31 and wolves caught 29. Mrs. Williams says she knows for she walked all day in the rain herding them. She also says she told Mr. Williams not to turn them out that day but he did anyway. Mr. Williams' first bunch of sheep was bought because they were pet sheep and would come home at night while sheep that had been herded would lie out and be eaten by wolves. Mr. Williams could not afford a herder. His first sale of mohair was 40 pounds sold at 18 cents and wool was sold for 12½ cents.

Mr. Williams then borrowed money and bought and sold cattle and worked for wages any where that he could get work.

In the fall of 1908, Mr. Williams drove 18 miles to Mrs. Tisdale's mill with a wagon load of cane heads to be threshed. Mrs. Tisdale told him he could not make a living here on 3 sections but if he could manage to stay three years she would let him have money to stock up. Later she let him have \$2,000 on a plain note. Mr. Williams used the money three years and rode over horseback once a year to pay the interest.

Mr. Williams prospered steadily and erected a comfortable

home near where the tent and shack had stood, but had the misfortune to lose the home and all household goods in a fire. A new buggy was also burned on the porch because the boy in charge was afraid to pull it off the porch for fear of tearing the top. Mr. Williams then went to work with renewed energy and more determined to go on with the stock business. He and his sons now own thirteen sections of fine ranch land in the Rudd community and considerable holdings in other parts of the county. Mr. Williams now owns one of the most comfortable ranch homes in West Texas and the large concrete house which now stands on the site of the former tent and the former houses well illustrates the development which has taken place in the country. The modern furniture has no comparison with that used at first by the Williams family but one is inclined to believe that the hardships of filing on school land in the past have more than entitled them to such.

Mr. Williams took an interest in the school in his community at an early date and helped to build a school house soon after he moved on his land. He has seen the school grow from an enrollment of three pupils to an enrollment of twenty-five. He has also seen sheep sell from \$1.30 for both the ewe and lamb to \$22.50 per head. He has seen land increase in value from \$1 per acre to \$25 per acre and progress along other lines so great that they never could have been predicted when he first came to the county.

MRS. J. W. HILL

By Margaret Hill

Mrs. J. W. Hill was born in Austin County, Texas, near the little town of Industry, on October 16, 1842. Her maiden name was Margaret Sullivan. She lived at the place of her birth until she was married to Mr. John Hill and then they moved to Bosque County. In 1901 the family moved to San Angelo and lived there temporarily until their house was completed in Eldorado.

In May of 1901, Mrs. Hill, together with her husband and family, moved to the little town of Eldorado. This was just a few months before the organization of the county government. Mrs. Hill expected to find Eldorado a town of some size because she had heard much talk about it and then too, the name just seemed to imply a thriving and booming city. She was disappointed, however, for when they finally reached Eldorado, after traveling all the way from San Angelo through an open and unfenced country for the most part, there were only about six houses scattered around over the prairie on the Divide. There was a little school house and before long work was begun on a court house. There were very few residents in Eldorado or Schleicher County at the time. Gradually the town grew. More business houses were erected and more and more homes appeared in the new town. For a time the people thought that

a railroad would surely come to the town and most of them paid on this but the railroad did not come. Land was put into cultivation, the stock industry continued to grow and gradually the county was settled up by a good class of citizens.

Mrs. Hill is now one of the oldest persons living in the county. She has three sons and one daughter living in Schleicher County at the present time.

MR. P. H. McCORMICK

By Albert Martin

Mr. P. H. McCormick was born in 1845 in South Carolina. When the war between the States began he joined the Confederate army and fought under General Lee until the surrender at Appomatox. Mr. McCormick said that before he came here there was no turf on the ground. The "gramma" grass grew to be about eighteen inches high, and when a prairie fire got started it burned until it ran out of grass or trees to burn. He said that he had been told that long before he came to Schleicher there were mesquite trees of great size in the county. Once a fire started and raged for days. When the fire had gone the trees were gone too and the trees which we have in the county now have grown since that time. The first residence in Eldorado was where the post office now stands and about the first business house was directly across the street from the Midway Service Station. When a school house was added it was a typical "Little Red School House" of one room, in which school was taught from Monday until Friday, dances held on Saturday night and church services on Sunday, or at least one Sunday in three or four months.

There was only one well and windmill between Sonora and Eldorado where sheepmen could water their sheep when going through, and all the freighting had to be done with wagon trains, the supplies being hauled out from San Angelo. The Eldorado post office was a box nailed on a mesquite tree so that the stage driver could reach the mail on his way through from San Angelo to Sonora or to Del Rio. There were many deer and antelope in some parts of the country then and also lots of wild turkeys when a big acorn crop drew them up from the rivers.

Mr. McCormick came to Schleicher County in 1901 and has lived here ever since. He was the manager of the first gin in Eldorado and for many years continued in the gin business. He has seen the country develop and change so much in the last twenty-five years that it does not look like the same land. Mr. McCormick has three sons and one daughter still living in Schleicher County and one son, Bev McCormick, who lost his life in France during the World War. Mr. McCormick was the second county tax assessor in Schleicher County. This office is now held by his son, Don McCormick.

MRS. KATE E. ROBINSON

By Joe H. Moore

Mrs. Kate Ewing Robinson was born December 17, 1862, near Old Washington, Washington County, Texas.

Mrs. Robinson and her husband, Dr. T. P. Robinson, in August of 1902, came to this section. This was during the land rush. People were seeing that Schleicher was a good farming country.

There were not over six business houses in town. There were no churches and the school had only three rooms. The court house was a frame building, square in shape. It had five rooms on the first floor, a jury room and the court room on the top floor. It was destroyed by fire in 1917.

The homes that were built during that time were comfortable and up to date. Most of them are still standing now and are in good condition.

There was only one telephone in town. It was a long distance telephone connected with San Angelo. The telephone was placed in the General Merchandise store, the most important store in town.

All of the freighting was done in wagons. A trip to San Angelo meant a three to four days trip.

"As I see it the very scarcest things in all Schleicher county at that time were "Hen Eggs". It seems as if chickens were the slowest of all creatures in learning the possibilities of Schleicher County. I have gone to neighbors houses and begged them to sell me only two or three eggs," Mrs. Robinson said.

Mrs. Robinson said that, there being no churches, all religious gatherings were held in the school house. Sunday School was held at the school house every Sunday for all denominations.

The most interesting entertainment for old and young was a debating and Literary Society. It met every Friday night at the school house. Later it met occasionally at the court house.

One humorous story Mrs. Robinson told was as follows: Mrs. Murchison had three children and as they were the only children in town every one was interested in them. One night they missed Herman, the youngest child, and his mother soon got up a search party. They hunted until about twelve or twelve-thirty that night and found him under the Hotel porch asleep. He was still wearing dresses at that time.

Mrs. Robinson now has a general merchandise store in Eldorado and the sign in front gives the information that she has been in business from 1902 to 1929. Mrs. Robinson has the distinction of having been in business in Eldorado longer than any other person.

MR. SAM HOLLAND

Mr. Sam Holland was born in Giles County, Tennessee, January 27, 1861. As a boy he went to a small country school for two years. The school which he attended lasted only three or four months. In 1872 times were very hard for farmers, so the Holland family came to Galveston, Texas. There were no trains at that time for a person to go from one state to another. In Galveston they got on a train and came to Limestone County. They reached Limestone county on the third day of January in 1872. Mr. Holland's father bought a farm and remained here for four years. Then he moved to Falls County. In Falls County he bought a gin and ginned his own cotton. The gin was run by horsepower. There could be three bales of cotton ginned a day. Of course the people would gather their cotton quicker than the gin could gin. There were stalls which the bales of cotton could be put in. Mr. Holland, Mr. Sam Holland's father would tell the people when he could get his bale of cotton. Some times it would be a week before some of the farmers could get their bale of cotton. There was no use for the cotton seeds. They were scattered out on the ground and wet so that the hogs could eat them.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Holland were married the third day of January in 1883. On the day of their marriage Mr. Sam Holland's father killed 83 hogs and gave most of them away to get cotton choppers. There were no banks and very little money was in circulation. At least the farmers didn't have much money.

In 1884 Mr. and Mrs. Holland moved to Bosque county and after two years they moved to Ballinger. Ten years of Mr. Holland's life was spent in Ballinger.

In 1901 Mr. Holland and his family came to the Vermont Ranch in Schleicher County. It was all in a big ranch and Mr. Holland bought 32 sections of land when he came here and stocked it with sheep and cattle. The first meal which Mrs. Holland prepared after she came to Vermont was on July 4th. She had to cook it on a stove out in the open. They did not build them a house so they lived in a tent. Mrs. Holland cooked red beans, fresh pork, cakes and other things.

They continued living in a tent until they built a large house with seven or eight rooms. The Vermont ranch was a big open country in 1901. There were wild hogs, wolves, and many other wild animals that roamed over the country. Many of the sheep were killed by the wolves.

Mr. Holland worked as a cowboy. He helped with the branding of the cattle and also at the round-ups. The cattle were rounded up about twice a year. All of the neighbors went in together and branded the cattle, because the cattle would get mixed up and that was the only way for each one to get his own cattle.

Mrs. Holland gave parties at their home. At the parties games were played, and ice cream and cake were served. All

of the young folks came in wagons and buggies. One night Mr. A. T. Wright brought nine girls to a party and went in and asked Mrs. Holland if she had enough ice cream and cake for all of them.

The population of the county at that time was about three hundred. It took almost all of the men to make up the court. When Mr. Holland moved to this country the little town Verand, had already been moved to Eldorado. Mr. Holland sold his ranch in 1913 and moved to Eldorado, and bought the Eldo Hotel. He owned the hotel 10 years and 5 months. After he sold the hotel he bought the place where he now lives.

Mr. Holland is one of the oldest of our citizens. He is the only living person in his father's family. We should all be proud of all of the older citizens of our town, for they are the ones who started our town and developed this country.

MR. R. A. EVANS

By J. C. Kinchen

I was born at Princetown, Kentucky, on October 6, 1867. In the winter of '71 my father moved by wagons to Springfield, Missouri. There were eleven other families which moved at this time. In 1872 we moved, with a wagon train of about twenty families, to Hutchison, Kansas. On our route from Missouri to Kansas we had to pass through what was at that time Indian Territory. As there were quite a number of uncivilized Indians we would circle our wagons at night and make a corral for our horses and build a big fire on the inside of the circle and leave from four to six men at a time on guard. During this time I slept at the foot of my father's and mother's bed and if I should hear a strange noise in the night I would catch my father by the foot and wake him up. All the Indians wore blankets and rode horses without saddles or bridles. They rode in single file and they couldn't do anything but grunt.

We lived in Kansas for about a year. We took up a homestead and planted a big crop of corn and the grasshoppers ate it up in one day. We sold out and moved back to Springfield in 1873. This trip back was very dangerous but we landed in Springfield without any trouble. Our route back took us through the present state of Oklahoma.

In the winter of '74 we moved by wagon from Missouri to McClennan, County, Texas, and located twenty miles southeast of Waco. The post office was named Old Perry. This was very fertile black land country and my father purchased land for \$1.50 per acre. Later the Santa Fe railroad was built from Ft. Worth to Temple, Texas, and it passed right by our farm. After this road was completed a town known as Moody was built. It was sixteen miles north of Temple.

In 1888 we sold out and moved to Tom Green County. My father bought a ranch on the South Concho, twenty-two miles south of San Angelo. In 1888 San Angelo got its first

railroad. The Post at that time was filled with negro soldiers. In the year 1890 the soldiers were disbanded from what is known as Ft. Concho. Our post office was at San Angelo at that time. In 1891 Mr. C. C. Doty was running a little store two miles north of where Christoval is located at present. He got a post office and it was named Christoval in honor of Mr. Christopher Columbus Doty, who is commonly known as C. C. Doty of Eldorado, Texas.

In 1889 my father died with the measles and was buried on our ranch. In 1890 my mother sold the ranch and the deceased W. C. Jones, formerly of South Concho, gave her one acre of land where Christoval is now located. I hauled the lumber and cut the shrubbery off the lot where the Christoval Hotel is located today. I am the first man who ever unloaded a load of lumber in Christoval.

About that time Sonora was building very rapidly; three saloons and lots of gambling houses were wide open. There was a hack line which ran from San Angelo daily and there were large numbers of passengers going back and forth over it. This made Christoval a very lively little village and it soon developed as a great health resort.

At that time there were only three gates between Christoval and Del Rio. In 1892 I went to work for the Half Circle Six outfit which was at the head of Dove Creek and was the biggest cow outfit ever known south of the Colorado. I stayed with one chuck wagon for six years. We worked from the Rio Grande back to the Concho. Numbers of times I was sent across the Pecos River with a pack horse outfit to work six weeks at a time and it was seldom that I saw any white people outside of the outfit I was with. As there were no wells at that time water was very scarce and we would have to depend on rivers and water holes for water. I have followed herds with a lantern tied on the chuck wagon bows and driven in front of the herd as a guide in getting out of dry country with cattle.

Mustang horses and antelope were as common in this country at that time as rabbits are today. At the time I went to work for the Half Circle Six they wouldn't let their men own cattle. I turned loose twenty old Spanish mares when I went to work at Dove Creek. The head boss, knowing me as a great lover of horses, always sent me to the big horse works. He told me that anything I found over one year old without a mother belonged to me. I was drawing \$25.00 per month. When I turned in my resignation they owed me \$47.00 but I had between one hundred and fifty and two hundred head of horses on the range.

At the time it was very seldom that we used corrals in branding horses. We would round up the horses like cattle and rope the colts and drag them out and brand them. I was known as a "plumb good tree roper", that is, I would get up in a tree and tie my rope to a limb and the boys would drive the horses under the tree and I would catch anything I wanted. In this business I have had them to tear the limb off the tree on which

I was sitting and drag me, limb and all, for quite a ways.

When I sit down and think of all the past of my western life it looks bad, but I will say that I could go over it again with pleasure, with the exception of one or two things.

In the year 1892 or '93 there was a village and post office started by C. C. West, of Eldorado, and others in the old Vermont pasture six miles north of Eldorado by the name of Verand. It was a very lively little village during its life. It became known that the titles to the land upon which Verand was located were not good. Mr. W. B. Silliman, Hood Murchison, and W. L. Gray located a town site, in 1895, on Section 49, Block A, of Schleicher County and called it "Eldorado." Mr. C. C. West and Mrs. West vacated Verand and opened a hotel in Eldorado. Silliman, Murchison and Gray drilled a well to provide water for the new city and opened up a retail grocery and dry goods store on the corner that is known as the McWhorter corner, now occupied by the Variety store. Eldorado is located on a high, fertile divide, about 2500 feet above sea level, which runs about twenty eight miles north and south and fifty six miles east and west. The divide is adapted to cotton, maize, and all sorts of grain, and can grow any fruits that are grown in a high country when furnished with sufficient water. We have a rainfall of about twenty-five inches annually. The divide slopes north to the Concho, west to the Spring Creek draws, south to the Devils River draws and east to the San Saba River draws. It is all covered with a heavy coat of mesquite grass and live oak shinnery, which is considered as great feed for live stock. We turn out the best staple of wool that is grown in the live oak brush and black land in the state of Texas.

In the year 1898 I saw one hundred sections of Warner and Callender land, most of which is tillable and worth from \$21 to \$50 an acre today, sell for 50 cents per acre.

In August of 1901 the school land of Schleicher County, when the grass lease had expired, came on the market and there was the greatest land rush that was ever known. They had all sorts of battles, without the use of firearms, for this land. The filing office was in the old building across from the Presbyterian Church of Eldorado. About every ninety days thereafter for for three years there would be another rush as the leases would expire. These sales caused a great development of Schleicher County as the settlers purchased this land and improved it. In 1905 I moved to Eldorado and went into a real estate firm named Silliman, Campbell, and Evans. Since that time I have sold the land in this county from \$2.50 up to \$35.00 per acre

MR. A. K. BAILEY

By W. B. Gibson

Mr. A. K. Bailey was born in Harris County, Georgia, January 17, 1850.

He lived in Louisiana until December 25, 1873. He then

moved to Grayson County, Texas. Later he was engaged to drive a bunch of cattle from Texas to Independence, Kansas. On the way up the trail they were attacked by a bunch of Indians. All the Indians were killed except one. Mr. Bailey shot the horse of this one and so he fled. Mr. Bailey then went and got a fine blanket and saddle from the Indian's horse.

After many hard days of traveling they reached Independence, Kansas. They stayed there several days and then returned with a band of horses to San Saba County, Texas.

Mr. Bailey did not know any one there but he soon met and married Miss Martha Harkey. He bought a farm in San Saba County, on the river and there he raised many pecans. Mr. Bailey sold many wagon loads of pecans at 8 cents per pound.

Mr. Bailey served as Sheriff of San Saba for a period of eight years. During his eight years he never shot a man. But the man who held the office after him killed thirty-five.

In 1900 Mr. Bailey came to Schleicher County to the land rush. In 1901 he and Mrs. O. K. Enochs filed on school land in the Vermont pasture and are the only ones still living on that land. Mr. Bailey and his family then moved to Schleicher County and settled seven miles northeast of a town in the Vermont pasture of forty-two sections. Mr. Bailey never experienced riding any of the wild mustangs or going on any of the round-ups.

Mr. Bailey describes Schleicher County which he first saw it as being very open with few fences and few farms and few roads that amounted to anything. There was not any permanent road from Eldorado to San Angelo so the people traveled through the pastures.

He describes the land rushes as being very hair raising. About sixty men came from Irion County once to file on school land. Their faces were painted yellow to distinguish them from Schleicher County men. The men lined up around the court house and waited for the time to come when the race would start to the clerk's office to deposit money on land. When the time came the people pushed and fought each other but the Schleicher county men got there first and filed on the land.

Mr. Bailey has experienced many changes in the development of Schleicher County. He saw the poor dirt road built from San Angelo to Eldorado. The road was a very poor one but the people then thought it good. It took about three days to go to San Angelo and back. He also saw the highway to San Angelo constructed. With this road the people could take cars and go to San Angelo in a short time.

Mr. Bailey has seen Eldorado grow to what it is now, and also the oil industry coming up to the front. He says "I believe there's oil in Schleicher County."

MR. C. L. MEADOR

As told by Frank Meador

"Uncle Dink" Meador, one of the well-known citizens of

Schleicher County, was born near Blooming Grove, in Navarro County, Texas, almost seventy-one years ago. When Mr. Meador moved to Schleicher County, in 1900, he had \$5,000 in money and about one hundred head of cattle.

On the move to Schleicher County the family brought all their household goods in a covered wagon and drove the cattle and loose horses along with the wagon. It took about fifteen days to come from Lampasses to Eldorado by way of San Saba, Brady and Menard. One event which Mr. Frank Meador vividly remembers in connection with the move to Schleicher County was the swimming of the Colorado River on "Old Paint", a pony which became so well known in the early history of Schleicher County that he deserves honorable mention. Mr. Frank Meador was just a boy when the family moved westward but "Old Paint" was equal to the task of bringing the boy through. Later on "Old Paint" virtually educated the Meador boys for he brought them to school year after year.

When the Meador family first landed in Eldorado they camped under a big mesquite tree where the West Texas Utilities now have their office. Eldorado was a very small place at that time. A saloon located where the Mid-way Filling Station is now, was operated by O. C. Roberts. There were two general merchandise stores, one hotel, one livery stable and a black smith shop. Supplies were brought out from San Angelo by freight wagons. Tom Lovell and Jeff Carter, who now live at Christoval, were the stage drivers.

Before long Mr. Meador moved his family out to the Old Hood Murchison ranch, in which he had formerly purchased a half-interest and which he still owns. This ranch joined the Old Vermont pasture. Most of the houses in the county at the time were frame houses, although a number of people who settled on school land lived in dugouts and tents until they could prove up on the land.

At that time the grass was tall and the country was not over-stocked. No feeding was done during the winter but now that stock are bred up they require more feed and the ranches are stocked more heavily than in the old days.

When the school land in Schleicher County began to come on the market, in 1901, Mr. Meador took part in the land rushes which resulted. He was on the side of the settlers. One of the big pushes was the Murphy-Oliver push. Tom Murphy, a cattleman who lived west of town, hired men to help him at \$5.00 per day. This faction made their head quarters at the Elder Hotel. The men on this side had yellow arm bands or parts of their clothing painted yellow. The actual settlers arrived at the Court House first and camped there all night, drinking coffee which was boiled in big wash pots. When the actual rush began the cowmen maneuvered to find a weak point in the line of the actual settlers. There were several young boys in this line and whenever the cowmen would find two or three of these together they would try to break the line at that point. Special officers had disarmed the men before the rush began and

special guards armed with Winchesters, stood near the Court House. In the Murphy-Oliver push a big cowboy named Holland caught Mr. Meador and tried to take him out of line. They wrestled about for awhile but finally Mr. Meador threw the big man and sat upon him, holding him down with a death-like grip, all the while his nose bleeding in the big man's face. The cowmen tried every trick he knew to get up but was unable to do so. Finally both contestants agreed to stay out of the remainder of the push and went off to one side and watched the others. It was common to see two men struggling with each other in the land rushes each trying to keep the other out.

In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Meador, better known in Schleicher County as "Uncle Dink and Aunt Mattie," erected a beautiful home of native stone on the ranch. To the house warming, which was given when they completed it, only those above seventy years of age were invited. This couple have reared four sons who all live in Schleicher County.

The First Lawyer In Eldorado

In 1894, W. B. Silliman came to the site of what is now Eldorado and in the next year staked off the new town of "Eldorado." He received his license to practice law soon after he founded the new town but he never depended entirely on his law practice for a living. He was interested in various business enterprises in the town during the first twenty-five years of its life. The only lawyer now living in Eldorado is Mr. Joab Campbell who came to Schleicher County in 1901.

Schleicher County Tax Rolls For 1929

Total number of acres of land assessed for taxes	770,396
Total value of land assessed for taxes	\$3,355,430
Total value of Town property assessed for taxes	225,450
Horses and Mules	2,050
Cattle	21,518
Sheep	187,772
Goats	27,378
Dogs	35
All other property	233,400
Total value	\$5,000,230.
1928 tax rolls	4,081,550.
Average value of land per acre	\$4.18
Total area of Schleicher County	887,680
Total number of acres assessed for taxes	770,396
Total acres of land not assessed for taxes	117,284
(principally University of Texas land).	

ELDORADO THE COUNTY SEAT

The original town-section upon which Eldorado is located was granted to the Houston East & West Texas Railway Company by the state of Texas on February 28, 1878. The patent was signed by O. M. Roberts, Governor of Texas, and W. C. Walsh, Commissioner of the General Land Office, and called for 640 acres of land in Crockett County. "Survey No. 49, Block A, on the headwaters of creek, a tributary of the San Saba River, about 36 miles N. 40 W. of Fort Terrett. In March of 1878 the land was transferred to J. T. Brackenridge, who on August 1, 1882, transferred it to Geo. W. Brackenridge, of San Antonio. On November 21, 1882, Brackenridge sold the land to Joseph Warner and C. R. Callender. Warner and Callender both lived in California and bought some one-hundred sections, in what was later Schleicher County, for speculation.

On May 15, 1895, an undivided one-half interest in section No. 49 was granted to W. B. Silliman with the understanding that he was to survey and lay out a new townsite upon it. Section No. 49 was chosen for the town because it was near the center of the county and because most of it was level. Mr. Silliman had been in this section of Texas for several years and believed that he saw the opportunity to promote a new town that would grow into a prosperous little city, which of course would mean money to him. He did not have the capital which was necessary to develop the new townsite and so had to look elsewhere for assistance. On August 9, 1895, he deeded his interest in section No. 49 to a firm composed of W. L. Gray, M. H. Murchison, and W. B. Silliman. Gray and Murchison were to furnish the capital and Silliman the land for the new town. It was this company which established the first store in Eldorado.

In the spring of 1895 Mr. Silliman began the surveying and plotting of the streets of the new town. The plans were made so that the streets did not follow a course due north and south but followed a course northwest and southeast, or southwest and northeast. The purpose of this is said to have been so that the wind would not strike a house squarely upon the north or west wall but would strike the corner of the house instead. The town was laid-off around the court house yard, which was 400 feet square. A street 150 feet in width enclosed the court house yard but all the other streets were only 100 feet wide. The streets were named for the owners of the townsite land, for some of the early settlers in the town and for the names of such trees as Pecan, Poplar and Cottonwood. Two important streets were Callender and Warner, named after the California owners of the land.

The new town was named "Eldorado" by Mr. Silliman.

This is a Spanish term meaning "The Gilded", or "Land of Gold." Originally the name was two separate words but on maps and on postal guides it is now shown as one word, "Eldorado." The name given to the new town on the Divide well expressed the dreams and vision which the founder had for the future greatness of the little city.

Eldorado was not the first town in the County for that honor goes to Verand, the little settlement made on the old Vermont Ranch during the Eighties. Several families settled here and a post office, hotel, general store and a beer-saloon were established but the town did not seem to grow much and in 1895 it was about the same as it had been five years before. Some of the settlers at Verand were C. C. West, C. C. Lamb, J. B. F. McCartney, S. I. Nicks, S. H. Green and H. H. Sheard. After Eldorado was begun Verand soon ceased to exist.

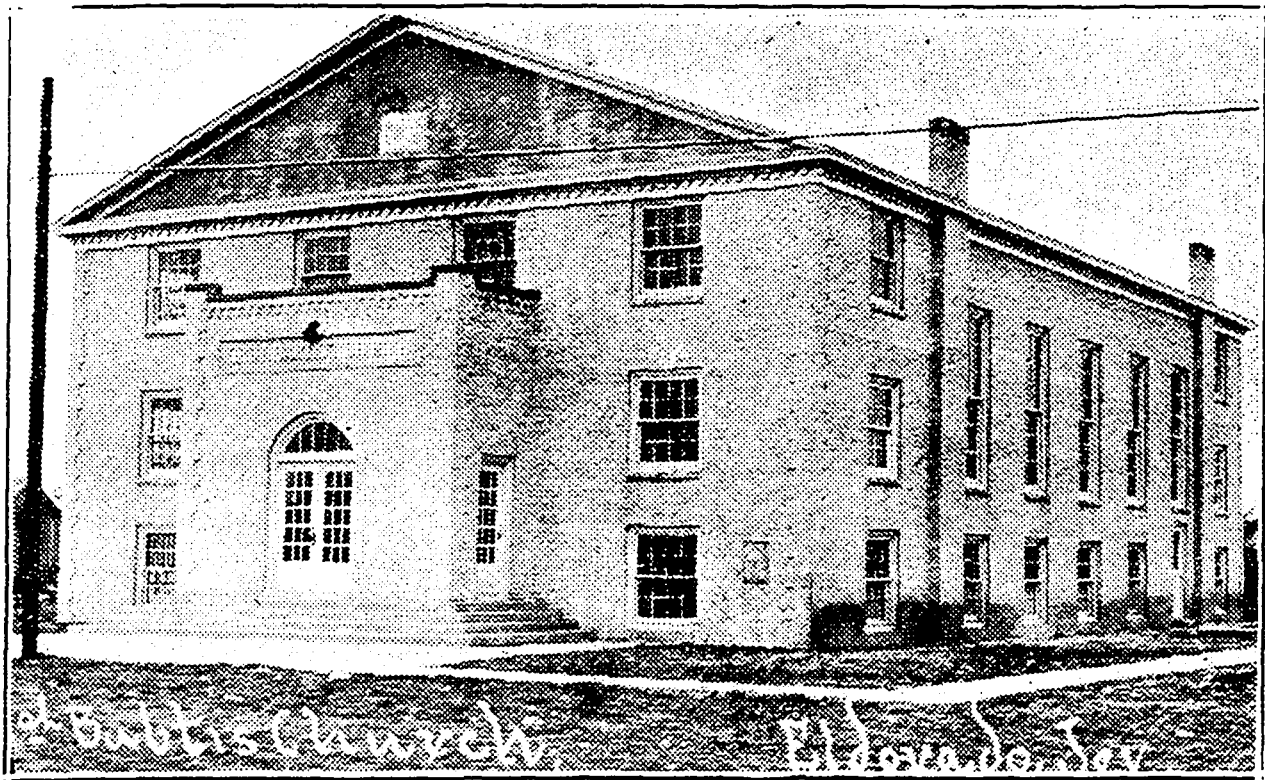
Among the first business and professional men in Eldorado were: C. C. West, hardware; W. B. Silliman, lawyer; E. B. Cozzens, real estate; O. A. Savage, barber; W. S. Casey, carpenter and M. H. Murchison merchant. Others were C. C. Lamb, S. H. Green, H. H. Sheard, J. B. F. McCartney, Joab Campbell, E. E. Stricklen, F. C. Bates, Sr., R. L. Carothers, etc.

The first settlers to the new town were offered free lots. The first lots deeded in Eldorado were to C. C. West, J. B. F. McCartney, S. H. Green, H. H. Sheard and C. C. Lamb. The deeds to all these were issued in August of 1895. Practically all the people moved from Verand to Eldorado and most of them moved their houses also. Mr. C. C. West moved his store and hotel to the new location and it was used as a residence. Mr. A. B. Priour moved his house to Eldorado, added to it, and it became the first hotel. Mr. West also built a hotel in the new town.

In 1897 the first school was established in Eldorado. E. E. Stricklen was the first teacher. There were about seven pupils. Gradually, however, the number of pupils increased as the population of the town grew.

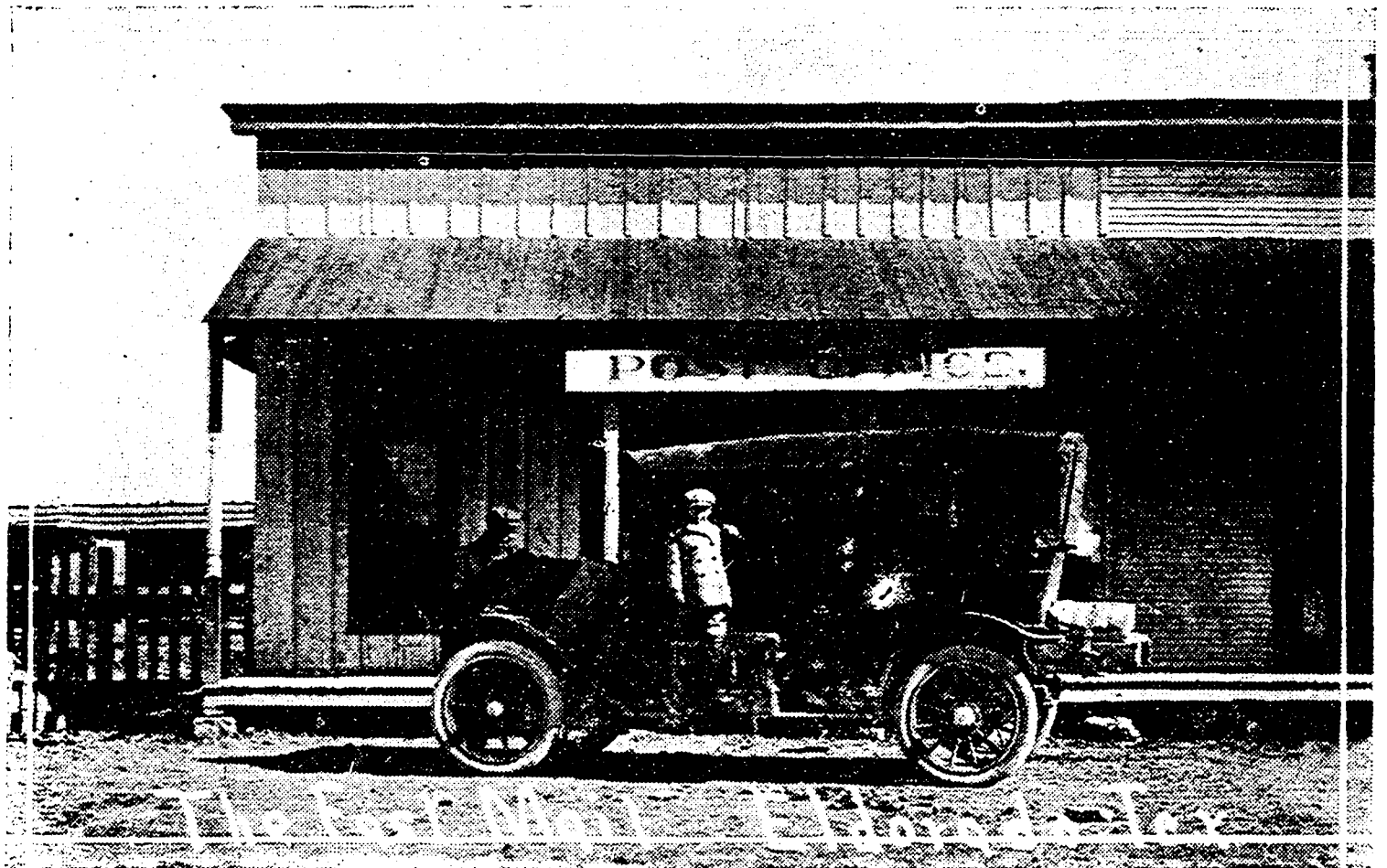
In 1901 the county government was organized and Eldorado became the county seat. This gave the town a new impetus for growth and for a time it bade fair to become a boom town—a real "Eldorado." In 1901 the "land rushes" began in Eldorado and the school land was rapidly taken up for settlement. About this time the actual settlement of the county began. Many farmers came in and the town seemed to be growing into a real little city. Development along every line was being pushed. Effort was being made to bring a railroad to the town, waterworks had been installed, and civic pride was very noticeable. Schools, churches, a newspaper and a bank soon appeared. New faces and new business came in gradually.

It was in December of 1901 that the first Newspaper was begun in Eldorado. It was named "The Eldorado Paper" and was edited by R. L. Carothers. The policy of the paper was to boost Eldorado and Schleicher County in every way possible and this helped much to build up the new town and bring new peo-



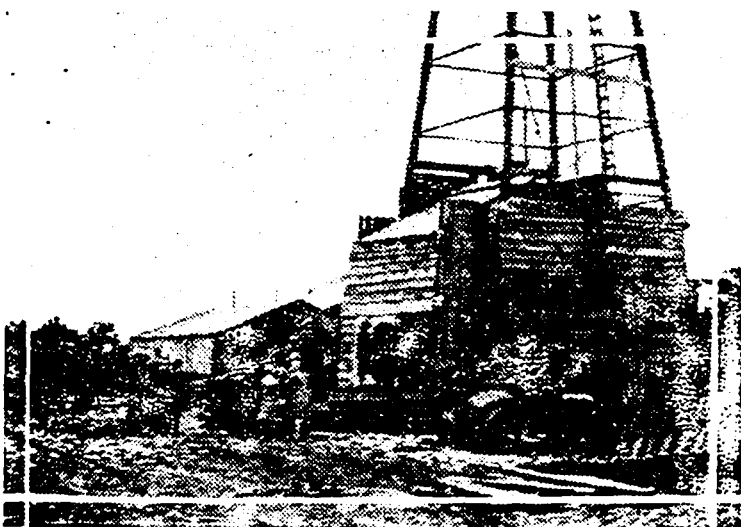
The First Baptist Church

Eldorado, Tex.



The Post Office

Eldorado, Tex.



Top: The First Baptist Church of Eldorado. Constructed in 1929 and costing approximately \$25,000.

Center: One of first automobiles used to carry mail from San Angelo to Eldorado. Picture taken about 1911. Old post office was located where the City Variety Store now stands.

Lower: Oil drill and derrick on the ranch of Bert Page about nine miles southeast of Eldorado.

ple to it. Some of the advertisers in this early paper were: Allison Mercantile Company. Williams and Silliman; lawyers and dealers in real estate; E. C. Haynes, Confectionery; Jas. A. Robson, wall paper and mouldings; Mr. Joab Campbell, attorney at law; John McCleary, Builder and contractor; Frank Brooks, Mercantile business.

The Eldorado Paper of August 15, 1902, contained the advertisements of the following individuals and business firms: Allison Mercantile Company; Williams and Silliman, lawyers & Company, "staple and fancy groceries and feed"; Brown & Silliman, Attorneys-at-Law and Land Agents; Y. F. Barnett, Hardware; H. H. Taylor, Physician and Surgeon; A. F. Box, Physician and Surgeon; M. L. Allen, Physician and Surgeon; T. S. Slack, Lawyer and Insurance Agent; Joab Campbell, Attorney-at-Law; John McCleary, Machinist and Plumber; Frank Brooks, "Tonsorial Artist"; Jas. A. Robson, Practical Carpenter, contractor and builder; E. C. Haynes, Fire Insurance; O. A. Savage, West End Barber Shop; The Elder Hotel, Mrs. W. M. Whitfield, proprietor; Williams and Silliman, General Merchandise.

In 1903 a Prohibition election was held. It was described in "The Eldorado Paper" of July 3, 1903, as follows:

Prohibition Carries

"Saturday morning with heavy threatening clouds hovering around promising a wet town, the polls were opened to allow the voters of this, precinct No. 1, to decide whether or not the precinct should be wet or dry.

Everything was quiet and orderly all day and about noon the clouds rolled away, leaving the town dry. After the polls were closed and the votes counted the whole precinct was found to have gone dry. There were only 70 ballots cast and the vote stood:

For Prohibition	33
Against Prohibition	37

This gave the Pros a majority of 4 votes. Messrs. Bunton and Sansom who have been conducting a saloon at this place announced that as a majority of the voters wanted prohibition they should have it and they would not open the saloon again. The Pros are jubilant over their victory."

A list of the advertisers in The Eldorado Paper of 1904 gives some idea of the business men in Eldorado at that time. The advertisers were as follows: Mr. Joab Campbell, attorney-at-law; W. S. Casey, Carpenter and windmill worker; Edwin B. Cozzens, Lawyer and Land Agent; C. C. West, hardware; Brown and Silliman, Attorneys-at-Law and land agents; J. L. Herrington, Blacksmith; O. A. Savage, West End Barber Shop; Robert Lowe, Proprietor of the Elder Hotel.

The Churches which had been organized in Eldorado by September of 1904 were as follows: Methodist—first Sunday in each month—Rev. S. J. Drake, pastor; Christian—services on second Sunday in each month—Elder W. P. Skaggs, Evangelist;

Baptist—services on third Saturday and Sunday in each month—Rev. A. R. Watson, Pastor; Cumberland Presbyterian—fourth Sunday in each month—W. W. Alverson, Pastor.

The social and fraternal orders in Eldorado at the same time were as follows: Knights of the Maccabees—W. O. Alexander, commander; Ladies of the Maccabees—Lady Magnolia Whitfield and Lady Rossie Mayes, officers; Eldorado Business Men's Club, W. B. Silliman—president, and F. C. Bates, Jr.—Secretary; Woodmen of the World, W. B. Silliman—commander, and Ross Stafford—clerk; Masonic Order—J. A. Whitten—Worshipful Master, and E. M. Barbee—Secretary; Ladies Home-Mission Society of Methodist Church—Mrs. P. H. McCormick, president, and Miss Lottie Hill, secretary.

Soon after the organization of Schleicher County a company was organized by the owners of Section 49, the town-section of Eldorado. The original members of this company were Joseph Warner, W. K. Warner, W. B. Silliman, W. T. Gray, L. G. Gray and L. J. Gray. The name of the company was "The Eldorado Townsite Company," and it was a corporation. In 1912 the capital stock of this company was listed at \$40,000, and the real estate which it held was valued at \$33,337. This company at present owns a considerable portion of town section of Eldorado.

A description of Eldorado which was written in 1908 stated there were five stores in the little town while in 1900 there had been only two. In 1906 there were also two banks, two drug stores, a fine telephone system, a modern gin, a confectionery, a hotel, a meat market, a restaurant, two blacksmith shops, two commission firms and a livery stable.

The hotel was operated by I. H. Elder, whose motto, according to the description, was "eat less and pay more", until the weary traveler went to the table and then the host forgot his motto and told his guest to "eat, drink and be merry, even if you never pay."

The Woodmen and the Knights of Pythias had recently completed a two-story building, the upper part of which was used as the lodge room while the lower story was rented for store house. The Woodmen had been organized for about six years in Eldorado and had a membership of about seventy-five.

Eldorado was characterized as "a city of stockmen." Most of the ranchmen had homes in the town where their families lived during the nine-months school term but during most of the summer most of the families moved to the ranches.

Another description of Eldorado, written in 1909, stated that it was a town with a future. The railroad companies were apparently realizing that fact for there was competition among them to see which would be the first to build to Eldorado. The Orient was already at work on the construction of a roadbed from San Angelo southward toward Eldorado and it was believed that the Frisco was planning to extend its line from Menardville into Schleicher County, while the Santa Fe had surveyors in the field at work on a line from Eden, in Concho County, to

Eldorado.

The following is a description of Eldorado, in 1909:

"Eldorado, the county seat of Schleicher, one of the best towns in Texas, is situated on the eastern extremities of the great plains of West Texas. Any direction you may go from town except west you will descend from the level black waxy plains into the rich fertile valleys below, leaving our city on the north you will after a few minutes drive go into the head draws of the South Concho, in fact the draw heads within our town limit, then go east only a few miles (about two and a half) you will find the head of the San Saba draws, then come on around the south and about 4 miles you will find the head draws of Devil's River, these draws are dotted from beginning to the head water with many beautiful homes, homes of farmers as well as homes of ranchmen, yet there is room for thousands more. The Divide lands are being broken and put in cultivation, as can be witnessed by those who have been here for the past few years, all seem to be satisfied with the exception that they all want more neighbors. So come and be neighbors to these contented people."

In 1909 Eldorado had three churches, three grocery stores, one hardware establishment, one general merchandise store, one grain and feed store, two drug stores, three doctors, one hotel, and two banks. The town was surrounded by a rich agricultural section some thirty miles square. Big ranches were rapidly being divided into farms and stockfarms. Business lots in the town were selling as high as \$1,200 to \$1,500.

The two banks at that time were the First National Bank and the Eldorado State Bank, the former had a capital stock of \$30,000 while the latter had a capital of \$25,000. Both were doing a flourishing business with a combined deposits of over \$150,000. A new brick school building had just been completed at a cost of \$20,000 and the Eldorado Water and Power Company owned and operated the water works and were planning to install an up-to-date ice and electric plant.

This description ended by saying, "Our people are alive to the situation and are determined to make Eldorado a city of ten thousand people within the next year."

This proved to be Boosters' and realtors' talk, for events showed that such was not to be. The railroad failed to materialize even after the roadbed had been completed through Eldorado. Much of the land in the vicinity of the little town had been surveyed into new additions and marked off into town lots. These additions to Eldorado were usually shown on the map by the names of the owners of the tract of land. After the collapse of the railroad dreams it has been a gradual process to convert these additions back to acreage. In 1912 the two banks were combined in to the First National Bank. Eldorado did not become a boom town that so many desired to see but on the other hand it has maintained that gradual growth which has meant substantial progress over a period of years.

A letter, which was written at Eldorado in April of 1913, after the railroad boom had vanished and while the people were somewhat depressed over the failure, ran as follows:

" You ought to see this city now. They are agitating an election to INCORPORATE but after a close count of all the people and two-legged livestock today they find only 416 living creatures of the variety that it is necessary to have before incorporation. It is necessary to have 500 before a city can be incorporated.

Mrs. ————— is here today and she and I are grieving over the ruins of the glorious metropolis"

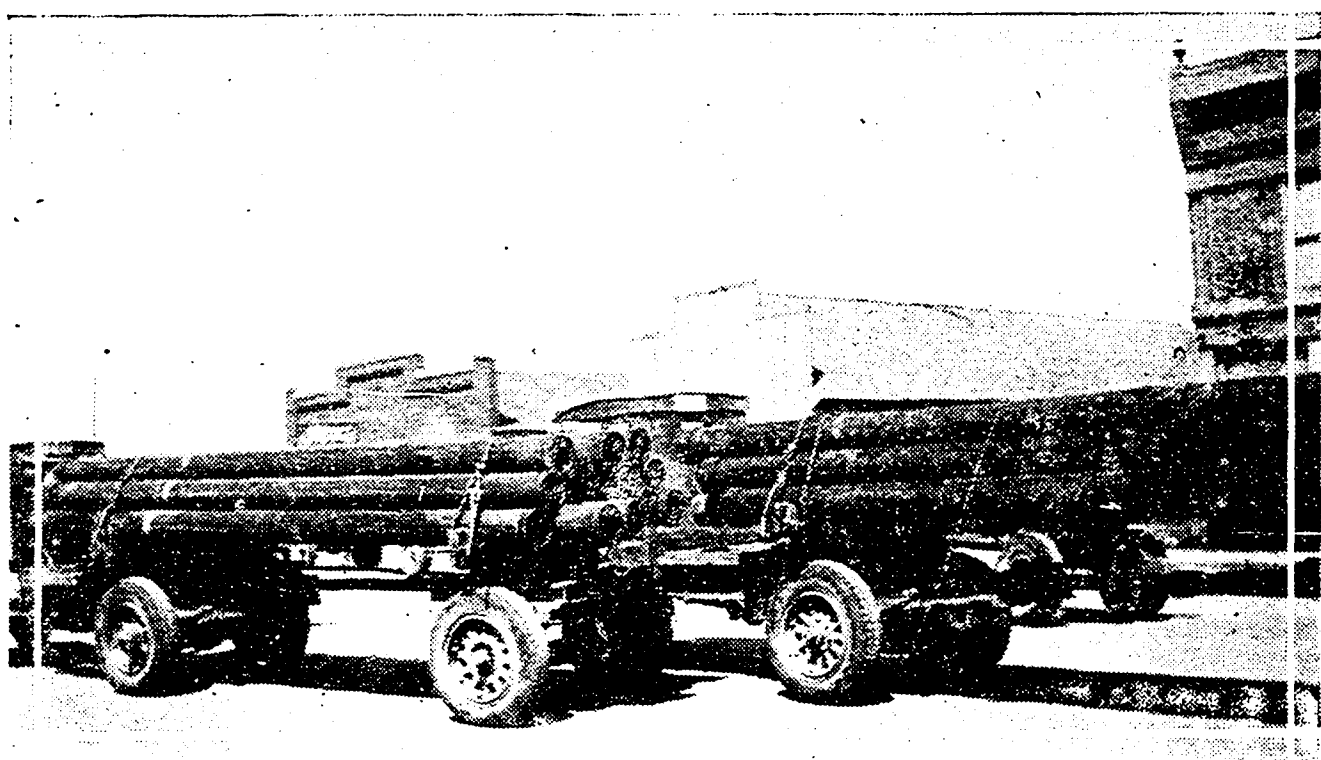
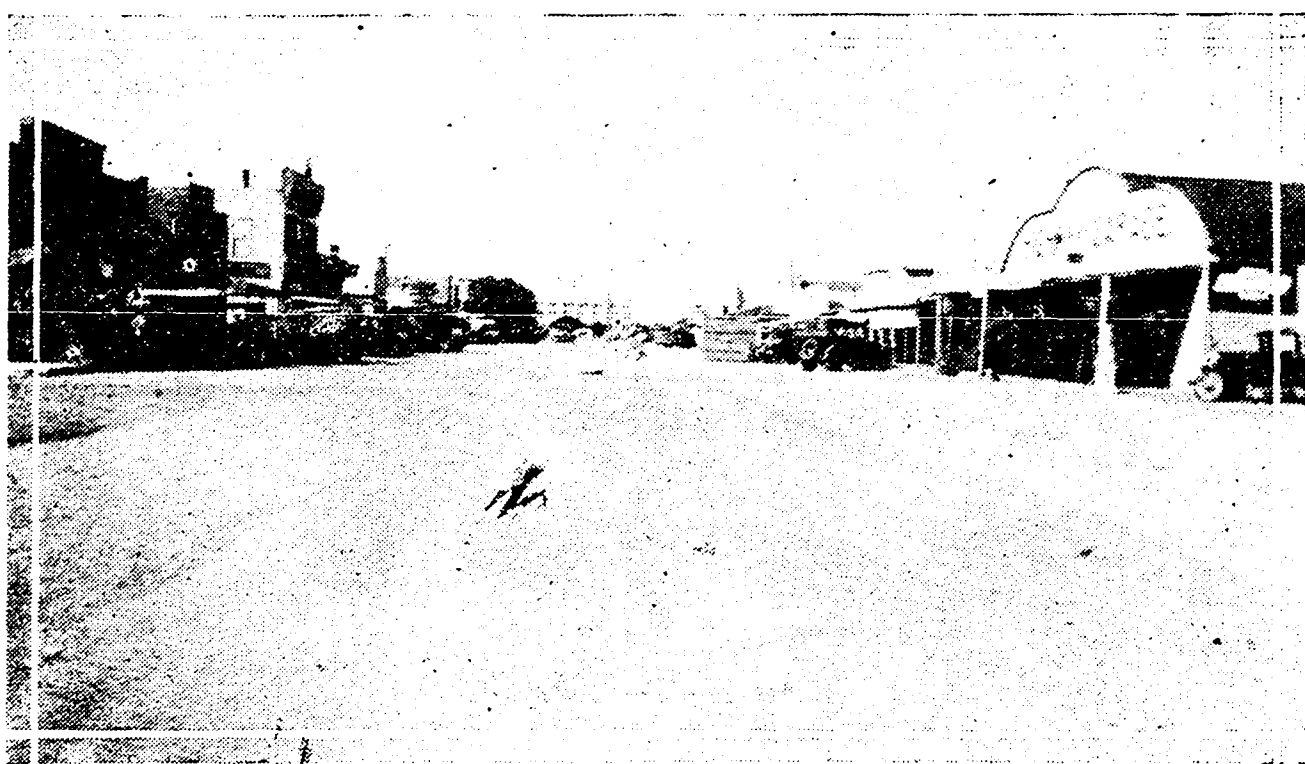
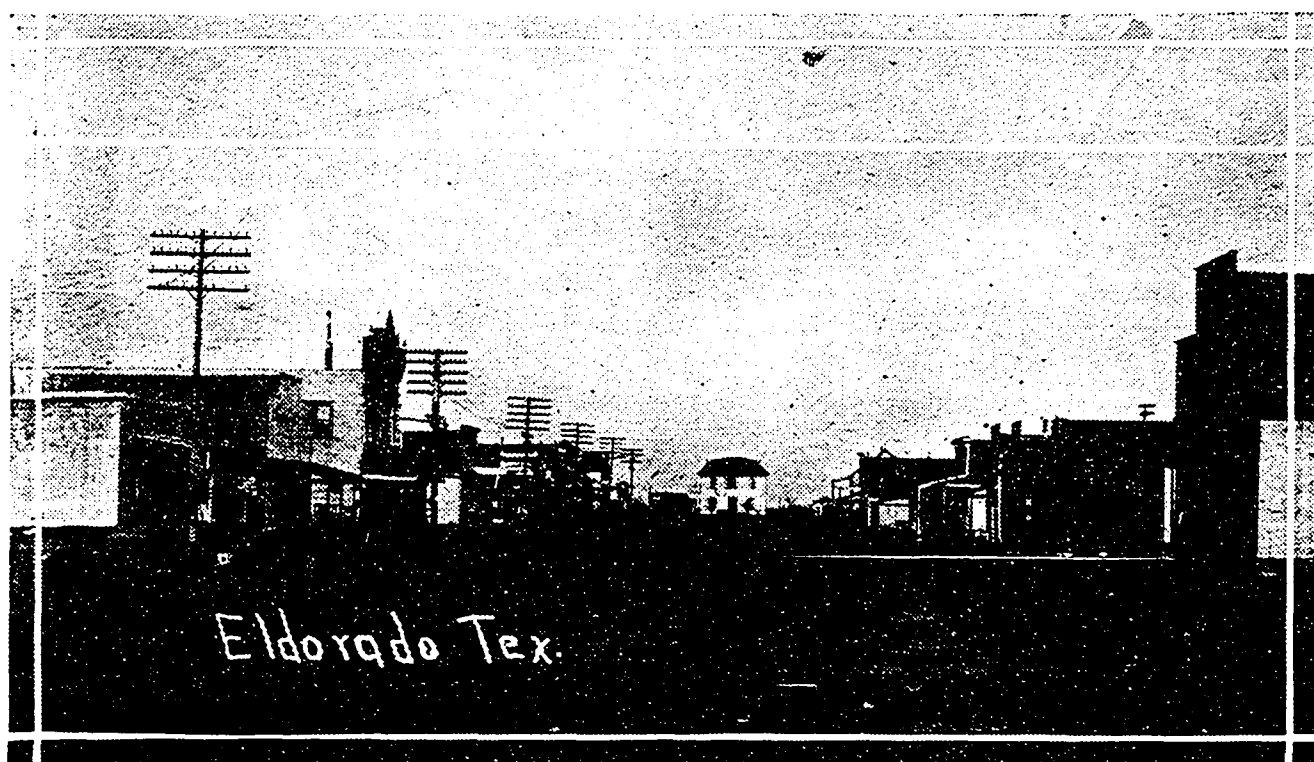
Many of those who held get-rich-quick ideas were disappointed and sought greener fields while those engaged in the basic industries of stock raising and farming stayed on, through lean years sometimes, and ultimately they showed the way to the present conditions of general prosperity, comfortable homes, and wide-awake, happy citizenship.

The year of 1929 saw more real economic development in the town of Eldorado than had been shown at any time during the preceding twenty years. A number of brick business houses were erected. The town was incorporated and active officers were elected. Fred O. Green was elected Mayor, and the aldermen elected were Grady Parker, F. M. Bradley, Joe Williams, J. N. Davis and H. W. Wiedenmann. The West Texas Utilities Company constructed a high voltage line into Eldorado thus supplying the town with an abundance of electric power for public and domestic use. Street lights were installed. The water works were greatly extended and improved so that every consumer could be fully supplied. A new brick Church was erected by the Baptist Church at a cost of \$30,000. But more important than all was the erection of at least two score new homes in Eldorado. Many of these were stucco, stone and brick, but all erected were comfortable homes.

A survey made by the Railroad Committee of Schleicher County in July of 1929 gives the following information in regard to Eldorado:

Business Concerns—One Feed & Fuel, One Electrical Supply, One Electric Light & Power Company, two Pipe Line Companies, five Garages, five gasoline Supply Service Stations, one National Bank, four Retail Grocery Stores, two market and Produce houses, one Drygoods Store (exclusive), three Barber-shops, two Drug Stores, two Hardware & Implement stores, one Variety Store, two cafes, one Auto Top and Paint Shop, one furniture Store, one Second-Hand Store, one Dentist, one Attorney-at-Law, two Abstract Companies, three Physicians, two Men's Clothing Stores, one Hotel, one Boarding House, five Apartment Houses, three General Merchandise Stores, one Tourist Camp, one Ladies Ready-to-Wear Store, one General Commission Company, four Loan & Investment Companies, one Bakery, one Gift Shop, one Confectionery, one Theatre, one Newspaper, one Saddle & Harness Shop.

Six churches were listed, as follows: First Baptist



Top: Eldorado in 1908, looking toward the courthouse. Center: Eldorado in 1929. Bottom: Truck loads of pipe on way to one of the pipe lines across the county. The Humble pipe line was constructed in 1928 and the Shell in 1929.

Church (brick), Presbyterian Church (brick), Methodist Church, Church of Christ, Primitive Baptist, and Catholic (Mexican).

The A. F. & A. M. Lodge and the W. O. W. were the fraternal orders listed.

The Eldorado Lions Club was an active civic organization with a membership of thirty-seven.

By January of 1930 the additions to business in Eldorado included one Hotel, one modern Grocery Store, one Barber shop, two Beauty Parlors, three Gasoline Supply Service Stations and one Meat Market. Another noteworthy improvement in Eldorado recently has been the development of the Glendale addition to Eldorado. A block of some ten or twelve acres was divided into city lots, with the streets hard-surfaced and the entire addition beautified. The lots were sold to individuals who were required to build homes with a minimum cost of \$3,000. By the end of February, 1930, five homes had been completed in this part of Eldorado.

The people of Eldorado still dress in the fashion of the old-time typical westerner and still have that friendly, cordial spirit which was characteristic of the old west. Many of the men seen on the streets of Eldorado today are wearing their high-heel boots and big hats. Even the little boys, by the time they take their first steps are fitted out with a pair of high-heel boots and many of them continue to wear such regalia, although they never ride a horse and never have any of the uses for high-heel boots which the old-time cowboy had. It is merely a custom which has survived from the past and from seeing many "Wild West" pictures upon the screen.

One of the picturesque parts of Eldorado, and especially to the visitor passing through, is the "little Mexico". This is located in the "draw" a short distance northeast of the main part of the town. About two hundred and fifty or three hundred Mexicans make their home here and have their own stores, church and school. Their homes are frequently built of rock and adds a touch of Mexico to the looks of the village. Most of the Mexicans are clean and keep their homes clean. As a rule they are a law-abiding class. About fifty Mexican children attend the Mexican school each year for a six months term. The teacher of this school is an American. The Mexicans of this village make their living as a rule by working on the ranches and farms in the vicinity of Eldorado..

After a third of a century of ups and downs, but steady progress nevertheless, Eldorado is at last becoming a thriving little town. Although not a large town, with a population of about 1500, it has a large trade territory to draw upon and with the coming of the railroad, now a reality and not a dream, this town boasts of better chances for steady growth than any town in West Texas today.

OIL STRIKE TRANSFORMS ELDORADO, THE GILDED

By Millard Cope

The glamor and romance of a new-born oil town, wrapped

in the uncertainty of the wealth tomorrow will bring, has thrown Eldorado, the gilded, into a maelstrom of anxiety awaiting the gauge on the Phillips Petroleum Company's well on the ranch of Judge J. A. Whitten.

Lease brokers and company land men, however, are not waiting for the gauge, confident that another "El Dorado" has been discovered and here, there and yonder they go, maps under arms and lease blanks in hands, chasing the farmer or ranchman whose toil for years has yielded only modest returns. Liquid gold and wealth is coming their way; no longer fear of drouth or pests ruining the cotton crop; the conversation between Tom, Dick and Harry being whether they should sell the oil lease on their land for \$5 or \$100 per acre.

The Eldorado of mythology has been found—in West Texas; Eldorado, the gilded, synonymous of wealth, sitting on the high West Texas divide as though it were a throne, beckoning to the oil fraternity with the gushing oil beneath its surface.

"El Dorado" always has been a name linked with a mythological belief of wealth. With the discovery of the new world, Spanish explorers returned to their native land to tell of Eldorado, a South American Nation in which the ruler covered his body with gold dust on occasions of certain region of great riches and now it is Eldorado, in West Texas.

Eldorado, in West Texas, is assuming the magnetic-like tendencies toward oil production as has been shown by the cities of the same name, one in Arkansas and one in Kansas, each of which is the center of a great oil field.

If oil talk at Eldorado were measured in barrels, as is the crude, the potential production of the Phillips well on Judge Whitten's ranch would soar into millions. Everywhere in Eldorado there is talk about oil. Business apparently is forgotten, but the oil will take care of the business, they say.

Hundred of thousand of dollars are pouring into the pockets of the ranchmen, with the discovery well miles away from their ranch or farm; leases are in demand and soon the ranchmen and farmers will be riding in new cars; new homes will go up; and the gilded name of the city will apply to the citizenship as well.

Bank deposits in two days this week went up more than \$200,000 it was said by W. O. Alexander, cashier of the First National Bank, the institution through which lease after lease has gone for payment by the major companies. The leases are held in escrow and in the next ten days deposits of the banking institution, the only one in town, will fill the vaults to overflowing, if early indications are to be accepted.

The Eldorado rancher, as all other owners of leased property on which oil is discovered owns one-eighth of the oil produced on the lease. The quotations list three-sixty-fourths of the royalty under section 34 at \$200,000. The section offsets the discovery section to the west. Section 50, offsetting section 34 to the West, is listed at \$150,000, while Section 51, adjoining Section 50 on the west, is quoted at \$75,000. Section

33, north of Sections 34 and 50, would be sold for \$125,000 according to the listings. Sections 52 and 53, north of sections 50 and 51, are shown to be offered at \$75,000 each, while Section 23, north of Sections 52 and 53, is quoted at \$100,000. The listed price in each instance is but three-sixty-fourths royalty.

Parking space on the main street has been at a premium all week, parked automobiles filling all available space. A lanky cowboy, coming in from a ranch to receive his first news of the oil strike, in asking about so many cars being in town, wanted to know if a rodeo was in progress. The Rodeo is the only other attraction to have ever drawn so many people to Eldorado.

A cold drink stand reported the sale of \$75 worth of drinks Saturday. A real estate dealer said that a cold drink vender from another town, seeing the rushing business would open for business shortly.

An automobile parked on the street Saturday morning exhibited signs in large letters, "Maps". There are maps and more maps all over the town.

County Tax Assessor, Don McCormick is looking forward to an increase in county valuations. The total was around \$5,000,000 in 1928, and is being raised to between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 for this year. General development accounts for this increase, but if oil continues in the county the valuation will be at least 25,000,000 next year, it is said.

John F. Isaacs, County Clerk, is the busy county official of the town. All the lease deals, of course finally go onto his books and it is he who is kept jumping keeping up with the transactions. Being in the abstract business loads the work more heavily on his shoulders.

The well itself is not so far from Eldorado, but nitroglycerine trucks going in that vicinity are going to have to take it easy. It is a rocky road—all five miles of it, from the time Eldorado is left until the time it terminates in the valley on the Whitten ranch.

But why bother about a few rocks when there's an oil well a short distance away.

A RAILROAD FOR SCHLEICHER COUNTY

Statement after statement has emphasized the need of rail facilities in Schleicher County. For example, in Texas Almanacs of 1926 and 1929, respectively, is found, "construction of the long proposed San Angelo Southern branch of the K. C. M. & O. Railroad would greatly develop this country," and "agricultural development limited by lack of rail facilities." Whenever the economic development of the County has been mentioned the lack of a railroad has always been pointed out.

Beginning with the founding of Eldorado there was continuous effort on the part of some citizens to bring a railroad to the new town. W. B. Silliman was especially active in this and there is no limit to the number of letters which he wrote and received in regard to this subject. In April, of 1903, in reply to a letter which he had written, Mr. Silliman received a letter from Mr. M. L. Mertz, president of San Angelo National Bank, which stated that the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway Company had recently secured an amendment to their charter in Texas so as to allow the building of a line from San Angelo to Laredo and Brownsville. The amendment stated that the line was to pass through Tom Green, Schleicher, Sutton, Edwards and Kinney Counties. Of course the exact location of the line had not been made.

Railroad talk continued to be the most important topic of conversation in Schleicher County for many years but still no railroad came. The citizens did not give up hope, however, and continued to work and plan. Some believed that Eldorado must surely get two railroads. Finally, in 1909, it seemed that their hopes would be realized for it seemed that the time was ripe for a railroad of some kind. The people were ready to offer financial inducements to the first road that would come their way. The prospects were numerous. A railroad was planned to run from San Antonio to Dalhart by way of San Angelo and Big Spring. J. J. Lanin planned a road from Sterling City to Kerrville. There was talk of the extension of the Frisco from Menardville to Eldorado and extension of the Santa Fe from Eden to Eldorado. Col. Morgan Jones visited Eldorado, in 1909, and the prospects seemed bright for an extension of the Abilene and Southern Railway from Ballinger to San Angelo and thence to Eldorado. Finally, however, the plan which actually reached anything above the stage of talk was the extension of The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient from San Angelo to Del Rio.

In May of 1909 a mass meeting of the citizens of Schleicher County was held at the Court House and a committee appointed to correspond with various railroad promoters. The members of the committee were M. B. McKnight, W. W. Barbee,

W. B. Silliman, W. F. Ford and E. A. Nall. In July another mass meeting was held at which a soliciting committee was appointed to raise a bonus which was to be offered for a railroad to Eldorado. The members of this committee were J. S. Pelt, E. A. Nall, John Roach, Sol Mayer, J. Keeney, J. E. Dayton, O. C. Roberts and Lee Williams. This committee raised about \$50,000 by subscription within one week. Nothing definite came of this but a little later a committee was appointed to negotiate with the Orient. The members of this committee were W. F. Ford, Joab Campbell, Sol Mayer, M. B. McKnight, W. W. Barbee, J. S. Pelt, E. A. Nall, G. H. Garland and W. B. Silliman. On November 22, 1909, this committee signed a contract with the Orient Company by which the citizens of Schleicher County agreed to subscribe for \$100,000 worth of four per cent first mortgage bonds of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company and the railroad was to be in operation to the town of Eldorado on or before the first day of July, 1911. The quota of bonds was over-subscribed. This road was to be built from San Angelo to Del Rio. Before long work was begun on surveying and grading of the roadbed which was finished across the entire length of Schleicher County. Roach and Stansel were the head contractors for the construction work. Mr. P. H. McCormick, who still lives in Eldorado, did the construction work on the roadbed through the town section of Eldorado.

About 1912 the Orient Company went into the hands of a receiver and Schleicher County's hopes for a railroad were blighted. Work was stopped on the road after the rails had been laid a distance of about three miles from San Angelo. The disappointment of the people was keen on the failure of the road but they did not give up hope and continued to talk railroad until their dreams were realized.

In 1928 the Santa Fe Railroad Company took over the management of the old Orient company and in the latter part of 1928 the talk of a railroad for Schleicher County was revived. In February, of 1929, the plans had progressed sufficiently for a railroad committee to be elected for Schleicher County. Mr. S. E. Ross, representing the Santa Fe Railroad Company, then met with the citizens of the County at the Court House in Eldorado and made a proposition to them. The Proposition was for Schleicher County to give a bonus of \$20,000 and the right of way through the county, and also the \$8,300 which was deposited in the First National Bank of Eldorado at the time when the old contract was made with the Orient Company. None of this money was to be paid to the railroad company until the railroad was completed to Sonora, the County seat of Sutton County, and until trains were in operation. The Santa Fe Company, in the contract, agreed to construct a railroad through Schleicher County, erect a depot, sidings, stock pens and hold-over pens in Eldorado within a period of two years.

A general committee of forty two men was appointed to secure the right of way and to raise the \$20,000 bonus. Mr. J. B. Christian, president of the First National Bank of Eldo-

rado, was elected chairman of the general committee and Mr. L. M. Hoover was elected Vice-Chairman. Mr. J. E. Hill was elected Secretary-Treasurer but later Mr. Hill resigned from this office and Judge J. A. Whitten was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the General Committee. The general committee was divided into three sub-committees and a chairman elected for each, as follows: J. A. Whitten, Chairman of Budget Committee and Jess Koy, Chairman of the Subscription Committee. The Budget Committee studied the tax rolls of the County tax assessor and decided to assess six cents per acre on the land in the county and ask \$5,000 from non-resident land owners. It was reported that much of the land of the approximate one million acres in the county belonged to the State and to the University and would therefore pay nothing toward raising the bonus. The committees started to work and soon had the quota for Schleicher County over-subscribed.

The first steel on the new track was laid into Schleicher County during the first week in January of 1930. Ninety pound steel was used in the track building. About the first of January steam shovels were brought into the county to be used in the moving of dirt in the cuts and tunnels. They were in use for several weeks on the town section in Eldorado and practically every citizen of the town watched them in operation at some time. The steel was laid to the edge of the town section of Eldorado on the afternoon of March 8, 1930, and the work on the track building was continued within the town limits on Monday, March 10th.

Estimate Of Railroad Committee

Mail in and Out of Eldorado

First Class mail annually	12,250 lbs.
Second Class mail annually	73,000 lbs.
Third Class mail annually	75,000 lbs.
Fourth Class mail annually	365,000 lbs.
Total Mail tonnage	531,250 lbs.
Express Shipments in and out of Eldorado	75,000
Total mail and express	606,250

Freight Tonnage in and out of Eldorado and Schleicher County

Freight shipped into and out by firms and business concerns of the town of Eldorado as listed above, annually 18,000,000

Freight shipped in and out by ranchmen, farmers and other interests not included in the above total (exclusive of cotton, wool and mohair) Annually 50,000,000 lbs.

Tonnage of cotton, wool, mohair, and other products 4,250,000 lbs.

Total tonnage annually shipped into and out of Schleicher County, Texas 78,856,000 lbs.

ELDORADO 4-H LAMBS WINNERS

Boys Of Schleicher County Win Against All Comers At Fort Worth

A carload of uniform and evenly finished lambs which were fed and exhibited by the Schleicher County 4-H Club of Eldorado, under the direction of County Agent L. E. Sumner, won the grand champion prize for all lambs at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show at Fort Worth.

In all, the Schleicher County lambs took eight prizes. Ribbons for four first places, two seconds, one fourth and one seventh place are now being shown in the First National Bank of Eldorado.

The prizes won by the Schleicher county lambs, together with the names of the boys who fed the lambs and the name of the breeder are:

First place, pen of three fine wool wether fat lambs, fed by Glenn Green; breeder, Thomson & Lawhon. Blue ribbon and prize of \$20.

Second place, pen of three fine wool wether fat lambs, fed by Gene Koy, and bred by Jess Koy. Prize \$15.

First prize in pen of 15 fine wool fat lambs. Prize \$25. Five lambs each, fed by Glenn Green, Gene Koy and Banning Wade.

First place in carload Boys' Club fine wool fat lambs. Prize \$125. Fifty lambs were entered in this lot by: Gene Koy, lambs bred by Jess Koy; Garth Clark, lambs bred by J. Forrest Runge; Banning Wade, lambs bred by Hensil Matthews; Glenn Green, lambs bred by J. W. Lawhon, Jr.; Frank Bradley, lambs bred by John Rae; Cecil Moore, lambs bred by Jess Koy; Thomas Richard Jones, lambs bred by Jess Koy; Bell Sample, lambs bred by Tom Henderson; Jim Tom Roach, lambs bred by J. W. Lawhon, Jr., John Luedecke, lambs bred by Luke Thompson; Dee DeLong, lambs bred by D. E. DeLong; Louie Nolan, lambs bred by W. H. Parker and B. F. Nolan.

The same carload of 50 lambs won the first prize of \$50 in the open competition.

Second place, individual fine wool wether lambs, fed by Glenn Green; lamb breeder, Thomson Bros. and Lawhon. Prize \$15.

Fourth place, fed by Garth Clark; breeder, J. F. Runge. Prize \$5.

Seventh place, fed by Gene Koy; breeder, Jess Koy.

The total money prizes won on feeder lambs was \$255. The one boy who fed a calf failed to place in his contests.

The most significant of the winnings was the champion carload of fine wool fat lambs against all comers in open com-

petition. Among the competitors in this class were Texas Tech, Oklahoma A. & M. College, boys' clubs and vocational agriculture classes from Irion, Mason, McCulloch, Tom Green, Presidio, Scurry and Schleicher counties.

In the individual class there was such competition as Singleton of Midlothian, and Paul Rann of Decatur, both of whom are noted sheep breeders of the state.

The county officers of Schleicher county since the time it was organized are as follows:

County Judge—	A. B. Priour	July; 1901—Nov. 1908.
	J. A. Whitten	Nov. 1908—Nov. 1910.
	Joab Campbell	Nov. 1910—Nov. 1914.
	Geo. M. Brown	Nov. 1914—Nov. 1918.
	Clarence A. Womack	Nov. 1918—Sept. 1922.
	W. F. Ford	Sept. 1922—Nov. 1926.
	G. D. Hines	Nov. 1926—1929.
	H. W. Finley	1929
County Clerk—	F. C. Bates, Jr.	July; 1901—Nov. 1908.
	W. C. Benton	Nov. 1908—Nov. 1918.
	John F. Isaacs	Nov. 1918—To present.
Sheriff—	Henry Mills	July, 1901—Jan. 1908.
	Brice Dabney	Jan. 1906—Nov. 1906.
	Dan Murrah	Nov. 1906—Nov. 1908.
	W. M. Holland	Nov. 1908—Nov. 1910.
	J. F. Craig	Nov. 1910—Nov. 1914.
	F. H. Watson	Nov. 1914—Nov. 1916.
	A. F. Luedecke	Nov. 1916—To present.
Tax Assessor—	C. C. Doty	Nov. 1902—Nov. 1908.
	H. W. Finley	Nov. 1908—Nov. 1923.
	W. E. Baker	Nov. 1918—Nov. 1923.
	Don McCormick	Nov. 1923—To present.
County Treasurer—	J. L. Allen	July, 1901—Nov. 1902.
	P. H. McCormick	Nov. 1902—Nov. 1910.
	W. T. Conner	Nov. 1910—Nov. 1914.
	G. A. Neill	Nov. 1914—Nov. 1920.
	P. H. McCormick	Nov. 1920—Nov. 1923.
	Mrs. A. E. Kent	Nov. 1923—To present.