

Past and Present Times in a Small Community in New Mexico

(Note: I placed this material on my blog, principally for the pleasure of my family and other relatives. I think it might have appeal to others, so here it is.)

Hello to the Black family and several of our friends who are from the New Mexico and Lea County part of America.

Cousin Donald recently sent me a brochure on the 60th anniversary of the Lea County fair and rodeo. It is dated 1995, so I do not recognize many of the notable personalities in the document.

But it has a lot to offer for anyone who is interested in Lovington and Lea County, or for that matter a look at a part of southwestern America.

The brochure contains a short history of the early days of Lovington, Hobbs, Jal, Eunice, Tatum, Knowles, and Monument. (I'm not sure the latter two towns even exist now.) It also has several short narratives about some world champion cowboys who called Lea County their home.

What memories this brochure brings back to me. I hope it will bring back memories for you as well, at least for the older ones who are on this mailing list.

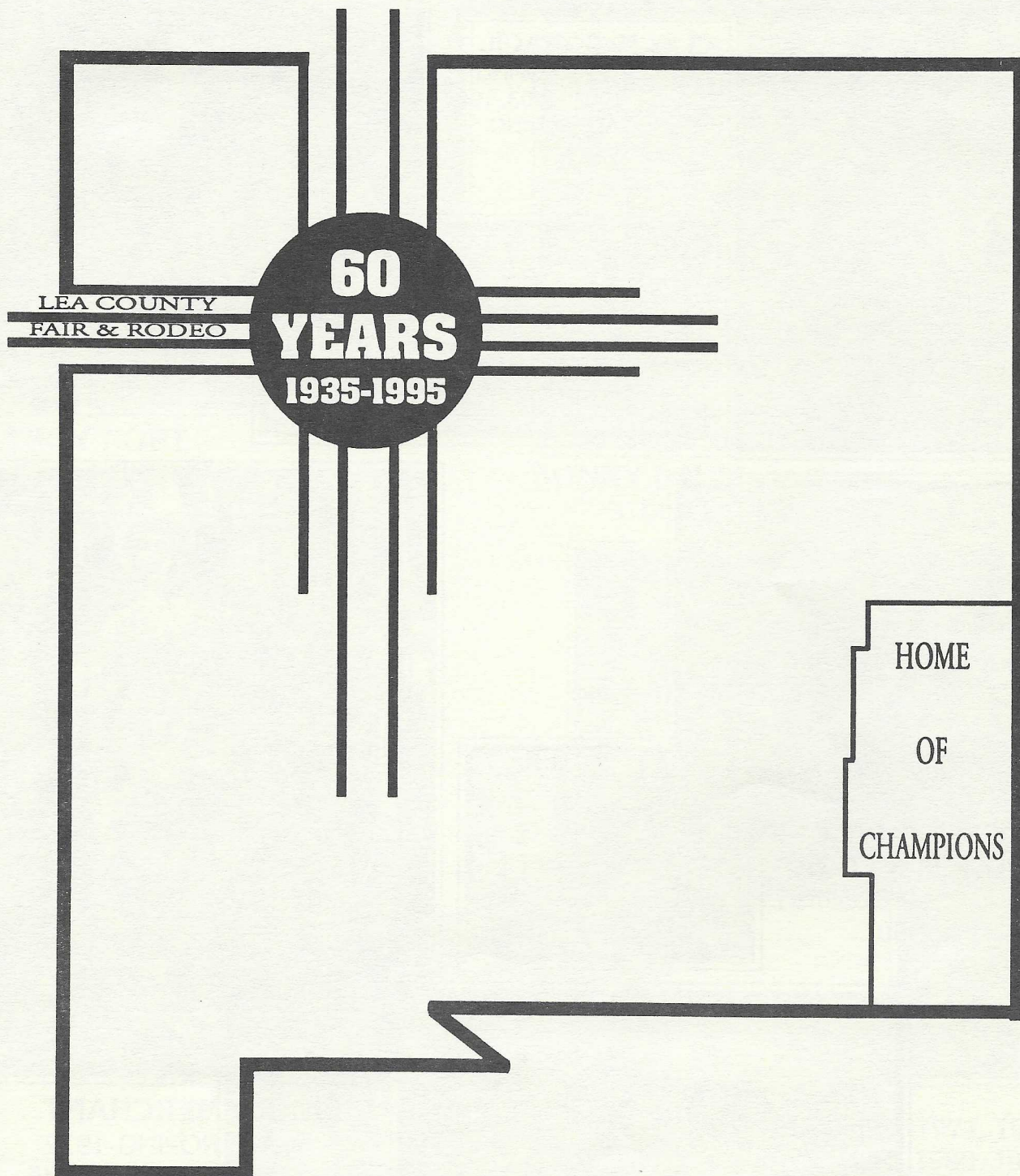


August 5-12, 1995
Lovington, New Mexico

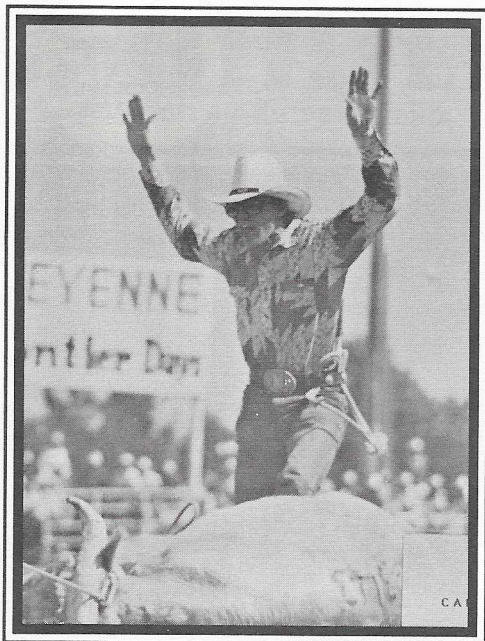
60th ANNIVERSARY
COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Welcome to the Sixtieth Anniversary
of the
Lea County Fair & Rodeo

"Continuing the Legacy"



Lea County World Champions



ROY COOPER
CALF ROPING

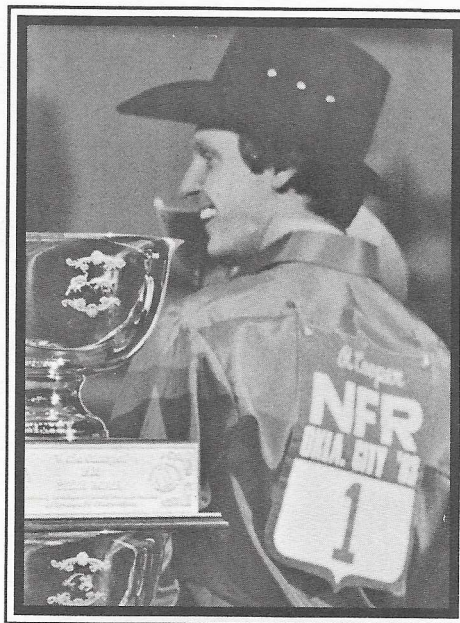
1976
1977
1978
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984

STEER ROPING

1983

ALL-AROUND

1983



BETTY GAYLE COOPER

CALF ROPING

1979, 1982, 1983

ALL-AROUND

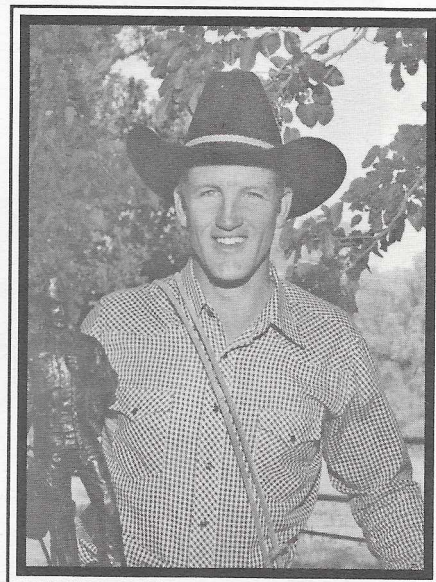
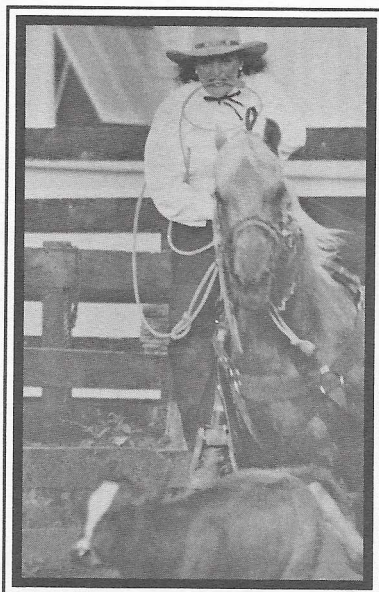
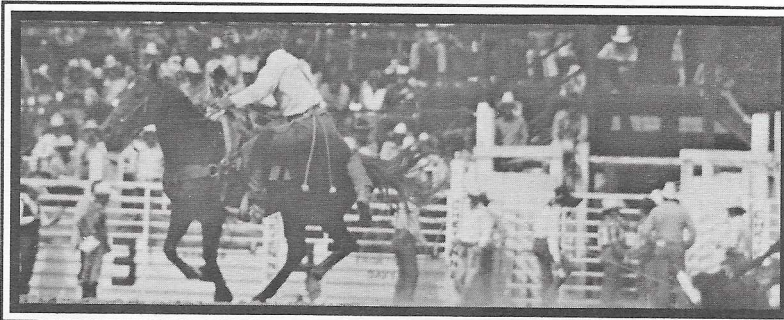
1981, 1982, 1983

GOAT TYING

1982

BREAK AWAY ROPING

1989



JIMMIE B. COOPER

ALL-AROUND

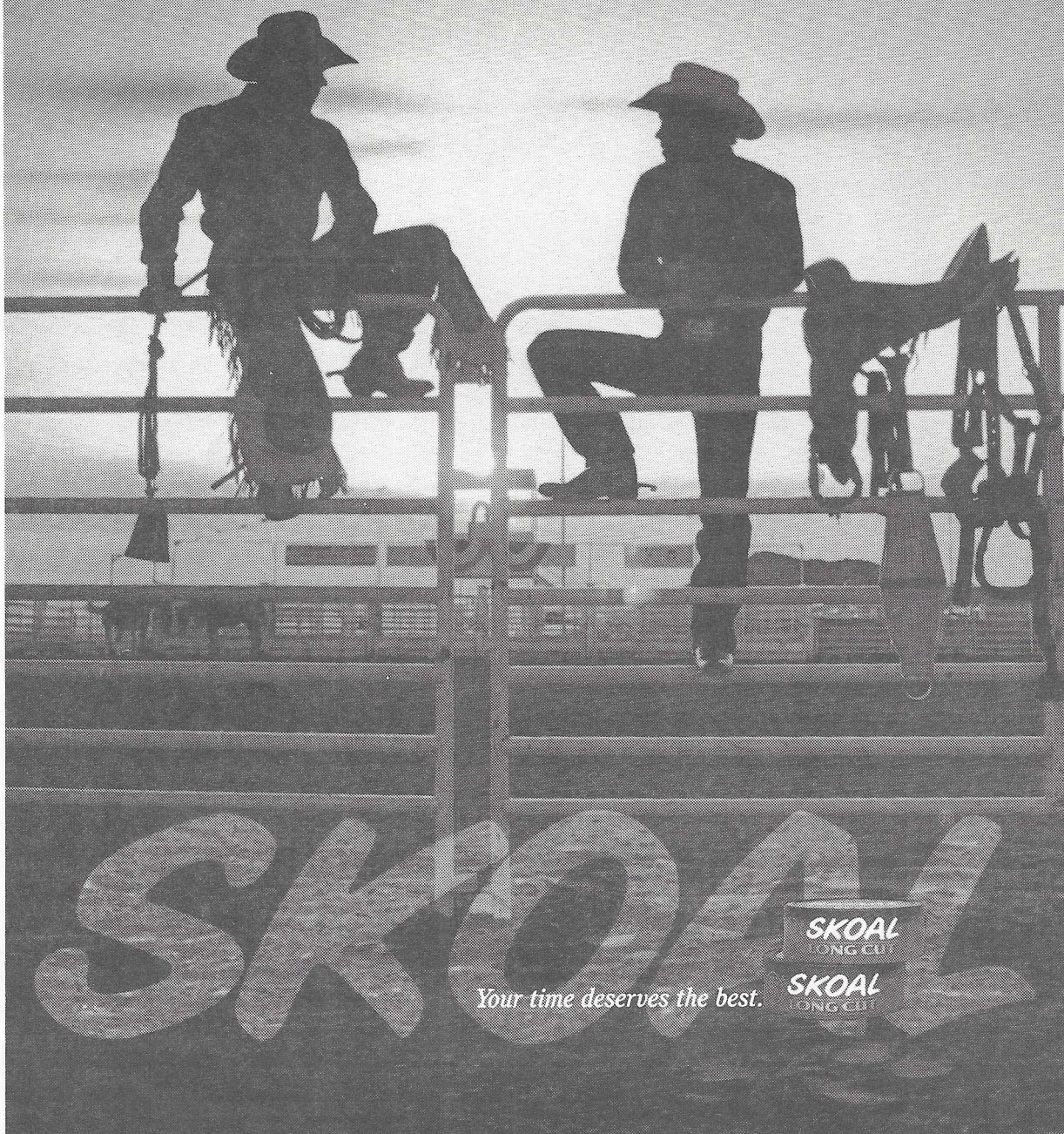
1981

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WARNING:

THIS PRODUCT
MAY CAUSE GUM
DISEASE AND
TOOTH LOSS

My time. My Skoal®



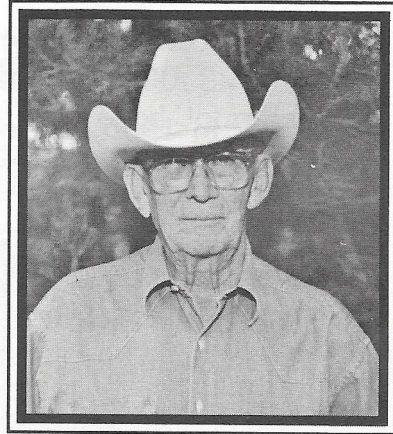
IN MEMORY OF
PAT HENARD
1922-1995

William Sherman Henard, better known as "Pat" to his scores of friends in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico, was born in Wellington, Texas on January 10, 1922.

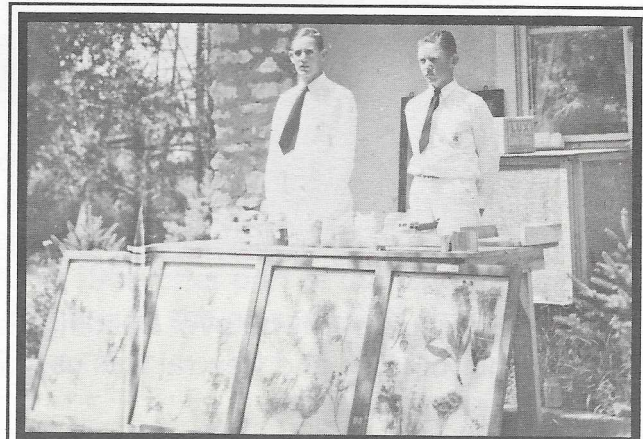
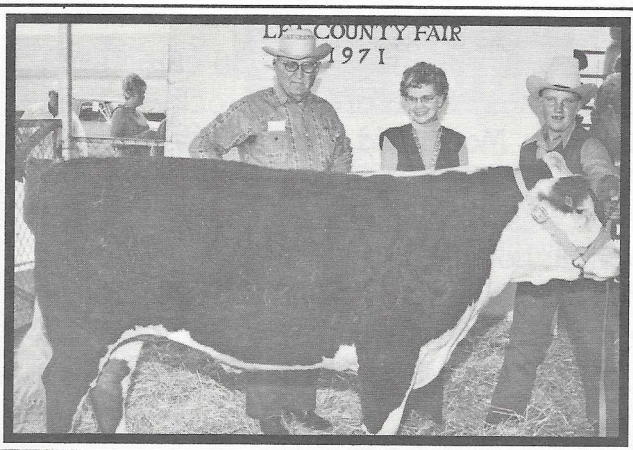
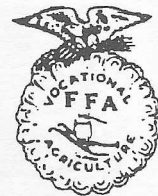
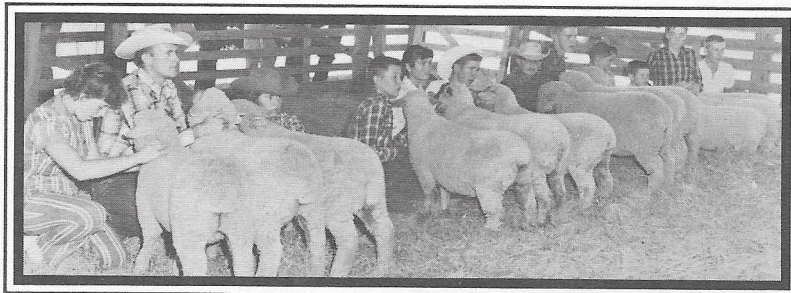
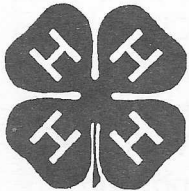
Pat was a life long rancher and had owned land in Lea County since the early 1950's, he loved a good cowhorse and good Hereford Cattle.

Pat was an avid supporter of the Plains United Methodist Church, Lea County Junior Rodeo Association and the Lea County Fair and Rodeo where he was a buyer at the Junior Livestock Sale for the past several years. One of the highlights of the year was attending the slack roping during the Lea County Fair and Rodeo.

Pat passed away on January 11, 1995, he was 73 years old.



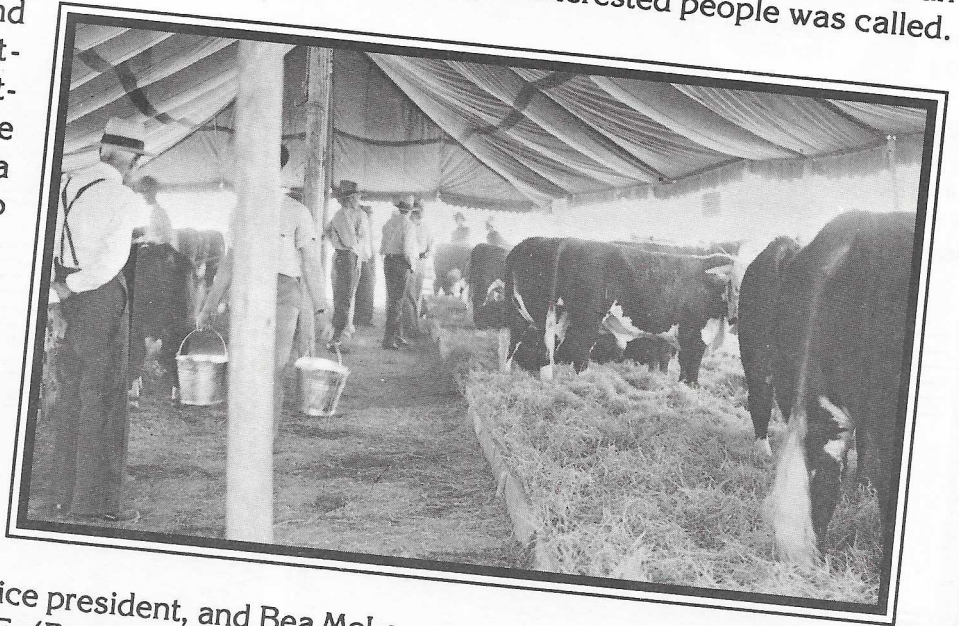
**1995 Lea County Fair & Rodeo Dedicated to
Past and Present 4-H and FFA Exhibitors**



The History of the Lea County Fair and Rodeo

In 1935, the editor of the Lovington Daily Leader, Luke Roberts, led an effort to boost farming in this area and a meeting of interested people was called.

John Easley, a local rancher and developer, attended this meeting and was made chairman of a committee to help organize the governing board for the first Lea County Fair.



In 1936 Lea County Fair Association officers were John Easley, president, James P. McClish, vice president, and Bea McLaren, secretary-treasurer. Bea Fort was secretary to W.E. (Bunny) Flint, Lea County Agent and was secretary for the Lea County Fair Association for many years and gave invaluable help.

Directors of the 1936 Lea County Fair were: J.W. Owens-Eunice; J.T. Wall-Tatum, Joe S. Hill-McDonald; E.L. Harbison-Lovington; A.T. Hutcherson-Crossroads; Pete Anderson-Hobbs; Luke Roberts, Hermon Robinson, and Mrs. Ham Bishop-Lovington.



Superintendents of divisions were R.O. Beemer, J.S. Hiss, J.P. McClish, John Easley, Mrs. Denver Thompson, Mrs. H.H. Hamilton, Mrs. C.E. Kindel, Mrs. Tom Neal, Jim Clayton, Cora Mamie Wilks, Mrs. Benton Mosley, Mrs. Bunk Shipp, and Mrs. Bob Stoneham. The years have brought new names to the different divisions, but these were the first.

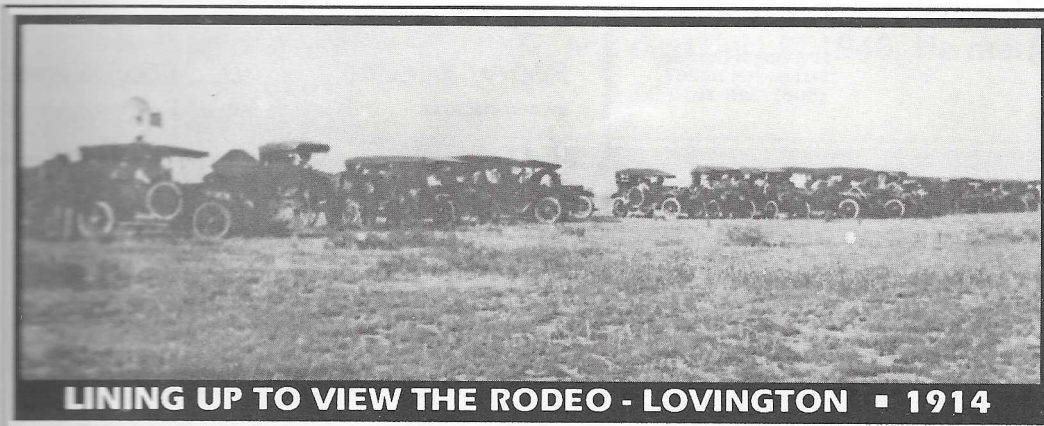
Community directors in 1936 came from Crossroads, Pitchfork, Caprock, Tatum, Highway, McDonald, Prairieview, Humble City, Knowles, Hobbs, Eunice, Jal, Monument, Hester, Plainview, Maljamar, Nadine, Ochoa, Lovington, and Pearl.

The first fairs were held around the courthouse square in whatever buildings happened to be empty. The building on the corner of Love and Central was used for livestock. During the years of World War II, there was no fair.

In 1939, the land was bought on which the Lea County Fair and Rodeo is now held. The fair board was able to buy a quarter section of land for \$2000. Signing the note to buy the land were Bunny Flint, Bill Anderson, Hobdy Gann and John Easley.

The Lea Fair Association was incorporated in 1939. At \$25 a share, 120 shares were sold to raise enough money to build the bull barn, the first building to be built on

the fair grounds. It was used for the first time in 1940 for livestock. T e n t s were used to house other fair exhibits that year.



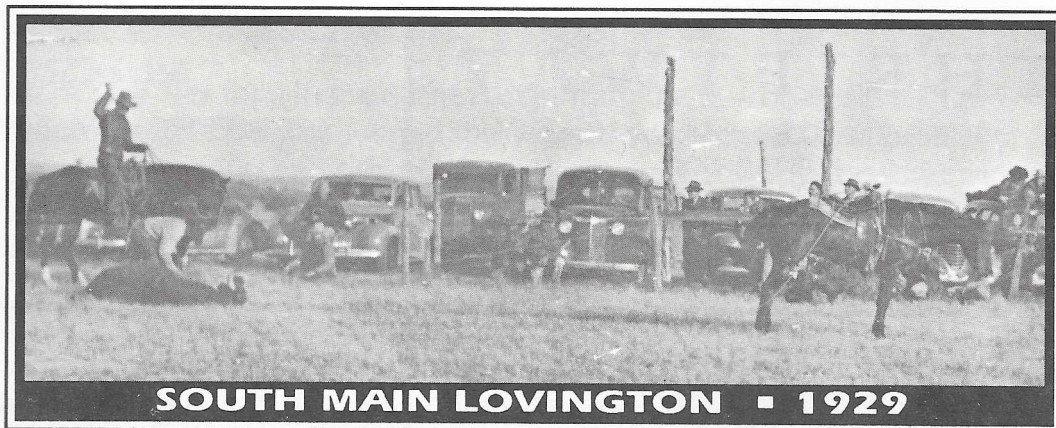
LINING UP TO VIEW THE RODEO - LOVINGTON - 1914

Dances were held in the bull barn to raise more money for the buildings. When the bull barn was built, it was not with contracted labor but the volunteer labor of Easley, Hobdy Gann, Anderson, Flint, Jack Cotter, and H.J. (Punk) Burns.

In 1950, it was suggested that the county needed to be in charge of the fair. The old Fair Board deeded 10 acres of land to the county. The Chamber of Commerce and the County Commissioners united in an effort to pass a bond issue and the first big fair building was built.

In 1960, part of the land bought originally by the fair board was sold and a part of the old

Fair Association money was used when the McClure Rodeo Arena was built. Everything at the fair-grounds



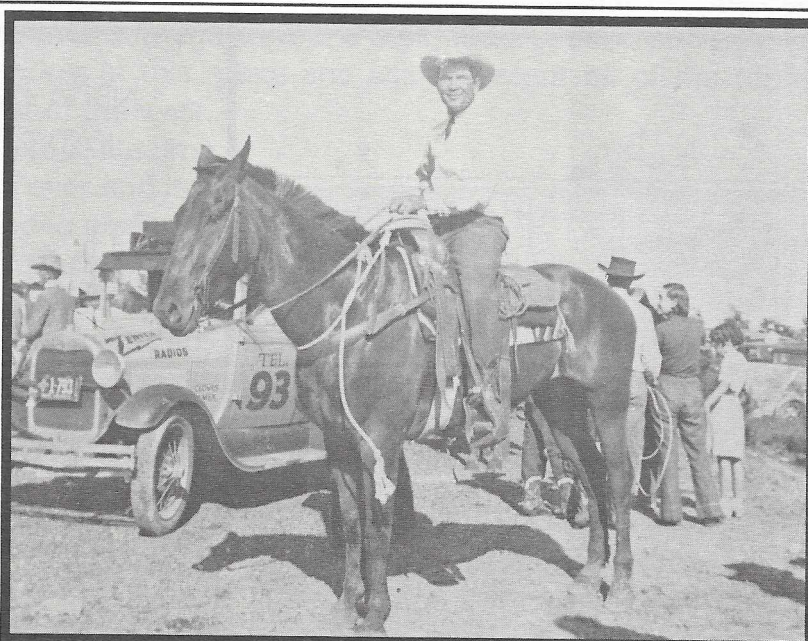
SOUTH MAIN LOVINGTON - 1929

was laid out with the future in mind. Troy Fort designed the arena; Glen Werhan built the concrete walls; the lights were put up by Dale Ancell at no cost other than materials. It is impossible to name all who helped since the list would be endless.

The old fair association was dissolved in 1969 after part of the land had been given to Lea County. The board paid \$275 a share on the original \$25 shares and a new fair association came into being.

Jake McClure

This arena was constructed under the direction of the Lea County Sheriff's Posse and is dedicated and named in the memory of the late Jake McClure. Jake McClure was one of the first six to be named for the Cowboy Hall of Fame. He was born November 26, 1902, and died July 9, 1940. He married Kathryn Mathews in 1932. As the son of the late Pat McClure, old-timer in Lovington, Jake was only 15 when he left home to start his life's work. Even at the age of two years old Jake was a little cowboy with a rope in his hand. He started in rodeo work with Tom Standifer in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1922 and rose to the ranks because of his fast small loop called "The Jake McClure Loop", which fell with such precision on his designated calf.



JAKE MCCLURE ■ CLOVIS, NM ■ JUNE 2, 1937

Jake McClure was tops in the money, capturing the title of World's Champion Calf Roper in 1930. He was judged the World's All-Around Cowboy at the Pendleton, Oregon Roundup and Arizona State Champion Cowboy, together with many other honors won as a calf roper in the United States, Canada and Europe. Jake was president of the first roping club in Lovington. Famous were his horses. Three of his favorite horses were "Legs", "Snip" and "Silver". Silver received the title of World's Best Calf Roping Horse.

On July 9, 1940, Jake McClure "Died In His Glory" as his epitaph read. He was injured while training his horse on his ranch 11 miles west of Lovington on July 1. This accident caused a concussion and he remained in a coma until his death. Jake preferred to be considered a rancher rather than a champion roper. He was considered by many ropers as the "Daddy of them All". As a steady-going fellow and one who had the highest regard for the other fellow's feelings, Jake McClure will be remembered as one of the finest calf ropers and one of the finest men who ever lived.

Old Baldy

Editor's Note: (The following story on Old Baldy, famed roping horse that is buried at Jake McClure Arena, appeared in the January 18, 1961 edition of the Lovington Leader.)

A unique funeral of a prominent Lovington personality was held in the quiet of the day here Monday. Not many people witnessed the burial. There was no singing, preaching, or flowers, but this personality will be missed by most all of Lovington. Old Baldy, 28 year-old roping horse owned by Troy Fort, has been laid to rest in the Lea County Fair Grounds at the site of the proposed arena.

Baldy will be honored with all the respect and honor that he deserves when the new arena is opened sometime around the middle of June or the first of July. He will have a marker at this grave and will represent all of the roping horses in this last frontier of the west.

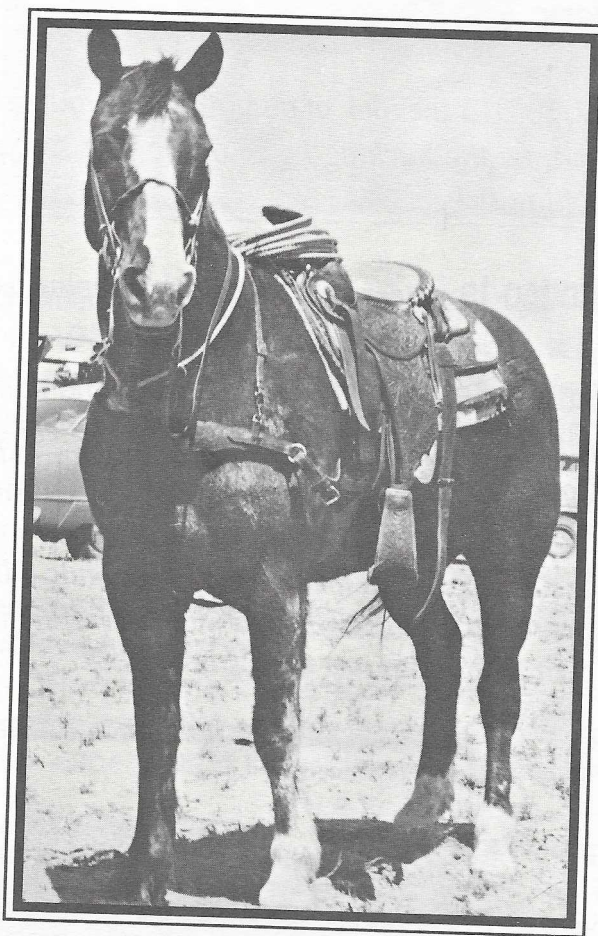
This will be an appropriate time as round up time will be over and it is the time of year when rodeo performers start to thinking of shows across the nation such as Madison Square Garden Rodeo; Cheyenne Rodeo, Santa Rosa Roundup and others. As the gates open on the first attraction in the new arena there will be a pause to honor one of the most famous rodeo horses in the nation.

Baldy resided in Lovington for about 15 years. He is remembered here for carrying five men to world championship roping fame. He was the greatest. He was gentle and kind around the ranch, but not many ropers could rope off him. He had such a terrific stop that not many were able to do much more than try to ride him much less try to think about catching a calf.

Volumes could be written about Baldy. He was born in Oklahoma, and is well known there. Many ropers, both young and old, can give you any number of tales about Baldy. One roper near Plains, Texas thought so much of Baldy that he went to Oklahoma to see Baldy's brother!

When arena gates open on rodeos and ropings this year, Old Baldy won't be here. As the mesquite grass turns green, and soft winds of spring blow across the range, the familiar sight of Old Baldy will be missing. Baldy is laid to rest where he was most at home.

Jake McClure, for whom the new arena will be named, was one of Baldy's many admirers. McClure rode Baldy, but never in competition.



RODEO - THE CHALLENGE

Rodeo is an athlete's gamble. You lay down your money and take your chance. There are only a few winners and a lot of losers.

Rodeo is living life to the fullest, always knowing your career or your life could be snuffed out by "the swing of a horn or a crashing hoof."

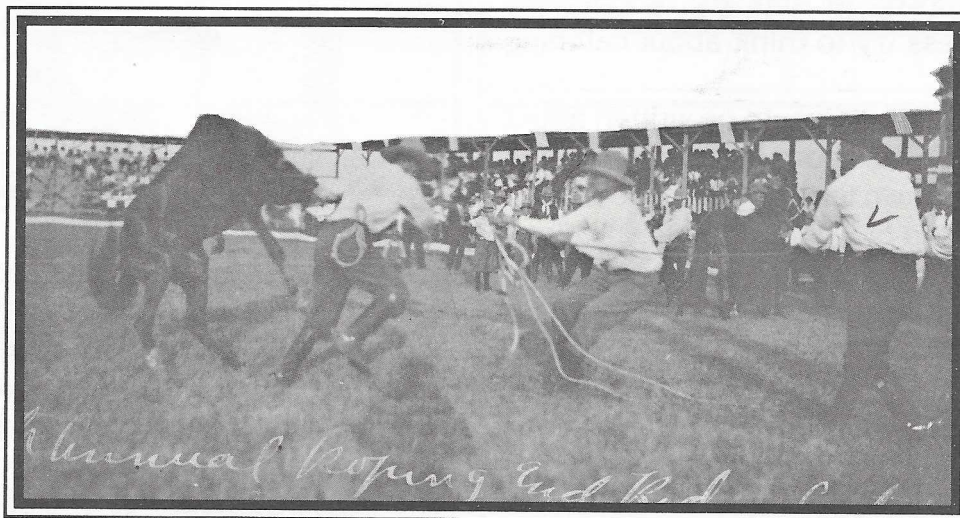
Rodeo is meeting good people and learning to get along on your own; greasy hamburgers one day and steak the next; setting off on a 5,000 mile run with only fifty dollars to your name.

Rodeo is the look of admiration in youngster's eyes and hoping you deserve it, wanting to draw the bucking horse of the year so bad you're almost sick, then drawing him and getting sick.

Rodeo is a steer in 3.2 seconds or roping a calf in 9.5 seconds or riding an unriden bull.

Rodeo is broken bones and casts and pain and hurting all over but riding anyway. It's with that picture in your mind of a silver and gold buckle that says "World Champion Cowboy".

Rodeo is not so much a way of making a living as it is a way to live; the last place in this time - clock world where a man can really be free, live or die, win or lose, but do it on his own terms with just a little bit of luck.



Professional rodeo is more popular and competitive than ever, largely due to the efforts of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, the largest rodeo-sanctioning body in the world.

The PRCA has nearly 10,000 members, including about 3,300 permit-holders. These cowboys participate in about 800 rodeos per year in 46 states and four Canadian provinces.

The PRCA continues its commitment to rodeo excellence and maintaining the highest standards in the rodeo industry. This ensures that every rodeo sanctioned by the PRCA is competently managed and uses only the most healthy and well-cared-for livestock.

Members compete in regular-season rodeos, strictly to qualify for the National Finals Rodeo, an event that offered nearly \$2.85 million in prize money in 1994. PRCA rodeos awarded more than \$23 million in total prize money in 1994.

Today's PRCA traces its roots back to 1936 when a group of cowboys staged a walk-out at a prestigious rodeo at the Boston Garden. The rodeo's promoter, W.T. Johnson, refused to add their entry fees to the prize money. The cowboys vowed to boycott the rodeo until the entry fees were added to the prize money and judging was done with more objectivity. Johnson finally relented and the Cowboys' Turtle Association was born. The cowboys adopted the name of the "Turtles" because they were so slow in getting organized, but they had finally stuck out their necks.

In 1945, the Turtles changed their name to the Rodeo Cowboys Association, which in 1975 became the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

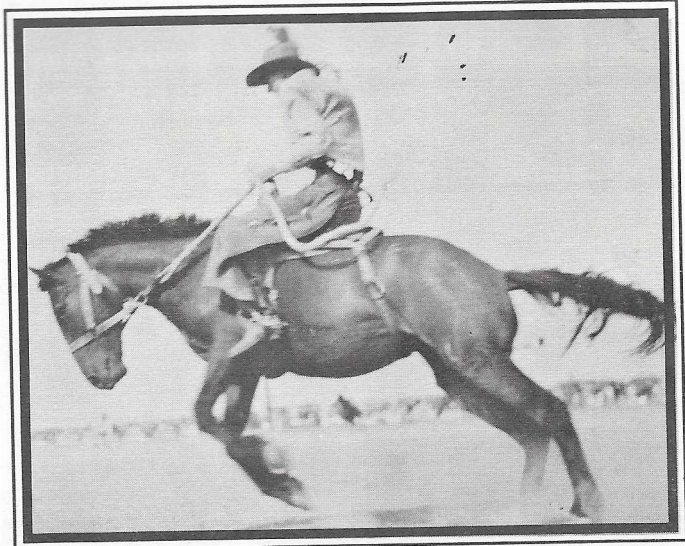
In 1987, the PRCA appointed its first commissioner (who took office in January 1988) and changed its organizational structure to meet the changing needs of the sport. Since that reorganization, the Association has experienced its greatest period of growth since its inception.

The PRCA now employs about 60 people full time, and the staff grows to nearly 100 during the peak rodeo season.

The competing contestants aren't the only mem-

bers of the PRCA; stock contractors, judges and contract personnel also have membership cards, as do nearly all people involved in sanctioned rodeos.

The PRCA's national headquarters is adjacent to the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



The Cowboy

Some say the golden age of the American cowboy ended more than a hundred years ago. The West has been tamed, the cattle drives are over and the horse is no longer a primary source of transportation.

However, the spirit of the cowboy is alive and well, living on in rodeo arenas all over the United States.

Today the working cowboy uses a pickup truck for most of his chores, but most of his skills are derived from the 19th century cowhands - cattle still must be fed, branded and sometimes roped, horses must be broken and trained.

The cowboys of old had few avenues of recreation, so informal contests sprang up to see who was the best at roping and riding. These pasture duels gradually became more organized, rules became somewhat standardized and the sport of rodeo was born.

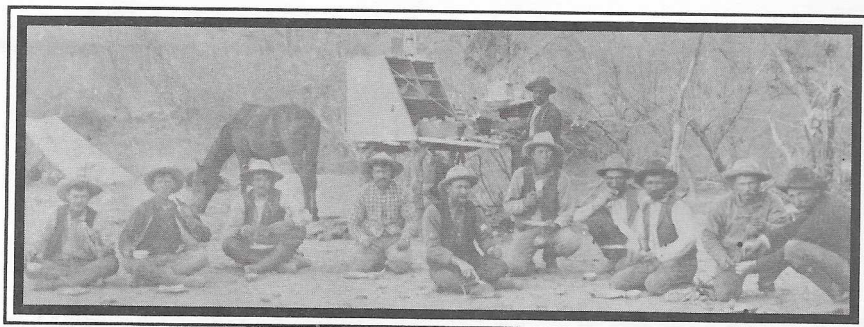
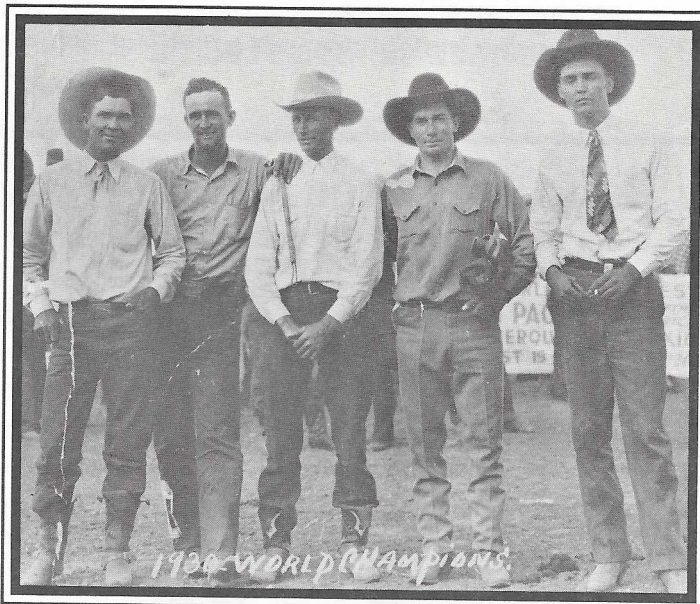
Rodeo remains one of the only sports in the world based on an industry.

The sport has changed, of course, since those early days; events have been added or dropped, and the competitors' styles have become immensely varied. However, even though many cowboys now compete for thousands of dollars a week and have endorsements and other business interests, the cowboy has basically the same mentality he had a century ago. Many professional rodeo contestants still travel together, eat together, room together, occasionally borrow each other's horses and equipment and help each other behind the scenes.

Top PRCA cowboys sometimes compete at more than 100 rodeos a year, traveling tens of thousands of miles. It is common for a top competitor to win more than \$100,000 in a single event in a given year. Winners have been known to take home \$20,000 or even \$30,000 from a single regular-season rodeo.

Although most casual fans have heard only of the cowboys who compete full time and qualify for the National Finals Rodeo on a

regular basis, the vast majority of PRCA cowboys compete only part time and at rodeos fairly close to home. Almost all contestants have other jobs and compete in rodeos as a hobby.



Lea County Special Rodeo

Rodeo cowboys are known for their nerves of steel and grim determination. In fact, sitting in the grandstand, you might never know about their hearts of gold.

Lea County Special Rodeo is a program that pairs physically or mentally challenged children with professional rodeo cowboys and cowgirls. The cowboys or cowgirls interact with the special kids, giving the youngsters a few precious moments in the spotlight as "rodeo stars".

The children and world-class cowboys and cowgirls partner up for a series of mock rodeo events designed to meet the children's special needs. All of the events are under very controlled conditions with many volunteers-physical therapists, special education teachers, parents, and the Gymkana Horse Club members.

The program began in 1983 as a way for the cowboys to give something back to the communities that sponsor PRCA rodeos. The program allows the challenged children and their cowboy partners to participate in a goat relay, roping of a steer dummy, a stickhorse barrel race, and for those who want to participate in a flag race on a very gentle horse.

Every youngster who participates in the special rodeo receives a cowboy hat, contestant number, bandana, lariat rope, trophy, T-shirt and photograph of himself or herself in action.



County Cowboy Honors

National Cowboy Hall of Fame

Oklahoma City:

Clay McGonagill
Jake McClure
Richard Merchant
Baldy
Troy Fort
Jimmie B. Cooper
Roy Cooper

Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame

Colorado Springs:

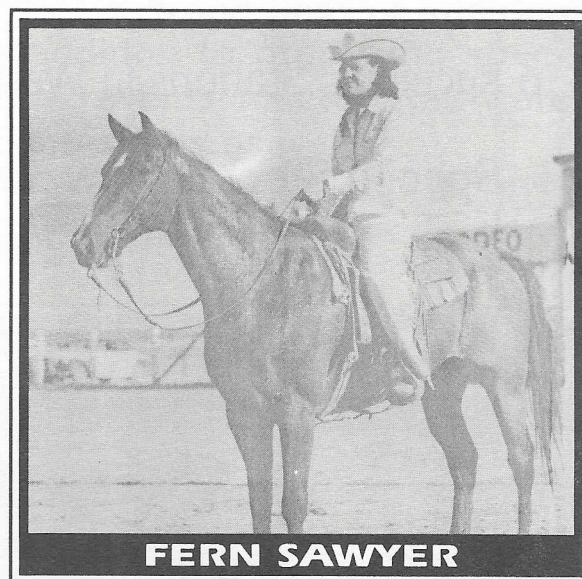
Baldy
Troy Fort
Sonny Davis
Olin Young
Roy Cooper

Cowgirl Hall of Fame

Fern Sawyer
Dessie Sawyer
Betty Gayle Cooper



DESSIE SAWYER



FERN SAWYER

Rookie of the Year

1976 - Roy Cooper - Calf Roping
1980 - Jimmie Cooper - Calf Roping
1982 - Tommy Pearson - Steer Roping
1985 - Kress Jones - Steer Roping
1986 - Philip Berry - Steer Roping
1994 - Kenyon Burns - Steer Roping

National Intercollegiate Rodeo Champions

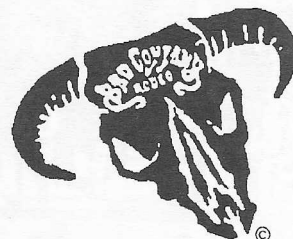
Tuffy Cooper - 1950
Becky Jo Smith - 1954, 1955
Betty Gayle Cooper - 1973, 1974, 1975
Roy Cooper - 1975

1995 RODEO PRODUCER

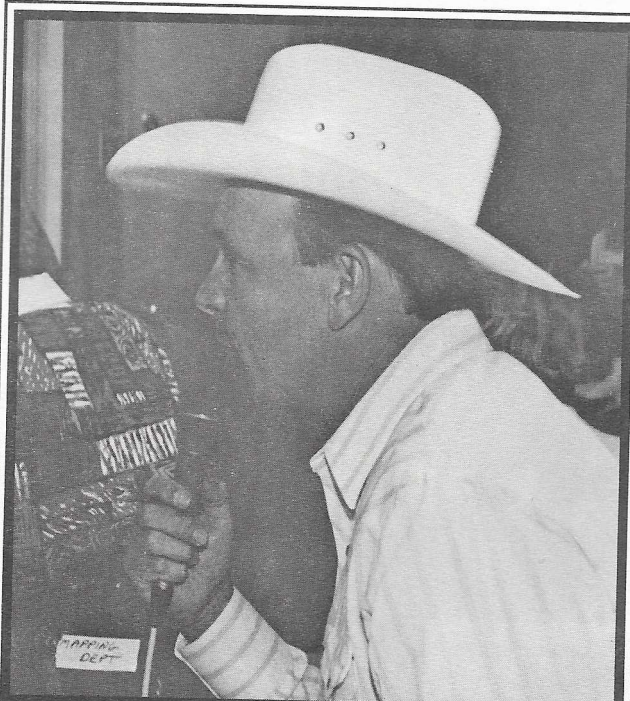


MACK & KATHY ALTIZER

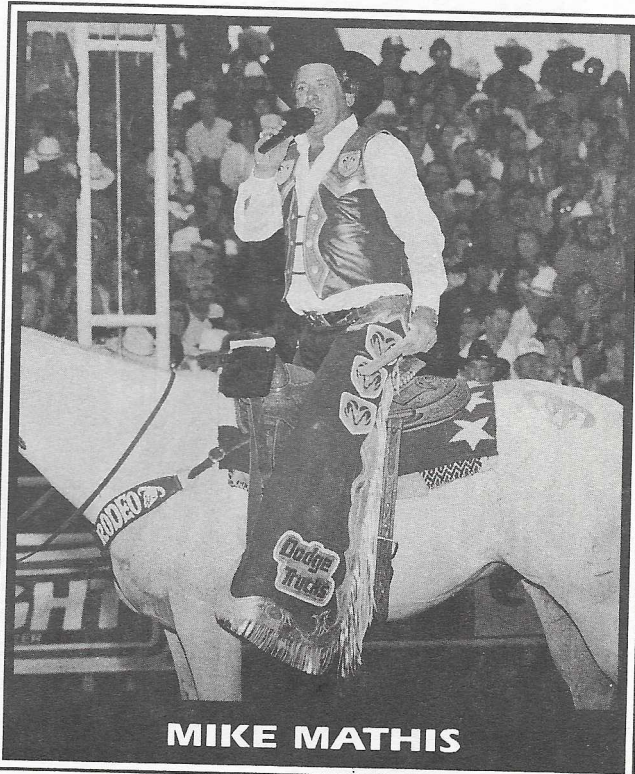
Bad Company's slogan "Expect the Unexpected", says it all. A Bad Company Rodeo production is unique - it's a package of fun, wild rides, sound/music choreography, spontaneous action, advertizing, promotion and community involvement. Bad Company Rodeo, Inc. celebrated its 14th anniversary in 1994. Mack Altizer began from scratch and now has a strong herd of bucking stock. In addition to producing spectacular rodeo events, Mack & Kathy are top pro contestants as well.



Announcers



CURT ROBINSON



MIKE MATHIS

"hunt" a fallen rider.

That's where the bullfighter / clown enters the scene. The rodeo bullfighter has to have the courage of a commando and an instinct for "Reading" the bulls. Their primary function is to serve as a "target" so the rider can scramble to safety.

Pickup men can't be used because a bull will put a horse on the run. When the rider leaves the bull the bullfighter is there to keep him from getting hooked, stomped on or otherwise "railroaded".



DIRTY DOZEN

"TO-40" "ROCK 'N ROLL" "CROCODILE ROCK" "STROKIN'" "WOOLY BULLY" "SHARP DRESSED MAN"
"BAD TO THE BONE" "BAD MOON" "THE JAM" "WILD THING" "CADILLAC" "SUPERSTITIONS"

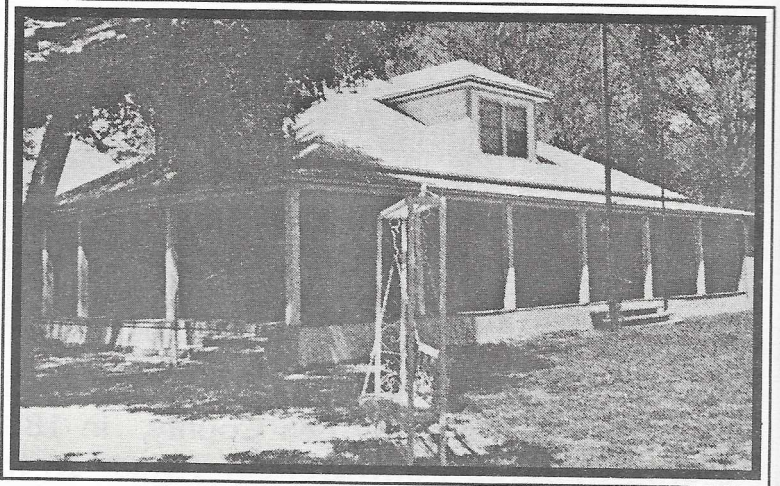
Bad Company Rodeo, Inc.

The highest scoring herd of bulls in professional rodeo

Historical Sites

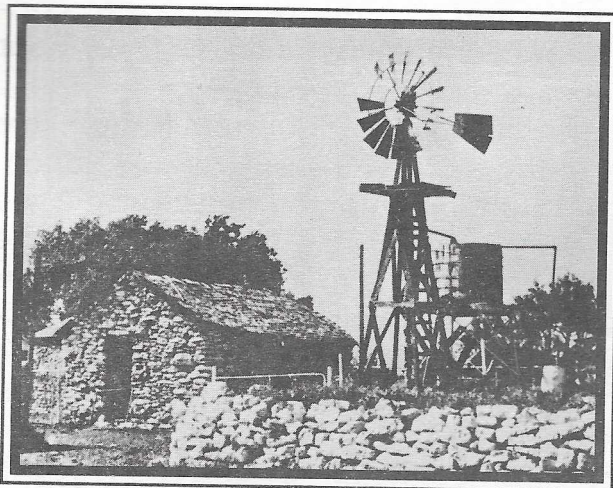
The Hat Ranch & Monument Springs

In 1875, Colonel William Shafter came upon what would become one of the most historic sites in Lea County. He called the lush springs Monument Springs from a monument he built on a hill nearby. The watering was excellent, and the grass was lush all around; the area had been used by both Indians and buffalo for many, many, years. About 1879, buffalo hunters Harvey and Wilkerson built an old rock fortress; in 1885, the spring and dwelling were sold to a Scotsman, R.F. Kennedy. the McKenzie brothers and Scott and Robertson were subsequent owners, during which time the outfit began to brand with the hat design. The Hat Ranch dominated the mid-Lea Llano until about 1905. The Weir family owned the Hat, much diminished in size, from 1905 until 1938 when Charlie Fristoe bought the holding. The Fristoe family sold the ranch to Dub Baum, in 1967, and today Jim and Betty Baum Cooper have the ranch. Monument Springs and the old rock fortress have rightfully been called the cradle of Lea County civilization.



The San Simon Ranch & Dug Springs

One of the oldest historic sites in Lea County, the site of Dug Springs was discovered by Colonel William Rufus Shafter in September of 1875 on one of his westward expeditions. The wells had been dug by Indians in a sandy draw. Shafter named the three wells Dug Springs. The wells became the headquarters site for the vast San Simon Ranch, when the site was acquired by Clabe Merchant and his sons, John and Lige, in 1897. In 1903, the first headquarters house was built. The house was frame construction, two-story design, with a windowed alcove on every side. A fire destroyed the old house in 1936, but it was rebuilt from adobe, identical to the original home. Today the San Simon, owned by Merchant Livestock Company which incorporated in 1911, brands the famous hashknife. It is the last of the major open range outfits still in existence, and nearly a century later is operated by Merchant heirs, Tom and John Pearson, twin grandsons of John Merchant.



Pioneer Cowboy and Rancher

George Causey was born in 1849 in Springfield, Illinois, to Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Causey. He married Johanna Feuson, of Germany, on April 8, 1903, in Roswell. He died May 19, 1903 near Kenna, and is buried in Roswell's South Park Cemetery. There were no children of this marriage.

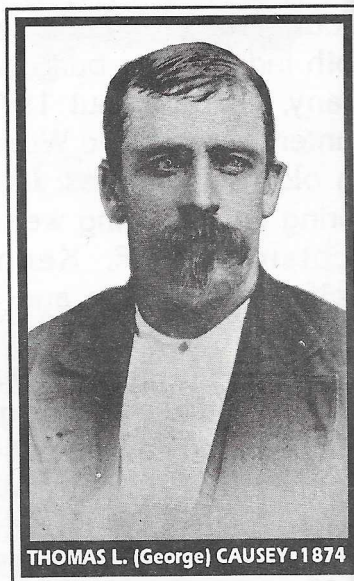
Causey came to the Kansas frontier in the post-Civil War years and as a youth drove freight wagons for the U.S. Army. Later, he turned to buffalo hunting and pursued his trade in Kansas, in the Texas Panhandle, and in West Texas. Living at the Yellow Houses, roughly where Lubbock is today, he is credited with having killed 40,000 buffalo in 13 years of hunting. He was probably the greatest hunter of them all, exceeding Buffalo Bill, who had a better press agent.

Causey, with his partner and one black cowboy, came to what is today Lea County, in 1882. He explored the area from Bronco, Texas, on the east to roughly where Caprock is today (on the west). He settled that year at Ranger Lake near present-day Tatum. There he built the first ranch house of adobe and caliche and spent several years in mustang ranching.

Causey discovered that water could be found on the Llano Estacado by digging a few feet down and dug the first well at Ranger Lake to hedge against the seasons when the lake waters dried up. In 1883, he went to Midland and brought back the first windmill to operate here on the Llano. He passed on his experience to other ranchers and personally dug most of the wells and equipped them for the great Four Lakes Ranch of George Littlefield. This ranch encompassed most of northern Lea County. It was water and the windmill that conquered the wilderness here, when all is said and done. Many of the LFD, or Four Lakes, windmills and wells are still in service.

Probably in 1884, Causey developed the Causey Headquarters Ranch, five miles due south of Lovington. It is known today as the Mason Graham Ranch. There he built yet another house, which is still standing, planted trees, developed the holding tank method for his horses and cattle. There he also operated the future county's first general store and opened the area's first post office, probably in 1887. During his ranching years Causey also helped his new, but distantly located, ranch neighbors by digging wells and constructing facilities. We know that he built the High Lonesome ranch house (from caliche and adobe) which is still standing east of Lovington.

Also during these years a number of his immediate family and many ranch hands found shelter in the Causey home. These included his widowed sister, Mary Causey Whitlock and her two sons, Ralph and V.H.; his brothers, John V., R.L. (Bob), and Mark Causey also made their home with George for periods of time. Mark established the first blacksmith operation on the Llano.



THOMAS L. (George) CAUSEY • 1874

The Causey home was a sort of way-station for travelers for nearly two decades and at a time when only half a dozen ranch homes existed on the Llano.

George Causey ranched with his mustangs and long-horned cattle until about the turn of the century when he was injured in a horse fall. He never fully recovered from this accident, although he was treated in both Roswell and St. Louis. Suffering great pain and despair, plus further physical complications, he died by his own hand in 1903.

Without a man of Causey's character, the Llano of Lea County might have been retarded many years in its settlement by people who sought to domesticate and tame the area. As can easily be seen, Causey was the first serious rancher, the first permanent settler, the first house builder, the man who discovered the great underground basin of water, the first postmaster, first store operator, brought in the first windmill, and planted the first trees.

George Causey was the kind of pioneer cowboy and rancher who had the imagination to tame this wilderness. His many accomplishments will long be remembered.

written by Gil Hinshaw
September 12, 1978



Lea County Pioneers

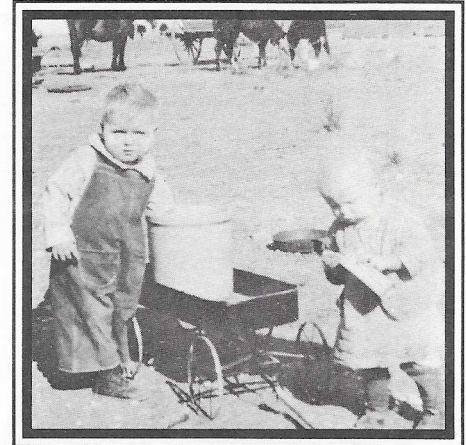
Lea County Pioneer Honorees

Since 1986 Lea County Pioneers have been given special recognition during the annual Lea County Fair and Rodeo. The honorees are chosen by a committee following nomination from the public, two from each city in the county. Each year the honorees ride in the parade, attend the barbecue, and attend the opening rodeo performance at Jake McClure Arena as a group.

The following citizens have been honored as Pioneers:

1986

John Easley and Beth Jackson Reed of Lovington
Rubert Madera and Sarah Rebecca Smith of Jal
Dollie and O.J. Welch of Tatum
Ben Alexander and Harry McAdams of Hobbs
Will McCasland and Chloe Sims of Eunice



1987

Troy Fort and Rosa Lee Yarbrow of Lovington
Agnes Kastner Head of Hobbs
R.D. Sims and Truman Turner of Eunice
Ella Belle Holeman and J.W. Tulk II of Maljamar
Morris Whitworth and Pearl McKeown of Jal
Gene and Bobbie Milford of Tatum

1988

Bill Zimmerman and Mary Lou Carson of Lovington
Cecil E. Holeman and Cubah Cullen Cox of Maljamar
Ralph Tasker and Thelma Webber of Hobbs
Byron F. Hughes and Mettie Jordan of Eunice
The Anderson Sisters of Tatum
Millard Dublin and Gladys Thompson of Jal

1989

Hazel Berry and Zip Franklin of Lovington
Frank and Dora Turner of Monument
Ruth Patterson and Tip Barnes of Tatum
Elizabeth Tulk and Curt Brummett of Maljamar
Mae Denny and Jake Merryman of Jal
Dan and Wilma Berry of Eunice
Jean Gray and Zearl Young of Hobbs



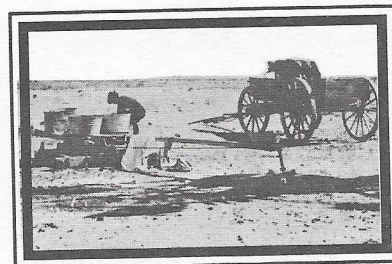
Lea County Pioneers, cont.

1990

Kenneth Osborn and Gladys Purcell of Lovington
Dorothy Sims Gregory and S.A. (Lightning) Weaver of Eunice
James Wesley and Pennie Jewell Allen of Tatum
Mable Leavell and W.D. "Jiggs" Dinwiddie of Jal
John West and Velma Makin of Hobbs

1991

Bill McKibben and Dorothy Runnels of Lovington
Bill Brininstool and Thelma Sims Cooper of Jal
Louis and Leona Crenshaw of Tatum
Leota Caward and Dr. Jack M. Kirk of Hobbs
Julian Caton and Ora Johnston of Eunice



1992

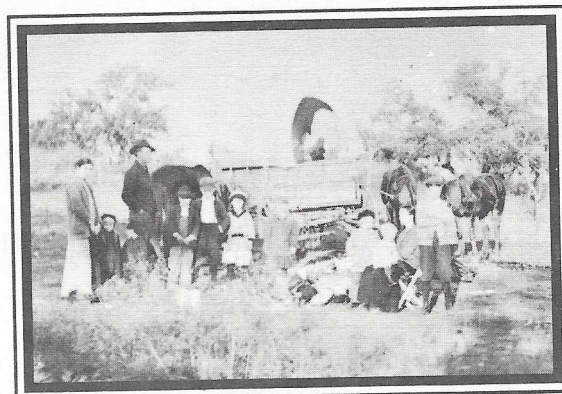
Pearl Yadon and Herbert Love of Lovington
Maleta Scrivner and Homer Shelton of Tatum
Evelyn Rose Dinwiddie and W.E. (Gene) Armstrong of Jal
Tom Pearson and Lola Dunnam of Eunice
Verda Myrel Watson and Rev. Frank Wells of Hobbs

1993

Daymon Hardin and Anemone Binkley of Lovington
Floyd Mathis and Lanina Shiplett of Jal
Buddy Johnston and Myrt Erdwurm of Eunice
Odis and Mary Lee Frier of Tatum
Robert Nelson Tydings and Mary Frances Antweil of Hobbs
Donna and Billy Royce Medlin of Maljamar

1994

Dr. W.L. Minton and Anna Trujillo of Lovington
Muriel McNeill and J.B. Tidwell of Hobbs
Herbert T. and Virginia Pior of Tatum
Loys Madera and Tom Linebery of Jal
John Pearson of Eunice



1994 Grand Champions



SWEEPSTAKE CAKE

Melissa Capps - Chaparral 4-H
 purchased by Ed & Mitchell
 Key Truck & Auto Brokers and
 Murdock Tires - \$725.00



April Thompson
Tatum FFA
 purchased by
 Norris Farms - \$425.00



Michelle Alexander
Yucca 4-H
 purchased by
 Alexander Brothers Dairy - \$2,950.00



Ashley Kinsolving
Crossroads 4-H
 purchased by
 GPM Gas Corporation - \$3,624

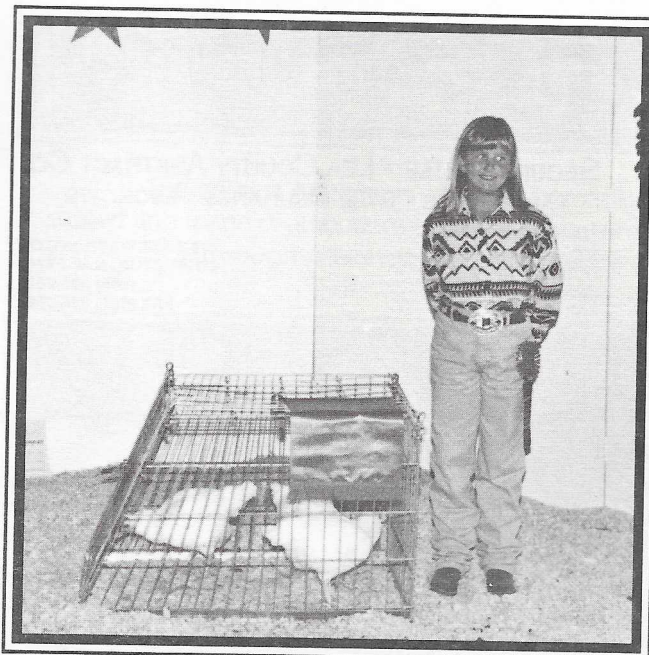
1994 Grand Champions



Megan Denning
Hobbs FFA
purchased by
Enron Gas Processing - \$1,845.00



Shyla Robertson
High Plains 4-H
purchased by
Martin Boot Company



Nickie Jones
Knowles 4-H
purchased by
Johnson Miller and Company - \$400.00



Jack Nave
Monument 4-H
purchased by
Furr's Supermarket - \$1,075

MEXICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION QUEEN

Reigning MHC Queen 1994



Sylvia Arlissa Jimenez

of Tatum is the 19 year old daughter of Rafael Jimenez and Marisela Dorado. She has 2 brothers, Alfredo and Alex. Sylvia is currently attending New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs. Sylvia's future plans are to attend New Mexico State University where she plans to major in Elementary Education. She is currently employed at Leaco Cellular. In her spare time Sylvia enjoys writing letters to her friends, but most of all she enjoys helping her grandmother at the Steak House Cafe where she has the opportunity to see her old friends and meet new ones.

Sylvia would like to wish all the young ladies running for Lea County Mexican Heritage Queen and Lea County Rodeo Queen "buena suerte". May God Bless you all.

The contest recognizes a single, unmarried Lea County young female resident who has demonstrated and made contributions to family, school and community and exercises a sense of pride in her culture and heritage through personality, moral character, dependability and overall appearance.



L-R 2nd runner-up, Wendy Martinez, Lovington, Queen Sylvia, 1st runner-up, Erica Valdez, Hobbs



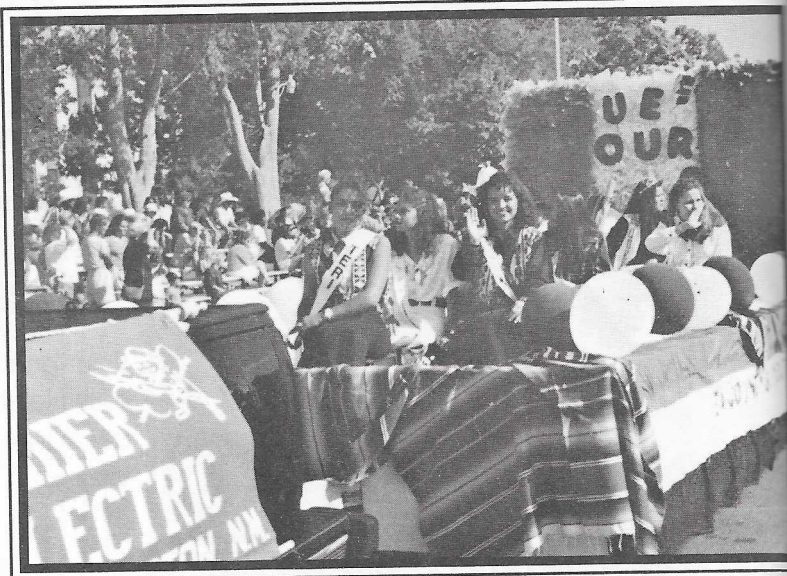
Queen Sylvia and her Court



CONTESTANTS
DURING A
SEMINAR



MISS CONGENIALITY
MARIA CUETO
EUNICE



LEA COUNTY FAIR & RODEO PARADE



1993 QUEEN LAURA TORRES, LOVINGTON & 1994
CONTESTANTS AFTER INTERVIEW WITH THE JUDGES

MEXICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

po box 1902 ■ lovington, nm 88260

MEMBERS

DAVID JIRON Chairman	Tatum	ROSE SCOTT	Hobbs
HECTOR RAMIREZ Vice Chairman ..	Hobbs	ELVA LEAL	Hobbs
ROSA DOPORTO Secretary	Lovington	GEORGE MARTINEZ	Hobbs
TRINI ALVARADO Corres Sec	Lovington	STEVE PEARCE	Hobbs
VERONICA GARCIA Treasurer ...	Lovington	DAVID GALLEGOS	Eunice
CHAY DOMINGUEZ	Lovington		

Estamos dedicados a promover nuestra cultura y herencia atravez de hechos en la comunidad.

A special appreciation to the Lea County Commission and the Fair Board for the support and confidence that has been extended to the Mexican Heritage Celebration Committee.

Gracias!

LEA COUNTY HISPANIC HONOREES

Past Honorees

	<u>LOVINGTON</u>	<u>HOBBS</u>	<u>TATUM</u>
1990	Ramon Acosta	Frances Valdez	Herminia Dorado
1991	Robert Garcia	Rose B. Scott	Bernadino Mendoza
1992	Joe A. Trujillo	Joe Calderon	David Jiron
1993	Jose C. Garcia	Hermilo Ojeda	Roy Lizardo
1994	Joe Valencia	Marcus Martinez	Juan Carbajal
	<u>EUNICE</u>	<u>JAL</u>	
1990	n/a	n/a	
1991	n/a	n/a	
1992	Alfonso San Cruz	Rita Morales	
1993	n/a	n/a	
1994	David Gallegos	Adelina Fino	

To honor a person who brings progress or does a noticable good deed in each of their town / area.

1995 Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen



Shelli Jones

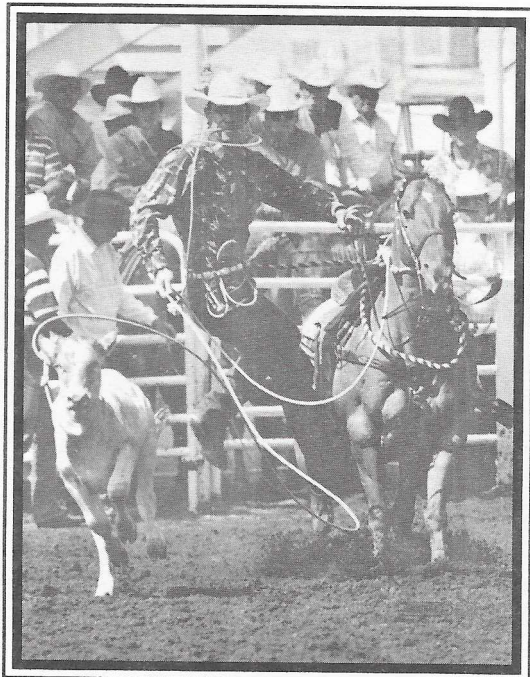
Past Fair Queens

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1956 • D'Aun Young-Lovington | 1975 • Delinda Williams-Lovington |
| 1957 • Norma Hurta-Jal | 1976 • Denise Mitchell-Hobbs |
| 1958 & 1959 • no queens named | 1977 • Rebecca Whited-Tatum |
| 1960 • Lennie Jo Love-Lovington | 1978 • Kathy Ross-Jal |
| 1961 • name unavailable | 1979 • Debby Madera-Jal |
| 1962 • Gwynne Gee-Hobbs | 1980 • Monica Davis-Lovington |
| 1963 • Barbara Parker-Hobbs | 1981 • Alma Trevizo-Lovington |
| 1964 • Resa Sherrill-Hobbs | 1982 • Patty Neal-Hobbs |
| 1965 • Margaret Henard-Lovington | 1983 • Shawna Blevins-Lovington |
| 1966 • Leah Pritchett-Lovington | 1984 • Shirley Barr-Lovington |
| 1967 • Lorita Rinehart-Hobbs | 1985 • Dawn Cargile-Tatum |
| 1968 • Judy Swift-Hobbs | 1986 • Patricia Weisler-Lovington |
| 1969 • Sheri Skelton-Hobbs | 1987 • Denise Murph-Lovington |
| 1970 • Judy Swift-Hobbs | 1988 • Lorie Davis-Lovington |
| 1971 • Debbie Jones-Tatum | 1989 • Dana Flemmons-Lovington |
| 1972 • Barbara Watson-Lovington | 1990 • Donna Pitts-Lovington |
| 1973 • Kathy Gordon-Hobbs | 1991 • Cherinell Bingham-Lovington |
| D'Linda Patman, runner-up | 1992 • Schylar Fort-Lovington |
| served out the term | 1993 • Sarah Bland-Tatum |
| 1974 • Gayla Norris-Jal | |

1994 Lea County Rodeo Event Winners



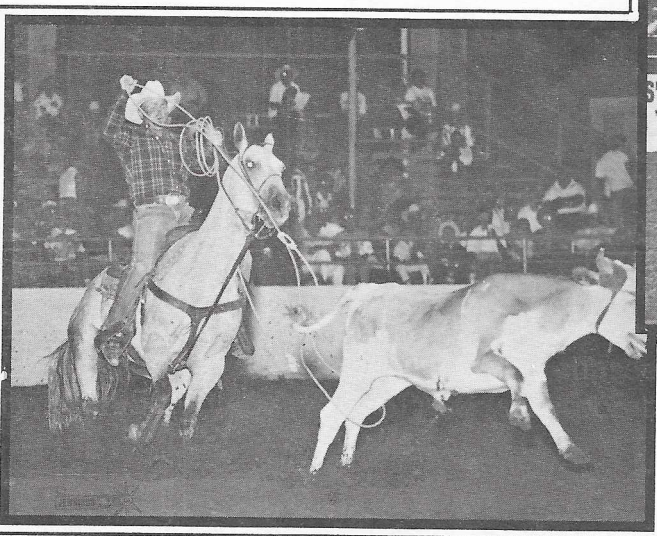
MARVIN GARRETT • Bareback Riding



CHAD SPRINGS • Calf Roping



CRAIG LATHAM • Saddle Bronc

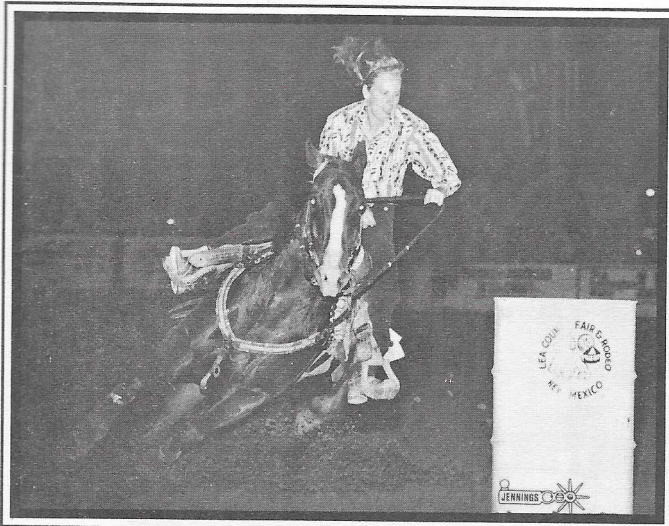


J.D. YATES • All-Around Champion



RUBE WOOLSEY & J.D. YATES
Team Roping

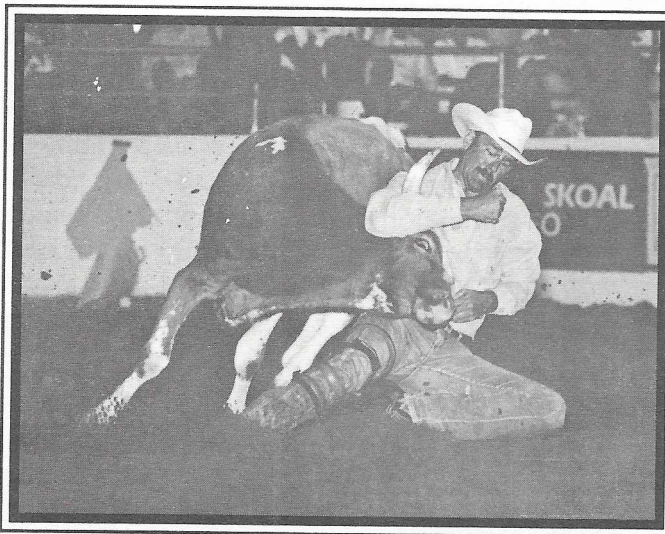
1994 Lea County Rodeo Event Winners



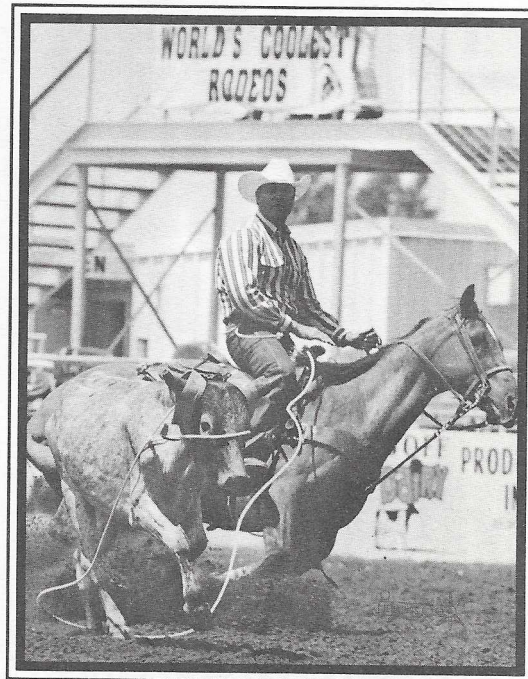
SHARON SMITH • Barrel Racing



TERRY ATCHISON • Steer Wrestling (split)



KEITH EASTER • Steer Wrestling (split)

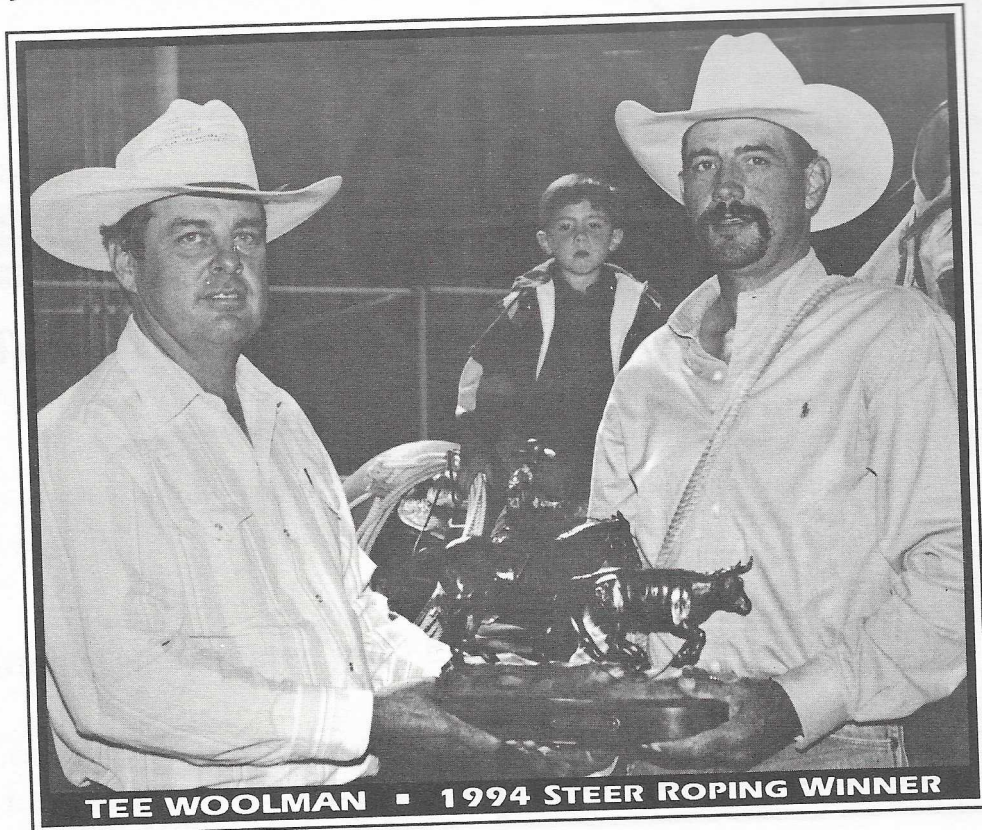


WADE LEWIS • Steer Roping



BRIAN HERMAN • Bull Riding

Troy Fort Memorial Scholarship Dinner & Roping



Troy Fort Memorial Scholarship Steer Roping

The Troy Fort Memorial Steer Roping takes place annually at Jake McClure Arena in Lovington. The top steer ropers in the world come to our area to honor Troy Fort and to participate in one of the best roping events in the country.

Troy Fort was born and raised in Lea County and put Lovington, New Mexico in the spotlight when he became World Champion Calf Roper. Troy followed in the tradition of his family by being not only a rancher, but a cowman: however he is noted for the support and encouragement he gave young rodeo hopefuls. The original plans for the Jake McClure Arena came from the pen of Troy Fort. He worked years to make the PRCA rodeo at Lovington one of the very best in the country and was always proud of the number of rodeo competitors who called Lea County home.

A chuck wagon dinner and dance is also held at the Lovington Country Club. The highlight of the evening is the drawing for a Hawaiian trip for two plus \$500.00 cash. The proceeds from the evening of fun will go directly to the scholarship fund. From the roping and evening at the Country Club, two \$1,000.00 scholarships per year are given to Lea County students participating in rodeo or agriculture. The scholarships are administered by the Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame and set up for use at New Mexico Junior College. The roping committee's aim is to continue the work Troy began by encouraging Lea County graduates to complete their college educations while using their talents at rodeo or love of agriculture.

HAWAIIAN TRIP WINNERS

1993 • Pat Smith
1994 • Bobby Shaw

STEER ROPING WINNERS

1993 • Rod Hartness
1994 • Tee Woolman

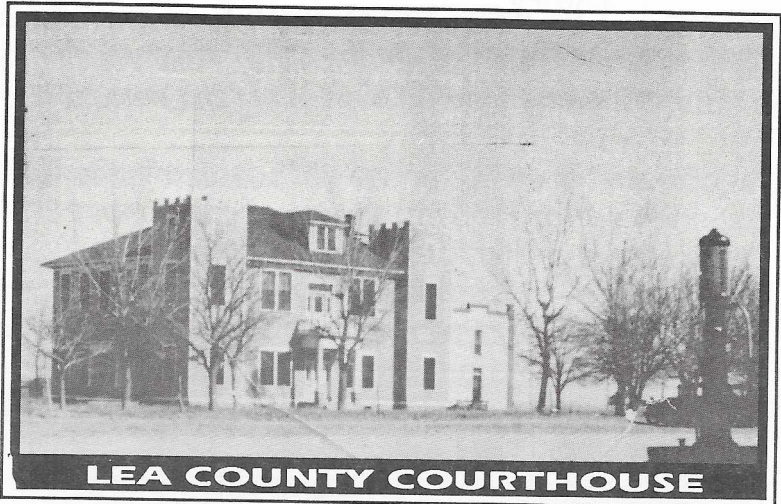
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Libby Berry
Danny Berry
Melvin Brehm
Tuffy Cooper

LaJean Burr
Cindy Dinwiddie
Clyde

Lea County Communities

MONUMENT	1900
KNOWLES	1903
LOVINGTON	1908
EUNICE	1909
TATUM	1909
JAL	1910
HOBBS	1910



Lea County was created from Eddy & Chaves Counties in 1917

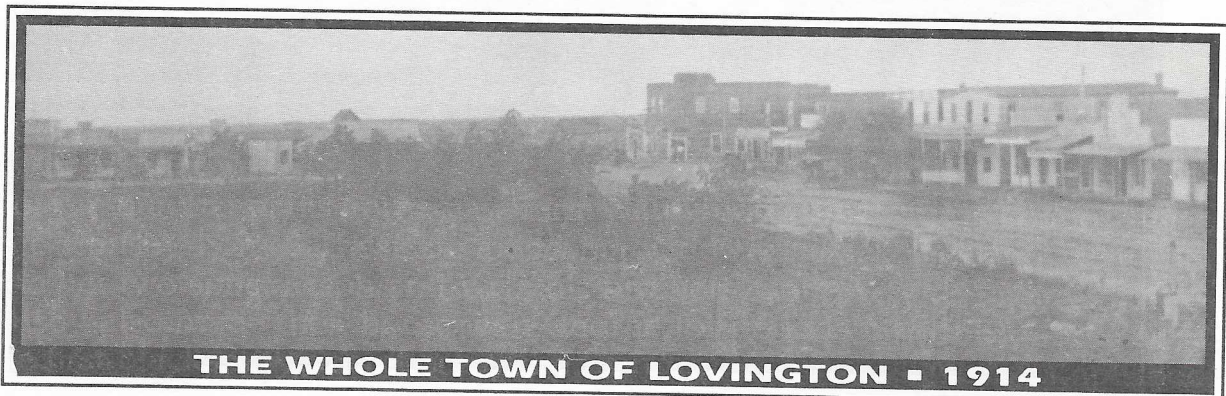
Lea County was named for Captain Joseph Calloway Lea. Captain Lea was the first Mayor of Roswell and father of the New Mexico Military Institute.

Lea County contains 4,393 square miles or 2,822,522 acres

Lea County is three times the size of Rhode Island and only slightly smaller than Connecticut.

From north to south the County spans 108 miles, the width at the widest point is 44 miles

In 1918 Lea County ranked third in the State in Production of beef animals.





JOHN HICE JR. WELDING

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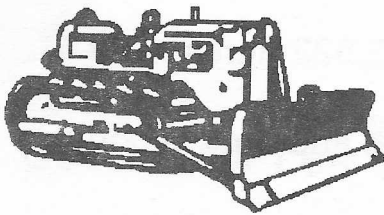
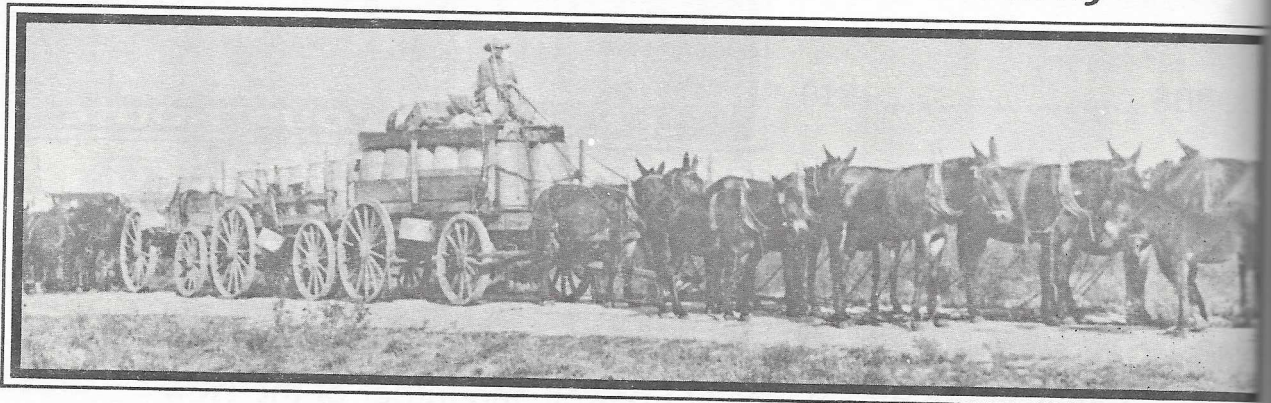
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Supporting Eunice and Lea County



JOHNSTON CONSTRUCTION INC.

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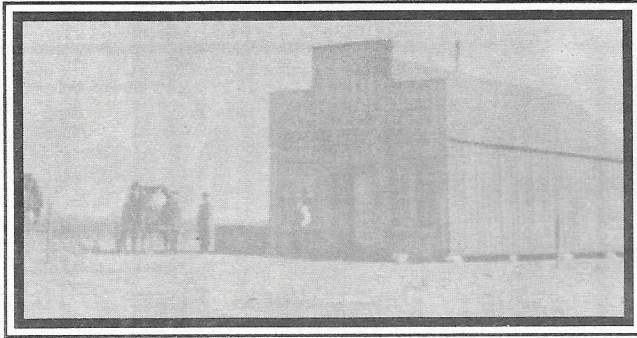
PO Box 837 • Eunice, NM 88231



MONUMENT

Monument, the first settlement on the Llano in what would later become Lea County, took its name from Monument Springs. The springs had been watering places for the early Indians of the region as well as buffalo hunters and later cattlemen and soldiers.

In 1875 Colonel William Rufus Shafter found the springs as he led his troops through this area and built a stone monument to attract travelers to the springs.



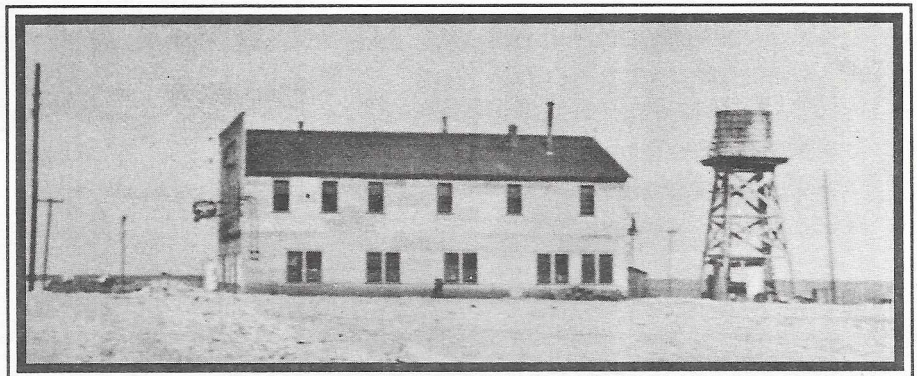
Buffalo hunters Jim Harvey and Dick Wilkerson built the rock house at the springs using caliche from Colonel Shafter's monument, this was in 1884.

The Cattle ranches followed the buffalo hunters and Hat Ranch headquarters was near Monument Spring. By the early 1900's, several homestead claims had been filed on within a few miles of the Spring. Jim Cook

is credited with the founding of the community of Monument when he set up his mercantile store to provide supplies to settlers and ranchers. December, 1900 saw the first post office located in Cook's store and the mail came in from Carlsbad by horseback once a week.

Monument's first school was started by Mrs. Rice in 1902 in the old rock buffalo hunter's house. A one room school building was built soon after and by 1910 eighty pupils were being taught by Miss Janie Phillips.

Monument gained a doctor when Dr. Arthur A. Dearduff migrated from Illinois because of his tuberculosis. The climate restored his health and he opened his practice in 1907.



As settlers poured into the area, a justice of the peace, J. Lewis Taylor was elected and Tom Bingham served as deputy sheriff. These two men had plenty of duties when the cowboys got rowdy at The Pepperbox Saloon. It was said the name came about because the walls were full of bullet holes.

A Baptist minister and his wife came from Midland and with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Record the Baptist Church was started. As in other communities, the school house also served as the church.

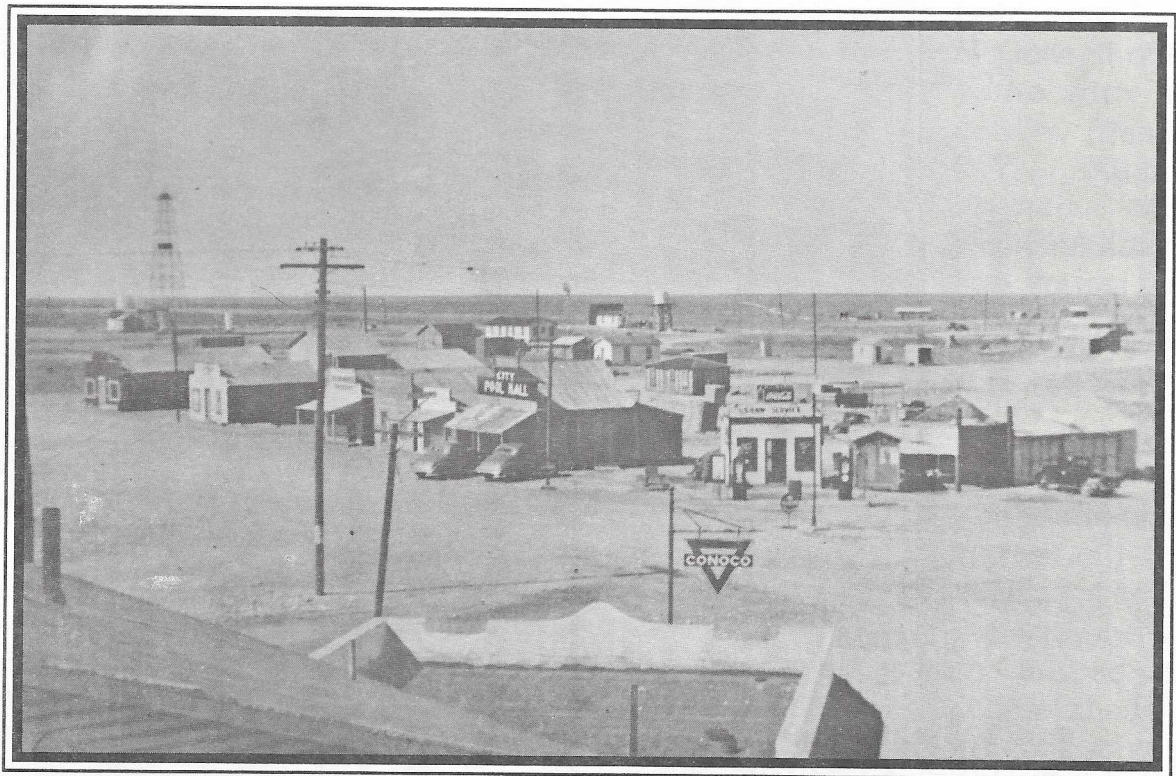
MONUMENT, cont.

Two blacksmiths served the Monument area and one also had a livery stable. Other enterprises were the Monument Hotel built by Jack Waters, a drug store owned by Harry Gaither, another mercantile and a barbershop. Mr. Gaither and Bert Weir also built a dance hall near the main street. Three grocery stores



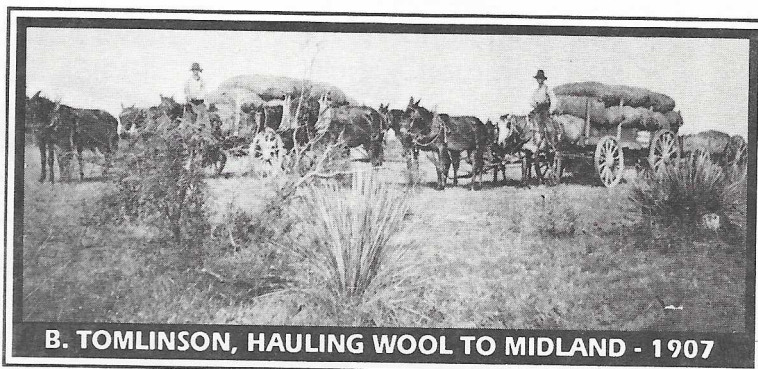
supplied the many settlers coming to the area.

Twenty years later, the discovery of oil would change this small community from a cowtown to an oil boom town for a time with hundreds of people flooding the area looking for work and willing to live in any kind of shelter.



KNOWLES

The community of Knowles began like so many that sprang up on the Llano plains - with an enterprising settler who built a home and supply store. Many times these were only half-dugouts, but they served the purpose. Ben F. Knowles established his claim in what was then Eddy County 1903 about 18 miles northeast of Monument Spring and seven miles southeast of the old Highlonesome headquarters owned by A.C. Heard and Charlie White. Knowles soon established a post office along with his other enterprises.



B. TOMLINSON, HAULING WOOL TO MIDLAND - 1907

Competition came to the fledgling community with another mercantile store started by A.J. Heard and J. L. Toole and this became a center for the cowboys and settlers to meet.



KNOWLES HOTEL, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE BANK - 1911

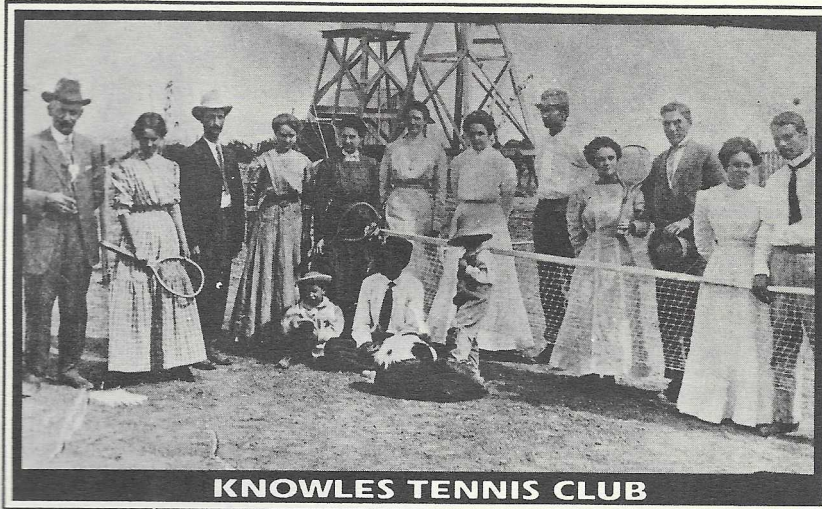
Barbeques, dances, riding contests, steer roping were all held and Clay McGonagil often came with his cowboy friends. D.Y. Musick opened the blacksmith shop and Robert Florence Love opened the Love Hotel.

Trouble developed for the little community in that all the

businesses were on public lands so no one could claim ownership of a residence or the land. It was determined by several of the business people to move the settlement a half mile south where patented land was available. George Lucas from Carlsbad was engaged to move the buildings and using his mules and wagons he accomplished the task by September, 1908. The Knowles Townsite Company was born consisting of John Emerson, Toole, Heard, M.S. Groves, and D.D. Clark. Emerson was able to put together eighty acres of the Toole Homestead and 160 acres of the Highlonesome Ranch for the town plat.

KNOWLES, cont.

Knowles held promise for becoming a large and thriving community as it doubled in size within a short time and numerous businesses sprang up. A pharmacy owned by



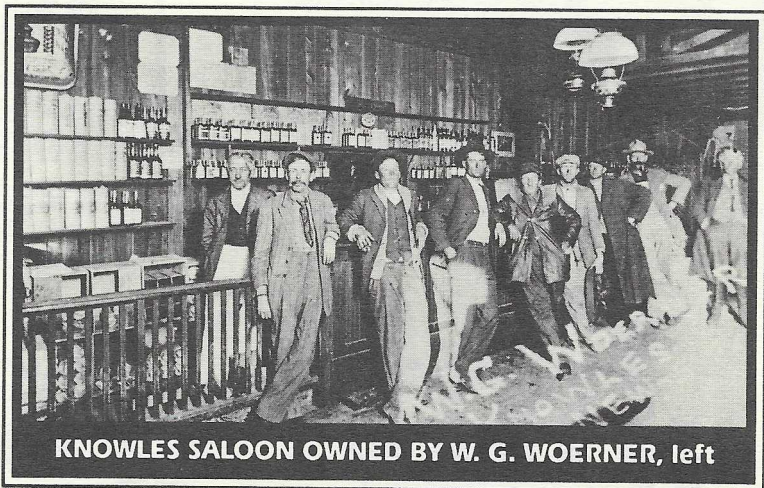
KNOWLES TENNIS CLUB

D. H. Coleman, the Knowles Cash Grocery and Dry Goods opened by Jack Russell and the Hosteller's Restaurant which was famed for its oysters on the half shell opened during this period. W. H. Mullane started a weekly paper KNOWLES NEWS on May 24, 1909, calling Knowles, "The metropolis of the Plains". The community could also boast of a school with 135

pupils, two Methodist churches, a Baptist Church and freighting companies that were constantly busy.

Culture was evident in Knowles with the Dramatic Stock Company made up of community players who put on such plays as "The Mountain Waif" and "Uncle Rube". Woodmen of the World and the Pocahantas Club were formed and the Knowles Tennis Club was active. Henry Teague even sold a complete line of men's clothing including suits by Hart, Schaffner and Marx. The First National Bank had capital of \$25,000 and was offering full services.

Though Knowles' future looked promising, several factors contributed to its eventual decline. In 1910 hopes were very high that a railroad would come through Knowles. The Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railroad was to come from Paducah to Carlsbad passing through Knowles and also the Rock Island, Farwell, and Gulf Railway would come from Texico to Knowles on to Midland County and Kerrville. By the spring of 1912 all hope of a railroad coming through was gone and ironically the sinking of the Titanic was a factor. English gold that was to finance building of railroads and investing in ranches in southeastern New Mexico sank with the ship. Lovington became the county seat and therefore a central trade center.



KNOWLES SALOON OWNED BY W. G. WOERNER, left

Lea County Records Set

All-Time Career Earnings thru 1994

Roy Cooper • \$1,489,698.00

Most Money Won In One Year In One Event

Guy Allen-Steer Roping-\$57,338.00

Most World Titles

Guy Allen-Steer Roping-9

Don Gay-Bull Riding-8

Dean Oliver-Calf Roping-8

National Finals Rodeo Records

Most Qualifications in All Events Combined

Roy Cooper - 27 times

Olin Young - 26 times

Cowboys Qualifying Most Times In One Event

Guy Allen - Steer Roping - 18 times

Sonny Davis - Steer Roping - 16 times

Roy Cooper - Calf Roping - 16 times

Cowboys Qualifying In Three Different Events

Neil Love - Calf & Team Roping &

Steer Wrestling

Jimmie Cooper - Calf & Team Roping &

Steer Wrestling

Winner of the Most NFR Averages - Olin Young-7

Winners of the Most NFR Averages in a Single Event

Calf Roping - Olin Young - 4, Roy Cooper - 3

Steer Roping - Olin Young - 3, Roy Cooper - 3

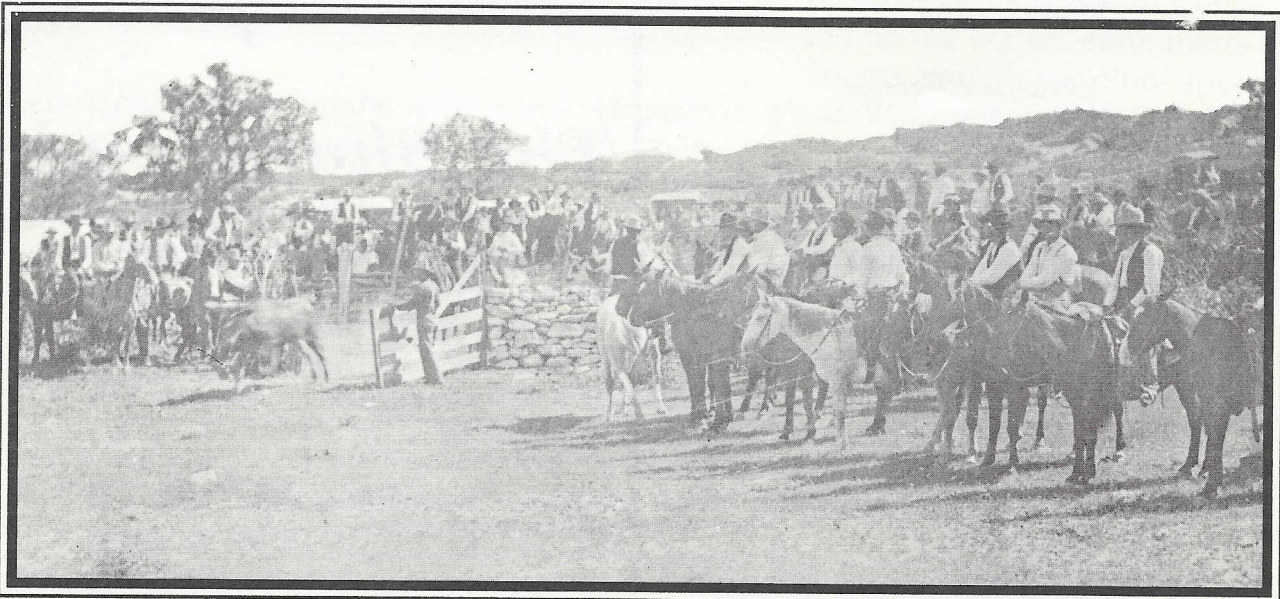
1976 - Roy Cooper Won in Calf Roping:

Rookie of the Year

NFR Average

PRCA Champion Title

World Champion Title



LOVINGTON

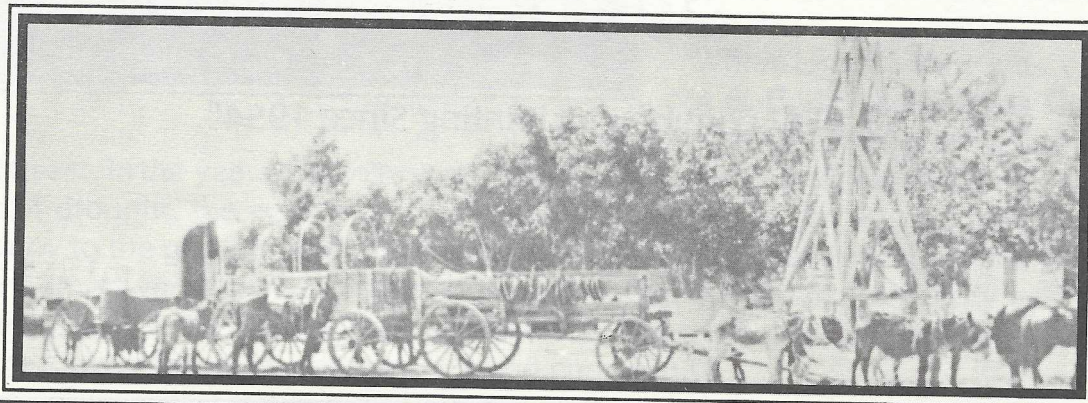
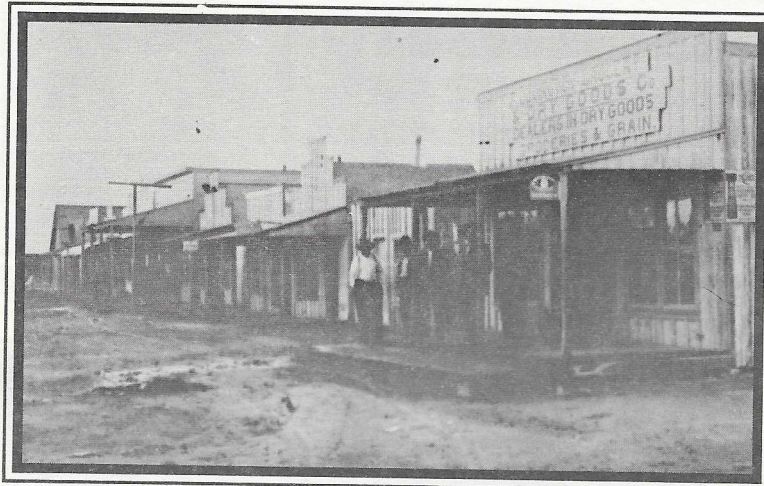
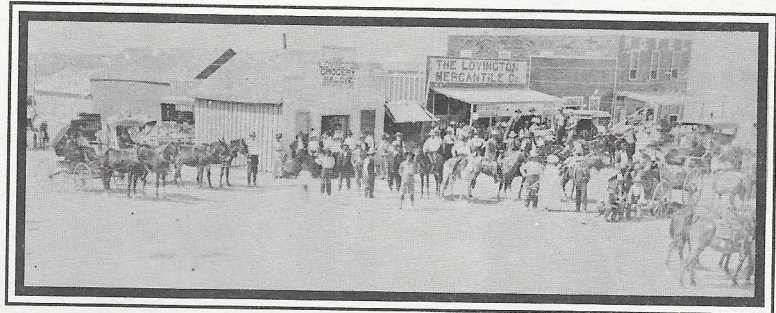
Robert Florence Love and his brother James Ben Love came to the area that would later be the site of the community of Lovington in the early 1900's. Though R.F. Love filed on a claim in 1903 he originally was instrumental in the development of Knowles. By 1907, Mr. R.F. Love had returned to his original homestead near present-day Lovington and his brother Jim had filed on an adjoining claim.

In 1907, Mr. R.F. Love deeded some of his homestead land to Mr. Charles M. Burks to create a townsite. Another portion of his homestead was deeded to Wesley McCallister, a land commissioner from Seminole. Mr. McCallister surveyed and mapped the original town. Apparently the naming of the new community was not as simple. When application was made for a post office, federal officials

turned down the suggested name "Loving" since one already existed. After much discussion it was determined to add "ton" and Lovington was born. The Post Office was established in September, 1908.

Jim Love was the first merchant of the new community opening his mercantile store on May 7, 1908. The same year, ranchers and community leaders built the first school working on the construction themselves and depending upon

Cebe Chestnut to haul the lumber from Hagerman. Mr. J. W. Conley taught that first term in the not yet complete school with nineteen students six to nineteen years of age. The new school grew rapidly as outlying families took advantage of free townsites to send their children to school.



LOVINGTON, cont.

By 1909, Lovington boasted the First Territorial Bank with Oscar Thompson as president, J.S. Eaves and J.D. Hart as vice-presidents and R.R. James and L.M. Blackmon as cashiers. The first newspaper, THE LOVINGTON LEADER, was established. The first transportation or car line was started carrying mail and passengers between Lovington and Midland, Texas by Greg Scoggin and his Buick with a convertible top. Mr. Scoggin was lucky to make the round trip once a week.

Dow and Rollins built a two line telephone system in Lovington in 1909 and it was managed by Clara Creighton and her brother Claude. This system grew to thirty-five telephones and the Creightons eventually sold out to F.E. Beckwith.

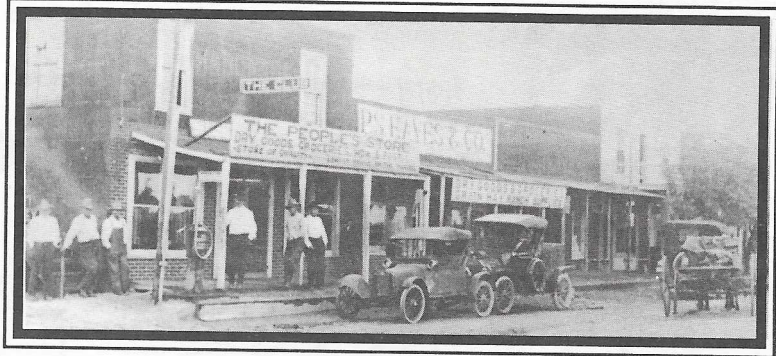
Two livery stables were located in the town owned by Arch Crawford and Floyd Martin and a few automobiles existed which had difficulty moving more than fifteen miles an hour in the sand and ruts of wagon trails. Freighting by wagon was still the way supplies reached this isolated area. Midland was one hundred miles away and Roswell or Carlsbad sometimes were used by early haulers Frank Teague, Jack Teague, and John Henderson.

On October 24, 1909 the First Presbyterian Church was organized as the first religious effort in the community. Mrs. Lula N. Jones gave the lots for the church. The following year the First Baptist Church and the First Methodist Church were organized.

By 1910, Lovington was the largest community in the area with a population of around 1200. In 1911, the high school opened and among the first graduating class of 1915 were Elmer Burks, Mary Eaves, Mayme Hart and Bertie Moffatt.

When Lea County was created out of Eddy and Chaves Counties in 1917, Lovington became the

county seat. In the years that followed, Lovington endured numerous hardships-several years of drought, the economic recession of the 20's, the fire that burned the utility company to the ground. With the encouragement of community leaders such as Luke Roberts improvement began on improving the road system in the county and paving of streets. By the 1930's and 40's oil was being discovered in the area and this was to change forever this farm and ranch based community.





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TATUM

Tatum, the crossroads on the high plains, began with the arrival of James Green Tatum August 9, 1909. Mr. Tatum along with his wife Mattie and daughter Martha James made the trip from San Antonio to Roswell and traveled by wagon and team across the Pecos River to reach his 320 acre homestead on the Llano Estacado.

James Tatum had been in the mercantile business and hoped to take advantage of the need for supplies that existed in the area. Numerous settlers had begun to come into the area and this made an ideal site for a general store. The Tatum General Mercantile Company was born and an application for a post office soon followed. Three names were submitted to the

Washington Postal Department - Tatum, Martha James and Bilderback (another early settler that came in 1910). The Tatum Post Office permit was granted in 1909 and Mrs. Mattie Tatum was the first postmaster.

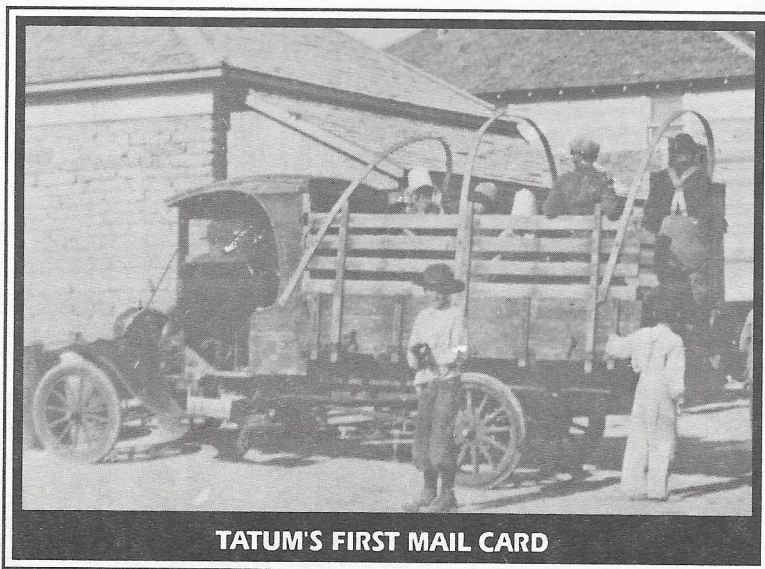
In the operation of his store, Mr. Tatum had to make long freight hauling trips to Roswell or Elida. At times these trips would take two weeks. Meanwhile it was up to Mrs. Tatum to deliver and pick-up mail besides running the general store.

By 1912 the Tatum School District had been formed. Dr. Charles Bridges, O.M. Daniel, and E.J. Fox traveled to Roswell to establish the school. Because funds were desperately needed for the building, box suppers and rodeos were held to raise the money. \$400.00 was raised to pay for the building materials that were hauled from Elida in wagons. The school patrons donated their labor and James Tatum

donated the two acres for that first white two-story schoolhouse. The first term began in 1912 with Miss Belle Norton as the teacher. The students included Anita Bridges,



TOM JAMES IN DOORWAY OF HIS DRUG STORE • 1919



TATUM'S FIRST MAIL CARD

TATUM, cont.

Willie, Mattie, and Earl Daniel, Robert and Lowell Fox, Dana Howard, Joseph James, Lambert Eaton, Lydia and Earl Seals and Mary London.

Tatum's first doctor arrived in 1911. Dr. C. Bridges arrived with his wife who was in frail health and he filed on a homestead claim. Dr. Ruff arrived the following year to set up his practice.

Many of the smaller outlying schools consolidated with the Tatum District including Warren, Ranger Lake, McDonald, King, Bagley, Collum, Caprock, Mescalero, High Top, Gladiola, Crossroads and Pitchfork. By 1920 a new eight room school was built. In the

early days of the school, church services were also held there. Reverend J.W. Allen held the first service for the Methodist Church.

By 1912, J. W. (Mood) Smith and his family had established the first drug store while W.H. Anderson put in the first hardware store in 1914. The Tatum State Bank was organized in 1916 by W.H. Anderson, M.R. Anderson, Jim Anderson, Ott Ander-

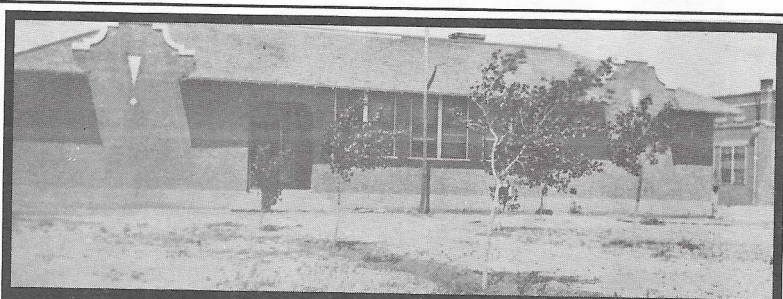
son, and George Bilderback. THE PLAINS DEMOCRAT was published by J. U. Williams in 1917 and Tatum had a newspaper. Tatum could boast a hotel opened by C. P. Byles in 1915 and a blacksmith shop in 1913 with J.J. Seals as owner.

Tom Howard James brought the first telephone system to the Tatum Community in 1912. The party-line central switchboard style was located in the Tom Bess home and Georgia Bess and her daughter Jewell were the operators.

Phone lines ran along the tops of fence wire and were attached to the fence posts.

Tatum Power and Light was established in the early 1920's bringing electricity to the area. A diesel plant with two engines generated about fifty kilowatts of power and you were never certain about the reliability of the system. If you could hear the hum of the engine you could get electricity, otherwise you were out of luck!

From its pioneer beginnings as the center of the Littlefield Cattle Company's Four Lakes Ranch, Tatum has become a modern and close-knit community whose economy still depends on good ranch land and abundant water.



TATUM SCHOOL BUILDING ■ 1920

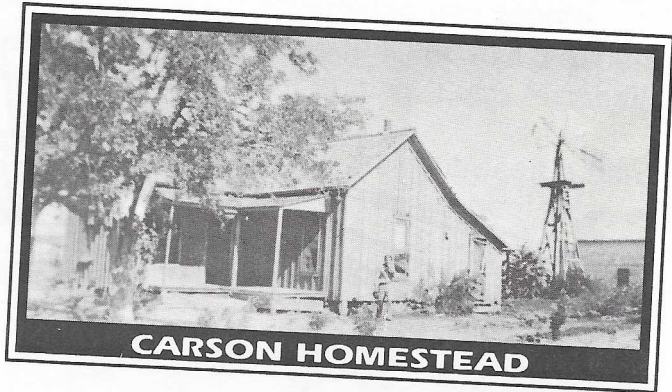


FIRST AIRPLANE THAT LANDED AT TATUM AFTER WWI

EUNICE

The early settlers to the Eunice area would have been the Daugherty brothers whose "84" Ranch headquarters was two miles east of what would become the town of Eunice. Before this time however, ex-buffalo hunters Barney and Jim Whalen claimed the area in 1885 by digging a well. They sold their water rights to Daugherty in 1886, and the 84 Ranch eventually became part of the Cowden Cattle Company of Midland.

In 1908 John N. Carson of Shafter Lake, Texas came to the area and plowed a furrow around his homestead to make a claim. In 1909, Carson brought his family from Shafter Lake and built a home and store. When Carson applied for a post office for the area, he listed his daughter's name, Eunice, at the bottom of the list. In June, 1909 he received approval along with the name "Eunice" for his post office.



CARSON HOMESTEAD

According to historical accounts, the Carson home was a two room and shed house constructed of lumber hauled in from Midland. The general store and post office was also built of lumber. W.S. Marshall carried the mail free of charge from Shafter Lake to complete the federal requirement for the post office at Eunice.

In 1910 after raising the money for the school themselves, a one room building was completed which was on land donated by Carson and Mrs. Mat Downes. There were 23 students that first term and the teacher was Winnie Wyatt. In 1910, the teacher was Jessie Estlack who rode her mule three miles to the school.



ENTIRE SCHOOL - 1929

In 1910, the Reeders and Norton General Merchandise opened with its stock of groceries, dry goods and hardware. W.F. Turner drilled many of the water wells, established the blacksmith shop and the grist mill. Later he opened a grocery business with L.G. Warlick.

The Carson home was the center for weekly musicals with Eunice playing the piano and Lee Downes and Marshall Drinkard playing violin while Ed Carson played the guitar and Will Grizzell played mandolin.

Many socials, dances, rodeos and community sings made up the social life of the small community. The school house was the center for church services and picnics. The Methodist, Baptist and Christian Church organized and met in the schoolhouse.

EUNICE, cont.

To provide medical care, Eunice community leaders advertised they would provide a four room home and a Model T Ford for rounds if a doctor would relocate to their town. Dr. Wright and his large family accepted, but Eunice citizens were too healthy to provide him with enough income!

The EUNICE PLAINS DEMOCRAT started publication March 28, 1914. Legal notices of proved up claims kept it in business because advertising was scarce.

In 1915, the one room school had expanded to three rooms and five teachers were hired. They included Lucille Woodward, Edith Davis Fanning, LuLu Marshall, and Ruby Manning.

The blizzard of 1918, the flue epidemic and the terrible drought dealt a hard blow to the small community as it did all the southern plains. The school year of 1922 re-

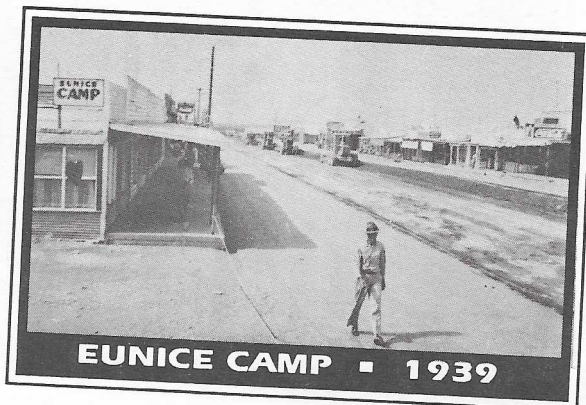
flected the hardship when only one teacher was needed for the students.

Miss Mettie

Jordan came for the 1925-26 term and related that her students ranged in age from 6 to 17.

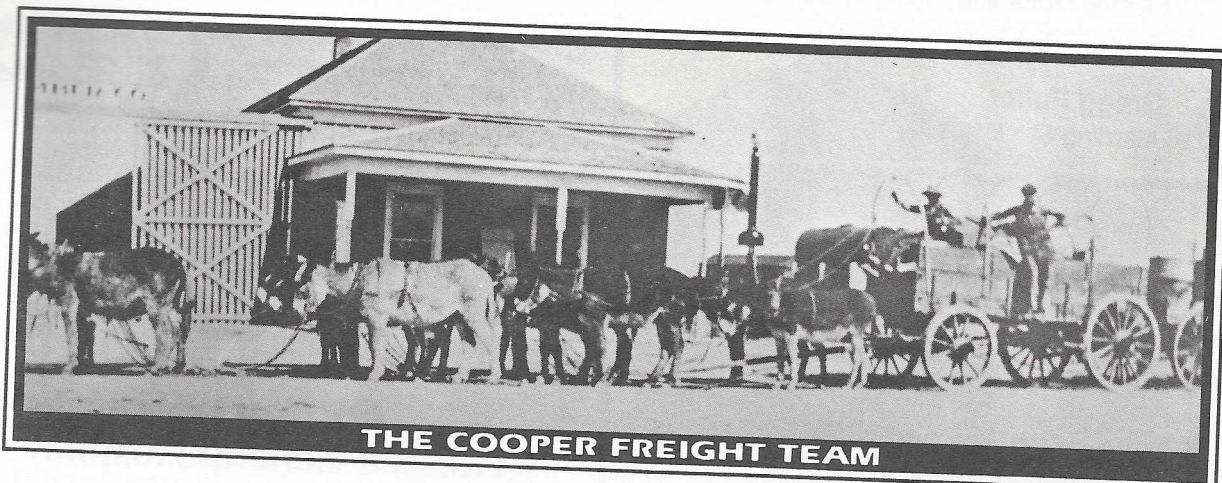
In 1928, Herman Carson, son of the town's founder platted the townsite with the Carson Homestead in the center and sold lots in anticipation of a boom if oil and gas speculation continued. He proved correct when that same year the Gypsy #1 State was completed as a gas producer and in 1929 Continental brought in the first oil well in the Eunice area. By 1930 the population was 250 and a railroad spur through Eunice was being built. Oil prices fell with the great Depression, but Eunice rebounded in 1935 with renewed drilling activity. The school mushroomed and in 1934-35 financed construction of the first six brick school rooms.

September 3, 1935 W.S. Marshall, James Nuget and Mr. Emery met to form the village government. April, 1937 Governor Tingley proclaimed Eunice a city. The little ranching community had come of age.



JAL

The Cowden Brothers had operated the vast JAL Ranch since 1886 coming from Palo Pinto County, Texas. The lure of shallow water and good grass led to their coming to the Monument Draw bringing cattle branded with the JAL brand. They established waterings about every ten miles up the draw. Spencer Jowell, Gene Cowden,



Autry Moore, and Stumpy Roundtree all ran the New Mexico Cowden Ranch at one time. The last foreman before the company closed out in 1915 was Bob Beverly. Settlers began to pour into the area to claim their homesteads as they learned of the grass and shallow water. Some of them would later sell out as they realized the isolation of the area because of vast sands and the impossibility of dry-land farming. This allowed small ranches to come into existence as homesteaders sold out and moved.

The founder of Jal was Charles W. Justis, a Southern gentleman who arrived before 1910 and opened his mercantile business six miles east of the present city of Jal. On July 6, 1910 he was granted authority to open his post office. To obtain his permit, his sons had to carry the mail from Kermit (25 miles) three months for no charge. As Justis determined a site more suitable to his store existed, he moved his business to the present day site of Jal in 1916.

The fall of 1912 saw the first school for Jal with about 14 students. The lumber was hauled from Midland for building the 12x14 one room school house. Leroy Lancaster was the first teacher and he soon married his student Buna Justis, Charles's daughter. As the number of pupils grew, Eddy County purchased a larger building twenty miles away in Texas and the patrons had to move the structure over the sands to the new site three miles east of the present school.



HENRITTA KNIGHT

JAL, cont.

The drought hit this area very hard and many settlers either moved away or were forced to leave their families and find work elsewhere. The school closed but Justis' store and post office remained. The school hung on with Martha Woolworth and later Bessie Black Knowles as teachers for the few pupils.

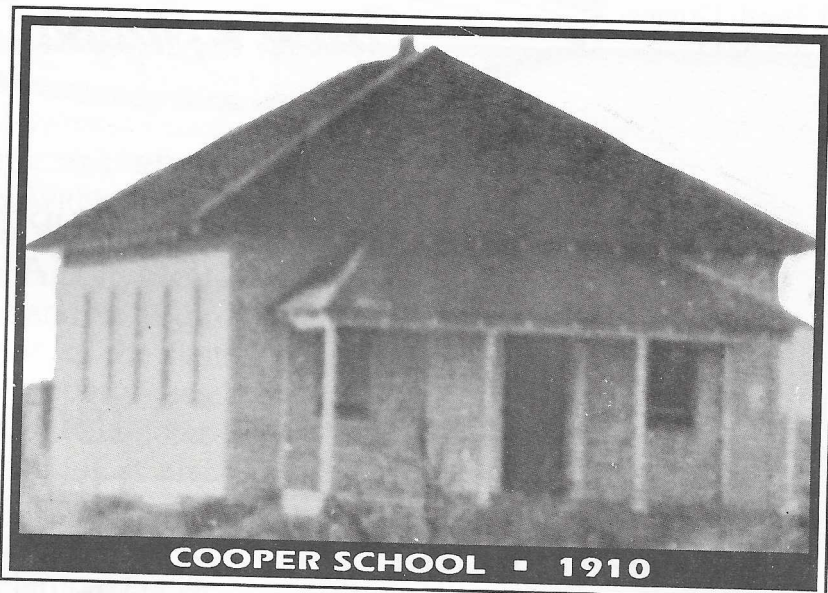
For the next decade, life in Jal centered around the various ranches where neighbors gathered for musicals and dances, barbeques and visiting. West of Jal the Charlie Goedeke home was a gathering place and on the East was the Knight place where Mrs. Knight would play the piano and the French harp. Some of the other set-

tlers of the area were Charlie and Jim Dublin, the Buffingtons, Billy and Mont Beckham and Alfred Perry Eaton.

The exploration and discovery of oil and gas made major changes in the small settlement of Jal. On November 1, 1927, The Texas company brought in the Rhodes No. 1 six miles southeast of Jal and in June 1928 Continental Oil Company brought in Eaves No. 1 and Jal became Lea County's first oil and gas boom town.

With the influx of speculators, drilling crews and construction workers came the tents and shacks and formation of two townsite companies that were in competition. The Hubbs-Justis Townsite Company took in north Jal and the Jal Townsite Company formed by Floyd Stuart, Richard Herwig, and Clyde Woolworth took in the southern area. The Herwig Company became the area where most of Jal developed. The depression hit and crude oil prices fell along with Jal's prosperity, but El Paso Natural Gas Company came in 1931 with gas gathering lines to provide employment that was to prove a stable force in Jal for years to come.

By 1935, Jal had four service stations, two dry goods stores, two drug stores, three lumber yards and even a movie theater. The Woolworth Hotel was in operation and served meals. New Mexico Electric Company came in 1935 and a telephone system of sorts was operating. In 1935, Dr. J.L. Burke was superintendent of schools and a four year high school started. THE JAL RECORD owned by Floy Wynn was founded in 1950. Dr. Burke purchased the Herwig Townsite Company and donated land for church building sites. Jal was on its way to becoming the "Gas Capital" of the country.



COOPER SCHOOL - 1910

Hobbs

When the James Isaac Hobbs family changed their course of travel from the Davis Mountain country to the plains of southeastern New Mexico in 1907 they had little idea what effect they would have on the future of the area. Mr. Hobbs' wife Fannie and son James Berry Hobbs suffered from "consumption" and the family's move from Brown County, Texas was calculated to restore their health. Twin daughters Minnie and Winnie, ten years old, completed the family.

Other settlers had come to the area before the Hobbs family, lured by the free land. W.D. Marshall was already established on his homestead and helped Mr. Hobbs build the dugout to house his family. Within a short time a flood of settlers came to file on homestead claims and by 1909 about fifty families lived in the area. Mr. Hobbs and his neighbors financed the construction of the first school located on the Hobbs property- east of the present Marland and Dal Paso intersection. A typical frontier school, it also served as the meeting place for church services and parents provided the mesquite for the stove and coal oil for the lamps. Lucille Howe taught 42 students that first three month term and was paid by the territorial government in Santa Fe.

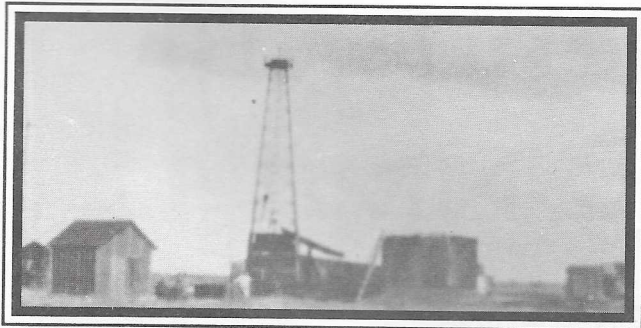
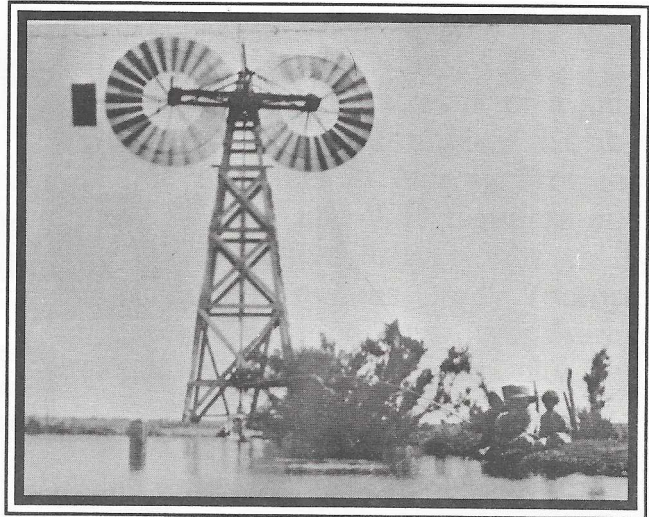
Berry Hobbs established a mercantile store in 1909 and beginning in January 1910 the post office was in operation from the same building. Names submitted in the application were Taft and Prairieview, but the new post office was named for the Hobbs family.

William A. Dunnam moved into the area in 1909, purchased the Marshall and Morgan Story land. When his wife May Pearl died, she was buried on the property and the plot became chartered a public cemetery. In 1947, the city would purchase this cemetery and name it Prairie Haven. Bismarck Turner, for whom Turner Street is named bought Hobbs Mercantile from Berry Hobbs and relocated it to his property. Later however, Berry Hobbs purchased the business again and his brother-in-law, Ernest Byers took the post office into an enclosed area of his porch.

June 13, 1928 was a day that changed the future of Hobbs for Midwest Refining

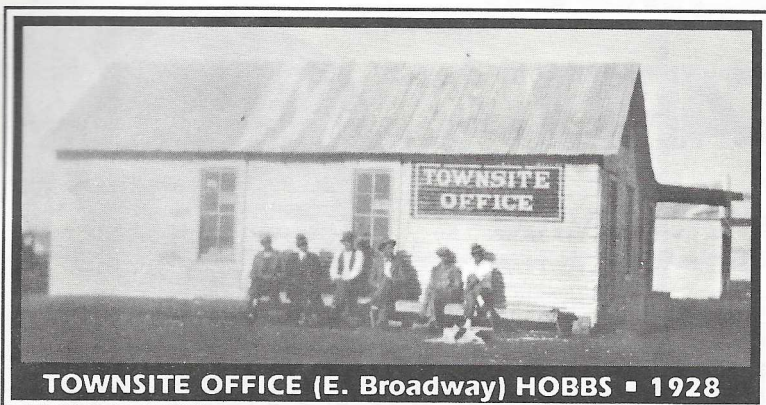
Company struck oil in Will Terry's pasture. Up to this time Hobbs had been a community made up of a general store, school and scattered settlers' homes. After oil was discovered jobless people, speculators, and their followers came to Hobbs by the hundreds. They camped in the open, slept in chicken houses and lived in tar-paper shacks and gave rise to dance halls, taverns and skating rinks as they looked for entertainment. The dusty streets were oiled with crude

and nighttime seemed like daylight as the flares burned brightly.



Hobbs, cont.

During these boom years, four "settlements" were clamoring for recognition - Hobbs, New Hobbs, All Hobbs and Borger. Borger was never more than a townsite with no development and it soon disappeared,



TOWNSITE OFFICE (E. Broadway) HOBBS • 1928

All Hobbs was overtaken by the other two "towns" and Hobbs and New Hobbs would continue to be rivals for another decade before finally merging in May, 1937. This came about as a result of a joint meeting between New Hobbs Mayor James M. Murray, Trustees F.C. Ward and W.F. Edwards and representatives from Hobbs which included Trustees Grady Thompson, C.W. Jobe, and John Brand.

They agreed to hold an election with the question being unifying into one community. The vote was overwhelming in favor of unification.

By 1930, the population of Hobbs was estimated at 14,000 and the community consisted of two movie theaters, the large brick Harden Hotel, nineteen pool halls, thirty-four drug stores and fifty-three barber shops besides assorted taverns and dance halls. The Hobbs and New Hobbs school boards consolidated in 1932 and the new system opened with over 600 students. Fifty-seven drilling rigs operated in the Hobbs field.

The latter 1930's saw the depression and declining oil prices stop Hobbs' explosive growth. As a result, the city asked J.F. Maddox's electrical company to reduce its rates, Roy Moyston's Hobbs Gas Company also lowered rates and Clifford Lasley held the police and fire chief's post at \$50.00 a month. Oil activity resumed in 1934 and Hobbs was considered one of the fastest growing cities in the country.

Mr. James Isaac Hobbs died in 1923 before Hobbs' underground riches were discovered, but his widow Fannie "Grandma Hobbs" lived until 1942 and saw the incredible changes the frontier settlement experienced. Their son, James Berry Hobbs, also a pioneer businessman died in 1930 at age 42.



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