

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Early Days in Luling, Texas

by

A Pioneer Citizen

(Anne C. Huff Bridges)

with corrections and some additions

by her daughter

Mary Louise Bridges Witt

Dedicated to
The Citizens of Luling, Texas
Especially those of
Pioneer Descent

FOREWORD

This treatise was published in serial form in "The Luling Signal" in 1945.

The author modestly concealed her identity by using as a by-line the following: By a Pioneer Citizen. It is a true account of the times and customs prevailing during her own childhood and early youth.

Born May 26, 1862, during the conflict between the North and South, Anne Corder Huff grew up on the plantation of her father, Leonard Corder Huff. A photostat at Lamar Tech in Beaumont shows that L. C. Huff, born in Tennessee, was 47 years old, had 4,000 acres of land, other assets to the value of \$65,000. His second wife (nee Martha Louise Meriwether) was then 23 years old and is erroneously listed as born in Georgia. She was actually born in Tennessee. The children listed were her step-children.

In 1880, Anne Huff was married to James Pierce Bridges, founder, owner, editor of "The Luling Signal," a widower with one child. As far as she could without neglect of home duties, Mrs. Bridges took part in the civic, religious, and social life of the town. With her keen intellect, she was a help to him in his career. In addition to his work as a newspaper man, he became a writer of plays and poetry, a politician, known

Throughout the state for his oratory, and a civic leader in his home town where he served as mayor and school trustee, also as a major in the home guard, appointed by Gov. John Ireland.

After the death of her husband on February 12, 1893, Mrs. Bridges took over as editor of the paper. She soon found it was better to lease it and turn to a sideline Mr. Bridges had worked up. She became the third lady fire insurance agent in Texas. For thirty years she was engaged in that business, and through the kindness shown her by relatives and friends, including her husband's fellow lodge members, she became the leading fire insurance agent in the town. More than one business man in Luling has said, "Mrs. Bridges is the smartest woman in town."

During the time she was writing this column, she remarked, "I have never put myself forward, but always hid behind some man."

That was her wish, from the days of her beloved uncle, John Meriwether, through her married life, and afterward to her retirement, through her capable sons. She raised four sons and a daughter.

Anne C. Bridges, as she signed her policies, died in Luling February 26, 1960. Before retiring from her insurance agency she helped several other ladies enter that occupation. She was a charter member of every worth while organization of the town, including the Cemetery Society, Order of Eastern Star, Rebekah Lodge, Pythian Sisters, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Woman's Club (which merged with P.T.A.), Ladies' Study Club-no, by then she was willing to let her daughter take over.

Three of her sons became newspaper editors and owners. The oldest, J. P. Bridges, went to Cuero where he had a big part in putting over the famous Cuero Turkey Trot. He later became County Clerk and still later Justice of the Peace. He died in November, 1963. H. Frank Bridges owned newspapers at Waelder, Flatonia, and at Nixon where his grandson, G. Frank Bridges, is now editor. L. E. Bridges had no inclination toward newspaper work. He became a cattle man and farmer, using some of the land that had belonged to his grandfather. He died February 9, 1950, always a Lulingite. L. H. Bridges, the youngest son, is present proprietor of "The Luling Signal," with his daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Edwards, as editor. In charge of the printing department is her husband, Robert Edwards, and the linotype operator is J. P. Bridges III, though Hal still does some of that himself.

The daughter, Mrs. Louise Bridges Witt became a teacher in public schools, later turning to private work with pre-school children. Her certificate states "good for life," so she is still teaching, though she limits her class, since she is in her 80th year. She also compiles family history and genealogy, and is the author of this sketch. February 14, 1965

AFTERWORD

Among the papers left by Mrs. Bridges was found these poignant couplets, which is an explanation in itself why she did not write more of her married life and her widowhood.

Happiness
Handsome, gallant husband
Loving little wife;
Healthy, romping children
The ideal married life.

Misery
Little wife a widow
Husband in the ground;
Children all in tatters
Scarce food to go around

Mrs. Bridges was never a person to indulge in self-pity, and she had little patience with people who did. In spite of her busy life she was always available to nurse the sick, lay out the dead (before the day of morticians), care for children and comfort the troubled and sorrowing.

At the time of her death notices appeared in many big city dailies, including Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Houston. As the widow of a past president and charter member of Texas Press Association, and mother and grandmother of prominent present day members of that organization, she was well known and highly regarded in Press circles. Her youngest son, Hal, was elected President of South Texas Press Association in 1949 with his brother, Frank, as his assistant. Frank has fame on his own

account as the father of the largest newspaper family in Texas, including his only son, his two daughters, two grandsons, and others. He carries a gold headed cane awarded to his father as President of Texas Press Association at the close of his year's tenure in 1889- the 8th president. His son-in-law, C. K. Mick, retired as president in 1966. All are in the editorial field, most of them proprietors of newspapers in Central Texas.

Mrs. Bridges was Charter Member of Texas Woman's Press Association.

July 1966

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my two nieces, Anne Bridges Broussard and Kathleen Bridges Edwards, who listened to the reading of my foreword and afterword expressed their approval of the subject matter; my typist friends, Dorothy Lane Huffman, who began the main job of putting my mother's column into presentable form; to Linda Stewart Blackwell, great-great-granddaughter of my father's uncle, Samuel Bridges, who finished the job when Dorothy could give it no more time; and last, but by no means least, to Emily Burgess, who typed so accurately my own effort, my gratitude is hereby expressed.

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ACROSTIC FOR BIRTHDAY
May 26, 1928

M Mother, may you always be
O Oh, so happy! and so free,
T That your sorrows will be few.
H How I want these things for you!
E Ever in this heart of mine,
R Rest assured a place is thine.
A At last, mother mine, your birthday's here;
N Now let me assure you (you are so dear)
N Never on earth nor in Heaven above
I In truth, at no time will I cease to love
E Ever forget you, though far I may rove.
-Mary Louis Bridges Witt

OUR TOWN'S NAME

Luling was a good-sized town
The day she got her name;
"Five hundred people," records say.
Since then she's grown in fame.

The "Sooners" came before the rails
Were laid beyond Plum Creek;
Gregg, Redus, Keith, McGaffey
Their names we need not seek.

Now in the town a good Chinese
Did laundry work and more.
His name, Lu Ling, by chance
Was known quite well before

The chosen name was told,
But records of the railroad show
This name did honor the good wife
Of railway's chief promoter. So

The time has come to state this fact.
Many, many years ago
A friend in Louisiana wrote,
"Our Luling got its name you know

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"From the same judge Luling,
"Known to be the holder of some stock"
So evidently Col. Pierce was wed
To that man's daughter. A shock?

To us who've heard the tales
Of Luling's early days
From our forbears, it's known that youths
To tease Lu Ling did raise

The idea he was meant to be
The honored one; for too
They pestered him about his looks
And once cut off his queue.

"I can't go back to China now
Because my hair's been cut,"
Wailed Ling with sadness in his soul.
And then his mouth he shut.

Then Ling (or John, he said it meant)
Stayed on for many years;
He tended to his work so well
He could forget all fears.

Now Weimar, Waelder, Converse,
Each new town along the route

Was named for some stock holder
As told beyond all doubt.

And Louisiana had no Ling
Nor Mississippi, further east,
Yet each one has a Luling,
So that's some proof, at least.

--Mary Louise Bridges Witt

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

PIONEER DAYS AND WAYS

When there were but few fences, made of split rails, an industry made famous by Abraham Lincoln? These were laid in a zigzag manner called a worm, four or five rails high, then "staked and ridered," with few gates but many stepping blocks, or stiles. Old "Bob Wire" had not arrived. Private premises, fields, orchards, gins, and lots for domestic animals were fenced; while unfenced land was designated as range, and was used by everybody's cattle and hogs. I have in my possession an old hand written tax receipt (or can get it) in which 4000 acres of improved and unimproved land and various other items yielded to the state and county less revenue than the heirs of that man pay on three or four hundred acres.

Yes, Luling is a part of that 4,000 acres. Of course at this time cattle were identified by marks in ears, brands on hip or side; horses were branded, very small on shoulder; hogs were marked, one or both ears, by slits, crops, overbits, or underbits, or combinations of these mutilations in one or both ears.

And do you remember round-up time when marking, branding, and selection of heifers for milch cows, and converting male calves into beef stock or oxen; for any not branded were mavericks, while any pig not marked became a "wild hog" and anybody's property. It is noteworthy that immigrants from Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and other Southern States brought with them cattle with crumpled horns, spots, line backs,

while the native longhorns were always solid red, black, dun, or brindle.

Remember there was not a bridge on the San Marcos River or Plum Creek from source to mouth? Where wagon roads went through the river it was a ford, while on the creek it was a crossing. That the post office was at Prairie Lea to the west and Atlanta to the east---until Johnston's store, with "Hardeman Lodge" (AF & AM) upstairs, was established at the confluence of Salt Branch and Plum Creek, and Billy Smith brought the mail from Lockhart by "pony express."

Johnston's store, flanked by the dwelling and "black Abe Brothers" blacksmith shop and mule (factory) barn, a cotton warehouse, and topped by Hardeman Lodge (Masonic) room, was a lively place on Saturday on or before the first quarter of the moon. Mr. W. R. Johnston (Bill) carried a line of staple and fancy dry goods, hardware and groceries, including barrels (with spigots) of molasses, vinegar, and whiskey; which was sold by the quart, gallon, five gallons, or more, but a drink was free.

It was a great joke to shift the vinegar and whiskey barrels, and hang

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the tin cup on the wrong barrel. No Mason ever told his fellow members of the exchange. Always at this meeting, was slim, six-foot Uncle Joe Johnston, with his eight hound dogs; Marcus, Aurelius, Americus, Vespuccius, Julius, Caesar, Nip and Tuck. Sometimes the names of Nip and Tuck were changed to Ulysses and Grant, with the saying "Grant got mixed up with a bull dog" (meaning Gen. Joseph Johnston).

The two Johnstons and their brother, Rev. Robert Johnston were cousins of General Joseph Johnston of the Confederate Army and came to Texas after Sherman's march through Georgia, the close of the war. They and Hardeman Lodge moved to Luling at about the same time.

Living on this side of Plum Creek on what is now the Alex farm, was a fine family from Mississippi, Dr. Davis, a physician of note, whose wife's sister had married a "person from the North" named Jordan. This Mr.

Jordan built a log cabin just the other side of the crossing, called it a doggery, and sold strong drink. He allowed white and black boys to pitch horseshoes, play poker, seven-up, and other card games together on the premises. Dr. and Mrs. Davis were the parents of Mrs. T. E. Cocreham (of whom more anon).

PLANTATION LIFE

Do you remember the charcoal burners that had a thriving business in this community when the farms were being cleared of mesquite and black jack? They were half burned into charcoal and delivered by the wagon load to blacksmith shops for use in furnaces. It was also used in grates for heating, in braziers for cooking purposes and for heating sad irons or a tailor's "goose" on ironing day, also the G.H. & S.A. Ry. to supplement wood chunks in the engines in the early '70's.

Do you remember when every plantation had a big house, a detached kitchen, a back yard usually surrounded by the "cook's house," smoke house, chicken house, and two store rooms, forming a rectangle in which the ground was swept clean and level? These outhouses were usually built of logs or stone, all with dirt floors except the cook's house and kitchen which were floored, like the big house, with split logs, the round side down and the other side "adzed" as smooth as sawn timber.

The kitchen always had an especially built chimney and fireplace fitted with hooks from which to hang iron and earthenware pots for boiling meats and vegetables. Large and small Dutch ovens always had legs, with loops at the end if oval, at each side if round, and on top of the lid (to be handled with large pothooks) to facilitate the use of just the right amount of coals.

The skillets for frying and griddles for hot cakes rested over the coals on trivets. Nearly all of this equipment was made in the plantation blacksmith shop.

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My! what good food was sent into the dining room, about

twenty feet away in the big house!

Do you remember the ash hoppers, V-shaped structures that stood between the smoke house and the "Backy," where ashes from all fires in the house and kitchen were stored throughout the year, kept damp so the lye could run down for soap making at hog killing time? It was a favorite for the children when playing hide-and-seek.

And "hog killing," when the hogs, which had been penned from the range and fattened, were butchered-usually eight to twelve at a time? The back yard became a scene of activity. Water was hauled up from the branch or creek in barrels on "slides" (made of a forked tree to which a mule was hitched by trace chains hooked to a clevis in the big end of the log) to be boiled in washpots and poured over the hogs, after killing, in barrels tipped up at one end so the hair and bristles could be scraped off, after which the animal was hung up on the side of the smoke-house by "stretchers" or sharpened sticks thrust through the leaders in the hind legs, for disemboweling.

The carcass was expertly split from throat- to tail on the under side (the contents being placed in tubs), washed out and flattened against the wall to cool. This was usually done the first heavy freeze before Christmas. At this point the women began cleaning and cooking hearts, kidneys, melts, livers, chitlings and tripe, and fixing casings for sausage, also cooking great pots full of stew to be eaten with shortening bread, lye hominy, and roast sweet potatoes. This work lasted a week or more, including cutting up the meat, salting, packing, smoking, and curing, followed by the making of lye hominy and soft soap.

Do you remember the candle stick maker, the maker of candle molds and snuffers? These artisans also made brackets to hold the candle sticks and sconces to hold torches. There was also the spinning wheel for making candle wicks and thread for other uses, with accompanying "cards" for softening and fining up cotton or wool fibers for spinning. Candle wicks

were enough strands of cotton threads loosely twisted to form a cord about as thick as a lead pencil.

There was a lot of preliminary work incident to candle making, so we will assume that tallow, beeswax and vegetable wax were in storage. This description is for tallow candles only. The wick string is cut twice as long as the candle will turn out, is doubled over a stick, given a few twists to keep it from separating, six or eight wicks to the stick are laid over the bottom of the mold and the wicks pulled through, the small other end

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carefully adjusting to the exact middle of the mold. The mold is filled with melted, not hot, tallow and set aside to cool. Each double mold held ten or twelve candles and each pouring yielded 50 to 100 candles. Of course you know candlesticks held the candles for burning, the snuffers were for removing charred bits of wick and the brackets held the candle sticks at any time.

Ku KLUX--FIRST SCHOOL

The Ku Klux (the third K was not used at this time) was organized at the Big Gate of Col. Huff's field. Because Mr. Huff was in California and could not be implicated, and the Big Gate was a quarter of a mile from any of the buildings no one ever saw anyone arrive. But the silent, well-covered horses and riders left that rendezvous by twos, threes or fours to "patrol" the country, and were likely to appear at any gathering of ex-slaves, carpet baggers, or other trouble makers. Their efforts were directed at black and white pistol toting men who preferred stealing to work. This organization was also called "Patrollers" (Paterollers by the negroes) and the negroes originated a song that could hardly be called a spiritual:

"Run nigger, run, patter roller get yo'
Run nigger, run, it's almost day."

In long after years Mr. Len Barnett acknowledged leadership.

Judge Mackey of the Federal Bureau held court near Prairie Lea on the banks of the river. He was a fine gentleman, and did his utmost to put an end to this and all other lawless practices of the Reconstruction Period. Every grown man wore a pistol when he left home and was not considered well dressed without one. The settlers had become reconciled to having neighbors and had quit quoting Daniel Boone's saying: "It is time to move-can see the neighbors' smoke and hear their roosters crowing." They decided to build a school and get a teacher. "The children are getting big and should learn something."

A snug log house about twenty by twenty feet was built on the Barnett land on Salt Branch. It had one door, no window, a puncheon floor, and the benches were also made of puncheons (split logs, flat side up), with auger holes bored at each end to hold the legs-no backs. A Mr. Bean, said to be related to judge Roy Bean, west of the Pecos, was engaged as teacher. A hide bottom hickory chair and a table distinguished his place in the room from the scholars. First week in March school opened with 25 or 30 pupils. They were the Binns and Dick Barnett, Huff, Scoggins and Hale children from on the Branch, the Biggs, Gant, West, Gooden, McAllister and Mrs. Susan Smith's children from along Plum

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Creek. Mr. Smith had been killed in the war. The Elam and McFarlane children and Jim McCutchan came from Seals Creek. All pupils used McGuffey's Bluebacked spellers to learn spelling, reading and writing-older children had arithmetics, readers and grammars. All used slates and slate pencils.

The school was not a success. Mr. Bean lacked ability, vigor, and maybe health. He dropped into the habit of long siestas after the noon meal, which all brought in covered tin buckets. He ate indoors, while the pupils disported themselves on the sandy, pebbly acre or two nearby, wading

the branch, climbing small hickory, haw, mesquite, or blackjack trees, especially those overgrown with mustang or wintergrape vines; gathered wild flowers and cacti, sorted and piled up large and small round stones (they called them God biscuits) suitable for throwing in slings or by hand, soon becoming reluctant to obey or failing to respond when he appeared in the door clapping his hands, calling "Books, Books." After a few weeks some of the small boys began to cushion (?) his chair with grass-burrs, dewberry vines, chaparral twigs, and other unpleasant things to sit on. Some of the large girls borrowed horses from older boys to go dewberrying or visiting, not attending the afternoon session. His efforts to control reached a climax when he threatened to whip a twelve-year-old girl whose sixteen-year-old brother said, "You'll have me to whip first," and while the teacher turned to get his hickory switch from the wall, stepped outside, calling back: "Come out and fight like a man. I'll give you a smell of God biscuit." Exasperated, Mr. Bean returned to his place and sat down on a mesquite thorn sticking up through the seat of his chair. It was noon. Travis McFarlane, Henry Elam and Bud McAllister asked Mrs. Len Barnett what to do about it all. They were told to get help and duck the teacher in the horsepond. They replied: "We don't need any help." Mr. Bean had not taken a nap that day and never did come back. School opened again some days later with Miss Laura Johnson of Johnson City in charge. Most of the young ladies were sent to the Academy at Prairie Lea. The young men had business somewhere else. Miss Johnson was Mrs. Len Barnett's niece and a sister of Congressman Lyndon Johnson's father (or grandfather, Sam Johnson, Sr.).

GINS AND MILLS

Do you remember the numerous cotton gins, grist mills, sawmills, on the San Marcos River? There seemed to be one with its inevitable dam above every ford: Fentress, Mooney's, Dunlap's, Greenwood's, Ussery's, Meriwether's, Andrews, are those I remember best. Fentress Ford was a few miles west of Prairie Lea on the road to San Marcos, via Staples Store. Mooney's gin, grist mill, and sawmill was owned

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and operated by the father of Billy and Floyd Mooney of Luling, Mrs. Mae Ganbrell of Lockhart and Mrs. T. J. Smith of Prairie Lea; from it were turned out hundreds of bales of cotton, hundreds of bushels of meal and grits, many thousand feet of milled lumber-cypress, cottonwood, hackberry, and walnut (used for window and door facing, stairways and furniture). Many chairs, tables, wardrobes, secretaries, cradles, now treasured as antiques, were made from lumber turned out by this mill. In Prairie Lea, McKean's gin, operated by mule power (later by steam) was built of rawhide lumber from Mooney's. Dr. Jessie Pryor told me that her grandfather Mooney was a brother of that Tom Mooney who built the covered bridge across the Guadalupe at Gonzales, a toll bridge where two elderly ladies in a buggy asked the price for crossing, and being told "two bits for a man and a horse," replied "We are two old maids and a mare," and went on their journey free. Dunlap's and Greenwood's were gins only and not very near a ford. Do you remember when young Tom Greenwood was drowned while crossing the dam in high water? He was the father of Ex-Mayor C. T. Greenwood, brother of Emmet and Paul Greenwood, one time city attorney; son of Rev. T. C. Greenwood, Baptist preacher, owner of the gin. And do you remember that this sudden flood of the treacherous river caused the J. Josey family, new comers from New York, to take refuge in the second story of Ussery's gin? Neighbors salvaging bales of cotton, floating down from up river, rescued them by making rafts of cotton bales and towing them to high ground and tying them to mesquite trees. The raft was separated and two bales were used as a hospital room for Mrs. Josey, Mr. Ussery "accoucher," and their youngest son was born and named Noah. The Ketchums extended the customary Texas hospitality until Mr. Josey had bought several hundred acres of "raw land" and had built Josey's store, with living quarters. You guessed it-Luling! Ussery's gin in after years became the property of F. Homan-a factory manufacturing horse collars, harness and saddles.

Meriwether's gin and mill was not erected until a number of years later and a great sensation resulted when a quantity of fossil bones and teeth were excavated in digging the mill race. A ferry boat to cross the mill pond was very popular with youngsters who had to wait while the meal was being ground. Often a number of boys and some of the men would load up and cross to the other side for the novelty of it. Mr. J. W. Meriwether and his brother, James, operated at a loss for several years, when, for financial reasons, they surrendered it to Walker Brothers, J. K. and J. P., who later sold it to F. Zedler. It is still Zedler property. Andrews' mill stands out in my memory as the place where Mrs. Blanche

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Miles' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, and their sister, Miss Fannie Andrews, lived. The two ladies taught school across the river until Miss Andrews was married to Capt. Bob Nixon and her relatives moved to San Marcos. The mill was taken over by the Words. Their sister, a beautiful young widow, Mrs. Spraggins, with a seven-year old daughter Katie (later Mrs. W. A. Evins) and a three-year-old son, Bobby, taught the first school in Atlanta (Near the Y on Highway 3). Do you remember those other gins and baling presses operated by "mule power" and later, of course, the steam gins? In one of the latter type gins, owned by Smith and Malone, Luling's cotton (cloth) mill was operated, having been liquidated and bought a few months later by the stockholders of the one at Gonzales. There were, are, other gins down the river from Andrews, among them being Zedler's at Ottine, and one at Oak Forest. You may remember more about them than I do.

BATTLE OF PLUM CREEK

Do you remember the Battle of Plum Creek? Or have you been told about that famous engagement between the Comanche Indians, the Caranquays, and settlers, appropriated by Lockhart? I was told that the Cherokees and Apaches went on the warpath, attacking settlers, Lipans and Caranquays near the gulf coast below Victoria. They were pursued

along the Guadalupe and San Marcos to the mouth of Plum Creek,
and
in crossing the quagmires and quicksands in what is now Palmetto
Park,
many Indians bogged down and did not reach the other side. Their
bodies
were used by others for "stepping stones" and the running fight
continued
up the creek until the last Indian was either killed or escaped.
Gonzales had several other historical events, and Ottine was
getting
the park and Warm Springs. Luling was never within a mile of the
creek
until the extension of Bruner Oil Field, so Lockhart is entitled
to it.
We, in this part of the county are also proud of the marker, the
golf
course, park, and recreation center; and what not marking the
battlefield.

RECONSTRUCTION

Do you remember when the Carpetbaggers and Scalawags induced
many negroes to migrate to the new state, Kansas, with the
promise of
40 acres and a mule? Approximately one hundred families from
these parts,
some of them white, were sold the "gold brick;" This movement was
called
the exodus.
Land owners and their families tried to do the work formerly done
by
field hands and house servants; young men from Missouri and other
states and some older negroes rented land third and fourth or
hired out.

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Prices were high-meat was sold, sugar was from 10c to 25c a
pound,
flour was \$20.00 a barrel (biscuits for Sunday breakfast only),
children
were said "to put coals of fire on their backs to see if they
would stick
out their legs like turtles."
Cattle were being driven "up the trail," so milk and butter were
scarce
as were nearly all other food items and money. Confederate bills
were
valueless (re-read Father Ryan's poem), gold was coined in \$50,
\$20,
\$10, \$5 and \$1 pieces, silver in \$1, 50c, 25c, 12 1/2 c, 10c, 5c,
3c or half
dollar, quarter dollar, bit, dime, half dime and picayune pieces.
United
States currency was not in circulation. The Mexican centavo or
clacko

was the medium of exchange. Of course, there was barter or trade of one thing for another.

At harvest time there were a few sweet potatoes to store in A shaped bins, made of poles banked with dirt with cornstalks or weeds to hold the dirt in place. Most of the corn was nubbins. Cotton sold at \$1.00 a pound in Galveston and New Orleans and cost an extra dollar a hundred for picking to the producer. Remember the cotton pickings, promoted to get the cotton out of the field and to the gin? The big barbecue dinners and the cakewalk at night, with prizes for the best picker. Some of them had 600 and 700 weighed in the sack in the field. Soon the qualification had to be changed to most and cleanest (that is free from leaves, bolls, sticks and stones)

White children were permitted to pick cotton (not at a cotton picking) and work in gins, milk, make butter, cook, garden in addition to carding, spinning and sewing, hauling or bringing water, boys and girls, white and colored, together, taught by the lady in the big house or the cook in the kitchen.

About this time cook stoves, conestoga wagons and oil lamps were imported and kerosene oil from Pennsylvania.

At this time I got some extra teaching, or information, not intended and not included in the school curriculum. I got a habit of lingering unnoticed in the doorstep or edge of the gallery when company came. Ladies' conversation was not very interesting, while that of men, doctors, preachers, lawyers and judges, held me spellbound.

I learned that the cause of the war was not sympathy and pity for "the poor mistreated slaves," but rather envy and jealousy. The Southern people had servants without pay(?) at all times, did nothing but sleep, dress, play the piano and embroider. Southern gentlemen left the manage-

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ment of their estates to overseers and got richer while they drank, gambled and went to horse races, cock fights, etc.

I learned that Johnny Reb was an Insulting word used by the Dam

Yankees to rub in their victory and keep the breach between the states from healing. That Lincoln was a westerner, a smart man, but not the equal of Davis. That Lee outgeneraled Grant on every encounter and only surrendered to save his friends from Grant's numberless mercenaries, Hessians hired as substitutes for Northern men in the army.

CONVEYANCES

Do you remember the stage coach lines and wagon trains? The stage like all other conveyances, four in hand team, from Indianola to San Antonio, also carried the mail. Passenger fare from one terminus to the other was \$50.00, to intermediate points in proportion. There were stations for changing horses, with frequent detours to outlying plantations. Col. L. C. Huff and Capt. Bob Nixon operated wagon trains for transporting their own and their neighbors' corn, cotton, and other produce to the coast, usually Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Rockport, Indianola (Port Lavaca after the great storm) for transshipment' by water to Galveston, New Orleans, New York or for export to Europe. The ox wagons, three or four yoke to the wagon, were fitted with a frame of uprights or standards to hold the bales, while those of corn, shucked, shelled and sacked, were customarily of the covered wagon variety, with mule teams, four or six span. There were no springs and no brakes-in lieu of brakes trace chains attached to the side of frame or bed with both ends hanging were used down hill; by passing the end with staple, around the tire between two spokes and slipping the staple through the ring in the other end of the chain, locking the wheel and causing it to drag and preventing the wagon from running down on the team. Getting ready to start was an interesting time, loading up, selecting teams and drivers and the addition of a neighbor's outfit. The cotton wagons started several days ahead as oxen could only make ten miles a day. The driver, bullwhip in hand, must walk alongside to make his team respond to "gee and ike." The whip, not to strike with, was popped with a loud

crack to emphasize the commands. The near ox of the lead yoke had a rope line around his horns to help in guiding; the off ox and middle yokes followed the leader, and the wheel yoke did the hardest pulling. The mule teams could make fifteen to eighteen miles a day and the driver either rode his pony alongside or one of the wheel horses, had to dismount to lock the wheels, unless he had a helper, while the owner, the boss or the trader, maybe all three, rode in a good buggy or carriage with driver, a fine pair of trotting horses, and starting last, arrived first.

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On the return trip the wagons were loaded with merchandise for the general stores in the interior. Wagon train song:
I spoke to my leaders and the leaders sprung,
Up jumped a nigger to the wagon tongue.
Pop my whip and the wagon roll,
The horses pull through that mud hole.
If you remember this, you also remember that these cotton wagons for the return trip were loaded with sugar in hogsheads (wooden tanks), barrels of syrup, vinegar, hardware that could stand the roughness, and rum. The covered wagons were loaded with more perishable goods-flour in barrels and half barrels, fine wines, cognac and other brandies in wicker covered glass demijohns, crated and packed in straw. Also in the crates were Charter Oak cook stoves and utensils from Indiana, knocked down parts of buggies and carriages, Conestoga wagons. These top buggies and the carriages were equipped with both shafts and tongues. Ladies and elderly folks drove a gentle, faithful horse in the shafts. The tongue with its accessories, double tree and single trees, was used if a span or four-in-hand were driven. These turn-outs, when new, with good or fine teams, filled the hearts of their owners with pride (if not egotism and exaltation). The imported wagons were an improvement on those in use, having a body or bed that could be built up high or used low, with strong iron hasps at the upper edge of the lower planks to hold the braces or stand-

ards on the lower edge of the top planks, which in other hasps at the upper edge held bows when a wagon sheet was needed. When assembled it was a gorgeous thing. The tongue and cross-tree was a bright yellow, the wheels, hub, spokes, and "fellys" (felloes) were a bright red. The body with its seat swinging across was a vivid green, with bright yellow letters on each side, "Conestoga Wagon Co., Milwaukee, Wis." It also had a hand-brake on the left side. It could be seen a mile away. Do you remember that all the young folks rode horseback? Ladies used side-saddles and wore riding habits (or at least long skirts) almost to the ground. Riding double or riding bareback was often done. Even small boys and girls were "at home" on horseback.

OLD ATLANTA

Do you remember the San Jacinto and May Day picnics and the two weeks camp meetings at Sulphur Springs? Of course the first two events were one-day affairs. Silver tongued orators, on April 21st, told us of the powers of Gen. Sam Houston and Texas soldiers; the wonders of the Lone Star State and "Tall Tales" then as now, while on the 1st of

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May the Queen of love and beauty was crowned, dancing around the may-pole and other sports afforded an excuse to get together for a happy time. But oh! the big camp meeting, usually around the Fourth of July when the negro help had recovered from their Emancipation celebration and were willing to help "the white folks jess lak befo' de wah" when several families pitched their tents under the shade of the elm and cottonwood, oak and pecan trees which made an ideal grove west of the Lamkin home; and kept open house for others who came "for the day." There was a great revival, sunrise and sunset prayer meetings (away from the tantalizing odors of the barbecue pit) and the fine sermons by circuit riding preachers such as Fighting Andy Potter, Orceneth Fisher, DeVilbiss, Horton, Abbott, Onderdonk from Goliad, the horticulturist, who also took orders

for fall delivery of fruit trees, ornamental shrubs and hauptberry vines. The local preachers were Revs. Jas. Powell from Mule Creek and T. C. Greenwood from up the river. One or the other of these good preachers held services at Lone Oak so that the community had public worship once a month. Do you remember that Atlanta was a small collection of dwellings- 12 or 15. The Lamkin and Nations Store (John Lamkin and John Nations had married Norwood sisters), Dr. Williams' Drug Store and office, McGowan's blacksmith shop and the public well were on the north side of the road (the only street) with Dr. Williams' home, the school house and teacher's home and McGowan's boarding house well back. Fuqua, Nations, Lamkin and Womack homes, all in spacious grounds, with servant houses, were to the south. Dr. Williams' field skirted along Wolf Branch to where D. H. Reeves built his home near the Y. The first term of pay school was taught by Mrs. Spraggins. Next Mr. John Lewis taught a five-months free school with a complete change of text books from Webster's, Davies' Maury's. We changed to Independent series by American authors designed to teach patriotism and that all the greatest heroes did not originate in Dixie. A four-horse wagon load of books arrived at the store and parents to buy and enroll their children for the first free school, in examining the readers, found a lesson unfit to be seen by their little ones. It was about a "hen that went into a garden and found a large green tobacco worm. She looked at it and when the worm hunched its back the hen TURNED TAIL and left the garden." This lesson was always omitted. As Mr. Lewis could teach anything, school opened with a full house. There were Rocellus and Enoch McKinney and George Hysaw from near Belmont, Alex and Richard Brelsford and two sisters, John and Dick Norwood, Charlie Richard and Albert Mills, Julius Lockridge, Albert and Dora Powell and Word boys and girls from down the river, Tom

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and Jack Hardeman, sons of General Gotch Hardeman, from Prairie Lea; Lucy Barnett and two of her cousins, Janie Biggs and her big brothers, Lycurgus and Cicero, eight Smiths, Misses Dood, Puss, and Gillie Gant, and Johnnie, Laura Chambers, Johnnie

Mannix, Tom Fayette, Sack, Jeff and Jim Jackson and their sisters, Misses Dessie and Jeanetta, John and Frank, Florence, Dora, Jimmie and Annie Huff, Tom and Lola Davis, John Clark, Monroe, Emma and Fannie Jordan, Ab and Johnnie, Mattie, Fannie, and Nannie Hale, Alsy and Bud Scoggins, Eugenia and Ed, Mattie and Lorado Lamkin, Mollie, Corilla and John Nations, Ann and Johnnie McGowan, Gabie Zumwalt, Lizzie and Amanda House, John, Sue, Zonia, George and Lizzie Williams.

This was a successful school for two years of 5 free and 2 pay terms. When the coming of the railroad moved the citizens of Atlanta to Harwood or Luling it was finished. There is a deep sand bedded roadway from Fuqua's to Wolf Branch with a few old china tree stumps and the public well to mark the spot where once was Atlanta.

PIONEER ROADS

Do you remember the roads in use in the horse and buggy days? They were made mostly by use, that is by wearing down the rough places and wearing down the stumps and roots above the surface. A road was usually four parallel trails, two deep wagon ruts and a high rough middle. The trails were smooth, hard paths, beaten down by hooves of horses and other driven animals. No grass or shrubs grew here, while the middle was sometimes a thing of beauty, with its growth of wild flowers (and stumps and stones.) The road I remember best, from Prairie Lea eastward, passed the Berry and McNeal places between the Hardeman and McKinney land, avoiding the good tillable spots, to meander past the Dunlap and Greenwood and Grady lands to that half mile long senna pond, where the water never quite dried up and the beautiful water lilies grew (like the Lotus), past the Ussery, Ketchum and McCutchan places to Seals Creek, which was wide in wet years, narrow in dry times, with a gravelly, sandy creek bed thick with mussel shells. This crossing was on the Duke plantation. Mr. Duke, a handsome portly blond, recently from Virginia, had married Miss Martha Burleson, relative of Postmaster General Albert Sidney Burleson and had his commodious dwelling on the south side of the road. The Elam place (later Thornberry) adjoined and extended to the Dick Barnett holdings.

After crossing Seals Creek, the road cut into Col. Huff's "upper plantation" (now Eiband's and Mooney's) to the Gerren Hinds 1/2 League, later sold to J. Josey, and there the route was rough, stony ground full of all the native thorny shrubs and cacti. This unimproved land was

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called "buffalo wallow prairie," sloping southward to the river. The low places, shallow ponds, were nearly always full of clear rain water, with green enormous senna, rushes, lespedeza, bluebonnets and other Texas flora in season. On the south side of the road on the Hinds 1/2 League Mr. Josey built his store-residence. Following the low range of hills, with Rocky fork of Salt Branch a short distance to the north, the road made a graceful curve to the Huff home plantation to enter a wide lane formed by cotton and corn fields, orchard, watermelon and potato patches. Gin store, dwelling, storerooms, blacksmith shop and

negro quarters were on the north side. From Seals Creek west to a boil d'arc hedge east, this thoroughfare was five miles on Huff land.

This bois d'arc hedge was a boundary line to the land owned by Miss Bessie Anderson and her widowed mother. The road was the north line. Powhatan Swann lived on the north side of the road. He gave to the county one acre for a burying ground and the neighbors built a small chapel-school. The name is still Lone Oak. Mr. Swann also sold small parcels of land to poor white immigrants and ex-slaves. Just east of Lone Oak were the McKinneys', Charley Henrys, Abe Brothers, then Johnston's store. Mr. Swann's daughter Henrietta married Uncle Joe Johnston.

A short way east the road crossed the slough, a big gully extending from Hysaw hill to Salt Branch to a point just above its confluence with Plum Creek on a practically straight line between the Hysaw plantations and the McKellar-Keys land to the Plum Creek crossing a little way above the present concrete bridge. A short lateral road ran south to Dr. Davis' home.

You remember the banks of the creek were steep on both sides and the water was shallow and not very wide. There were stepping stones, blocks of sandstone, six for those who did not care to wade. Just a few yards farther the road forked, becoming two. The one on the right crossed a gully with sudden banks and up a steep hill to the Fuqua place, suburbs of Atlanta, named by the Georgians for the capital of the state they had left. The left fork of the road went up another steep hill past the McGee (now Sprague) place to the Gonzales-Lockhart road which was also the "cattle trail" when herds from South Texas were driven to Dodge City.

From the top of the Fuqua hill the road made a diagonal slant through Atlanta and was the only street, to the Womack place on Wolf Branch and on to Gonzales via the L. A. L. Lamkin house at Sulphur Spring.

Do you remember the rhythmic sounds from the road? One could tell if a wagon was loaded or empty, if the team was one or several span, if a carriage was new or old, had one horse or two; if a buggy had a man or lady driver; if a fast horse was ridden by someone going for a doctor, or one just ahead of a posse; if a number of ridden horses was a posse or a calvacade. This formation, like a Maltese cross, was used by young beaux

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and belles going to church, camp meeting or other festivities, especially weddings. Many a "Young Lochinvar" wooed and won his bride horseback. One such event I remember was the wedding of Thos. H. Huff and Miss Louranie Scoggins which was solemnized in the home of her uncle, Col. Alsy Miller, in the forks of the river (Oak Forest.) The young couple and a score of attendants and friends went to Col. Huff's for the "enfair" or next day dinner. This was customary and the first notice to the hosts was the cavalcade heard a long way off and recognized when they stopped at the carriage gate to the front yard.

Young Huff's new step-mother was equal to the emergency. After greeting the guests, welcoming her new daughter into the

family, she excused herself and went to consult with the cooks and dining room waitresses to plan and serve the meal. The walnut dining table extended its full length, reinforced by a square side table, covered with snowy linen, with covers for 24, was a delight to each hungry mortal. The bride and groom were asked to take the end opposite

Col. Huff and wife, with the others at the sides of the table.

The menu included: baked Virginia ham, roast pork, yams, fried chicken, giblet gravy, new potatoes, peas, cabbage slaw, gherkin pickles, plum jelly, butter, biscuits, grape jelly, peach, plum, apricot preserves, white cake, pound cake, sillabub (an Old English drink), and wine, coffee. As they were all standing it was self serve, but the colored waitresses were kept busy

refilling coffee cups and bringing hot biscuits from out in the kitchen. In the afternoon the young people accompanied the newly-weds to the upper plantation where they lived until after the railroad came to and left Luling.

Small children, like my mother, at that time were not allowed in the dining room. They were given such undesired pieces of chicken as necks and wings which they ate as they played about in the yard. The negroes ate what was left on the plates at table, and it was considered proper to leave something for that purpose. The negro children of cooks and other house and body servants got "pot likker" with a few bits of vegetables and pork. They thrived, but the white children were often puny.

NOTE: I have heard my mother say: "My children shall never be treated like that. Too many times I went to bed with a scanty supper, and saw guests in the parlor being served dainties that made my mouth water. Whatever the grown-ups eat in my home shall be shared with the children." And so it was.-Louise Bridges Witt.

EARLY SEVENTIES

Do you remember early in the 70's the emigrants had come back from Kansas ragged, footsore, weary and hungry, telling "They never give us

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no land, jus' made us plow and plant wheat in the fall. What us know about wheat?"

"Git kivvered up wid snow, cain't eat it; old mule cain't eat it. Ain't no sweet taters ner black eye peas in de bin; got to buy everything 'cause everything belong to somebody: take anything us need, say us steals, got to work out a fine or lay in jail. Ain't had no shoes ner no new close since befo de wah. Whut yu all gwine do wid us?"

To cut a long story short, the prodigals were received back into favor and put to work at the kind of jobs they knew best, paid wages and if they took something they were dealt with "according to the offense" It began to look like white, Indian, negro and Mexican Texans had found their place in the sun and prosperity would be ours again. The railroad was coming from the east. Surveyors, promoters and right-o'-way men were with us in large numbers.

Stockholders wanting to see about their investments and the South Texas land made lengthy visits.

Commodore Mockman, stockholder, thought a good plan would be to bring other German colonists to help raise articles for shipment. He organized a class to be taught the German language by Prof. Bohmar, the music teacher from San Antonio, who made regular trips with his son, Dolph, having classes in every home owning a piano or organ between San Antonio and Gonzales.

Messrs. Britt, Batt and Bannister, lawyers, engineers and surveyors, arrived and secured board and lodging in the vicinity. Col. Thos. Wentworth Pierce and Maj. Converse, promoters, came on an inspection tour. Col. Pierce was president of the G.H. & S.A. Railway Co., and Maj. Converse was construction engineer. Also another contingent of young men came from Tennessee and Georgia—Chas. Chambers, Billy and Jeff Johnston, Joe Holt, Tynus McNeil, Joe Bledsoe, Dump Hughes, Eugin Goche, Frank Johnson, Bill Tremble, Bob Porter, with a large family, and the advance agents of Barnum's circus. They plastered the outside of every blacksmith shop door and the side next to the road of every tree with blazing posters and made arrangements to use the Huff gin and gin lot for a day and night stand.

A few weeks later, after the crops had been gathered, the long circus parade arrived. The main tent and side show tents were in the cotton field just inside the Big Gate, while horses, exhibition animals were corralled in the ground floor of the gin and in the surrounding lot to rest and be fed while actors and actresses, trapeze performers rested in the seed room or seed cotton bins, in the gin room or nearby in the bunk house over the store. The elephants, camels and some of the big horses were herded

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down the "turn row" through the field to water in the river. Water was hauled for the caged animals.

Old "Dunny," an old longhorn cow, who had refused three times to go up the trail, wearing three road brands along her back, who would yield her milk on the prairie or in the pen to any child, pig or snake as she never went dry, was fed to the lions.

Mr. P. T. Barnum, the ringmaster and one of the clowns had their meals with the family, so when I heard one of them say the performance was much prettier by torchlight I refused to go in the afternoon. The long day was too much, having been up "by light" to be under the best pecan trees before the hogs; watching and taking part in all the preparations for a big dinner. Seeing the animals fed and watered and seeing all the trades I could. A number of youngsters sold rabbits, squirrels and other game to the circus folks. The only thing that kept a lot of young people from seeing more was the Charlie Ross kidnaping case -- we were told circuses stole children to train as performers or laborers.

Along in the wee small hours of the night I had the most hideous nightmare. As I had been stubborn, disobedient, contrary all day, I had to ride an old donkey that kept going to a large round hole in the ground door to the bottomless pit. All of the

beasts I had seen the day before and all whose pictures were in my geography lessons were after me and my donkey laid down. I had been bad.

Maj. GEORGE, RESEMBLANCE TO JOHN WILKES BOOTH

In 1871 or '72 a new family appeared in the community, a six-foot, slender, blue-eyed, blackhaired Southerner with an imperial and mustache instead of whiskers. His family consisted of a delicate, refined lady and two small sons, Oliver and Ballad. The family name was George.

Maj. George rented a tract of land where the City Cemetery now is and occupied that cottage just east of the cemetery on the south side of the Prairie Lea-Atlanta road (the cottage and well are still there). He started the usual farm crops, hogs, poultry, etc. It soon became evident that he had not been used to manual labor. Another subject of comment was that he always carried a long barreled rifle and was an expert in its use. He was not sociable. His wife did not return the neighboring ladies' visits. When enrolling at school the George boys said they were Texans, but did not speak like other natives. Travelers meeting Maj. George at the post office (Johnston's Store) or Josey's Store, commented on his resemblance to John Wilkes Booth.

Once, on being asked if he was related to Booth, he said: "Why are you concerned? One man can look like another whom he has never met." When asked why he always carried a loaded rifle, he replied: "I shoot

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rabbits, hawks and other predatory animals." Asked what he thought of Lincoln's death, he said: "The entire administration was a calamity to the South and was the cause of the war."

After two or three years, in the fall, one or more of Maj. George's shoats failed to come home at feeding time. Next morning their owner went over on Salt Branch hunting them. Near noon he stopped at the home of his nearest neighbors, negroes, Flemin and Viney, to ask if they had seen the pigs: Flemin, a tall, broad-shouldered man, stood in the doorway and answered impertinently that he "never saw nor stole them." As Major George cursed and reprovved him for his bad manners, he raised both hands above the door facing (Maj. George thought to get a gun) so he shot him thru the heart.

After the trial and acquittal on the grounds of self defense, the George family moved to North Texas. We next heard of Major George after the "Oklahoma Run" through a magazine article as having been investigated for his resemblance to John Wilkes Booth.

Mr. George Dennis, and family were the next tenants, living in this cottage by the side of the road until Mrs. Dennis' brother, Mr. Chapman, bought the Huff home place and put Mr. Dennis in charge of it as "The Chapman Farm," in January, 1876.

Did you go to the ball at Col. Huff's on San Jacinto Day, 1873? Remember Walker Baylor, Monroe Hardeman, Capt. Stringfellow, Dick McCord, John Armstrong, requisitioned the stage coach left with Finucane and Meriwether for repairs, and

loaded up the prettiest girls in Prairie Lea for the seven mile ride. There were Misses Lizzie Hardeman, Cora (daughter of Gen. Gotch) Hardeman, Carrie and Ophelia (daughters of Owen) Hardeman, Evelyn and Corinne Dycus from Bastrop (cousins to the Hardemans) and Hulda Styles.

In passing through the new town they added Misses Mary Keith, Stella and Annie Hardeman (daughters of Leonidas or "Onnie"). Jim Meriwether and Walker Baylor were on the coachman's seat. All the other men were horseback and they also increased their number with the addition of Capt. Woodyard, Carnot Bellinger, Drs. Cocreham, Van Gasken and Blunt, Tom McNeal, and Messrs. Britt, Batt and Bannister (surveyors). Others present were Dock and Tom Jackson and their sister, Miss Dezzie (Desdemona), John and Sue Williams, Mollie and Corilla Nations (who afterward married Surveyor Bannister), Billy Johnston,* Chas. Chambers, John Clark, Monroe Jordan, Misses Emma Jordan, Hallie Kirk, Lucy

*W. R. Johnston m. Margaret Adeline Huff April 13, 1863. I suppose she was there too. They had no children.-L.B.W.

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Barnett, Pet Lamkin, Janie Biggs, Florence and Dora Huff, and Messrs. Cicero and Curg (Lycurgus) Biggs, Nelson and Ham West, Billy Hale, Jim Scog-gins, and Frank Huff.

The young ladies wore full skirts with several embroidered, tucked, and ruffled petticoats, floor length, the bodice part of the dresses having round neck and short puffed sleeves. Their dresses were of silk, mull, India muslin or tulle. They were ruffled, flounced, embroidered, and of all the springtime colors.

The men wore Prince Albert suits of broadcloth, with soft white linen shirts and fancy brocade or pique vests. At the neck they wore the customary stocks and cravats.

The furniture had been removed from the big front room and the wide front hall for dancing. The piazza, or "front gallery" was for promenading. Sam Carter and Miles Moore, first and second violins, and Mr. Womack with his banjo, furnished lively music for the Virginia reels, and double square dances (8 couples), and that very new dance the varsuviana (Put your Little Foot). Some of the country boys executed some extra fancy steps in dancing the reels, cutting pigeon wings, and "Chicken in the Bread-tray."

Small cakes and Madeira wine were served at midnight as the guests were leaving. This was the last formal entertainment as Col. Huff was already in failing health.

* * *

Col. L. C. Huff died in the summer of 1873 (July 29)-that fine man who had sold a gold mine in Cass Co. Ga. (near Villa Rica), and had brought a large family and a score of slaves (whom he called his "people" never using the word slave) in his own vehicles, with a drove of horses and cattle, across the

country, to the estate in Caldwell county previously bought for him by his agent, Wm. Haggerty, and did so much to develop this frontier. He, thinking "to whom much is given much is required," educated orphan children with his own; bought whole families of negroes rather than separate parents and children; and had lost one hundred slaves by the Emancipation.

When the estate was settled, it was insolvent, and his home plantation became the Chapman farm. His younger children were dependent on the older, married brother and sisters. His second wife, Martha Meriwether Huff, and her daughters and sons moved into Luling with her mother, Mrs. Martha Marshal Williams Meriwether, and her son, John W. Meriwether, occupying the half-block where Thos. and Jim had lived. (The house which now stands on that site is numbered 400 So. Laurel Ave.)

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THE SOONER'S RAILROAD

Do you remember that about the time the railroad came to Luling. Josey's Store was a fine place to trade and young R. Jacobs was looking at the country with his pack on his back with the view of locating here? Capt. Kosiusko DeWitt Keith and his family came from Sabine Pass and started a lumber yard. The railroad brought supplies this side of Harwood to be brought on by wagon. Capt. Keith built for himself a four-room house where the Princess

Theatre stands. Mrs. Keith and Miss Ida came on the stage while Wilbur and Sumter walked from Plum Creek, end of construction. Mrs. Keith opened a boarding house for some of the single men among them Drs. J. Van Gasken, J. K. Moore, Dr. W. F. Blunt, Capt. Woodyard, John Campbell, Pic McKnight and his brother, Matt, and Frank Minnick.

* * *

The construction crew moved from the other side of Harwood on Peach Creek. The section house was moved to Salt Branch. This was a small town in itself, having bridge builders, Irish pick and shovel men, drivers of teams or plows and scrapers, hangers on, etc. One foreman

rented a three-room log house from the Huff's between the gin and spring for his wife and small girls, saying the camp was too rough. His name was Crunk. Maj. Converse and another foreman or superintendent, were in the Huff home. Others were boarding with the Miles Biggs and Len Barnett families. It was definitely understood that a town would be built at Josey's Store.

Negotiations for a townsite were pending. Mr. Josey had agreed to transfer 25 acres to the Railway company, but tried to stipulate that the middle of the town should be at the store. Now the surveyors had found that "the only place for a bridge across the San Marcos was at Dorn's Ford" and this would give the track too much curve. Mr. Josey so far won, or thought he did, that the dump was graded and built up, ties and rails were laid as far as Seventh Avenue before he signed the necessary papers. As soon as these were recorded the company went back to their own plans, leaving the store one-fourth of a mile northeast of town --- a case of New York vs. New York.

Throughout 1873 Mr. Josey had been selling acreage to "Sooners," among them Bishop Gregg's sons, Oliver and David, from Prairie Lea, Rev. T. C. Greenwood's son-in-law, Bill Redus, from Devine, Rev. J. W. Browne and two sons-in-law, Leo Rogan and L. W. Wilder, all late comers from Alabama. Rev. Robert Johnston came from Georgia and L. J. Gray from East Texas and all built dwellings along North Third Street or Josey North Addition. Other "sooners" built toward the river. Tom Meriwether and Jim Meriwether from Guadalupe County were among these. Mrs. Yordt (afterwards Mrs. P. Conway) opened a boarding house. The Lawler and

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Bob Jones families came in. The stage coach came this way on its regular trips, to change horses at Finucane & Meriwether's livery barn and stage stand.

Do you remember the map for the plan of Luling, or did you ever see it? I mean the one made by Commodore Mochman for Col. Pierce. The middle of the town was a 300 ft. street called Broadway or The Boulevard with North 1st, 2nd, and 3rd streets and South 1st, 2nd, and 3rd parallel, east and west. Those north and south 1st on the west to 9th east were avenues. All of the blocks along Broadway and along 1st streets were intended for business houses and soon were so built up. There were also four plazas or squares for sports or recreation. After the Mexican manner, these were named Longer Park, Elena Square on the south side, Charles Park and Blanch Square on the north side of town. The railroad track was laid right through the middle of Broadway. The immigrants house, a snug, well built two-room house, was on the north side, east of 7th Ave., and the freight depot on the south side of the track was on 6th Ave. Joe Bine's eating house was where the passenger depot was to be built. Business houses were hastily erected and dwellings appeared as if by magic.

The report that there was to be a saloon on every corner was fiction. Gregg's Grocery Store was where W. L. Ikerd is now, with the Two Brothers adjoining and about the middle of that block were Dillard & Johnston, Mirch, and Holcomb & Johnston's hardware. You will remember that Capt. Keith's residence and boarding house was on the east corner.

Stagner & Co. were across the Ave. from Greggs, Nathan's, the Grand music hall (music and gambling), Kleinsmith Bros., Jacobs, Alexander's, Dick's place, Kamien, Chris Wille's Hotel. Across 5th Ave. were Hendry's jewelry store, Spicer's barber shop, Schtrenk's shoe shop, Merchant's Exchange (run by George Hysaw-saloon) Ling Lu's laundry (washy-washy, as he called it), Bower's livery barn (with dance hall upstairs) O'Connor's shoe and boot shop, Picarney's, Rouff's jewelry, and Bob Jones, jewelry and watch making. In the next block west was one two-story frame house occupied but closed.

Remember these buildings were all frame, not close together. Some had plank sidewalks, others mud (or dry dirt) and this goes for the other side of the track. On the west side of 5th Ave. was a long one-story building, No. 49, closed in the daytime. On

the East side were a hotel later acquired by Ab Thomas, then Finucane and Meriwether's Livery Barn, and another livery barn and lots. East of Fifth Ave. was John Orchard's hotel space, Wassenich's furniture store space, several doctor's and other small office buildings. East of 6th Ave. was Walker Bros. and at the other end of the block were a livery barn and lots and office, with another two-story frame building, open at night only.

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The first of September found this a lively place in which ladies must be escorted if they were on any of these streets. Mrs. Wilder opened a private school in her home for white children. Mr. Wilder taught a free school for negroes in the Flat north of town.

MORE ABOUT RAILROAD-NAMING OF LULING

Let's go back a few weeks on the railroad. Do you remember that in August many of the railroad company's stockholders having decided to "rough it" by traveling in Texas and to inspect their holdings, came to Luling. Among these was a Scotch noblewoman, Lady Leah Cahar, with her footman in livery. The lady classified herself as a sportswoman saying she rode to hounds, played golf and tennis and danced beautifully. She was fully equipped for all of these activities, wearing a hunter's green short skirted riding habit with a tight fitting postillon-back jacket, derby hat, heavy high-topped laced boots. She rode about the country by-ways and side roads, accompanied by a man from the livery stable from which the horses were obtained.

Her walking costumes were not so distinctive, but she dressed for dinner and both her dinner dresses and ball gowns were of fine silk, satin or velvet, were decollete, having extremely long trains perfectly fitting her (and her tilter bustle.) No one wore hoop skirts in the '70's.

She created a sensation when she went the two blocks to the Orchard Hotel to 6 o'clock dinner with the footman walking along behind holding up her train. Gallant Drs. Van Gasken and Blunt and others soon replaced the footman, teaching the lady that American escorts carried a lady's train with her hand on his left arm and were proud to do so.

Her footman's livery looked like the Colonial farmer costume, same kind of coat, with stock, lace ruffles at the wrist, knee breeches, silver buckles at knee, white silk stockings, black low cut shoes, large silver buckles at instep, hair brushed back and tied "in a club" on the nape of the neck, tri-corn hat, only this man wore gold earrings, as stated by Alex Sweet in Texas Siftings when he wrote about Luling's first immigration agent.

It was noteworthy that the men from cities, North and South wore the same kind of broadcloth Prince Albert suits our Texas men bought in coastal cities, just a few New Yorkers wearing morning coats, pin striped trousers and fancy vests and spats.

* * *

As this is not intended for a fashion report, I will get back to my town. Do you remember that much advertised day in September, 1874 (the 10th I think) when the first all-passenger excursion train rolled to a stop at

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the freight depot? At high noon exactly half way between 6th and 5th Avenues Lady Cahar drove the silver spike, saying "This is the center of this town I name Luling." Remember the stampede for hotel dining rooms and other eating places, how people from Prairie Lea and some other places refused invitations to go home with citizens, saying "We have never eaten in a hotel and we can visit you some other time?" It was a great day!

Do you remember that Bob Innes was station agent?

With the construction gang came a Chinese laundry man, one Ling Lu, with his hair in a queue or pigtail. He was a quiet, unassuming person who specialized in laundering fine shirts. Do you remember those white pleated bosomed fine linen shirts with pointed turnover collars in use at that time? They preceded the stiff front ones with standing collar and stiff cuffs which in turn were imitated in celluloid (just the collar, cuffs and front). Sometimes there was no shirt.

There were a few things Ling would not stand for--being called a gal on account of his long hair, being asked if he was a Mexican or Negro or if he used his mouth and teeth to dampen shirts for ironing. To escape ridicule he called himself John Chinaman, had his haircut, did not leave Luling for ten years, keeping up his laundry with a bathroom annexed and running errands or carrying notes from young gentlemen to ladies. You know there were no telephones.

* * *

I do solemnly assert that Luling was named in honor of Judge Luling, a financier, all other statements from other sources notwithstanding. The construction forces having moved en masse within her boundaries Luling had a population of 500 on the day of christening.

ROARING CITY--FIRST BIRTHS--SEVERE DROUTH

Do you remember the well diggers, the two-man crews with picks and shovels, windlass and rope for bucket, who worked to provide water for man and beast in addition to a well or cistern for every store and dwelling? They made four along the railroad track with drinking places for man and beast. They had hitching racks for the use of out of towners. For about eighteen months Luling was the typical railroad roaring city. It has taken years (if ever) to live down this reputation.

* * *

Do you remember that in October Barnum's Grand Aggregation of Educational and Entertainment Features having the largest zoo with more wild

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animals than ever seen in captivity anywhere on earth, with more trapeze performers and other athletic features, more beautiful bareback riders and side shows, came to town and set up right on Railroad Avenue? I did not get to attend. With some small brothers and sisters and the trusty hired man I walked to 9th Avenue. We were told to sit on the grass until he went to town to get our tickets and returned for us. We sat until near sundown. He got home the next day.

Near Christmas the first white children were born--Al Smith and Johnny Lee the same day, but as Mr. Lee was a railroad employee, the award of a lot was bestowed on the Smiths. Annie Keith arrived a short while later and as there was no competition, a lot was presented to her father in trust for her.

* * *

Do you remember that Texas suffered one of the worst drouths in 1873-74 which caused the great cattle "die up?" Only the old or very young stock were left in the country after the many drives up the trail to Dodge City or another route, to stock the ranches of the West--Nebraska and Arizona. The crops had failed and although there was money--U.S.

bills and fractional currency and copper cent pennies, skinning dead cattle became an active competitive occupation so keen that whoever found an animal "down going to die" put up claim signs of ownership no matter whose brand it bore. The hides were salted, dried and sold for shipment to the hide buyer in town.

A year later after dogs, wolves and buzzards had finished their scavenger work, someone began buying horns, hoofs and bones for shipment. There was soon an enormous evil smelling pile on the right-of-way in front of that block called Harwood Ward, which had one building and one gin on it. The young town continued to grow after the "floating" population moved on. In the spring of '74 Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lewis opened school in their home on N. 3rd St.-private. The only public schools were for negroes. Mr. Wilder's was over in the flat and Mr. Jordan's near Johnston's Store. His "Doggerly" had burned down. There were more negro children than white and their free school did not begin at the same time as the other and was better pay. Luling was a good town but far from beautiful.

There were many large trees and beautiful live oak groves. Most of the dwellings were fenced in and the yards planted in fruit and ornamental shrubs and vines and roses, but horses and cattle and dogs were unrestrained. Cotton was sampled and sold on the main street, corn in the shuck was loaded from wagons to box car. Many teams and horses were watered before hitching and the dead leaves and tumbleweeds, hog wallows and beds were altogether unsightly and unsavory.

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Our friends from the other towns said Luling had sand, fleas and grassburs and that there were so many new people it was hard to know who was what.

EARLY SETTLERS-RAPID GROWTH

Do you remember that by the new year, 1874, most of the tent dwellers and bridge builders had moved to Dorn's Ford on the San Marcos? That the carpenters working overtime had finished many other store

buildings and dwelling houses. That the post office had been opened between Miss Mattie Cook's millinery store and Drs. Van Gasken and Blunt's office. That Carnot Bellinger was postmaster and D. M. Day, from across the river, was clerk. That W. D. Maxwell from Georgia was bookkeeper and clerk for Walker Bros.; that John Walker with his bride, Addle Fenner, lived near the store on S. 1st St., H. Kleinsmith across the street (corner S. 1st and 6th Ave.). R. Jacobs had built a cottage on the same block corner S. 2nd and 6th and diagonally across the avenue was R. L. Innes' two-story home (Mr. Innes had recently married Miss Lucy Riley of Columbus). Dr. Callihan and his family occupied the SE corner of this block. Tom and Jim Meriwether the next block with Old Man Lawler further south. On S. 3rd St. south of Longer Park, C. B. Collins from Lockhart and J. K. Walker were next door neighbors. Dan and Phil Price had the rest of the block. There were many other families in widely separated homes. The Lichensteins, Alexanders, Lyons, Blowsteins, Goodmans, Conleys, P. Harris, Frys, Days, Hardemans, Murphys, Denmans, Gatewoods, Graves, Schonfields, Baumgartens and others whose names may appear in these articles. Especially those families of Hardeman, Tadlock, Smith and others just out of the edge of the town. There were many single Men: H. and R. Kleinsmith, R. Jacobs, I. Miller, Marx Epstein, Chas. Chambers, W. G. Jackson, Marx Rouff, W. D. Maxwell, D. M. Day, Henry Price, J. K. Moore, John Campbell, R. M. King, Dr. Blunt, Dr. Van Gasken, Bill Evans, and Bill Evins, Dr. T. E. Cocreham, Capt. Woodyard, Jim Lee, Henry Muenster, T. P. Schtrenk. Of course there were others and as a directory this is not complete.

* * *

Do you remember that while the construction crew was still in town they graded the streets, leaving a deep ditch along every sidewalk (an

*NOTE: I think this date should be 1875, the time when the Huff family moved

into town, the youngest child (born after his father's death) being one year old. The writer of these memoirs was then twelve, the oldest living child of the family, by Martha Louise Meriwether, the second wife.

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effort to drain off the surplus water), that the railroad bed was filled, including the mudhole at and near the freight depot, that the passenger depot was added to the Bines restaurant, making a 5-room house? Every householder had to build one or more culverts from sidewalk to street and few people used the sidewalks, jay-walking instead. There was a well beaten trail from Bob Innes' home to past Mrs. Yordt's to the passenger station. There was nothing between these points except scrub mesquite, sage and tumbleweeds.

Early in '74 the Keith family moved to their new home on 9th Ave. and their boarding house was taken over by the Perkins family whose daughters, Misses Dink and Dock, added such to its popularity. The Masonic fraternity found there were many fellow craftsmen among the newcomers, and built a new hall with lodge rooms above and moved Hardeman Lodge No. 179 to Luling.

* * *

Certainly there were other citizens on the north side of town besides the sooners. The Jasper Conleys, located where the Lockhart and Prairie Lea roads separate, Mr. Pete Fry with his lock and key and gun repair shop was at the corner of N. 1st and 4th Ave. On the next block north the Alexanders and Lyons, L. Goodman on 6th Ave. and Levi Johnson on 7th Ave., while on 7th and N. 2nd J. N. Stagner's finest house in town was located. On the east side of the park were A. Dillard, Boggus, Wiley Carpenter, R. D. Smith, P. Harris, T. W. Pierce, Rev. Cross and Rev. Craft (Baptist preachers). About this time occurred the first death-one of the railroad laborers died from injuries and was buried in Charles Park. When Mr. David Moore and a small girl died the same day they were laid to rest in the SW part of town, which was "The Cemetery"

until God's Acre was purchased for the City Cemetery and the Jewish Cemetery and Catholic Cemetery were set aside.

NO CITY GOVERNMENT-OUTLAWS-RANGERS-FIRST THINGS,
INCLUDING MARRIAGES

Do you recall that there was no form of government except state and county, enforced by a few deputy sheriffs? It was said that some noted outlaws, Sam Bass, Wesley Hardin, the Youngers, King Fisher, and some equally noted sheriffs and rangers, R. Bean, Ben Thompson, Wild Bill Hikock were visitors, and living here were John Houston and Frank Holcomb? To the rhythmic sound of the saw and hammer the young town grew and the traveling salesman "the drummer" made regular visits.

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NOTE: These last were members of "Terry's Texas Rangers." Both John Houston and Frank Holcomb.

* * *

Do you remember the immigration agent, Mr. Thos. Wilson, occupied the "home" on right of way while awaiting the arrival of his family with the first English settlers. Among the lot that Mr. Wilson located and placed on farms or helped secure other business we recall the names of Carter, Moore, Taylor, Ireland, Yolland, Ervine, Batey, Eiband Glithero, Wallace, Fisher, Lowther.

Mr. Wilson established his large family east of town, where the youngest daughter, Mrs. Annette Parr, now lives.* Nearly all these newcomers brought with them large families who were a real asset to the social and cultural life and the most of these families have children or grand-children in Luling and vicinity now. Soon the Immigrant Home had to be replaced by a larger building. The old one was placed on The Alley and Seventh Avenue behind Craft's print shop.

While mentioning first things of Luling, do you remember the two brick kilns that turned out a good red brick? One was north of town on Rocky Branch, the other south of town on the river and later the one at Elandel (L. & L.) on Hoy Houston's place. This business was continued several

years and the output used for foundations and walling caved in water wells, cellars and cisterns. Two buildings--Bowers' Livery Stable and Hall (now the Walcowich Bldg.) and the other replacing Chris Willie's hotel, burned (now Allen Building) were built of it.

Do you remember that Anthony Spicer operated the first barber shop where each customer kept his own shaving mug, comb and brush? That

Mr. A. Heise, Sr., had the first bakery, selling bread, yeast cake, notions, sandy--and selling or giving away bibles, our first distributor of bibles?

* * *

In this year '75 we had the first births, first deaths and I think the first marriage-Dave Levy and Miss Mamie Lichenstein, who went to live in San Antonio, J. P. Schtrenk and Miss Ophelia Hildebrandt. There were others soon after, Mr. David Gregg left to "buy stock for the store" and before returning he went to his old Carolina home and was married

*NOTE: Now the home of Thomas Wilson, "Junior" as he is called, and one of Luling's show places.

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to Miss Annie Davis. R. Jacobs, after three years in Texas returned to Detroit and Miss Edloff came home with him as his wife. H. Kleinsmith made a trip to New York and was married to Miss Annie Myers. W. G. Jackson and Miss Hallie Kirk were married and came to their new home in Luling, as did C. R. Chambers and Florence Huff, Bill Evans and Stella Hardeman (parents of Miss T. Leonora Evans who married young Dr. John French, not to be confused with Bill Evins, who married Katie Word, and after her death married Janie Watts.) J. K. Moore and Miss Mollie Stuart of Galveston, M. Epstein and Miss Berman of New York. Some of these may have been several years later. The family records will show the exact dates.

* * *

Do you remember the first Union Sunday School was organized by William Thomas Meriwether in the Masonic Hall in the summer of '75 and about the same time the "Band of Hope" temperance organization for girls and boys was started by Rev. Bro. Boyken? The pledge as he gave it was: "I do solemnly promise to forever abstain from the use of tobacco in every form, including cigarettes and snuff, and that I will never use as a beverage wine, whiskey, brandy or other strong drink, especially lager beer." About 25 or 30 young people took the pledge (some every Sunday), paid their dues and elected R. D. Smith (father of Al) secretary-treasurer. More Citizens- Railroad Reaches San Antonio --- First School In the period between '74 and '77 the greater number of the town's night spots were replaced by other business places. The music and dance halls became Collins & Johnston's private bank. A great majority of professional gamblers and other undesirable citizens followed the railroad west. However, there were left here those who gambled and the wild young men who left town on running horses (after sowing wild oats, yelling like Comanche Indians). There had been a few cases settled by "Judge Lynch". I never learned why a man was hung on the Salt Branch bridge.

* * *

The Cahills came from Lockhart, starting a hardware store at the corner of Railroad Avenue and S. 5th Ave. and building two new homes. The elder Cahill built where Miller Ainsworth lives and Tom Cahill on the opposite corner (where G. C. Walker's home now is.) And Maj. Penn held the first great revival in a tent just off of the right of way. Maybe this helped to quiet the town. Soon afterward the Baptists found two other preachers among the new citizens, Rev. Cross and Rev. Pinkney Harris. The first church in Luling was finished in '76 with Rev. Harris as pastor and over 50 charter members.

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Let us recall some of our neighbors between the San Marcos and Guada-

ape Rivers in the early 70's. The Hysaws, Nixons, (John, Steve and Capt. Sob) the Eckols, Manford, Law, Capt. Foster, Parker, Morrison, Glasgow, Johnson, Hickman, Parson Jim Baker and his brother, Abe Baker, John and Patrick Ireland, the Erskines, Dr. B. W. Humphreys, Denman, Little, McGlothlin, Appling, Pierce, Francis, French Smiths, Tuck Smiths, Cartwright, Walker, Meriwether, Bennett, McCullough, Happle, Houchins, Myers, Fenner, Avery, Jones, Towns, David and many others. Of these some went to Seguin soon after the war, while the larger number remained on the farms, marketing their produce and selling corn and cotton at the nearest shipping point, Luling? Do you remember the wagon yard back of the Jacobs and Kleinsmith stores, where many of these people spent the night after selling their cotton and laying in supplies?

Do you remember the rock quarries? One of them was on the Joe Brothers farm 3 1/2 miles N. W. from town which was taken the brown stone for Mr. Josey's new 2-story, 8-room, mansard roof home on N. Ry. Ave.. (first stone dwelling here) and for most of the rock stores.

* * *

Texas was still a missionary field. Bishop Gregg's diocese was the whole state. Under his supervision, St. Andrews at Seguin, Annunciation in Luling and Emanuel at Lockhart were built. Nelson Ayers, the curate, was also a good builder. The church was completed in '77. Mr. Fuller of the Carolinas was employed as rector, living in the new rectory. Two other churches, Methodist and Catholic, were begun but not finished for several months later.

The Grant administration with its credit mobilier and Union Pacific scandals, ended with the election of Rutherford B. Hayes as president. And in Texas Govs. Davis and Hubbard were followed by the wise administration of Govs. Richard Coke and Oran P. Roberts, ending the reconstruction days.

In 1877 the first through trains over the G. H. & S. A. line rolled into

San Antonio. It took a little over two years to build bridges over the San Marcos, San Geronimo, Guadalupe and two or three more to Cibolo, lay the track and start the towns, Kingsbury (by-passing Seguin), Marion, Schertz, Cibolo Valley and Converse.

Rev. Craft and his son, Sam and daughter, Miss Mamie, with small equipment, issued a small paper, "The Enterprise," occupying the building at the corner of Ry. and 7th Avenue.

In September '75 the first free school opened in the Masonic hall. Prof. Asa Belvin of San Marcos and Miss Mary Keith were teachers. This Building was used as a school until 1882. Other teachers were Hon. Jos. Hatchitt and Mrs. L. F. Price, Prof. Brown and daughters, Misses Janie

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and Virginia, from Missouri, Prof. Griffin from Louisiana, with various assistants, to be succeeded by Pierce Institute on the location of the present high school building.

In these times there were many additions to the population. The McGaffey's, O. McGaffey, father of Mrs. Keith, Wyatt and Chas., family men, brothers of Mrs. Keith, and Otis, her younger brother; Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Harris and their son, R. J. Parsons, and Mrs. McGaffey's brother, Claude Garner, Mr. J. Kahn also arrived with an interesting family and opened a store next to the "Two Brothers." Mr. McGaffey built the first rock store at the corner of 6th Ave. and South Ry. St., with a cottage for Wyatt McGaffey's family at 6th Avenue and South 1st street. Capt. Keith's lumber yard was moved to the south side of the railroad track with the office at the corner of 7th Ave. and Railroad St.

After his niece, Miss Mary Keith had been primary assistant teacher with Profs. Belvin and Hatchitt, she conducted a private term in this office.

And this same office was connected with the Orchard and Day cotton platform about ten years later. Mr. John Orchard as real estate agent sold his hotel to the English Carters and lived in the extreme N.E. part of

town, now the J. J. Davis Estate property. His parents and other members of the family moved across the river to Guadalupe County, where his sister married Mr. Dan Darling.

* * *

Luling's first photographer, Mr. Tom Dagleish, built his art galley adjoining the Luling Hotel (Carter's) and the Wassenich Furniture Store was opened.

Mr. Jos. Wassenich was a widower with a large family of nearly grown children. His eldest son, Ed, married Miss Sophronia Harris, occupying the house Chas. Chambers had built on N. 3rd and Soda Springs Road. Mr. Chambers and J. A. Graves built east of 7th Avenue near Longer Park as had Col. John Quincy Adams Carter. Col. Carter was a traveling salesman for a line of hardware, wood and willow ware, crockery and china. His eldest daughter, Mollie, married Bob Elam, one of the early deputy sheriffs. Col. Carter was a Confederate veteran.

MORE GROWTH-MUSIC TEACHERS-FERRY

Do you remember in 1876 the coastal storm that almost destroyed Galveston, and disrupted our new telegraph lines (acquired with the railroad) causing the loss to Luling of a good physician, Dr. W. F. Blunt, who was called to replace his father-in-law, Dr. Peete, as quarantine officer at Galveston? He never returned to Luling-only to marry Miss Dora G. Huff several months later. However, Dr. Seaborn Denman located

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here soon afterwards. Dr. Denman's home was in the same block with Hon. Thos. McNeal and Carnot and Eustace Bellinger, eventually selling to the Methodist congregation who used the premises for a parsonage. I think Rev. John Gillett's family were the first to occupy it.

* * *

You remember there were several music (piano) teachers-Mrs. Bob Jones, nee Lucy Root, had a full class. She had been educated in a con-

vent in New Orleans and had been employed to teach music, Latin and French in the Prairie Lea Academy prior to her marriage to Bob Jones and their removal to Luling. Theirs was the home sold later to Rev. Homer S. Thrall, Texas historian, then to Rocellus McKinney and now owned and occupied by Mrs. Johnnie Manford. Mrs. C. B. Collins also taught a few pupils. Mrs. Dunc Lamkin, nee Sue Williams, in later years had a large class of advanced pupils. There were also several jolly fiddlers-- Sam Carter; M. D. Moore, the Osuna Bros., and a few banjoists and guitar players.

In 1876-7 the town began to have a busy appearance. There had been stores built between stores until there were at least three blocks of business houses with continuous board sidewalks on the north side. And we find J. A. Graves, general merchandise, where Stagner & Co. had been, J. W. Booton's drug store and S. Kahn east of Gregg's in the same block. There was no further need for the stage line. W. H. Wade livery was where Finucane & Meriwether had been and Joe Bines with his eating house went along with the railroad. Mr. Ab Thomas replaced the old hotel with a nice brick building with show rooms to accommodate the traveling salesmen. Quite a number of relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (nee Ann Kyser) located in town, Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kyser, Misses Maggie and Ada, her brother, George Kyser, and family. Mrs. Eugenia Thomas with daughters, Mollie, Genie and Stannie Lee, and a son-in-law, Tony Nance. The Baker family, Mr. and Mrs. Weston, Misses Kate, Bertha, Berta, and Will and Roger. All of these people came from San Marcos and were all an asset to the financial and social life of the town. Do you remember that in 1876 there were two passenger trains each day? Eastbound in the morning, westbound about 4 o'clock in the afternoon? Soon almost the entire population met this train and each other daily to hang around the post office until the mail was distributed, a custom prevalent for many years in all towns and villages along the line.

After the Meriwether gin and grist mill was in operation, Sixth Avenue, The River Road," was a favorite walk. The river at the mill was beautiful with large elm, cypress, oak, ash and pecan trees and sparse undergrowth. The mill pond had ruined Nixon Ford, also a ferry boat was operated for the convenience of "the folks across the river." Something

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was always happening to this boat. It was not quite comfortably long enough for a wagon and team. Sometimes a skittish pair of mules would back a little when the boat started and drop the back wheels off, necessitating a fresh start, and at other times a team would jump for the other bank too soon. Always the boat would be on the "other" side when wanted. In wet spells and floods the hemp cable would rot and break, the boat get jammed in the mill race or sunk on edge against the dam. There was always someone to take it across "just for the ride."

Once a lot of nearly grown boys pretended the boat was sinking, scaring a little negro boy, Jerry Clayton, into jumping off. He was drowned. The Meriwether mill dam destroyed the Nixon ford so farmers and others coming to Luling had to use Dorn ford or treacherous Fishtrap ford. This last mentioned had a most uncertain roadbed through it; from the north bank a circular gravel shallow water, to sudden swift deep water and a steep bank 100 feet or more on the other side, and if one took a short cut he was very apt to upset into a deep pool. Do you remember the first bridge built across the San Marcos River? It was just below the Meriwether mill dam, so the farmers at Leesville, Rancho and Belmont could come to Luling. Were you at the moonlight picnic and dance on this bridge in 1879? Mike August and Lillie Kahn, buggy riding and crossing Fishtrap ford, upset in the deep pool. When asked why he let the team get out with the H. M. T.* Mike said, "I couldn't buy them from Mr. Wade. Mr. Kahn gave me his daughter."

Do you remember the grand ball to celebrate the opening of "the Hotel?"
After the free banquet was over, the spacious dining room was cleared for dancing, and an orchestra from San Antonio furnished music for the occasion. They played waltzes, schottiches, polkas, mazurkas, reels and square dance music. Round dances were not favored by the older people, so the ball room floor was ample except for reels and squares and double squares.

* * *

Prof. Whitehead and his son, Jimmie, both good violinist, opened a dancing class in the hall over Bowers Livery Stable, teaching ball room manners and dancing-girls in the afternoon, young men at night, together Wednesday and Friday nights, with a grand soiree once a month. The next dancing school was taught by Prof. Jesse Swearingen and son, Tobe, of Lockhart in the same Bowers hall. They made a specialty of marches. When George and Alf Edloff from Detroit opened a tobacconist shop (cigar factory) in Luling, they assumed charge of the dances. They used a lot of French words in prompting (Alemain, right or left) and the town had a Semcas Thora Ball.**

*"Hug-me-tight," name given narrow buggy.

**NOTE:: I was told by a Jewish friend that these words mean "A Happy Time."
She pronounced and spelled them differently, but do not remember now-M.L.B.W.

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FIRST BIG FIRE-HOOK AND LADDER CO. ORGANIZED-FIRST BOARDING SCHOOL-SIGNAL STARTED BY J. P. BRIDGES AFTER BUYING ENTERPRISE
Do you remember that in 1877 there were regular passenger trains, two going east and two west every day? The railway company had built a passenger depot and express office and had hauled in many carloads of river gravel to fill the yards around them and the right of way between the two depots,' A civic club had been organized to care for the other streets and parks. All four public squares or parks had been grubbed but were cluttered up with piles of mesquite roots and brush and weeds. No

one would haul it away and fear kept it from being burned. The Chris Wille hotel and rooming house had burned the winter before which taught a lesson. The alarm was given by shooting firearms.

The merchants loaded buckets to use by the bucket chain; water was drawn by hand (and pulley-one bucket up and another down) most of which was used on other buildings and the Wille furniture, clothing, bedding etc., which had been piled near the railway track on 5th Ave. This first big fire caused the organization of the Hook & Ladder Co. (the nucleus of the Luling Fire department), which in turn started a series of "benefit" dinners and suppers, parties, anything to make money to buy a fire bell, church bells, school bell, Masonic bell, park fences, labor for laying out and cleaning the new city cemetery, and the organization of societies and clubs for the same purpose.

* * *

At this time wages were small; day laborers were paid 50c and 75c per day, clerks and bookkeepers got from \$10.00 to \$30.00 per month. Well diggers and bricklayers were paid 50c per foot. Young men were marrying on \$40.00 a month and paying rent or building a small home with borrowed money. However, rent was in proportion to income; a small house (with no conveniences) rented for \$3 to \$8 per month; there was always a small bit of ground for a garden and sometimes a well (if not there was one in the same block.) The livery stables did a good business, charging \$3.00 for a buggy and team and driver (who got 50c), to drummers or to travelers by the day. A horse and buggy was \$1.50 and a horse and saddle \$1.00. When the young people went to a concert, commencement or meeting at Burdett Wells hotel they pooled their funds, two or three couples using the same carriage or hack; of course, in town everybody walked. I wonder who remembers that the first very small fire company's house was located on the north side of the railway track east of the depot on 5th Ave., that when the Smith & Malone gin burned the alarm was given by voice, shooting guns, and sixshooters, and the fire house was burned "they said by incendiaries"

because it was sometimes used as a calaboose.

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Do you remember that 1877 was the U.S.A. centennial year? Much material for clothing bore the numerals 1777-1877 on men's shirts, children's clothing, ladies' aprons and sunbonnets, just as other symbols were used later. To mention a few: Horseshoes, trefoil, or fleur de lis, clover leaves, horses heads and jockey caps. A number of Lulingites made the pilgrimage to Philadelphia to attend the Centennial Exposition and World's Fair. Among them were Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Collins, leaving their children in care of Mrs. Collins' mother and sister, Mrs. Ann Miller and Miss Agnes Miller, recently from Louisiana. I am telling this to introduce Miss Agnes Miller and Mrs. L. F. Price as partners, opening the first boarding school for girls, renting Col. Carter's house near the Methodist church. Their school building was at the corner of 5th Ave. and S. 3rd St. They taught several terms both public and private schools. Of course you know in a public term the teacher was paid by the state and county; in a private school by the parents. This Centennial year brought other changes including organization as a justice precinct, with Jos. P. Hatchitt as Justice of the Peace and Perry Conway, Ranger, Mexican War and Confederate veteran, recently married to Mrs., Yordt, as constable.

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Two new lumber yards were started. C. B. Collins and his brother-in-law, John Lipscomb, of Port Hudson, La., had a fine stock unloaded on the right of way. They sold to Pipkin of Beaumont in '82. The other the West End Lumber Co., owned by a local stock company, was managed by Mr. T. W. Pierce, whose son, Will has the same position in the succeeding company. (Will is dead and Lumber Co. gone now.) The newspaper, Luling Enterprise, fell on hard time and suspended publication. Rev. Craft's health failed, his son and daughter had other interests.

Miss Mamie married a Mr. Merkin, Mrs. R. D. Smith's brother and went to one of the other railroad towns east of Luling. J. P. Bridges of the Bridges & Steele firm, publishers of the Lockhart News Echo, bought the equipment, occupying the same location, and the old immigrants home to which he moved his family (invalid wife, small daughter, mother-in-law and her youngest son) in January, 1878. The Luling Signal started in January of that year and the family home was built corner 6th Ave. and N. 2nd St. that same year. The home is now occupied by the daughter who came with him from Lockhart, Mrs. Minnie Terry.*

*NOTE: Mrs. Terry died February 10. 1946.

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MORE NEW CITIZENS -- 1ST BAPTIST AND METHODIST CHURCHES
ORGANIZED--EARLY SPRING, SAN JACINTO CELEBRATION

Do you remember that by the middle of 1878 the population of Luling had materially increased and people were proud to live on the avenues. In this year of '78 there was a house on the corner of every block. Sixth Avenue got the Dave Johnson blacksmith shop with rooms above. Riley Reed's dwelling was north of Gregg's store, the T. P. Harris and J. Kahn residences also. The new editor of the Signal built a small house across from the David Moore dwelling, occupied by Rev. Cross and family. On 3rd Street near the end of 6th Avenue lived the David Greggs and J. L, Grass. Mrs. Daily and her daughters, Miss Julia and Mrs. Fowler, ran a popular boarding house frequented by the young professional and business men. W. R. Johnston moved into the J. N. Stagner two-story dwelling on 7th Avenue in time for his wife to become a charter member of the Baptist Church. Miss Bettie (or Bessie) Anderson and her mother built next to the Moore home and T. W. Perkins, from LaGrange, the confectioner, lived next to the Johnstons on N. 2nd Street. You remember that the Masonic lodge, A. Dillard, Lewis Johnston and

the printing office were on this avenue. In '78 Mr. Redus from Devine built a rock two-story building for the Gregg grocery store and later rented the upper story for the K. of P. Lodge. But, were you one of the lucky young people who attended the dance and social given by the Greggs as a house warming? Yes, around Thanksgiving Day, 1878 over the grocery store.

* * *

On the south side of tire railroad Mr. Coulter from Gonzales County built where Dick McGaffey now, lives and John Campbell, who had married Cora Hardeman, daughter of Gen. Gotch Hardeman, lived on the opposite side of Seventh Avenue. K. D. Keith built a two-story home on 7th Avenue. and S. :3rd St. and moved into it in time to help start the Methodist Church late in the year. C. R. Chambers and M. Hendry, Jeweler, were south of the church on the same block as the Carter home. (Col. Carter was a traveling salesman, handling ironware, ironstone china, crockery and fine china.) Capt. Keith's horse on 9th Ave. was occupied by the English Stackpoles. Mr. Stackpole and son Ellis were cotton buyers for a Galveston firm. Eddie Stackpole clerked in the McGaffey's store while Mrs. Stackpole received "paying guests" or day Boarders. Among the improvements (?) were several cottonseed houses and corn cribs along the railroad to store these articles until cars could be spotted for shipment. There were also cattle loading pens and chutes. The negro citizen was an important factor in the industrial life and many

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had bought and built homes wherever their fancy or means permitted. Riley and Mittie Reed owned a corner lot where the Locker Plant was since built, which was convenient to his work at Gregg's grocery store. He delivered the lighter packages and also cleaned up the. building. Schuyler, with his dray, delivered barrels and large boxes; he owned his two-wheeled

dray and would deliver anything from a note to a young lady to a trunk or heavier articles, sometimes even bales of cotton for removal to another location. He was summoned by the hanging of a red flag in front of the place he was to serve. It was pleasant to hear his cheerful singing, or his "Git along, little mule."

The negro population was about a third that of the town; they were well diggers, gardeners, stable boys, cooks, washer women, nurses, house maid, barbers, valets and jockeys as their talents or skill qualified them for the job. Nearly all of them lived west of 1st Ave. near their Baptist Church. Others were north of town along Rocky Branch. The two settlements were called "the Black Belt." A few lived in the backyard of the white folks they worked for; as Jeems and Katie on the J. K. Walker premises.

About this time some educated mulattos, quadroons, and octoroons, came from Louisiana and Alabama and assumed leadership. Nelson and Alice Palernan superseded Mr. Wilder in the negro school, giving the negro children a longer school term (Nelson worked in Wade's stable between terms). Banks, a barber, Jones, a yellow Methodist preacher, Cochran, a labor organizer, and missionaries from Tuskegee, and others, Someone organized a Congregational Church among them, and built a large house of worship on or near N. 1st street near Blanch square. A committee employed Mr. La Crosse to paint it flesh color. They were not all pleased to find him painting it black. When it was finished, it was a bright French gray.

Albert North followed Schuyler as delivery man at Gregg's store. Spring was early in '78. Everyone was busy making gardens, planting orchards, vineyards, not neglecting the ornamental shrubs and plants. It seemed that everything planted in previous years was growing and nearly every new citizen introduced a new shrub in addition to the hardy annual roses, flowering almond, Rose-of-Sharon or althea, mock orange, and iris plants of plantation varieties and ever blooming tearoses, lilacs, lavender,

oleander, catalpa, cedars, arborvita, pedusporum, wildpeach and other evergreens, jessamines, honeysuckle, madeira and balsam vines and in the "black belt" or negro part of town there were various kinds of cane, palm o'crystal (castor bean), jack beans, princess feather, ornamental gourds supplanting the various kinds of weeds native to Texas prairie lands. We thought this the garden spot of the state. San Jacinto day was celebrated by a country wide old time. picnic at Sulphur Spring. All of the citizens of defunct Atlanta and the country roundabout gathered to once more

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drink the health giving cold sulphur water as it flowed from the bank of Plum creek. Approximately two hundred people assembled on the old camp ground under the shade of the trees where a platform with rostrum for the speaker of the clay, numerous swings, jump ropes, race courses and other sports were provided. Maj. T. M. Harwood of Gonzales, for whom the railway town Harwood was named, was the first speaker. His theme was Progress. After giving the historical data about Gonzales, Gonzales county, DeWitt colony, Texas, he pointed out that this portion of the Lone Star State is no longer a frontier and the people through education and wealth are ready to take part in continental politics, religion and education matters; to let our watchword be forward. Mr. John Lamkin from Harwood and Dr. Williams of Luling deplored the dissolution of their former home town, Atlanta, in brief talks. The odor of roast pig (or barbecued shoat) and coffee, the spreading of tablecloths and emptying of the picnic baskets was too great an attraction for the larger part of the crowd to hear any more speaking. After dinner the sports: foot races, potato and obstruction races for boys, hoop races for girls. swinging in big swings sitting, standing, two at a time. The jump rope was about 30 feet of two inch hemp that required a strong arm to keep turning. Dr. T. E. Cocreham did yeoman service in all these

sports, saying he wanted to earn his dinner as lie just happened
(?) to come.

We realized for the first time the changes a few years can make
when we

could find only a few of the old Atlanta schoolmates, Charlie
Word, Tassie

and Maude Word, Jeff and Ida Spears, Idella and Maston Nixon,
Jeff and

Sack Jackson, the older ones if they were married, Tom and Lola
Davis

and the Hales.

There was to have been speaking in the afternoon; maybe there
was. I

soon found myself with the group on the platform playing "skip-
to-my-

Lou," "Off we Go to Mexico," "Old Dan Tucker," "Pop goes the
Weasel,"

"Chickiema crainy crow" until someone found "Uncle" Nath Huff at
the

barbecue pit. "Yas suh, I has my fiddle wid me." So we danced to
these

same tones, and others, until time to go home.

However, it was noticeable that Dr. Cocreham stayed as long as
the

Davis family and rode along with John and Tom beside the carriage
driven

by dummy Frank, in which Lola rode with their mother.

SCHOOLS CLOSE FOR SUMMER AMUSEMENTS THE BEACH FAMILY

The end of April brought the close of both schools. Mention of
Mrs.

Price has been made. Prof. Brown, daughters Misses Virginia and
Janie

closed their last term with exercises in the school room.

Honoring com-

pletion of the U. P. and S. P. railways to the West cost, the
principal

theme was continental affairs mentioning "The Continental Divide
in the

Rockies."

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Here again Lola Davis was a star performer, singing "My New
Walking

Skirt":

My good Mama she says that I

Am a naughty flirt;

All because I promenade

In my walking skirt.

Ain't I sweet! Oh, ain't I sweet?

I know I'm sweet and have a right

To promenade the street.

And glad I am there is a style

To show my pretty feet.

During this spring the railway put in a double track and several switches through town to handle the incoming and outgoing freight, and freight trains were more numerous, and the passenger trains had more coaches. Sometimes private through coaches for railway magnates or political personages or maybe a fine opera or theatrical troupe going from one large town to another, and sometimes one for Luling. The classic was "Virginius" with Frederick Ward and Mittens Willett, with a full cast, and suitable costumes and scenery. Bowers Hall filled to overflowing. Once before the Stutts Co. hall staged "Romeo and Juliet" with a makeshift balcony, using pot plants for shrubbery. Mrs. Stutts as Juliet wore a white Mother Hubbard and had a red rose in her hair. The P. T. Beach orchard, market garden, and dairy farm (40 acres) provided a good living for a large family from the midwest for at least twenty years, proving that by intelligence, industry and thrift a living can be made on a small tract of land. The reverse side of the picture is that in middle age, Mrs. Beach died. Her daughters on reaching maturity taught school or music; the sons grew up and left home the remnant of the family rented out the place and left town. The father seemed to lose ambition and health and didn't live long. Today the farm, after changing ownership several times, is in the edge of the oil field, and as a farm, does not yield even a good crop of nigger head cactus.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS, LONGER PARK IMPROVED, MORE NEW CITIZENS

To me 1879 was an outstanding period in social and financial progress. The two schools had 75 to 90 pupils each. Some of the older ones were very talented. There were two Sunday schools: Baptist and Episcopal. The union Sunday school in the Masonic Lodge building had disbanded, though the "Band of Hope." still carried on. It was the largest group of young peo-

ple. Brother Boykin did not ask about denominations, so there were both Christian and non-Christian young people to whom he expounded the evils of alcohol and nicotine. Mesdames C. B. Collins, David Gregg and Bob Jones sponsored a concert for the benefit of Longer Park. Mrs. Jones adapted the story "Little Chick," appearing in the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post. She and Mrs. Collins trained their music classes in piano and voice, solos and duets. They were assisted by Mr. Collins, Dr. Van Gasken, Alf La Crosse and all the young people anxious to "appear before the footlights." Mrs. L. F. Price was cast for the leading role, as Mrs. Jones said "Little Chick" had to sit on her flowing blond tresses, and she was the only one who could qualify. However, Mesdames Gregg and Collins, and Mr. Collins, were equally effective in a gypsy scene. Dr. Van Gasken and the new girl, Miss Annie Power, sang a love song, and everybody sang "Auld Lang Syne." Bowers Hall was overcrowded and the net proceeds was enough for the park fence. The committee having charge of improving and fencing Longer Park hired workmen to burn the piles of brush left from a former effort at improvement, plowed, harrowed and leveled the ground, built a low fence of heavy cedar posts 3 1/2 feet above ground with 1 x 6 boards for rails, and two more at the top (which were just fine for sitting on). There was an opening in the middle of each side with a turnstile for pedestrians only. It was much easier to go round the park than through it-but there were numerous croquet courts set up, and lawn parties given. (It was in the middle of what was considered the best residential part of town.) (LBWitt) There had been a new lot of citizens, among them Gus Brackney and his brother, Mahlon, in some way associated with Walker's store, Sam Manford and his bride, nee Johnnie Little, Jim Ellis, his mother and niece, Joel P. Williams, family from Kentucky, the Boone family from Galveston, the Evertons from Indiana and Dyes from the same state, Lee Beaty's family from Gonzales Co. Remember the wonderful market garden, orchard, and vineyard Mr.

Beaty developed just north of town? The Crowell place was further out, and what splendid wine was produced on both places, also on the Tadlock ground southeast of town. In the summer of 1879 young ladies from other towns and cities came visiting in Luling. Miss Fannie Humphreys of Seguin spent the summer with the Huff family; Miss Sally Polk of San Marcos was another guest in the same home; Miss Maude Kent of Gonzales visited her aunt, Miss Mattie Cook; Miss Tillie Schmidt of Kingsbury was a guest of the Wassenich's; Miss Nellie Stuart of Galveston was with her sister, Mrs. J. K. Moore; Miss Retta Beaucroft of Dallas was with her sister, Mrs. C. N. McGaffey; Misses Willella and Tully Foltz of Galveston and Austin

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were visiting their aunts, Mesdames Hardeman and J. K. Walker; and Miss Fannie L. Innes from Springfield, Mo. was with her brother's family (station agent R. L. Innes) for a year; Miss Callie Jobe from Rome, Ga. was the guest of friends. Entertaining this "bevy of beauty" was the occasion for picnics, riding parties (horseback or buggy rides), dances and other amusements. Dr. T. E. Cocreham gave a surprise(?) at her home on June 5, honoring Lola Davis on her seventeenth birthday. He procured a wagon and pair of big mules, a regulation mule skinner, blacksnake whip to make those mules go. The spring seats in the wagon were filled with girls, three to a seat, with two on the drivers seat with him, and thus they went to the Davis home. The house and yard were filled to overflowing, horses and teams were hitched along the garden fence, and the hitchrack by the horse-block (used for mounting) was not big enough for all. The house was a blaze of light, with candles and lamps everywhere and lanterns on the veranda, especially near the "Jacob's Well" where cold lemonade was served throughout the evening. After three hours of square dances, reels, and waltzes, our host said,

"The musicians will play "Home Sweet Home; as a waltz just once more for the girls who came with me. I am going to waltz with Lola." After getting his team on a high lope down the hill slope on the main road, he said, "Moonlight and love -I can't make love to eleven girls at the same time any other way than with songs." So he sang, "Kitty Wells," "Nellie Gray," and others.

NOTE: My mother told me Dr. Cocreham insisted on having her sit by him on the driver's seat. She thought it was because he did not want to be involved in any flirtation with an older girl as he was really in love with Lola. As she was small he probably thought she wouldn't take up much room, and as she was such a little bit older than Lola and a friend of hers from childhood, he probably thought she knew of this love and would respect it, which she did. She was happy over their marriage that same summer, and remained their friend through life.-L.B.W.

The good people across the river in the east end of Guadalupe County decided to have one grand Fourth of July celebration, barbecue, tournament and dance. All the folks in Caldwell, Gonzales and Guadalupe counties were asked to come and eat, drink and be merry with them "free gratis for nothing." County officers and politicians, especially lawyers, were speakers. There were many large plantations and stock farms between the San Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers, with wealthy, highly cultured owners.

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Mr. J. W. Meriwether and his nieces, Misses Humphreys and Huff had as guests for this event Governor John Ireland's daughters, Misses Mollie, Rosalie and Alva, J. W. Graves, Nat Henderson, and Hal Young, Tarver Bee, Bryan Houston, who came from Seguin on the morning train. Added to this group were Misses Sallie Polk, Annie and Marietta Hardeman, Lou Baker, the Foltz girls, Gus and Mahlon Brackney, Lee and Hal Hardeman, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Walker, chaperones. There were so many other Lulingites who attended this event that both livery stables rented every vehicle and every saddle horse. The location was said to be on Darst Creek in the Nixon neighborhood,

noted for its beautiful scenery, about five miles south of Luling. When late guests arrived there were so many people present that the only view that could be seen was about twenty feet of glowing barbecue pits with beef, pork and mutton being prepared, supplemented by pots of stockman's stew and coffee, the 100-ft. raised tables covered with white cloths (it was afterwards told that this table was filled three times and more than 900 people served.)

At about one o'clock the group was more interested in the egg-shaped race track and occupying the grandstand. There were fine horses as well as fine people and no professional jockeys. After the running and trotting races came the tournament, using the same track where posts had been erected with arms from which rings were suspended. Horsemen bearing lances and riding at full tilt were to catch these rings (after the manner of King Arthur's knights.) Prizes for the victors were: 1st, a Spanish saddle with silver conchos, embossed saddle leathers and tapaderas and many latigos; 2nd, a wreath of artificial red roses; 3rd, a \$5 gold piece. Silver spurs were awarded each rider.

What of the knights? Looking like caballeros in their high-heeled, shiny boots, with spurs, light pants with stripe down the leg, silk shirts and embroidered boleros, they rode bare headed. I recall the Collins from Capote Farm, Hal Young and June Courpender of Seguin, two of Capt. Foster's sons, Jim Manford, Jimmy Nixon, Phil and John G. Twons, Guy King, George Hysaw, Gabe Coe. I do not remember who won first and third places, but George Hysaw secured the red roses and in a pretty ceremony crowned Miss Idella Nixon "queen of Love and Beauty."

Most of the ladies in our crowd went to the Manford home for an hour of recreation and refreshment at the invitation of Mrs. Manford's sister, Miss Agnes Law. The young daughters, Nettie and Agnes, with their charming mother, served delicious peaches and cream. The U. D. Club was started by Miss Fannie Innes. The first initiates decided that any town or country girl might join if she would obey the

few rules but no city young lady might. The only rules were never to

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wear the uniform in public, that its rites might be practiced when two or three members were together, with a solemn pledge to enforce obedience and secrecy. Marriage automatically expelled a member from the club.

The meeting place was the homes of members. There are a few ex-members living in Luling. Are you one?

* * *

The summer and fall of '79 proved that this section had been blessed with bountiful crops of fruit, vegetables, corn, cotton, potatoes, melons, sorghum (molasses and hay), pecans, walnuts and hickorynuts and the

"mast" was fine so everything was fat and prosperous: business was good.

Our new little town, rounding out her fifth year, was something to rejoice

over. School was a little late on account of cotton picking and ginning.

J. R. Griffin from Louisiana with two assistants opened in the lower

floor of the Masonic hall, Mrs. Price and Miss Miller, in their own

building, corner of 3rd and 5th Ave., the Catholic church, under the

supervision of Fr. Garesche was nearing completion. Celia Ryan and John

Doyle were the first couple married in it. Mr. Fuller, who succeeded Nelson

Ayres as rector of the Episcopal church, was happy to get better windows,

pews and an organ (with Fannie Innes as organist) and other improvements.

The Baptists altered their church entrance to protect late comers from

the weather and called Rev. Isaac Sellers to succeed Rev. Pinckney Harris.

The Methodist Church had a foundation floor, walls and roof and was

slow in building with volunteer carpenters or donated labor. Bill posters

put up advertising for the circus so the Methodist women decided to

feed the crowd in town that day. Committees solicited contributions from

the town and country. Enough food was secured for two enormous meals

served in the church building. Everything was donated-hams, beef roasts, rabbits, squirrels, liver for stew, cakes, pies, potatoes, salmon salad, salt rising bread, boxes of crackers, oysters, fish. Instead of having one table they had "booths" for regular dinner, fish and oysters, salads, cake or pie, with coffee at 5 cents or lemonade at 10c. Each booth had a manager and young lady waitresses, a hard week's work. The treasurer received \$179.35, with which ordinary six-pane house windows and pulpit furniture were bought and lumber for more benches. In the year 1879 was also organized the baseball nine with J. P. Bridges, manager and Mose Meyer, captain. The Luling Grays, a military company (I think) * having a confederate gray uniform with Frank Cross as captain; the reading club and singing school: Prof. L. B. Shook, taught sacred songs and organized a choir for the Baptist Church; the Band of Hope met in this church as Profs. Brown and Griffin needed the school room for office work. The Signal office was moved from "Harwood

*NOTE: State Militia was then in force.

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ward" to a location south of the railway track between the post office and Wassnich's furniture to be nearer the center of business. The Signal was delivered by carrier for over ten years, to the merchants and close in dwellings, I remember: Willie Byington, Willie Addington, Carey Smith, Joe Bishop, Steve Huff, Pierce and Frank Bridges. The Carriers address, a poem eulogizing the town, was usually written by a friend of the carrier, delivered Christmas (or New Year). He received gifts of cash or the equivalent in addition to the weekly fee paid by the paper. Capt. Ostrander, Mr. Oliver Gregg, Prof. J. R. Griffin, Miss Jennie Everton, J. P. Bridges were the authors. Some were gems of thought and expression. There were many new homes in the southwestern part of town, among them L. A. LaCrosse, Pat McDonald, Mr. Murphy, who married pretty Rosie Welch, J. P. Schtrenk, Mrs. Warner Polk and family, John Millican and Crockett Millican, Chris Baumgartner, Mr. Josey's market gardener.

There were other new homes. G. A. Williams from Kentucky built at the east terminus of S. 1st on 9th Ave., and was married to Miss Ida Keith in the early fall. Dr. T. E. Cocreham and Lola Davis were married soon after. Their new home was on 2nd St., between K. D. Keith's and R. Jacobs'. Jim Ellis and his mother moved into town. Their home was where B. R. Miles now lives. Dr. J. Van Gasken and Miss Annie Powar married early in January, 1880. Dr's home was at the corner of 2nd St. and 5th Ave., and Mr. Powar built next door. (The properties now are Dr. Nugent's and Dr. Robertson's). This fall we first had the "buyer" men who bought for others on salary and commission, cotton and corn buyers, buyers of pecans, melons, hides; tallow, beeswax and cottonseed. You know the drummer or traveling salesman sold things to merchants, druggists and others and both were agents.

1880--CHANGES-NEW IMMIGRANTS

The five years beginning with '80 were important on account of the many changes as well as increase in population.

* * *

Mr. J. Josey gave up merchandising, moved his family from the Prairie Lea road location to the new "brownstone" home on Railroad Ave. and N. 2nd St. (I always thought that first two story log house with one story leanto should have been kept as a landmark or historic part of Luling). Herman Josey and his cousin Herman Golesticker returned from college in New York and were active in promoting the Josey market garden and selling town lots. Then M. Rouf sold out and left. Mr. J. Manford bought their home. Mr. S. A. Bruce and his relative, Mr. Vick, bought the Lyon

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and Rouf homes, L. Goodman bought the T. P. Harris place when they moved across town to the corner of S. 2nd and 7th Ave.

* * *

Socially there was very little change. A round of singing school, dancing

school, reading and card clubs; dancing started with the Fireman's Ball and supper Jan. 6th, '80. There followed in quick succession the calico ball, the cotton ball and by no means least the leap year ball when the eight girl committee of invitations and programs called at The Signal office to place the order for printing; they found the owner-editor, a recent widower, so gallant, cordial, accommodating, so young and handsome they invited him to join his brother-in-law foreman as a member of "our set." This dance was not much different from preceding dances only the same group of girls received the printed invitations addressed and mailed to them, and calling a meeting of all dancing girls to choose escorts and write notes. Though Ling Lu (John Chinaman) was still in town, Mr. Gregg loaned Riley Reed, old Nelly and the delivery cart to deliver the notes and return the answers (the gentlemen called for the ladies at their homes and all walked to Bowers hall). In the meantime another bevy of girls at the Baptist church and Prof. Shook's singing class were making eyes at and being sympathetic to Jno. P. Walker, for the same reasons given above.

Immigrants came to town in the early '80's from everywhere. The Pinchins from England, the Dyes, Evertons, Crowells, Moses from the middle west, the Fred Muensters, Mike Browns, Nathans, Blowsteins, Heidemans, Stautzenbergers, Reis, Bergers, Birkners, McDonalds, Gus Birkner, Jim Elliott, Mose and Julius Myers from New York, George and Alf Edloff from Detroit, Mr, Norwood Barbee and family and the Joneses from Guadalupe county, Mrs. Veazey and John from Louisiana, W. W. Lipscomb and family and in-laws, the Kinchlos of Wharton county, J. P. Williams and daughter of Kentucky, the Hymans, Sid and Sue and their cousin Walter, and Lawrence brothers from Carolina, the Washburns and Bootons, Dr. Carhart and family, a surgeon, medical practitioner, author; whose novel, Norma Trist, was heartily condemned (it was ahead of the times); Dr. J. H. French with two small sons, Victor and John, his

jolly brother, Dave French and Mrs. Burton, with her husband and sons all from Virginia, Mrs. Donnelly with a son and talented daughter Ann, Mr. Leak, who succeeded Mr. Tom Wilson as immigration agent, and his step-daughter Miss Maggie Kirk, Mrs. Anne Denman and family, G. B. Harris, confectioner, and family, Dr. J. P. Sewell and son, W. C. Sewell, from Harwood; Drs. Williams, Smith, Denman and Carhart were either old or elderly so Drs. Van Gasken, Cocreham and French were kept busy riding to care for victims of malaria, jaundice, dengue fever and other

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ills due to rainy weather, rank growth of weeds, mosquitoes and lack of sanitation and overflowing water courses. We were still having yellow fever along the Gulf coast.

NOTE: Among others who came from Virginia were the Shanklins who settled in and near Prairie Lea. Other early settlers in Prairie Lea included the McCutcheons (descended from Daniel Boone), Clarks, Flowers, Davenports, Cartwrights and Tillers, who came from Tennessee. The Rohrbachers sold out to Prof. Jno. N. Gambrell, who graded Pierce Institute in 1885-86, later becoming county judge and ex-officio, County Superintendent, and moved to Lockhart. There were Hudgens, Smiths, Roberts, Harris, Wilsons, Barbers and others who founded Fentress. The McKears were among those who stayed at Prairie Lea, with gin and general store. And don't let's forget the early Primitive Baptist preacher, "Parson" Jim Baker, a fine, good, man.-L.B.W.

CONTINUATION OF DO YOU REMEMBER?

Among these newcomers were capitalists, clerks, carpenters, brick layers, farmers, laborers, dentists, etc. About this time Rev. Isaac Sellers built on the location of Dr. Nichols' home (now Crockett St.) and his mother and sisters, Mrs. Wallace, Miss Liela Wallace, Misses Annie and Nannie Sellers, bought the Onnie Harde-

man place when the family moved to Austin. Bill Evans sold to Shelt Dowell, a Gonzales County man from Rancho. Mrs. Mooney and Miss Maggie Mooney built a beautiful home next door to the Innes residence, moving in to be neighbor to their relative Mrs. Tom Cahill, nee Hattie Mooney, and W. B. Walker, whose wife was Ophelia Mooney, and Mr. Pad Walker, with four interesting children, two sons and two daughters from Tennessee. This influx of new citizens started an era of better building contractors.

John Day and McKnight Bros. with plenty of laborers, had three to four buildings under construction at the same time. Among these were

Dr. Van Gasken's drug store and Walker Bros. two story building, east of Bowers Hall (over livery stable); and in the next block east were

Muenster's, Dr. Cocreham's, Jacobs, and Kleinsmith's buildings. Also Mr.

W. R. Johnston's two story building for Epstein's store and the bank.

In the next block (40) east of the Redus building, G. A, Williams' store

building for Holcomb and Williams' Hardware Store, and at the East

end of the block, L. W. Booton's two story grocery store. It will be remembered next that all these two story buildings had lodge rooms upstairs

(or lodging rooms) and many had stairways in the street. In the middle

'80's Block 40 got the Parsons, Wilson, and Manford rock buildings.

The oil mill was built on a block adjoining Elena Square, and so was

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the new school. The school was a rock building, two stories containing

six class rooms, with two more large rooms in the mansard roof. Access

to the second story was by an outside stairway, and to the room in the

roof through one of the classrooms by an inside stairway. There was also

a belfry with a large bell in the center of the roof top.

In honor of Col. Thomas W. Pierce, who donated the ground (and said

he would bequeath \$2,000.00 for its improvement) the school was called

Pierce Institute. Prof. Harris and a corps of teachers from Virginia and

Tennessee, opened in September, 1882. This was the end of the two

other schools, but not the private schools, for beginners were taught (in their homes) by Mrs. Mary Harris (nee Huff) and Miss Bessie (or Betty) Anderson. A few citizens of Luling can recall that one or other of these ladies taught them to read and spell. About this time Meriwether Bros. were having trouble with their mill and gin. The dam bottom washed out in a flood so no water went through the millrace. This resulted in the acquisition of the mill by Mr. Fritz Zedler; he told me one time that he borrowed what money he needed in Runge or Yorktown at 4% or 4 1/2%; the Meriwethers had to pay 12 1/2 to 20%, so no wonder they had to sell out. It's an ill wind that blows no good. This change resulted in restoration of this plant, building another gin and a seed threshing, peanut shelling, plant in town. Then came the organization of the water system, ice factory, and electric lights. I do not claim that Mr. Zedler was the motivating power behind these enterprises, but he and his sons were prime factors. Do you remember when Messrs. Coley and Abbott of San Antonio started an ice factory on the Ernest Wilson lots, using water from a shallow well and what a failure it was? Were you a subscriber for electricity from the plant located where Geo. Harris lives (corner of Walnut & Crock-ett)? I was. Did you use gluten bread made of whole wheat flour that was manufactured at the Zedler mill? Why can't we get it now? What has become of the machinery for making Allison flour from cottonseed meal at the oil mill?"

NOTE: 1962 The oil mill is a junk yard now, and there are no gins in Luling. The Zedler, Malone, and Eklund (round bale) gins have all been removed. Instead of cotton, our farmers raise watermelons. The "Watermelon Thump" is an annual affair.-M.L.B.W.

IMMIGRANTS FROM ENGLAND-FINE PEOPLE

Of the English immigrants do you remember that after the Carters took over the Orchard Hotel, they renamed it "The Luling Hotel"? Their eldest son, Tom, left for California, and their youngest child, Fannie,

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was born. They called her their "Texan." In a few years, less than a decade, they cast their lot with the County Capital. The Carter Hotel, near the Court House,- is one of Lockhart's best show places. (In 1960-61

it was razed and a new building erected for Lockhart Savings & Loan Association.) Their son, John, stayed in Luling and took up photography. He married an English girl, Lucy Ireland, and was one of the founders of the Church of the Annunciation, one of the promoters of the waterworks, bank, and lumber company, building up a snug competence, leaving three sons, Sidney, Robert, and Arthur, to carry on from where he left off.

The Moores evidently were wealthy when they arrived in Luling, as they bought an entire block in the west end of town, and a farm about

10 miles out, on which was located one of the "Spanish silver mine"

ruins, and later, Bert Moore's gin on the Lockhart road near Burdette

Wells. Their eldest son, and their daughter, the beautiful Miss Florence,

went to California. So the parents lived the remainder of their lives with

their youngest son, honorable, benevolent, Masonic, capitalist, A. T. (Bert)

Moore.

The Lowthers from England located near Soda Springs, where Mr. Lowther's clear tenor, the soprano of Florence and alto of Edith became

a feature of worship in the Methodist Church, organized by Rev. Solomon

Bridges about 1867. Florence Lowther married Thos. Wilson, Jr. Edith

Lowther married Albert Johnson (son of Rev. T. B. Johnson), one of the

sons married Albert's sister. The Lowther grandchildren are in Luling and

vicinity.

The Urwin family also settled nearby in the McNeil community.

Their

daughter, Maggie married H. L. King. Another daughter married H. N.

Moon and their daughter, Mrs. Carrol Harris lives here yet. Other members

of the family went to Gonzales, where their cousins, the Watsons lived.

One of the Watson men married Tamar Wilson, daughter of Thos.

Wilson.

Their children, Mrs. A. B. Colwell, Miss Annie and Willie Watson live in Luling now. The Yollands located in the Hall School community, Lon Taylor married their eldest daughter and they lived in Luling. The other Yollands, a sister and brother, went to Houston, as did Lark Taylor when he grew up. Grace Taylor married Roy M. Turner and lives in Luling now (1962). The Yolland family were ardent missionaries, maintaining a Methodist missionary in Brazil until Mrs. Taylor's death. The Lon Taylor home was at the corner of Oak Ave. and Pierce St. A filling station is there now- Texaco.

NOTE: Some of this last paragraph has been added from my own knowledge, as the Watsons are my friends, and Ethel Moon Harris a former pupil.-L.B.W.

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The Perkins family also went to the Hall School community. Frank Perkins married Lizzie Womack, daughter of Uncle Henry Womack (noted banjo player) and Miss Willie McCarty. (NOTE: Ernest Perkins was one of the most interesting and agreeable pupils I ever taught. Annie Louise made a fine teacher herself, and has proved her friendship and ability in more than one instance. She is now Mrs. Sam Towell of Houston, where Ernest also lives. L.B.W. 1962) The Ervine family were on a river farm. Miss Polly Ervine, became the third wife of Mr. Perry Beaty, whose first wife is buried in Lone Oak Cemetery. Her sister married Mr. Damon, and her son and daughter live now in Luling, Wesley Daman's son, James, being one of our postal clerks. Harwood was their early home, and it was there that Florence, now Mrs. Cisro Robbins, was my pupil. George and Isobel Batey, orphan brother and sister made good lives for themselves in America. George, a bridge builder, married Miss Stella Johnson of Waelder. They settled in Harwood, and raised a fine family, only one of whom, Mrs. Lester States (Gladys, a former pupil of mine), still lives there. Isobel married Will Glithero, an engineer and bridge builder. After living in Luling for years, they moved to Columbus.

MARRIAGES

So great an increase in population (1500) was bound to result in marriage for some of them: among the number I recall W. F. Hale and Lavinia Douglas; J. Q. Manford and Emma McLean, J. W. Meriwether and Mattie Pickens, Allan Burditt and Cassie Ellison, John Leehin and Mollie Johnson; J. P. Bridges, Annie Huff; Ashiel (?) Cahn and Clara Josey, J. H. Muenster and Sallie Cahn, D. M. Day and Flora Duke, John Walker and Josephine Fenner, Jim Wagoner and Mollie Day, Tom Moody and Gussie Ussery, W. D. Maxwell, Mollie Thomas; W. D. Cleveland and Bettie Day; S. B. Chambers and Lelia Wassenich, Al Smith and Zona Williams, George C. Williams and Rosalie Wassenich; J. H. Short and Miss Wagoner; Ira Moses and Lyda Smith; Newt Moses and Maggie Smith; Jim Ellis and Maggie Cosgrave; P. J. Greenwood and Ada Kyser; J. W. Nicholson and Nina Houston, W. B. Stevens and Maggie Nixon; J. W. Lipscomb and Fannie Huff; Dr. N. Champion and Ella Nixon, Jim Towns and Meda King; O. McGaffey Jr. and Lottie Boon, W. D. Keith and Alice Lonis, Manley Boon and Byrd Williams, Jim Hatcher and Mary Markley; Joe Wassenich and Ethel Gillett; R. A. Hale and Lyda Dennis, R. J. Parsons and Nannie Hale, Guy Smith and Anzo Page, Dr. J. H. French and Miss Agnes Miller, M. August and Lillie Cahn; R. M. King, Salura Dennis. This is supposed to cover a six-year period. There were many others I can't remember, do you?

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1880-1885

Luling is a lively town and by no means a small one when we take into consideration that she has nine dealers in general merchandise, eight grocers, six dry goods merchants, six saloons, three barber shops, three drug stores, five blacksmith shops, four dealers in fruits and confectioneries, one dealer in groceries and hardware, four hotels and restaurants, two bakers, two millinery establishments, two livery stables, one photographer, one cigar factory, one watchmaker, two shoemaker shops, one dealer in stoves and hardware, three mills and gins, a cotton factory, one butcher, in a few weeks at most there will be an oil mill and a broom

factory, besides there are several local dealers in agricultural implements, and a carriage factory. She has five churches and will soon have a sixth, four schools, Masonic, Odd Fellows, K. of P., Legion of Honor, Workingmen and a Colored Odd Fellows lodge. Besides all this she has lawyers, doctors, dentists, two furniture dealers, one lumber yard, railroad, telegraph, express and post offices, a live newspaper and boss book and job office, three nurseries and market gardens, one dairy, one ice house, three dealers in paints, oils and glass. There are from fifteen to twenty carpenters, masons and painters, three draymen, one hook and ladder fire company, two apiaries, one brick yard, one horse power scroll saw, saw mill and lathe, music teachers, draughtsmen, ornamentists, a theatre hall with stage and scenery and a fine dramatic society. Near the city there are several mineral wells.

FINALE

Do you remember that the 72nd (should be 71st) anniversary of the founding of Luling occurred the second week in September 1945? That she developed from a country store and one family, Josey's, to a "roaring, rowdy, railway" town, then into a thriving agricultural ship-ping point, serving planters, stockmen and merchants within a radius of twenty miles? Some of the best bottomlands and uplands in Texas were included in this radius, She was designated "Cotton Queen," "gem of the valley" in less than seven years, having grown from a Railway advance-camp, with hangers on of 500 people, to a thriving town of 1500 souls. The home coming of World War II service men recalls the fact that our town has trained soldiers three times for the United States wars, beginning with the Spanish-American War. Bowers Hall was then used for barracks. More than a hundred youths, from Lockhart, Seguin, the country round about, were quartered there; of these trainees, some were Homer Chambers (of Beaumont now), George Victor French of Luling, and William K. Bellinger of California (later of Oregon), who survive (in 1945).

John Veazey was their captain, and Morey Beach and Sammie Z. Wells were also in the company. There were Luling men with Roosevelt's Rough Riders, trained in New Mexico and San Antonio. The Luling contingent under Capt. Veazey did not get into actual battle, but did yeoman service in draining the swamp-land and improving the Flagler estate in Florida. World War I heritage is Benton I. McCarley Post and the Legion Auxiliary. For these veterans and for those of the war just ended the American Legion and Luling citizens established the memorial home, "American Legion Building" at the corner of Davis St. and Cypress Ave.

NOTE: As a young girl, I heard a Spanish-American War veteran questioned about his "battle" experience. He was from Seguin, and readily replied: "I was right where the bullets were thickest-under the ammunition wagon" Also I saw Col. Teddy Roosevelt get off the train and walk about at the depot here when the train took on water on their way from San Antonio to their final destination in Cuba. One of the Rough Riders got the address of my brother, Erle, and wrote him several letters from Cuba playfully calling Erle his "Jonah." Several young ladies gave their addresses to young Rough Riders and corresponded with them throughout their stay in Cuba, I was not one of them. L.B.W.

APPENDIX

In May, 1948, to celebrate the fact that Caldwell County was 100 years old, the Lockhart Port-Register put out a Centennial edition. In the historical section, Joe Bill Vogel wrote about the county newspapers. He had this to say about Luling: "Luling's growth has been just the opposite of Lockhart's. From a cross-roads settlement, it boomed in 1874 when the railroad entered the county. With help first from the railroad and then from oil, Luling has been spared many of the hard times that hurt early settlers in Lockhart. Four years after the railway tracks were laid through Luling, James P. Bridges estab-

lished the Luling Signal, now the oldest paper in Caldwell County."

Although the Signal was similar in appearance to other papers of the day, it was more fortunate in having as its editor one of the most active newspaper men in Texas.

Bridges began his newspaper career at an early age. Born in Harrison County on March 17, 1854, he attended school for three years, and then at the age of fourteen served as printer's "devil" in the office of the Texas Plowboy, under judge Edgard H. Rogan. Four years later he was made editor of the News Echo in Lockhart.

In 1878 Bridges sold the News Echo to start the Luling Signal which he operated until his death in 1893. After his death Mrs. Bridges, who still lives in Luling, assumed managership.

Mrs. Bridges recalls that she was trying to run the Signal in Luling during the days when the women suffragettes were beginning their campaign to secure voting privileges for her sex. She helped to organize the Texas Woman's Press Association.

"However, I decided in the early 90's that I couldn't run a paper and take care of five children, so I leased out the paper," she continued. The paper remained under the ownership of the Bridges' family until the early 1920's, when it was sold to D. H. Reeves.

In 1938 Reeves sold the paper back to the Bridges. Now the paper is published by Leonard Hal Bridges, the youngest son of James P. Bridges, and a member of what is undoubtedly the largest single family practicing journalism in the State.

Mrs. James P. Bridges, wife of the founder of the Signal, still does some writing for the paper. Although she is now 85 years old, she has a keen memory and a knack for putting her memoirs on paper.

"I'd never think of editing any of her copy," says her son Hal. "It's set up on the Linotype just as it comes in. I know there's no need to check any date, either, because she is always right."

Copied from Post-Register of May 8, 1948

L'envoi

Now in 1967 many things are different. Where Homer S. Thrall lived and

wrote his "Pictorial History of Texas" there is a vacant lot.
There is also a
vacant lot where the first electric light plant stood. Other
corner lots now
have public buildings where residences once stood. Our town is
growing.

Mary Louise Bridges Witt

Feb. 24, 1967