

CROSS TIMBERS POST

December - March 2017

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EDITORS' CORNER

Our last issue for 2016 is a stocking-full of many Back Trailing stories. They come at a good time of year to sit down, with perhaps a cup of cocoa, tea or coffee, followed by a long winter's nap. (the editor personally plans more than one of those!)

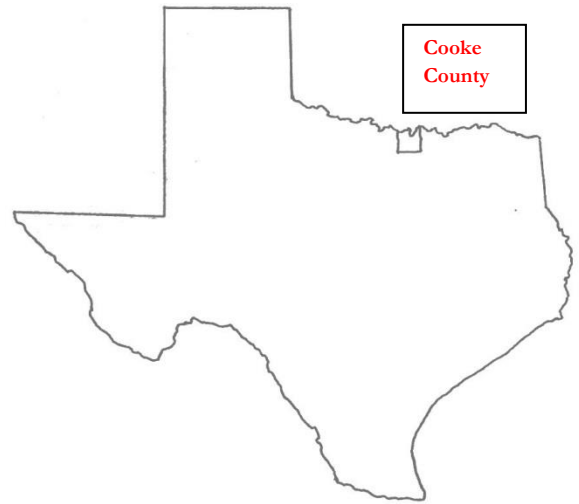
Since we were 'off the presses' for almost two years, there is bit of reading for these cold winter days ahead, as we catch up with Ronnie's amazing commitment of pursuing Cooke County newspaper history.

But first, we will begin with a true Christmas story on page 126. It began fifty-five years ago with a little boy's Christmas wish, an old smoke-house on a Cooke County farm and a well-traveled cardboard box. It is a delightful treasure of Christmas past – and Christmas present.

Season's Greetings to each of you and may abundant blessings be yours in 2017.

Colleen Clark Carri

Another very special thank-you to Ronnie Howser for his major contributions in this issue.



LET'S GET TOGETHER

Mark your calendars.

Cross Timbers Genealogical Society meets at **6:00pm** on the 1st Monday of each month (no meetings in January or July) at the Landmark Bank Conference room, Gainesville, Texas.

No meeting
in January

February 6

March 6



A 1961 Christmas wish comes true in 2016...

About this time last year I sent a letter to a man I have never met and who I hoped was the author of a little boy's letter to Santa Claus fifty-five years ago in 1961. Naturally, he had his own wish-list included, but I was especially touched that he remembered his sister and cousin in his request.

These next pages include my 2015 letter to him, copy of his letter to Santa in 1961, and the subsequent correspondence I received a few weeks later from the grown-up" boy" and his wife.

I'm hopeful these next pages will bring joy, kindness and blessings to everyone. It truly is an amazing story of how a Cooke County child's wish came true and the lives that were touched in the process. And it all began with a well-traveled cardboard box...and my wish to find the little boy.

-Colleen Clark Carri

December 15, 2015

Dear Ronny Blount,

Almost forty years ago, in the mid 1970's, an old smokehouse on the Clark farm was moved down the road to another relative's house. While there were many treasures to keep, my Dad was about to toss an old box full of newspapers when I stopped him and said – hey, one day I'll go through those! The next day the box went home with me to Arlington and moved around a lot since – Arlington, North Richland Hills, and Eagle Mtn. Lake. It was shuffled from attic to attic through the years without any attention or looking inside again.

My husband and I moved to the farm in 2012 and the box returned to its home base here on Clark Road. Just today, I was prowling inside some boxes that I still hadn't touched since our move (ugh!) – and for some reason I decided to finally go through the box from so long ago. It contains several old Gainesville newspapers that my grandmother, Ruby Clark kept – mostly for the recipes.

HOWEVER, as I perused some of the articles I found this letter to Santa Claus and knew that I just had to find you. So hopefully, you are the "right" author of this letter to Santa in 1961. If so, I hope it will bring a smile to you and your family, as it did for ours!

Merry Christmas!

Colleen Clark Carri

p.s. Did Santa bring the BB gun?!?



Copy of Ronny's letter from the GDR in 1961. Original sent to Ronny Blount.



1-13-16

DEAR COLLEEN,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO RELIVE A MOMENT IN TIME. I REMEMBER GETTING THE FOOTLOCK UNIFORM BUT I DID NOT GET THE BB GUN THAT YEAR. IT WAS VERY THOUGHTFUL FOR YOU TO SHARE THAT WITH ME.

MY DAD IS 92 AND RECENTLY WENT TO THE REST HOME AND WE HAVE BEEN DOING A LOT REMINISCING OF THE OLD DAYS SO IT WAS PERFECT TO HAVE THAT OLD PAPER.

THANKS AHEAD,

Ronny Blount



As you read in Ronny's letter to me, he shared the story with his elderly father, James Blount. I'm sad to report that Mr. Blount, age 92 passed away six months ago. But I am heartened by the knowledge that Ronny was able to share a sweet Christmas memory with his father before he passed.

January 12, 2016

Dear Colleen Clark Carri,

My name is Susan Gillis, and I am married to Ronny Blount. I came home to find Ronny smiling, and just could not believe what he had read. You did find the right Ronny Blount.

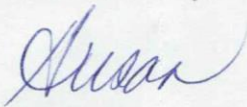
I need to apologize for the amount of time that has gone by since he received the letter. We were swept away with the busy Christmas Season. We spoke of it, numerous times, to make sure we did let you know your effort and time are very much appreciated.

Whenever a friend or family member came over, he would show them what he had received in the mail! It was so enjoyable watching their faces when they read the letter you wrote, then the letter to Santa in the newspaper. Ronny did say he did get the football gear, but did not get the BB gun. I will put that on the list for Christmas 2016 for him. It will be great fun to watch him open the gift and know where I got the idea from.

Thank you so much for sending on the newspaper article and your letter how this all came to be. We all, and especially Ronny enjoyed it immensely. He also read the rest of the paper. Time flies by...

Warmest regard to you and your family.

Most sincerely,



Susan Gillis



Ho-ho-ho! Confirmed with Susan 12-21-16, Ronny will get that BB gun on Christmas morning! (shhhhhh, until then if you know Ronny!)



Following the Ancestor Trail

Research material and research locations in Cooke County

MUENSTER LIBRARY,
418 No. Elm, Muenster, TX
<http://www.muensterlibrary.com>

COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY
200 South Weaver St., Gainesville, Texas
Newspapers, family history, county history, various states, and counties

COOKE COUNTY-COUNTY CLERK
100 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas (courthouse)
*Death, Birth, Marriage records available.
*You can look up most records yourself.
Copies are \$1.00 per page
[http://www.co.cooke.tx.us/default.aspx?Cooke County/County. Clerk](http://www.co.cooke.tx.us/default.aspx?Cooke%20County/County.Clerk)

MORTON MUSEUM of COOKE COUNTY
210 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas
E-mail: mortonmuseum@att.net
Historical people in Cooke County, various books

NCTC LIBRARY—1525 W. California St., Gainesville

<http://www.nctc.edu/NCTC-Library>

Various genealogy magazines, papers, family information, obits

Churches in Gainesville with Libraries and Archives

First Christian Church

401 No. Dixon 940-665-2053
Started May 10, 1874 Open Daily
Web site: <http://www.fccgainesville.com/>

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

415 E. California St. 940-665-4705
Started August 6, 1885
Open 9 A.M. to 12 Noon Only Look-up's

First United Methodist Church

214 So. Dixon 940-665-3926
Started 1852
Web site: <http://www.firstumcgainesvilletx.com/>

First Presbyterian Church

401 So. Denton 940-665-5153
Started 1878 Archives
Web site: under construction

St. Mary's Catholic Church

825 No. Weaver 940-665-5395
Started 1879
Web site: <http://stmaryscatholic.com/>

Red River Historian, Robin Jett

<http://www.redriverhistorian.com/>

This site is devoted to discoveries of the history of the "Old Southwest" - where the South meets the West: [Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.](#)



The editor sincerely welcomes any corrections or additions to these locations, contact information, links, etc. Thank you!

BACK TRAILING—95 Years Ago
(Contributed by Ronnie Howser)

Former Citizen Has Voice Tried Before Big Artist Thursday April 1, 1920

The Register has a clipping taken from a newspaper in Evansville, Illinois announcing the fact that the manager of **John McCormack**, the renowned singer, had come to Evansville to grant a try out to two young men of Mt. Vernon, Ill., both of whom are tenors. One of these men is **Voiles Gallaher**, a former citizen of Gainesville, whose father is a railroad man widely known in the part of Texas. Young Gallaher always had an ambition to become a singer of more than local repute, and his friends will be glad to learn the result of this try out before a man who is a celebrated critic of vocal efforts.

Mossville Must Get Mail On Star Route Tuesday April 1, 1920

Beginning today the post office at Mossville near the Fish creek bridge will be discontinued and all mail will be sent from Gainesville for the patrons of that office on the Gainesville Sivells Bend star route. The post office at Mossville will be a new epoch in the life of that community.

Notice To The Public Tuesday April 1, 1920

Beginning April 1, 1920, the prices of all registered nurses of Gainesville will be as follows:

- In hospital, \$6.00 a day
- Private homes, \$7 to \$10 a day
- Obstetrics, \$ 8.00 a day
- Contagious diseases, \$ 10.00 a day

Graduate Nurses of the Gainesville Sanitarium

Confederate Home To Hear Pleasing Songs April 1, 1920

On the afternoon of Sunday April 11, the Sacred Harp singers will meet at the Confederate Home in Ardmore, and begin a song service promptly at 1:30. In as much as you have a number of men and women in your city who sing these songs, we want to extend a pressing invitation to each of them to be present on the above mentioned date. All will be conveyed to the home from the Main Street Cafe at 1 o'clock and brought back for No. 17 train. If No. 18 train is as much as one hour late we will get a lunch before starting and go direct from the train to the home.

If you knew the pleasure your presence would give the inmates of the home you would let no little thing hinder you. May I thank you in advance for an insertion of this notice in your splendid paper?

Respectfully
L. J. Bailey

Cooke County Medicos Hold Meetings at Home of Dr. David Higgins Thursday April 15, 1920

Tuesday evening at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. **D. M. Higgins**, the Cooke County Medical Society held a very interesting meeting, with Dr. **C. F. Rice**, president of the organization, presiding. The out of town physicians present were Dr. **Frank Boyd** of Fort Worth, who is the secretary of the state medical association; Dr. **Lott** of Dallas, chief surgeon of the M. K. & T. railway; Dr. **Baker** of Era; Dr. **Dudley** of Muenster; Dr. **Maxwell** of Myra; Dr. **Cunningham** of Dexter and Dr. **Cunningham** of Valley View. Many of the local physicians were also in attendance, all of whom contributed toward making this meeting one of the best held in several months. Very excellently prepared papers were read by Dr. **Gilcreest**, Dr. **Maxwell**, and Dr. **Higgins**, after which a number of round table talks were made by the out of town guests.

Kismet, Only Horse To Jump Automobiles, Died Today Monday 19 Apr 1920

Kismet, seven year old, of international fame as the only horse in the world to jump an automobile in which were seated human passengers died here this morning after an illness of several weeks. Kismet was owned by **Herbert Graves** of Fort Worth to whom he was presented several years ago by a ranchman friend in San Angelo. Mr. Graves put the animal in care of **Virgil Keel** of this city to be trained in "high school" tactics. He soon became a world wonder, developing into an attraction that three different times filled the coliseum at the Fort Worth stock show as well as several other shows in various cities. He was booked to appear this year in Chicago, Denver, and many leading cities of the United States.

Sometime ago Mr. Graves refused \$5000 for Kismet. At the last stock show in Fort Worth the animal contracted pneumonia, which resulted in his death. He was always ridden by Mr. Keel, who greatly regrets the loss of the horse. Gainesville received much favorable publicity on account of Kismet. The owner and trainer are not alone in feeling his loss.

Former Aviator To Fly Here Saturday Tuesday May 4, 1920

The local post of the American Legion is arranging to bring **Arthur Oakley**, the dare devil aviator to Gainesville for a special exhibition Friday and Saturday. People over the country will have an opportunity to see the famous flier, as special editions of the Register are to be delivered by airplane to various parts of the Gainesville trade territory Friday and Saturday.

Oakley has duplicated many of the tricks performed by **Omar Locklear**, the famous Fort Worth aviator, and does some stunts that Locklear has not attempted. He changes from one plane to another in flight, and has also changed from a fast express train to an airplane. He stands on his head at various points on the wings and tail of the machine while it is in full flight. Some of his stunts are so daring that the more timid cannot watch them. The exhibition here will be with only one plane, but the manager **H. S. Murray**, who is here today, states there will be plenty of thrills to satisfy the most ardent thrill hunter.

During the distribution of American League literature a number of tickets for free rides will be dropped over the city.

Oakley has given his exhibition at a number of Texas towns and he never failed to draw immense crowds and pleased all with his remarkable stunts in the air.

Ancient Indian Burial Ground Is Found Near City Saturday May 15, 1920

As we go about the even tenor of our way in these modern days, we are prone to forget that years ago this was the happy hunting ground of the Indian braves and their warrior tribes, and that they chased the buffalo and other wild game over the ground now checkered with fences, paved streets, more or less graveled highways, and other marks of white civilization. But occasionally we stumble upon a mute but eloquent reminder of the halcyon days of the red man, whose epoch of savagery and fierce freedom has gone into the realm of history.

J. W. Reeves, residing on the place of **W. A. Walker**, about six miles south of this city, recently unearthed the skeleton of what was undoubtedly a giant Indian chieftain. Mr. Reeves has been a miner and is very familiar with earth formations. In the pasture he found trees bearing marks and signs. Recognizing the marks and noting the mounds in the area did not have the appearance of natural formation, he spaded into them. At a depth of about three feet, he found the leg bones of a human skeleton and later uncovered the full skeleton. The formation of the skull shows beyond a doubt that it is an Indian. One jaw was broken and there is a crushed place on the right temple – an Indian brave perhaps slain with a tomahawk in battle. The bones show that the Indian must have been six feet tall.

There are many mounds in the vicinity, which was no doubt a burying ground of some great tribe which had a permanent camp on the waters of Elm creek. The view is borne out by other signs of Indian life found in that section many years ago by the early settlers.

Work Started On The New Picture Show Tuesday May 18, 1920

Work is being rushed on the building recently vacated by **F. H. Turbeville's** music store to make place for a motion picture show to be opened in the near future by Mr. **Donohoo** of Wichita Falls, who recently purchased the property with that intention.

Mr. Donohoo also purchased the homeplace of Mrs. **F. A. Tyler** for \$25,000 and will move here with his family to permanently reside.

Local Harvey House Makes Change in Manager Friday June 4, 1920

R. B. Mayes, who comes from New York, arrived here last night to assume charge of the local Harvey House, taking the place of Mr. **O. D. Dooms**, who has filled the position here for many years.

Mr. Dooms, after taking a few weeks rest, will enter upon a new position with the Harvey people as traveling inspector of different hostelrys of the Harvey system. He has made a broad and most pleasant acquaintance while in Gainesville and many friends here regret to see him and his inestimable family depart. Mr. Dooms is a grand, good scout every day in the year, a jolly fellow whom it is a pleasure to meet and fraternize.

Quaint Old Cabin Landmark Is Soon To Be Superceded Tuesday June 15, 1920

When engineer **Jake Stamm**, one of the old time employees of the Sana Fe here and now residing in North Taylor street, a few days ago purchased the residence property at the intersection of Broadway and North Schopmeyer street, one of Gainesville's oldest building landmarks became doomed for destruction. For, on that site still stands the old cabin that was built there in 1874 by **Tillman Gossett**. This was for so long the home of that sturdy pioneer and his most estimable family. The quaint old home built with logs that were dragged with ox trains to the then almost primeval forest that bordered the town site, today gives evidence of its antiquity. Its big chimney built of the outside of the three-room enclosure represents one of the first and best evidences of its claim of age and honors the nearly half a century that its existence marks. But the modest little time worn structure has at last outlived its usefulness and Engineer Stamm, who by dint of hard work and commendable economy, has acquired the choice piece of ground, will soon have a fine large brick bungalow for himself and family, among good neighbors amid scenes altogether different from those days that marked the location and construction of the first house that graced a street in East Gainesville.

The Boll Weevil Makes Appearance In County Thursday July 1, 1920

T. J. Harrison, who is the owner of a large farm northeast of the city, near Dexter, has discovered the appearance during the past few days of the dreaded boll weevil. While on a visit to the office today to renew his subscription to the Daily Register, Mr. Harrison stated that he had just inspected the growing cotton on his farm and found the weevil in quite large numbers. He said that as yet they are doing no great damage during the present dry weather, but should there be a change to a wet spell they could easily destroy the entire crop, which generally speaking is not too promising.

Mr. Harrison says there is very little wheat or oats produced in that neighborhood this season, but the corn crop is really good and on that account the farmers are quite well satisfied. Others in the Dexter community have been bothered with the pest, but all of them are of the same opinion – if dry weather continues, the weevil cannot get too big a hold on the crop until after August and no appreciable damage will be done.

First Carload of Watermelons Here to Celebrate Day Monday July 5, 1920

W. A. Gardner & Son, the North Commerce street confectionary man, today received the first carload of watermelons that have reached the Gainesville market this season and which they are unloading from the car on the team track at the Santa Fe freight depot. These gentlemen have been busy today supplying their customers with samples of the consignment and have enjoyed a liberal patronage. The melons are of good size and said to be mighty good.

Cotton Leaf Worm Begins Attack on Cooke County Crop Thursday July 8, 1920

Secretary Ridgeway of the local Chamber of Commerce yesterday made an investigative trip to the Era section of Cooke County where he learned that the leaf worm was ravaging the cotton plants. His report says he visited the farm of **G. W. Newbauer**, near Era, and found the cotton field badly infested. In one part of the field the pests had already destroyed about five acres of what a few days ago was a good stand of rapidly growing plants, and that the worms were spreading to other farms nearby. While he regrets the situation, he said the infestation can be controlled by properly spraying the plants with a fluid which he had tried and found sure death to the cotton field invaders and that Mr. Newbauer and his neighbors will at once begin application.

Gainesville Athletes Set New Records in Meet at Cambridge Saturday July 17, 1920

Agriculture is not the only worthwhile instance in which Cooke County excels. A couple of its human products yesterday set records in athletic contests in Cambridge, Mass., which caused the nation to look with pride upon the pair of Gainesville boys – **Jack Mahan** and **Charles Paddock**.

Mahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. **John Mahan**, and now one of the best known football players and all round athletes in Texas, left here some days ago for Cambridge to enter the final contests to decide who will represent the United States in the Olympic games at Antwerp, Belgium. A telegram from Boston today brought the news that he had set a new national record in javelin throws, won a gold medal and the national championship of the Amateur Athletic Union. Whether he had won a place on the coveted team to go to Belgium, was not reported but this probably will not be decided for a few days.

It is stated on reliable authority that the former national record for a javelin throw was less than 170 feet. Mahan threw the spear yesterday 175 feet, 7.5 inches. A javelin is an aluminum tipped spear fastened to a handle several feet long. The athlete grips this handle with his fingers, runs a certain number of steps, then hurls the javelin through space. When it has reached the limit of the muscular power and science with which it was thrown, it drops to the ground as if it had been pulled down by a magnet.

Charles Paddock, son of Mr. and Mrs. **Charles Paddock**, former residents here but of late years living in California, won the 100 yard dash in 10 seconds setting another record. He is a relative of Judge and Mrs. **J. H. Garnett** of Gainesville.

Yesterday Was Anniversary of Big Flood Here Tuesday July 20, 1920

Yesterday July 19 was the first anniversary of the big flood in Gainesville and those who recalled the date yesterday perhaps thought Jupiter Plavius was preparing to duplicate the trick when the big downpour started about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The rain came at flood rate and in a few minutes the streets were converted into rivers and lakes, but the precipitation only continued about an hour and the storm water soon ran away. Still it served to recall the big flood and there was no doubt anxiety among those who live on or have property in the danger zone.

The storm did some damage in the city but there was none beyond its immediate limits. At the home of former Mayor **J. Z. Keel** lightning struck the chimney on the residence which was practically destroyed, and a tree standing nearby was badly wrecked, although there was no injury to any other property. The Baptist church for colored people on South Shopmeyer street also received an electrical bolt damaging the cupola of the building but leaving the main structure intact.

The downpour of rain that measured more than two inches here, however, seems to have covered a territory of only about 10 to 12 miles, extending from Red river to Valley View, north and south, and from the neighborhood of Callisburg on the east to near Lindsay on the west, beyond which two extremes only slight showers fell.

Former Gainesville Boy Wins Sprinting Classic from The Fastest Runners of The World

Monday August 16, 1920

Gainesville has sprung into the limelight again. One of her former boys has won the World's Championship in sprinting at the Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium. Press dispatches today reported that **Charles W. Paddock** of Pasadena, California, had won the final heat and race in the 100 meter sprint. The sprinter was born in

Gainesville at the Lindsay Hotel in 1901. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. **C. H. Paddock**, later moved to California on account of the condition of Mrs. Paddock's health.

Charles Paddock in his high school days developed into a wonderful sprinter, and has continued to win laurels in this sport since entering the University of California, currently a Sophomore in that institution. He holds a great number of medals and had numerous honors bestowed on him while abroad last year in the Pershing games. He attended a training camp in 1918 and was made a second lieutenant in artillery, being the youngest lieutenant in the United States army at only 18 years of age. The armistice was signed before he went across. Hence he was prevented from seeing active service. While in California recently Judge and Mrs. Garnett were the guests of the Paddocks in Pasadena, **Mrs. Paddock** and **Mrs. Garnett** being sisters. A large number of friends and relatives are proud of the accomplishments of this young Californian and ex-Gainesvillian.

Reinternment of First Priest in Gainesville Was Made Saturday Tuesday August 31, 1920

Father **P. A. Levy** was the first resident Catholic priest in Gainesville and met death through an accident caused by a runaway team of horses on December 17, 1886. According to the time honored custom of the church, the remains of the priest were laid in the yard of the first Catholic Church building to be erected in the city.

On the night of January 19 of this year that church building with practically all of its contents were destroyed by a fire of unknown origin. Arrangements for building a new and more commodious edifice on the church property were at once made and last Saturday when the foundation and a suitable resting place for the good man had been completed, the casket containing the mortal remains was disinterred and placed in a vault which will be underneath the floor in observance of the established church custom.

It is the further purpose of the church membership and the official board to place on the inside wall of the new building a memorial tablet in the form of the Cross, the universal emblem of the church, which will bear his name and other inscriptions sacred to the memory of the man whom the people here loved in life and mourned in death.

Mahan Returns from Belgium with Trophies Thursday September 16, 1920

Jack Mahan, Gainesville's most famous athlete and a member of the American team which participated in the world's athletic events at Antwerp, Belgium recently, has arrived home for a few days before returning to A & M College for the 1920-21 term.

Mr. Mahan is in good health and narrates in a very interesting way the incidents and pleasures of his trip abroad, the objective points being the greatest athletic meet in recent years. Jack brought back with him a collection of trophies and mementoes, the description and history of which would make a good sized book.

While Mahan possesses the largest and best collection of photographs – more than a hundred – that are reminders of the many scenes and contests nearly all pertaining to the Belgium series of events and each possessing a valued interest, his gold medal won on a Boston field for his record javelin throw is the most beautiful and elaborate. It is handsomely engraved, bearing his name and other suitable inscriptions. Another highly prized keepsake is an ebony gold mounted cane that forms a sheath for a 24 inch steel pointard. It was presented to him by noted French athlete **Reneau Andre** of Lea, France.

In speaking of many places and features of his memorable trip abroad and his supreme enjoyment of all the athletic and sport events, Mr. Mahan was mindful of the kindness of his friend, Mr. **J. D. Leeper**, who assisted materially in making it possible for him to go to Belgium and participate in one of the world's greatest of all athletic programs.

Population of Cooke County More Trebled in Past Two Years Friday Oct 1, 1920

Announcement of this character would be received joyfully by our citizens if it applied to people, but it applies to the loathsome RAT. The rat census taker might have erred slightly but it is pretty certain that he didn't put it too high. Rats can be seen everywhere. Only this morning a young lady in one of our popular department stores scaled the side of a wall at sight of a monster rat casually walking down her aisle. It is reported that this particular rat was promptly detailed for presentation at the Chamber of Commerce.

Out on the public roads rats are seen more frequently than rabbits. In the corn fields they are climbing the stalks and destroying quantities of this year's corn crop. Unless they are killed out the rats will cost this county

thousands of dollars during the coming winter months.

Slogan: Everybody kill a rat.

Commissioners Leave For Austin to Bring Back Four Big Trucks Thursday Oct 14, 1920

County commissioners **Ben Pybas**, **John Wilmeth**, and **Ira Cook** accompanied by two other men who will serve in the capacity of chauffeurs, left last night for Austin where they will be given possession of four government trucks by the state highway department. Messrs. Pybas and Wilmeth will each drive a truck from Austin to Gainesville, while Mr. Cook will accompany a chauffeur in the third truck, and their fourth machine will be maneuvered by the other chauffeur.

When the automobiles are added to the present number employed by the county, eight trucks will be available for hauling gravel and doing similar work on the highways out of Gainesville.

Shortage of Rat Tails Causes Change in Rules Friday Oct 15, 1920

The Chamber of Commerce announces that it has been necessary to change the rules of the rat campaign as relates to the paying of \$25 cash prizes each week. The number of rat tails being brought in is not justifying such ample rewards. Thus it has been decided to pay 5 cents for each and every rat tail throughout the campaign and to do away with the larger rewards. More than 1,000 of the uttermost extremity of these pests have been accounted for in Gainesville during the past two weeks and those killed in the county will reach a good number.

For Saturday a special rate of 10 cents each will be paid for rats killed on the farm of **Lewis Lindsay**. Boys are requested to be at the Chamber of Commerce Saturday morning at 9 where conveyances will be available to take them to the Lindsay farm just west of town. They will be allowed to search barns, corn cribs and other hiding places, and for each rodent killed they will be given 10 cents. Mr. Lindsay will pay half and the Rotary club the other half. Get busy boys and make some dimes for your savings account at the bank.

Negro Soldier Buried With Military Honors Monday Oct 18, 1920

The body of **John Stevenson**, a Gainesville Negro who died in France while in service of the American army was buried here Sunday afternoon. The remains arrived several days ago, having been held at the undertaking establishment of **George Carroll** since that time. On either side of the hearse were uniformed Negro soldiers who acted as pall bearers and escort. At the grave the usual military honors were paid the dead soldier.

Women Predominate Payment Poll Taxes Wednesday Oct 20, 1920

By a ratio of six to one the women of Cooke County are in advance of the men in the payment of poll taxes under new regulations allowing the privilege of obtaining this necessary document to cast a ballot in November against those for whom they have no personal affection. Of the 42 polls paid at the county tax collector's office up to 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, 36 were for women. It is said by those who keep a close touch on the public pulse, they will not vote the Democratic ticket and presumably will cast their ballots in sympathy with their husbands.

Those persons living in Gainesville who are not voting are reminded not to overlook the securing of a city poll tax in order not to be disappointed when the great day comes in the first Tuesday in November. County and city receipts are required in order to vote in Gainesville; but those residing outside of Gainesville need only present the county tax receipt. The time is growing short in which the collector can issue voting permits, and those who have any preferences in the long list of candidates had better get busy within the next few hours or they will find themselves barred from the ballot booth.

School President to Address Citizens on Proposed Amendment Tuesday Oct 26, 1920

S. H. Whitley, president of the Commerce State School at Commerce, Texas will address the citizens of Cooke County next Friday afternoon speaking in Gainesville, and Friday night at Valley View. His subject will be the wisdom of voting for the educational amendment, which will allow rural communities to vote school taxes upon themselves according to their particular needs and requirements.

City Superintendent Puckett and county superintendent Clement conferred on this matter this afternoon and

completed arrangements for greeting Mr. Whitley and reaching as large a crowd as possible to hear his address.

Regarding opposition to the educational amendment, one of which inferred that the state furnishes adequate funds to maintain rural schools for six months out of the year, Supt. Clement said he had recently checked the records and found that about twenty schools in Cooke county could remain open on state aid alone only two to four months. Therefore, they must have revenue from some other source. The custom of taking subscription to continue schools in the rural districts is getting to be bothersome to a great many farmers, and they support the educational amendment in order to tax themselves the required amount. Each taxpayer in the community will then contribute to the schools in proportion to his property.

Plans for Cooke County Live Stock Show Are in Full Swing Wednesday Oct 27, 1920

That Cooke County will have a real livestock show November 6th is the opinion of the board of managers of the Cooke County Live Stock Association, who are charged with the conduct of the show. Nearly every member of the association will exhibit some of the pure bred stock. There will also be entries from non-members. **Virgil Keel**, the famous horseman from Cooke County, noted throughout the country for his spectacular riding and his ability as a showman, has just returned from the Dallas fair. With a string of only five horses he "cleaned up" nearly all of the ribbons. He has announced that he will give \$10.00 as a special prize for a class on saddle horses. The prize will be divided as follows: First, \$5.00, Second \$3.00, Third \$2.00, and will be open to members and non-members alike. Mr. Keel will not compete personally.

County Agent Ridgway announces that entry blanks for making the entries must be in his hands prior to November 3rd.

The **Scott Mays** wagon yard will be put in readiness to accommodate the breeder, exhibitors and ample room will be provided for all. Mr. **James R. Garvey** will sell at auction on the date of the show 14 head of very fine Poland China hogs of the very best breeding and individuality.

One of the features of the show will be a livestock parade which will follow the judging of the livestock and will cover the main part of the business section of town.

Attention Ex-Service Men Wednesday Oct 27, 1920

Do you want your Victory Medal? Mr. **C. C. Fisher**, field secretary of the United States Army will be in Gainesville Thursday October 28th, with headquarters at Watts Brothers drugstore from 9 a.m. To 6 p.m.

All ex-service men – soldiers, sailors, and marines – desiring to obtain their Victory Medal can do so by seeing Mr. Fisher and presenting their discharge.

Charles Richter, Post Commander of Denison – Anderson American Legion

Gainesville Is Wild No More; Times Changed Since "Cherokee Kid" Roamed The Streets Thursday Jan 6, 1921

The following article appears in "The Enterprise" published in Bartlesville, Okla. by The Empire Refineries, Inc.:

"I'll never forget one night in Gainesville, Texas. That was the toughest town in the world." Thus speaks **Chick Turner**, the "Cherokee Kid," in his rambling confession in the last issue of the American Magazine. Turner was dwelling in the past, be it understood in his narrative, and speaks of the days before the Empire organization had become identified with what now is the town's most important manufacturing industry, oil production.

What a change should Mr. Turner return to his former haunts for a visit! No longer does the outlaw from the bad lands along the Red river stride down California street, exposing the handle of a "forty-five" with a dozen notches representing his contribution to the village graveyard. Nor is the big poker game going on in **Monte Jacobs'** place. Closed are the saloons numbering one for each ten inhabitants. The cowboys who thundered down the street, opening up with six-shooters in each hand, now are riding with **Tom Mix** or **Bill Hart** in the movies.

Today it is against the law to play cards in the trains which enter the city from what once was the refuge of outlaws, that part of Oklahoma formerly called Indian Territory. There are no gambling halls – even pool and

billiard rooms have been closed by the wise solons in Austin. There may have been more saloons on Wall Street than ever faced any equal stretch of high society in the world, but now the sole survivors are soft drink parlors. No more is "shooting up" the town a popular Saturday night sport. Today it is against the city ordinance – and warning has been issued by City Marshall **Loving**, that the law will be enforced – to "flivver" with open cut-outs on Main street. Shades of **Jim Cartwright**, of **Sam Bass** and the others known to the starting point of the old Dodge City Trail! What a change. Gainesville sleeps. The curfew rings no more because of a complaint that its noise keeps the citizens awake.

County Schools Show Increase In Number of Pupils Friday Jan 14, 1921

For several weeks County Superintendent **F. J. Clement** has been devoting attention to the matter of increasing the attendance of pupils at the public schools throughout Cooke county as required by the compulsory school law recently put into effect. Today he stated to the Register that from reports by the teachers, there has been a better percentage of attendance at these schools than for several weeks past. He is correspondingly gratified at the reports. Mr. Clement stated that there have been a few cases where pupils were not provided with proper clothing to enable them to attend school during the recent cold weather; but, generally better conditions than these prevail and the seating capacity of most of the school buildings is well taken up. All the educational efforts that have been and are now being made, are very satisfactory to all concerned.

Cooke County Free Library Is Opened Friday Jan 14, 1921

The Cooke County Commissioners have authorized the consolidation of the Gainesville public library with the Cooke County Library, which has been opened here by order of the court. Headquarters will be in the Carnegie building.

Noted Colored Prima Donna to Appear Before Public Monday Evening Saturday Feb 19, 1921

The music loving people of Gainesville will be pleased to know that **Anita Pattie Brown**, America's greatest color-turn soloist, who has been styled "the empress of melody," will appear before the public in recital Monday evening Feb 21 at the opera house. She has toured the continent several times, but Gainesville has never been fortunate enough to have her stop here. She drew 2,000 in Houston, 1300 at Waco, and 1800 at Dallas.

Enormous Monument Is Shipped From Gainesville Saturday Feb 19, 1921

Wynnewood, Okla. **George T. Prim** recently erected in Oaklawn cemetery what is considered the finest and most expensive tombstone in Southern Oklahoma. The stone or stones are of Quincy granite and were so large and heavy as to occupy an entire boxcar. It forever marks the grave of the late Mrs. **W. J. Wylie** and her little child. Mr. Prim has also just placed beautiful slabs over the graves of the late **R. L. Cochran** and **Chas. Smith**, all of the stone being manufactured by the Gainesville Marble and Granite Works, for which he is local selling agent.

Virgil Keel Sells Fine Stallion to Fort Worth Breeder Tuesday Mar 15, 1921

Gallant King, the saddle stallion that won fame all over the Southwest as the greatest animal in his class, has been sold by **V. P. Keel** of this city to Mr. **Corley**, a wealthy citizen of Fort Worth, who has been an admirer of the horse for several years. Gallant King, under Mr. Keel's careful and experienced training, developed into an admirable performer and was the means of advertising Cooke County at many stock shows and other exhibitions. The new owner expects to keep him in Fort Worth.

War Department Has a Hard Time Giving Out Victory Medals Friday Mar 25, 1921

Washington, March 24 – Difficulty is being encountered by the war department in getting men of the war with Germany to take the Victory medals which Congress authorized as a special distribution. An official notice today said that twenty-four officers, whose activities as recruiting agents, wept under a ban some weeks ago when

Congress cut the size of the regular army. They have been detailed to the task of canvassing the ex-soldiers and facilitating distribution of the medals. It was stated that the total number of victory medals so far issued is 1,500,000 though the estimates are that 4,000,000 men served in the war and are entitled to the distribution.

County Schools to Be Allowed \$18,000 of State Aid Funds Friday Mar 23, 1921

County Superintendent **Clement** stated Thursday that the state school inspector has finished the work of inspecting the twenty-seven schools in Cooke County eligible to receive state aid. A very favorable report was made on their condition, with a recommendation that \$18,500 be allotted to them at an early date. Coming at a time when tax collections are slow in some school districts, that state aid is doubly appreciated and will do much toward continuation of the school terms.

Country Boy Lance to Meet Bill Ball Friday Mar 23, 1921

Cal Lance, Cooke County's renowned prize fighter, known to the fans of north Texas as the "Countryboy from Gainesville," will meet **Bill Ball** of Dallas in a boxing exhibition at Fort Worth on the night of Wednesday March 30.

Cal has gained a great reputation in Fort Worth and is heralded as a coming champion if he continues the speed he has shown in past fights.

Funds Exhausted, School Is Closed at Woodbine, Tex. Friday April 8, 1921

The Woodbine public school closed last Friday after a most successful term taught by **B. P. Grundy** and Miss **Nora Lynch**. This is a little early for the Woodbine school to adjourn but the school money was used up and the board thought best to close. Woodbine is one of the few schools in the county that gets no state aid money on which to work. This cannot be secured until a better building is erected.

Pioneer Settler of Last Indian Raid in County Tuesday April 26, 1921

W. A. Cox, pioneer settler in the Bulcher neighborhood, was a visitor in the city today, the guest of his son **J. C. Cox**, county assessor and meeting his many friends.

It is a long call back to 1871, when Mr. Cox arrived in Cooke County from Mississippi and found his new home in the northeast part of this county, then a wilderness. Although now 74 years old, his remarkable memory is serving him well. He is able to recite, as he did today in the presence of a Register man, several incidents of those days most graphically and interestingly as though they had occurred only recently.

Among the stories he related on this occasion was what he referred to on the last Indian raid into Cooke county and the final battle in which he participated between the raiders and the settlers which occurred at old Spanish Fort on Red river. The Indians were routed and fled across the stream into Oklahoma. They left several of their dead and wounded tribesmen lying on the ground there and several of their stolen horses running wild in the woods and finally got entirely away. Mr. Cox said the Indians occasionally passed through that part of the county, but were always friendly and peaceable.

Salem School Closed on Last Friday Saturday April 30, 1921

The Salem school closed Friday April 22, with a graduating class of eight. A fine program was rendered on Wednesday and Friday nights. The most interesting event was a play by the graduating class entitled "The Model Wife". Also another entertaining feature was a charade by Messrs. Hukill, Ware, and Price, and Mesdames Ware and Hukill.

The graduates were: **Charles T. Walsh, Leonard Russell, Roberta Russell, Ollie Roberts, Effie Reed, Ruby Cason, Lavern Ware, and Faye Hancock**. Miss Hancock delivered the valedictory address.

Salem has indeed been fortunate in securing the services of two such efficient teachers as Mrs. **Lilly Scott** and Miss **Rose Wyatt**. Mrs. Scott as principal has endeared herself to the people of Salem, to the people under her care first, and also to the parents of the pupils, for the patience and gentleness with which she labored for

their advancement. Miss Wyatt is also to be highly commended for her work in the primary grades.

The Oak Valley School Closes Successful Term Friday May 6, 1921

After one of the most successful terms in its history, the Oak Valley school, a few miles east of town, closed its doors for the summer vacation last night. The closing exercises were given by the pupils and witnessed by a crowd that overflowed the building and showed great appreciation by the number of encores given each class member.

Miss **Beatrice Gibson** of this city was principal of the school and her work during the term was done in a most satisfying manner. She deserves much credit for bringing to a conclusion such a promising school year. Miss Gibson was ably assisted by Miss **Lois Bugg**. Many Gainesville people witnessed the exercises.

Important Notice by School Superintendent Thursday May 12, 1921

The state department of education has ruled that the county superintendents of the state shall act as distributors of all school books hereafter to be shipped. The requisitions that have been prepared and sent to Austin for next year's supply of books will at once be returned to the county superintendent and by them one requisition completed for the entire county. When the books are shipped, they will be sent to the county superintendent and from their offices distributed to the schools. The commissioners courts are asked to provide room and shelving so the books can be handled. In Cooke County the court has kindly agreed to store them at the old sheriff's office for this purpose.

This year all languages and grammars have been changed. New ones will be ordered in their places. Custodians throughout Cooke county have been notified to bring in to the county superintendent's office all languages and grammars and they will be shipped to the depositories for the custodian. About one half of the schools have brought in their books. In addition the department of education has ordered all new unused books of every kind be brought to the county superintendent to enable him to know the surplus stock existing in the county so he can make the proper requisition for books next year. The new system places a great deal of extra work on the superintendents, but it will improve upon the present system. Heretofore, many invoices had to be signed and returned so the depositories could receive their pay. This trouble can by this system be eliminated. Custodians should assist in this method as it takes a great burden off of them. They should be prompt in bringing in all languages and grammars and all new unused books so the new requisition for the entire county can be made.

Myra High School Closed Last Monday Saturday May 21, 1921

The Myra High School came to a close Monday night with a commencement program rendered before a large audience. The week previous was full of entertainment by the school and its music department under Miss **Self**, closing with the baccalaureate sermon Sunday evening by Rev. **R. E. Joiner**.

Newsome Dougherty High School Bonds Approved at Austin Thursday May 26, 1921

Austin, May 26 – A bond issue totaling \$150,000 for construction of the Newsome Dougherty High School at Gainesville, was approved today by the attorney general's department. The bonds mature serially and bear 5 per cent interest.

Cooke County Free Library Is Doing Excellent Work Thursday June 9, 1921

That the Cooke County Free Library is doing some very fine work will be shown in the report for the month of April by Miss **Lillian Gunter**, librarian, when books were taken to branch libraries over the county at Valley View, Hood, Warrens Bend, and Sivells Bend.

The library at Valley View is maintained in Motherhead's Drugstore by Miss **Inez Murrell**. During April she had

80 readers and 123 books circulated.

The Hood branch is kept in the home of **P. C. Davidson**. No report was received as to the number of readers and books circulated.

At Warrens Bend Miss **Kenneth Pybas** has charge of the library, same being located in the home of her father, **Ben Pybas**. There were 20 readers and 43 books circulated for the month of April.

Sam Gunter has charge of the branch library at Sivells Bend, it being located in the Woodman's Hall. There were 100 readers and 230 books circulated.

A report will be ready for publication within the next few days for the month of May.

**BACK TRAILING—50 Years Ago
(Contributed by Ronnie Howser)**

Wins Rifle Match Tuesday April 24, 1962

Local Man Crack Shot

A former Gainesville man is gaining a large measure of fame these days in England as an expert rifleman. The Gainesville U. S. Air Force Sgt. **Verne Aston** teamed recently with an R.A.F. Flight-lieutenant to win the Yorkshire County Laywood Pairs Championship for small-bore rifle shooting.

F/Lt. **D. W. Gilbert** and Sgt. Aston, who's stationed at Driffield, England, teamed to score 396 points out of a possible 400.

The amazing thing about Aston's victory is that the Texan has been rifle shooting less than a year. "I had no experience of shooting when I took it up," Sgt. Aston told a reporter for the Dorchester Chronicle in England. "I am thrilled to have done so well in so short a time, and it seems as if my hours of training has paid off."

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The son of Mrs. **Ed Aston**, 1314 N. Clements St. said he would also compete in a small RAF Bomber Command match and the USAF Match. A team will be picked in the USAF Match to return to this country for the all-Air Force Matches in May or June.

He said that he'll also fire in the England Camp Perry Matches and in the Scottish Nationals at Aberdeen, Scotland.

Robertson Retires As Santa Fe Yardmaster Wednesday May 2, 1962

At 3:30 p.m. Monday **John James Robertson** issued his last order as local yardmaster for the Santa Fe Railroad.

In August Robertson would have completed 59 years of railway service, 27 of them as yardmaster here. A native of Nova Scotia, Canada, he started with the Canadian Pacific lines in 1903. In 1908 Robertson left his home for the Pacific Coast and in 1915 moved to Gainesville. The veteran worked as a switchman until his promotion to yardmaster here in 1935, in which capacity he served until his retirement.

Highlighting Robertson's long tenure as a railroader is the recognition he has received for completing almost 59 years of service without a personal injury.

He recalls that the local yard has grown from 20 car capacity to 85 today. The yard still maintains three crews, as in 1915, though the shops have fallen off and other phases of railroading have changed.

Wilbur G. Henry of Gainesville, one of the crew members, has been selected to replace the retiring veteran.

Robertson married Miss **Elizabeth McKay**, also of Nova Scotia, in 1921. They have one daughter, Miss **Marian Robertson** of Dallas; two sons **Turner Robertson** of Houston and **James Robertson** of Shreveport, La.

The Robertsons reside at 404 Fletcher St. where he plans on "puttering around the yard". "If I had wanted to work I wouldn't have retired" he grinned.

Picked Up Passing By by Jack Joyce Tuesday July 10, 1962

Rides 'Imported' From Fort Worth Park

Those children's rides installed at the Fair Park were moved from Fort Worth by owner **Charles Watson**. He operated the rides for many years at the Southside Amusement Park in the former city.

Picked Up Passing By by Jack Joyce Thursday July 12, 1962

Everything is apparently set for the sale of two local hospitals to the Authority Friday afternoon. The price: \$250,000 for the M & S property including the Ferguson home, and \$150,000 for Gainesville Sanitarium.

Picked Up Passing By by Jack Joyce Friday Jul 13, 1962

Muenster Sets Hospital Ground Breaking

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Muenster Memorial Hospital will be at 6:30 p.m. Sunday with work on the project slated to begin Monday. The Muenster Hospital Authority is now beginning an intensive drive to raise the \$250,000 still needed for the community's share of the Hill-Burton hospital. Pledges are held for part of the amount.

Picked Up Passing By Jack Joyce Tuesday July 17, 1962

Texas Ranger **Lewis Rigler**, who has been busy in the East Texas oil fields in recent weeks, says the slant hole drilling scandal involves a lot more money than the Billie Sol Estes financial escapades. The local ranger has been working with Railroad Commission agents in checking out fields, allegedly containing deviated wells.

Rigler said one small lease about the size of a city block contained 11 wells, each supposedly producing an average of 230 barrels of oil daily. The ranger and an employee of the Railroad Commission placed containers at each of the wells and checked them at the end of the day. Ten of the wells produced nothing – one coughed up about two gallons. Half of that was salt water.

"We found another well" grinned Rigler, "that wasn't very deep – but it was more than 5,000 feet long."

That's right, most of the 5,000 feet was in a horizontal direction – permitting the owner of the oil well to tap an oil pool on a neighboring lease.

Cooke Pays A Wolf Bounty Tuesday July 24, 1962

During the past three years the number of Texas counties offering bounties for snakes and some predators has dropped very little. At least 52 counties were paying bounties in 1959 and at the beginning of this month 45 were still giving rewards for the same animals. Since '59, 14 counties were added to the list while 22 decided to quit paying bounties.

The Texas Game and Wildlife Commission has no part in the project and anyone wishing to obtain bounty money should contact the county judge in the county in which the animals are taken.

Carl Burchfield is Cooke County Judge and he has the authority to pay bounties on two animals - \$3 for timber wolves and \$3 for red wolves.

Sabin Vaccine Program Today Saturday July 28, 1962

Thousands of Cooke County residents were slated to receive the first of three Sabin oral polio vaccine series this afternoon at the Community Center Building. The mass immunization program is sponsored by the Gainesville Junior Chamber of Commerce. Officials of the organization hope to administer the 15,000 doses of the vaccine received here by 6 o'clock this evening.

All persons from the age of six weeks on up are urged to take the Sabin vaccine. This includes those who have already received Salk shots and also senior citizens. Reports indicate that the Sabin vaccine affords better protection than the Salk shots and also prevents the transmission of the polio virus to others. The immunization is free of charge; however, donations of 25 cents or more will be accepted to help defray the cost of the program.

Whitesboro Artist Paints Hickman Friday August 24, 1962

An oil painting of the late Capt. **Tom R. Hickman**, former Texas Ranger, has been completed by Mrs. **Mary Henry**, Whitesboro artist. The 16 by 20 inch oil portrait was painted from newspaper pictures supplied by Mrs.

Paul Collins of Whitesboro, a niece of Hickman. It is now on display at the Register office.

"Strong character lines show in Tom's face and the sincere, alert expression of his eyes appealed to the artist," Mrs. Henry said, "although she did not know him prior to his death."

Background for the painting is the outdoors. Mrs. Henry said this was chosen because Hickman was known by many of his friends for his camping expeditions. A small covered wagon with a horse standing nearby can be seen in the background. Valued at \$125, the painting required 60 hours of actual work.

Mrs. Henry devotes most of her time to photographic oils at her Whitesboro studio on N. Union St. She is recognized as an expert in the Old Master style of painting. The Whitesboro artist has been painting practically all of her life, and does portraits, landscapes, and photographic oils as well.

Hickman who died in January of this year was one of the most colorful law enforcement officers in Texas history. He died at the age of 75 due to cancer. His career started in 1908 when he became a deputy constable at Gainesville. He won fame also as a rodeo judge and contestant and in later years guarded oil pipelines as a special ranger.

Born on a ranch in the Marysville Community Feb, 21, 1886, Hickman married Miss **Tina Martha Knight**, daughter of Gainesville pioneers. He was one of the stars of the Gainesville Community Circus for a number of years. A crack shot with a pistol and a rifle, Hickman would burst small balloons let loose in a circus tent. He retired as a Texas Ranger in 1935 after serving as captain in the organization's Fort Worth company, and was appointed to the Texas Public Safety Commission in 1956. He became chairman of that organization in 1961.

Gainesville Had One of First Roller Skating Rinks in State by Ralph Cole Saturday August 25, 1962

According to **J. F. (Pop) Sperry**, owner of S. & S. Skating Rink, Gainesville had one of the first skating rinks in Texas. He recalls that a rink was located either on N. Commerce St. across from United Bedding, or on E. California St., east of Clack's Motor Co. as early as 1915. At one time there was a roller rink in each location and in Leonard Park.

Sperry who was born Sept. 24, 1896 on a farm east of Gainesville first started in the skating business in 1941. "All children had to do at the time was go to the picture show," he said. "So I put in a roller rink." During the depression he moved from Cooke County, working as a salesman in Oklahoma. Children put the nickname of "Pop" on him at his first skating rink and it has remained since.

"Back in the early days, you would hire a small band on Saturday night," Sperry said. The local rink has a modern PA system which has replaced the bands.

Gainesville's skating rink has been located in a number of places, but the present one at Fair Park has been maintained since Sperry returned to the city in 1949. His Irving rink was moved to Gainesville at that time.

Several rinks were opened by Sperry in area towns, but he closed them down until the only one remaining was in his home town of Gainesville.

Many changes have taken place in the skating rink business since Sperry first became interested in the sport. Skates have been improved from the old clamp on type to high top skating boots, with ball bearing rollers and rubber toe stops. Sperry keeps 412 pair of skates at his rink, but says that 95 per cent of the youngsters who skate own their skates. Sizes run from a baby 6 to a man's 14. He even keeps one ladies size 13.

The local rink will accommodate about 200 persons at one time. It is located in Fair Park in a building owned by the Cooke County Fair Assn. and rented by Sperry. Twice a year he sands and applies three coats of liquid plastic to his roller rink floors. This is done mainly for cleanliness.

Sperry describes skating as healthful, clean recreation, adding it aids in coordination. "A person has to think when he's skating," he said. "When you have 8 wheels and 16 bearings under you, you've got to think." It used to be a rough game but modernization has helped, Sperry said. At the local rink, his son Hank is available to teach skating at all times. The younger Sperry attends 100 hours of schooling at the International Skating Academy near Cleveland, Ohio each year. He gives lessons individually or by groups and expects to organize another roller hockey team this year. Known as "The Big Wheels", they compete with other teams from Decatur, Graham, Wichita Falls, Durant, Okla. and Ardmore, Okla. One home game and one away game will be played each week this year.

What's Sperry's motto - "Don't be a square - It's more fun to be a wheel."

Picked Up Passing By Jack Joyce Monday August 27, 1962

Here's Why Dexter Has Two Cemeteries

Note to Mrs. **Skippy Cox**. Nope a feud wasn't responsible for Dexter having two cemeteries. Officials of the early day Cooke County metropolis feared the original cemetery was situated too close to the settlement and located it north of the city. The original cemetery is more than 100 years old. **Hugh Collums**, 1219 E. California St., whose family has owned land south of Dexter for 110 years is our authority for the cemetery information.

Infantry Company To Hold Reunion Sunday in Denton Tuesday August 28, 1962

The 36th annual reunion of Company B, 359th Infantry will be held Sunday in the American Legion Hall, located in the Denton city park, in Denton according to **Gilbert Holman**, secretary of Gainesville. Wives of B Company members will serve a basket lunch for the noon meal.

Fred Hopkins of Krum is president of the organization that served with the 180th Brigade and the 90th Division during World War I. Company B trained at Camp Travis until leaving for England in June 1918.

Active combat duty included the Marne-Argonne Campaign. The unit also served with the 90th Div. as part of the Army of Occupation in Germany at the end of the war.

Among casualties from Cooke County included **Ora R. Anderson**, **James Curb**, and **Sam Dennis**. The Dennis-Anderson Post, American Legion was named in honor of Dennis and Anderson.

Turner Hotel Brings \$100,000 at Auction Monday September 11, 1962

A high bid of \$100,000 for the Turner Hotel, offered by two Gainesville men, was accepted Saturday night at a meeting of the hotel stockholders. The new owners are **Thomas Edwin Bass**, U. S. Air Force officer now stationed in Washington, D. C. and **Travis L. Sanders**, local oil operator.

The Turner hotel property and the **John Bezner** farm, located three miles west of the city, were offered for sale in an auction held Saturday afternoon in the Petroleum Club at the hotel. Successful bidder on the Bezner farm was **Hubert Felderhoff** of Muenster. His bid of \$325 per acre for the 296.68 acre place was high.

Sanders will have the primary responsibility of managing the hotel property. He said that the facility will be continued as a hotel and the new owners will try to make the property pay off. "The community needs the hotel and we are going to try to make it a valuable asset in the area." he said.

The sale of the hotel marks the first time in 80 years the ownership has been out of the Turner family. **David H. Turner**, late grandfather of **David P. Turner** and **William Turner**, purchased a one and one half story frame house at California and Jefferson streets in 1882 and started the family in the hotel business in 1884.

Edgar Turner, a son of the founder, assumed management of the hotel known as the Turner Cottage in 1892. His father died in 1894. **Luther Turner**, another son of David H. Turner, joined his brother in 1902 in operating the hotel. As the business outgrew its facilities, a corporation was formed in 1927 and capitalized at \$ 150,000. The present six story brick structure was built in 1928. When Edgar Turner died in 1941 and Luther Turner in 1952, control of the property remained in the Turner family.

Under the change of ownership Saturday, Mrs. Luther Turner and her sons, David P. and William Turner, were majority stockholders. David has served as president and William as vice president in operation of the hotel.

Old Auditorium Serves As Community Building by Ralph Cole Monday September 24, 1962

Fate of the Dexter school property was decided during a squabble with Callisburg, a former member of the Dexter School Board recalled this week.

Walter Williams, 88, said the only remaining building in the Dexter School District is the auditorium, which is now owned by the Dexter Cemetery. School officials deeded the property to the cemetery when they found

themselves in a court fight with Callisburg over where Dexter children would attend school. "We wanted our children to attend school at Whitesboro, and Callisburg wanted them to go there," Williams said. "I was a member of the school board at that time and we deeded the property to the cemetery to keep it from being tied up in the court suit." It cost Dexter Common School District \$ 1,300 to fight the case, but today their children and grandchildren attend school in Whitesboro and everyone is happy about it.

Williams has lived in Dexter community since he was eight years of age. He remembers the court fight well but has forgotten many of the dates involved. Callisburg lost their suit in Cooke County courts, and then filed a suit in Grayson County where they also lost.

Dexter had earlier consolidated with the Sycamore, Rocky Mound, and Mt. Gilead districts, a part of which are in Grayson County. The consolidation, first in Cooke County, was completed in 1917.

The old school auditorium still stands today. It has a stage curtain containing printed advertisements of merchants from Dexter and surrounding towns. Every businessman in the locality paid a one-time charge for the painting done by a local man.

The late **W. F. Whittington** built the auditorium about 75 years ago and operated the two story structure as a general store. When the railroad opened Ardmore, Okla., he moved there and built Hotel Whittington.

School officials purchased the Dexter store soon after the first school building burned. The old school building also served as the Masonic Lodge Hall. Officials felt the fire might have been set by some unknown person, Williams said. Until today cause of the blaze has not been determined.

The top floor of the store building was torn out and an auditorium constructed. "We had 275 children at that time," Williams commented. "They used the building for a number of years for their assembly programs." Passing shows stopped in Dexter and were always a welcome sight for citizens of the area. All such shows were held in the auditorium building.

Today the old auditorium in perfect condition, is used by the general public for meetings, elections, and other gatherings. All public meetings are held there. "We used to have square dances," Williams recalled. "We don't know anything about today's round dancing," he added.

Williams couldn't remember the exact date Dexter students started attending school at Whitesboro. It was sometime after 1948 however. In 1948 the Dexter school was one of the one-teacher schools in the county.

Dexter is located 16 miles northeast of Whitesboro and only one mile from the Cooke-Grayson County line. Seven families reside in Dexter proper at present. The city is still incorporated as of Feb. 28, 1885, but no city officials are elected. The vote in 1885 was 30 to 18.

Local Woman First to Receive NTS Doctorate Monday Jan 14, 1963

Although Dr. **Eula Louise McCain** completed her work at North Texas State University in August, she will be among graduates being recognized at the Jan. 27 winter commencement at the university. With this recognition will come the special honor of being the first woman to receive a doctor of philosophy degree. Her major is music composition and she is one of six doctoral candidates. The other five took their doctor's degree in education. As her doctoral work she did an original composition, "A Psalm Fantasy," a cantata in three movements for mezzo-soprano or baritone, mixed chorus and orchestra.

The daughter of Mrs. **H. O. McCain**, 609 Dodson St., and the late Mr. McCain, she is an assistant art professor of voice and theory at Hardin-Simmons University. She holds a B.M. from the University of Texas and completed her M.M.A. in theory from North Texas, which she received in 1957.

Picked Up Passing By Jack Joyce Friday Jan 25, 1963

A silver mine near Gainesville? That's what a clipping from a 75 year old column in a Missouri newspaper reports. The clipping was sent by a Hazelwood, Mo. pen pal to Mrs. **Elmer Diddle**, Rte. 1, Gainesville. The latter and her husband are intrigued by the possibility that they might be living in the vicinity of all that silver.

"Gainesville farmer **F. M. Stanley** discovered a stratum of silver ore while digging a well on his property. Early Gainesville settlers recalled a rich ore had once been known, but Indians had driven off the whites after the discovery and its location has since been forgotten."

We are unable to find out about the reported silver strike of 1888, but we understand that F. M. Stanley formerly resided in the Rock Creek Community of northeast Cooke County. We're also told that one of the

early day oil drilling ventures in the county was a shallow well drilled by a local group on Stanley's farm. It was a dry hole, but there are now many producing wells in that area near Callisburg.

Four Local Barbers Have 216 Years of Experience by Ralph Cole Thurs Jan 31, 1963

Lindsay Barber Shop may not have the youngest barbers in town, but they do have the oldest. Four barbers at the local shop have been cutting hair for an average of 54 years. One of them, **L. J. (Red) Savage**, is just a kid according to the other three. He's only 63 years old.

John Sonnamaker, owner of the shop, is the oldest of the four barbers working. He will be 78 on May 28. Other barbers and their ages are **Henry Gardner**, 76, and **R. E. Bandy Sr.**, 77. The four barbers have been in the business a total of 216 years.

All four barbers started when all it took to become a barber was a pair of shears and a comb. None of them took a hair cutting examination, but all four maintain licenses from the state. Only one – Gardner ever attended barber's school. "My first license cost me \$10." Sonnamaker recalled. "They now cost \$8 a year." he added.

Corn Jug Days

Sonnamaker began his hair cutting career in 1908 at Burkburnett. "That was during the corn shelling days when a farmer brought his corn to town on the cob and took it home in a jug," Sonnamaker quipped.

Sonnamaker moved to Gainesville in 1942 and went to work for Gardner in a shop at 115 E. California St. Gardner started his work at Valley View. He left Valley View in 1908 to attend barber college in Oklahoma City, Okla. and returned to Gainesville in 1909. Gardner and Bandy purchased interests in the Lindsay Hotel Barber Shop in 1917, and Bandy has been with the shop most of the time since. Ownership of the shop has bounced around several times, and Sonnamaker acquired the property in 1953.

In 1917 the Lindsay Hotel was the most popular spot in town. Many political speeches were made there, and the barber shop was gathering place for the citizens of Gainesville and Cooke County.

Savage, newest barber in the shop, commenced his career in the old Cozy Corner Saloon on N. Dixon St. His shop was located in a corner of the saloon. He later joined his father in a shop on N. Commerce St., and before moving to the Lindsay Hotel shop in 1962, owned an interest in Mutt & Red's Barber Shop on N. Commerce.

Shops Change

Barber shops have changed in both atmosphere and methods since the four men started their professions. "Women wouldn't even walk down the same side of the street a barber shop was on," Sonnamaker recalled and added, "All of them were hangouts for drunks."

Gradually through the years, the barber shop has become another clean business establishment of the city. But with the cleaning up of the barber shop came high classed haircuts. The 25-cent "full cut" gave way to the new 35-cent haircut of any type until around 1930. Individual mugs were kept for customers until the safety razor was invented. Today shaves constitute a very small part of the business. Sonnamaker once shaved 99 men in a single day, he recalled.

Hand clippers replaced shears but barbers found their customers still wanted their hair cut using the shears. When electric shears came out, customers were unwilling to yield to clips with high voltage equipment. "They were afraid they would get shocked," Savage said. Gradually customers came to accept the modern day miracle and the barbering industry advanced.

Have any of the barbers ever whacked an ear instead of a hair? Yes, several times. Sonnamaker recalls one incident that left a scar across a man's cheek. "I was shaving a man when a drunk hit my arm," Sonnamaker said. "The razor just buried up in his cheek."

Flat tops are the hardest haircuts today, the four agreed. Too many people with round heads want the look those people with flat heads are wearing, Sonnamaker said.

None of the four men have thoughts of quitting the shop. Bandy is retired, but still works several days each week. During his off time he becomes an avid golfer and frequently beats some of the younger golfers of the city.

If experience is the best teacher, Lindsay Barber Shop should be able to boast of the best barbers in town.

Old Lindsay House Historical Relics Uncovered Wednesday Feb 6, 1963

Several reminders of Cooke County history have been uncovered in the old house of Judge **J. M. Lindsay** on Lindsay St. The principal of J. M. Lindsay School, **James Marshall** and Dr. **William Powell** recently purchased the old house, and Marshall is tearing it down at present. He has uncovered several historical items in the house, which was built by Judge Lindsay. Found in Lindsay's former home so far have been such relics as the walking cane Judge Lindsay carried. It is black, has a golden head with the initials "J. M. L." carved on it. A sheepskin diploma from Cumberland University of Lebanon, Tenn. and many old newspaper clippings, including one on Judge Lindsay's death, have been uncovered. Marshall discovered a small pair of glasses that are believed to be those of the late judge. Several other items have been found in the house and Marshall plans to construct a case to display them at Lindsay School. Mrs. **J. Lindsay Embrey**, a granddaughter of the late Judge Lindsay, has put her mark of approval on the effort. She is now residing at Richardson but visits Gainesville frequently.

Judge Lindsay, who left his mark carved deeply in Cooke County's historical tree, was born Dec. 31, 1835 in Wilson County, Tenn, and died in Gainesville in 1920. Lindsay arrived in Gainesville in January 1858 and began the practice of law.

Lindsay School and Lindsay St. in Gainesville are named for the prominent Cooke County lawyer and law maker. He served in the Eighth Texas Legislature and held the distinction of being the youngest member. In 1860 Judge Lindsay was elected a justice of the peace for Gainesville, and held the office for only a year. In 1861 he was elected to represent Cooke County in the Texas Legislature and served one term of two sessions. In 1866 he was elected a member of the constitutional convention of Texas, which met to alter the state constitution and make it conform to the reconstruction acts of Congress. He became the 16th District judge in 1874, after being appointed in the post by Gen. **Richard Cole**, and served until 1876. He also served in the Civil War.

He was married in Gainesville on Oct 3, 1868 to Miss **Tennie Bonner**, who was the daughter of **George Bonner**, a merchant and an early settler in Lamar County. The couple had two children – **Lewis B. Lindsay**, who was born here in 1871, and **Jimmie Tennie**, who was born in 1877.

Judge Lindsay is mentioned in the 1881 edition of "The Encyclopedia of the New West." It carries biographical sketches of the more prominent people of the west. In the encyclopedia he is described as a man determined to succeed.

The late judge had vast land holdings in this portion of the state, including 20,000 acres of land in Grayson, Denison, Wise, Montague, Clay, Cooke, Wichita, and Hardeman Counties. He donated many pieces of land for the construction of local churches. Cumberland Presbyterians, Old School Presbyterians, Missionary Baptists, Episcopalians, and other denominations were aided by him. He was instrumental in getting the railroad to Gainesville in 1879 and donated \$5,000 to aid in its early construction. Judge Lindsay donated land for Gainesville's first school, J. M. Lindsay Elementary. He donated land for the original townsite of Lindsay, and that city is named for him. He was the founder of the Lindsay National Bank and numerous other business establishments in the city.

Picked Up Passing By Jack Joyce Thursday Feb 17, 1963

The old adage about the good a person does on earth lives on after him has proved true once again. A new \$65,000 building at Texas Baptist Children's Home in Round Rock has been named for a former Gainesville resident – the late Mrs. **Lena Brumbaugh**. The new structure, which has 17 rooms – including offices, wash areas, and a conference room for 70 – was made possible through a gift left in the will of Mrs. Brumbaugh. It is of colonial style architecture and built from Austin stone. The handsome structure will be known as the Lena Brumbaugh Administration Building.

Mrs. Brumbaugh, the former **Lena Swan**, was married to **W. D. Brumbaugh**. They operated a cafe in the 200 block of E. California St. for a number of years. After selling the restaurant they built a grocery store and service station – the building now occupied by Rike Grocery on N. Grand Ave. After her husband died, Mrs. Brumbaugh continued to operate the business until her health failed. She died in Sep 1959.

Local friends describe Mrs. Brumbaugh as "one of the finest persons they ever knew." She generously

supported a large number of worthy causes, but always insisted on anonymity. She was a long time member of First Baptist Church. Few people here would have known of Mrs. Brumbaugh's bequest to the Children's home if a clipping describing the declaration of the building ceremonies had not been mailed from Lt. Col. **Clark Brumbaugh**, stepson and only surviving relative of Mrs. Brumbaugh.

CTGS Newsletter – Cross Timbers Post, December 2016

No More Tours For Circus Star

What boy or girl at one time or another has not dreamed of becoming a circus star?

Mrs. **Bertha Conner** of 726 Anthony cannot remember the time when she ever thought of being anything else. Now 62 years of age she has retired from the bright lights and saw dust of the circus ring. Recently she contacted **Noel Wall**, local social security representative to file for her social security benefits.

Wall admits the social security was forgotten for a while as she told him about many of the intriguing tales of circus life.

Mrs. Conner was born with “show” blood in her veins as her late father was a circus owner. As long as she can remember she was performing such daring feats as climbing a ladder of keenly honed swords or doing high-wire swivel slides. In fact her first front teeth are missing due to a circus accident many years ago. She says she lost her teeth when a gust of wind jerked the swivel from her mouth – plunging her more than 80 feet to the hard tent floor. Later she and her husband, the late **Al Conner**, performed for many years in a high wire act. After his death in the early 1950s, she started a trained dog act and continued it until last year.

Although Mrs. Conner has made her winter home in Gainesville for the past 10 years, 1963 will be the first year in her memory that she has not started a season's tour. The long treks have carried her to every state in the Union, Mexico, Hawaii, and Canada several times.

Of course she will miss the income from her performances under the “big top”, Mrs. Conner said the social security benefits will partially replace her earnings because of retirement.

“I think that everyone should be glad to pay their social security – for in old age it really comes in handy”, she smiled. “And I know that I never could have retired without it”.

Picked Up Passing By by Jack Joyce April 5, 1963

Residents of the Vilott community in northeast Cooke County were pleasantly surprised this week by a visit from the community's namesake – Mrs. **Vylotte Gertrude Walker**, 80, of Dallas. Mrs. Walker's father **Joseph Kennedy** obtained a charter for a post office on Dec. 28, 1883 and named it for his infant daughter. It was the first return to Vilott for the Dallas woman since she moved away with her family when she was about three years old. She brought along the original post office charter with her.

Old Cemetery Poses Problem for Lake by Richard Harp Tuesday April 9, 1963

The discovery of a neglected cemetery near the future Moss Lake Dam in Sivells Bend came as no surprise to Mrs. **Mabel O'Brien** at 415 Clements St.

In fact, the cemetery is known among pioneer settlers of the Sivells Bend community as the Burns Graveyard. It was so named due to its location on the home place of Mrs. O'Brien's father, the late **Robert Lee Burns**. “We called them graveyards in those days”, she smiled.

Engineers drilling test holes for the dam's foundation made the discovery two weeks ago. The cemetery is in the middle of the future spillway, a short distance north of the dam site. It is located on what is now known as the Monroe Brothers Estate, about two miles north of the Fish Creek bridge on FM 1201.

The burial grounds took on a puzzling aspect when city manager **Henry Thomason** could find no record of its designation in deeds and other records. Abstractor **Jack Howeth** told Thomason that Mrs. O'Brien formerly lived on the place and could possibly give him some information. The city manager visited Mrs. O'Brien last week and learned the history of the graveyard. They are still puzzled by the lack of any record of the cemetery.

The place has changed hands a number of times since her father bought it in 1850 and each time the deed was checked.

J. D. McCarver Sr., of 501 N. Clements, also verifies the existence of the burial grounds and its location. He should know as he bought the place from Burns in 1912 and has two sisters that were buried near their home in Arkansas. In 1943 McCarter sold the place to the late **Oran and Duran Monroe**. Their mother was a daughter of **Ben Scantlin**. Mrs. O'Brien believes the Monroe brothers knew of the Burns Graveyard as their grandfather was buried there. The Monroe brothers are deceased.

At present Mrs. O'Brien resides here with a woman companion. She is the widow of the late **Marvin O'Brien**, who died in 1961. Despite the fact that there are no official records of the graveyard – it is a reality. Mrs. O'Brien is agreeable to moving the graves if a suitable location can be found.

The Gainesville City Council has ordered the feasibility of moving the spillway north to avoid disturbing the graves. They believe this will be cheaper than paying \$250 to move each grave.

Carroll Partnership Is Announced Here Friday May 17, 1963

Joseph Carroll has announced that **Harry W. Stevens** has acquired a partnership in the firm of Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home. The late **Geo. J. Carroll** came to Gainesville in 1900 and since has been identified with funeral service in Gainesville. The founder's son Joseph, resigned a position in one of the local banks to become associated with his father in 1931 and was admitted to partnership in the business in 1933. After many years of operation in the traditional "undertaking parlor" in the business section of Gainesville, the firm constructed a modern funeral home in 1936 at the present location of Lindsay St. That building has since been extensively remodeled on two occasions.

Geo. J. Carroll & Son has constantly striven to keep pace with the times and is proud of the fact that the firm has maintained a position of leadership in the funeral service industry. It is a member of the Texas Funeral Directors Assn., the National Funeral Directors Assn., and by invitation a member of the National Selected Morticians. The arrangements and appointments of Geo. J. Carroll & Son offer the utmost in convenience and dignified surroundings.

Besides the partners Carroll and Stevens, the firm has four employees, all of whom have had special training in their field. They include Mrs. **Frances Stevens**, **Estel Keitner**, **Pete Horn Jr.**, and **Abner Welch**.

Geo. J. Carroll & Son has played an integral part in the cultural and economical life of Gainesville since the turn of the century, and is proud of its heritage, Carroll said. Owners pledge the same faithful service that has always been identified with the name of Geo. J. Carroll & Son.

Picked Up Passing By by Jack Joyce Wednesday May 22, 1963

City Attorney **George L. West** is checking legal records to determine how the Jewish cemetery in Fairview Cemetery can be transferred to the city. **Ben Levine** and **Leo Kuehn Jr.** are among those seeking the transfer. Under the proposal the city would agree to provide perpetual care for graves in the tract. The Jewish cemetery was opened in the late 1880's when many people of that faith came to Gainesville after the railroad was built in the city. A United Hebrew congregation was chartered Dec. 10, 1881 with **D. Baum** as president. A synagogue was built in the southeast corner of Broadway and Red River St., and at one time 65 families were listed in the congregation.

Sneed Greever Fine Craftsman Builds Things for the Thrill of It Thursday May 23, 1963

In a recent issue of the Dallas Morning News **Larry Grove**, who edits the popular "Poor Larry's Almanac" column for The News, devoted the space to an interesting story concerning **Sneed Greever**, who was reared at Sivells Bend, north of Gainesville, but has lived in Dallas for a number of years.

He is a son of the late Dr. and Mrs. **S. A. Greever**, who settled in Cooke County several decades ago.

Ever since he was a youngster, Sneed Greever has been of an inventive bent. Many of the things he has created were done in the spirit of following his craving for hobbies. Some of them have a high commercial value.

Before reproducing excerpts from the Dallas News story, let it be said that Sneed Greever is a brother of

Mrs. **Ralph (Vera) Burk**, member of a prominent Wichita Falls family and of **Frank Greever**, who operates a sporting goods store in Yuma, Ariz. He has other distant relatives hereabouts.

Larry Grove wrote that Greever was riding his model steam powered train around an oval track in his back yard at 6226 McComas when interviewed. He fabricated every part of the locomotive that is a scaled replica of an 1879 Denver and Rio Grande steamer.

Occupied as he was, Grove observed Greever missed the television reports of Astronaut Gordon Cooper who became the first American to orbit the earth 22 times. Instead he discussed some other new and revolutionary devices that have become idle curiosities during his lifetime. "The average man thought wireless telegraphy was more fantastic back in 1909 than the prospect of going to the moon is today," said the hobbyist.

It happened that Greever was communicating by wireless in 1909, when he was nine years old to points as distant as Kansas. "My dad was a doctor at Sivells Bend. He thought I was plain off my rocker when I put in a wireless station. Yes, sir. He had to pay \$8, which was hard money in those days, to get a 75-foot tree cut down for an antenna for me. And he watched me closely, figuring that anybody involved in anything so fantastic as wireless may be crazy in other ways too." Greever commented. "But by the time radio caught on rightly after World War I, Dad was boasting about how we'd always been a far sighted family, attuned to any new scientific developments.

At one time or another the Dallas businessman had taken an interest in several hobbies before steam railroading caught his fancy: sailboat building, restoration of antique automobiles, and other things.

He has a considerable collection of machine tools in his garage workshop. "If you'd sell some of these tools", a neighbor's child told him once as Greever worked on a vintage automobile, "you could buy yourself a new car."

Greever has owned the finest collection of antique radios in the Southwest, including a WW I aircraft radio. They represent in his mind an era of Americana that should be preserved tenderly, the way a steam locomotive does.

"There's something in a sail boat ride that you won't get in a motorboat; and a steam powered locomotive has something you won't get from a gasoline powered engine," Greever said. "Sail or steam makes a sweet and soothing experience, a symphony of power. It's almost majestic." A gasoline powered machine is vicious.

Never a train man himself, Greever knows trains from boyhood. "Everybody in my day wanted to be a railroad engineer. The candy kitchen crowd (that was the name they used for teenagers) would go to the station to see the train come in as the highlight of a Sunday afternoon."

It isn't all nostalgia that holds Greever's interest: to build his machine, he has learned most of the mechanical arts from casting and machining and welding to sheet metal work and boiler building.

A poem he clipped years ago from a magazine was all the inspiration he needed to build the train for his grandchild. It read: "Listen my grandson. Listen for a minute, and then remember always if you can – it will be gone forever when you are a man."

"But", laughed Greever's wife, "the grandson gets very little use out of that train. Sneed is usually riding it." The way Mrs. Greever tells it Sneed uses the shrill train whistle to summon his old cronies from the houses in the neighborhood. They come and ride around the oval track and have a high old time. They are jealous of any child who would dare ride on it.

All of this, of course, is uncomplimentary and unfair. And probably untrue.



If history and genealogy interest you, please contact one of our officers and/or members who would love to speak to you. We love to share history!

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Cross Timbers Genealogical Society was organized in 1977 to provide a forum for those interested in genealogical research and preserving records for the future generations.

Funds raised by the CTGS are used to research, preserve and publish records relating to Cooke County family histories. As a service to other researchers, CTGS has published several books which are for sale. For more or additional information, please contact any of the officers listed on this page.

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