

10-1971

## East Texas

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### Recommended Citation

(1971) "East Texas," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 9: Iss. 2, Article 9.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol9/iss2/9>

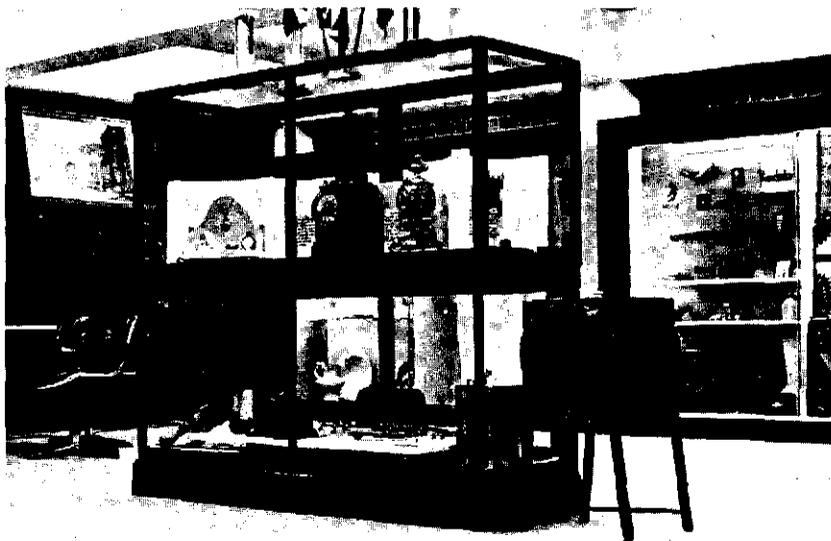
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## EAST TEXAS

BY: C. K. CHAMBERLAIN

Because of the enthusiasm exhibited by the Polk County Historical Survey Committee and its chairman Mrs. John J. Hollenburger, the editor has requested a story on the Polk County success. Mrs. Hollenburger writes:

Less than two months after the Polk County Historical Survey Committee was activated in January, 1963, by Proclamation of the Governor and action of the County Court, they were establishing the nucleus of a museum in the community room of the First National Bank in Livingston. They had no funds, no directives from the State Office and questionable know-how. They literally begged through their "Newsletter," twice each month, and through the other news media for articles to exhibit as well as for exhibit cases. Some cases were loaned (used, of course) by interested individuals, and others were donated. Enthusiasm grew, and though it was a strange conglomeration of exhibits, it created much interest in the people of Polk County and in those whose original roots were there. Later, a memorial program was set up and many donations were made to it, which were acknowledged by cards to donors and to families.



**HANDPAINTED GILBERT CLOCK AND OTHER  
ARTICLES FROM THE EARLY 1800's**

The late Gertrude Blodgett Murphy, whose bequest made the present Polk County Public Library-Museum complex possible, opened a modest bank account for the committee. The following year, it was included in the county budget for \$600. Through the generosity of interested supporters the museum received, either as outright gifts, or on loan, many interesting and some valuable items for display. When the \$600 was raised to \$1500, it was possible to move forward in the historical marking program. However, the first marker erected and the most outstanding one in the county came from a non-resident, Houston

Harte, of the Harte-Hanks Publications, because John Ben Shepperd, then Texas State Historical Survey President, called him and read a tribute paid to the late Governor William Pettus Hobby in the Polk County Committee's "Newsletter." The Harte and Hobby families were old friends and Shepperd explained that the Polk County Committee did not have funds for an official marker, but was trying to find a way to mark either Hobby's birthplace in Moscow or the site of his boyhood home in Livingston. Harte made the marker possible and it was the first erected in Texas honoring a famous Texas statesman. There are now almost fifty historical markers in the county.

There was an exciting sequence to the dedication of the marker, which was attended by many prominent people, friends of the Hobbys'. The dedication was arranged to coincide with the annual homecoming of the little village of Moscow. Among those who came were Mr. and Mrs. George R. Brown, of Houston, close family friends of the Hobbys'. Mr. Brown mentioned that it would be nice to have a little park where the marker was. Of course, the Polk County committee chairman agreed and, as a result, there is to be a \$50,000 park upon which work is scheduled to begin soon. In addition to the official historical markers in the county, the Marking Committee has aided families in securing Government Grave Markers for veterans and have placed over 225 in the county.

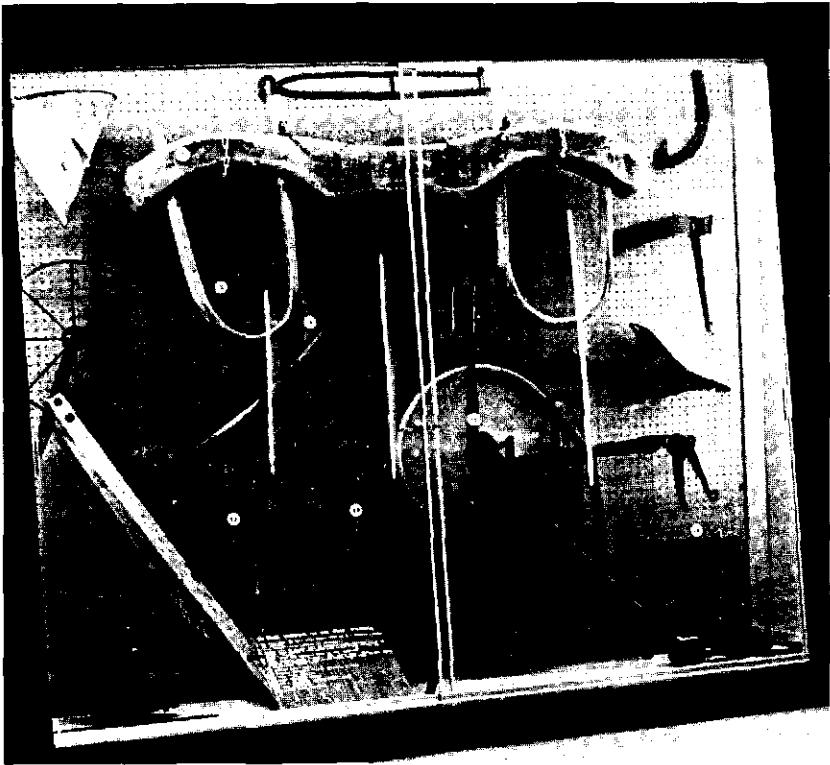
The Polk County Committee first entered statewide competition at the Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and the Texas Historical Foundation in 1964, and came home with four of the sixteen awards offered, including the most coveted top award for "Best Program of Work." The sweepstakes that year evidently triggered a pattern, because every year since then, Polk has been winning. They received the first award given for "Best Newsletter," repeated for first in "Best Program of Work" and placed second and third in the category in other years. Other awards have included first in "Best County Committee Chairman" and "Best Sub-Committee Chairman" and have placed second two years in "Best Scrapbook," as well as many other honorable mentions and other places in several categories.

Two volumes of a planned twelve on the history of Polk County have been published and material for the remaining ten is on hand, but unfortunately had not been organized for publication upon the sudden death of Emma Haynes, the author. A revolving fund has been set up for the publication and it is hoped that the remaining ones can be published.

A great feather in the local committee's cap was requesting and receiving, six years later, one of the little early locomotives from W. T. Carter & Bro. Lumber Co., Camden, Texas. Recently, a valuable piece of downtown property in Livingston has been given to the museum upon which to display it. An architect/designer from Houston has designed the plans and work should begin as soon as the property is cleared of the remaining debris from the structure that had occupied the site. Almost too good to be true is that it is on a corner lot just across the street from the handsome library-museum complex, Highway 190 West, three blocks from the courthouse, three blocks from the intermediate school and one and one-half blocks from the high school.

The custom designed and built wall cases in the museum are a source of

pride, as well as their exhibits, to the museum staff; for many interesting museum pieces are included. There is a hand scythe that came to the Colonies from England on *The Ark and the Love* in 1630 and remained in the same family until it was placed in the museum. There are other hand-wrought tools: a medical kit dating back to the War Between the States; a candelabra set (two candelabrum, a tray holding the candle-snuffer and wick-trimmer) that was used in the White House during the tenures of both John and John Quincy Adams, as well as a porcelain (Titian) madallion worn by Mrs. Adams when she was the First Lady, and it was ninety years old when she wore it! There is a complete set of the Franklin Mint silver Presidential Commemorative Medallions from Washington through Nixon, and a set of Presidential spoons. There are specimen pieces of Parian ware, Meissen, Dresden, Venetian glass, Majolica, Lusterware (circa 1700's), coffee plates, Haviland, early silver, pewter, ironstone and a handmade wooden bread tray well over 100 years old.



**OXEN YOKE AND OTHER FARM TOOLS**

A special exhibit, "March is Telephone Month," was set up to call attention to the oldest utility in the county, the Livingston Telephone Company. Besides the early telephones on display, there were pictures of telephones since their invention, as well as an assortment of early insulators. Outside the case was a 1909 switchboard. Visitors to the museum are given leaflets on the history of the telephone company as well as a reprint of the 1909 subscribers to the system.

Much interest is shown in the antique post office with its very small window and old-fashioned boxes. It was an antique which had been on exhibit at some Eastern expositions and was bought from an antique catalogue by a former postmaster in Moscow.

One case that is a source of great pride is the one that contains the original



INDIAN ARTIFACTS

ceremonial bonnet of the late Alabama-Coushatta Indian Chief Cooper Sylestine (from 1936 until his death in 1969). Also in this case is the beaded bag that his wife, Mozanne, made for him when he became the chief. (Their ceremonial garments had no pockets). There are also baskets and a sieve Mozanne wove for handling the corn as they processed it for their "sofkey," an Indian dish. Especially prized is the very old (no one knows just how old) mortar and pestle in which they ground their corn. It was old enough to have such sentimental value to the family that when it was too worn out to use, they kept it after replacing it with another. There are also "sofkey" spoons, one old, one new, both hand-carved from birch.

One of the most popular cases is a replica of a country store with its counter of aged wood, upon the front of which is an original flyer advertising the wares of one of Polk County's earliest stores. On the counter is a plug tobacco-cutter, a tobacco pouch with part of an old plug of tobacco, a beehive twine dispenser, and some early scales. There is an assortment of various things hanging from the walls and on the shelves which include: a bear grease lamp, an early apple corer and peeler, porcelain whiskey bottle, high buttoned shoes, coffee mills, flatirons, ice scraper, and an old vinegar or whiskey pump that fits in the bung hole of a barrel. The old reminisce here and the young ask what they are seeing!

There are costumes dating back to 1825 (one made during the Civil War), examples of needlework, and some of the appliances used by early seamstresses. Several exquisite handmade and embroidered silk quilts and a handwoven coverlet are in another case with quilting clamps below them. There are early carpenter tools, dental tools, veterinary dental tools, railroad lantern, ticket punch, etc. on display. The largest case in the museum is a replica of a parlor at the turn of the century. The cypress mantel of that period holds a handpainted Gilbert Clock, England, 1806, as well as the Adams candelabra. A marble top table holds a china lamp, a china chocolate picture, a Meerscham pipe and case, and a 1778 First Edition of *The Poetical Works of John Dryden*. This was designed as a background for a \$5000 costume from the Fiesta de San Jacinto, San Antonio. The dress and train, which copies religious vestments in its design, contains over thirty-three yards of Italian velvet, over 70,000 hand-cut rhinestones and over 1000 French silk flowers. The annual fiesta in San Antonio is the outgrowth of an historical pageant presented in San Antonio in 1891 to honor the visit of President Benjamin Harrison. By appointment the museum committee presents slides and commentaries to school groups and conducts tours of the museum. The committee and the museum hope to continue to expand their service to school and civic groups.

Of the original committee formed in 1963, the chairman may be the only one still active. The success of the committee is due not only to the committee's hard work and dedication, but to the support by the county courts and the citizens of Polk County.

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The San Augustine Historical Society has recently acquired the site of the Mission Delores de los Ais, which is a short distance south of the city and on Highway 147. The Society will restore the old mission building as it was re-established on Ayish Bayou on August 23, 1721. This should be one of

the most important restorations in the state, and is a real challenge to San Augustine. San Augustine is fortunate in having a large number of historical minded citizens and is especially fortunate in that architect Raiford Stripling is an enthusiastic member of the Society.

Although the Spaniards had known about Texas since the early part of the sixteenth century, they had made no attempt to occupy the territory east of the Rio Grande until the French, under La Salle, had established Fort St. Louis, perhaps on Garcitas Creek, in 1685. In response to the French, the Spanish established San Francisco de Tejas near present day Neches in 1690, but it became necessary to abandon the mission, and on October 25, 1693, the missionaries set fire to the wooden structure, sunk their cannon in the Neches, and departed for Mexico.



**FATHER ANTONIO MARGIL DE JESUS**

Father Francisco Hidalgo who had come to the East Texas mission in 1791 did not lose hope of establishing a mission among the East Texas Indians, and through his contact with the French in Louisiana, the Frenchman, Louis de St. Denis, was sent to contact the old priest. St. Denis failed to find Hidalgo

in East Texas and traveled across Texas and contacted the Spanish settlement of San Juan Bautista on the Rio Grande on July 18, 1714.

The viceroy of Mexico did a rather peculiar thing in that he employed St. Denis to guide a Spanish expedition to re-establish Spanish missions in East Texas. It was believed if Spanish missions were re-established in East Texas, that an incursion such as St. Denis' would not occur again, and more important, the East Texas Indians would obtain instruction in the Christian religion. The expedition under Captain Ramon left Saltillo in February, 1716, and in a month had reached the Rio Grande. They reached their East Texas destination in July, 1716, and founded four missions that month.

Toward the end of 1717, Father Antonio Margil de Jesus, a Franciscan, went with Captain Ramon and others to visit the French fort at Natchitoches. On his way back, he founded the Mission of San Miguel de Linares on the site of the modern Robeline, Louisiana. Father Margil then went to the country of the Ais, and because the Indians asked for a mission, he founded Mission Delores de los Ais and made it his headquarters.

Delores de los Ais was abandoned in 1719 because of a French attack; but Father Margil and the Marquis de Aguayo re-established it not on the original site, but on Ayish Bayou about one half mile from the first site.

In 1773, Delores de los Ais was removed from East Texas.

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Professor Seth Walton, of the History Department of East Texas Baptist College, has done the unusual in sending the following notice. The letter explains what the editor wishes many more historical societies would do.

10 Linwood Dr.  
Mashall, Texas 75670  
May 26, 1971

Dr. C. K. Chamberlain, Editor  
East Texas Historical Journal  
Box 6127 SFA Station  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

Dear Dr. Chamberlain:

This past year I have been First Vice-President (which is Program Chairman) of the Harrison County Historical Society, and since you are generally looking for information for the *Journal*, I thought I'd send you the enclosed summary of our year's programs.

The new officers of the society for 1971-72 are James K. Abney, Sr., President; Fenn Lewis, First Vice-President; Mrs. Solon G. Hughes, Second Vice-President; Miss Ruth Hagan, Third Vice-President; Sam Moseley, Secretary; F. S. McGee, Treasurer and Miss Winnie Ruth Miller, Reporter.

Perhaps you already know that the Texas State Historical Association plans to have its winter meeting in Marshall and Jefferson on November 27, 1971. I hope you can be there.

Sincerely,  
Seth Walton

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS 1970-71**

Members of the Harrison County Historical Society experienced a variety of programs during the 1970-71 year arranged by First Vice-President Seth Walton. Among the Society's first programs of the year was a panel discussion on Researching, Writing, and Publishing Local History. Participants were Dr. Robert Selby, Chairman of the History Department of LeTourneau College, Longview; Dr. Fred Schroeder of the University of Wisconsin who was in Marshall under the auspices of the National Humanities Series, and Max Lale, local author and businessman. Other programs were provided by Col. Chesley Adams of the Adams' Family and Its Heirlooms; Miss Lucille Estelle, formerly a local history teacher, discussed Marshall and Harrison County during reconstruction relating how local history reflected national policies; Miss Ruby Lee Page and Mrs. T. J. Williamson, teachers of Texas History in Pemberton Junior High, presented another program showing slides of local historical interest with a commentary which one of their classes researched and produced.

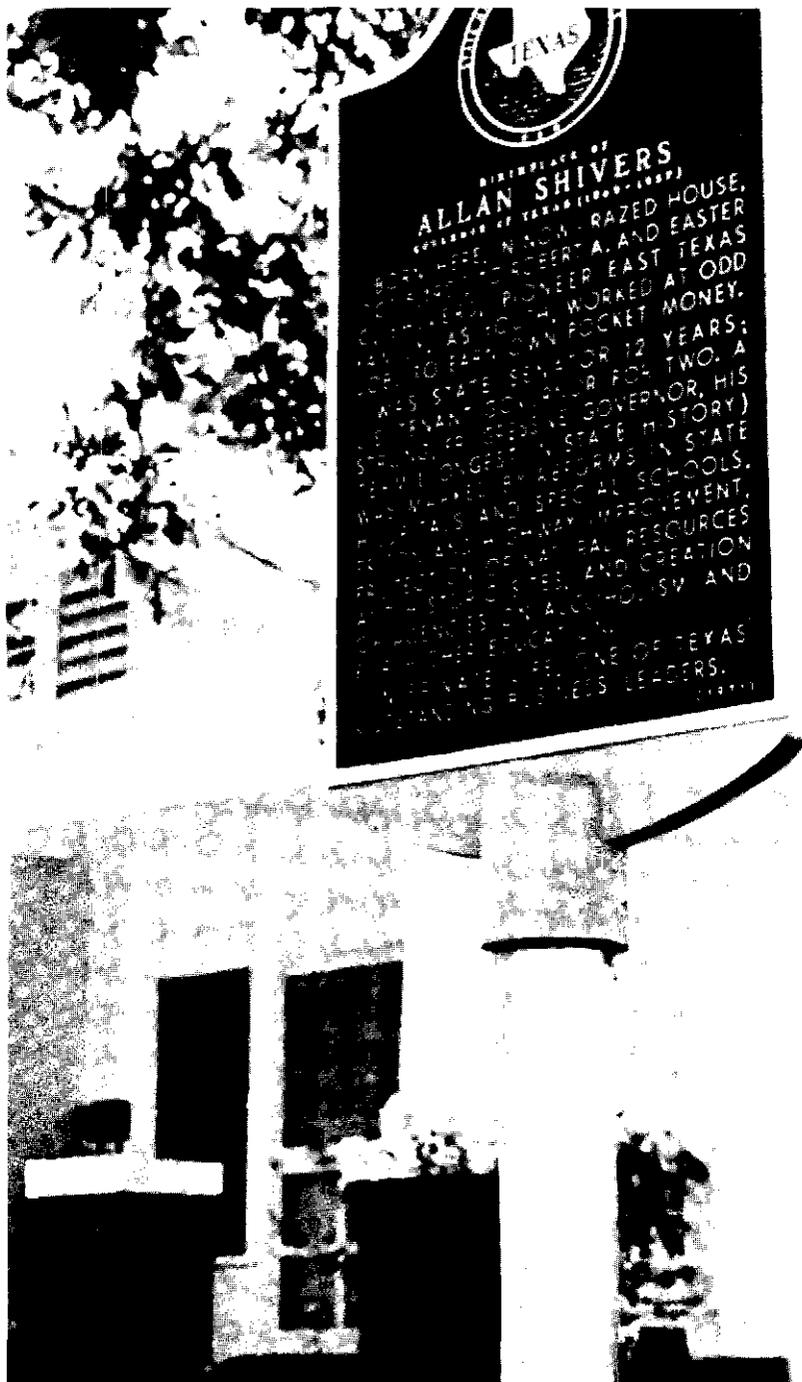
In other programs during the year, Seth Walton, Assistant Professor of History at East Texas Baptist College, discussed Local, County and Texas Histories with special emphasis on bibliographies and primary sources of particular value in research; Mrs. James K. Abney, Sr., Chairman of the Conservation Society, a new women's subsidiary of the historical society, presented a program showing slides of historic and scenic sites in Harrison County, copies of which are now available in the Museum; the history of the Marshall City Federation of Womens' Clubs Library was traced in another program presented by Mrs. E. N. Smith, Sr., one of the Library's Board of Directors.

The last two programs featured out-of-town visitors to Marshall. Dr. William A. Owens, noted author, folklorist, teacher, and Dean of the Columbia University Summer School, was the special guest of the historical society in April and spoke concerning the importance of researching, writing and recording local history as events occur. Dr. Owens stressed that what is recorded on the local level now will be used by future historians and illustrated the usefulness of oral history by quoting passages of his most recent book, *Tales from the Derrick Floor*. Dr. Owens' appearance at the historical society meeting was one of several he made in Marshall under the auspices of the National Humanities Series of Princeton, New Jersey.

The final program speaker was Rev. John Gruben of Galveston who provided a program on the Scott family. The society met in the Youree Memorial Chapel in Scottsville to hear Rev. Gruben describe the family who founded that community with particular emphasis on W. T. Scott, the principal subject of the book he is writing.

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An official Texas historical marker for the birthplace of Governor Allan Shivers has been erected in Lufkin. The marker was placed at Ellis Avenue and Kelly Street.



ALLAN SHIVERS MARKER

The inscription on the marker reads:

BIRTHPLACE OF ALLAN SHIVERS  
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS (1949-1957)

Born here, in now-razed house, October 5, 1907, to Robert A. and Ester C. Shivers, pioneer East Texas family. As youth, worked at odd jobs to earn own pocket money.

Was state senator 12 years; Lieutenant Governor for two. A strong progressive Governor, his term (longest in state history) was marked by reforms in state hospitals and special schools, prison and highway improvement, protection of natural resources and historic sites, and creation of agencies on alcoholism and for higher education.

In private life, one of Texas' outstanding business leaders.

Woody Gann is chairman of the Angelina County Historical Survey Committee. The Angelina Historical Society and the Angelina Geocological Society are made up of many of the same members and thus work closely together.

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Jasper County's Historical Survey Committee has been reactivated under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Thurman G. Smith of Jasper. Other personnel appointed by County Judge Gilbert Adams include Mrs. Charles Martin and Mr. Robert Conn, Kirbyville; Mrs. W. H. Bridges, Roganville; Miss Eulis Hancock, Mrs. Thurman G. Smith, Mr. William Elmore and Mrs. R. C. Ivy, Jasper.

Monthly meetings are held at the courthouse. Plans have been made to erect a marker commemerating Jasper's early schools in the fall. Research is under way to obtain suitable markers for Antioch church and cemetery, Richardson's Bluff, and Peachtree church and cemetery.

The group is currently recording names and other data from tombstones in old cemeteries. Jasper City Cemetery is completed.

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The Upshur County Survey Committee is under the leadership of Banker Doyal T. Loyd and meets monthly. Chairman Loyd writes a weekly article in the *Gilmer Mirror*.

One of his most interesting articles had to do with "Overland Jack." Loyd writes:

John Rose (Overland Jack) was born in 1888 in Virginia, and died in Big Sandy in 1962, and was buried in the Clutton Cemetery near Big Sandy. He has a large tombstone with a goat's head on one side, a revolver on the other, while in the middle was a picture of him and his wagon and goat team, but vandals have knocked the picture off.

This Texas Goat Wagon has been over the states of Tex., N. Mex., Colo., Kan., Mo., Ill., Ind., Ky., Tenn., Ala., Miss., La., Ark., Okla., Nebr., Wyo., Mont., S. Dak., and Ariz., a distance of 30,000 miles since 1909. The team was trained by Overland Jack of Big Sandy, Tex., owner and driver. The average weight of each goat being 100 lbs. The harness was manufactured at Big Sandy, Texas, costing \$30.00. This team on a test pulled 2,500 lbs. The team averages 10 miles per day with a 600 lb. camping outfit. Each goat is fed 2 quarts of grain per day. The wagon was manufactured at Gilmer, Texas, costing \$80.00. The team cost \$25.00. Price of pictures 10¢ each, 1 for 25¢. No trouble to answer questions.



Published by Overland Jack, Big Sandy, Texas.

### OVERLAND JACK WITH WAGON AND GOAT TEAM

Mr. Rose lost both legs when he was about nine years old in trying to catch a freight train. He made himself some leather pants, made a short hand walker affair with which he learned to get around exceedingly well. He says he was near a doctor's home when he lost his legs and they put him on a dining table and stopped the bleeding. John Rose left home early in life and started traveling over the county in a one horse goat wagon selling post cards, and when he got into the Big Sandy area, he liked it so well he settled there and spent most of his life in a small cabin just east of the lake on Highway 80.

After settling in Big Sandy, he taught himself how to repair watches, guns and eye glasses. With these skills, he could have a much better income. He had a new wagon built to his specifications in Gilmer, and a new harness made in Big Sandy and trained four to six billy goats to pull the wagon, which when loaded with the necessary equipment, weighed about six hundred pounds. He had everything on his wagon that he needed for his journey except what he could buy along the way. Early every spring when "Overland Jack" was making preparation to go on the road, he would bring his wagon to Reeves Blacksmith Shop in Gilmer and they would completely overhaul it.

In those days most of the roads were gravel, so many times he had to have new tires put on the wheels, sometimes a new axle, always new brakes, and sometimes a new singletree. Whatever his wagon needed, Reeves brothers would make the necessary repairs, because they had built the wagon in the first place. After his equipment had been checked, he would start out in the spring making about ten miles a day, stopping on the way to sell cards and do repair work. At first, business was slow, but soon people in nineteen states were happy to have him stop in their town. When he stopped in a town, a crowd would gather and he sold thousands of cards.

John told this writer once he drove hard to get to Yellowstone National Park, but when he got there, they wanted to put a seal on his pistol and rifle, so he just turned around and hurried back to Texas. He was not going to risk bears and other animals molesting his goats, all of which he loved dearly.

From 1909 until the automobile ran him off the road, he said he traveled 30,000 miles. He handled his six goat team with lines, fed them about two quarts of grain per day, and camped out every night. He went as far west as Arizona, north to South Dakota, east to Indiana, Tennessee, and Alabama. Thousands of people met or passed him on the road each summer. He always tried to be back in Big Sandy when the weather got real cold. He always carried a good rifle and a revolver for protection of himself and his goats.

After the automobile forced him to quit the road, he would go into Big Sandy nearly every day and repair clocks, watches, guns, pistols and eye glasses and did well financially. Rose would drive up behind Bennett's Cafe and they would take a meal out to him, which he always paid for, although he prepared his own breakfast. Rose was also a familiar figure in Gilmer for he got around surprisingly well.

John Rose was a good man who loved God, children, Beechnut tobacco and goats. He earned an honest living and saved his money. When he died, a sizable sum of money was found in an old dingy discolored cloth money belt that was around his body.

Strangers still stop in Big Sandy and inquire about "Overland Jack," the goat man. Cyril Bennett was named in Rose's will as the administrator of his estate and every detail of the will was carried out. Bennett was helpful in furnishing some of the information that has been used in this story of John Rose.

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W. Walworth Harrison, curator, Hunt County Historical Society, and Chairman, Hunt County Historical Survey Committee, writes that the Hunt County Survey Committee has had a busy 1970-1971 year. The Committee has placed historical markers at the Greenville cotton compress; the hundred year old Merit Methodist Church; a grave marker for Captain Henry W. Wade;

site of Wolf's Mill; headwaters of the Sabine River; and at the site of Wesley College.

Dr. Ralph Goodman has been re-elected President of the County Historical Association.

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Mrs. Edna Perry Deckler, President and Editor of the Texas Genealogical Society, has invited the members of the East Texas Historical Association to attend the annual Texas State Genealogical Convention in Austin Thanksgiving weekend, November 26, 1971. The meeting will be in the Stephen F. Austin Hotel in Austin.

The complete program will be announced in September. Mrs. Decker's address is: 2528 University Drive, South, Fort Worth, Texas 76109.

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The Smith County Historical Society has marked recently three important historical locations. One marker has been placed at the Belzora Crossing of the Sabine River between Tyler and Hawkins. Lee Lawrence, Tyler attorney and State Historical Chairman, made the dedicatory address.



**DEDICATION OF THE BELZORA CROSSING MARKER  
LEE LAWRENCE SHOWN AT THE LEFT MAKING THE  
DEDICATORY ADDRESS**

The City of Tyler was established in 1846 and the Smith County Historical Society has dedicated a marker in honor of the founding of the city which has been placed on the west side of Fountain Plaza in downtown Tyler.



**THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE TYLER MARKER  
DEDICATION FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:**

H. O. Pollan, editor of the Smith  
County Historical *Newsletter*; former  
county Judge Willis Jerrell; Mayor  
Jerald Debenport; and Society Presi-  
dent Loy J. Gilbert

In August, 1970, the Society dedicated the Tyler Confederate Ordinance marker in Bergfeld Park. During the Civil War, the Tyler Ordnance Works produced the famous Tyler Rifle and other equipment for use of the Confederacy. One of the founders of the Ordnance Works was W. S. N. Biscoe. Jerry Biscoe of Bullard, a great grandson, and his son and their wives participated in the dedication of the marker.



**JERRY BISCOE AND HIS WIFE ARE ON THE RIGHT  
AND THEIR SON AND HIS WIFE ARE ON THE LEFT**

Each year the East Texas Historical Society loses friends through death. Most often the editor is not notified of the death and finds out only when a notice of renewal is returned with the statement that the former subscriber is deceased. Fortunately, two notices of death have been sent to the editor and can be published.

Professor Robert S. Maxwell, Chairman of the Department of History at Stephen F. Austin State University, writes of Professor Tom Henderson Wells:

The *Journal* sadly reports the death of Professor Tom Henderson Wells as a result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident last March while returning from the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association. A Professor of History at Northwestern State University of Natchitoches, Dr. Wells was a specialist in U. S. Naval History and had an added interest in the social and cultural history of the Louisiana-Texas frontier. Members of the ETHA will recall that Dr. Wells was the speaker at the noon luncheon for the October, 1967 meeting at Nacogdoches and gave a most interesting talk on the activities of "The Trading Firm of Murphy, Davenport, Barr, and Smith." Students of history have lost a valued friend in the untimely passing of Tom Wells.

Mrs. John J. Hollenburger, Chairman of the Polk County Historical Committee writes of the death of Gordie G. Nettles:

Shortly after his retirement and return to his hometown, Livingston, in 1963, Gordie G. Nettles became a member of the Historical Marking Committee of The Polk County Historical Survey Committee. Later that year he became Historical Marking Chairman and immediately started some of the busiest and happiest years of his life.

Under his leadership, about fifty official Texas historical markers were ordered for Polk County. Many hours and many miles went into his research for the verification of facts necessary to obtain the markers from the Texas Historical Foundation. One reason Nettles was eminently qualified for his job was that he liked people, knew many of them and was always glad to make new friends. His work was recognized statewide as evidenced by the fact that one year he was named Best Subcommittee Chairman in the state at the Annual Meeting of The Texas State Historical Survey Committee and Texas Historical Foundation. Though it would not have seemed possible, this spurred him to greater efforts. He appeared before the County Court when the Survey Committee needed to be represented.



**GORDIE G. NETTLES**

Not only was Nettles an outstanding Marking Chairman, he was so interested in the work of the Survey Committee that he served in any capacity when needed. He was particularly proud of the museum the Committee had established and assumed much responsibility there. When the museum was moving from their first quarters in the First National Bank Building to the handsome new Polk County Public Library Museum, he took charge. Even when others were hosting there at open hours, he went by almost every day just to be sure things were going right, and because he loved it. From the first annual meeting he and his wife attended in 1964, he never missed one. He was loyal to his church, his community and the American Legion Post as he was to the Survey Committee. That he was appreciated by all who knew him is to be permanently in evidence as the first time the County Court met after his death, January 23, 1971, they voted to have the handsome new flagpoles at the County Courthouse designated as "The Gordie G. Nettles Flagpoles" and they were dedicated in September. The inscription on the plaque reads:

#### **THE GORDIE G. NETTLES FLAGPOLES**

These flagpoles were executed by the County Court at the request of Gordie G. Nettles (1895-1971), a revered Polk Countian, A Veteran of World War II and a distinguished American. He left memorials for posterity in the many Texas Official Historical Markers in Polk County for which he was responsible as Historical Marking Chairman for the Polk County Historical Survey Committee. In gratitude for his life and service, these flagpoles are dedicated to perpetuate the memory of Gordie G. Nettles.

Erected 1971

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