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MARGIE E. NEAL: FIRST WOMAN SENATOR IN TEXAS

by Walter L. Harris

When Senator Margie E. Neal first invaded the masculine sanctity of the Texas Senate in January, 1927, she had already amassed a series of honors and "firsts" in public life which would have been sufficient to secure for her a place of prominence in the history of East Texas.

Born near Clayton in Panola County in 1875, she was the daughter of William Lafayette Neal and Martha Ann Gholston Neal both of whom came to Texas from Georgia. The desire of her parents to provide their children with good educational opportunities prompted a move from the country home near Clayton to the county seat town of Carthage in 1884.¹

Miss Neal's first contact with high political officials came about 1885 or 1886 when Governor John Ireland came to Carthage for a speaking engagement. She recalled many years later that the impression made on her young mind by the appearance of a governor was profound.²

In the fall of 1891 she enrolled in the Panola County Male and Female College in Carthage, the first high school established in Panola County. Within a year she received a scholarship to Sam Houston Normal Institute at Huntsville. In the spring of 1893 she earned a first grade certificate and by fall she began her teaching career in the Mount Zion community in Eastern Panola County.³ During the academic year 1894-1895 Miss Neal returned to Sam Houston and although she had intended to complete the requirements for graduation circumstances were such that she never returned to school after 1895.

For several years she taught in various school systems including Forney, Scottsville in Harrison County, Marlin, and Fort Worth. While in Marlin Miss Neal became acquainted with a young Falls County attorney named Tom Connally.⁴

In 1904 Margie was forced to return to Carthage because of the failing health of her mother. The return to Carthage was related in part to the opportunity to purchase a weekly newspaper, *The Texas Mule*, which Miss Neal published for eight and one-half years.⁵ She did, however, change the name of the paper to *The East Texas Register* which she considered to be more appropriate to her personality. She thus became one of the first women newspaper publishers in the state and won wide acclaim for her progressive approach to community, state, and national problems. She was a progressive editor in a progressive era and was highly successful in the newspaper business.

In 1912 the condition of her mother had deteriorated so much that she was forced to retire from publishing and to devote most of her time to the care of her mother.⁷ As a private citizen she continued to experience a deep desire to serve her community and to promote civic betterment. By 1916, Miss Neal had become once more active in community and regional affairs.⁸ The valuable part women played in war work, combined with their influence on a special session of the legislature in 1918, gained for them the right to vote in Texas primary elections. Miss Neal was secretary of the Panola County Equal Suffrage Association and, not surprisingly, became the first woman to register as a voter in Panola County.⁹ In the same year she was to become the first woman member of the State Democratic Executive Committee.¹⁰ In 1920 Miss Neal was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention which met in San Francisco.

Her activities were curtailed briefly in 1920 by the death of her mother but by the spring of 1921 she had become involved in a task which for the next six

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years was to occupy a major part of her time.¹² Governor Pat Neff appointed her as the first woman member of the State Normal School Board of Regents - and once again Margie E. Neal was in close contact with Texas education. She could have hardly been more happy. During the 1920's she remained active in Democratic Party affairs, but her major energies were concentrated in the area of education. As a member of the Board of Regents she was instrumental in the selection of Nacogdoches as the site for a new college and in the selection of A.W. Birdwell of San Marcos as president of Stephen F. Austin State Normal College.¹³ It was largely her work as a regent that prompted her decision to run for the Senate. She came to the conclusion that she might do more for education with a vote on the floor of the House or Senate than as a regent sitting in the gallery. In March, 1926 she announced as a candidate for the Texas Senate from the second senatorial district.¹⁴

Her platform espoused four major goals: first, there was the need for better schools - especially rural schools - which was to be met through an increased per capita apportionment for scholastics; second, there was a pressing demand for an improved system of highways which she proposed to meet through a new gasoline tax; the third goal which was never explained precisely involved the encouragement and aiding of farmers, labor, and capital in Texas; finally there was a demand for fewer and better laws and for improved law enforcement.¹⁵

The campaign was clean, strenuous, and rewarding. Her only opponent was Gary B. Sanford of Shelby County, and Miss Neal carried four of the five counties in the district trailing her opponent only in his home county.¹⁶

An acquaintance and friend of Miss Neal during her days as a senator, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, described her in a 1952 tribute as follows:

In the Senate Miss Margie was a unique figure: First, simply because she was a woman; and second, because she was so unlike those driving, militant, admirable women - but not always enchanting women - that we were left to expect after the suffragettes had made their march in the United States. Miss Margie felt as free to be feminine as a Senator as she had as a private citizen of Carthage.¹⁷

In the Fortieth Legislature she served as chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections and of the Committee on Rules, but her greatest joy and most outstanding service probably came through her role on the Senate committee on Educational Affairs.¹⁸ She worked diligently, though not always successfully, for higher standards in teacher certification.

Senator Neal was generally sympathetic with the legislative program of Governor Dan Moody and she certainly shared his sincere aspirations for reform and good government. She was particularly interested in the matter of prison reform and was a member of a legislative inspection party which visited several prison farms in South Texas in February, 1927.¹⁹

It was legislation regarding education, however, which made Miss Neal most conspicuous during the Fortieth Legislature. She was conversant both with the problems of public schools and higher educational institutions, having had some experience with each. Her legislative contributions to the field of education fell largely into three major categories: matters relating to educational standards, matters relating to efficient educational administration, and matters relating to curriculum content.

Shortly after the session opened Senator Neal introduced the measure which first cast upon her the spotlight of statewide publicity.²⁰ Her years in the classroom, her experience as an editor and as a private citizen of Carthage, together

with her close contact with teacher training institutions during the 1920's had made Miss Neal an ardent champion of high standards for Texas education. In the Thirty-ninth Legislature Senator I.D. Fairchild, of Lufkin, introduced and secured the passage of a teacher certification bill which in part provided that,

. . . Any person who for six years or more has been the holder of a State first grade certificate or its equivalent and who can furnish evidence of successful experience in teaching in the public schools for six or more sessions subsequent to September 1, 1910, shall be entitled to receive a State permanent first grade certificate.²¹

To Margie Neal such a provision was abominable, and a severe setback for quality education in Texas. Her first major bill as a senator, therefore, was directed toward the repeal of the above-quoted section of the Fairchild law. The bill was reported favorably from the Committee on Educational Affairs, and by early February it was before the Senate for consideration. On second reading Senator Thomas B. Love, of Dallas, offered and secured an amendment designed to entitle any individual to a certificate provided he had taught ". . . six or more successive years immediately preceding the issuance thereof . . ." ²² Thus Senator Neal's bill, after being subjected to the Love amendment, was virtually no different from the Fairchild law which it was designed to repeal. The lady senator was extremely disturbed, and because of her displeasure she voted against her bill on its final passage.

The next day various newspapers told in a humorous vein of how Margie Neal had become so overwhelmed by parliamentary complexities that she had voted against her own bill.²³ Her reaction to the handling of this incident by the press was one of complete amazement. It was quite correct that she had voted against her own bill, but her vote was in no way elicited by parliamentary complexities. After reading the newspapers Senator Neal rose to a point of personal privilege and explained that she had voted against the amended bill because the amendment mutilated her bill so thoroughly that she no longer considered it her own. She acknowledged a certain unfamiliarity with parliamentary technicalities, and requested the continued patience and forbearance of her colleagues. She stated emphatically, however, that she desired no quarter from the gentlemen merely because she was a woman. The manner in which she spoke drew the spontaneous applause of fellow senators, and possibly went far toward making her acceptance by the Senate a reality.²⁴

The teacher certification bill was lost, but complete victory could have hardly been more glorious for the sponsor. Margie Neal had so conducted herself that she achieved triumph in defeat and had demonstrated unmistakably that she was the friend of high standards in Texas education. Throughout the coming months she gave to the cause of educational progress her most vigorous support.

Her experience as a regent of the State Teachers Colleges had convinced her that, generally, the best interests of the state were not served when boards of regents came from the immediate localities of the institutions they governed. She attempted to incorporate a provision reflecting this thinking into a bill increasing the number of regents for the College of Industrial Arts, but the Senate was hostile to the provision probably because such an amendment, if effected, would have opened the door to an eventual exclusion of local regents for such schools as Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College and The University of Texas - a situation the wisdom of which few senators were willing to concede.²⁵

This same regent bill occasioned a revelation which gave striking emphasis to Margie E. Neal's views toward the role which women should play in government. It was held by some that since the College of Industrial Arts was a women's institution, a majority of its regents should be women. To such a view Senator Neal could not subscribe. She was not one to seek preferential treatment either for herself or for her sex and she expressed emphatic opposition to the proposal. "Miss Neal," the *Dallas News* wrote editorially, feels that "real equality is better served by letting fitness for the place have as large an influence in the choice of Regents as is possible."²⁶

Another evidence of Miss Neal's concern for education was given by her perseverance in behalf of a bill making physical training a required part of the curriculum of Texas public schools. The measure provoked stubborn opposition from a group of legislators led by Senator Thomas G. Pollard, of Tyler, but Senator Neal was able, finally, to secure its passage by the Senate.²⁷

One of the most creditable accomplishments of the Fortieth Legislature came in the special session of June, 1927, with the appropriation of \$1,600,000 for each of the next two scholastic years,

. . . for the purpose of promoting the public school interests of rural schools and equalizing the educational opportunities afforded by the state to all children of scholastic age living in small and financially weak school districts . . .²⁸

This was the largest rural aid appropriation in the history of Texas; and the increase, for which Senator Neal worked diligently, gave a needed boost to the quality of Texas rural education.²⁹

The work of the Fortieth Legislature was completed by early in the summer of 1927, whereupon Miss Neal returned to Carthage to remain there during the legislative interim. She was much in demand as a public speaker,³⁰ but a substantial part of her time was spent in consulting with her constituents, in planning legislative proposals, and in mapping strategy for future sessions.³¹

Senator Neal was an alternate delegate-at-large to the Democratic National Convention of 1928 which met in Houston. Miss Neal, like many Texans, was active in her opposition to the nomination of Governor Alfred E. Smith, but unlike most of the Texas electorate she did support his candidacy for the Presidency once he became the party's nominee.³²

The regular session of the Forty-first Legislature opened on January 8, 1929 and Governor Moody presented to the legislature a comprehensive legislative program far broader in scope than his original proposals of 1927. In the Forty-first Legislature Miss Neal became Chairman of the Committee on Educational Affairs and was thus placed in a strategic position for service of educational interests. Soon after the regular session began, however, Senator Neal became ill and was forced to return to Carthage where she remained throughout the session.³³

Fortunately, however, the best work of the Forty-first Legislature was done in five special sessions - all of which Senator Neal attended. In these sessions she continued to evidence a major interest in educational affairs.

The Texas electorate in November, 1928, had adopted a constitutional amendment to provide for a State Board of Education which was to have general supervisory responsibilities over the Texas public school system. Many of the details concerning organization of the Board were left to legislative discretion and it was the hope of the governor that the legislature would promptly vitalize the amendment. The regular session was perhaps negligent in this respect and Senator

Neal was determined that the first called session of the legislature should compensate for this negligence.³⁴

After efforts to fight off many crippling amendments the measure finally became law and it stood as one of the really outstanding monuments to Margie E. Neal's legislative career. The law provided for a board of nine members and was widely proclaimed as the most progressive step in the history of Texas education.³⁵ The law remained in effect until the enactment of the far-reaching Gilmer-Aikin reforms of 1949. Board members were appointed by the governor for terms of six years. Among the duties of the state board were supervision of the apportionment of state school funds to local districts, appointment of the State Textbook Committee, investment responsibilities for the permanent school fund, and prescription of standards for the certification of teachers.³⁶

One educational measure which Senator Neal championed concerned the teaching of the state and federal constitutions in the public schools of Texas. The law as finally passed provided that each high school and each college supported by public funds must offer courses in the constitutions of the United States and of Texas, and that such courses must be required for graduation.³⁷

Another worthy aspect of Miss Neal's tenure as a senator concerned her interest in rehabilitation of Texas cripples. In the first called session of the Forty-first Legislature she introduced and guided to victory a measure accepting the benefits of a federal law designed to promote vocational rehabilitation of cripples.³⁸

Although Senator Neal worked earnestly for the governor's program in the Moody administration, her support was not given blindly. It resulted largely from her agreement with the wisdom of Moody's basic proposals. She stood for the independence of the legislator and her relations with Moody's successor prove conclusively her aversion to unquestioning obedience to gubernatorial leadership.

In February, 1930, Senator Neal announced her candidacy for re-election to the Senate.³⁹ She was nominated and elected without opposition, but her second term was to be served in a period of uncommon political turbulence.

The 1930 gubernatorial contest resulted in the election of Highway Commissioner Ross Sterling. The Sterling administration was characterized by unprecedented emergency. The severity of the depression was becoming increasingly evident and economic disaster affected the lives of more and more Texans. Senator Neal's relationship with Governor Sterling was somewhat more distant than that which she had enjoyed with Governor Moody.

The year 1936 marked the one hundredth anniversary of Texas independence. For many years there had been talk of holding some type of state-wide celebration to commemorate that event, but not until 1931 did the centennial movement begin to become a really positive force. In that year Senator Neal introduced a joint resolution proposing a state constitutional amendment ". . . to authorize a Texas Centennial, commemorating the heroic period of early Texas history, and to celebrate a century of independence and progress . . ." ⁴⁰ The legislature passed the resolution, and in November, 1932, the electorate accepted the proposed amendment.⁴¹

Senator Neal was one of twenty-one members of the Centennial Committee and during the period 1931 to 1934 she devoted much of her time to its work.⁴²

The dearth of state income created by the constant falling of state tax payments made legislators particularly conscious of sources of revenue. Governor Sterling asked the legislature, in a 1931 special session, to pass legislation enabling the state to lease for oil exploration its lands in the bed of the Sabine River. It was estimated that about one thousand acres of the river bed lay in proven

territory in the East Texas oil field, and that the state could realize millions of dollars from this property if some arrangements could be made to permit drilling in the river bed itself. Sterling argued that resources belonging to the state were being depleted without the state's realizing one cent.⁴³

At the request of the Governor legislators friendly to his plan introduced legislation calculated to allow leasing and drilling of state lands in the river bed.⁴⁴ Practically all of the territory affected by this legislation lay within Senator Neal's district and her concern for the welfare of her constituents was quick to find expression. Much of the water supply for the City of Longview came from the Sabine River, and Miss Neal feared that river-bed drilling would be accompanied by tremendous pollution of the stream. Most of the legislature, however, appeared highly in favor of river-bed drilling and Senator Neal's chances to gain votes on such a heated issue were limited. The only hope for defeat of the river-bed bill lay in the clever exploitation of parliamentary technicalities.⁴⁵

Final Adjournment of the called session was set for the evening of September 29, 1931. Yet as late as the afternoon of September 28, the Senate had taken no final vote on the river-bed bill. Toward mid-afternoon Miss Neal took the floor to speak against the measure. She had hardly begun when she realized that should she hold the Senate floor until six o'clock she could prevent a final vote on the bill. The rules of the Senate provided that no bill could receive a final vote within twenty-four hours of *sine die* adjournment, unless so ordered by a two-thirds vote of the chamber.

Although Senator Neal achieved a victory of sorts with her successful filibuster, it was short-lived in that Sterling threatened to call the legislature back into special session if it did not rescind its plans for *sine die* adjournment. The legislature succumbed to the threat which virtually assured passage of the river-bed bill.⁴⁶

Seldom had Senator Neal's efforts been prompted by deeper conviction than in the river-bed struggle; yet at no time during her public career did the press react so unfavorably to her behavior. Although she was loudly acclaimed by constituents in the Longview area, her efforts were viewed with disgust by several of the state's larger newspapers.⁴⁷

The role of Margie E. Neal as a legislator was overshadowed during much of 1932 by her participation in other political activities. Senator Neal was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention of 1932 which met in Chicago. In early September it was announced that Senator Neal would serve with Roy Miller of Corpus Christi as co-director of the Texas Roosevelt-Garner campaign.⁴⁸ There was little doubt that the Democratic party would carry the state by a comfortable majority; the goal of the campaign directors, therefore, was to make that majority the largest in the history of the state.⁴⁹

The same spirit of unrest which denied to Herbert Hoover a second term as president proved fatal to the efforts of Governor Sterling to secure his own re-election in 1932. The Fergusons, sensing opportunity, entered Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson as a candidate in the Democratic primary and in January, 1933 she was inaugurated as Governor of Texas for a second time.

The relationship which existed between Senator Neal and the Fergusons during the Forty-third Legislature was surprisingly good. Although she never viewed the Ferguson cause with much enthusiasm she was usually successful in avoiding open and publicized conflicts with the Ferguson elements of Texas politics. There were certainly no conflicts which compared in bitterness to incidents such as the river-bed controversy with Governor Sterling. Senator Neal supported Mrs. Ferguson on the issuance of the so-called "bread bonds" for the relief of unemployment.⁵⁰

By the spring of 1933 Miss Neal had decided that she would not seek a third term in the Texas Senate. Her financial situation was such that she felt she needed to find a more remunerative position.⁵¹ She had been a leading force in the Roosevelt-Garner campaign of 1932, and was considered to be in line for an appropriate federal appointment. Since her term in the Senate did not end until January, 1935 and since the Roosevelt administration took office in March, 1933 she was frustrated by the necessity of either deserting her constituents by her resignation or seeing many of the better potential appointments made prior to her own availability for them.⁵²

Early in 1934 the Forty-third Legislature met in its second and what promised to be its final special session. At the request of Senator Tom Connally Miss Neal went to Washington in April, 1934 for a conference with General Hugh Johnson, Chief of the National Industrial Recovery Administration. It appeared that the Recovery Administration would shortly have a suitable appointment for Miss Neal and Senator Connally insisted that she begin planning toward accepting the position should it prove desirable. She assumed her Washington employment on May 15, 1934.⁵³ She anticipated no further special session for the issuance of more "bread bonds." Senator Neal obtained from the National Recovery Administration a leave of absence without pay in order to return to Austin for the session. Miss Neal wrote in explaining the matter to Congressman Morgan Sanders, "that my duty was here (in Austin); that the people of my district would be fully justified in saying I had left them in the lurch at the end, had I not come."⁵⁴

After a period of Federal Service which ended in December, 1944 Miss Neal returned to her home in Carthage where she was a powerful force in community affairs for more than a quarter of a century. She died in Carthage on December 19, 1971.

NOTES

¹Signed statement of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas, September 3, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

²Signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, September 4, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

³*Ibid.* Carthage Circulating Book Club, *History of Panola County*, 29; Treasurer's Annual Statement to the Commissioners Court of School Funds of the County of Panola for the Year Commencing September 1, 1893 and Ending August 31, 1894.

⁴Signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, September 4, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

⁵Signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, November 29, 1952, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

⁶*East Texas Register*, (Carthage) January 5, 1904.

⁷*East Texas Register*, April 19, 1912.

⁸Signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, September 9, 1953 in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

⁹*East Texas Register*, March 29, June 7, June 14, June 28, and July 5, 1918.

¹⁰Signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, September 9, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

¹¹*Ibid.*; *Dallas Morning News*, July 1, 1920.

¹²Signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, September 9, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

¹³Minutes of State Normal School Board of Regents, 387.

¹⁴Signed statement of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas, September 9, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin; *Panola Watchman*, (Carthage) March 3, 1926.

¹⁵*Panola Watchman*, July 21, 1926.

¹⁶*Panola Watchman*, July 28, 1926.

¹⁷From a tape recording of the address of Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby at the Margie E. Neal Appreciation Day program, at Carthage, Texas, June 16, 1952, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

¹⁸*Senate Journal*, 40th Legislature, regular session, 4; *Houston Post-Dispatch*, January 21, 1927.

¹⁹*Houston Chronicle*, February 27, 1927; *General and Special Laws of the State of Texas*, 40th Legislature, regular session, 56-57, 115-116, 228-231.

²⁰*Senate Journal*, 40th Legislature, regular session, 84.

²¹*Ibid.*, 39th Legislature, regular session, 182; *General Laws*, 39th Legislature, regular session, 449.

²²*Senate Journal*, 40th Legislature, regular session, 239-240. Emphasis supplied.

²³*Austin American*, February 8, 1927; *Dallas Morning News*, February 8, 1927.

²⁴*Austin American*, February 9, 1927; *Dallas Morning News*, February 9, 1927.

²⁵*Senate Journal*, 40th Legislature, regular session, 450; *Austin American*, February 21, 1927.

²⁶*Dallas Morning News*, January 29, 1927.

²⁷*Ibid.*, March 2, 1927; *Senate Journal*, 40th Legislature, regular session, 566.

²⁸*General and Special Laws*, 40th Legislature, 1st called session, 105.

²⁹*Senate Journal*, 40th Legislature, 1st called session, 109-110; Ralph W. Steen, in Frank Carter Adams (ed.), *Texas Democracy*, I, 452.

³⁰Dallas League of Women Voters (by Mrs. Charles S. Hopkins) to Margie E. Neal, October 7, 1927; Business and Professional Women's Club of Dallas (by Mary Price) to Margie E. Neal, October 8, 1927, in personal files of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas.

³¹Signed statement of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas, September 9, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

³²*Houston Post-Dispatch*, June 24 and June 29, 1928; signed statement of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas, September 10, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

³³*Senate Journal*, 41st Legislature, regular session, 1; *Dallas Morning News*, January 10, 1929; Margie E. Neal to Mrs. W.R. Potter, January 17, 1929, in personal files of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas.

34 *General and Special Laws*, 41st Legislature, regular session, 2; *Dallas Morning News*, January 10, and March 15, 1929.

35 *Dallas Morning News*, May 10, 1929.

36 *General and Special Laws*, 41st Legislature, 1st called session, 86-90.

37 *General Laws*, 41st Legislature, 2nd called session 164-165; *Senate Journal*, 41st Legislature, 2nd called session, 411.

38 Signed statement of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas, September 20, 1953, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

39 Margie E. Neal to L. M. Nelson, February 27, 1930, in personal files of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas.

40 *Senate Journal*, 42nd Legislature, regular session, 692.

41 *General Laws*, 43rd Legislature, regular session, xx.

42 Jesse H. Jones to Margie E. Neal, July 31, 1931, in personal files of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas; Jane Y. McCollum to Margie E. Neal, December 12, 1931 and December 18, 1931.

43 *Austin American*, September 24, 1931.

44 *Ibid.*; *Senate Journal*, 42nd Legislature, 2nd called session, 107.

45 *Senate Journal*, 42nd Legislature, 2nd called session, 235-237; *Dallas Morning News*, September 29, 1931.

46 *General and Special Laws*, 42nd Legislature, 2nd called session, 64-68.

47 J.W. Dalston to Margie E. Neal, September 29, 1931, in personal files of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas; *Houston Post-Dispatch*, October 1, 1931.

48 *Austin American-Statesman*, September 11, 1932.

49 *Dallas Morning News*, September 28, 1932; *Marshall News Messenger*, October 2, 1932; *Austin American*, November 9, 1932.

50 *General and Special Laws*, 44th Legislature, regular session, xxv-xxvi, *Senate Journal*, 43rd Legislature, 1st called session, 274; *General and Special Laws*, 43rd Legislature, 1st called session, 118-131; *Senate Journal*, 43rd Legislature, 2nd called session, 83; *General and Special Laws*, 43rd Legislature, 2nd called session 31-41; *Senate Journal*, 43rd Legislature, 3rd called session, 254; *General and Special Laws*, 43rd Legislature, 3rd called session, 59-74.

51 Margie E. Neal to Nellie T. Ross, April 8, 1933, in personal files of Margie E. Neal, at Carthage, Texas.

⁵²Margie E. Neal to Tom Connally, February 4, 1933, in personal files of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas; signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, July 30, 1954, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

⁵³Margie E. Neal to R. E. Thomason, April 5, 1934; Margie E. Neal to Mrs. C. C. Rumsey, April 28, 1934, in personal file of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas; signed statement of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas, July 30, 1954, in Archives, Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

⁵⁴Margie E. Neal to Morgan G. Sanders, September 4, 1934, in personal files of Margie E. Neal at Carthage, Texas.