

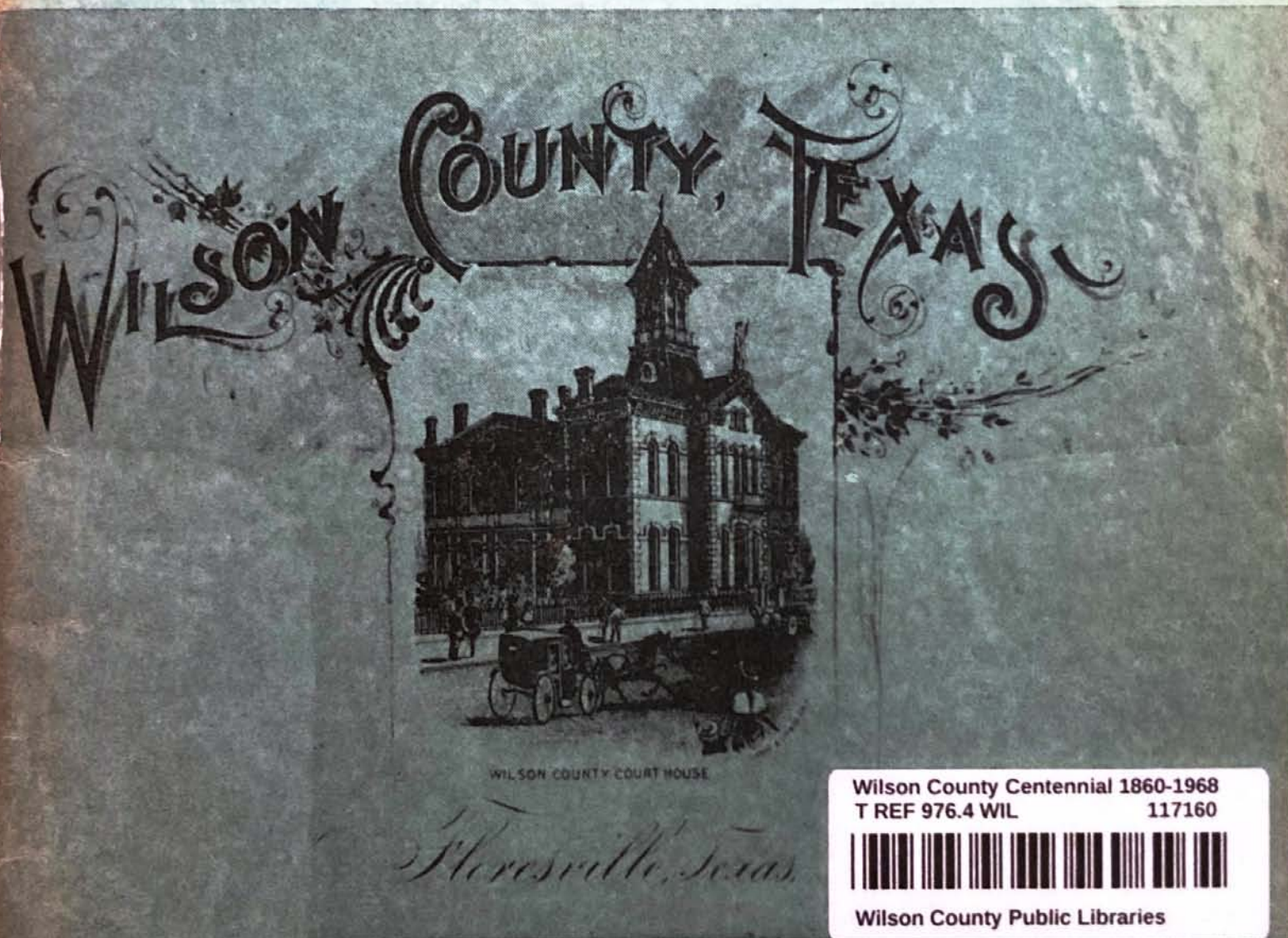
Wilson County Public Library

WILSON COUNTY CENTENNIAL

1860 - 1960

September 19th through 25th, 1960

FLORESVILLE, TEXAS



OFFICIAL CENTENNIAL PROGRAM
AND

HISTORY OF WILSON COUNTY

SOUVENIR

PRICE \$1.00

Wilson County Public Library

To all of the pioneers and early day settlers
we dedicate this book.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wilson County Centennial Association, Inc.



Wilson County Centennial Association, Inc.

CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 19-25, 1960

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

D. Richard Voges, President, Floresville
L. S. McDowell, Floresville
Clyde Fahrenthold, Poth
Gresham Akin, Stockdale
Irvin Jenkins, Poth
Mrs. Margaret McFarland, Sutherland Springs
Ewald Koepp, Jr., LaVernia
Mrs. Matt Fatheree, Stockdale
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J. H. Sheehy, Floresville
Edgar Ehlers, Floresville
Hudell Wright, Floresville
Sam Fore, Jr., Floresville
W. T. Carpenter, Stockdale
Zane Lawhon, Floresville
W. D. Cox, Floresville

Mrs. Pauline Orts
Executive Secretary

*To all those who have contributed to the success of the
Centennial we wish to extend our thanks*

WILSON COUNTY CENTENNIAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.

WELCOME
TO
ALL

A MOST SINCERE WELCOME TO ALL CENTENNIAL VISITORS

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all who have contributed to the growth and progress of Wilson County during the last one hundred years.

In all humility we wish to say that we are proud to be a part of Wilson County as it celebrates its Centennial, and share in the salute to the hardy pioneers who founded our county in 1860.

It is our hope and ambition that we, the COMMISSIONERS COURT may carry on the many fine traditions they so well established.

D. RICHARD VOGES

County Judge

B. A. JIMINEZ

Commissioner

Precinct 1

LEONARD ROTTER

Commissioner

Precinct 2

E. F. MONTGOMERY

Commissioner

Precinct 3

E. L. JOHNSON

Commissioner

Precinct 4

WILSON COUNTY CENTENNIAL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY,

- September 19th, 1960 Los Primeras Inhabitantes Del Dia Condado De Wilson
OLD FASHIONED BARGAIN DAYS
Stockdale, La Vernia, Kosciusko and Sutherland Springs — Prices
will be the craziest in years. Your nickel will once again buy some-
thing. (Town crier will announce time and place.)
- 8:30 P.M. Coronation Ball, honoring Her Majesty (MISS WILSON COUNTY,
and her Royal Court. Poth, Texas.)

TUESDAY,

- September 20th, 1960 OLD FASHIONED BARGAIN DAYS
Poth, Floresville and Saspamco
(Town crier will announce time and place)
- 1:00 P.M. Brothers of the Brush Kangaroo Court
7:30 P.M. BIG WESTERN RODEO (near Floresville Livestock Commission
Co.)

WEDNESDAY,

- September 21st, 1960 Dr. J. W. OXFORD DAY
- 9:00-4:00 P.M. Registration of guests at Celebration Headquarters. Viewing of
Centennial "Then and Now" Displays in retail store windows.
- All day Display of Farm Equipment
- 2:00-10:00 P.M. Centennial Family Midway
Rides and fun for all!
- 7:30 P.M. Special Entertainment for all on Courthouse Square
- 8:00 P.M. Centennial Queen's Coronation.
Premier performance of gigantic Historical Spectacle
"CENTURAMA" followed by Fireworks Finale at Football Field.

THURSDAY,

- September 22nd, 1960 LADIES DAY
- 9:00-4:00 P.M. Registration of guests at Celebration Headquarters. Viewing of
Centennial "Then and Now" displays in retail store windows.
- 1:00 P.M. Ladies Kangaroo Court
- 2:00-10:00 P.M. Centennial Family Midway
- 3:00-6:00 P.M. Ladies Old Fashioned Tea and Style Show, presenting fashions
through the decades, at Polly Mansion, located 2 miles north of
Sutherland Springs, Texas, on F. M. Highway No. 539.
Final judging of Celebration Bells costumes.
Awards
- 7:30 P.M. Presentation of awards to style show contestants at Spectacle Site.
- 8:00 P.M. Second performance of Historical Spectacle "CENTURAMA",
followed by fireworks finale.

FRIDAY,

September 23rd, 1960 OLD TIMERS and PIONEER DAY and YOUTH DAY

9:00-4:00 P.M. Registrations of guests at Celebration Headquarters. Viewing of Centennial "Then and Now" displays in retail store windows.

10:00 A.M. CHILDREN'S PET PARADE

12:00 P.M. PIONEER BOX PICNIC

2:00 P.M. Awards to oldest living man and woman of continuous residence. Awards to former residents returning from the farthest compass points.

3:00 P.M. Games, races and contests for children.
Courthouse Square

2:00-10:00 P.M. Centennial Family Midway

1:30 P.M. Old Fiddlers Contest and Dance at Gym

4:00 P.M. SOX HOP — Teen Age — (American Legion Hall)

7:30 P.M. Special recognition of afternoon award winners at Spectacle Site. Short program by Old Fiddlers.

8:00 P.M. Street Dance — Circle C Band

8:00 P.M. Third performance of mammoth Historical Spectacle "CENTURAMA", followed by fireworks finale.

SATURDAY,

September 24th, 1960 CENTENNIAL DAY

9:00-4:00 P.M. Registration of guests at Celebration Headquarters. Viewing of Centennial "Then and Now" displays in retail store windows.

10:00 A.M. Mammoth Float Parade

2:00-10:00 P.M. Centennial Family Midway

12:00 P.M. Barbeque

7:00 P.M. Final judging of "Brothers of the Brush" and Shaving Contest. Awards for best mustache, sideburns, goates, lambchops, and full beards. Award for worst looking beard.

8:00 P.M. Street Dance — Circle C Band

8:00 P.M. Final performance of Historical Spectacle, "CENTURAMA", followed by fireworks finale.

SUNDAY,

September 25th, 1960 FAITH OF OUR FATHERS DAY

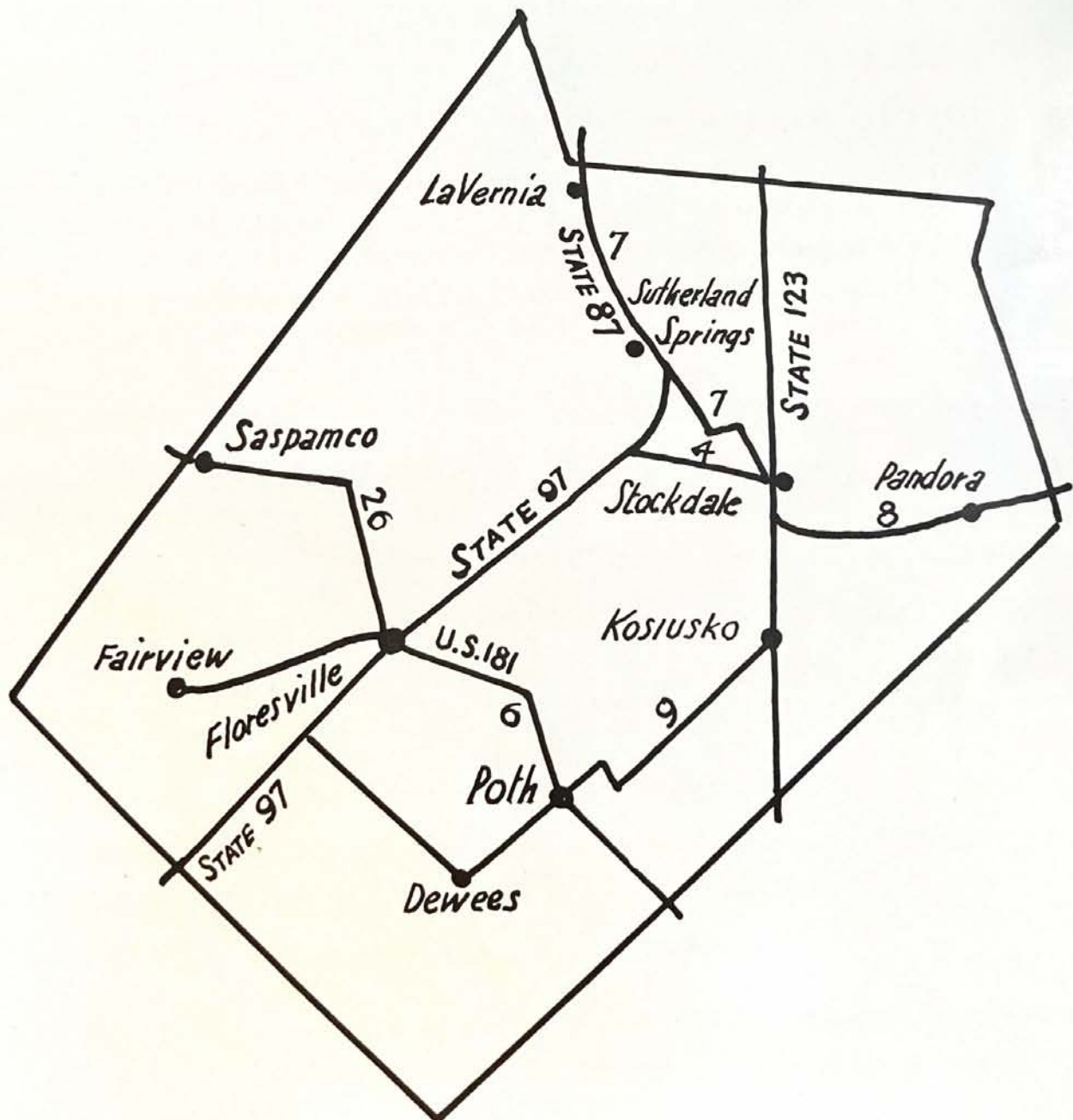
Morning: 100th Anniversary observance in all churches; Theme — "100 Years of Religious Endeavor in Wilson County"

3:00 P.M. Time Capsule Ceremony:

This climaxes the gathering and assembling of the Centennial mementoes, all of which are placed in a permanent container which will be buried in a public place and marked for opening fifty years from now (2010). Items to be selected for this container will include the names of all the Centennial Committees, Members of the Spectacle Cast, names of the "Brothers of the Brush" and "Centennial Belles", Anniversary Edition of local paper, pictures of celebrations events, histories of civic organizations, churches, schools and business organizations, celebration souvenirs and similar historical curios.

7:00 All Faiths outdoor religious service.

Services with music by massed choir of all Churches. Prominent speaker. (Football field)





MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Floresville, Texas

Serving All Of Wilson County

THE
FLORESVILLE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WELCOMES ALL CENTENNIAL
VISITORS

C. W. MILLIKIN, JR., President J. C. TURNER, Vice President CLARK MURRAY, Secretary DESMOND JOHNS, Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

C. W. Millikin, Jr.
J. C. Turner
Clark Murray
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Edwin J. Flieller
J. H. (Bill) Sheehy

DIRECTORS:

W. A. Smith
Robert F. Spruce
Wilbert Teltschik
Harry Woolsey
Edgar Ehlers
Leroy Ullmann

An Area of Wilderness

Research by Mrs. Robt. Ewing

The area of Texas which was later to become Wilson County was a true wilderness until the period of American colonization. Located in the south central part of the state of Texas, it was once the hunting grounds of the Tonkawas, the Comanches, and the Lipans. Probably the first white men in the region were the early Spanish explorers and travelers who passed through on their way to East Texas.

There were no missions in Wilson County; but the impact of the mission era was felt there, and in a small way the county played a part in the accomplishment of the task of the missions. On May 5, 1718, Governor Alarcon of Spain took possession of San Antonio and designated it as a place for soldiers and settlers to be established. Alarcon at the time founded San Antonio de Valero and located the temporary settlement, leaving ten Spanish families.

In 1747 La Bahia was moved to a site on the San Antonio River. This placed Wilson County between two missions; The main expeditions passing through the southwestern part of the county were those of Ramon, Alarcon, Olivares, and Rivera.

In 1727 Pedro de Rivera made a tour of inspection between La Bahia and San Antonio, at which time he crossed the northern part of Wilson County. In 1798 Francisco Vasquez probably crossed the territory on his exploration of the coast.

When Father Olivares set out to found his mission on the San Antonio River, he was accompanied by a military expedition under the command of Governor Alarcon. The people in the military command are of importance to Wilson County, as it was their ranch lands that fell within the county.

The general location of the ranches falling within the boundary of Wilson County was concentrated in the southwestern part near the San Antonio River. The hacienda of Francisco Flores de Abreyo was established about six miles northwest of present day Floresville. In the immediate vicinity of the Flores ranch were the ranches of Chayopa, Pataguilla, Cabras, and Las Mulas. The Juan Seguin ranch fell just to the north and west of the Flores ranch, and there were several located along the Cibolo River.

In 1770 the citizens of San Antonio reported that Indian hostility had increased and forced them to abandon many farms and ranches along the Cibolo. The ranches of Andres Hernandes, Jose Flores, and Manuel Guerra were located in the area, and in this vicinity a century later the town of Stockdale grew up. Even though Stockdale came close to having a settlement in the 1780's no settlements were established until after Texas became a part of the United States. In the years following, as the settlement of San Antonio grew, the Tonkaawa Indians were centered chiefly in the Wilson County and Gulf region, south. They were one of the most friendly tribes and remained friendly with the Spanish settlers. This caused the Apaches to hate and finally to succeed in wiping them out.

The prosperity of the work of the friars and missions among the Indians began to decline after 1762, and the number of soldiers in San Antonio de Bexar, the principal garrison, increased. As the missions of the East were abandoned the principal settlements increased, San Antonio being the most important, and this caused more certainty of Indian raids. By the end of the Spanish period the vast region drained by the San Antonio, Guadalupe, Colorado, and Brazos Rivers had only twenty-five hundred people and two villages, San Antonio and La Bahia. The area surrounding was just a vast prairie, timber, and valley land all in a wild state of nature and occupied only by Indians.

We pay tribute to those noble Pioneers of Wilson County in whose footsteps we are following. We hope, that in our official capacities, we can justify your faith in our ability to continue to give you a Good Government patterned from the principles set forth by our forefathers.



JOHN F. MAY	District Judge	81st Judicial District
J. TAYLOR BRITE	District Attorney	81st Judicial District
MRS. PAULINE ORTS	District Clerk	Wilson County
CLARK MURRAY	County Attorney	Wilson County
W. D. COX	Tax Collector	Wilson County
MRS. HAL V. WARREN	County Clerk	Wilson County
W. A. BUMP	County Treasurer	Wilson County
S. J. IRWIN	County Superintendent	Wilson County
DON CARNES	Sheriff	Wilson County
JACK YOUNGBLOOD	Justice of Peace	Precinct 1

Municipally Owned
Electric Plant
Waterworks
Sewer System

POPULATION
City Proper --
Metropolitan Area
3500

CITY OF FLORESVILLE

Surveyed in 1873

Incorporated in 1890

COUNTY SEAT OF WILSON COUNTY

JOYFULLY JOINS IN CELEBRATING
WILSON COUNTY'S 100th ANNIVERSARY
September 19-25, 1960

FLORESVILLE PROUDLY OFFERS

Modern New \$500,000 Memorial Hospital
Wilson County Public Library—Bookmobile
Electric Utility System Serving Most of County
Million Dollar Dial Telephone System County Service
Paved Streets -- Farm To Market Roads
Tax Rate \$1.00 on \$100 Valuation of Property
1 National Bank -- Deposits \$3,000,000.
7 Modern Churches
62 Teacher AA Accredited Public School System
Well Equipped Parochial School
Feed and Grain Mills
2 Black Eye Pea Processing Plants
City Artesian Water -- Approved by State Health Department
97 Business and Professional Firms
Good Doctors
1 Newspaper and Printing Plant
Nationally Known Saddle Shop; 2 Laundries
2 Lumber Yards; 1 Bakery
Natural Gas Served by United Gas Corporation
OUTSTANDING FARMING, LIVESTOCK, DAIRY AND
POULTRY CENTER
Weekly Livestock Auction Sale Barn serving entire county
"THE DIVERSIFIED FARMING CENTER
OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS
COUNTY HAS MILLION DOLLAR PEANUT CROP
ANNUALLY IN NORMAL YEARS. HOME OF THE
NATIONALLY FAMED FLORESVILLE PEANUT FESTIVAL

FLORESVILLE CITY COUNCIL:

E. F. Woolsey, Jr., Mayor
Wilbert Teltschik, Treasurer
Sam Fore, Jr., City Clerk
John H. Mayes, Tax Collector
H. W. Cale, Chief of Police
Tom Johnson, Corporation Court Judge
Also Supt. City Water and Sewer Systems

ALDERMEN:

E. A. Flieller
H. W. Filleman
Dr. John V. Blake, Jr.
A. C. Eschenburg
I. D. Flores, Jr.

HISTORY OF WILSON COUNTY

Wilson County was legally organized by an act of the Legislature of the state of Texas on February 13, 1860 out of Karnes and Bexar Counties. Dr. G. J. Houston, one of the first settlers in LaVernia, was appointed as commissioner to organize the new county and to hold the elections for county officers. Houston was also authorized to administer the oath of office to the elected persons; or if Houston failed to do this, then the Chief Justice of Bexar County was to perform the duties. Sutherland Springs was to house all courts for the said county until a permanent county seat was selected, the means for the selection of the permanent location to consist of choosing two or more sites nearest the county center with respect for land donation and holding an election to select the site. The site receiving the majority vote would then be established as the county seat.

The county court was given authority to receive by donation or to buy land, not to exceed three hundred twenty acres, for county use. The court was then to lay the site into lots providing for the courthouse, clerk's office, jail, schoolhouse, and burying grounds. The remaining land, or as much as the court deemed necessary, was to be used in the erection of public buildings for the use of the county. The boundary of Wilson County began on the west bank of the Cibolo, at the mouth of the Martinez Creek, thence on a straight line to the northeast corner of Atascosa County line, then south 39 degrees east with Atascosa line to the northwest corner of Karnes County; then the same course continued four and three quarter miles along the Karnes County line; then north fifty-one degrees east to the southwest boundary line of Gonzales County; then north thirty-nine degrees west with Gonzales County line to the southeast boundary line of Guadalupe County, then south with the line to the Cibolo with its meanders to the place of beginning.

This act which created Wilson County from parts of Bexar and Karnes Counties established the boundary between Wilson County and the counties of Karnes, Atascosa, Bexar, Gonzales, and Guadalupe. These boundaries, with the exception of two and one-half miles in Guadalupe County, remain the same today. Two boundary changes have been made since the county was created. Both of the changes concerned the Wilson-Guadalupe boundary line.

The Constitutional Convention on January 19, 1869, approved a declaration which changed the name of Wilson County to Cibolo County. At the same time the first boundary change was ordered. All the part of Guadalupe County lying and being south of a direct line running from the mouth of Martinez Creek, in the Cibolo River, to the extreme corner of Gonzales County be included in Wilson County.

By this boundary change the projecting angle of Guadalupe County was included in Wilson County, the effect being that Wilson County became a five-sided polygon with all straight sides. As mentioned before, the name of the county was changed at the same time; but evidently it lapsed from non enforcement as the citizens of the county never accepted the new name. When the boundary was again changed in 1874, the county was again referred to as Wilson County.

An act passed by the legislature on March 13, 1874, changed the boundary of Wilson County for the second time and once again incorporated part of Guadalupe County within the Wilson County boundary. This boundary, defined counter-clockwise, is the present Wilson County boundary fixed by beginning on the west bank of the Cibolo Creek at the mouth of the Martinez Creek, then on a straight line to the northeast corner of Atascosa County line to the northwest corner of Karnes County east to the southwest boundary line of Gonzales County to the southeast boundary line of Guadalupe County to the northeast line of the Austin Clement's survey to the North corner of the same; then, on a direct line to the point where the northwest line of the Manuel Ximines' survey crosses Elm Creek, then with the said northwest line of Ximines' survey to the Cibolo Creek, then up said Cibolo Creek to the place of beginning. The county just defined and named Wilson was named for James C. Wilson, a member of the Mier Expedition into Mexico. Wilson, being one of the lucky prisoners, escaped the Mier murdering and later became a State Senator.

By August of 1869 all county offices had been filled, and the commissioner's court had listed the county officials. At the same meeting the court ordered that the storehouse formerly occupied by John Irwin and Company in Sutherland Springs serve as a courthouse. The building was owned by Creed Taylor, and the court agreed to pay him eight dollars per month rent, from the time of the county's organization until the time the county seat was moved to Lodi.

Being organized just as the Civil War engulfed the land, Wilson County had many troubles in permanently locating the county seat. Just after the Civil War when Texas was placed under carpetbag rule, John W. Longworth served as the carpetbag judge and assumed authority as clerk and all other

offices. In 1868 it is said that he told the people of Sutherland Springs he was going to move the county seat unless they paid him a certain amount of money. The citizens refused to pay and claimed that he could not move the records. Nevertheless, the records were moved to Lodi and remained there until 1871.

The district court was to convene in 1871, and Longworth called for the records. Andrew Straudt had possession of the records at the time and refused to turn them over to Longworth on the grounds that the building in which he was located was insecure. Straudt was finally ordered by the court to turn over the records without any other harsh measures.

It was decided in March, 1871, to move the county seat back to Sutherland Springs for the sole purpose of holding a term of district court, the reason was advanced that Lodi, just a small settlement, had no accommodation for the public. This move, however, did not last long as the judge stated publicly that he would not hold any such district court until after a meeting of the Legislature. After this decision the court on July 3, 1871, ordered the records to be moved back to Lodi, and ten dollars was approved to cover the cost of moving.

In March of 1871 the citizens of Wilson County had drawn up a petition asking for a permanent location of the county seat. The court said it could do nothing but would write the Governor and the Attorney General to obtain their opinion. The site for the county seat was later selected according to law, which stated that two sites near the geographic center of the county be chosen. The citizens of the county were then to vote, and the site receiving the majority vote was to be the county seat. Land donations for the county seat were urged in these selections.

Following the elections the court proceeded to name the selected site, and in November of 1873 the contract was first to build upon the site. Since the land donated by Mrs. Josepha Flores de Barker was selected as the site, it was decided to name it Floresville. Lodi was to remain the county seat until Floresville was surveyed and made ready.

The town of Floresville was surveyed and laid out in July of 1873. The first courthouse was a large frame building thirty feet by sixty feet. It consisted of one large room and two small rooms in the back. In 1875 a traveling salesman, W. C. Agee, saw the possibilities of a striving town and purchased some lots. Here he built a rooming house for his family and a place to accomodate people who were traveling through. He also erected the first store in town. Anglo Americans soon began to move to the territory, as property was very cheap. In 1877 John Griffen and O. D. Rhodes established, another store, and the population steadily grew. In 1883 an election was held to try to move the county seat back to Sutherland Springs, but it was defeated by a majority of two hundred fifty votes. In 1884 the courthouse burned, but the records were saved because they were kept in a large iron safe. Sutherland Springs once again tried to have the county seat moved there; but A. G. Pickett, a lawyer and a large landowner, donated land to cover the cost of building a new courthouse and also a jail. Until this time a jail had not existed. The same year the brick building still in use to-day was built, and Floresville succeeded in retaining the county seat.

Wilson County, located about one hundred miles from the coast, offers many desirable advantages to its citizens. With an elevation of from three hundred to seven hundred fifty feet, it provides Gulf breezes in the summer and mild winters. The annual temperature may range around sixty-nine degrees, making possible the growing of semitropical fruits. The annual rainfall is 26.91 inches, and natural drainage is offered because of the slope of the land.

The soil is mainly a rich and mellow sandy loam varying from gray to reddish brown in color. This soil is underlaid by black soil for one or two feet, providing remarkable drought resisting qualities. The soil is free from alkali and is easily worked. Because of its drought resisting abilities dry farming is carried on, although irrigation is practiced in some parts of the county.

With an area of eight hundred two square miles, only 18.3 population per square mile, and a growing season of two hundred eighty-five days, naturally the county consists mainly of farmers. Since the time of the county's settlement people have derived their income about equally from farming and stock raising. In 1871 there was sufficient timber for fencing, but now many of the timber lands have been cleared and made into fields. Pure clear water can be found at twenty to seventy feet, and artesian wells near Floresville and Stockdale flowing at three hundred feet. The waters at Sutherland Springs, containing rare medical qualities, are often referred to as being equal to those of Carlsbad.

In 1871 the leading staple crops were cotton and corn. Sugar cane was grown in quantity and tobacco succeeded well. Today the county is a leading producer of peanuts and watermelons. In years

when weather conditions are favorable there is a large production of flax. Peas have taken the place of sugar cane, corn is still grown in large quantity for home use, but very little cotton is produced. Varied fruits are grown, and the county boasts of a large poultry raising business. Oil production in 1954 was 402,993 barrels. Recently many new oil wells have been brought in, one near Sutherland Springs producing one hundred barrels per day. There are also wells in a community called Center Point that is located about halfway between Floresville and Stockdale.

The county population increase or decrease as it may be is shown in the chart below:

General Population	
1879	2,556
1880	4,580
1940	17,066
1950	14,672
1960	13,242

Wilson County territory had very little chance for advancement during its first years as a county, since it was organized at the outbreak of the Civil War and immediately following the war was placed under carpetbag rule. The war affected the county and its people in much the same manner as it did other parts of the State, and Wilson County joined the parade in sending many sons to battle. This is shown by the list of Confederate pensions granted in the years 1904, 1905, and 1906.

The settlements of the county continued to grow, but the war had destroyed the plantation system. An example of the change which took place throughout the county is shown by the second probate filed in 1863. This was the estate of John Sutherland listing nine slaves ranging in price from four hundred to eight hundred dollars each. With Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation the slaves had received their freedom.

With the end of reconstruction the citizens of the county began to concentrate on the civic affairs of the county, looking to the future welfare of all. On November 28, 1871, a contract to build a new courthouse was completed in July of 1873 and consisted of one large room thirty by sixty feet, with two small offices in the rear for the use of the county and district clerk. This building served its purpose for ten years and then mysteriously burned to the ground. This unfortunate occurrence meant the construction of a new courthouse, and on October 12, 1883, the court appointed Alfred Giles, an architect to prepare plans, drawings, and specifications and to superintend the building of the courthouse which was to be located on the public square in Floresville, Texas. The building was to face the southwest side of the square. The same year the present brick building was erected.

A bond by contractor B. L. Rice to build a jailhouse for five thousand dollars was approved by the Commissioner's Court on July 1, 1887. This bond was to be paid by a five cent tax increase for the year 1887 on all taxable land in Wilson County. The jail, a small brick building, stands just to the east of the courthouse.

After establishing the civic matters of the county the officials turned their attention to county improvements. Roads led the list of improvements needed, but before this matter could be discussed an interesting incident happened which demanded consideration. In the fall of 1887 Francisco Charles was paid fifty cents for one wildcat scalp as a bounty when it was taken to the judge. The question then arose concerning a fixed price to be paid for scalps. This question aroused lengthy discussion, and the court finally ordered that no more fees were to be paid for the scalps of wild animals. With this incident disposed of the court took up the matter of county roads. The only thing that had been done thus far was to survey for county roads. As a result of this meeting the county purchased five pairs of mules for twelve hundred dollars, to be used in the upkeep of county roads and road construction. This construction, however, did not begin until 1900.

During this time a new problem had arisen in Wilson County just as it had elsewhere. The fence cutting conflict during 1883 was a conflict between the landless cattlemen, who wanted to retain the open range, and the men who brought wire in to fence off the land and establish themselves as ranchers. The drought of 1883 had made it hard for the landless cattle men to find land for their stock, and the coming of wire fences brought this problem to a head. As a result fences were cut, mostly at night, by men calling themselves Javelinas, Owls, or Blue Devils. These fence wrecking crews were reported most commonly in the center of the state, the rancher's frontier of 1883, which extended north and south. Wilson County fell within this boundary.

In Wilson County few people had heard of such a thing as a wire fence, and the excitement caused was very intense. Two men, Houston and Dilworth of Gonzales, had quietly acquired forty thousand

acres of cheap land, starting just south of Stockdale, that had been grazing land for all. No one knew of the plan to fence the area until the posts and the wire began to appear. The small cowmen thought they were entitled to continue using the range and were determined the "outside sharks", as they referred to the ranchers, should not gobble up their range. The reaction of the small cowmen was very similar to that of the Indian when the first settlers began to migrate into his lands. About twenty miles of fence went up over bitter protest. Jim Wiatrek, one of the settlers in the Denhawken Community, helped to erect the fence that passed through what is now the Baker place. The fence builders completed the fence one day, and that night it was cut.

Fence cutting happened throughout Wilson County. The ranch of Houston and Dilworth in the eastern part of the county became the pin point of the conflict. Joe Blain was put in charge of the ranch owned by Houston and Dilworth, and a sign was placed at the gate which read "Bully's Nest." Blain then threatened to kill anyone who molested fence or property. The cutters once again cut the fence to pieces. Blain and his men tied the fence as best they could and made additional threats. One night, amid shooting and yelling, the fence cutters did their work. Blain and his men, however, failed to carry out their threats, but the situation gradually grew worse. Mile after mile of fence was destroyed immediately after it was erected, and horseback riders carrying guns became a common sight.

The increasing tension experienced throughout the State finally brought about legislative action. On February 6, 1884, at 10:00 a.m. Governor John Ireland approved an act making it an offense for any person willingly to cut, destroy, or injure any part of a fence. He also approved, at the same time, an act requiring owners of fences to build gates every three miles.

The ranchers of Wilson County rebuilt their fences, and gradually wire cutting ceased. The knots used to repair these fences are seen today along the old areas of conflict -- symbols of the cattlemen's surrender of the open range to farmers.

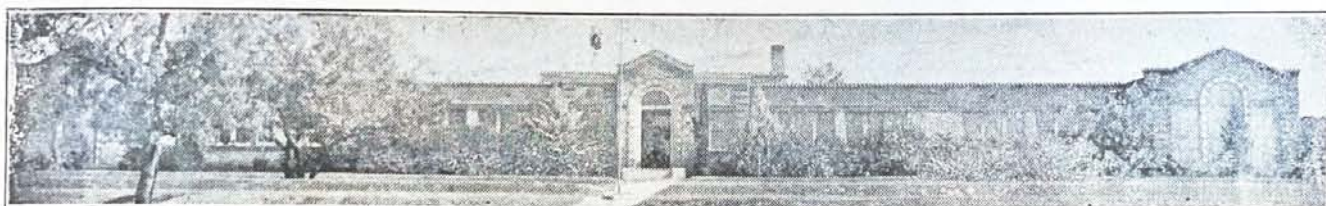
As the farming occupation grew, cotton and corn became the main crops. The land in Wilson County was rich, bumper crops were grown, and people continued to settle in the area. But troubles were ahead; the credit system was forced upon the people and living became high. The farmers were receiving four cents a pound for their cotton, so they met and formed a Farmer's Alliance. They met one day in protest of this low price and a number of speeches were made by farmers, telling why they thought cotton was so low. One speaker mentioned that the low price seemed to occur about the time jute bagging came into this country and manufacturing had something to do with it. One old farmer in the back of the audience, who had remained silent, jumped up at these remarks and said, "I have it. I make a motion that the chairman appoint ten men to go out and find old man Jute and hang him to a tree; then the problem would be solved."

It seemed that the hanging of old man Jute, however was not the solution of the problem. Prices remained low for several years. When the Winslett family from Alabama settled in the county they brought with them a new custom, thereby presenting another problem and upsetting all tradition. They introduced the dragging of cotton sacks to pick cotton. The old method, much slower, consisted of an apron-like bag that had to be dumped into baskets quite frequently. To pick seventy-five pounds was considered a good day's work. This new method was making money too fast, and many preferred to hire two men to pick the old way instead of one the new way. People gradually adjusted, and in a few years things became settled for a while at least.

A bumper crop was made in 1900, the average being one bale to the acre. By this time Stockdale had five gins and all five ran day and night. Prices were higher and more people were coming in. In 1898 the San Antonio and Gulf Railroad, later the Texas and New Orleans, had been extended to Stockdale. This meant the cotton could now be shipped out, saving time and money. Besides this, Stockdale was at the end of the line, which meant that people on the last train had to spend the night. This in turn meant additional business for Stockdale. A hotel was built to accommodate the railroad men, and before long Stockdale was supporting two hotels. All over expansion took place, and everyone in the county planted cotton. This prosperity, however, was not to last.

In 1902 insects destroyed the cotton crop and expansion ceased. In 1903 insects again destroyed the cotton, this time leaving farmers and merchants bankrupt. They could not pay their debts, and once again they had to adopt new methods of making a living. Since the soils were naturally adapted to diversified farming, and the railroad provided means of shipping, the farmers of the county turned to this type of farming as a means of livelihood. Cotton and its mills gradually disappeared, and by 1910 diversified farming had become firmly established.

THE CITY OF STOCKDALE IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF WILSON COUNTY'S PROGRESS



STOCKDALE'S MODERN HIGH SCHOOL PLANT

The **"WATERMELON CAPITOL"** of the world has a population of 1200 friendly people. Stockdale has much of which to be proud. These include two deep flowing wells and a modern sewage plant, a Fire Station and a Volunteer Fire Department, 33 places of business and six Churches of all denominations, an active Chamber of Commerce and a Watermelon Jubilee Association, a fine summer recreational program for the young citizens, a fully accredited 12 grade school system with adequate facilities to accommodate a 20 percent increase in enrollment and a cooperative plan to build a Medical Clinic to serve the Stockdale Area.

A Farming Program which includes the shipping of their outstanding watermelons, peanuts, blackeyed peas and grains to all regions of the nation.

Dairying, Ranching and Oil Wells also contribute to the prosperity of Stockdale.

W. W. LORENZ, MAYOR

ALDERMEN:
ALTON AKIN

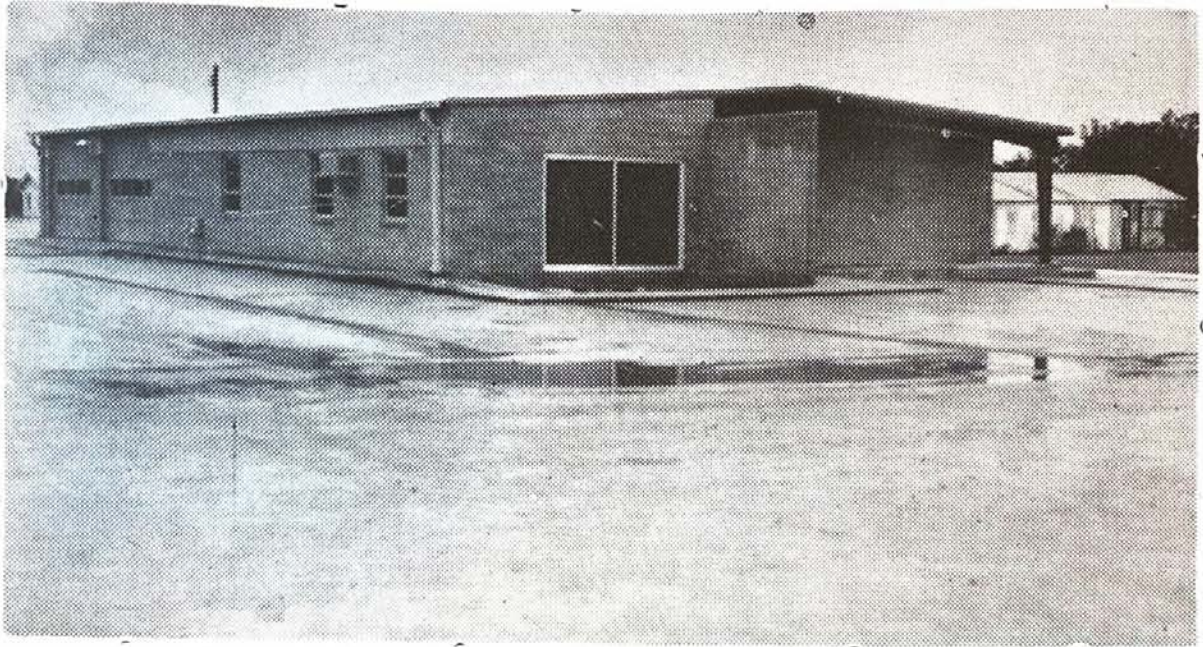
LOLA HAVERLAH, SECRETARY

HAL MCGEE
H. R. DETTMAN

WALTER M. CARR
OTTO WEBER

THE CITY OF POTH

Welcomes All Centennial Visitors



POTH'S NEW CITY HALL

Poth is in a thriving farming center, and has many projects of which the citizenry of Poth is very proud.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- An abundant supply of state approved water
- An excellent sanitary sewer system
- Natural Gas Service
- Only Cotton Gin in Wilson County
- Turkey Dressing Plant
- The only Green Vegetable Shipping Plant in the County

Population — 1111

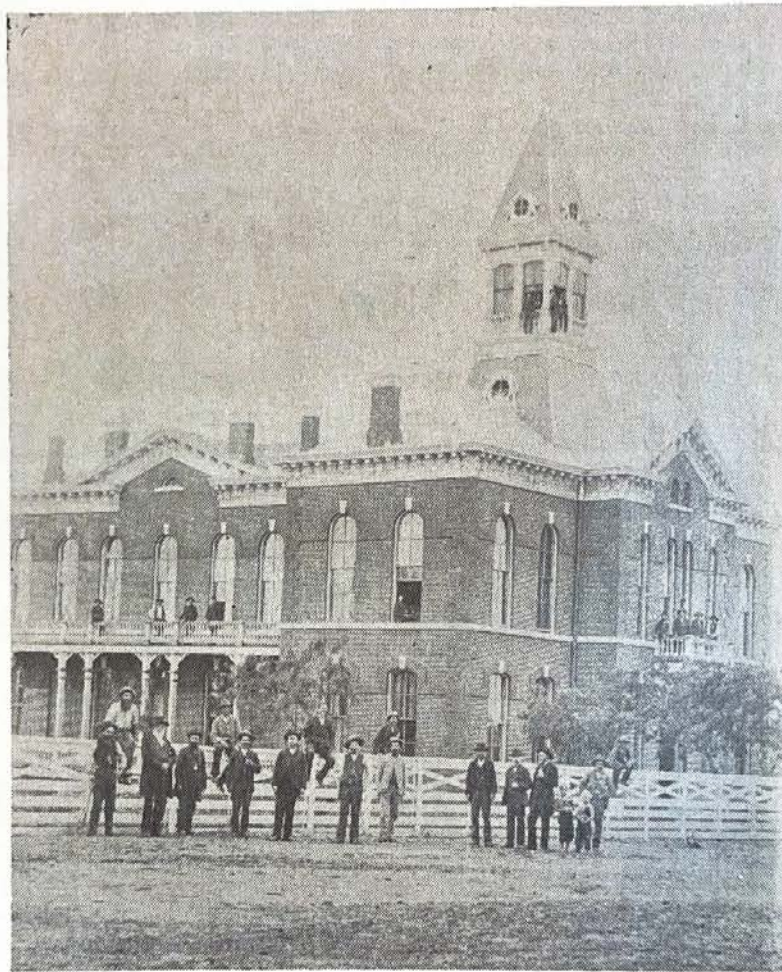
CITY OFFICIALS

A. W. Eckel, Jr., Mayor
E. J. Kosarek, City Clerk and Treas.
Louis Kolodziej, City Marshall
V. F. Warnken, Fire Chief

ALDERMEN

W. H. Woellert
V. F. Warnken
Clyde Farenthold
Gilbert Reinhard
A. H. Stavinoha

WILSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE



Copied from Original Corner Stone of Courthouse

"1884"

Alfred Giles - - - - Architect
Sidney Mead - - - Contractor

Let Justice Be Done

Laid by the

M. W. Grand Lodge of Texas
A. F. & A. M.
22nd February A. D., 1884
C. D. GILLELAND
Acting Grand Master

A. G. PICKETT - - - - County Judge

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

W. C. Kroeger
D. L. Wiley
L. P. HUGHES, County Clerk

J. J. Casanoa
T. S. Simpson

Some Early County Officials of Wilson County

According to the Election Register, No. 259 (1854-1861), P. 474 and No. 260 (1860-1865), P. P. 825-826, now in the Texas State Library, Austin, Texas, the county officers elected to serve Wilson County in 1860, in 1861, in 1862, and in 1864 were as follows:

1860

William Sutherland, Chief Justice; Andrew G. Pickett, County Clerk; Daniel Bird, John McAllister, Raphael Herrera, and Vicente Cantu, County Commissioners; Samuel W. Barker, Sheriff; William F. Hughes, County Treasurer; J. Wilson Cooke, Assessor and Collector; Frank M. Reagen, Surveyor; Andred G. Pickett and John Sutherland, Justices of the Peace, Precinct No. 1 and Robert J. Floyd, Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 2. All except William F. Hughes were elected on August 6, 1860. Hughes, County Treasurer, was elected on September 24, 1860. These four were W. F. Hughes, John Sutherland, John McAlister, and Robert J. Floyd. McAlister was qualified on August 20, 1860; Hughes on October 24, 1860; Sutherland on October 19, 1860; and Floyd on October 22, 1860. All were commissioned on December 13, 1860.

1861

On February 25, 1861, John Sutherland was appointed as Notary Public. He was confirmed on April 5, 1861; qualified on March 21, 1861, and April 27, 1861; and commissioned on April 20, 1861. On August 5, 1861, Daniel Bird and Rafael Herrera were elected as County Commissioners. They were commissioned on September 25, 1861.

1862

William Sutherland, Chief Justice; John Sutherland, County Clerk; S. W. Barker, Sheriff; M. C. Herrera, Assessor and Collector; John McAlister, Daniel Bird, and Rafael Herrera, County Commissioners; Francisco Ximenes, County Treasurer; William P. Hughes, County Surveyor; John Sutherland, Justice of Peace, Precinct No. 1; and R. J. Floyd, Justice of Peace, Precinct No. 2.

1864

William Sutherland, Chief Justice; Andrew G. Pickett, County Clerk; Charles Y. Sang, Sheriff; Henry W. Morgan, District Clerk, W. C. Herrera, Assessor and Collector; Daniel Bird, Clarborne Rector, and Francisco Ximenes, County Commissioners; William P. Hughes, County Treasurer; Critenden Rutter, County Surveyor; Issac N. Rutter, County Corner; John Sutherland and Gurm H. Sawson, Justice of Peace, Precinct No. 1; and Robert S. Floyd, Justice of Peace, Precinct No. 2.

In 1890-1891

FLORESVILLE was a village on the San Antonio river and on the S.A. & A.P. Ry, in Wilson County, of which it is the county seat, 110 miles southwest of Austin and 30 southeast of San Antonio, the nearest banking point. It contains 2 hotels, several stores, 2 weekly newspapers and 2 steam grist mills and cotton gins. Cotton and live stock are shipped. Tel., W. U. Exp., Pacific. Population: 1,500. W. C. Agee, postmaster.

Agee Wm. C, drugs and books.
Armond, Mrs. Poca, dressmaker.
Baker, W. H., photographer.
BALLARD, Benjamin F., Attorney-at-Law.
Bates, James M., grocer.
Bledsoe, Lane, carpenter.
Buford, Miss Kate, music teacher.
Burgess, W. T. agent S A & A P Ry and S. P. Express.
Camp, J. F., live stock.
City Hotel, Asa W. Murray, propr.
Collins, Mrs. Alice, dressmaker.
Creech, Richard, Sheriff.
Deweese, Thomas, livestock.
DeZerda, Nemcio, assessor of taxes.
DICKY, James W. Propr. Floresville Chronicle.
Evans, A. D. Physician.
Evans, E. F., dentist.
Fernandes, Jesus, shoemaker.
FLORESVILLE CHRONICLE, James W. Dickey Propr.
Floresville Citizen, Le Sturgeon & Blanton proprs.
Garza, Dio-Dela, shoemaker.
Gillett, Mrs. Martha M., millner.
Goldstein & Selig (Edwin M. Goldstein, Emile Selig) general store and cotton buyers.
Griffith, John & Co. (John Griffith, Wm. J. McIntyre, H. W. Rhode), general store.
Hough & Le Sturgeon (Wm. P. Hough, Ernest Z Le Sturgeon), tinsmiths.
Hubbard, R. W., dairy.
Hughes, Lemuel P., county clerk.
Jennings, George H., justice of peace.
Kluwe, Martin, blacksmith and wagonmaker.
Kroeger, Wm. C., cotton gin and grist mill.
Lawhorn, L. S., lawyer.
Layton, L. F., physician.
Le Sturgeon & Blanton (Ernest Z Le Sturgeon, Charles H. Blanton), proprs. Floresville Citizen.
Lopas, George, teacher.
Lopas, Miss Laura, music teacher.
McDaniel, B. F., live stock
McDaniel, John, live stock.
McMullen, John E., district clerk.
Martin & Schryner, lumber.
Murray, Asa W., propr. City hotel.
Murray, W. O. & Co. (Wm. O. Murray, Ira Ezzell), general store and cotton buyers.
Myers, G. B., Inspector of hides and animals.
Myers & McDaniel (W. E. Myers, John McDaniel) meats.
Nowierski, Leon K., jeweler.
Pickett, Andrew A. G., county and probate judge.
POLLEY, Joseph B., Lawyer and Land Agent.
Rabensburg, Henry B., harnessmaker.
Ramaro, Pedro, restaurant.
Rawls & Coughran, live stock.
Reagan, Miss Minnie, dressmaker.
Rhode, Oscar D., grocer.
Rhode & Edds (Oscar D. Rhode, George Edds), cotton gin and grist mill.
Rice, James P., restaurant.
Rosser & Carroll, livestock.
Russell, Rev. J. C. (Methodist)

Scott, W. A. & Co. (Wm. A. Scott), Samuel D. Seale, John C. Meyer), general store and cotton buyers.
 Seale, E. Y., county treasurer.
 Seldon, Wm., county surveyer.
 Silvanos, Joseph, restaurant.
 Smiley, James W., blacksmith.
 Stevenson, A. R., county attorney.
 Thomas, Austin G., Propr. Thomas Hotel, Livery, Sale and Boarding Stable, Bus and Transfer Line To and From All Trains.
 THOMAS HOTEL, Austin G. Thomas, Propr.
 THOMPSON, Henry C., Jr., Editor Floresville Chronicle.
 Wassenich, Joseph, general store.
 Watkins, R. H., physician.
 Watts, James, general store.
 Williams, A. J., lawyer.
 Williams, George, dairy
 Williams & Herrington (Joseph B. Williams, Evan W. Herrington), drugs and hardware.
 Winkler, Rudolph, restaurant.

FAIRVIEW. A postoffice in Wilson County, 120 miles southwest of Austin, 12 miles southwest of Floresville, the county seat and shipping point, and 28 southeast of San Antonio, the nearest banking point. Population, 30. Mail, daily. Daniel McKenzie, postmaster.

Faust, M. M., general store
 Kroger, C. W., corn mill.
 McKENZIE, J. B., General Store
 Oslin, E. A., blacksmith.
 Priest, E. T., carpenter.
 Rose, G. W., justice of peace.
 Servoys, W. A., carpenter.
 Titsworth, C. G., photographer.
 Treon, J. B., physician.

STOCKDALE: A village in Wilson County, 17 miles northeast of Floresville, the county seat and nearest railroad station. San Antonio is the nearest banking point. Settled in 1871, it contains 3 churches, a district school, 3 grist mills and cotton gins. Stages daily to San Antonio. Population, 450. Mail, daily. Thomas B. Morris, postmaster.

Barnes, W & P, grist mill and gin
 Boatwright, B. F., physician.
 Boone, J. H., grocer.
 Carmichael C. S., grist mill and gin.
 Harper, W. E., meat market.
 Holland, J. B., lawyer.
 Johnson, B. F., physician.
 King, H. C., general store.
 McGee, M. S., justice of peace.
 MORRIS, Thomas P., attorney.
 Park & Wheeler, general store and drugs.
 Saunders, S. A., general store and drugs.
 Smith, M. M., blacksmith and wagonmaker.
 Watson, Wh., grocer.
 Wheeler, D. T., grist mill and gin.
 Williams, E. N., hotel.

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICERS:

R. R. Creech — Sheriff
 A. R. Stevenson — County Attorney
 W. Y. Sutherland — County Surveyors
 N. de laZerda — Assessor of Taxes
 G. B. Myers — Inspector of Hides and Animals

Wilson County consists of five small towns and six communities.

In 1960 the main towns in Wilson County are Floresville, the County Seat, Stockdale, Poth, LaVernia and Sutherland Springs. Floresville celebrates the Peanut Festival each year while Stockdale celebrates the Watermelon Jubilee; Poth holds their annual Community Chest Picnic and Kosciusko their annual church picnics. The population in the county consists largely of Anglo-American, Irish, German, Polish, and Latin-Americans.



The Belknap Rifles were organized about 1883 at Floresville Texas. These young reserves won fame for proficiency in military drill and were the social center of interest. Their duty was to capture outlaws in the state. By 1885 the San Antonio Belknaps and Floresville Belknaps were connected by telegraph.

This building was the first brick building in Floresville, was completed in 1888, of bricks hand made on the San Antonio River. Is the present site of J. C. Merchant Super Market.

Belknap Rifles — reading from left to right (little boy—Camilo Garza,) Emil Selig, Eugene Warren, unknown, Sam Houston, unknown, Adolfo de la Zerda, Eugene Dickey, Louis Mushia, Louis Lopes, Louis Garza, Jesus Garza, Tom McDaniel, Alex Ormond, unknown, Ebbie Agee, next 4 unknown.

front row: Frank Wassenik, unknown, Sam Seale, Ladies in door-way: Vernelle Peacock, Adela Mushia and Josie Polly.

The drug store to the right was owned by AGEE and left to right is Bill Byers and Alberto Garza, the last 3 unidentified.



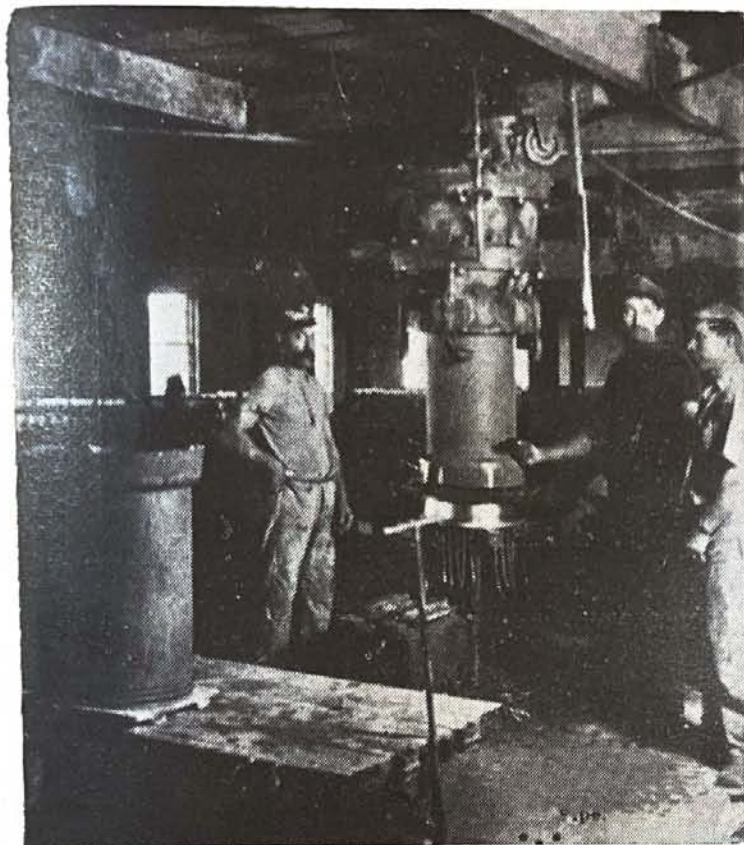
Floresville High School



Floresville Memorial Hospital

Memorial Hospital, located at Floresville, was recently completed, and is perhaps the City's greatest pride at this time. It was supported in part by a City bond issue and by donations from the good citizens of Wilson County. It is a completely modern, 30 bed, hospital.

Congratulations, Wilson County, on your 100th anniversary



LARGE PIPE PRESS AND CREW IN 1895

W. S. DICKEY CLAY MFG. CO.

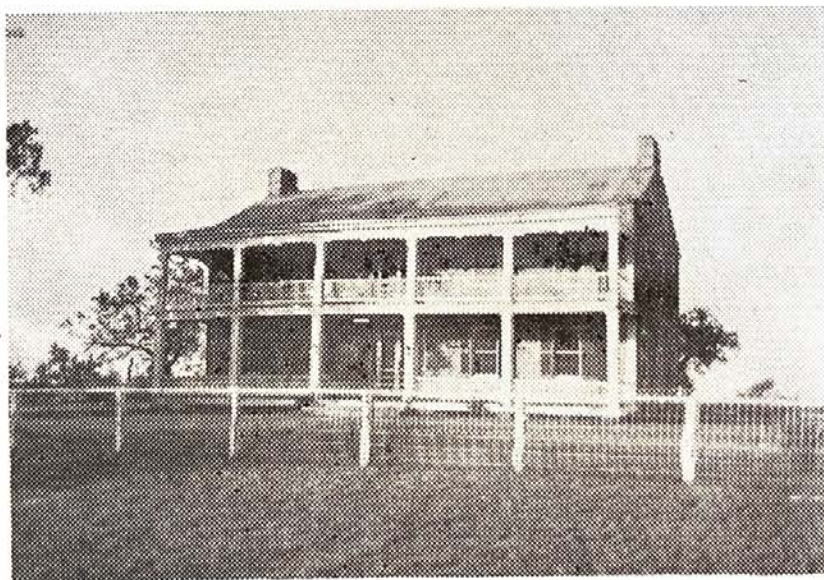
SASPAMCO PLANT

65 Years in Wilson County
75th Anniversary for the company in the manufacture of vitrified salt glazed Sewer Pipe, Drain Tile, Wall Coping, and Flue Lining.

Other plants in operation include: Texarkana, Tex-Ark, Pittsburg, Kan., St. Louis, Mo.; Birmingham, Ala.; Chattanooga, Tenn. and Meridian, Miss.

**BUILT BY
SLAVES
1848 - 1851**

**LOCATED
2 Miles North
of Sutherland
Springs on
F.M. Highway #539**



**One of Few
Remaining
Historical
Buildings**

Welcome Centennial Visitors

**OPEN — 2:00 TO 6:00 P.M. DAILY
SEPT. 21 - 22 - 23 and 24**

MR. & MRS. OSCAR LINNE

We Are Proud To Be Part of

ITS



Merrill and Wayne Connally Admiring the chief herd Sire Silver Vagabond 2nd
CONNALLY HEREFORD RANCH

We are proud to announce the joint ownership of three top Registered Hereford Bulls by Connally Hereford Ranch, Floresville, Texas, and LBJ Ranch, Johnson City, Texas. These bulls will be used jointly by the herds of Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and the Connally Brothers.

The Connally herd was originated by our father, the late J. B. Connally, in 1938. The original two major bloodlines are carried on to this day. We know he would be proud of our progress with "his herd" as well as our recent cattle association with Senator Johnson.

Through the dedication of J. B. Connally and others of such strong character and their belief in the future of this county, we are able this year to present to this State and Nation a centennial celebration recalling the proud deeds of yesteryear.

May the years ahead produce the same morally strong, individually free, and democratic men and women who made this county possible and prosperous.

CONNALLY BROTHERS
MERRILL

JOHN

WAYNE

Wilson County As it Celebrates

CENTENNIAL



Merrill L. Connally examining Sprigs used in establishing this wonderful new grass

Coastal Bermuda Grass Sprigs

Authorities say there is no equal to Coastal Bermuda for the following excellent combinations: Grazing, hay, ensilage, pellets; and, for the protection of your soil in waterways, dam sites (spillways) and general water and wind erosion.

This excellent hybrid grass is adaptable anywhere common Bermuda grows and on all soil types from extremely light sands to heavy blacklands.

Under severe drought tests, it has proven itself by withstanding long drought years and coming through with flying colors.

It has proven itself to produce phenomenal tonnage on the poorest types of soil; and likewise responds in direct proportions to better soils and fertilization.

Both for dryland and under irrigation, it has proven to be the superior of all grasses we have tried over a three-year experimentation.

DON'T WAIT ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER MONTH OR ANOTHER WEEK TO GET YOUR PLOT ESTABLISHED.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS AND GET THIS EXCELLENT GRASS WORKING FOR YOU NOW!

We will have an abundance of field-fresh sprigs available every day. Price, \$1.00 per bushel (2 bushel bag minimum) at the field 7 miles west of Floresville.

For large-acreage plantings, arrangements will be made to supply sprigs on demand.

CONTACT:

Merrill L. Connally, Mgr.
Connally Hereford Ranch
Rt. 3, Box 23
Floresville, Texas
Tel: EX 3-6119

FLORESVILLE

Floresville, in central Wilson County, was first settled by Don Francisco Flores de Abryo, who established ranch headquarters about six miles northwest of the present town before 1832.

With the approach of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad in 1885 a township built on land donated by the Flores family and named Floresville reached a population of four hundred and became the county seat, replacing Lodi.

Two hotels were built; the town had two steam gristmills and cotton gins, and James W. Dickey was publishing the Floresville Chronicle when the railroad reached Floresville in January 1886. By 1910 the town had two banks and a population of 1800.

The first people to locate in the area now known as Floresville were the Canary Islanders.

The first store was erected by W. G. Agee, settlers began to move to Floresville, and grocery, blacksmith, and dry goods business established. An up-to-date restaurant was opened in 1892 by Antonio A. Rodriguez, in 1904 he rented and occupied one of the leading hotel buildings, and in 1907 purchased a corner lot and built the Texas House Hotel. The First National Bank was established in 1902. Floresville also had a high school building at that time.

The first milinery shop was opened in 1882 by Miss M. M. Woldord. W. E. Crandal came to Floresville in 1886 and engaged in the bee industry. In 1909 the early establishments of Rhodes and Franklin Dry Goods and Groceries had grown to a line of supplies worth twenty thousand dollars.

The firm of Myers and Canfield were established in 1908, bringing together in the grocery business two of the best known families of the area. A. D. Evans moved to Floresville in 1883 and established himself as a physician. He served as a leading physician until 1893 when he established the Evans Drug Store.

In 1908 tens of thousands of dollars were brought into the area from the sale of honey. The apiary in Floresville was owned by another doctor, J. B. Treon, and Wilson County was known the world over for this product, with many orders being received from abroad.

J. A. Varnon opened the blacksmith and repair shop in 1902 and equipped it with all modern appliances and machinery. W. O. Stephenson moved to Floresville in 1889 and began building and contracting. Nearly all of the brick buildings in Floresville were products of his works.

With the destruction of cotton as the main money crop, the business men and farmers of Floresville began to cast around for other means by which the farmer could produce something to bring ready revenue into the community. The dairy and creamery industry was among the ideas proposed. By 1903 a creamery plant was completed and at once there was a demand for dairy stock. In the following six years the creamery became a powerful factor in advertising the town as well as the county.

The City of Floresville has produced many prominent men since the townsite was established. Books could be written on influential men alone; however, the sketches here shall suffice as an example of those not mentioned.

J. B. Polley of Floresville was born in Brazoria County, Texas, in 1840, the son of J. H. Polley. J. B. received his formal schooling at Florence Wesleyan University at Florence, Atlanta; and after his graduation in 1861, he returned home to the Polley Mansion, enlisted in Company F of the Fourth Texas and served four years in Hood's Brigade where he participated in many important battles. In the battle of Gain's Mill J. B. was wounded in the head, and during the last real battle in which his company participated he lost his right foot.

In 1886 J. B. Polley married Mattie Le Gette and began to study law. He was admitted to the bar in 1868 and began his practice in 1876 when he moved to Floresville. During 1877 and 1878 he was the County Attorney and served as a member of the Sixteenth Legislature in 1879.

Around 1875, G. Pickett, the son of A. G. Pickett the first county clerk, built a beautiful home on his ranch which extended within one block of the courthouse. He was a man keenly interested in the future welfare of the county and set up his ranch as an experimental farm. At one time he experimented with tobacco, which grew well in that region but was cured so strong that only a few could smoke it. He introduced the peanut to Wilson County. The Pickett ranch was probably the first site in the county to have its own irrigation system. This consisted of several pumps located on the San Antonio River which raised the water around eighty feet, high enough for it to run freely down wooden troughs.

Pickett organized an area-wide Fruit Growers Association in an effort to promote fruit production and markets. He also established a Wilson County farmer's alliance to protest low prices received by the farmers.

The Pickett ranch house still stands. It has been remodeled but the original lines have not been changed.



State Park located on the banks of the San Antonio River. Ideal for picnicking, barbecuing and relaxation.

Floresville Creamery Near Depot 1908



FIRST OIL WELL IN WILSON COUNTY



In 1853 or 1854 slaves digging for water on farm of Dr. Gray Jones Houston in Wilson County, situated 23 miles southeast of San Antonio, encountered crude petroleum, which no one at that time could identify, but were displeased by its odor, and hence covered the hole. Not until some years later when Samuel A. Maverick went to Pennsylvania to see the oil they had discovered, did they know that the substance was fuel. Development of production was stopped by Civil War.

General Store in Fairview about 1894

Owned and Operated by Sam McKenzie, father of Mrs. H. P. Thulemeyer of Schertz, Texas.



- 1 Sam Finto
- 2 J. G. Youngblood
- 3 John Carver
- 4 J. B. (Ben) McKenzie
- 5 G. R. (Bud) Tullos
- 6 Ed Dewees

- 7
- 8
- 9 Henry Keister
- 10 Tom Swift
- 11 Sam McKenzie

WILSON COUNTY

"James Charles Wilson was born in Yorkshire, England, on August 24, 1816. He attended Oxford University before he came to Texas in 1837.

"He joined C. K. Reese's company for the Somervell Expedition in 1842 and became a private in Company E on the Mier Expedition under William S. Fisher. Captured with that expedition, he refused proffered help of the British government on the grounds that he was an English citizen and remained in prison until he managed to escape on July 30, 1843.

"Back in Texas, he lived in Brazoria, where he became district clerk on March 1, 1845. He represented Calhoun, Jackson, Matagorda, and Wharton counties in the House of the Third Legislature.

"From November, 1851, to February, 1852, he was a member of the Senate of the Fourth Legislature and served again in the special session of the Fourth Legislature to February 7, 1853.

"In 1856 Wilson was elected commissioner of the Court of claims. In addition to his legal career he was an itinerant minister in the Methodist Church. He died at Gonzales on February 7, 1861, and was buried in the Askey Cemetery.

"Wilson County, created in 1860, was named for James Charles Wilson".



At Floresville - Cotton Gin In Early Days

50 YEARS SERVICE



DR. JERRY WILLIAM OXFORD

Dr. Jerry William Oxford was born December 27, 1877, twenty miles north of Ruston, Louisiana. His parents were William Jayson Oxford and Sara Elizabeth Tarpley who had migrated to Louisiana from Georgia. His father died when he was seven months old and his mother later remarried. He had one sister and eight half-brothers and sisters. His step father moved to Texas to take advantage of the free education, so Dr. Oxford attended school in Turnesville and Gatesville, Texas.

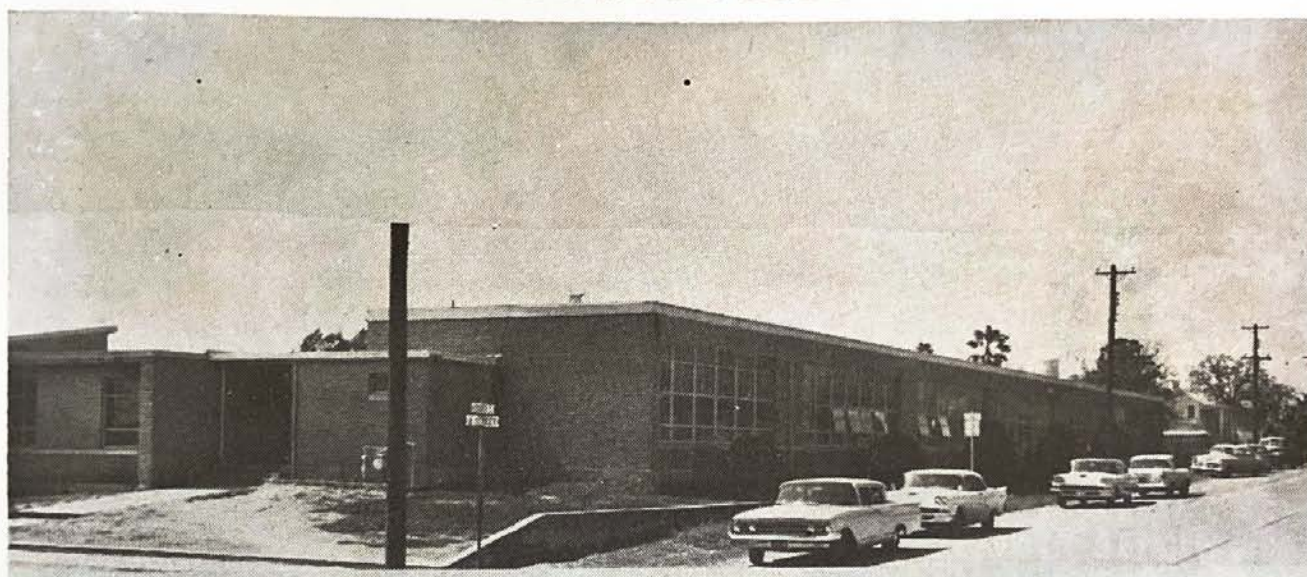
When he was seventeen he left home seeking a college education. He taught school three years and attended North Texas Normal College in Denton, Texas for two summer sessions.

In 1902 he entered the medical branch of the University of Texas in Galveston. At the end of three years he passed the Medical Boards. During his senior year he served as intern in Sealy Hospital. He also interned at St. Mary's Hospital in Galveston. He spent two years as assistant physician to the Austin State Hospital and was transferred to the San Antonio State Hospital as first assistant. Shortly after he located in Floresville he met Miss Lorena McDaniel, whom he married two years later. They had two sons, William and Brad. Both of these sons later entered the field of Medicine; William becoming a dentist and Brad, a surgeon.

In December of 1958 Dr. Oxford experienced the greatest loss of his life, in the death of his beloved wife.



FLORESVILLE

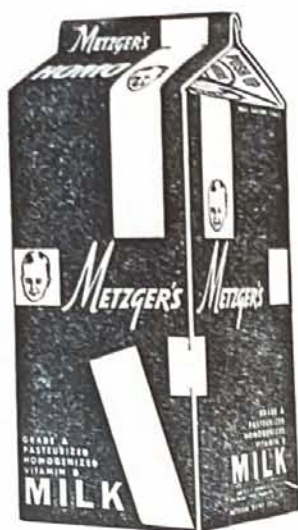


Floresville Elementary School



The Martha Eschenburg Public Library exists today because of one of Floresville's most highly respected and loved citizens, the late R. L. Eschenburg, who made such philanthropic donation in memory of his wife, Martha Eschenburg.

METZGER'S MILK ENDS THE QUEST FOR THE BEST



Congratulations . . .

SMITH MOTOR SALES

San Antonio, Texas

Welcome to the Centennial

CITY TAILOR SHOP

Marshall Henson - Prop.

Floresville

Phone EX 3-6341

E. F. WOOLSEY, Jr.

HARRY F. WOOLSEY

WOOLSEY INSURANCE AGENCY

REPRESENTATIVES FOR

FIREMEN'S FUND INSURANCE CO.

FOR 37 YEARS

ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE

Phones:

FLORESVILLE,

Office: EX 3-2566

Residence EX 3-2671

TEXAS

We pay tribute to those
pioneers in whose footsteps
we follow - -

We are happy to carry on
into the second century

**Sherwin Williams Paint
Eschenburg Hardware**

FLORESVILLE PH. EX 3-2496

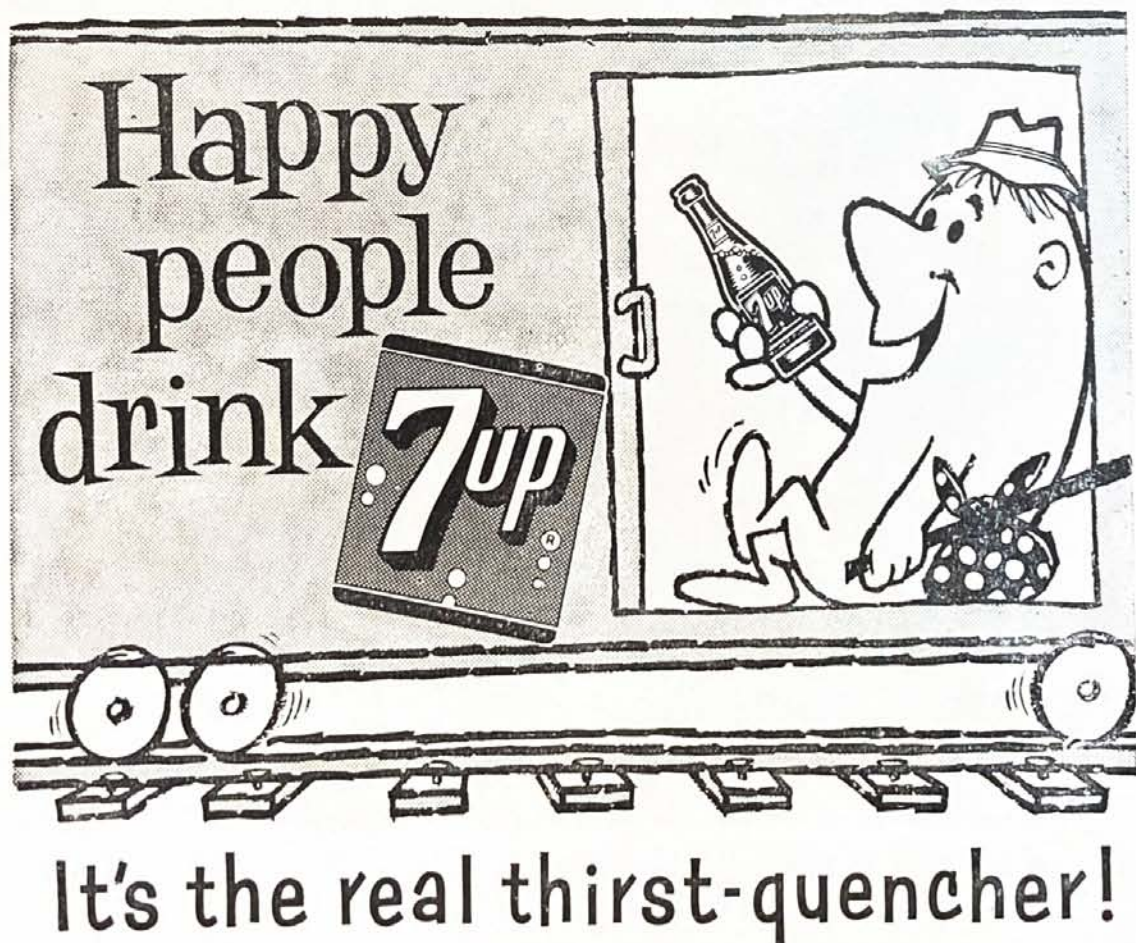
1860 -- 1960

Our sincere good wishes for
another 100 years of continued
growth and prosperity for
Wilson County

IVOR'S SMART SHOP

SMART LADIES APPAREL

FLORESVILLE



HISTORICAL MILESTONES

Walter Prescott Webb, editor of the "Handbook of Texas" had this to say about Wilson County:

"Wilson County, on the upper coastal plain of South Texas, has an area of 802 square miles of level to rolling terrain drained by the San Antonio and Cibolo rivers. Native timber includes pecan, blackjacks, mesquite and hickory.

"Soils ranging from black waxy to sandy loam and sandy clay produce peanuts, grain sorghums, corn, melons, cotton, truck vegetables, and flax.

"Native grass and numerous watering places made livestock raising the first industry. Beef cattle, hogs, and poultry are grown. There is an increasing dairy industry.

"The present area of Wilson County was in the hunting range of Comanche, Tonkawa, and Lipan-Apache Indians and it lay on the path of early Spanish expeditions en route to East Texas.

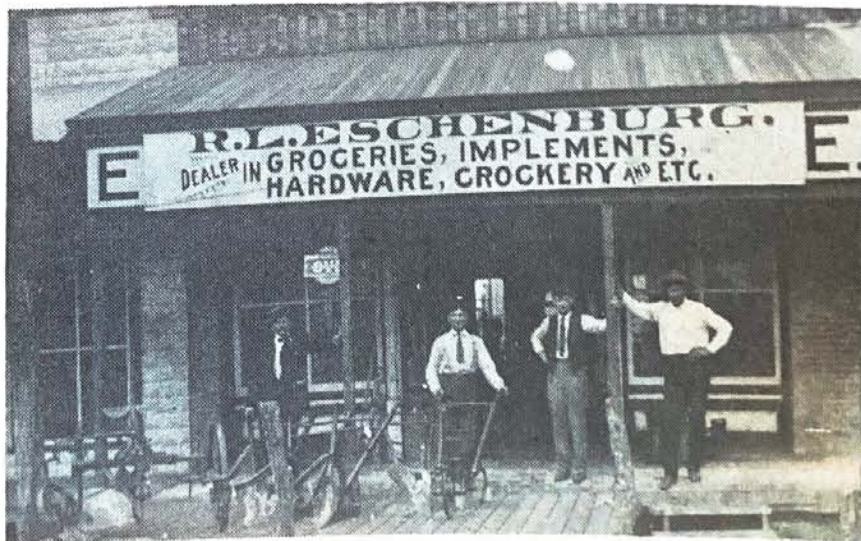
"In September, 1718, Martin de Alarcon crossed the country on his way to explore the bay of Espiritu Santo, and in 1727 Pedro de Rivera went north across the county on his tour of inspection between La Bahia and Bexar. In 1766-1767 the Marquis de Rubi included the area in his inspection of the Spanish frontier, and the 1798 explorations of the coast by Francisco Vasques probably crossed the territory.

"Settlement began before 1830. Francisco Flores de Abreyo established his hacienda about six miles northwest of present Floresville; Manuel Barrera secured a land grant in 1833; Juan and Simon Arocha settled in 1834; Erasmo Seguin built two or three miles from Floresville in the late 1830's.

"Population was 2,556 in 1870, reached 7,118 by 1880, and was reported as 13,961, in 1900, when the county had 63 public schools. The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad, which reached Floresville in 1886, and the San Antonio and Gulf, which crossed the county between 1893 and 1898.

1910 – R. L. Eschenburg Store, Floresville

Gustov Mueller, a Mr. Peters and Charlie Scheoeder, C. T. Roeder





INTERIOR OF OUR STORE IN 1906

COME VISIT US ANYTIME

DURING THE WILSON COUNTY CENTENNIAL
SEPTEMBER 19 - 25 - 1960

For 54 years we have had the privilege of being your pharmacy, and we hope to continue serving you for many years to come.

We will always appreciate your patronage and loyalty, and will try to show it by our continued efforts to please you.

Our facilities are large enough to serve you - - - - yet we are small enough to want to.

Wilson County Peanut Souvenir Bags — Floresville Color Post Cards

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We are proud to be a part of
Wilson County
as it celebrates its Centennial
in 1960

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PRODUCTION CREDIT
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Operating in the County
for 26 years
FLORESVILLE PH. EX 3-6226

*Welcome Centennial
Visitors*

**J. C. MERCHANT
HARDWARE**

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"Doing Business in Floresville
forty-three years"

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Welcome Centennial Visitors

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BARBER SHOP**

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WE WELCOME YOU TO
THE WILSON COUNTY CENTENNIAL

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COUNTY AS IT CELEBRATES ITS CEN-
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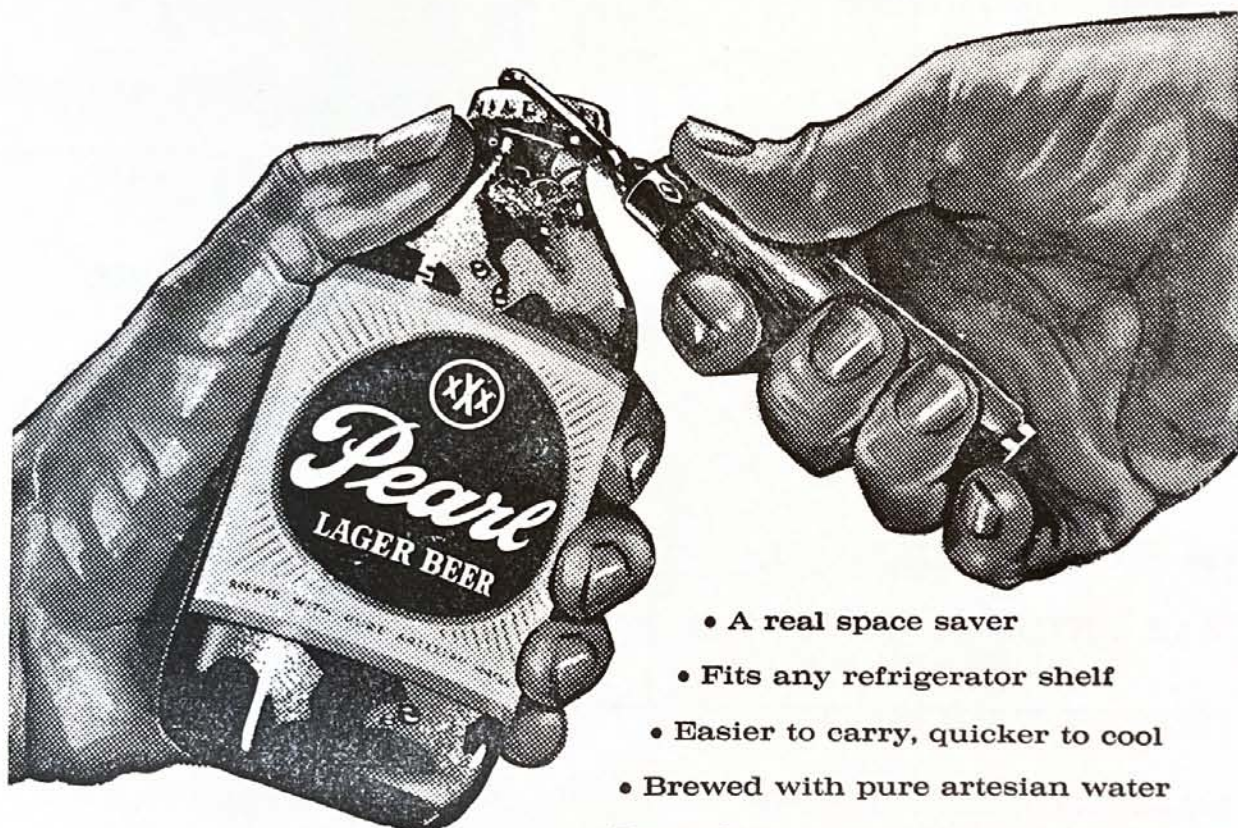
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- Easier to carry, quicker to cool
- Brewed with pure artesian water
- Pure glass protects the true beer flavor

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Pearl Brewing Co., San Antonio



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POTH

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WE HAVE WATCHED WILSON COUNTY GROW,

We honor and pay hallowed tribute to the founders and pioneers of Wilson County among whom were the founders and organizers of this Bank.

As we tread in their footsteps, we likewise honor the present generation and rejoice with them in their continued and vast development of our County.

The parallel growth of ours and other strong Banks throughout Wilson County is evidence of their success and loyalty.

It is our sincere hope that we may continue to serve and grow, ever mindful of the fine traditions so well established by the hardy pioneers a hundred years ago.

FIRST CITY NATIONAL BANK

FLORESVILLE, TEXAS

(Member of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)



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RICHTER'S GROCERY	POTH, TEXAS
MARY'S BEAUTY SHOP	LA VERNIA, TEXAS
DOMINGUEZ GROCERY & MARKET	FLORESVILLE, TEXAS
ROMIE'S CAFE	LA VERNIA, TEXAS
DAIRY DREAM	FLORESVILLE, TEXAS
JOE'S FOOD MARKET	STOCKDALE, TEXAS
CHRISTA SERVICE STATION	POTH, TEXAS
JULIE'S OF FLORESVILLE	FLORESVILLE, TEXAS
WEHMANN GULF STATION	FLORESVILLE, TEXAS
LENZ CAFE	LA VERNIA, TEXAS
CASARES' GRAIN	POTH, TEXAS
KASPRZYK SERVICE STATION	FLORESVILLE, TEXAS
HAWKS STORE	DENHAWKEN, TEXAS
LORENZ FROZEN FOOD LOCKER	STOCKDALE, TEXAS
MARTINEZ SERVICE STATION	FLORESVILLE, TEXAS
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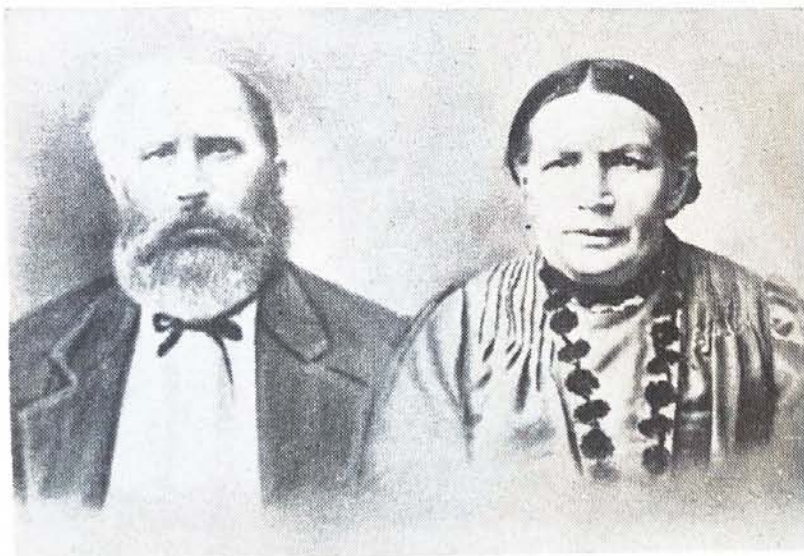
IN MEMORY OF DR. JOHN V. BLAKE, SR.



Dr. John V. Blake, Sr. was born in Chester County, South Carolina on September 24, 1864. He came to Texas in 1884, and attended school in Cuero. He received his medical degree from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. He practiced medicine in Wilson County for 50 years.

He served in the Medical Corps of the United States during World War I. He served overseas and was discharged with the rank of a Major.

He built and operated the Blake Hospital in Floresville a number of years. He died in 1947.



T. C. ROEMER came from Germany to New York in the early 1860's, as a young man he joined the Calvary under General Grant, fought in the battle at Gettysburg, discharged as Captain in San Antonio where he met and married Marie Schmidt Johns, moving to Comfort, Texas. Children born are: William, Hedwig, Sophie, Dora, Harry, all now deceased, C. T. Roemer living near the old homestead and Frances Sammons living near LaVernia. They moved to Wilson County

in August, 1894 settling in Jackson Gulch.

Famous in the Calaveras settlement, were the Elasco Sandpit, Flag Station where trains would take on passengers and water pumped from the river, and the Trolley Line, a means of conveyance across the San Antonio River.

Mrs. Roemer was married the first time to Christian Johns. Born to this union were Emilie Johns Fischer of Oregon and Theodore Johns of Floresville, both now deceased.

A large connection of descendants remain to pay tribute to our ancestors who came to this country in the 18th Century.

CALAVERAS

"Calaveras, in northwestern Wilson County, was originally located in Bexar County and was called Wright when it was established in the 1869's.

"A boundary change put the village in Wilson County in 1869, and the name was changed when the post office was granted.

"The name may be a corruption of Calvillo, the name of a Spanish family who had ranch holdings in the area before 1830. Population was twenty in 1885, when B. Johnson was postmaster and mail was brought horseback from San Antonio.

"The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad reached the point in 1886. By 1890 brick industries were in operation and population was one hundred. A peak population of 369 was reached in 1900. By 1925 the station was reduced to a flag stop. In 1947 the village had one business and a population of one hundred.

"Calaveras Creek rises in Southeastern Bexar County and flows southeastward into the San Antonio River in western Wilson County near the town of Calaveras. The name is Spanish meaning "Skulls".

LODI

"Lodi was the first settlement in Wilson County. Don Francisco Flores de Abreyo established his hacienda there before 1832, and his home, church, and cemetery became the nucleus of a village which was made county seat when the county was organized in 1867.

"Lodi lost the county seat to Sutherland Springs in March, 1871, regained it in July, 1871, and in 1883 lost it again, this time to Floresville, a new townsite on the survey of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway.

"In 1940 only ruins of the hacienda and church remained at Lodi."

* * * *

Lodi now exists as a Latin American Community of Floresville in which one of the Elementary Schools is located.

SASPAMCO

"Saspamco, on the north bank of the San Antonio River, near the Wilson-Bexar county line, derived its name from the Initials of the San Antonio Sewer Pipe Manufacturing Company, which began using the red clay of the area for the manufacture of tile products about 1910.

"A loading switch on the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad became the nucleus of a village which, by 1915, had a population of 125, two churches, a school, a cotton gin, and a dairy.

"Etta Adams was first postmaster of an office granted in 1912. Population was listed as two hundred in 1930 and again in 1947."

Juan Seguin House

In 1885 Juan Seguin built a fine stone house on his hacienda, near present-day Floresville. This old stone house still stands today; but it has lost the style and romance of its builder, and the quarters which Juan maintained for his peons no longer stand. This house was built in 1885, and is now owned by R. A. Wiseman and Son. There are about one hundred acres in this property. The Seguin family lived in it until 1867, when they moved to Mexico.

We Pay Tribute To Those
Pioneers In Whose Footsteps
We Follow

We are Happy to Carry
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Century

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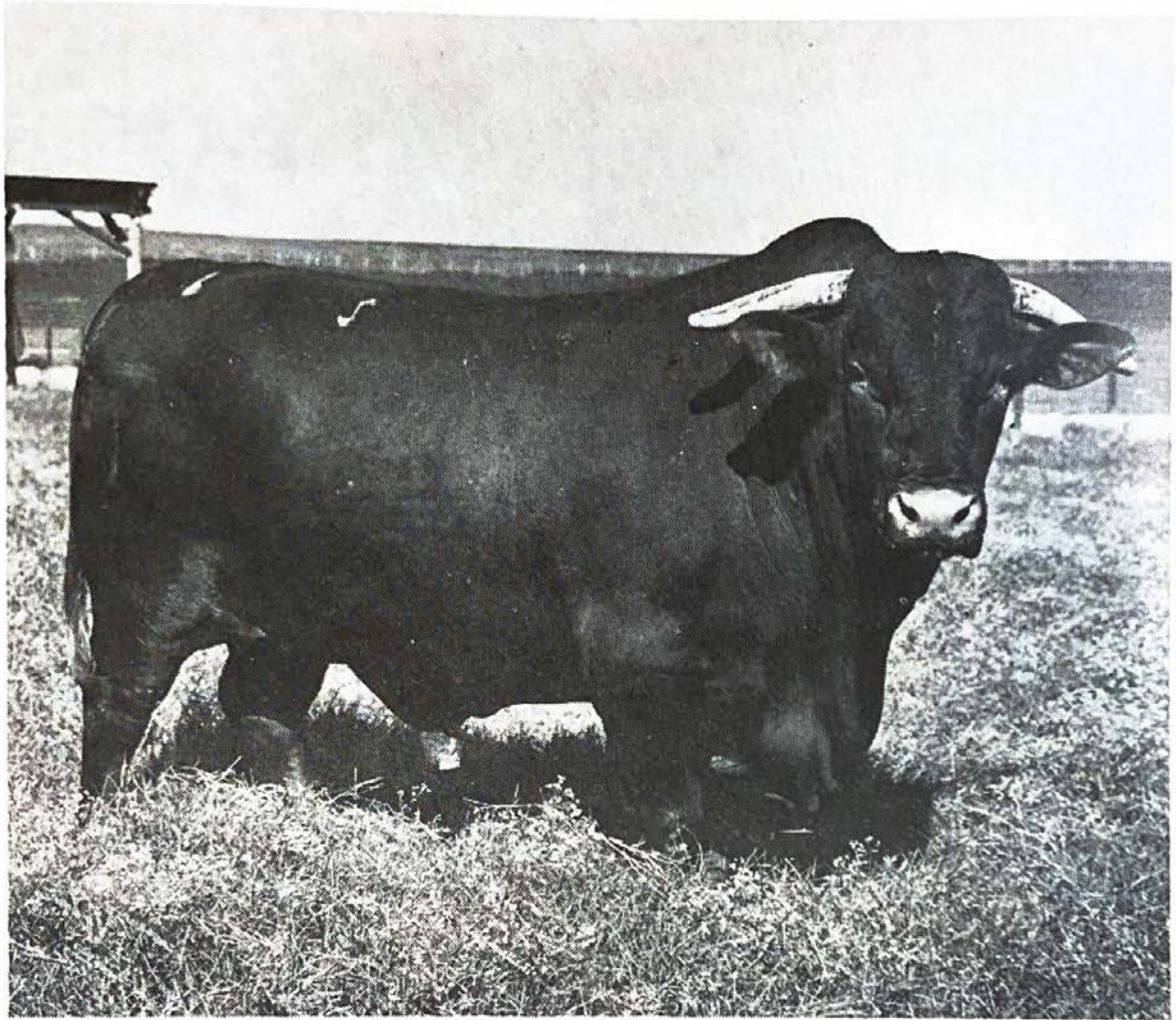
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Karnes City, Texas

Kenedy, Texas

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS



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This outstanding Sire weighed 2600 Lbs. at the time this photo was taken. Sons of Tomado are now being used in herds of 24 successful Santa Gertrudis Breeders from coast to coast.

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PLEASANTON, TEXAS



In Loving Memory of WILEY EDWARD FRANKLIN

Ed Franklin was born at Marcelina, Wilson County, November 2, 1878. He was a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families of Wilson County.

He was the foremost developer of the Jersey Cattle Industry, and a leader in the Diversified Farm Movement of this area. He was associated with the First National Bank in Floresville from shortly after its organization in 1902 serving as cashier, assistant cashier, vice-president and director. He served as county treasurer from 1919 until 1934, then became manager of The Production Credit Association. After his resignation from that organization, he was an executive in a local automobile business. He was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and an Alzafar Shriner, Scottish Rite Temple, San Antonio. He was a member of the Baptist Church and Sunday School Superintendent.

IN MEMORY OF John Dillard Neel AND Avaline Hayes Neel

Came to Texas in 1854 and later to Wilson County where they were life long residents

Their Sons and Daughters were:

James P. Neel
Caroline Neel Bell
Louisa Neel Jay
Annie Neel Hurley

John J. Neel
William Neel
Charles A. Neel
Lucy A. Neel

LA VERNIA

Chamber of Commerce

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DELMA FLUITT
Phone:
Residence:
CA 7-0707

History Of Battery D, 131st Field Artillery

(By ROY E. SEALE of Battery D)

World War I began on April 7, 1917. The future Battery D commissioned officers went into training in officers training camps. They returned to Floresville and recruited in Wilson and Karnes counties.

On July 17, 1917, on the Wilson County courthouse lawn 140 men were enlisted and mustered into the Texas National Guard. Mr. T. C. McDaniel was chairman at this ceremony. Stirring speeches were made by Hon. O. A. McCracken, Senator W. O. Murray, Sr., Joe Sheehy, and L. B. Wiseman.

The commissioned officers were Captain W. O. Murray, First Lieutenants Paul Brown and A. C. Eschenburg, Second Lieutenants Joe Tom Houston and Richard Ezzell.

The battery entrained for Hot Wells in San Antonio where Camp Pryor was established and there they joined other batteries of Bexar county recruits.

On August 5, 1917, Battery D was mobilized into Federal Service and became a part of the 131st Field Artillery Regiment.

In the first part of September, 1917, the 131st Regiment moved to Fort Worth and became part of the 36th Division at Camp Bowie.

The training on 3-inch field guns which were horse-drawn went on until July, 1918. About the middle of July, 1918, the homefolks began to get letters from the boys from overseas. They had landed at Brest, France, under secret orders.

The battery went into training at Camp Coetquidon, Rennes, France. Before they could move into the front lines the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

The battery was held in reserve in France until March, 1919. They embarked at St. Nazaire, France, and landed at Newport News, Virginia, on March 12, 1919, and were stationed at Camp Stuart, Virginia.

On Sunday, March 23, 1919, Floresville was a deserted city since everyone went to Camp Travis, San Antonio, where the battery had come to be demobilized. Demobilization was completed in April, 1918.

Although draftees from other sections of Texas were added to the roster of the original 140 men to keep the battery at full strength of 290, it retained its Wilson-Karnes County status throughout.

Several of these men died from influenza and other diseases and many more have passed on since 1919, but many memories will be rekindled when the living veterans get together at the Centennial Celebration.

ROSTER BATTERY D 131 FIELD ARTILLERY 36TH DIVISION WILSON - KARNES COUNTY

Battery D 42nd Field Artillery Texas National Guard

Captain, W. O. Murray, Jr., Floresville.

First Lieutenants, Arthur C. Eschenburg, Floresville; Paul H. Brown, Karnes City.

Second Lieutenants, Joe Tom Houston and Richard L. Ezzell, Floresville.

First Sergeant, Arthur E. Oates, Fairview.

Supply Sergeant, Douglas W. Rhode, George West.

Mess Sergeant, Hal V. Warren, Floresville.

Stable Sergeant, Roy L. Hearn Fairview.

Sergeants, Otto Radke, Hobson; Taylor Gilliland, Fairview; Woodford Thornton, Roy E. Seale, Herbert W. Eschenburg, Everett Y. Seale, Wm. T. Matlock, Delbert A. McKenzie, Ross McKenzie, Floresville.

Corporals: Milton James, Floresville; Gilbert S. Smith, Karnes City; Herndon H. Flake, San Antonio; Steve M. Bynum, Floresville; Lloyd Brown, Floresville; Louie G. Hicks, Stockdale; Jim R. Gregory, Floresville; Chas. H. Wright, Floresville; Jerome Irwin, Fairview; James M. King, Stockdale; Jones N. Reagan, Floresville; Eugene W. Brennan, Floresville; Joseph A. Coughran, Floresville, Emmett T. Hyde, Floresville; Don C. Steffey, Waring; Walter Boehme, Floresville; Sam B. Carr, Floresville; Hayes O. Wiley, Stockdale; Henry R. Johnston, Sutherland Springs, Jim L. Masters, Fairview.

Cooks: Pete R. Richter, Jr., Stockdale; Hubert B. Anderson, Sutherland Springs; Frank Vavra, Floresville.

Horseshoers: William E. Sellers, Sunnyside; Raymond Broz, Hobson; Sylvester Richter, Floresville.

Chief Mechanic: Maurice H. Wright, Floresville.

Mechanics: Marshall M. Myers, Floresville; Bernhard Klaus, Floresville; Henry L. Dennis, Floresville.

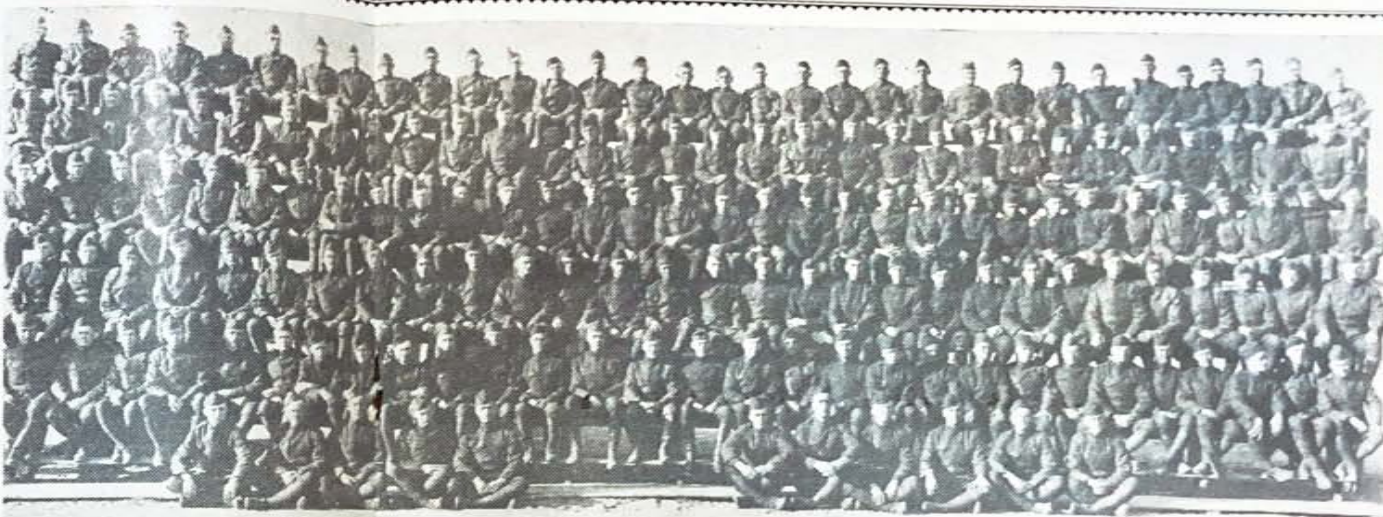
Saddler: Willie W. McDaniel, Boerne.

Buglers: Charles Lyons, Floresville; Curtis Hayes, Stockdale; Harvey Harris, Floresville.

Privates: Melvin O. Adams, Floresville; L. B. Adams, Floresville; Anastacio Adams, Floresville; Rufus C. Allen, Falls City; Bill Anderson, Lenz; Henry Anderson, Karnes City; Harry Barosh, Floresville; Floyd E. Billingsley, Verdi; Irvin C. Billingsley, Leming; Clarence L. Bowie, Floresville; Stanik Bronder, Falls City; Thaddeus Brysch, Stockdale; Bart H. Burkett, Jr., Floresville; John L. Campbell, Tordia; Douglas Caraway, Fairview; Elijah Carr, Karnes City; Ezekiel Carvajal, Floresville; Joseph C. Clark, Pandora; Roy Clark, Floresville; Nathan Coleman, Karnes City; Allen Deskin, Floresville; James H. Deskin, Floresville; Alonzo Dunn, Stockdale; Leonard Dworaczyk, Kosciusko; Charlie L. Dyal, Pandora; Harvey Eppinette, Floresville; Frank T. Fly, San Antonio; Joseph Fuller, Pandora; Feliciano Garza, Floresville;

Alpheous Gray, Fairview; Guadalupe Guerrero, Floresville; Joseph Hawk, Stockdale; Joseph M. Hayden, Leming; Ori Henry, Stockdale; William Hickok, Pleasanton; Richard B. Hill, Leming; Joseph Hons, Hobson; William E. Hooford, Hobson; Elton Hunt, Fairview; James B. Hunt, Fairview; Lem Hunt, Fairview; Lydell Irwin, Fairview; William F. Jackson, Pandora; Eddie Jaeschke, Floresville; Frank Jarutowicz, Floresville; Joseph Jasek, Floresville; Ben Jasknia, Kosciusko; Stanley Jenkinson, Karnes City; Lucian B. Kimbro, Floresville; Peter Kolonko, Carpenter; B. Kotora, Kosciusko; John Kotzur, Kosciusko; Nick Kotzur, Cestahowa Edward Krawietz, Cestahowa; Ben Kroli, Kosciusko; Joseph R. Kyselica, Hobson; Hughie A. Lloyd, Floresville; Peter Makovy, Floresville; Clayton McDaniel, Floresville; John Martinez, Floresville; Ed L. McDaniel, Floresville; McEdwin McGee, Fairview; Frank McLane, Floresville; Dwight McLeod, Marcelina; Eugenio Mendoza, Saspmco; August Moczygomba, Panna Maria; Bron Moczygomba, Panna Maria; Louis Moczygomba, Panna Maria; Romuald Moczygomba, Karnes City; David Moy, Kosciusko;

Harman Moy, Stockdale; Barney T. Murff, Pandora; Louis Opieola, Panna Maria; Ignace Palitza, Poth; John E. Palitza, Poth; Joe Pawelek, Panna Maria; Lorenz Pawelek, Panna Maria; Lorenz Pawelek, Panna Maria; Ludwig Piskor, Hobson; Julius Poppell, Floresville; Norman Poppell, Floresville; William T. Rafferty, Pandora; Emilio Ramirez, Jr., Floresville; Elmon Rees, Marcelina; Alex Richter, Stockdale; Charlie T. Roberts, Karnes City; Fred Robuck, Floresville; William C. Sartin, Leming; Hugo Schelling, Floresville; Louis Sekula, Kosciusko; Mariano Treviño, Floresville; Leroy Varnon, Floresville; Claud Vollrath, Kosciusko; James N. West, Pandora; Valson West, Pandora; Willie Westfall, Floresville; William Wingenter, Karnes City; Buck Wiley, Stockdale; Marvin Wilkinson, Floresville; Ben F. Winn, Jr., Leming; Paul P. Witten, Leming; Elmo Wright, Fairview; Lloyd Wright, Leming; Jack Young, Stockdale; John Zak, Jr., Floresville; Adam Zavada, Jr., Floresville.



Invitation to Sheriff M. J. Ximines and family to Grand Ball, at the Opera House, Floresville, Texas, July 26, 1893.

GRAND BALL

TO BE GIVEN AT

THE OPERA HOUSE

Floresville, Texas

WEDNESDAY - NIGHT, - JULY - 26, - 1893.



You are Respectfully Invited to Attend



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W. A. MITCHELL.	W. M. CHAPPELL.

COMMITTEE ON INVITATION:

ED. MANN.	F. B. SEALE.
R. A. GOUGER.	S. V. HOUSTON.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE:

J. B. POLLEY.	MRS. J. B. POLLEY.
ED. GOLDSTEIN.	MRS. ED. GOLDSTEIN.

FLOOR MANAGERS:

A. ORMAND.	JOE HOUSTON.
T. P. WEST.	JOE CHESTNUTT.



ADMISSION ONE DOLLAR



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ROBERT L. ESCHENBURG
Resident of Wilson County for 50 Years

Robert Lee Eschenburg, son of Charles and Anna Eschenburg was born on February 3, 1870 at High Hill in Fayette County, Texas. He moved to Floresville in 1910 where he lived until his death August 28, 1959. He was united in marriage with Miss Martha Griebisch on January 5, 1893. To this union was born four children.

As a young man he was engaged in the lumber business in Shiner for 15 years. He moved to San Antonio in 1906 and four years later he came to Floresville and started his grocery and hardware store. These he continued to operate until 1953, when illness caused his retirement.

He was a member of the First Lutheran Church for 35 years. He was active in civic affairs and was a director in organizing the early Wilson County Fair Association. He was also one of the original founders and directors of the First Floresville Chamber of Commerce.

He served as a member of the city council and the board of trustees of the Floresville Independent School District.

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IN THE HOME OR PLACE OF BUSINESS ON THE FARM AND ON THE RANCH

We Salute Wilson County on its
Centennial Anniversary

And Wish For Its Entire Citizenship Many

More Years Of Continued

Progress And Prosperity



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

E. F. Woolsey, Jr.

E. W. Schneider

J. C. Merchant

Henry McDaniel

Robert F. Spruce, Manager

LA VERNIA

"La Vernia, on the west bank of the Cibolo River in northern Wilson County was settled about 1850.

"W. R. Wiseman of Mississippi, who moved at the site in 1851, is said to have named the place for the live oak grove found at the spot.

"Brahan Masonic Lodge was established in 1859. German and Polish immigration brought population to 110 by 1885, when the village had three churches, a school, a steam gristmill, and a cotton gin.

"H. Suhre, owner of the general store, was first postmaster. In 1890 La Vernia had a population of two hundred. Construction of the San Antonio and Gulf Railroad across the area in 1893 brought population to 343 by 1900.

"In 1915 the town had two gins, a bank, four churches, a pottery plant, a brick works, and a population of five hundred. In 1947 seventeen businesses and a population of five hundred were reported."

Among the first land grants given in the area of La Vernia was the one granted Ireneus Smith, better known in history as "Deaf" Smith on December 25, 1833. The grant consisted of one league of land and was situated at least twenty-eight miles from the northeast side of the Seibolo (now spelled Cibolo) both above and below the road leading from San Antonio to Gonzales. The grant, surveyed by Byrd Lochart, consisted of twenty-three labors of pasture land and two labors of arable land for which Ireneus Smith paid "Thirty-two dollars, four real grains, the ultimate value of the twenty-five labors at the prices stated." In conformity with the provisions of the colonization law of March 24, 1825 Smith had to erect permanent landmarks, and settle and cultivate the land. The land adjoining belonged to Vincent Duran.

The first settler in the territory later to be known as La Vernia was Pendleton Rector, who with his family moved from San Marcos in 1848 and settled a few miles below the present location of La Vernia. In 1851 W. R. Wiseman, W. D. Scull, J. T. Montgomery, J. F. Tiner, G. J. Houston, Ross Houston, J. M. McAllister, and Levi Humphreys settled in the area, where nature's building was plentiful.

The Wiseman family consisting of William P., his wife, Elizabeth Bell, and his two sons, Hugh W. and James O., settled to the north of present day La Vernia. The Wiseman land included the league granted to Ireneus Smith in 1833. Wiseman stated that he settled where he did because he found one faithful Presbyterian in the area, with whom he set to work and organized a Presbyterian Church which was then called Cibolo Church. Wiseman named the location Live Oak Grove because of the grove of live oak trees found there. J. G. Houston, a doctor, built his house to the east of the Wiseman location, just below present-day La Vernia. The Polley House served as the boarding place for these families until their own homes were erected.

The Samuel Mavericks of San Antonio were frequent visitors of Houston and his family. Rena Maverick Green visited in Houston's Home, writing of one visit, she says that in August of 1855 the Samuel Maverick family visited the Houstons and partook of a birthday dinner given Joby Thompson. While there, a party of some twenty-five or thirty Comanches made a raid down the Cibolo River. The Indians on this raid crossed the San Antonio River at the Conquista fort some forty-five miles below San Antonio, and on their march to the mountains they killed two persons and stole and killed horses. A party set out in pursuit of the Indians, and almost immediately rumors were spread to the effect that several hundred warriors had been seen not many miles from the Houston house, which was filled with people who had come from miles around. They fortified the house, and most of them kept awake the whole night.

James Newton, another early settler in La Vernia, owned a plantation to the north of the Cibolo River. The plantation was run by Negroes, and their cabins extended from Newton's home, located on a hill beyond the Cibolo River, all the way down the fence row to the river. The lumber as well as other supplies to build the houses were hauled from Port Lavaca with ox teams. Lumber was so scarce and hard to get that most of the homes of the first settlers were built of logs and some of the floors were built of flat rocks. The settlers would send their harvested cotton to Port Lavaca by negro foreman, and they would then buy large supplies of groceries for the plantations.



MASONIC HALL AT LA VERNIA

About half a mile from the highway on the western outskirts of La Vernia stands a two-story stone red sandstone building known as the Brahan Lodge 226 building. It was erected in 1854. The new charter for Brahan Lodge, A. F. and A. M. was granted June 15, 1869, making it one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in Texas.

The Lodge building was erected for three purposes. The Masonic Lodge owning the building, maintained their meetings on the second floor. The first floor was used for school purposes, public worship and other public meetings. School was maintained in this building for many years with rooms being added through the year out of wood. A. N. McCallum, who served as the Superintendent of the Austin Schools for many years, taught his first school in the old red building. McCallum's wife received her first schooling there as did C. E. Scull, a San Antonio physician. This building is still in use as the Masonic Hall and the bottom floor is used for veterans school.

FLORES RANCH

The old Don Francisco Flores ranch house situated atop a hill overlooking a quiet stream is located off Texas Highway 181 three miles south of Calaveras.

This large white adobe house constructed of adobe brick was remembered in 1933 by Villereal, a native of Wilson County for eighty-eight years, as an old place when he was a child. The ranch contained a church which has long since been obliterated, with only the foundation stones remaining.

This house built to withstand Indian attacks was the focus of many fights, and Villereal remembered being taken there as a child to escape Indians.

In 1939 a wide porch and a small kitchen were added to the house, but otherwise it has remained substantially the same.

POTH

Poth is situated in the south central part of Wilson County, and was established in 1886 as a switch on the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad, later the Texas and New Orleans Railroad.

Poth was first named MARCELINA SWITCH, and was renamed in 1901 when A. H. Poth was the postmaster.

J. F. Startz built and operated a store in 1900; later about 1902 Walter J. Bump, J. C. Bump and Richard Voges operated a general store. The depot was built in 1906, and the first bank was established in 1913, of which Richard Voges was president and R. S. Woellert cashier.

The Community was settled principally with German families in 1900. By 1909, a gin, blacksmith, repair shop, school building, dance hall and Bump and Voges General Store were in operation.

Many of the best farms and ranches in the County are located in this area, affording a good business for the town of Poth.

In 1912 E. H. Reinhard and Wm. C. Eckel established William Eckel and Company, a dry goods and grocery store. The Guarantee Hardware Store was established in 1921. In 1939 A. D. Warnken and Sons began operating the only oil mill in the County, and manufactured cold pressed cotton seed products, ginned cotton and crushed peanuts and flax, and mixed feeds.

STOCKDALE

"Stockdale, in eastern Wilson County, was named for Fletcher S. Stockdale, lieutenant governor when the town was established in 1863.

German and Polish imigrants brought population to three hundred by 1885, when the town had four churches, a school, two mills, and cotton gins. Population was 450 in 1890.

In 1898 the San Antonio and Gulf Railroad reached Stockdale. Ranching gave way to diversified farming by 1910. By 1925 industries included a planning mill which manufactured furniture and cabinets. The incorporated town had a population of 926 in 1940 and 1100 in 1950.

Some of the early settlers were Billy Mayes in 1840, and Daniel Bird, who was a participant in the battle of San Jacinto which made him eligible to a league and labor of land in Texas, came to this area to live on his grant. This land was located about three miles east of stockdale.

Creed Taylor was located next to that of Daniel Bird. After the Texas Revolution he built a log cabin on his Ecletto ranch. It was built of logs fourteen inches in diameter and stood until a few years ago. Creed was a lover and follower of race horses.

Another early settler was Dr. Thomas Batte. He paid \$24.00 in taxes at Bexar County for 488 acres of land, 14 negros, 10 horses, 8 cattle, and 1 wagon. These negros became known as the Field negros, most of them later settling at Grass Pond near Sutherland Springs, where their descendants still live. The Batte family were also great friends of Governor Pease.

J. R. King was among the group who founded Seguin and was its first Mayor. He later became a member of the Texas Legislature and succeeded in getting a bill passed for the creation of Wilson County on February 13, 1860.

During 1869 the Indians made several raids through Free Timbers, crossing the Cibolo many miles below and coming up the east side of the river as there were no settlers on the west side, until they reached La Vernia where they usually turned around and returned the same way. On one occasion the Indians captured a red headed boy near Sutherland Springs, probably the first red headed person they had seen. They brought the boy down to Indian Crossing, later known as the Hankerson crossing. They proceeded proceeded to rub his hair with sand, dance around him, and wash his head in the river. This they repeated several times but failed to wash the red out, so they turned him loose fearing he was a devil. There were others in the county who were captured by the Indians during this period, but they did not live to tell the tale.

In 1916 Stockdale was incorporated under the mayor-council form of government.

Even though the townsite was laid out in the late 1870's the country was still wild and almost every man wore pistols and boots, game was plentiful and snakes were in abundance. Stock ran at large on the open range. The men rode horseback and others walked. When family travel was necessary, the wagon and oxen were brought forth.

Stockdale has one bank, organized in 1932.

The first telephone service began in 1889 with a straight line from Gonzales to the Palm Drug Store, where the only phone was located. Now they have enlarged their telephone office, rural lines were built, the office has two switchboards, five operators, and a linesman.

WELCOME

We are proud to be a part of Wilson County as it celebrates its Centennial in 1960. It is our sincere hope, that during the coming years, we can continue to serve and grow, ever mindful of the fine traditions so well established by the hardy pioneers a hundred years ago.

Smith Butane Gas & Appliance Co. Smith Pontiac Co.

Floresville

EX-3-2533

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John Clay and Company of
San Antonio

J. W. Kothmann & Sons Central
Livestock Commission Agents

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Texas Livestock Marketing Association

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—and—

San Antonio Livestock Market Institute

invites you to ship all your
Livestock to - - -

UNION STOCK YARDS

SAN ANTONIO

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Wilson County Friends

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Machinery Corporation

INTERNATIONAL TRACTORS &

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and ROLLERS

SAN ANTONIO

CApitol 6-9128

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FEED & GRAIN CO.**

"Economize"

APPLIANCES MILL SERVICE
EGGS CREAM
FEEDS



GOVERNMENT STORAGE

LA VERNIA SPRUCE 9-2171

WELCOME and SUCCESS

**To The
CENTENNIAL**

**Richard E. Ullmann
General Contractor**



Floresville EX-3-6350

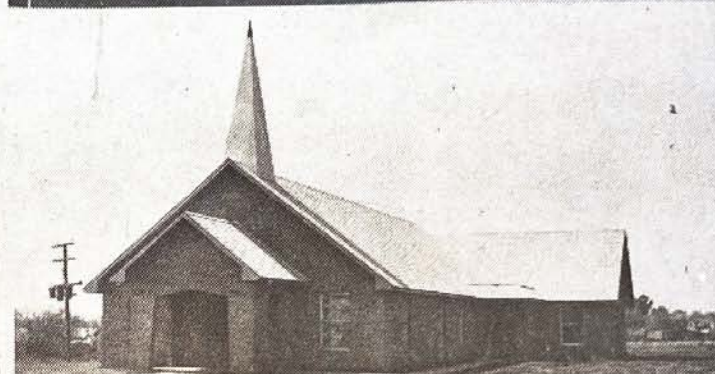
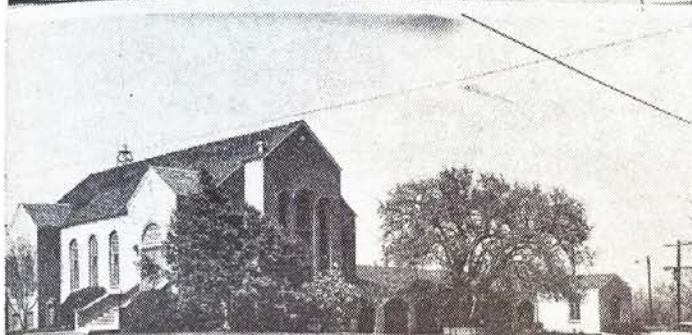
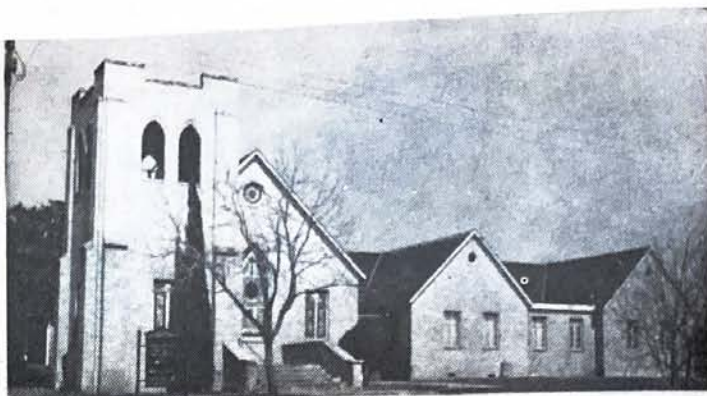
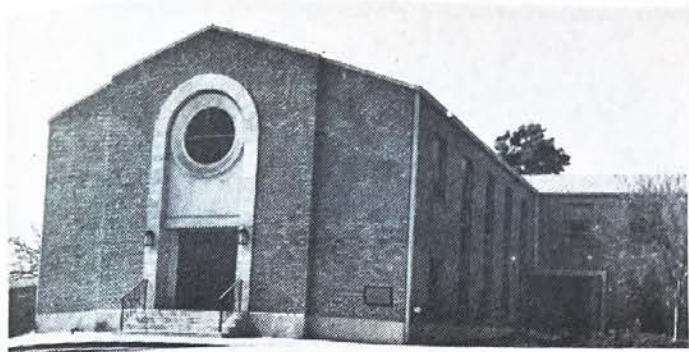
WELCOME TO THE CENTENNIAL

**The State Bank
of La Vernia, Texas**

See Us for Automobile and Home Improvement Loans



MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION...

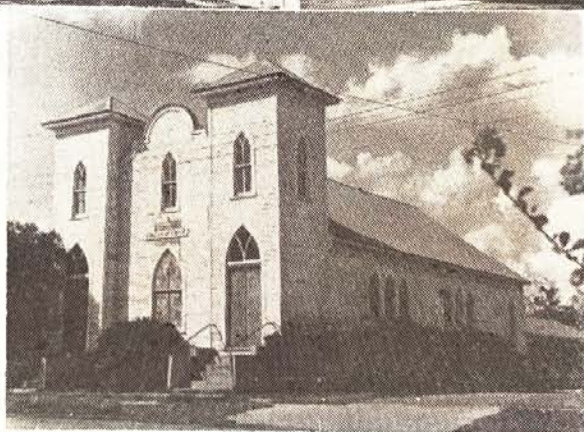


UPPER LEFT
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FLORESVILLE, TEXAS

UPPER RIGHT
**FLORESVILLE
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

CENTER LEFT
**SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
FLORESVILLE, TEXAS

RIGHT CENTER
**EL MESIAS
METHODIST CHURCH**
FLORESVILLE, TEXAS



CHURCH OF CHRIST
FLORESVILLE, TEXAS

LOWER LEFT
**FLORESVILLE
METHODIST CHURCH**

LOWER RIGHT
**FLORESVILLE
MEXICAN
BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Baumann's Grocery & Market

"The Place To Go For The Brands You Know"

Air-Conditioned For Your Shopping Comfort

CONVENIENT PARKING UNDER THE SHADE OF LARGE TREES

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Floresville

Phone EX 3-2146

Congratulations

CONOLY DRUG STORE

COMPLETE

PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

DRUGS — SUNDRIES

COSMETICS

Owners

DAN CONOLY & GENE BENFER

Welcome

To The

Wilson County Centennial

— ● —

WHITE AUTO STORE

WALTER & LEROY ULLMANN

Owners

In Memory of Charles & Karolina Winkler



The above are the descendants of Charles and Karolina Winkler. Julius Winkler, Joseph Winkler, John Winkler - father, in his lap is daughter, Bessie (Mrs. Charlie Foegelle), Mrs. Mary Ploch Winkler, mother, Sallie, (Mrs. Louis Mc-Bee), Rose Winkler, Grandmother, Karolina (Wiatrek) Winkler, Julia (Mrs. Julius Pierdolla), This family settled in Carpenter in 1860.

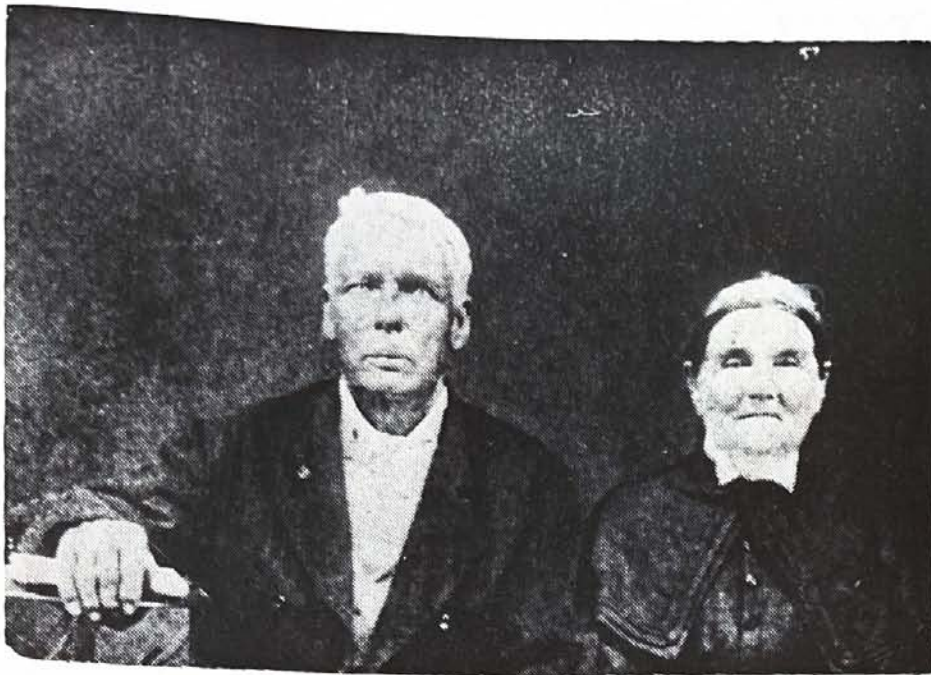
One of the first families to settle in Wilson County.

Store and Saloon at Carpenter, Texas,

owned by Jos. Winkler. Picture taken 1911



left to right - Thomas Manaz, Alexander Winkler, Jos Winkler, Frank Javior, Vincent Kosub, Raymond Pierdolla



IN MEMORY OF OWEN MURRAY FAMILY
Owen Murray, Margaret Ormsby
Married 1831

Owen Murray and his wife, Sarah Margaret (Ormsby) Murray, of Scottish descent, were both born in New Hanover County, North Carolina, later moving to Missouri. In 1857 Owen Murray and his four sons came to Texas to look it over. The next year they brought out their families and settled near LaVernia, Texas, in what later became Wilson County. The sons were: Asa William, John David, Robert Washington, and James Carr — all served as Confederate soldiers with Robert losing a leg at the Battle of the Wilderness but living to celebrate his 100th birthday, and James being killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. The daughters were Mary Catherine (Mrs. Chester Wentworth) and Margaret (Mrs. Will Barker), both of whom reared their families elsewhere in Texas. Asa William, who served as Sheriff of Wilson County in the early '80's brought up his family in Floresville — a son, William Owen was a member of the Texas House of Representatives and State Senate for 16 years and whose son, Judge W. O. Murray, is now Chief Justice of the 4th Court of Civil Appeals (which includes Wilson County) and whose grandson, Clark Murray (son of DeWitt Murray, deceased, an attorney of Floresville) is now County Attorney of Wilson County; a daughter, Mary Susan (Mrs. O. L. Ezzell) and another son, Asa Benjamin, now reside in Floresville where Asa has been a successful Funeral Director. Also, living near Floresville is Mrs. Clifford Dennis (Bess) daughter of James Sidney Murray, another son of A. W. Murray. Two daughters, Margaret Annie (Mrs. Joseph Boehmer) and Bettie Annette (Mrs. O. A. McCracken) and another son, Albert Clarence lived away from Floresville, and Mrs. McCracken presently resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Rem Murray, a son of John David Murray still lives at Sutherland Springs where his father and family lived for many years, and Mrs. G. M. Warren (Amelia) daughter of Robert Washington Murray still lives in LaVernia with her son, Murray Warren and his family.

Other descendants are Roland and Glenn Murray (sons of Garrison and Thirza Wiseman Murray) both Presbyterian Ministers with Glenn serving as a Missionary in the Belgian Congo and Barbara Perkins (granddaughter of Joe Murray) a Missionary in Costa Rica.

Berta Murray (daughter of Garrison Murray) has had a fine record as a Home Missionary and teacher at the Tex-Mex School. A Murray reunion has been held for the past two years and has become an annual affair with about 150 descendants of Owen and Margaret gathering to get better acquainted and to pay tribute to their fine Christian ancestors.

*We Salute Wilson County
On 100 Years Progress*

ESCHENBURG

IMPLEMENT CO.

JOHN DEERE DEALER

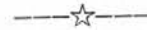


CARL ESCHENBURG - Owner

*Best Wishes for Wilson
County's Centennial
Celebration*

J. L. MASTERS

BUILDING CONTRACTOR



SAN ANTONIO

Phone MI 6-3161

Congratulations

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"WHERE YOUR DOLLARS HAVE MORE CENTS"

Floresville, Texas

Phone - EX 3-6171

Centennial Greetings
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& SONS**

Central Livestock Commission Co.
UNION STOCKYARDS

San Antonio, Texas



CONGRATULATIONS
Compliments of
A
FRIEND

Carnation *fresh* **Milk**

CONGRATULATIONS TO WILSON COUNTY
ON 100 YEARS PROGRESS

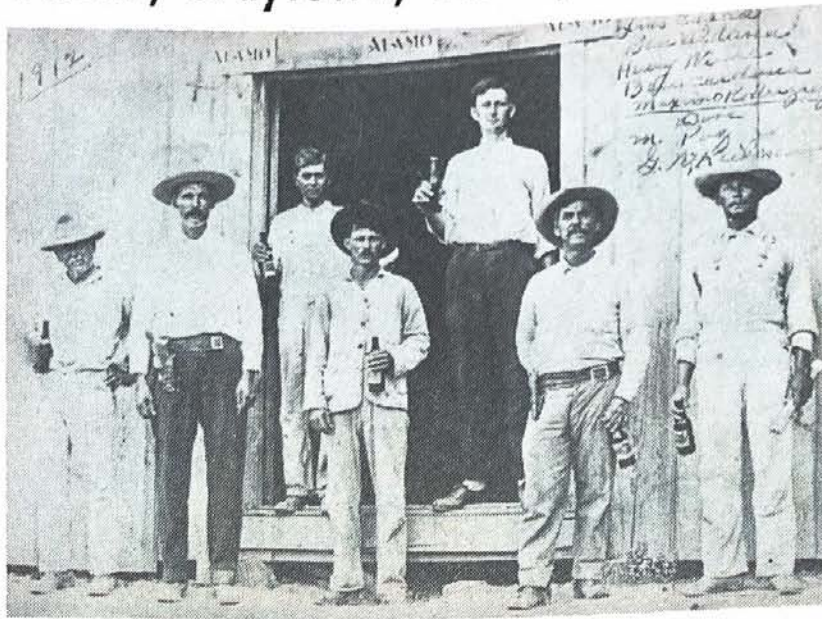


Edgar Tobin Aerial Surveys
San Antonio, Texas

114 Camp

CA-3-6203

Old Saloon, Graytown, Texas, taken in 1912



left to right: Luis Casas, Ben Aldana, Manuel Paz, Henry Weaver, G. W. Keilmann, Ben Cardona and Maximo Rodriquez.



POSTOFFICE at Marcelina established in 1895 and abandoned about 10 years later.

Reading from left to right: (next woman and man unidentified)
 Steve Franklin and wife, Maud Franklin W. T. Calloway - in front by tree.
 E. P. Wallace
 Bud Jones - Postmaster
 D. L. Donaho and wife, Fannie Donaho

Identifications made by Mrs. J. H. Franklin and Mrs. L. A. Donaho

Compliments of
The H. W. Rhode Family

—●—
Old Time Residents of Floresville
—●—

**WELCOME
CENTENNIAL VISITORS**

Wright's Cafe
Home Cooked Foods

MR. & MRS. BERT WRIGHT,
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WESTERN AUTO**

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Teague Texaco Station**

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FLORESVILLE PH. EX 3-2439

**WE CONGRATULATE WILSON COUNTY
ON THIS CENTENNIAL**

Security State Bank
STOCKDALE

**Rain or Shine You Will Find Us
Friendly and Willing To Help**

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

KOSCIUSKO

Located about 10 miles South of Stockdale

The first settlers in 1850, were Volrath, Killgore, Butler and Hitchins. In the early 1880, a colony of Polish people bought and settled the town, building one of the largest church buildings in the County. About 1900 a fine iron bridge was built across the river.



First Catholic Church, Kosciusko, Texas

CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR PIONEERS

**BUD'S
SERVICE STATION**

Highway 181

POTH

HU 4-3747

WELCOME CENTENNIAL
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WARCO MILLS

Wilson County's Only Peanut
and

Cottonseed Oil Mill

Chas. H. Warnken, Owner

POTH

HU 4-3611

CERTIFIED SPANTEX
PEANUT SEED FROM

Wilson County Peanut Co.

LA VERNIA, TEXAS

Pure Variety will pay you more

Seed Is Our Only Business

MYERS FUNERAL HOME

"THOUGHTFUL

PERSONAL

SERVICE"

STOCKDALE

Phone 4781

We pay tribute to Wilson County and its pioneers in this Centennial Year of 1960 and pledge to give the best service possible in the future.

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HUMBLE PRODUCTS**

Phones:

Office – EX 3-2702

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6 BOTTLE
CARTON
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PLUS DEPOSIT

Congratulations

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Grass Seeding, Costal Bermuda
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First Class Equipment

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A HAPPY CENTENNIAL
TO ALL

**MURRAY
FUNERAL HOME**

George Vinyard - Owner
FLORESVILLE EX 3-6265

Centennial Greetings



**Morton's
Quality
Food
Products**



ARMIN ALBERTS
Distributor

FLORESVILLE EX 3-2808

IRVIN W. JENKINS

Lone Star Beer Dist.

Poth, Texas

PHONE
HU 4-3863



LONE STAR'S GREAT **NEW** GLASS CAN MAKES IT EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE!

NO DEPOSIT
RETURN



Never before has it been so easy . . . so much wonderful fun . . . to enjoy *ALL* the goodness in a frosty-cold bottle of beer! Now, Lone Star brings you the fully-aged, brewery-fresh flavor of the beer that's *certified to be as fine a beer as is brewed in the world*. PLUS the flavor-sealed protection of the fast-cooling Glass Can! Lone Star's handy, New Glass Cans are inches shorter, fit easily and neatly into any refrigerator shelf, ice chest or picnic cooler. Easier to buy and use, too . . . because you pay no deposit and there's no return! When Glass Cans are empty, you throw them away just like metal cans.

Try Certified Quality Lone Star in the new Lone Star Glass Can . . . and *Have Fun With Your Thirst!*

LONE STAR BREWING CO., SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS - OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA



CERTIFIED* "AS FINE A BEER AS IS BREWED IN THE WORLD!"

In love and honor of our father and mother by their children



Fremin Carvajal

Lucy C. Lopez

Albert Carvajal, Jr.

Josephine C. Martinez

Edna C. Hopkins

Janie C. Cavanaugh

Steve F. Carvajal

Esther P. C. Penda

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Carvajal

A pioneer of Wilson County, Albert Carvajal and his father the late Luis Carvajal have traced the family back to 1731, when it was then that the first Carvajal came to Texas on a ship from the Canary Islands. This ship brought Spaniards determined to establish colonies in this relatively unsettled land, the family prospered, acquiring wealth and property.

Documents attesting their fortune are still in the family possession, among these documents, his grandfather Joe Carvajal was an officer in the Mexican army fighting Maximilian, Napoleon's puppets and the Mexican Emperor; for his valor, he was awarded some property around Laredo, but he preferred his home in Wilson County, Texas.

Another Carvajal was Luis the son of Don Joe, his estate was spread throughout Karnes, Wilson and Bexar Counties, during the Texas war for Independence he was a Colonel in the Texas army of the Republic, under General Sam Houston. After the war he commanded a guerilla band leading many raiding parties close to the Nueces river. Most of the documents preserved belonging to these Carvajal's, include a bank deposit slip for \$3,300.00 (A considerable sum in those day's), a certificate of mark and brand, a tax receipt for 87 acres in Wilson county and a death notice of Lucia De Los Santos Carvajal the wife of Luis Carvajal. They had eight son's all deceased except one of their son's Albert Carvajal, who still lives on the original property in Saspmaco, Texas.

Albert Carvajal was born Sept. 8, 1877 at Calaveras, Texas and his wife was also born at Calaveras on Nov. 24, 1890 and also have eight children.

Poth Vegetable Co.

"Cowboy Brand"

BOX 25 • POTH, TEXAS

GROWERS • SHIPPERS • BUYING BROKERS
FRESH VEGETABLES

Specializing in all Bunched Vegetables
and Green Corn

Melons in Season

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HUDson 4-3343

Branches:

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Office: CA 6-2254 and CA 6-7041
DI 2-0523

FAY L. RHODES
"Fay"

Raymondville MU 9-2638
MU 9-3265

A. H. HUEBINGER
"Cowboy"

RICHARD VOGES

MARY VOGES



Nov. 7, 1869—May 10, 1955

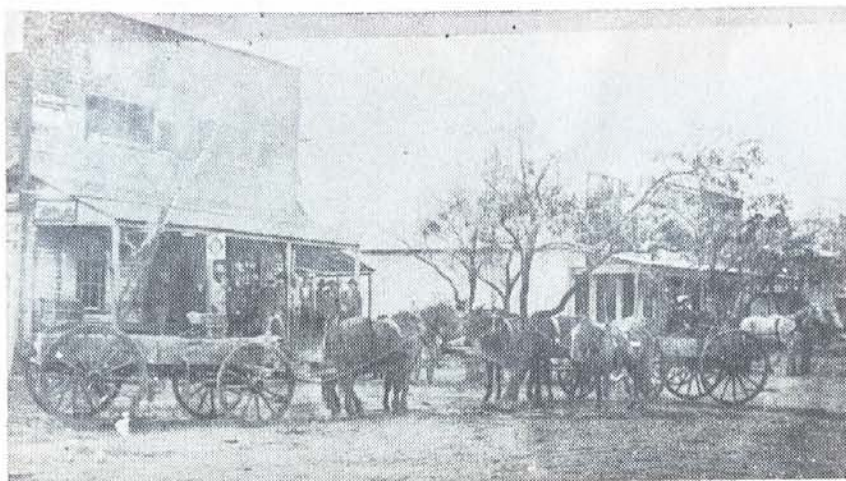
February 1, 1882

Richard Voges, born in Guadalupe County, Texas; settled in Wilson County in 1900; married Mary Guenther in Galveston 1901; lived in Floresville until 1902, at which time they moved to Poth, where he departed this life.

Richard Voges during his lifetime was active in the business, educational, political and religious growth and progress of his adopted County, that he loved so well.

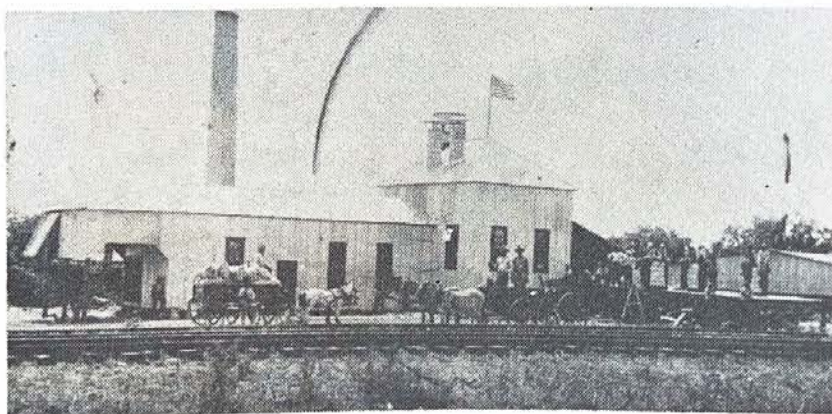
Mary Voges, faithful wife, mother and grandmother spent her active life devoted to her home and to the religious activities of her church.

In loving memory to our father and grandfather and in honor of our mother and grandmother, this page is dedicated.

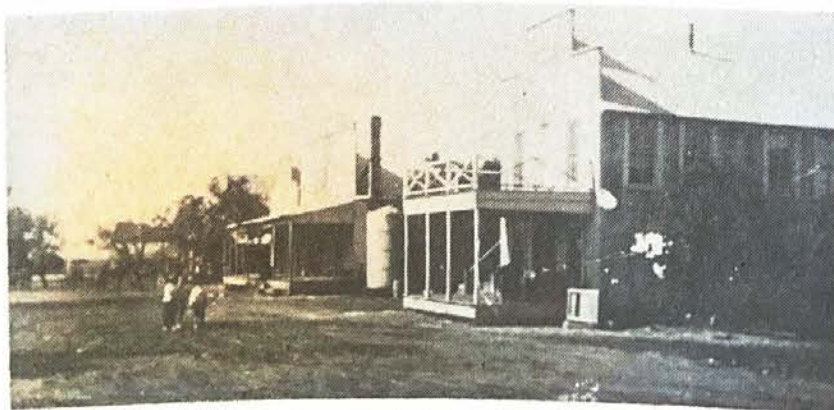


Date of Picture about 1911 to 1914

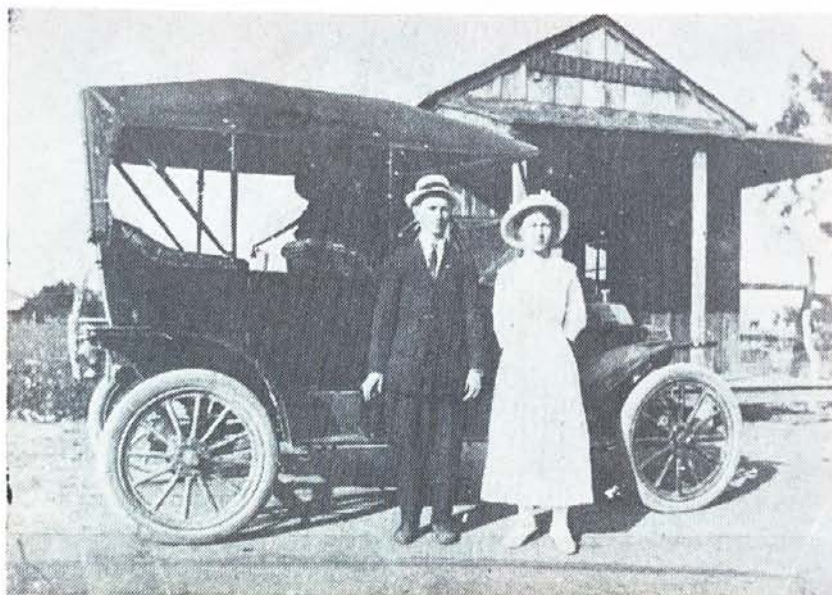
In foreground is first General Store. Next is first Bank and Marr's General Store and in far distance is Poth's first Drug Store. All these buildings face the Plaza.



Old Billimek & Bednarz Cotton Gin
across the railroad track where the depot now stands



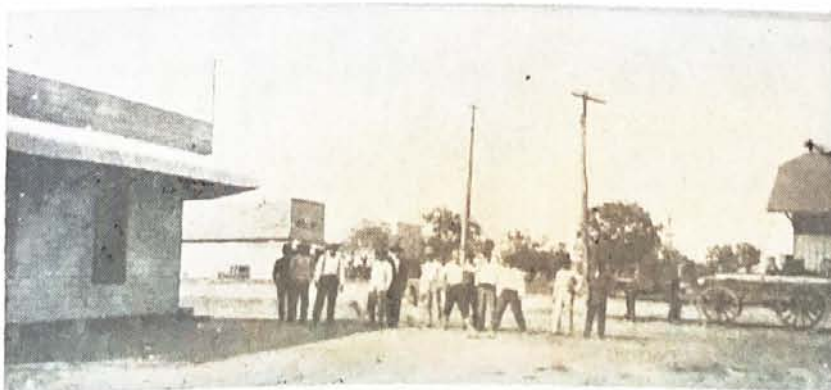
In foreground is old (Poth's first) Drug Store, next Marr's General Store. In far distance old Alex Klaus house still standing today.



WOODWARD MEAT MARKET, 1913, POTH, TEXAS
(Mr. and Mrs. Anton L. Raabe)

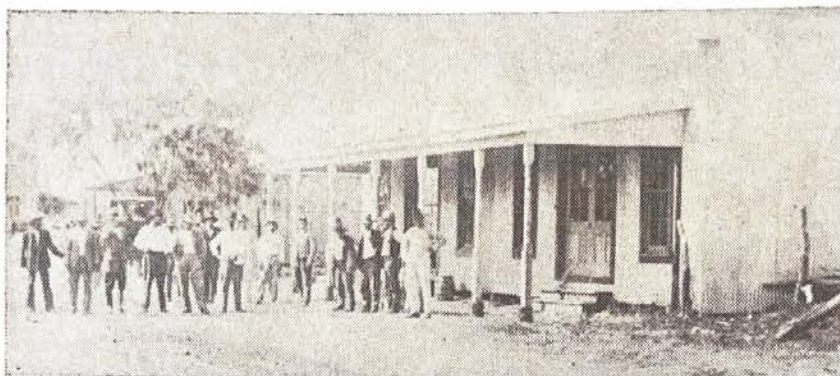


ALEX KLAUS SALOON
located across tracks from depot



Picture taken about 1911-1914

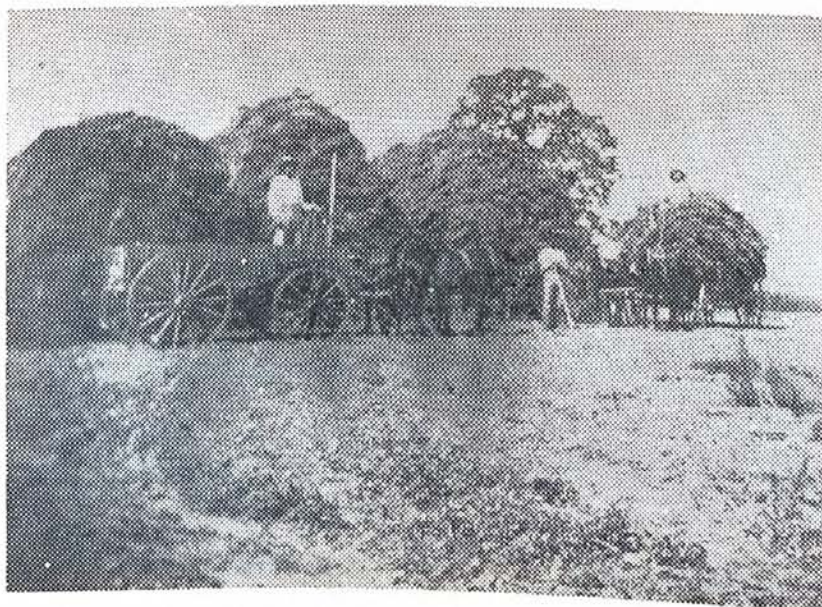
On left in front is old Alex Klaus Saloon. On far right is the first depot. In distance across RR tracks are the Wm. Eckel & Co. Store, Bank Building, Marr's Store, etc., facing what is now the Plaza.



Poth Saloon about 1911

In the foreground is the old Joe Ludwig Saloon and Pool Room located almost on spot where Lyssy & Eckel Feed Store and driveway next to it. (Voges Bldg.) Directly across street from present Schneider's Meat Market & Ice House. Next building back from saloon is the old Woodward Butcher Shop and in distance is old Wm. Eckel & Co. General Store.

First Peanut Thresher Wilson County Was Operated By H. E. Conn In 1908



E. C. Conn has favored the Centennial Edition with an old time picture showing the first peanuts threshed in Wilson county by a machine. It was owned by his father, H. E. Conn, and was bought in 1908. It shows H. E. Conn threshing peanuts on the Old Chappell place between Floresville and Stockdale. There were 9 large stacks of the peanuts and Mrs. H. E. Conn made sheets to cover them. Shown in the picture are, left to right: Webb Sample, Oscar Holcombe, Hugh Conn and John Bell on top of the stack.

We are Proud to Have Been
A Part of Wilson County's
Progress for 22 Years

AKIN SERVICE STATION

COMPLETE MOBIL SERVICE

Alton & Gresham Akin - Owners

STOCKDALE

Phone 5641

We are Proud to be a Part of
Wilson County as it Celebrates
It's Centennial in 1960

La Vernia Drug Store

See us for your drug & gift needs

Lucille & John Cockrell - Owners

LA VERNIA

Spruce 9-2511

CONGRATULATIONS

FARMER'S GENERAL STORE

Groceries & Meat Processing Plant

Stanley & Hagan Dworaczyk

KOSCIUSKO

PI 5-2390

CONGRATULATIONS

E. W. Schneider

and

C. C. Ziegler

YOUR TEXACO FRIEND

POTH

HU 4-3635

Knowlton's

Select



MILK and ICE CREAM

Get KNOWLTON'S

and KNOW you have the BEST!

CONGRATULATIONS

Bird's Feed & Seed
AND
Bird's Dry Goods Store
STOCKDALE

Phones — 5131 - 5141

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

Compton's Beauty Shop

Ina Compton - Owner

—Operators—

Julia Castor

Ann Messer

Assistant—Rosalinda Martinez

FLORESVILLE

Welcome Centennial Visitors

Kotzur Meat Market

Choicest Meats of All Kinds

We kill, process, cut and wrap
your meat as you want

POTH

HU 4-3332

A SALUTE TO THE FOUNDERS
OF WILSON COUNTY

Goodwin Food Store

HIGHEST QUALITY FOODS

STOCKDALE

Phone 4131

Welcome to the Centennial

PRUSKI STATION

Highway 123

Stanley Pruski, Owner

KOSCIUSKO

PL 5-2528

BEST WISHES FOR A
FESTIVE CELEBRATION

Stockdale Grain Co.

Barney Davis - Mgr.

STOCKDALE

Phone 6791

I Am Proud To Have Been A Part
Of Wilson County's Progress For
44 Years

O. J. BOMBA
PRESCRIPTION PHARMACY

POTH, TEXAS

WELCOME TO CENTENNIAL

MYERS

Furniture & Appliance Store

"The Home of Complete
Household Furnishings"

STOCKDALE

5201

Established 1877

Under Present Management
Since January 1, 1913

Western Chronicle
Floresville Chronicle
Wilson County Journal
**FLORESVILLE
CHRONICLE-JOURNAL**

FLORESVILLE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

SAM FORE, JR., Owner and Publisher

**For 83 Years
Working for the Upbuilding of
Floresville and Wilson County**

**We Salute Our Beloved County
On It's 100th Anniversary**

Your County Paper

Your Home Printers

We are happy to be a part of 100 years progress.

100 years advancement in technical progress is incorporated in the Telephone System as it is

Now – Installed

Wilson County Telephone Co., Inc.

SERVING A LARGE PART OF WILSON COUNTY INCLUDING: KOSCIUSKO, POTH, FAIRVIEW, PICOSA, CAMP RANCH, STEVENS, LOMA VISTA, KASPER, THREE OAKS, PALUSKI, CALAVARES, CANADA VERDI, MARCELINA, UNITY, SUNNYSIDE, and FLORESVILLE.



HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

Polley Mansion in Sutherland Springs, Texas

In 1846 J. H. Polley with his family moved from the Brazos River to the Cibolo River, located in present-day Wilson County. When Stephen F. Austin made his first trip by J. H. Polley and several others from a point about eight miles within the province of Texas. When Austin received his land grant, J. H. Polley was among the first twenty-two immigrants to settle in the colony.

In 1823 Polley married Mary Bailey, and the ceremony was performed three times. First by the local alcalde, second by a catholic priest, and third by a Protestant minister just to make the knot secure. The second ceremony made him eligible to become a land owner and also allowed each of his children to a headright of a section of land consisting of sixty-four acres. J. H. Polley served as the first sheriff in Texas.

Polley selected as the location for his home a small knoll overlooking the creek about two miles north of Old Sutherland Springs. He first built a "stake house" until he could construct a permanent residence.

The building was a two-story rock house built by slaves and completed in about 1851 consisting of eight rooms and was built from hard stone quarried about three miles away and transported by wagons and slaves to the building site. All of the walls inside and outside were of solid stone, being eighteen inches thick. The woodwork was built of cypress beams from distant saw-mills in Bandera. An underground cistern was placed in the yard and still remains in good condition today. The rafters measuring five by seven inches and supporting timbers were tied together with wooden pegs, some of which remain today. The rooms of the house average sixteen by seventeen feet and connected by large halls thirty by twelve feet running the length of the house. On the front, porches on both floors extend the length of the house. The window shutters and doors were manufactured in New York and shipped to Indianola, and then transported by oxen and wagon to the Cibolo. A rosewood piano, the first in the county, with mother of pearl keys, the draperies, carpets, and other household articles were shipped in the same manner.

One story told about the construction of the house is that the mason who contracted to build the chimneys stipulated that he was to receive a jug of whiskey each Saturday. For some reason Polley failed to supply the jug of whiskey, and in retaliation the mason partially clogged up one of the chimneys with debris such as chunks of mortar and stone. Of course, ever after, this particular chimney smoked when a fire was built. Many years later, when the chimneys were inspected and cleaned, the debris was discovered and removed; from then on the chimney worked perfectly.

The rooms of the house were named "Pink Room", "Blue Room", "Green Room", "Star Room", "Tan Room", and the "Bridal Chamber". Polley called this house "Whitehall", but today it is referred to as the "Polley Mansion". The house and well remain, but the barns, quarters for slaves, and a cotton gin have disappeared.

At the time the Polley house was built Indians were active in the vicinity, and it was unsafe to go to school on foggy days. Polley passed away March 28, 1869, and left his wife, Mary with tremendous responsibilities. She converted the house into a boarding house.

O. W. Linne, of La Vernia, is the present owner and uses the house as a summer home.

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS

"Sutherland Springs, in the northeast Wilson County, was established about 1831 as the plantation headquarters of John Sutherland and other members of the Sutherland family.

"This original site, in a park called old Sutherland and located a mile west of the present townsite, was chosen because of flowing springs on Cibolo Creek.

"In 1846 Joseph H. Polley moved to Sutherland Springs and built his home near the hot and cold mineral springs in 1851. By the early 1860's Sutherland Springs was a health resort and had a large hotel.

"The Civil War, the decline of the plantation system, and troubles of Reconstruction left Sutherland Springs a small farming village.

"In 1885 population was 150, and the town had a church, a school, and a steam gristmill and cotton gin. Construction of the San Antonio Gulf Railroad on the east bank of the Cibolo in 1893 moved part of the town to that site and by the middle 1930's the old location was practically deserted. In 1947 Sutherland Springs reported a school, nine businesses, and a population of three hundred."

John Sutherland was born in Virginia on May 11, 1792, and came to Texas in December of 1835.

John Sutherland and J. W. Smith served as scouts during the approach of the Mexican Army in 1836, and informed Travis of the location of the army. Sutherland, because of an injury, was unable to assist the garrison so he was sent with Smith to Gonzales for support. He served as a messenger between Sam Houston and David Burnet.

John Sutherland established a post office at his ranch headquarters in the early 1850's and he became the first postmaster. By the early 1860's the townsite had been established and named in honor of Sutherland. Sutherland Springs consisted of a large hotel, a few mercantile stores, and a post office, was considered a health resort as it had sulphur springs. Sutherland Springs was the county seat when Wilson County was organized, but not until after the Civil War did the town begin to build up. In the late 1870's a school was built, and by 1885 the town had a church, a steam gristmill, and a cotton gin. The population was one hundred fifty, and the village was known as a business center. In 1947 the town reported a school, nine businesses, and a population of three hundred.

In 1954 the school district of Sutherland Springs was consolidated into the Floresville school district, and once again the town was almost deserted. With the oil activity begun in 1956 it is prophesied that the town will once again grow.

By 1923 the gaunt old hotel had been closed. The parent-teacher association continued to give suppers and dances for several years in the building, but even this was discontinued in 1928 and the hotel stood vacant. In 1935 the old hotel building was torn down. In 1919 the school in Old Sutherland Springs had four teachers and New Town had three. The trustees of the Old Town approached the New Town trustees several times proposing to consolidate the two schools. School taxes were fifty cents in New Town. This failed. As a result each town ran its own school until 1938 when the new Town School was consolidated into the Old Town School district.

PANDORA

"Pandora, in eastern Wilson County, was established in the late 1900's as a stop on the San Antonio and Gulf Railroad.

William Irwin's store, established in the early 1900's, and a co-operative gin were the only businesses until about 1915, when population rose to 250, and a post office was granted. Population was two hundred in 1947.

Serve Coke cold ice cold

**right in
the bottle**

*Coke" is a registered trade-mark.

**Coke is at its delicious best when
served ice-cold. Keep it in the
coldest spot in your refrigerator.**

**DRINK
Coca-Cola**



BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY

BEST WISHES



PIONEER FLOUR MILLS

San Antonio, Texas

CONGRATULATIONS

We are happy to have
been a part of this pro-
gress for the past 44 years

**JOHNS - TELTSCHIK
DRY GOODS CO.**

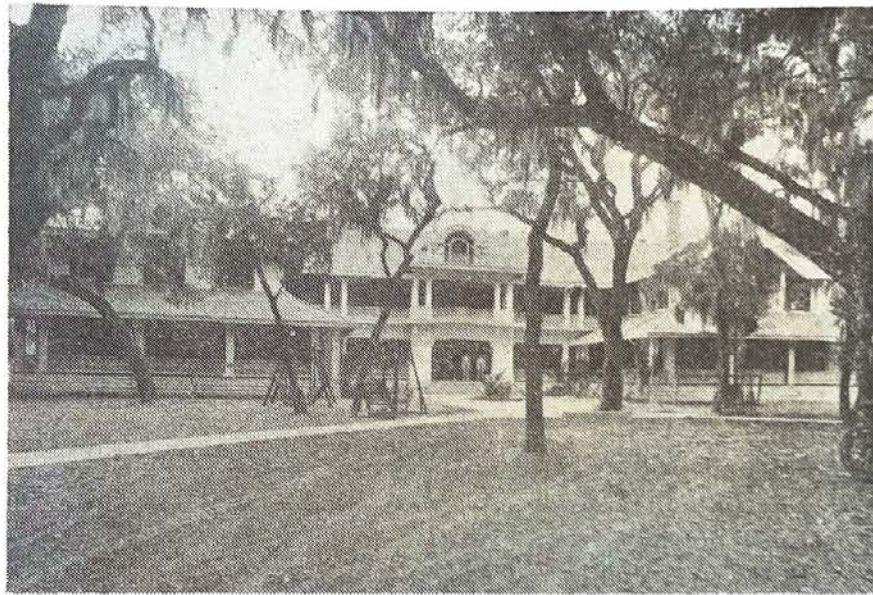
*"Featuring Nationally
Advertised Brands"*

FLORESVILLE

Ph. EX 3-6136

Hotel Sutherland, Sutherland Springs, Texas

a modern 50 room hotel, having its own electric and water systems was a show place in southwest Texas; it was built in 1908, and weekly excursions brought great crowds from San Antonio for all day picnics and celebrations.



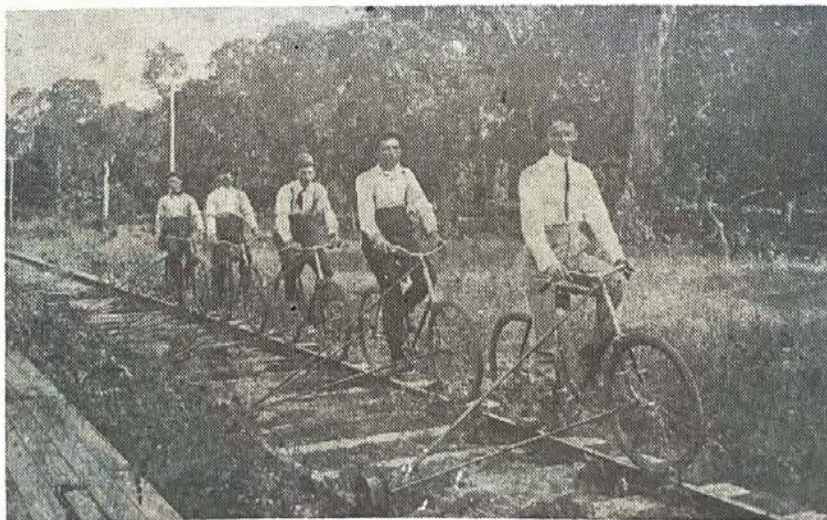


Stockdale Musical Group in about 1900

Left to right, top row: Nettie Johnson, Claudie Allen, Johnie Smith, Veda McIntire, and Lula Parks

Middle row: Lillie Parks, Emma Teas, Berta Smith and John Alexander

Bottom row: Jessie Stout, Ethel King, Mayme Holland and Ludia Moffett.



Stockdale Bicycle riders with bike attachment riding railroad track from Stockdale to Sutherland Springs, in about 1900.

Left to right: John Johnson, Jim Hays, Mr. Carlisle, Collins Clifton and Audry Fones.

Congratulations to Wilson County
on it's BIG 100th BIRTHDAY

LYSSY & ECKEL

Feed and Seed

NUTRITION IS OUR BUSINESS



Poth

HU 4-3314

We Are Happy To Be A Part Of
Wilson County's Centennial

SMITH'S DRUG STORE

Drug and Gift Headquarters

SINCE

1906

54 Years of Faithful Service



Stockdale

Phone 4231

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

CREAM CREST

Milk & Cream

SAN ANTONIO

4602 S. Presa

LE 4-8888

We Pay Tribute To Wilson County
Pioneers On This 100th Anniversary

WARNKEN MOTORS

Richard Bolf
POTH, TEXAS

We take this occasion to express
our appreciation to all who have
contributed to the progress of Wil-
son County the past century.

We Salute The Hardy Pioneers
Who Founded Wilson County In
1860

Schneider's Market

&

Ed's Restaurant

Eddie Zolkoski, Owner

POTH

HU 4-3813

A HEARTY WELCOME

RILEY'S USED CARS

SEE US FOR
YOUR USED CARS

FLORESVILLE

EX 3-2377

A Salute To 100 Years Progress

Besch Corner Drug Store

WHERE COURTESY PREVAILS



Sutherland Springs TU 5-2161

WELCOME
TO THE CENTENNIAL

BOB STOELTJE

Grain and Livestock Dealer

The Farmer's Friend

POTH HU 4-3777

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS
OF CENTENNIAL

Mattke Lumber Company

BUILDING SUPPLIES

O. E. Mattke

LA VERNIA SP 9-2661

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

DALE CAFE

"Good Food & Friendly Service"

Rena & Archer Wilder - Owners

STOCKDALE Phone 6331

Bus. Phone — HU. 4-2144

Res. Phone — HU. 4-3646

KOLODZIEJ PRODUCE

Louis Kolodziej, Owner

POTH, TEXAS

"BEST BRAND YET"

We Specialize in Frozen Turkeys & Fowls
Fresh Eggs

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

Bertrand Radio & T.V.

SALES and SERVICE

Lawrence Bertrand - Owner

POTH HU 4-3340

CONGRATULATIONS

B. & D. Chevrolet

Sales and Service

Your Business Always Appreciated

STOCKDALE Phone 5171

WELCOME

PRASEK'S

SINCLAIR PRODUCTS

COLD BEER ICE CREAM

SOFT DRINKS

POTH HU 4-3368

Wilson County Farm Bureau

Congratulates those who have had a part in the great progress of the past and extends best wishes to those who will take up the task for greater accomplishments in the future.

WELCOME CENTENNIAL VISITORS

Floresville Livestock Commission Co.

Wants and Appreciates your Business

AUCTION EVERY TUESDAY

W. J. Noll - Owner

BUSINESS PHONE
EX 3-2916

Floresville, Texas

RESIDENCE PHONE
LE 6-3278

San Antonio, Texas

We Honor and Pay Tribute To
The Hardy Pioneers of
WILSON COUNTY
In This Centennial Year Of
1960

**LIEBERMAN'S
DEPARTMENT STORE**

"Serving Wilson County Since 1916"



FLORESVILLE, TEXAS

CONGRATULATIONS TO
WILSON COUNTY ON THIS
BIG 100th BIRTHDAY

B. F. Preiss

REALTOR

FARMS RANCHES
HIGHWAY ACREAGE
CITY PROPERTY

On Highway 181 — 4 Miles South
of Floresville
EX 3-6324

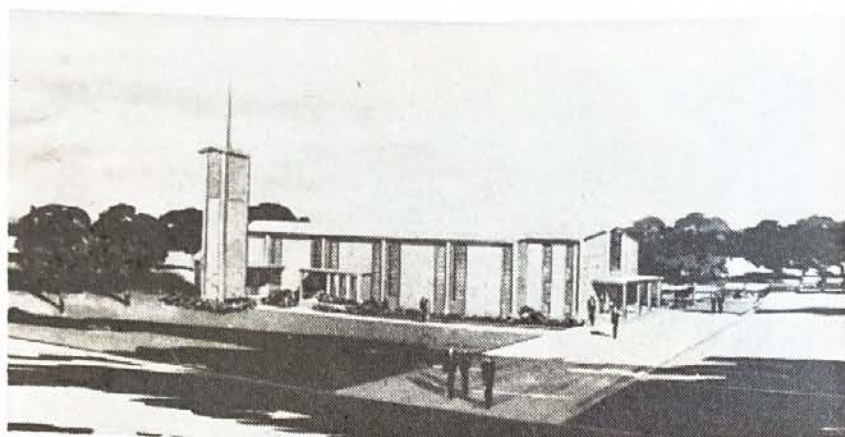
**WE PAY TRIBUTE TO WILSON COUNTY
PIONEERS ON THIS 100th ANNIVERSARY**

Floresville Motor Co.

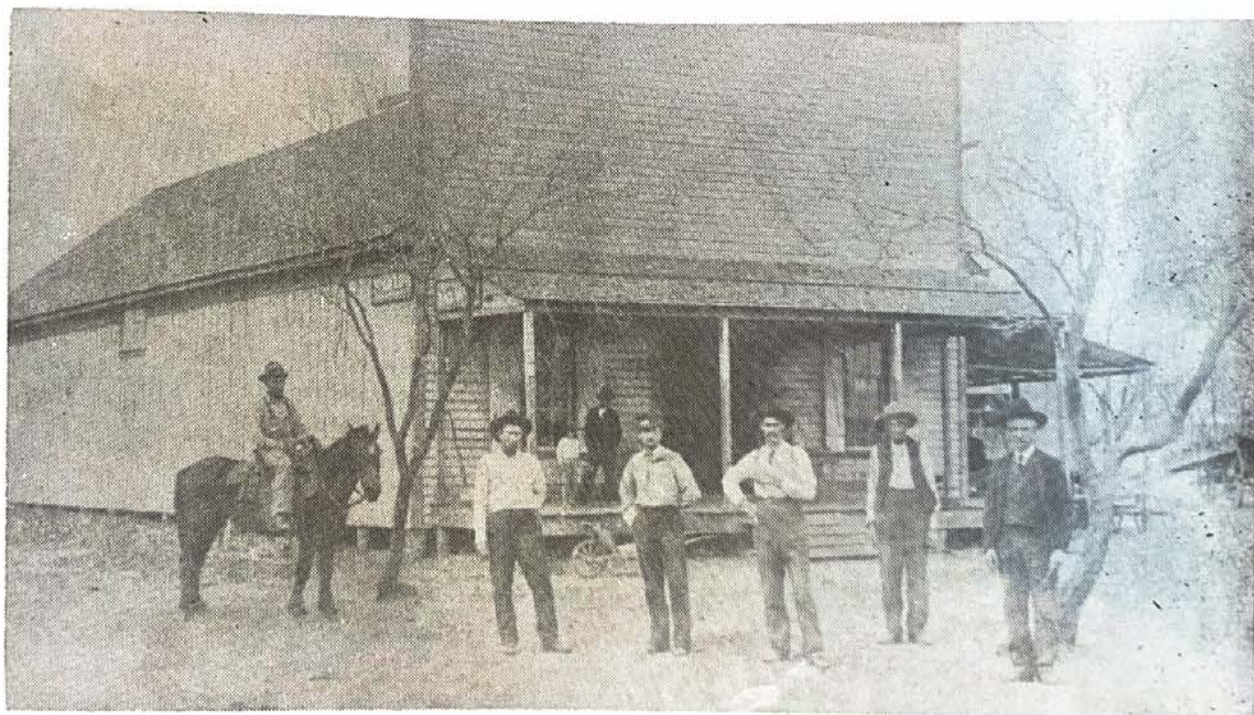
FORD MERCURY
Sales and Service

Floresville

Texas



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
Poth, Texas

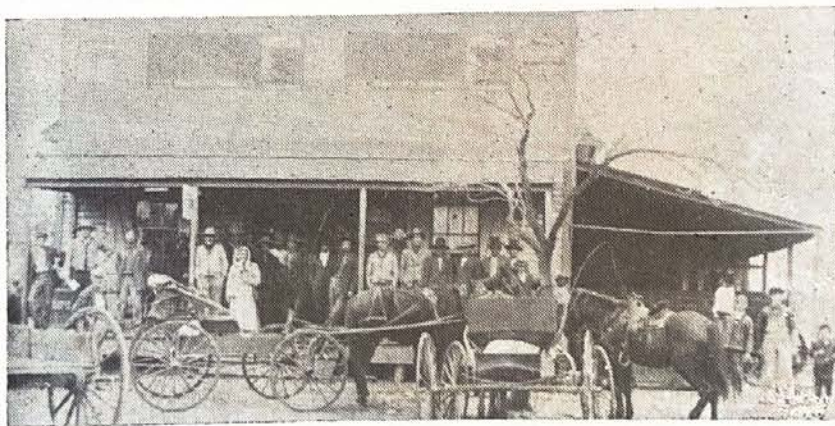


First General Store in
Poth, about 1901

A. H. Poth, Richard Voges, unidentified boy and man; Love Allen; W. J. Bump;
Grandpa Habig; J. C. Bump.



St. John's Lutheran Church, Poth, Texas



Old Wm. Eckel & Co. General Store, Poth, Texas, facing south, what is now the Plaza — about year 1912 to 1914 (about same location as present Wm. Eckel & Co. Building.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
TO
THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF WILSON COUNTY
ON THEIR
100th ANNIVERSARY**

From . . .

Milk Producers Association of San Antonio

6910 South Zarzamora St.

San Antonio, Texas

A Co-Operative Made Up Of More Than 500 Dairy Farmers
In The Southwest

MILK IS NATURE'S MOST PERFECT FOOD

Drink 3 Glasses Each Day For Good Health

WELCOME TO THE CENTENNIAL

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK
POTH, TEXAS**

Capital, Surplus And Undivided Profits

\$200,000.00

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

WELCOME CENTENNIAL
VISITORS

AL'S FOOD SERVICE

Open Every Day

Floresville Phone EX 3-2722

WE ARE PROUD TO BE A
PART OF WILSON COUNTY
AS IT CELEBRATES ITS
CENTENNIAL IN 1960

ZUNKER'S GARAGE

FLORESVILLE

Appliance Center of Wilson County

HOELSCHER'S

FARMALL — INTERNATIONAL

Complete Shop Service

FLORESVILLE

Welcome Centennial Visitors

Floresville Flower Shop

"When You Say It With Flowers
Say It With Ours"

Corner of 3rd & 9th

Mrs. Justine Roemer

PHONE EX 3-2600

I Am Happy To Have Been Your
Sinclair Distributor For 32 Years

SINCLAIR

CARL JOHNSON, Distributor

FLORESVILLE

FRANK VELA SADDLES

Serving Cowboys and Stockmen

All Over The World For 50 Years

QUALITY
LUMBER
BUILDING MATERIAL
FOR THE FARM and HOME

For Personal Attention To
Your Building Needs
SEE

Wilson County Supply

Floresville Phone EX 3-2222

WELCOME
CENTENNIAL VISITORS

MAGNOLIA CAFE

Mr. & Mrs. Mart West, Owners

STOCKDALE

Phone 4361

CONGRATULATIONS WILSON COUNTY

***Lilly* ICE CREAM**

"Tastes Like Homemade"

2601 South Hackberry

LE 2-7373

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**Welcome
Centennial Visitors**

**STAVINOH
CHEVROLET CO.**

Sales and Service

GOODYEAR PRODUCTS

R. C. A. T.V. FRIGIDAIRE

A. H. Stavinoha & Son

Poth

HU 4-3816

1903 - 1960

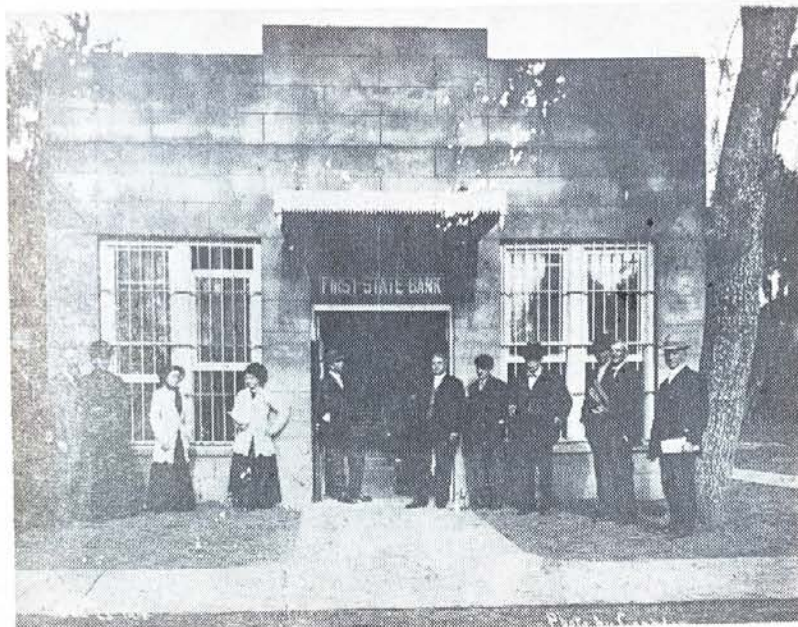
**Over Half a Century
Serving the Folks of
Wilson County with Quality
Building Materials
and
Service**

ALAMO LUMBER CO.

Floresville, Texas

Phone EX 3-2555

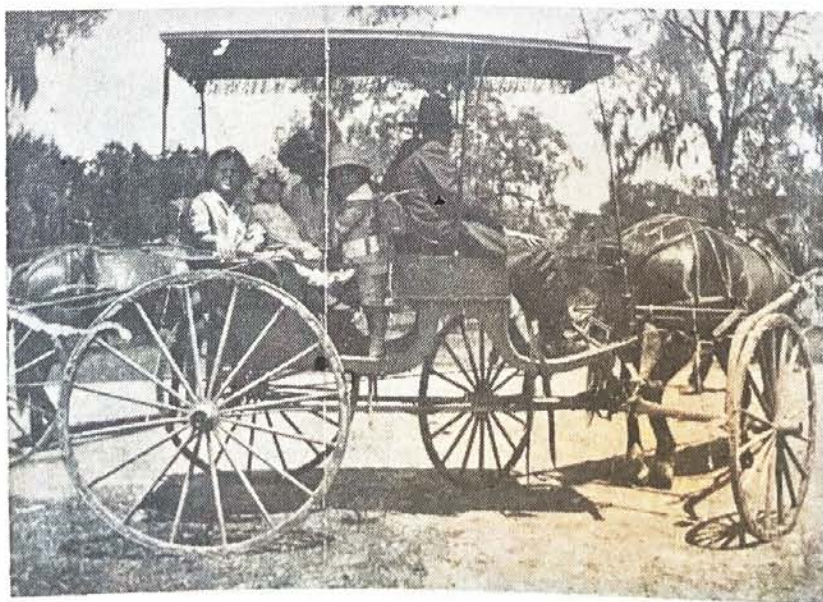
First State Bank, Sutherland Springs 1910



Dr. C. E. Ford, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. John Sutherland, Mrs. E. A. Grob, Mr. Good-enough, 2 unidentified, Mr. Winters, Bethel Field, 2 unidentified.

C. P. Warren – 1914

Sutherland Springs, Texas



Joe Sheehy, Bill Sheehy and John Earl Kenna in surry

WELCOME TO TOWN

Your Business Is Appreciated

MERCHANT'S Super Market

J. C. Turner-Owner

Phone EX 3-6111

FLORESVILLE, TEXAS

WE SALUTE WILSON
COUNTY ON 100 YEARS
PROGRESS

C & C Variety Store

Floresville, Texas

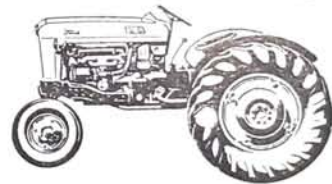
CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES

P. T. Wright - Agent

Farm Bureau Insurance

Centennial Greetings
Floresville Implement Co.

B. W. ADAMS, Mgr.



PHONE EX 3-2472

Welcome Visitors
**Richter's Locker
and Market**

Phone EX 3-2141

FLORESVILLE, TEXAS