

**VALLEY VIEW  
CENTENNIAL  
1872 • 1972**

DRUG STORE  
RELIABLE - CHEAP - DELICIOUS



#### The Cover

The Book Cover was created by Bill, son of Mr. and Mrs. David McCollum. Bill is an artist and lives and works in Dallas, Texas. He is married to the former La Quita Cain of Muenster, The McCollums have two daughters Tracey and Kelley.

## FOREWORD

One hundred years of history of a Community has been attempted to put some things of interest to the people of by gone years, and a reminder of the people that make up Valley View of Today. We have searched bits of newspapers, books with short sketches of the lives of a few dug into attics for pictures of long ago. We have tried to take into account the Civic, Educational, Agriculture, Religious, and Social life of its people.

It is a town of rocks, dirt, and grass that holds the world together, and nothing in the world can be done without us. It is a story of hardships, triumphs, achievements and inspirations. We invite you to read this book, as we think that you will enjoy the great amount of history that has been compiled by the Historical Committee in one months time. After you have read it file it away in some safe place, as it will be valuable addition to look back upon. Then too, those who care to know about Valley View in the future will have some record as to what went on before them, a thing we did not have.

We make no apologies for those whose names fail to appear in the Book, an invitation went out to all the people, and if you were not contacted for a story, maybe you could have contacted us, you knew it was going on.

Since this Community is to us who write and to you who read, our town is made up of the dearest hearts and the gentlest people on the face of the earth. Leave it stay that way.

## HISTORIC COMMITTEE

Mrs. Bert Martin--Chairman  
Mrs. Edity Terry--Co-Chairman  
Mrs. Hazel Boydston--(Churches)  
Miss Janet Moon--Typist

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Historical Committee wished to thank all those who helped in assembling the material for the history of Valley View during its Centennial year 1972, as well as the group who sold the ads that made this book possible. Old timers and recent comers alike have assisted and it would be impossible to give credit to all who did. Special appreciation is accorded to every one who made the least contribution be it time, money, or good wishes for a job well done, "The Heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the Future".

## Special Thanks to the Centennial Committees

Master of the Centennial Committee  
David Clifton

Secretary to the Centennial Committee  
Elizabeth Hobbs

## Centennial Committee

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Moody  
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Martin  
Mr. Don Moody  
Mrs. Edith Terry  
Mrs. Homer Baker  
Mrs. Vera Lee Lowe  
Mrs. Lorene Sandmann  
Mrs. Bea Garrett  
Mrs. Robert Solomon  
Mr. David McCollum  
Mr. Ozro Gregory

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

It is impossible to thank all the people individually who have assisted us in making this Celebration a success, as almost everyone in this community has taken a part. This Centennial is the culmination effort of dozens of civic minded citizens who have given of their purse, time, and of their talents.

Many have come from far away places to help observe this 100th anniversary. We are happy that you have been able to be with us, and we say, "WELCOME"

We especially wish to acknowledge the work of the various Centennial Committees, and to them, we say, "For a job well done. Thank You--The Spirit of the People of Valley View lives in its History."

## Centennial Committees

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CAPTAIN LEE

### SCENES OF YESTERYEARS VALLEY VIEW -- THE LEES

Stand at the back of the R.E. Nesbitt new, elegant, brick home that sets very nearly on the second home site, made of wood and painted white, that Capt. Lee built for his Lady many years ago. Take a long hard look to the west and the surrounding area with this thought in mind. How beautiful is the Valley! Turn the pages of the calendar back more than a hundred years ago, and as the scenes of yesteryears flash by, may we examine the time, the place and the people.

The view of the valley is the same today as it was when Mrs. Lee said, "I name this Valley View."

The town is situated on Spring Creek, 10 miles south of Gainesville. Actual colonization was started by W.S. Peters, under the old impresario colonization system of 1828 but the Fifth Congress of the Republic of Texas, passed January 4, 1841, through which the President was authorized to enter into a contract with Peters and others to introduce families into Texas for settlement on vacant lands.

The Peters colony was extensively advertised and settlement of Cooke County began on Spring Creek late in 1845. Martin Neely, who with Jim Martin settled on Spring Creek one-half mile west of what is now known as Valley View. This settlement claimed to be the first to take up abode on vacant land.

When Capt. Lee first came to this region, he found these cabins burned, and not a trace of any white man. No one ever found what happened to the early settlers.

Capt. Lee (a captain in The Civil War for the South) and his family with about half a dozen families emigrated from Cooper County, Missouri to Texas in about 1868. Capt. Lee with a group of his friends had already scanned this area, found it most pleasant to the eyes, and purchased the land. Capt. Lee had already built a double cabin before he brought his family here. Naturally, the cabin was built near the Lake's edge. He knew better than to put a dirt floor in his house, and this was the only cabin with a wooden floor, which was a real fancy doing for that day. It could be thought that perhaps Capt. Lee was affluent for his time. It was reported that when he came to this area he had ten thousand dollars in gold. This perhaps, was true because he had disposed of his property in Missouri before he left that part of the world.

Capt. Lee and Mrs. Lee were childhood sweethearts and schoolmates, and they were married November 1, 1859, at Praire Home, Missouri. Ten years later they came to Sherman, Texas, and on February 1st of the following year, drove their ox team through the future town to the double log cabin on the beautiful lake, that Capt. Lee had built on land that was later the home of C.A. Myers. Others that lived on this same land and owned the lake were Jeff Wheeler Family, and the Jack Latham Family.

Mrs. Lee, years later, in describing the scenes, said, "There was not even a path and grass was as high as a man's head. Mr. Lee said that we were coming to the frontier. I remarked that it looked very much to me like backtier, no churches, no sustenance for soul or body, a veritable wilderness."

But the Lees were not long alone. On April 6, 1870, five other families, who were the Lees neighbors in Missouri, came to settle on Spring Creek. They were A.D. Jones, Gilbert French, Richard McCubbin, Andrew Hill, and Joseph Reavis and families. Soon thereafter, R. Obuch and family who had traveled with the Lees from Missouri to Sherman, decided to cast their lot with their old friends in southern Cooke County.

Some of the men in the neighborhood decided to drive a herd of cattle to Missouri for the profit involved. In July, of 1870, while the men were away reports were circulated that Indians were in North Texas killing people and stealing. The Valley View settlers decided to go to the cross timbers for protection (Pilot Point) but once there, Mrs. Lee longed to return home. The young boys in the settlement had been sent out to watch, but had gotten sleepy and had gone to sleep. Mrs. Lee just happened to want to check on the youthful guards, and when she found them sound asleep decided right then and there they would all come back home; and find some other way to protect themselves. Guns and ammunition were secured at Pilot Point. The families returned home and guards were placed on duty. Cautioned to stay awake, and to watch out for Indians. This suggestion was carried out but the Indians never showed.

In those early days of the 70's it was necessary to go to Gainesville for most of their provisions, mail and other necessities, and sometimes there were long

delays when Elm Creek was on the rise, since there were no bridges. The township was laid out soon after, because Mrs. Lee had set her foot down, "no more running to Pilot Point every time an Indian raid was heard of." Mr. Lee knew the time had come to do something about forming a town and getting a post office. Mr. Lee laid out the townsite early in 1872 and every man was to be given a lot who would build a house and paint it white. Eleven families built houses on whole blocks and seven on individual lots. Three of those houses built on the whole lots are still standing especially the little house north of the square that is owned by the Moon Family.

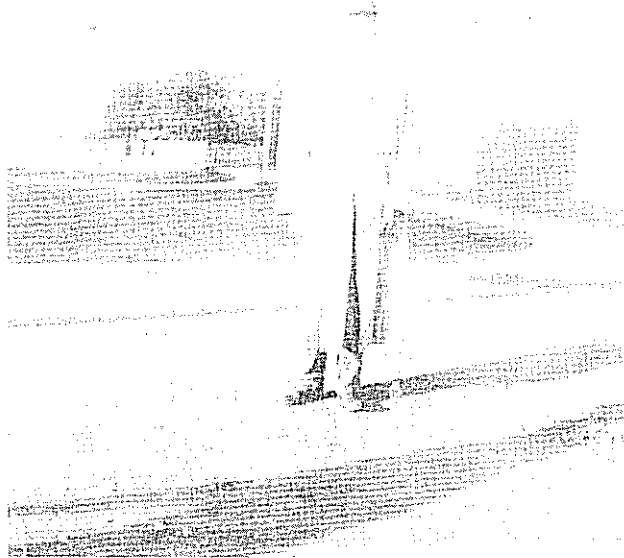
Capt. Lee's second house that he built for Mrs. Lee was a two story affair and painted white. The house was located about a hundred yards from the lake. Finally, another house was constructed on further south, about another hundred yards from the second location, and it too, was painted white. This house was a much larger one. It is the house where Mrs. Pearl Kemplin now resides.

During Capt. Lee's later years, he became quite ill, and it was decided that it was best that he be moved to Gainesville to live with a daughter. He had built this daughter a beautiful home on Church Street. Capt. Lee preceded Mrs. Lee in death, and they are both buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville, Texas.



**CAPTAIN LEE AND WIFE AROUND 1910**

Most of the Lee fortune was spent early during their life time, and not much money was made during their later years. However, it did not seem to make much difference to them, because it meant trying to build a better place for tomorrow; and to leave a Heritage of the past, the seed that would bring forth the Harvest of the Future for somebody else.



**CAPTAIN LEE**

The Lees had three children, two girls and one boy. The boy died at an early age and is buried beside his parents.

When all the bills were paid after Mrs. Lee's funeral, only six hundred dollars was left to be distributed among her three heirs, a daughter and two granddaughters.

### **THE BRIDGE BUILDER**

An old man traveling a lone highway,  
 Came at the evening cold and gray,  
 To a chasm vast and deep and wide,  
 Through which was flowing a sullen tide,  
 The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
 But he turned when safe on the other side,  
 And builded a bridge to span the tide.  
 'Old Man', cried a fellow pilgrim near,  
 You're wasting your time in building here,  
 Your journey will end with the closing day,  
 You never again will pass this way,  
 You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
 Why build you this bridge at even tide?  
 'Good friend, in the path I have come', he said,  
 There followeth after me today  
 A youth whose feet must pass this way,  
 This stream which has been naught to me,  
 To that fair haired youth may pillface be;  
 He, too, must cross in the twilight dim,  
 Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.

By Will Allen Fromgoole

Sincere T h a n k s

to

Bert and Addie Martin

And to

The Centennial Committes

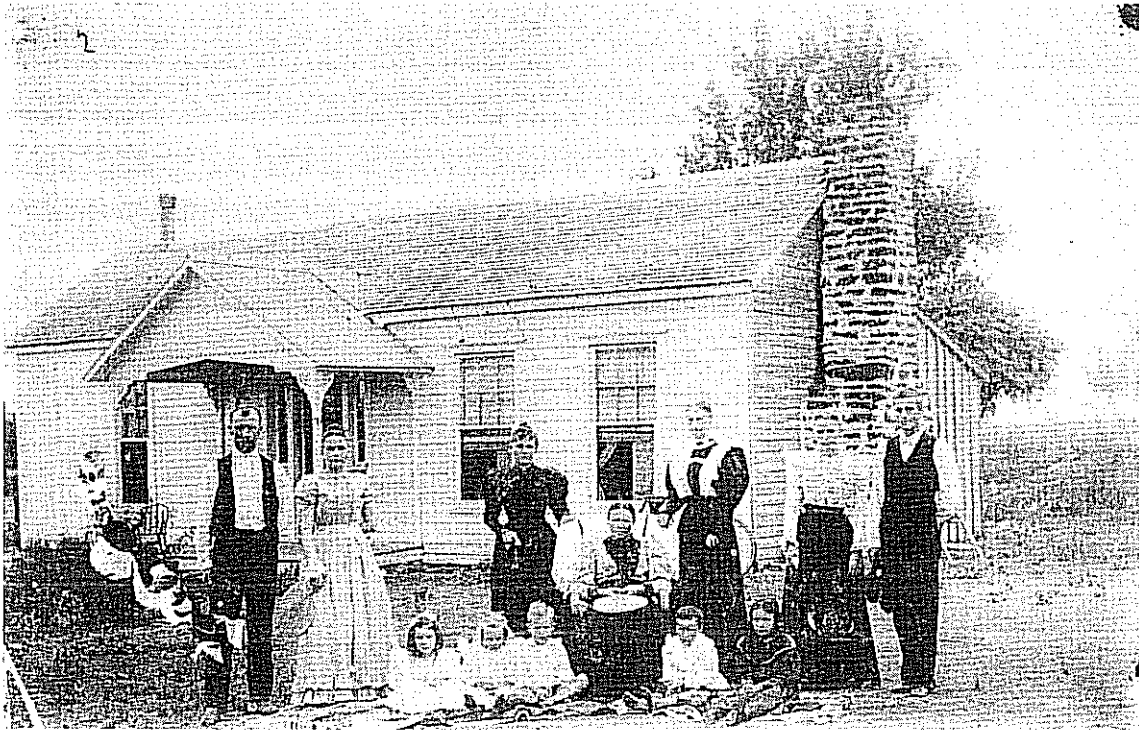
who made the plans for

This Book and the Celebration possible

October 28, 1972

Clarence and Mildred Dickeson





The first home built by William Obuch in 1897. He was one of the founders of Valley View

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE W.N. OBUCH BY HIS FRIEND CAPT. L.W. LEE**

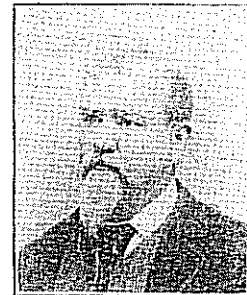
Mr. Obuch often ask me to write something to read just before lowering him into the silent tomb. I do not feel equal to the task but am glad to say that his life was such that he needs no eulogy from me or any one in any community that he has lived for his wise counsel, charitable acts, sociability, liberallty and honest dealings have placed him beyond reproach.

He has been my friend, neighbor and counselor for forty years and while we have differed widely on many subjects there has never been an angry word or thought between us. We were close friends during the Civil War, he on one side and I on the other. He was for the Union but I have known him to run great risk to his life to save his neighbors of the opposite party for he claimed it was not a war between neighbors but between great armies to settle great political questions when diplomacy failed.

Mr. Obuch was born in Saalfeld, East Prussia, Germany on Dec. 17, 1833; Died Jan. 19, 1901.

The following is a copy from a leaf of his day book: ~~“Matter, force and vital energy are eternal. Organizations, systems, combinations begin and end but remarkable deeds and expressions out live the individual. Life is made happy by our admiration of good. A beginning of creation of the universe would limit time and space. Life is a successful effort of an organized existence to over come the natural forces to preserve itself.~~

Death is a great boon in time. I'll die contented and satisfied.” His religious view were broad and liberal. He allowed every man the same liberty he claimed for himself with no ill will toward one who differed with him, no matter how absurd it appeared to him and in the language of one of the greatest American orators, “Speech can not contain our love. There never was, there never will be a greater, grander, nobler man.”



**WILLIAM OBUCH**

Cooke County was a raw and unimproved region when the William Obuch family came to the region later named Valley View. Mr. Obuch was born in East East Prussia, Germany, December seventeenth 1833 His fatherheld a judicial position in that German province. He grew up in a good social position, acquired a liberal education and especially excelled

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in Mathematics. Also, he acquired a practical knowledge of surveying, and learned the trade of carpenter in Germany. He left Germany before he had to serve in the army. After some wandering, he moved to Cooper County, Missouri. As a skilled carpenter, his services were greatly sought after, because in that portion of Missouri road and farm improvement had begun on the permanent basis. He helped build many barns and heavy wooden bridges. The Civil War was fought while he lived there, and he served three months in the enrolled militia. He became a naturalized American in Missouri and thereafter identified himself with the democratic party.

In the fall of 1869 he and his family joined about six or seven families to come to Texas. The Obuchs remained at Sherman, Texas until spring, when they joined their neighbors, the Lees. The Obuchs settled about three miles southeast of Valley View, yet unnamed at that time. Their first home was the house that Yuton Harris now lives in. Mr. Obuch was supposed to farm, but he turned most of the chores over to the children, while he sat about doing his trade. He did a lot of the surveying around Valley View soon after he reached Texas. As a carpenter and builder he continued this kind of work until he retired, and spent his last days in Valley View. He also acquired many parcels of land one being the farm now owned by Chas. Meyers and wife Pansy, who is his granddaughter.

At one time Mr. Obuch was associated with Mr. Lee as a land agent. He was known to be a splendid penman, and a wide reader of current events. He invented and secured a patent for a rotary engine. He had perfect command of the English language, as well as the German. He was not connected with any Church however, his wife was reared a Lutheran and held that faith all through her life.

His wife was Bettie Johanna Augusta Lucy Kahle who was born in Hanover, Germany. There were twelve children with only one living today, his name is Tutt Obuch of Portland Oregon.

When the town of Valley View was being laid out, Mr. Lee asked Mr. Obuch to draw up a blue print for laying out and naming the streets. That he did. The streets were named for the men living in or near Valley View, and who had taken an interest in building a new town. Some of the names that were used to name a street were; Hill, Reeves, McCubbin, Lee, and Obuch. Other names for the streets were added as the town enlarged.

## RICHARD McCUBBIN

Richard McCubbin, my grandfather, was among the first settlers of Valley View. He, along with Captain Lee and my other grandfather Jack Hudspeth started, the town. Richard McCubbin was the first postmaster and Jack Hudspeth was the first banker. There were five children in the McCubbin family, Walter, Etta, Warren, Herbert, and Dick.

On October 29, 1904 Warren McCubbin married Mattie Hudspeth, daughter of Jack Hudspeth in Valley View, Texas. There were nine children in this family; Jack McCubbin, Paris, Texas, has one son, Dr. Jack H. McCubbin, Polly McCubbin Bowlby, Dallas, Texas, has one daughter, Mrs. Bob Greeves, school

teacher, Roy McCubbin, deceased, Kathryn McCubbin Taylor, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, one daughter, Mrs. Ed George, school teacher, George McCubbin, Elkhorn, Nebraska, son, Dan, rancher, daughter, Margaret Ann, homemaker, Nina McCubbin Madeson, homemaker, has four daughters, Carol Jean, medical technician, Denver, Colorado, Polly Kraycirik, designer, Martha Ann and Suzy of the home, Lela McCubbin Kemplin, homemaker, two daughters, Nancy, journalists, Forth Worth Press, Martha, college, Betty McCubbin Berry, Dallas, Texas, teacher, has one son Vernon, architect, a daughter Janet Burkett, teacher, and Jo Jean McCubbin, deceased.

## THE POST OFFICE

First efforts to obtain a post office were unavailing because of the poor financial condition of the Post Office department in reconstruction days, but when Mr. Lee volunteered to carry the mail without remuneration, and Richard McCubbin similarly agreed to serve as postmaster, the order went through and the post office was established March 26, 1872, the date recognized as the beginning of the town Valley View.

After being on nearly every side of the square, and served by many postmasters and one woman, finally the Post Office found a permanent home on the southwest side of the square. It is a brick building. It officially became opened for business January 6, 1962.

### Names of former Postmasters and the dates they held office:

Richard McCubbin. . . . .	1872-77
David R. Jarvis. . . . .	1877-79
Wiley Mason. . . . .	1879-83
Charles G. George. . . . .	1883-84
George L. Spurlock. . . . .	1884-87
R.P. Head. . . . .	1887-97
John S. Wiggins. . . . .	1897-1901
Robert V. King. . . . .	1901-06
Thomas J. Cunningham. . . . .	1906-14
Edna Overshiner (Highfill). . . . .	1914-27
Alfred S. Maddox. . . . .	1927-36
Oliver L. Lowry. . . . .	1936-57
Cecil A. McFarlin. . . . .	1957-

Postal History—Copy to National Archives and the Post Office Department library, Washington, D.C.

## JOHN ROBINSONS

John Robinson was born in Valley View July 25, 1880 and was the son of the late Al G. Robinson. His nationality was Irish-English. John married Ora Humphries on December 18, 1902. The Robinsons had three children, two boys, Leroy and R.V., one daughter Floyce, now Mrs. David McCollum of Valley View.

The Robinsons lived practically all their married life in Valley View, except for a few years when the three children were very small. They lived at

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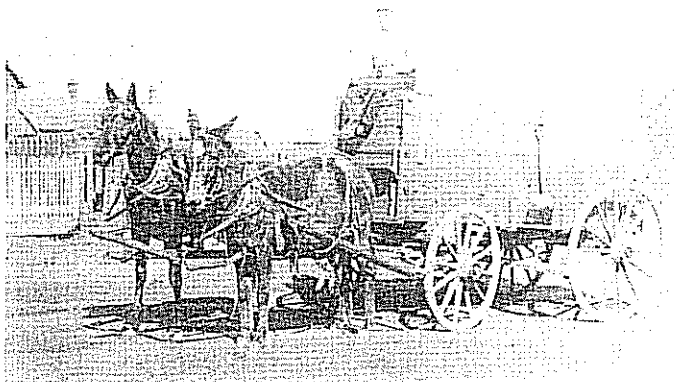
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Sunset, Texas then. When they returned to Valley View they lived for several years with Mrs. Robinson's father, S.E. Humphries.

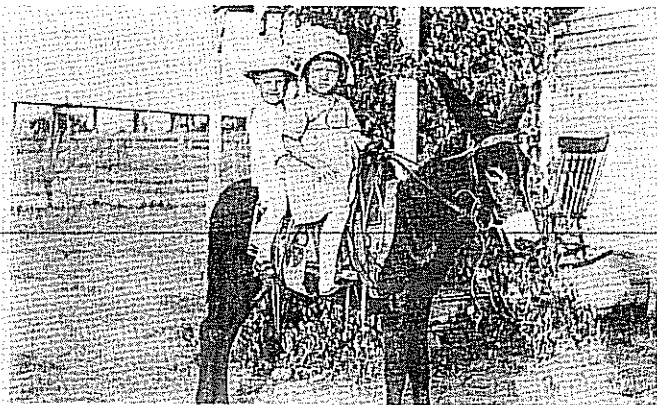


John Robinson

Mrs. Robinson had a great love for flowers, and always had a garden filled with them. She included painting among her many hobbies, and adored to decorate her home with some interesting Christmas decorations that she had fashioned. Mr. Robinson devoted most of his time to buying and selling cattle. Being an experienced cattle man, he was manager of the Valley View Rodeo in its heyday. In fact, Mr. Robinson's death occurred after he had taken a load of cattle to Fort Worth for sale. On returning home late in the evening, and was apparently well, except complaining only of being tired. Mrs. Robinson was awakened by him, but by the time she reached him, he had passed away. He was only 54 years old, and his death came as a great shock to the entire town and community.

Mrs. Robinson lived until she was 83 years old. She was a member of the Baptist Church of Valley View. She was born in South Carolina, and was of Scott-Irish nationality.

Both of the Robinsons are buried in the Valley View Cemetery.



Leroy Robinson and sister Floyce



Bob and Ann Nichols Family

## ROBERT EUGENE NICHOLS AND DESCENDANTS

Robert Eugene Nichols, son of Charles J. and Sarah Nichols was born in Fayette, Alabama January 4, 1857. He married Sarah Ann Moore, daughter of 2nd Lt. Ira Woodard Moore and Lucrellia Moore. Lt. Moore was a veteran of the Civil War, having fought with the 41st Alabama Infantry Regiment from May 16, 1862 until captured at Hatchens Run, Virginia on March 25, 1865.

In 1882 Bob and Ann, their two children John William and Candy, went by wagon from Fayette, Alabama, to Columbus, Mississippi to catch a train to Sherman, Texas. Candy had not been named—some children played with her and said she was sweet as candy. From that day she was called Candy.

The family arrived in Sherman in November, 1882. They lived with a cousin, Frank McCollum until spring. Bob only had \$8 when he arrived. Christmas came with no money for gifts. John and Candy received a small container of sugar in each stocking for Christmas.

On February 4, 1883, Amma Lee was born. The family then came by wagon to Cooke County and settled five miles east of Valley View on Elm Creek. There was a log cabin on the place and Bob built a shed room on it. He bought the land and they considered themselves lucky to have water, wood and lots of game and fish. They started clearing the bottom land so they could put in a crop the following spring.

Life was hard, the family increased. Walter was born in 1888. The clearing progressed slowly. The first crop was put in and harvested, cotton was put in wagons and hauled to Gainesville to sell. On the return trip barrels of flour, sugar, salt, and small staples were brought back. Also included were yard goods to make dresses for the girls and stick candy which the children eagerly looked forward to.

The log house was growing too small and was too close to the creek which overflowed quite often. Four more children were born; Charles Francis, Willie, Robert Edd and June. Bob began building a two story house in about 1900. The house still stands on what is now known as the Newton place.

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The family had their sad moments as well as happy ones. On December 23, 1906, Walter was riding on a horse behind a friend who carried a gun in his belt. The horse shied and reared up. The gun went off hitting Walter in the abdomen. He died three days later at the age of fourteen.

Candy met a young man, Jim Pilkenton, who was visiting relatives in Valley View. They decided to get married and go to Mississippi. Bob said "No," so the young couple made plans to catch a train and elope. Bob found out about their plans. He saddled his best horse and proceeded to catch them and bring Candy back.

Bob never caught them but did kill his horse trying. Candy and Jim were married and settled in Columbus, Mississippi. Bob never wrote and forbade any of the family to do so. Years later when he began to go blind, he wrote Candy and asked her to come home for a visit. She came bringing her five children. The family was united again.

Bob bought a threshing machine and began threshing for neighbors. The huge steam engine was received with wonder, interest and fear as it rumbled from farm to farm belching black smoke. It was fired-up before daylight each morning. Three blasts from the whistle notified the neighbors the day's work had begun. Bob ran the thresher until his health began to fail and eye sight grew dim. His sons, Edd and June, took over the operation. Uncle Bob, as he was later called, sat in a buggy under the shade tree and watched.

Uncle Bob and Aunt Ann bought a farm one mile east of Valley View. They moved there in 1913. Later they bought a house in Valley View. Bob died there in 1927. Ann continued to live there until her death in 1932. Both were members of the Church of Christ.

Of the seven children, only one remained in Valley View. Edd Nichols married Lucy Mae Wright on November 24, 1914 and settled one mile east of Valley View where three children were born; Willie Geneva, R.E., and Mary Ruth. Edd continued to operate the thresher, farm, raise mules and cattle. He served on the school board about ten years. He enjoyed the sunrise breakfast and shooting of the anvil on Armistice Day, the Thanksgiving dinners for the benefit of the cemetery, the Saturday night domino games in the McCuiston grocery store and the fair held in Valley View each fall. He always had a good horse entered in the horse race and usually won a ribbon.

In 1929, he and Lucy Mae bought a farm five miles west of Valley View. The family moved there in 1931. Edd's life was short. He died on March 10, 1934 at the age of 41. Lucy Mae continues to live on the homeplace.

#### W.B. WRIGHT AND FAMILY

W.B. Wright, better known as Uncle Billy, and wife Martha came to Valley View in 1871 from Montecello, Kentucky. A tanner by trade in Kentucky, a hide brought with them which is served as a rug used to lie in front of the stove. It is remembered that during a rain, it had a powerful aroma.

Many nights when the children and grandchildren were restless, Uncle Billy would amuse them by passing a straw through an old Civil War wound in his leg.

Uncle Billy was the mail carrier for the Star Route for 27 years. Children along the route always waited by their mailbox for the hack drawn by two mules because they knew Uncle Billy would have stick candy for them.

Uncle Billy and Martha had six children. Liza, who was named after a beloved former slave, Jeff, Nettie, Harve, Lizzie and Tim.

After retiring from mail carrier, Uncle Billy became public weigher for Valley View. His granddaughter, Lucy Mae, collected the water bills for Captain Lee from 1908 to 1909 at which time Uncle Billy assumed the job. Members of the Church of Christ, Uncle Billy served as an elder for a number of years.

Wright's daughter, Lizzie, taught school in Valley View for a number of years along with Lola Long and Nita Dustin. While teaching in Valley View, Lizzie became ill. After a short illness, she died at the age of 28.



Uncle Billy and Martha Wright

Harve built the first concrete walks in Valley View. Jeff married Annie Johnson, daughter of the dry-goods merchant, and had charge of the Burris mill and elevator company. He was later transferred to Fort Worth where he resided until his death.

Nettie married Brad Duncan who ran the barber shop which was located in the middle of the Valley View Square.

Liza married W.H. Wright, who was referred to as "the yank from Illinois" since he had made his way to Valley View, via Plano from Bloomington, Illinois. W.H. and Liza made their home one mile east of Valley View and had one child, Lucy Mae. W.H. died in 1915. Liza followed in 1927.

Uncle Billy died at the ripe old age of 95 in 1928.

# NORRIS DILL REAL ESTATE

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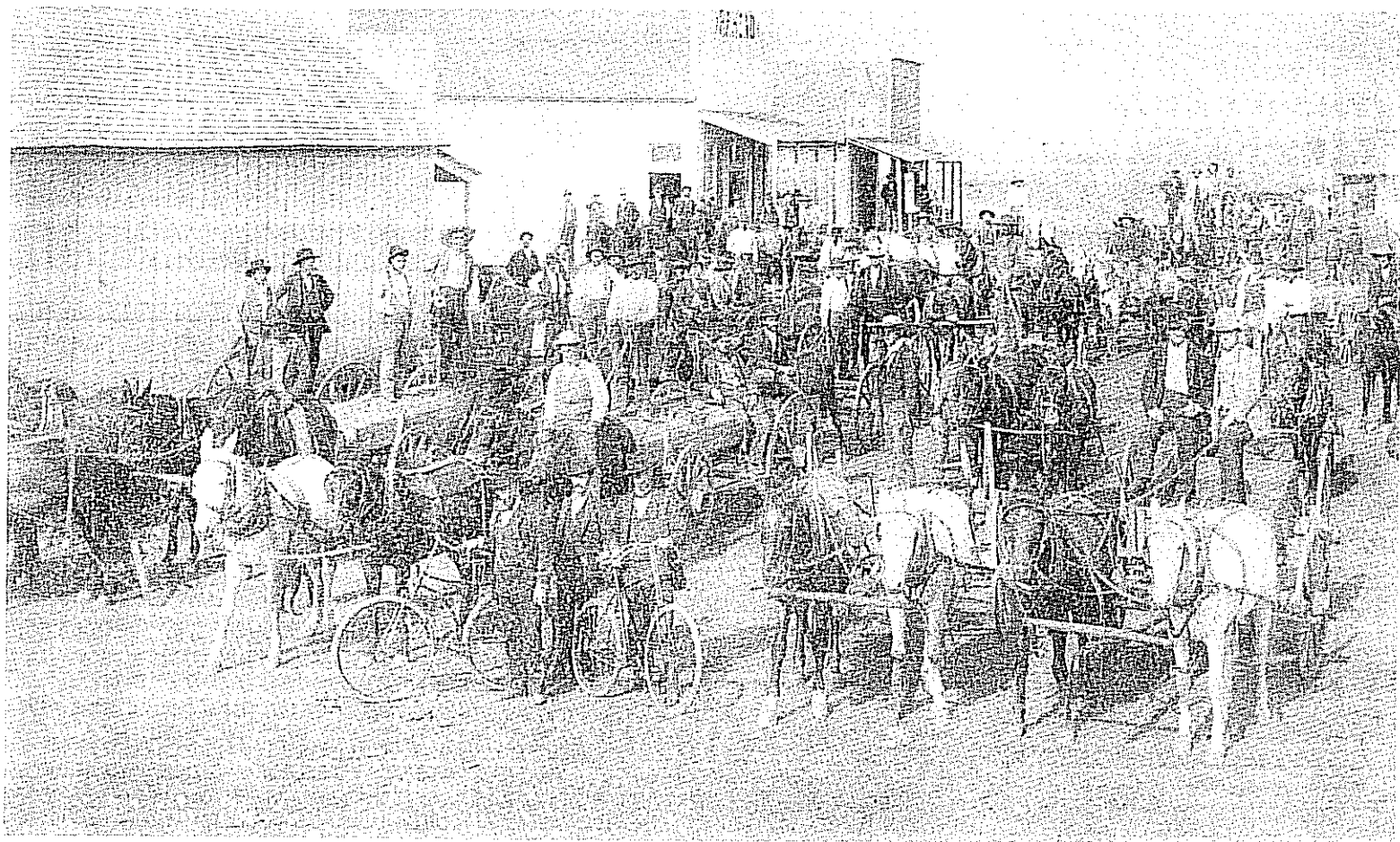
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*VALLEY VIEW, TEXAS*





Early Scene in Valley View

### JAMES STEPHENSON

The Stephensons came to Cooke County in North Texas more than ninety years ago, and as a family they represent the traditions of old England. Their ancestry have been identified with Yorkshire, England as far back as history goes.

James was born at Arksey, Yorkshire, England, October 2, 1855. He was twelve years of age when his family came to the United States and settled in McLean County, Illinois. He acquired most of his education in the States.

Soon after his manhood he left Illinois for California. Discouraged along the way he decided to settle in North Texas. He arrived in Texas November 2, 1877, and his first purchase of land was on Duck Creek not far from Valley View. He paid \$4 an acre. He borrowed \$300 for the construction of his house. This was before he was married. The soon to be Mrs. Stephenson wanted to teach for a while and pay for their house. But Mr. Stephenson refused and borrowed the money instead. This house was improved and enlarged later by the erection of a seven-room dwelling, affording all the accommodations required for his family. Mrs. Stephenson lived to see the new home completed and then passed away,

and they buried her in Spring Creek Cemetery at the age of forty-eight.

Later Mr. Stephenson acquired another tract of land at \$15 an acre. By that time he had acquired a well proportioned farm of 241 acres, and being satisfied with these possessions and what he had achieved through his labors on the soil he moved to Valley View to educate his children.

Mrs. Stephenson was the formerly Mary N. Piper. She was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, to Archimedes Piper. She acquired a liberal education and was a teacher before she came to Texas with her father. Her mother had died earlier in Missouri. Her father is buried in the old cemetery at Valley View.

The children born to James Stephenson are: Frank Alonzo, is a retired farmer of Duck Creek and was married to Miss Ella McCollum. Roy Edward lives at Bakersfield, California, and married Miss Fulton. William Wallace died at Valley View and he too was married to another member of the McCollum family. Bert Fred is living in Valley View, he is a retired farmer and a retired railroad man. Thomas Sterling is also living in Valley View, he is a retired farmer and he is married to the former Miss Murl Biggerstaff.

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Bessie Stella lives in Valley View with her husband Claude Harris who is a retired farmer. The youngest, Mamie, is a retired school teacher and she too lives in Valley View.

### Cumberland Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian church, a wooden structure, was about the first church built in Valley View. However, the first meeting place of the early settlers was one where all different faiths met, each taking their turn at a different time to worship.



Brother Baker and Family, pastor of the Presbyterian Church

So many people came to live at Valley View, and the town kept growing and that is the reason the Presbyterians thought it expedient to build the two story church, as the place where they had been holding services was entirely too small. They commenced to raise money, Mrs. Lee said that Mr. Lee was approached for money to help build the church, and Mr. Lee gave the plot of land to build it and \$15.00 and made the remark that Presbyterians and money were very scarce. Also, he said, "Don't bother me any more as I am very busy when any one wants money." Mrs. Lee did not think that he had given enough money for that cause so she gave her mite. They collec-

ted all the money they could, but still did not get enough, and when the church was built the Masonics rented the upper part for their meetings. Brother Julian was the first pastor. Mr. Newton, Frank and Clay's father, was the first superintendent and was always on duty. Mrs. Newton was a teacher, one of her pupils was Mrs. R.P. Head.

This building was the second one the Presbyterians had built. It wasn't too long until this building also burned. In the morning after the disastrous fire in Valley View, a number of the brethren of the church were seen hovering around the ruins of the once beautiful church. It was thought that they were grieving. Not so, they were planning to rebuild the church, a brick one, when completed that would be as solid as the rock of Gibraltar, and as durable as the Pyramids of Egypt and almost as beautiful as Solomon's temple. Mrs. Lee reminded the Presbyterians at the dedication of the church in 1910 to:

'And now brethren, sisters, and children  
Be very true to your Church  
And never forsake her,  
Remember your golden precepts given  
By your teacher and Brother Baker'

This church was the third place of worship for the Presbyterians. They had many pastors but one of the most beloved was Brother Baker, so called by every one that knew him. He was the father of Homer Baker. The church that was supposed to last forever did not do that in Valley View as it was the first one to be dissolved. Most of the members went into the Methodist church, others went to the Presbyterian church in Sanger, Texas. The brick church was sold to the Loins Club, who in turn, when they too disbanded, turned its keeping over to the board of trustees as a Community Center. It is used today mostly as a place where men meet and play dominoes.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

The first services in Valley View was held in a small house of Capt. Lee, and all members of all faiths took part, possibly each faith worshiped at their given time. This arrangement went on for several years, or until each Church got enough money and members to establish their own place of worship. The early services was sort of a Union affair with all denominations participating. No record could be found as to the exact date the Church of Christ was organized, but Mrs. Edd Nichols, who attended the Church until she moved over near Era says, the Church was here, she is sure of since 1892. Some of the early elders were Billy Wright (Mrs. Nichol's father) Jack Hudspeth, Tom Davis, J.W. Highfill, Mr. Lanier, and Mr. Jolley.

The first church was located about two blocks southeast of the square. It is believed that Capt. Lee gave the plot to build the Church on.

In the early forties a new church was built in a different location. This time the church was built on the north east corner of the square. It was constructed out of concrete blocks, and it is a substan-

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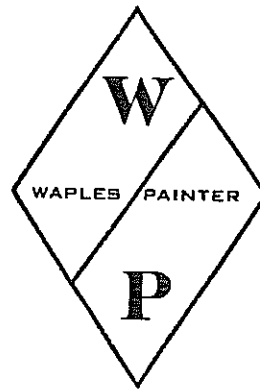
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tial, nice looking building. It has air conditioning and a loud speaker. Bro. Stanley Singleton was or is believed to have been the first pastor in the new building. Recently a new class room addition has been added to the main building. The church also provided the pastor a home. The home is located on Church Street.

## THE HISTORY OF THE VALLEY VIEW UNITED METHODIST

From the beginning of the recorded history of the Valley View United Methodist Church, that being in the year 1877 until 1883, the Methodist congregation met in the Union Church Building. The Union Church was located on the southwest corner of the square where the present day Valley View Community Center stands. The Union Church was a two-story structure, the upper floor being the Masonic Hall. One of three denominations met each Sunday in the Union Church. The three denominations being the Presbyterian, the Baptist, and the Methodist.

In those early days the Valley View Methodist Church was a circuit church. The pastor for the circuit was the Rev. J.W. Blackburn of Bolivar.

In 1883, the structure that now houses the Valley View Methodist was built. The carpenter for the new building was Mr. J.B. Sawyer. Men of the church donated their time to keep the construction work on schedule.

In 1904-05 an addition was made to the east side of the church building.

In 1909 the church was made a station, that is to say they were granted a pastor of their own. In that same year, a parsonage was built to house the pastor and his family.

In 1915, the church property was landscaped with trees and shrubbery.

In 1917, the Sunday School rooms were added on the west side of the church.

In 1926, the electric fans were installed in the church.

In 1928, the lot where the old Lone Oak church building stood was sold and the money was given to the Valley View church.

In 1933, the old Hemming church was torn down and the lumber, pews, and other equipment were transferred to Valley View, and the members transferred their membership to Valley View.

In 1941, the Lois church property and building were sold and the proceeds were given to Valley View. The Lois members were also transferred to Valley View.

In 1948, the sanctuary of the Valley View church was greatly improved with the installation of the memorial stain-glass windows.

In 1950, the public address system and chimes were added to the church.

In 1950, a Boy Scout troop was organized by the church, and the parking lot west of the church was paved.

In 1955, the Presbyterian Church closed, and its members joined the Methodist Church.

In 1958, a complete new Educational Building was built on the east side of the church.

As one looks back over the ninety-five years of

the Valley View United Methodist Church, there are many interesting and amusing stories, too many to mention. Today the same pioneer spirit which motivated the founding of the Valley View United Methodist Church is still the directing force of its activities for its 160 members. The Sunday School is structured for Children, Youth, and Adults. There is the M.Y.F. which serves the youth and their needs. The Women's Society of Christian Service serves as a vital service organization of the church. The Chancel and Youth Choirs are under experienced leadership and add much to the total worship environment. As Valley View's growth is accentuated, the United Methodist Church is planning to provide all religious needs for those it can serve.

## EARLY DAY PASTORS BAPTIST CHURCH AT VALLEY VIEW

W.W. Chancellor  
A.J. Davis  
A.N. Pledger  
W.P. Groom  
T.W. Wright  
L.F. Hodnett  
S.R. King  
A.L. Duncan  
R.W. Leazer  
J.B. Perry  
C.A. Powell

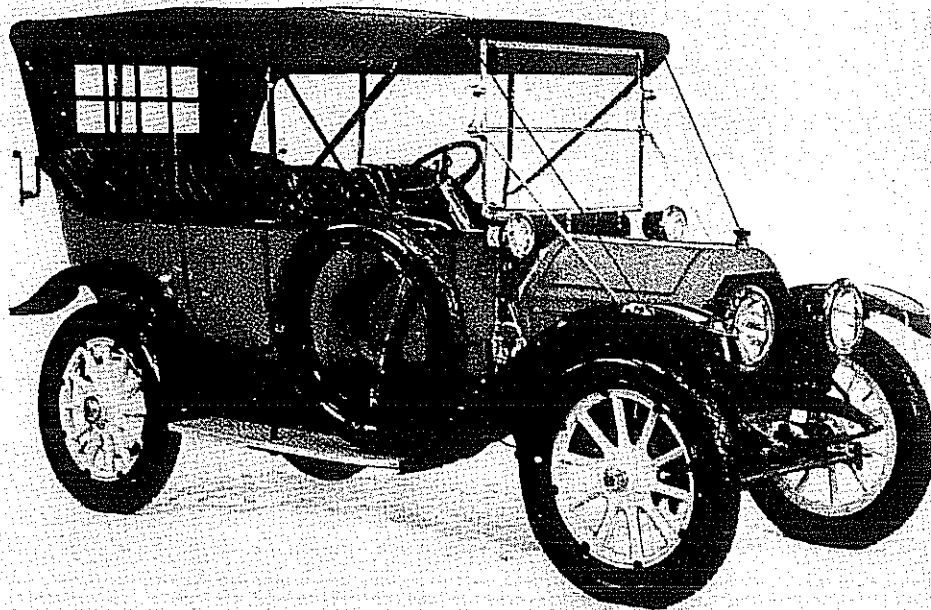
## EARLY DAY DEACONS

S.E. Humphries  
J.B. Dudley  
W.F. Bowen  
Fred Miller  
R.C. Odneal  
Ed Williams  
J.E. Dayton

The church lot was purchased from L.W. Lee, August 22, 1903, for \$250.00. The Church building was dedicated on March 20, 1904, at 11:00 a.m. The church was organized about 1880 but have no record of owning a building until March 20, 1904.

## PRESENT DEACONS

R.E. Solomon  
Chester Calhoun  
E.L. Mallicote  
V.W. Martin  
W.A. Price  
Alvin Barthold  
Elwyn Miller  
Lewis Barthold



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## PRESENT PASTOR – DAVID BALDVIN

In the period from 1855–1887, R.E. Milam, in his history of the Baptist Church in Cooke County reported 38 churches organized, 12 of which disbanded in 1887. W.A. Mason came to Cooke County in 1872 as a missionary, and to engage in business, but left the county soon after. However, he preached the first sermon in Valley View.

## ST. JOHNS PARISH

Until World War II, only a few Catholic families lived in and around Valley View. During the summer in 1942 when Camp Howe and Air Base were located in north central Cooke County, using 58,000 acres of good mellow farm land. It sent many families looking for new homes in new communities. Until then, many Catholic families were reluctant to buy land too far from the Catholic Churches and schools. Fortunately more families moved to Valley View and soon the need arose for a Church. In the summer of 1945, Bishop Augustine Danglemayr accompanied by Father Thomas Weinzapfel made a survey of this community. A meeting was called.

On September 19, 1945 a meeting was called in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schmitz with Father Paul Charcut, then Pastor of St. Thomas at Pilot Point, in charge. Being a fast and energetic worker and after talking the situation over with Mr. T.R. Couch of the Valley View National Bank, four acres of land were purchased from the Newton Estate and work was begun. The old Church from Sanger, Texas was moved and renovated. With the efforts of Father Chocut and his assistant Father Botik and donated labor of willing parishioners, and a generous help from Extension Society, the building was ready by the end of the year. To us, it seemed like really starting the New Year with happiness as we had our First Mass on January 3, 1946 with Father Charcut Celebrant, Rev. Bishop Joseph P. Lynch. His Excellency was very proud of Valley View, as this was his youngest rural parish in the Diocese of Dallas. The days affair was topped by a dinner for the clergy sisters, and parishioners.

During the summer of 1946 Father Botik took up residence with Mrs. Schmitz, and plans were made for a rectory. Here again, Father Charcut played an important part in helping purchase materials, since we were still feeling the effects of the war. By October, the rectory was completed, and once again we had the honor of having His Excellency, Bishop Lynch with us to bless the rectory.

During Father Botik's time here, his parents lived with him. His mother keeping house and his father was talented in artistic work. With his help new pews and altar and altar rails were made. The altar was donated by the George Spaeth family, Mr. Kuntz gave altar rail in memory of Mrs. Kuntz, and Mrs. Mary Schmitz donated a statue of St. Joseph.

In June 1948, Father Botik was transferred to Hillsboro, Texas and was replaced by Father Thomas Weinzapfel. Under his leadership, Mexican families were welcomed to our parish, as also Catholic from

Sanger and Bolivar. He had the church remodeled. And adding a steeple with a statue of the Blessed Mother built. Outside doors were installed. He also bought more land.

In November at a men's meeting cemetery plot was discussed. Since then 15 members have been buried there—5 infants and 10 adults.

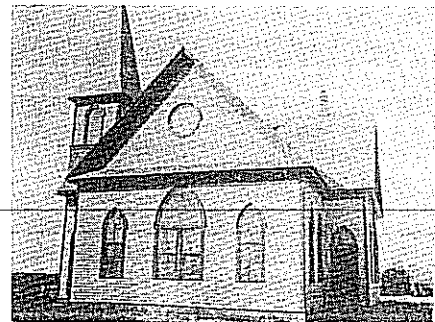
In October of 1952, Father Weinzapfel joined the staff of the Texas Catholic and Father Gajda, a native of Poland was assigned to St. Johns. In 1956 a Wurlitzer organ was installed to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

The location of St. Johns Catholic Church near the Valley View School is not accidental. It looked convenient to get the children after school, just across the street for class of religion, year by year, classes were held in the church building, in the rectory, and in the residence of Mrs. Mary Schmitz. But this temporary arrangement became inadequate especially, when the Sister of Divine Providence from Lindsay offered their talents and experience in the field of education to teach our children on Sundays after the Church service.

The parish hall, or parish center was No. 1 in our plans, but now became urgent. Construction of the parish center began in December of 1963, and was completed in May of 1964. Since the fall of 1964 classes of religion are conducted for all children children attending Public School. The building has central heat and air conditioning. The folding walls provide five rooms for religious education. The construction of the Hall is a vital step forward in development of our congregation. The ideal Catholic Parish at its best must have a church building, parochial school a convent for the sisters, St. Johns Valley View 'set up' at its present is second to none is next to the best.

Twenty-five years is considered an average age of one generation. And in 1971 'the face' of our congregation has changed. Some prominent members have passed away, some retired, and others moved to their home state. But, the best present for our Silver Jubilee is five young families have moved in. The 2nd generation is emerging, advancing, in age, and in wisdom and number.

On October 28th, this year, Valley View will celebrate its Centennial. Let us respectfully pay due tribute to the passed generations. But, most of all let us bow in homage to 'The King of Ages' Who is immortal, invisible, the only God. Be glory and honor forever and ever. 1-Tim.-1-17.



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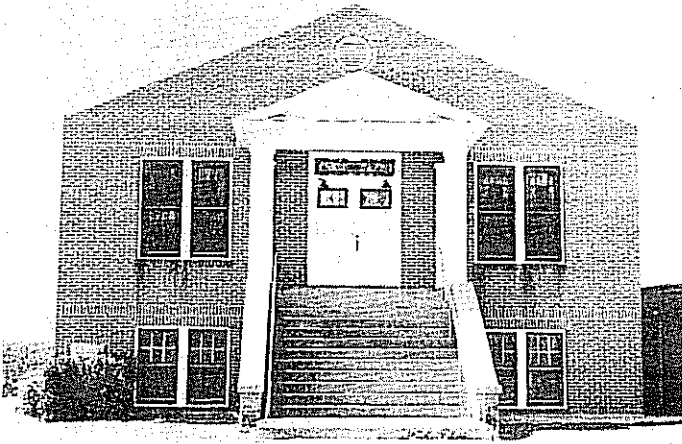
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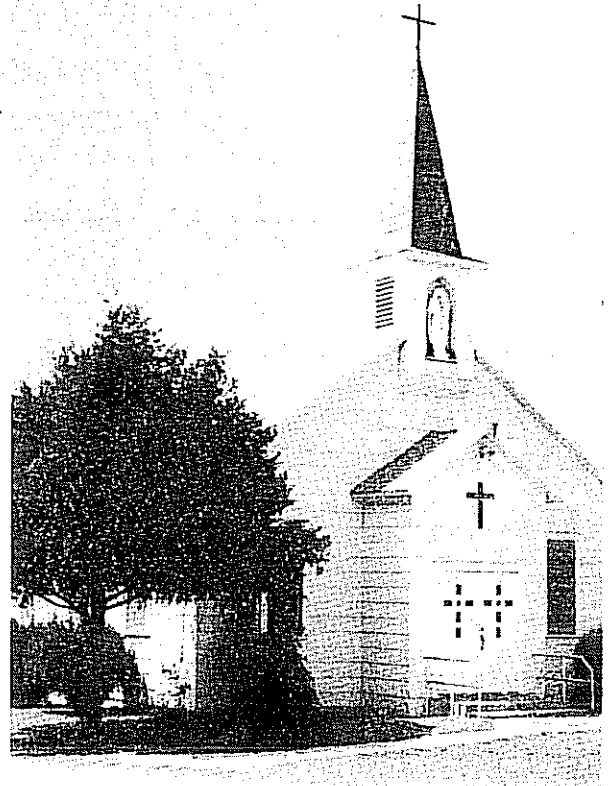
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**Catholic Church**

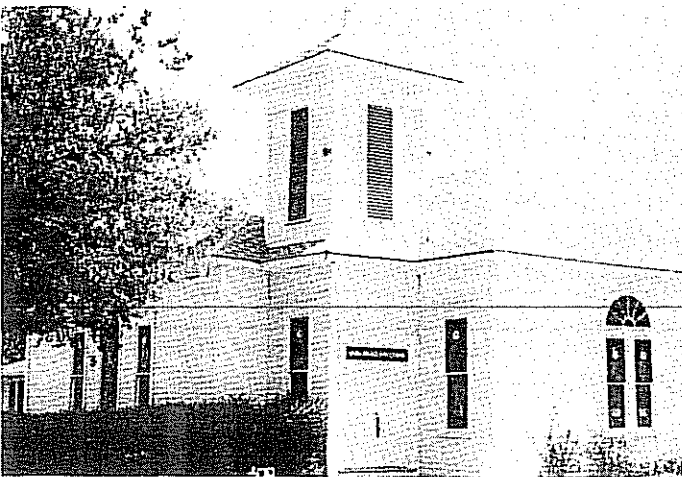
**J.P. SEBASTIANS**

The J.P. Sebastian family lived south of Valley View on a farm. It is now known as the Clifton Spindle farm. The family built a nice home on the farm. It was replaced with a modern home several years ago. All of the family is deceased but Lem is remembered because he worked in one of the banks in Valley View, also he worked for many years in the elevator and carried on his work on the farm. Lem had two daughters Christine, and Vera Lee (Lowe).

Lem lived a long full life. He died at the age of 91 years.



**Church of Christ**



**Methodist Church**



**The James Polk Sebastian Family**

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## A.R. LEACH FAMILY

In the year of 1884 the lure of cheap land in the North Texas area brought a young man by the name of Aaron Rufus Leach and his wife, Nannie Elizabeth, to a farm near Valley View, Texas to make their future home. His brother, Jim Leach owned a track of land of 105 acres, and agreed to sell it to him for approximately \$3.50 per acre.

Rufus and Nannie hitched a team of horses to a wagon, loaded with their worldly goods, and four children into it and began the long journey to Valley View. The children were Edward M. (Ed), George W., Mattie Elizabeth, and Lillie Ray. Ed was born November 19, 1876. He died February 15, 1964. He never married. George was born August 7, 1878. He was married to the former Hattie Miller. To this union was born four children: Mary Graves, (Apple), Leafy (Denton), and two infants who died at birth. His wife Hattie also passed away, and he later married Addie Dordin, George died December 21, 1946. Mattie Elizabeth was born December 7, 1879. She was married to J. Bird Moss February 8, 1906. They had five children: Melissa (Keel), Leta Belle (Turner), Aaron, Joe, and Edwin. Mattie died June 22, 1961. Allie B. was born March 20, 1881 and died November 15, 1881, before the family moved to Valley View. Lillie Ray was born August 26, 1882. She married Tom A. Roane January 11, 1906. To this union was born nine sons: Willie, Lloyd, who departed this life October 19, 1971, Homer, Weldon (deceased) Leo, Infant Roane (deceased), Royce, Orville Roy, who was killed in a plane crash during World War II, and Owen.

As the family grew, Rufus bought more land and built a larger house.

Minnie May was born May 26, 1885. She was married to John Conner Sept. 9, 1926. Effie was born June 22, 1882. She was married to J.A. Touchstone. They had two daughters, Mildred (Mrs. Rex Waggoner), and Imogene (Mrs. Toby Parker). They also had a foster daughter, Mary Nell (Armstrong). Effie died June 6, 1969. Arthur L. Was born August 27, 1889 and died August 15, 1893, at the age of four years. Christopher J. was born March 20, 1891, and died July 24, 1891, at the age of four months. Roy Aaron was born June 9, 1893. During World War I, he served his country in the armed forces from May 5, 1918 to April 1, 1919, serving about nine months of that time in France.

Roy was married to Este Stephens, a teacher in the Valley View the other Cooke County country school, on February 14, 1920. To this union was born one son, James Roy Leach. Este passed away, June 11, 1946.

Roy was married May 30, 1950 to the former Mary Lou Anderson, a teacher in the Valley View, and other Cooke, Denton, and Wise county schools.

Roy and his wife own and reside on the old family homestead where he was born. They breed and raise registered Black Angus cattle.

Mayme A. was born October 9, 1895. She was married to Jeff D. Nash on November 21, 1931. Levy D. was born June 8, 1899. He married Grace Bradley, another Valley View school teacher, December 12, 1943. Rufus Leach died May 4, 1939, and his wife

Nannie, passed away June 5, 1940.

James Roy Leach, the son of Roy A. and Este (Stephens) Leach, was born September 11, 1929. He is the only son of his generation to carry on the Leach name. He was educated in the Valley View schools where upon graduation, he was valedictorian of his class. He lettered in football two years, and in basketball one year. He attended Austin High School in El Paso one year. He attended North Texas State University at Denton, Texas, and the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated with a degree in Pharmacy. James practiced pharmacy in Denton, and Fort Worth, Texas, for a while, then decided he wanted to be a doctor. While in Fort Worth he also attended Texas Wesleyan College as a special student. He attended the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines, Iowa, graduating with a Doctor of Osteopathy degree in June 1961. He served his general rotating internship in the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital in 1961-62. He practiced medicine in Fort Worth, Texas, Culver, Indiana and Kansas City, Missouri. He was a resident in Psychiatric training in the Kansas City College of Osteopathic medicine in 1968-69. He is presently in training at the Menniger School of Psychiatry, and Topeka State Hospital in Topeka, Kansas. When this training is completed he will be a full-fledged Psychiatrist.

James Roy is married to the former Josephine Ponleit of Harlinger, Texas. They have four sons to carry on the Leach name.

Michael Stephens was born June 5, 1954 while his father was serving with the armed forces in Korea. James Walter was born March 10, 1956. David Roy was born November 17, 1957. Gary Thomas was born August 6, 1962.

Tragedy struck the Leach family on April 27, 1907, in the form of a tornado. The Hemming Cyclone. The family home was destroyed. George, Effie, Mayme, and Levy were at home at the time, and were blown away with the house. The rest of the family was away from home. When they arrived some time later they found the four children being taken care of by kindly neighbors. None of the children were seriously hurt.

The family immediately set about to build a barn in which they could live until a suitable house could be built.

Compiled and written by Mary Lou (Anderson) Leach.

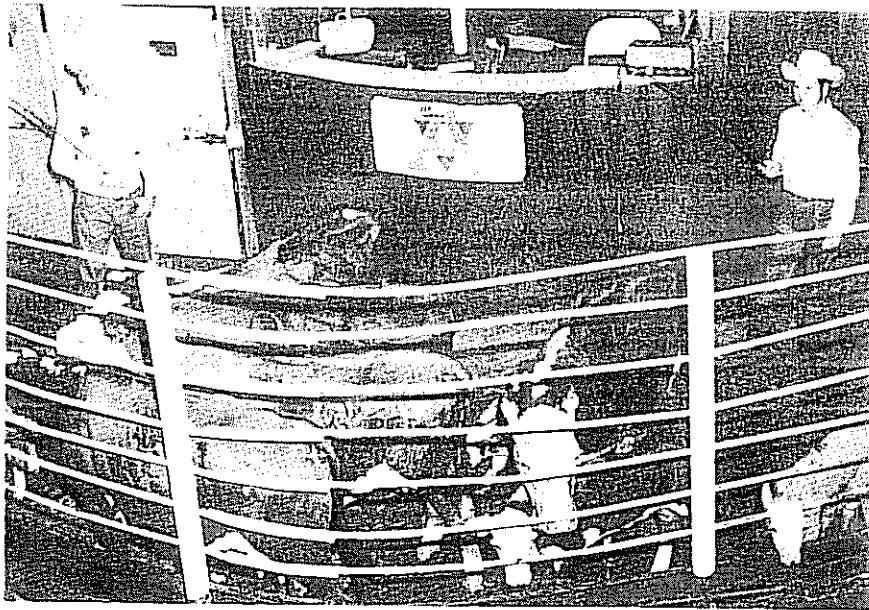
## DOCTORS

First physician at Valley View was Dr. Ussery, and others who served the community were Drs. Dayton, Spurlock, Williams, Varney, Andrews, Gunn, Biggerstaff, O.W. Cunningham, C.H. McCuiston, J.L. Dawson, W.N. Kelley, W. Hamer, E.J. Cowles, and the last Doctor that had a home here was G.G. Smith.

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## DOCTOR CUNNINGHAM

Ozro W. Cunningham M.D. in the Valley View community rendered a loyal and capable service as a physician and surgeon for many years, except for the period of the World War when he was commissioned medical officer in the Army. Dr. Cunningham was born in Marshall county Tennessee, June 25, 1871. He was five years old when the family moved to a farm in Wise County, and he grew to manhood there, acquiring a public education there. He was trained to be a farmer, and did that and other work preparatory to entering the Kentucky School of Medicine, from which he graduated in 1902. In order to complete his medical education he also taught school for a year. After graduation, Dr. Cunningham located in Valley View, and enjoyed an uninterrupted progress in his professional work until America entered the war with Germany. He enlisted and received a commission in the Medical Corps, was first assigned to duty with the Ninth Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla. and later, by his request, was transferred to the Medical Training School at Fort Riley, Kansas. He stayed there for three months, was then given duty as a medical officer at the Armour School of Technology at Chicago, and continued there until his honorable discharge in November, 1918.

On his dismissal from the army, he returned to Valley View, and resumed his practice. At Sivils Bend, Cooke County he married Miss Willie Gidden, March 26, 1905. Mrs. Cunningham finished her education in the Gainesville Schools and taught school for several years. Dr. and Mrs. Cunningham had two children Alfred and Pauline. Alfred is the only one alive, and makes his home in California.

## W. EDWARD ASTON

W. Edward Aston of Valley View, was a prominent factor in farming and a cotton ginner. He was born near Van Alstyne, in Collin county July 11, 1860. He grew up on a farm, was educated in the country schools, and early in life realized that he wished to be a farmer. He was mechanically minded and his love for machinery led him to always be fooling with some sort of machines, because most of his time was spent with some sort of machinery of some kind or the other. In 1900 he built his first cotton gin at Valley View, a modern pattern gin, the very first of its kind in the town. Later he sold that gin and in 1916 installed an eight stand gin with a capacity of eighty bales in twelve hours.

On February 3, 1899, the Collin county he married Miss Jennie Pace, a native of that county and daughter of David W. Pace. The Astons had several children, Eula, who died as the wife of J.D. Aughtry, Vernie who married Lucille Selby, Roscoe, who died at the age of 17, Ewing, Frances Lonie and C.L.

Mr. Ed, as he was called, worked with threshing machines too. He owned a gin in the Lois community, and sold it to Mr. Dickeson. This gin was about the last association that he had with gins.

## THE JIM McCOLLUMS

James McCollum was born in Alabama in 1854 and died in 1926. His nationality was Scott-Irish. His wife, Elizabeth (Ennis) McCollum was born in 1857 and died in 1951 at the age of 94. She was of Scott-Irish nationality. She was an invalid the last 15 or 16 years of her life.

They had several children among were Lloyd, Wylie, Edd, Clyde, Curtiss, Ector, and Ida. All the children are deceased except the daughter Ida, she is the wife of Hub Jones of Lubbock, Texas.



A cook shack at Jim McCollum's threshing outfit

## ECTOR McCOLLUM

Ector McCollum, son of Jim McCollum, was born in Alabama in 1881 and died in 1941. He married Jessie Huffer who was born in 1888 and died in 1924. They had two children David and Jo.

While in Valley View Ector was a Deputy Sheriff. Ec as he was nicknamed like to play the banjo. He spent a lot of time teaching the young boys of Valley View who wanted to become a Mason. The story is told that Ec spent almost all night one time trying to instill the ritual that would help the boys get the Master's degree in the Masonic Lodge the next day. The boys knew that they had a good teacher because Ec knew the Masonic work perfectly. He was a kind, jovial person, and was sorely missed when he passed away.

## TRAVIS McCOLLUM

Trav McCollum was a colorful character in Valley View, too. At one time he was a large land owner. He served as Commissioner of Precinct No. 2. He was an elder in the Methodist Church. There is a favorite saying of his that remains in town to this good day. It goes like this, if Trav heard anyone beefing about his little one horse town he would say "I God, son, nobody sent after you, and there's a train leaving every two hours, and it won't take you long to catch it". Pearman is the only child alive, and he resides in Fort Worth. A daughter, Miss Pearl taught school many years in the Valley View school system.

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Memorial Service at Valley View Cemetery - - Date Unknown

### THE CEMETERY

Valley View's first public cemetery was made possible here in 1890 and was under the auspice of the Masonic Lodge. The original plot of ground that was purchased for the cemetery plot was four acres and was bought for fifteen dollars per acre.

The first lot was sold to S.E. Switzer on May 14, 1891, and John Lower was the first man buried therein. These two gentlemen were the relatives of the late S.E. Switzer and L.L. Switzer.

Before the public cemetery was started there were two private cemeteries, one located on the land owned by W.S. McCubbin, and the other on the land of Cameron Highfill. In the cemetery on the Highfill land is a grave with a marker bearing the name of Mrs. Morrison, a relative of Euell Mann. It is thought that Indians are buried in the McCubbin pasture.

It has been sustained by contributions ever since. A trust fund was established several years ago. It is progressing very nicely, and one day in the future, it is hoped there is enough money to establish perpetual care. This trust fund was set up in order for the interested ones to leave a bequest, contribute money, leave stock and bonds, land, any-

thing one wishes to leave for this purpose. It has often been said that the only thing getting bigger in Valley View is the graveyard. True. Homer Roane is president of the present Cemetery Association. This letter was once sent out as a reminder that it was time to make a donation to the working fund of the cemetery. This kind of letter is always sent out to the ones who have an interest in the progress of the cemetery each November.

November 13, 1970

To Our Friends:

Another year is coming to a close, and we find that it has been kind to us. Problems, of course, but they have been solved to the best of our knowledge and financial ability. Looking back upon the achievements this past year, we think getting a caretaker, any caretaker, to work around more than 700 curbs and lots, clip one-half mile of hedge fence, and mow grass on 18 acres has been an important item. It has not been easy as the workmen ask for more and more money per hour each year. The coming year will not be an exception. Spraying bagworms on the 169 cedar trees has become an added expense. We do not have the spraying equipment and outside help has to be called in to do this job, if the trees are to be saved.



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A new power mower and extensive repairs on the old mowers had to be taken care of this year, too. For some reason—who knows why—the tool house and all its contents was destroyed by fire by vandals. This loss was an additional burden because all the hand tools, such as hoes, hedge clippers, wheel barrows, etc., all had to be replaced. No thought has been given to rebuilding the tool house, however, temporary arrangements to house the tools had to be provided.

We are aware that this kind of news will cause you unhappiness. We would feel that something had been left undone if we overlooked this opportunity to give you a chance to contribute more liberally to a cause that is near and dear to the more than 600 that have an interest here. In our opinion, more money is a must if the work at the cemetery is to continue to maintain its present high standard. Your past and present help has been most appreciated. Your continued cooperation will assure us another successful community participation project.

Now is the time to pause and ask you to use the enclosed ballot to check four names for the candidates of your choice to serve as a director for the coming year. The members of this board try to serve your interest faithfully and for the single purpose of keeping the resting place of your loved one as neat as possible. Won't you help to make their wish for a more financially prosperous cemetery new year possible? Send the checked ballot, and your contribution in the enclosed stamped envelope to: Mrs. Mildred Seyler, Valley View National Bank, Valley View, Texas, 76272.

#### WILLIAM J. McCROSKEY

This story of the McCroskey Family was written in 1922

William J. McCroskey in his comfortable home in Valley View is enjoying a well earned retirement, and can look back upon 43 years of residence in North Texas, most of that time having been spent in the toil and practical management of farming and stock raising out of which in spite of many adverse conditions he achieved a prosperity sufficient for his declining years.

Mr. McCroskey, who is an ex-Confederate soldier, was born in Sullivan County, Tennessee, March 1, 1883. He was six years old when his parents moved to the vicinity of Springfield, Missouri. He grew up of a farm in that rugged district, and farming was the vocation which he took up when he became a man. His home was within four miles of the battlefield of Wilson Creek, and those at home could clearly hear the sounds of battle. Soon after that William entered the war on the Confederate army. He was in service in the army until the close of the war. Soon he wanted to bring his family to Texas, by this time he was married and had four children. Two other children were born after he moved to Texas.

For his land in Texas, he paid \$5.00 an acre, and added to his holdings until he had more than one-half a section. He went through the ups and downs of markets, much of his wheat sold for less than a dollar a bushel, and cotton bringing four cents a pound.

He was trustee of the school in his district, and he and his wife were active in the Methodist Church. The children's names were Duff D., Lena, Charles, Vannie V. Walter, and Ethel.

#### MARVIN JONES

Perhaps Valley View's greatest bid for distinction is the success that has attended the career of its No.1 native son, Judge Marvin Jones.

Judge Jones father, came to Valley View in 1881 after having lived in Dallas four years. Marvin Jones was born a year later, attended and taught school at Elm Grove, was educated for the law profession and practiced at Miami and Amarillo, before being elected to congress from the 13th district in 1916. He was repeatedly returned to office. He became chairman of the important Agriculture Committee in 1931, and was named to the U.S. Court of Claims in Washington by President Roosevelt in 1940. In 1943 he presided at the International Food conference in Hot Springs, Virginia, and on July 16, of that same year was named War Food administrator for the nation, succeeding Chester Davis. He returned to his bench after the war, and was made Chief Justice in July of that year. (Copied from 1948 edition of Gaines-Registrar)

#### HORACE K. JONES

Horace's own career has been successfully identified with farming and civic interests in Cooke County. He was the Father of Marvin Jones.

Horace Jones was born in McMinn county, Tennessee, in 1849. The Jones family came from Tennessee to Texas in 1855. Horace was six years old when he came to Texas, and lived on a farm near Garland, Texas. He attended the school on Duck Creek, and was a factor on the home farm until past his majority. The Duck Creek School was called Bermuda later on. He started farming in 1881 on new land within three miles of Valley View. His career as an active farmer continued until about 1912, when he moved into Valley View. He became a steward in the Methodist for a third of a century. His son Marvin gave the chimes to this same church several years later. Outside of his farm some one of his chief interest was to see to it that his children obtained a good education. He helped establish the Elm Grove School which today is a part of the Valley View system.

Horace was married to Docia Hawkins, and the two had several children. The oldest of the children was Nole (Lane), Maud (Moss), Robert Delbert, Marvin, Horace E., Herbert K., and Frank P. and Metze. Mr. Jones passed away first and Mrs. Jones lived to be more than a hundred years.

# CONGRATULATIONS

Valley View

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100TH

ANNIVERSARY

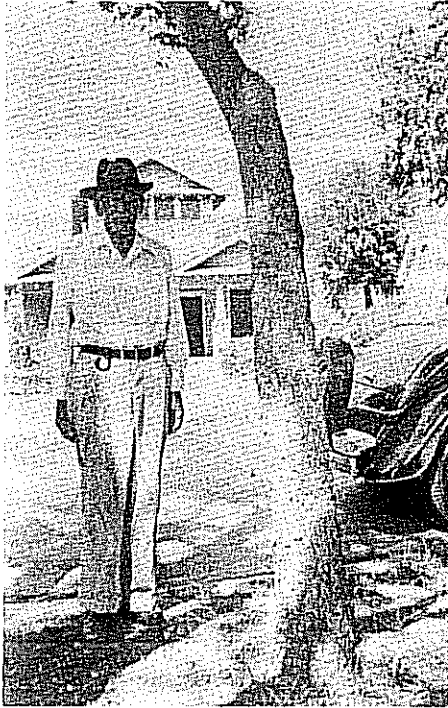
October 28, 1972

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J.M. Peery, Father of Charles Peery

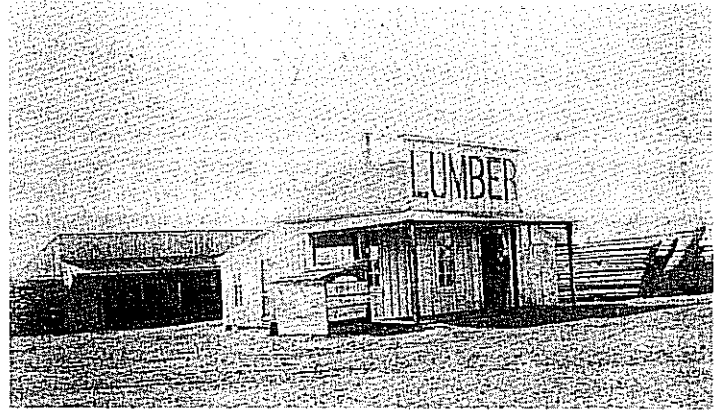
### THE PEERYS

J.M. Peery, father of J.M. Peery II and grandfather of Charlie E. Peery, came to Texas from Illinois in the early 1860's. He settled on a farm south of Gainesville, Texas. J.M. Lindsay headed a Cooke County Agricultural and Mechanical Association organized to sponsor its first fair held in 1871. Deeds and records at the courthouse reveal that 14 acres of land were conveyed to the association by J.M. Peery with the understanding that the association would erect necessary fences, a well, some stables, and other items.

The tract was located at about the site of the present home of Mrs. Pauline McArdle, south of the city. The deed was executed on August 1, 1871, and the fair held in the fall of the year. A high board fence surrounded the grounds. There were an odd circular exhibit building, stables for livestock and a mule drawn 'flying jinny'.

Later J.M. Peery II and wife, Annie owned and lived on a farm 3 miles southeast of Valley View. Two children, a daughter, Willie and a son, Charlie E. were born.

After high school and college an experience in bank management owned by Richard Head of Valley View), Charles E. Peery returned to Valley View as operator of The First National Bank of Valley View, where he remained for around 25 years. He and his wife Wilma (Glass) Peery moved to Denton in 1946. Charles E. Peery commuted to Valley View for around ten years for the operation of his lumber yard and farming interest there.



The first lumberyard Steve Humphries Mgr. 1889



Steve Humphries

### THE HUMPHRIES

Steven E. Humphries was born in South Carolina in 1858 and died in 1943 at the age of 85. His nationality was Scott-Irish. Totally blind for the last nine years of his life. His death occurred in South Carolina as he had gone back there for a visit with his brother. The brother brought his body back to Valley View.

When Steve, as a young man, started the trek to Texas stopped for a time in the Indian territory, and worked until he made enough money to finally bring his family to Texas, and eventually to Valley View.

Mr. Humphries kept a strict diary, he made an entry each day regardless of what he had to do. In studying the well kept dates and entries it was interesting to note some of the things that made the life of Steve Humphries quite interesting. For instance one had to decide that one thing could be told about him was that he was a hard worker and the living was hard. He lived on a farm raising cotton and

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gathering most of it by himself. The cattle that he raised must have been sold very cheap because when he bought beef from the stores, it sold for 1 to 10 cents a pound. Steve wrote of pulling and stacking hay fodder for the cows. Alfred Hill was his good friend and Steve speaks many times of their work and the many trips to the mill to get the wheat and corn ground. Several times he mentioned that there was no money to pay for the grinding, and potatoes and onions were used to pay for the grinding. The price of hogs must not have been as good as the beef because many a time hogs were only 2 cents a pound, and he and Alfred would butcher the hogs and sell them, and made money by doing it.



Mrs. Steve Humphries

Mr. Humphries spent much time going to preaching and Sunday School. He was a member of the Baptist Church in Valley View, and the diary shows many entries where he had ordered Literature for the Church. Undoubtedly it must have amounted to tons of Literature. Most of his Sunday afternoons were spent studying the Bible, reading, or writing, as he put it, 'he read and wrote'.

Steve served for thirty years as a trustee in the Valley View Schools, twenty years as President of the Board.

Another entry in the diary that must have made Steve proud was the fact that he milked a cow for 10 months, selling the milk and butter, and made \$31.25.

Mr. Humphries worked for many years for the Waples Painter Lumber Company who had a branch Lumber Yard here in Valley View. He really pulled down a big salary as he accounts that he made \$35.00 a month. For how long this went on there is no account. But, to put it mildly money was scarce. Not only was he bookkeeper but handy man as well. The first lumber yard burned in 1910 when the west side of the square burned. The lumber yard was replaced with a very modern one and was the pride of the town.

Steve must have saved his money very well because by 1911 he had accumulated several pieces of

property such as three tenant houses and his home. His taxes for that year amounted to \$2.84, that included state, county, and school taxes.

In his later years he was in the Grocery business. His grandson, R.V. Robinson worked for him. Steve worked in a bank for a time during his life time.

Steve Humphries was married to a South Carolina girl, and had one daughter, Ora (Robinson). His wife's name was Mattie and she was born 1843 and died in 1928. She died at the age of 85, also.

## THE NEWTONS DESCENDANTS

Charles Samuel Newton was born August 11, 1835 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma when that state was Indian territory. His father was a Presbyterian missionary to the Cherokee Indians, having come to Tahlequah in 1830 from Connecticut.

His family moved to Dallas in 1848. It has been said that their cow lot was situated where the First National Bank now stands. He participated in the War between the states on the Confederate side as a member of Douglass' Battery. After the war he returned to Dallas where he learned the trade of mechanic. With his brother, Will Newton, he operated a machine shop in Dallas.

On April 22, 1866 he married Miss Kentucky, Ann Thomas, the daughter of a well known early day Dallas family. She died November 12, 1869, soon after their second son, Edd C. was born September 11, 1869. Their first son, Willie, was born July 29, 1867 and died October 3, 1867.

He married Miss Mary Elizabeth Jones of Garland, Texas August 9, 1871. Miss Jones was born in Athens, Tennessee December 23, 1847, and came to Texas in 1853 in a covered wagon with her parents, Robert Degge Jones (1812-1881) and Martha King Jones (1820-1859) settling in Garland Texas. Her family told that she had to be put between two mattresses to keep her from freezing on the long journey to Texas.



Charles Newton as a small child

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to Valley View  
on its  
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C.S. Newton and his wife came to Cooke County in the fall of 1872. With his brother, Will, and wife, he bought a farm from Richard McCubbin adjoining the newly founded town of Valley View. Will Newton owned the west side of the farm and C.S. Newton owned the east side, that side being next to town. Spring Creek ran between the two portions of the farm. In addition to their farming activities, they operated the first grist mill, saw mill and cotton gin in the community. Mill street is so named because it led to the Newton Bros. Mill.

After a number of years, Will Newton sold his part of the farm and business to his brother and moved his family to Gainesville where his children, Bontecou and Virgie, might have better educational facilities. Bontecou (Bonty spent most of his life in Marietta, Oklahoma where he operated a cotton gin and Virgie married Tully Klepper and aided him in publishing the Foard County News at Crowell, Texas for many years.

The Presbyterian church, one of the early churches in Valley View, was of prime interest to "Brother" Newton. He gave the land on which it was constructed in 1910. This church disbanded in fairly recent times because of the dwindling number of Presbyterians and the building is presently used as a community center. Serving in every capacity except as preacher, the church came before everything else except his family. C.S. Newton died suddenly January 25, 1903 at the age of 68 years. He was attended at that time by Dr. V. Andrews who later moved to Floydada, Texas.

After his death, his widow moved the large farm house to town and the house on Lee street is now owned and occupied by Mrs. David Martin.

Mrs. Newton died January 25, 1924 in Dallas at the home of her son, P.O. Newton, who at that time lived on Cedar Springs Avenue.

Their children were Harry (July 20, 1872—August 28, 1873) ; John Beeker (October 20, 1847—May 10, 1876) ; Merta (April 16, 1876—June 10, 1901) ; Carl S. (February 2, 1878—March 11, 1936) ; Clay (December 23, 1879—September 30, 1946) ; Frank King (October 20, 1884—February 2, 1960) ; Purl O. (March 12, 1886—December 17, 1962).

Merta Newton was married to Robert V. King October 24, 1899. Mr. King at one time was postmaster at Valley View. She died at childbirth, leaving one son, Newton A. King, now retired and living in Dallas.

Carl S. Newton was married to Miss Artie Williams November 24, 1903. She died July 4, 1923. He was married the second time to Miss Pauline Worsham June 3, 1930. He was in the real estate business in Dallas.

Clay Newton was married to Miss Addye Pettit May 26, 1910. He and Frank Newton were in the furniture, hardware and undertaking business in Valley View for many years. Later Clay was president of the First National Bank in Valley View and some time after that was auditor of Cooke County for a long period of time. While in Valley View they lived in a house that stood on the lot now occupied by the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Martin.

Frank K. Newton was married to Miss Besse Keel November 11, 1908. They lived in a new home built before their marriage; the house is still standi

ing, has been extensively remodeled and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Mallicote and daughter Jane. They moved to Dallas in 1920 where he was in the furniture business. They moved back to Valley View in 1932.

Mrs. Besse Newton at present living at Hillhaven Convalescent Home in Gainesville.

Purl O. Newton was married to Miss Anna Swor December 25, 1912. Miss Swor, born and raised in Dallas, came to Valley View as a music teacher and lived in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ussery until her marriage. Soon after marriage they moved to Dallas where he entered the banking business and retired as auditor of the First National Bank in Dallas. She is living in Brownsville, Texas.

One of the coincidentals of the first five Newton men in Valley View is that each one lost a son in childbirth or in early childhood.

Newtons living in or near Valley View at present are: Charles, third generation, Nicholas, Norman and Nelson, fourth generation; Lisa Newton, three year old daughter of Nicky, fifth generation.

## NEGRO POPULATION

The Negro population in and around Valley View has always been small, but in 1940 the population grew so much that the white citizens decided to have a school for the colored. They made plans and secured a teacher. The teacher elected was Otto Simpson of Gainesville. The vacant house of Charles Newton, west of town was leased and repaired. School opened October 14, 1940, and classes were taught through the fifth grade. There were 22 pupils enrolled. Mr. H.J. Brown was superintendent of the Valley View school. The school lasted only a short time, by that time the Negro population had decreased so, the few children were bused to the Gainesville school. There are no Negroes in the district in 1972.

## THE COUCH FAMILY

John Meredith Couch was born in 1856. His father was a merchant at Italy, Texas. As a young man John Meredith was a cowboy and rode the Chisam Trail for several years. After marrying Emma Turner at the age of 35, he joined his father in the mercantile business. Later on he was in the Dray Business and farmed.

John Meredith and Charlotte Emma Couch moved to Cooke County—three miles south of Valley View, Texas—January 1, 1918 to make his living farming. Of this marriage, there were nine children born: W.C. (Clyde) of Denton, Mrs. C.T. (Annie) McNeil of Ennis Mrs. Bailey (Maude) Garrison of Sanger, Harry F. (deceased,) Charlie (deceased), J.E. (Ernest) of Gainesville, Joe R. of Valley View, T.R. (Ralph) of Valley View, and Mrs. F.B. (Ruth) Cook of Fort Worth, Texas.

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T.R. Couch the next to the youngest child of this family finished high school at Valley View High School in 1923. He started to work at the First Guaranty State Bank at Valley View in 1923 working for experience only. He worked part of 1923 and 1924. From there, he went to Continental National Bank at Fort Worth, Texas for one year, then to Paducah, Texas; Plainview, Texas; Ryan, Oklahoma and the Republic National Bank, Dallas, Texas between the years of 1924 and 1927. He came back to Valley View in 1927 to stay until 1970 when he retired.

In 1942 T.R. Couch helped organize the present Cemetery Association and served as a director until he retired. He served the Valley View Independent School District as Tax Collector from 1932 to 1969.

T.R. Couch married Edna Inez Martin (who died April 30, 1966) November 19, 1929. To this marriage were born three children: Kenneth R. Couch, Dallas; Mrs. C.J. (Mildred) Seyler, Valley View; and Mrs. Tommy (Barbara) Turner, Denton, Texas.

T.R. Couch married Claudine Harris April 15, 1970. Claudine Harris retired from the bank when T.R. Couch retired.

### THE VALLEY VIEW NATIONAL BANK

The present Valley View National Bank, Valley View, Texas was organized May 8, 1914 as the First Guaranty State Bank, Valley View, Texas. It was converted to The Valley View National Bank, Valley View, Texas April 25, 1925.

The First Guaranty State Bank, Valley View, Texas was organized with a capital of \$10,000.00, by twelve prominent men of Valley View, Texas: A.J. Welch, A.J. Hudspeth, J.E. Martin, J.H. Stevens, Ed Williams, R.C. Odneal, J.W. Roberson, L.C. Sebastian, Dr. C.H. McCuiston, J.M. Willock, McWheat and T.F. Rodgers. First year officers and directors were: A.J. Hudspeth, President, J.E. Martin, First Vice-President Ed Williams, second Vice-President, A.J. Welch, Cashier; in addition to the officers, J.R. Stevens, Dr. C.H. McCuiston and T.F. Rodgers were directors

The capital of the bank was raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000.00 in 1918, from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00 to \$75,000.00 in 1971. Total Resources as of June 30, 1972 were \$3,487,393.65.

On Sunday afternoon September 24, 1924, the building of The First Guaranty State Bank, Valley View, Texas burned with a loss of no records, The First Guaranty State Bank moved to temporary quarters in the rear of the First National Bank, Valley View, Texas. The night of December 18, 1924 the two banks were burglarized with burglars using an acetylene torch to cut holes in the two vault doors and holes in the two Mosler Lug Door Safes. The Bank building caught fire accidentally or intentionally burning all records of the two banks. The robbers obtained some \$11,000.00. They were never apprehended. The officers and employees of the two banks with assistance of good loyal customer reconstructed all records to the satisfaction of all concerned. The insurance company paid the monetary loss.

April 13, 1948, the First National Bank Valley View, Texas liquidated their bank. The Valley View

National Bank, Valley View, Texas bought their building and assets and assumed their deposit liabilities.

On March 26, 1970 at 11:15 A.M. two armed men entered the bank with one carrying a shot gun and one carrying a pistol. They took command of the Bank having the following personal lie on the floor: T.R. Couch, Lowell T. Miller, Betty King, Mildred Seyler, and Martha Miller. Miss Claudine Harris was instructed to open the safes and place the money in a bag they handed her. They obtained some \$17,000.00. In their flight, they had a flat tire on the car; and while they were stopped, they hid about \$6,500.00 of the silver and small bills near the highway. A small girl saw them and reported them to the Sheriff; This money was recovered. The balance was not recovered. The robbers were later apprehended, convicted and committed to prison.

On November 23, 1971, a lone bandit entered the bank using a pistol and instructed Lowell T. Miller to give to him the banks funds. He obtained some \$9,600.00. The employees present at the bank at the time of this robbery were: Lowell T. Miller, Betty King and Mildred Seyler. The robber was caught near Krum, Texas, and all of the money was recovered. He was sentenced to prison.

The following officers and years served since organization of bank:

A.J. Hudspeth. . . . .	1915-1916
A.J. Welch. . . . .	1915-1917
W.C. Wright. . . . .	1916-1921
L.C. Sebastian. . . . .	1916-1920
T.J. Price. . . . .	1917-1918
George Hudspeth. . . . .	1918-1922
Miss Fred Low. . . . .	1922-1923
Ashley Hudspeth. . . . .	1922-1923
C.M. Moore. . . . .	1922-1926
C.B. Johnson. . . . .	1926-1939
T.R. Couch. . . . .	1927-1970
Hazel Seely. . . . .	1939-1947
Claudine Harris. . . . .	1947-1970
Lowell T. Miller. . . . .	1970-1972
Barclay Ryall. . . . .	1970-1972
Nick H. Theodore. . . . .	1970-1972
Betty King. . . . .	1970-1972
Mildred Seyler. . . . .	1970-1972

The following directors and years served since organization of bank:

A.J. Hudspeth. . . . .	1915-1917
J.E. Martin. . . . .	1915-1921
R.C. Odneal. . . . .	1915-1951
W.K. Middleton. . . . .	1915-1916
J.R. Stevens. . . . .	1915-1924
A.J. Welch. . . . .	1915-1916
J.D. Cunningham. . . . .	1915-1916
Ed Williams. . . . .	1915-1959
S.E. Humphries. . . . .	1916-1917
W.C. Wright. . . . .	1916-1921
L.C. Sebastian. . . . .	1916-1920
C.H. McCuiston. . . . .	1917-1940
J.F. Lowe. . . . .	1918-1933
T.J. Price. . . . .	1917-1918
George Hudspeth. . . . .	1918-1922
L.B. White. . . . .	1921-1929
J.W. Roberson. . . . .	1921-1922

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C.M. Moore. . . . .	1922-1926
Jack B. Martin. . . . .	1924-1947
C.B. Johnson. . . . .	1926-1939
T.R. Couch. . . . .	1939-1970
W.O. Montgomery. . . . .	1940-1951
Hazel Seely. . . . .	1947-1948
C.B. Dickeson. . . . .	1947-1969
Otis N. Williams. . . . .	1951-1969
Claudine Harris. . . . .	1951-1970
Kenneth R. Couch. . . . .	1959-1972
Tommy T. Turner. . . . .	1969-1970
Mildred Seyler. . . . .	1969-1972
Lowell T. Miller. . . . .	1970-1972
Barclay R. Ryall. . . . .	1970-1972
Nich H. Theodore. . . . .	1970-1972

The following employees and years served since organization. Some served only portions of a year.

Eula Vanderslice. . . . .	1920-1922
T.R. Couch. . . . .	1923-1924
Roy Montgomery. . . . .	1926
Bellie Nichols. . . . .	1926
Evalyn McCollum. . . . .	1927-1929
J.C. Mangrum. . . . .	1929
C.L. McCuiston. . . . .	1941
Claudine Harris. . . . .	1942-1947
Dorothy Springer. . . . .	1947-1950
Peggy Myers. . . . .	1948-1950
Beth Johnson. . . . .	1949-1959
Ann Harris. . . . .	1951
Kressie Kelly. . . . .	1929
James Stephens. . . . .	1930
Jack McCubbin. . . . .	1932
Hazel Nichols. . . . .	1935-1939
John Garrison. . . . .	1936
Francis Willis. . . . .	1939
Willard D. White. . . . .	1939
Rita Mae McCuiston. . . . .	1939-1942
Mildred Couch. . . . .	1951-1963
Kenneth R. Couch. . . . .	1952
Barbara Nell Couch. . . . .	1954
Shirley Brown. . . . .	1954-1958
Tommy T. Turner. . . . .	1959
Martha Miller. . . . .	1970-1972
Loretta Myers. . . . .	1970-1972

## THE SCHOOL

Capt. Lee built a log blacksmith shop with a dirt floor. In 1873 when the thought of a school for the children and where it could be located, Capt. Lee came up with the idea, why not get it started in the blacksmith shop? Why not? So, it came to be, and Mrs. William Johnson taught the first school in Valley View. Naturally the teacher must be paid, but how? By subscription, of course, and each parent was assigned an amount to be paid on each child going to school. Capt. Lee paid for 4 subscriptions. Mrs. Lee asked him, "Why did he pay for so many when he had only 2 children to send to school?" He told her that the dog and the cat could attend. Sure enough, the dog did attend every day, but the cat could be considered the first drop out because she never attended, maybe thinking about it was good enough for her

The building was made of logs and stood somewhere near the site of the late O.W. Myers' barn stood Capt. and Mrs. Lee were responsible for the first school and that was one of the accomplishments after they decided to build a town as they found it too much trouble having to go to Gainesville for everything including sending their daughter to school.

Mrs. Johnson, the first teacher was of Gainesville and she was the mother of Dr. Johnson who was a physician in Gainesville for many years. She taught school here for many years. But in those days the school was in many places, as it was moved from building to building, what ever one was available at the time for school. The school was then moved down on the Newton farm near the site where the Bartholds lived during the forties. Later the school was moved to a vacant house about where David McCollum's home is now, Capt. Lee then built a small one room building on the site near the square.

One term of school was taught there and then that building was rented to Mr. Overshiner, where he housed his blacksmith shop. The next school then was held in a vacant store house that was located somewhere near the Miller Drugstore and where the Nichols Motor Garage now stands. The next school then was taught in a vacant farm house north of town. Capt. Lee then helped build a school building on the plot of ground just back of the one-time cafe of The Schmitz, and for some years the school had a permanent place. This building was used for church services, also.

Ewald Obuch who lived practically all his life in Valley View, passing away in 1938, was a member of that first class in 1873.

The children did not have to go to school very long in the blacksmith shop. A fine three room wooden building was built north of the town square. A picture of the school reveals that by 1900 more than 180 children were enrolled in that school. The school had one unlucky day, along came a terrific wind storm and blew it away. What to do now? Capt. Lee knew what he was going to do, because he bought what lumber that could be saved from the wreckage, gave the money to the trustees and told them to start building the school house back, this time a brick one. Capt. Lee did not have to choose a site to build the new school on. He had already given the land for the first school. It was decided to put the brick building back in the same location.

On June 7, 1902 Valley View citizens voted 61 to 1 for incorporation of the Valley View school district No. 42 as an independent school district, and \$10,000 dollars in bonds were voted for a school building, which was erected in 1902-1903. A two-story brick structure was built. This building had a fence all around it. The children stepped over the fence by a wooden stile. The old brick under went many changes and additions before it was again decided to build yet another larger school house. So, in 1938 the old red brick school building was dismantled to make way for the present school plant at the south end of town on U.S. Highway 77 now 35.

The new school was constructed with a cream colored brick. It had many rooms, and it was thought that it would serve the district for many years. This idea did not hold for many years for by this time consolidation of school had caught on, and Valley View did not let this opportunity pass them by. Such small

*We have enjoyed being a part of Valley View  
the last nine years.*

*The Richey Family*

*Alan, Charlene, Linda Dee, David Alan,  
Robbie Dale, and Tammara Diane.*



**School children in the first school house built in Valley View, picture taken in 1896.**

school as John's Branch, Lone Oak, Elm Grove, Lois, Burns City, Mountain Springs, etc., became a part of the Valley View school system. Provisions had to be arranged for more space to accommodate more students. The Elm Grove school building was moved to the school site and put to use as a Home Ec. building. A new addition to house a lunch room and a music center was added to the east of the main building. Later, a Vocational Building was erected. Naturally, the football field and stands and locker rooms were always being improved. It was suggested that when the new location was first mentioned moving to the south of town, football was given first consideration. True, they still give some thought to Reading, riting, and to Rithmatic! but a lot of concentration goes into football, basketball, drill teams, and other sports. in 1971, still another addition had to be made to alleviate over crowding conditions, and a four room building was erected southwest of the main structure. Air conditioning was installed at the same time.

During the summer vacation month of 1972 the

entire interior of the main building has been renovated and redecorated. The offices were carpeted, and floors sanded, and walls wainscoted. Rest rooms are being added near the gym, too.

The 1972 school year began in early August for 278 students—94 in high school, and 184 in the grade and junior high. Jimmie Flickling, Superintendent, heads a staff of 16 teachers with the help of H.M. Taylor, high school principle, and Gerald Lanston, elementary principle, and other teachers by their last names are Andrews, Pryor, West, Clark, Scott, Clodfelter, Gooch, Mask, Vowell, Ware, Shock, Wendle, Hudspeth, and Mrs. Dorothy Chisam is the school secretary. The school employs four bus drivers, some of the men are John Kubicek, and Yuton Harris. The cooks that prepare and serve a hot lunch each day are Laura Bryant, Nelda Ford, and Billey Jo Dyer. There are many organizations in the school, drill teams, pep squads, F.F.A., F.H.A. Young Homeakers, and P.T.A. An X and R Banquet for ex-students and teachers is held every two years on the Saturday night before

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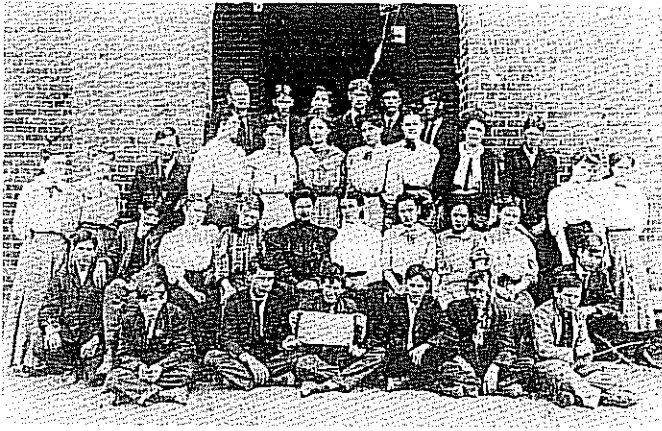
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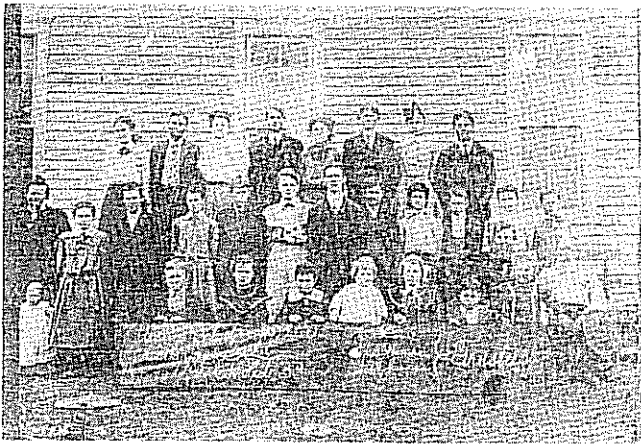




Graduation class of Old School Lena (Harris) Steadman a member



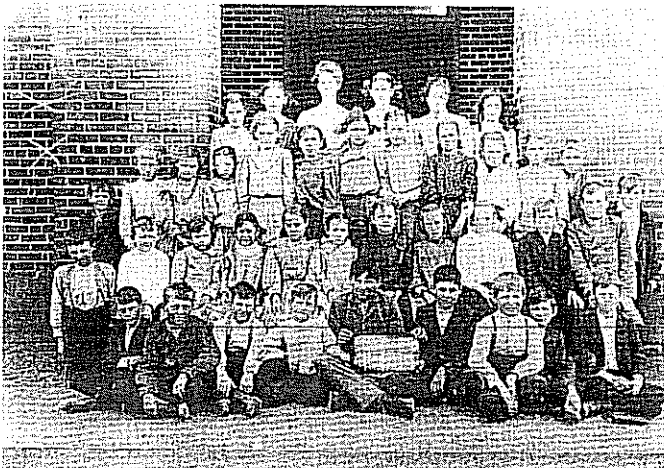
Class of 1911



Class of 1905



Class of 1912 Valley View School



Class of 1908



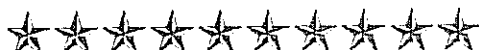
8th grade 1921 Valley View High

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First grade class in 1924 Ted Steadman member of class

Easter. The decorations used at the 1972 year was used in connection with the theme of the Centennial Celebration.

Many outstanding students from Valley View High have gone on with their education taking them to a Doctrate Degree, some of them are Danny Clifton, James Roy Leach, Eugene Shasteen, Hal McCuiston M.D., and Billy Martindale D.V.M. Other students that are known to be teaching this year of 1972 are, Ann (Harris) Kemplin, Sanger, Dorothy (Gregory) Van Dine, Houston, Ray Carson, Garland, Karen (Miller) Rushing, Garland, and Beverly Hogan, Anna.

Old timers, if you have been wondering what your favorite superintendent taught at dear ole Valley View High, here is the record since 1905:

1905-1908. . . . .	Mr. Wren
1908-1909. . . . .	Mr. Barr
1909-1912. . . . .	Mr. Whitehead
1912-1921. . . . .	Mr. E.R. Benedict
1921-1924. . . . .	Mr. S.F. McCaffity
1924-1928. . . . .	Mr. F.J. Clements
1928-1930. . . . .	Mr. Fred Boswell
1930-1931. . . . .	Mr. J.A. Graham
1931-1937. . . . .	Mr. Wallace Gregg
1937-1941. . . . .	Mr. H.J. Brown
1941-1945. . . . .	Mr. Fred Blackard
1945-1968. . . . .	Mr. Randolph O'Brien
1968-1970. . . . .	Mr. Leon Williams
1970-. . . . .	Mr. Jimmy Flicking

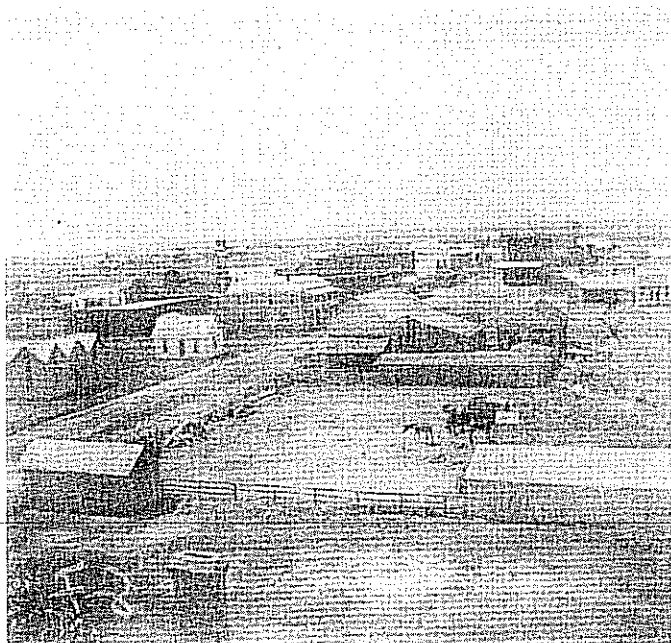
Professor Horn who taught here in 1880 to 1883 made plans to grade the school, and was fired. The board thought such a plan was unconstitutional. Others expressed themselves by saying that such a plan was progressing too rapidly. Brother if that board could only be here today!



Present day school

### EARLY DAY HOTELS OF VALLEY VIEW

The first hotel in Valley View was known as the Cavett Hotel, located on the north east side of the square (north of Sloan's Superette) the next person to operate the hotel was H.H. Allen, father of Mrs. Tom Brownlee. Mr. Allen also operated a grocery store on the south side, where the Valley View National Bank is located today. Alex Huston was the next owner, he operated it many years, later he purchased the R.P. Head home (where Mrs. Klinglesmith's home is now). Later, he moved part of the Cavett



Taken from top of old school house looking south to the square.

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hotel the to Head property and operated a hotel there. He sold the remainder of the Cavett Hotel to his brother, Wm.E. Huston, who used it for a storage place until Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brownlee moved back to Valley View from Fort Worth, in 1907. The Brownlees bought the place and Sam Flint, a nephew re-built two rooms that Alex Huston had moved away. Later, J.F. Lowe bought it from the Brownlees and sold it to someone to haul it away, to enable his to have a nice new two-story brick hotel erected. It had a lobby, kitchen and dining area on ground floor and bath and 12 bedrooms up stairs. The first operators were Mr. and Mrs. Travis McCollum, then Mr. and Mrs. Lowe tried their hand at making a 'go' of it. Later Mrs. Brownlee took it over and operated it for sometime, but the rent was too high and so moved out. A Mr. Dickerman tried to manage it but failed, then Mr. Lowe came back and persuaded Mrs. Brownlee to run it. She moved back and in September 1924 it burned.

She started operating a cafe in the center building of the three frame buildings located on southeast corner. When the bank was robbed and burned in December 1924, about three months after the hotel burned her cafe burned too.

Tom Brownlee was selling organs and came to Valley View where he met Lura Allen, they were married and raised four sons, Frank, Cecil, Henry and Ollie. Ollie passed away on April 9, 1958, he was only 57 years of age. Two days later, April 11, his nother suffered a stroke and passed away. Mr. Brownlee preceded her in death by ten years.

#### Wm. M. SLINKER FAMILY

Wm. M. Slinker, or "Pap" Slinker as he was known better married his fourth wife in Celina. She was Mrs. Nannie E. Tinsley, she had a small girl when they married, who died at the age of 9 years. The Slinkers moved to Valley View in 1900 and bought 177½ acres of good black farm land, north of town, at \$20 per acre. In 1904, Pap was trying to cut off the windmill on the farm and accidently cut his hand off.

He and "Mam" were the parents of five children: Lee of Wichita Falls who is deceased, George of Denton, Mrs. Myrtle Steadman also of Denton, Four (Robert Four) Pap said he was the fourth child, and he'd name him Big Four, who moved to Gainesville this April 1972. He said he moved where there were more widow-women, as there are only 42 in Valley View. His wife, Maggie, passed away in 1967. Four spent 2 years in France during World War I. Another sister is Mattie Bell Martin of Floydada.

Pap and Mam moved to town in 1918, to the place known as McWheat home. Pap passed away in 1935 and Mam in 1957.

Boys around Valley View had plenty of fun, calling up Pap over the telephone and he would invariably answer "Slinker, I God what in the#\*\*?##?\* do you want" and it became a trade-mark among the boys.

#### THE CHARLES LOVELADY FAMILY

Charlie Lovelady came to Valley View as a young man from Haleyville, Alabama. He married a daughter of a pioneer family, Miss Katherine (Kate) Roane, in January 1899. In February 1900, their only child was born a daughter named Ava. In later years they took a niece, at 1 year of age, to rear. She was Laverne, her mother was Mrs. Lovelady's sister, Gertrude Lavern lived in Valley View until she married Walter Slaughter.

Miss Ava, as she was known by her friends worked as librarian for sometime and later, in 1938 she became the postal clerk, with O.L. Lowry serving as postmaster. She retired on December 31, 1965. Ava married Don Stephens, a son of another pioneer family, in January 1951. Don passed away in 1956. Charles Lovelady passed away in 1954.



H.H. Moodys house Valley View, Texas

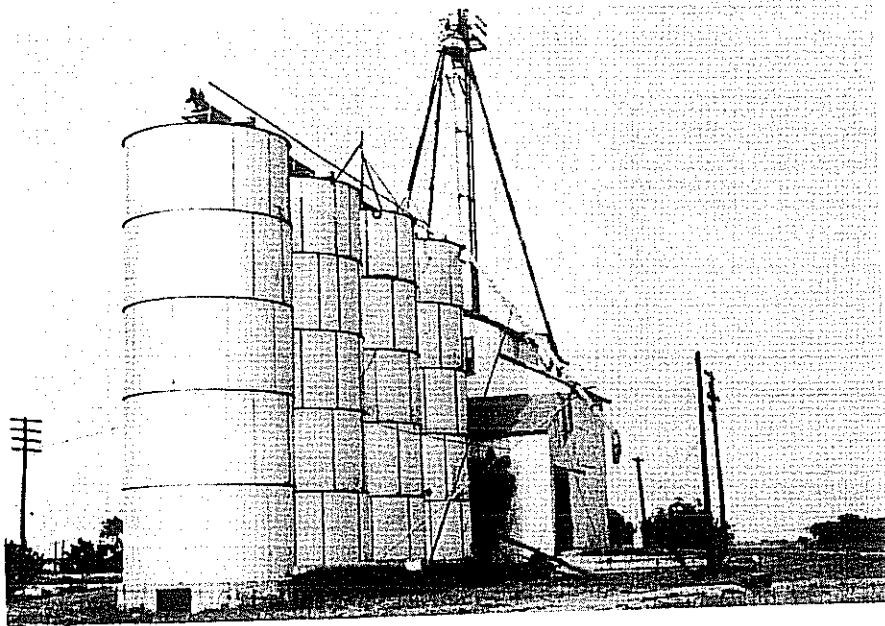
#### THE FAVORITE HOME OF THE MOODYS

In the beginning, the Moody house was a part of a tract of 934 acres of land granted by the Board of Land Commissioners of Fannin County (Cooke County did not have a court house at that time) to John S. Dillingham to John G. Jouett and his heirs on February 20, 1838. The grant was signed by Sam Houston, Governor of Texas. The land surveyors in marking of the acreage, the lines went from one pile of rocks on the prairie to another pile of rocks to another in order to establish the corners of the farm.

The land laid vacant for many years before any one came to live on it. The records shows that in 1860 John Jouett and family took possession of it. Then one by one of the Jouett heirs caused the large farm to be divided until only 170½ acres remain on the spot where the first house was built. The present house was built by J.N. Sparkman around the turn of the century.

The lone, big house stood as a landmark for many years on the long muddy road that led west across the

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Butterfield Trail. The two-story house was constructed around the old house of the Jouetts, the back part of the old house was left and the front part was added to it. Square nails were used in the building of the old house. Many fireplaces were built into the new house. Porches were added on three sides where the family could relax and enjoy cool fresh air in the summer months. The back porches were used much like utility rooms are used in the modern homes. Much use of bric-a-brac was used as trim on the exterior of the house, especially on the top of the porches and on the window awnings. Not many clothes closets were included in the first home, and not many more when the house was added onto. Bathrooms were unheard of, and this item was added many years later. The house had a large white fence built in front of it, and that appeared to make the house look much larger than it really was.

When the Moodys took possession of the place, time and decay had played revenge on the structure and its fence. The fence was the first to go. The design of the old home soon began to change. Again, remodeling began at the rear of the house. For the main living area of their home, (the old fireplaces had already been removed) the Moodys removed the chimney used in the kitchen. A partition between the old dining room and one of the back porches was torn away to enlarge the den area. The house was still left painted white. It is lighted and cooled by electricity, and heated by Butane. Old beaded ceilings were covered by sheet rock as were the walls of the house. Many other features were added for comfort and to enhance the beauty of the interior of the home.

Imagine a place to live comfortably, a place to play, a place to retire, a place for grandchildren to visit - that's the happy anticipation of Irene and Henry Herbert Moody. There is not much time to think about the house as being once a landmark.

The garden and barn area remains about like it was originally laid out, except a modern dairy barn has been added east of the house where the Moodys and their son, Don run a large dairy.

The Moodys daughter, Louann married Don Gillum, and they live about two miles from them. Their first grandchild was born August 12th to the Gillums. Need it be said, soon the patter of grandchildren's feet will be heard around the old homestead?

## THE STEVENS

Mr. & Mrs. James F. Stephens moved from Tyler, Smith County, Texas to Cooke County, west of Valley View in 1900. Mr. Stephens was engaged in farming until 1910 when he moved his family to Valley View. He hauled freight, including groceries and ice, from Gainesville for the merchants in Valley View. When Uncle Billy Wright retired from carrying the mail on the Star Route Mr. Stephens succeeded him and carried the mail for several years. He later served as Public Weigher and then had a grocery store on the south side of the "square".

Mr. & Mrs. Stephens had seven children; Wilbur, Ralph, Este, Don, Bonnie, Hope and Frank. They had seven grandchildren; Ralph Stephens, Jr., Philip Stephens and Marilee Dean Stephens, all of Houston

Texas; James Roy Leach of Kansas City, Missouri; Mary Cade McCollum Biffle (deceased), Jack McCollum, Corp;s Christi, Texas; Martha Ann McCollum Davis, El Paso, Texas. They also had seven great-grandchildren; Joe Leslie Biffle Jr., (deceased); Marianne Davis, Dallas, Texas; Joey Jack McCollum, Corpus Christi, Texas; Mike Leach, Jim Leach, David Leach and Gary Leach, all of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. & Mrs. Stephens were members of the Baptist Church and Mr. Stephens was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

James Franklin Stephens died January 13, 1935 and Mrs. Lebo Cade Stephens died January 9, 1937. Mrs. Bonnie McCollum, El Paso, Texas is the only survivor of the Stephens' children. She recently retired after 44 years of teaching in Texas. "Miss Bonnie" taught 22 years in Valley View; 13 years in Odessa, Texas and 9 years at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas. Mrs. Ava Stephens, widow of Don Stephens, resides in Valley View.

## JOHN F. LOWE

John F. Lowe moved his family from Fayette County Alabama to Valley View in the year 1900. He purchased what was known as the Peabody Farm consisting of 150 acres for which he paid \$30.00 per acre. This price being much above any price ever paid for land in this community which was about 4 miles east of Valley View. His neighbor to the north was a Rev. King, to the east the Ledford family, to the south the W.A. Fryer family. All the land west to near Valley View was owned by the Burkhead family, and they had no near neighbors.

In the early days his children attended Lone Oak school--a one room building situated 1½ miles south east of the home.

The family belonged to the Methodist Church of Valley View, where Mr. Lowe served as a trustee for many years.

During the years he assisted in organizing the Guaranty State Bank, and was a director.

He built several brick buildings, including a two-story hotel, on the east side of the square. He occupied one with a General Merchandise store until the big fire of 1924, which destroyed the entire block. He later opened a grocery store on the south side of the square and operated this until he sold it to a son Dave, who operated it until his death in 1937.

Mrs. Lowe died in 1932, and Mr. John Lowe passed away in 1942.

## LEE MCCOLLUM FAMILY

In the early part of 1903, Lee McCollum, a young man who had been born in Alabama at the close of the Civil War, moved his family from Grayson County (from the community of Pink Hill, located between Sherman and Bells) to Valley View. The family moved by wagon, carriage, and buggy, and settled about 5 miles southeast of the Valley View area. He had previously purchased 252 acres of farm land from Trave McCollum.

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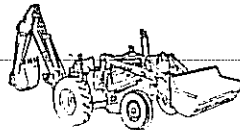
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Farming and raising cattle was of course the first business that Lee was interested in. Since there was a T shaped house on the farm made do with that until many years later when they remodeled it.

In 1905 Lee bought his second farm. It was the farm where one of his daughter's lives at the present Mrs. Gertie Calhoun. Truly, Lee was always buying land and selling it.

The first move away from the farm came for the family when they decided to move nearer to Valley View (where Alan Richey lives at present) to send the children to school. Lee and a partner, Gentry Allen, went into the grocery business on the south side of the square. The same two men, also, owned a gin just west of the railroad. But, that sort of business did not hold long for Lee, and after about three years all of the town property was sold, and it was back to the farm for the family.

In the meantime, Lee bought land, 4 to 6 sections near Amarillo, Texas. He kept this land for a time, and it too, was sold. The money from this sale of land went into the purchase of land upon the ridge, that was located about 5 miles east of Muenster toward the Hayes community. This ranch had about 880 acres in it--400 in pasture and 400 in cultivation.

The McCollum family lived on the ridge for three years. It was at this point in Lee's life that could be described as very colorful because he was elected commissioner of Precinct 9 and 10.

One of the commissioners job was to keep the roads in good condition. The trouble was in that part of Cooke County there were no roads to keep in good repair. So, it was up to him to plan and pioneer some roads. Pioneer it proved to be as he had to use the county's prisoners (ball and chain gangs) as most of his workmen. Hills of solid rock were cut and dug down or blown out by the use of dynamite. The graders were pulled by ten mules each. Those same roads that Lee built are still in use today around in Warrens Bend and Muenster area. The cook on the gang was Albert Gooch. He did double duty cook by day, and guard by night. One of the prisoners tried to escape one night but Albert was to fast for him, he captured him. Also, while Lee was commissioner the old courthouse in Gainesville burned to the ground. So he had a hand in getting a new one.

The McCollums had many homes, but always longed to come home to Valley View, and in 1911 they did exactly that. The old T shaped home came in for a good remodeling job. The front and the back portion of the house had to go to be replaced by a new front and back. The three middle rooms were left as they were. With the new additions it made the little old house a large different house and it was a land mark in that area for many years. A big house was needed by this time because the McCollums had acquired a large family, two boys and four girls. Then too, they raised another child. She was the daughter of Mrs. McCollums sister, who had passed away; Neida (Huffer) McCollum came to live with them at the age of 18 months. She continued to live with them until she completed her education at N.T.S.U. at Denton, Texas. She taught school in the Hayes Community, and married Walter Cole of that same area. She now lives at Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Lee lived until January 28, 1930, and Mrs McCollum died June 20, 1937. Two of their daughters Opal and Gertie Calhoun live near Valley View today.

A son, Luther, lives at Carlsbad, New Mexico. He was sheriff of Cooke County for six years during the thirties.

## THE JOHN MALLICOTE FAMILY

Susie Elizabeth Cloud and John Mallicote were married in Tennessee in July, 1899. They came to Texas in January, 1902, bringing with them two sons Everett, 20 months and Willis, 3 months. They settled in Grayson County and in January, 1905, moved to Valley View.

John Mallicote was a farmer all his life. Susie Mallicote died in 1913. John Mallicote died in 1957. They are both buried in the Valley View cemetery.

Willis Mallicote operated a cleaning establishment and barber shop in Valley View for a number of years. He and his wife, the former Rubye Williams now reside in Gainesville. He has a daughter, Norma Jean Blevins, and two grandsons.

Everett Mallicote has lived at Valley View the past 67 years. He married the former Ora Gorham. Ora Gorham was born in a house in Valley View built by her father, the late Willie Gorham in 1898 on land that he owned. This house is now owned by the wood-drow Fritz family.

Everett Mallicote was a farmer. He served on the Valley View School Board a number of years. The everett Mallicotes have been active in the Baptist church during their married life where he has been a deacon since 1923.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Mallicote are the parents of five children, Kenneth, Ann, Charles, (Max) Sue, and Jane. They have five grandchildren. Kenneth and Suse are deceased and buried in the Valley View cemetery.

## BURNS CITY LODGE NO, 600 A.F. & A.M.

The Burns City Lodge No. 600 is located in Valley View on the east side of the square with a membership of 35. It was moved to Valley View in 1947 after the Burn's City school building was torn down, where the members met.

In the beginning, Valley View's Masonic Lodge No. 507 was chartered on December 23, 1879 and arranged with the Presbyterian Church to use the second floor of their buildings for meetings. In 1880 there were 200 inhabitants in Valley View.

The Valley View Masonic Lodge disbanded about 1934, after the third lodge room was destroyed by fire. Many of the members transferred to Burns City Lodge.

Burns City Lodge was chartered on December 12, 1884.

A partial list of the Worshipful Masters are: Ed Ingram, Elmer Johnson, Billie M. Mask, Jack R. Mann, Wylie McCollum, Floyd Carson, Donald Card, John A. Hudspeth, and Billy H. Maughan. Bill Terry and J.H. Buffington, deceased were Masters.

The Lodge members voted to give Bill Terry a life time membership for his work on the new brick building, on east side of square.

Present officers are:  
Master—Darnell Graves  
Senior Warden—Marcell Boydston  
Treasurer—Howard Springer  
Secretary—Billie M. Mask

## THE VALLEY VIEW TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Solomon family who own the Valley View Telephone Company are quietly observing their 60th year in telephone business, however all these years were not spent in Valley View.

The original telephone company was soon after the turn of the century, in 1911, while it was known as the Peoples Home Telephone Co. In 1912 they sold to a Mr. Pitts, they called it Pitts Interests.

In 1921, the Solomon family moved to Valley View, with Mrs. Solomon serving many years as "Central", with the switch board in their home. They raised two children, Louise and Bob. Louise is married to a former Valley Viewite, Dr. Drue Ward, they reside in Fort Worth. Bob and his wife Jerry reside on North Lee Street and have three daughters, Namely: Betty, Diane, and Jill.

R.E. Solomon, president of the company, came to Ennis, Texas in 1896, from Senatobia, Mississippi where he was born in 1889. He became a partner with his brother Frank Solomon, who was serving as postmaster at Hebron, Texas. They organized the Hebron Telephone Co. in 1912. In 1913 R.E. Solomon became a member of the Texas Telephone Association and has not missed many meetings since that time.

Bob Solomon is vice-president and general manager, making a third generation of his family in the telephone service. Mrs. R.E. Solomon is secretary.

Valley View is proud of their new brick telephone building, with direct dialing and all modern facilities. They serve Valley View exchange and Valley View east exchange, with 700 families receiving up-to-date telephone service.

## NEWSPAPERS

Following the Valley View News, have been several other newspapers in the town of Valley View. Sun was started September 12, 1906, and was published by James K. Rudolph for ten years. This was the most successful of any newspaper in the town. The Sun office being located on the second floor of a business house on the square. Following Mr. Rudolph, the Sun was operated through 1923 by Hugh Butler, Coy Williams, E.J. Meyers, and W.G. Arm-Strong, Charles Y. Craddock, Sam Hall, and Tom Murray. In 1923 H.B. Tune, publisher of Sanger Courier took over the Sun. The next paper was operated by Ed Knight, and was called the Valley View Voice, suppose the last paper was called the Valley View Beacon, as it came into being in May of 1930, pub-

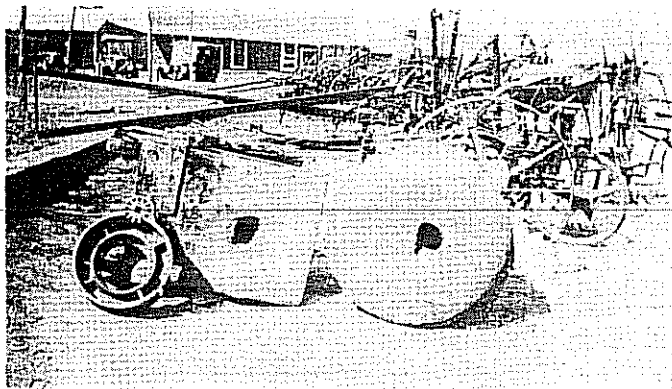
lished by Mr. Abernathy who was succeeded by Fred Gowdin, after which Mr. Toon took over the paper he published until the beginning of World War II, when it was suspended.

Editors during this period included Mrs. Corrine Gowdin, Mrs. Dave Lowe, Mrs. W.H. Vail and Marse Anderson. Most of the news gathered about Valley View in recent years is sent to The Gainesville Daily Registrar or to the Sanger paper as news items.

## MY HOME TOWN

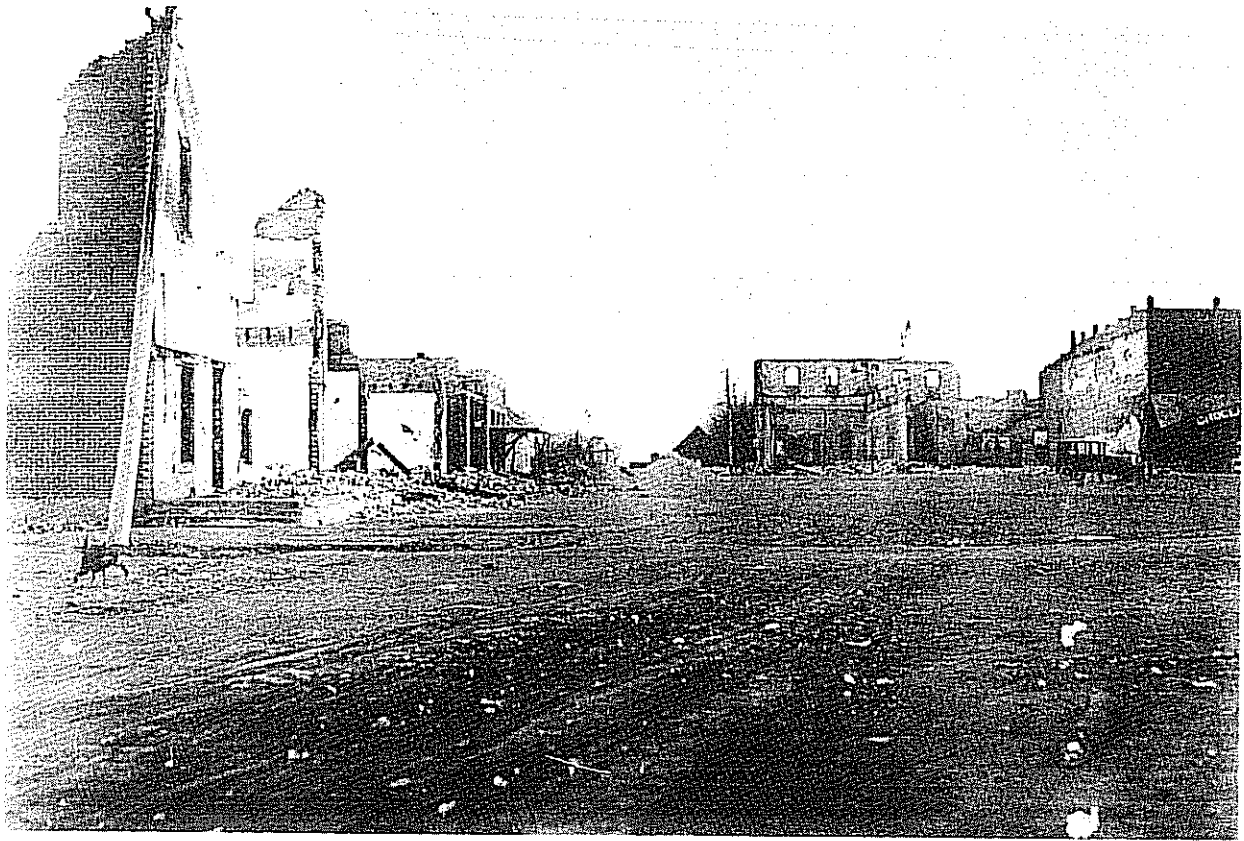
By: Tom Murray

Let me remember the little town where I was raised—My Home Town—as it used to be. Let me see the stately Hackberry trees standing majestically in yards guarded by white picket fences, and let me vision bright diamonds of light sprinkled against the night's darkness created by the old dim kerosene lamp. Let me remember the old streets whose virtue had not been broken by auto wheels. Keep me away from the hard pavement of the highway that I knew only as a soft, dusty road that was velvet to a boy's bare feet. Let me dwell only with the sweet memory of wild geese wedging southward, Christmas trees strung with white pop corn and tinsel and the early morning snow unbroken by human feet. Let me remember only the little things—simple things a boy loved. The still waters of the old swimming hole warmed by the July sun, and the black wasps nest we stoned high up in the pecan trees! Don't let me see the little town lights are ablaze and autos dash and the odor of gasoline fills the air. Let me remember the pleasant perfume of crushed green grass and and horse sweat of the old livery stable. Let me keep in memory the crack of the buggy whip and the rattle of wagons homeward bound in the mellow moonlight. Let me dream of the winter winds whistling music through the tall broom weeds and picnics in the park where we refreshed with cool water from the old flowing well and picked blue violets in the early spring. Let me wander always through the halls of memory with the little town as it used to be! Let me see only the little things—the simple things of long ago. Things a boy loved, and a man cannot forget.



Aftermath of the 1924 fire





1924 FIRE

**VALLEY VIEW FIRES**

1905 – Five buildings  
 R.P. Head 1  
 J.D. Johnson 2  
 L.W. Lee 2

1910 – July  
 L.W. Lee 2  
 Presbyterian Church  
 Waples Painter Lumber  
 Shelly & Nichols Black Smith  
 E.W. Carpenter Shop

1910 – Winter  
 Two buildings on south side

1923 – August  
 Two elevators  
 Warehouse  
 Depot

1924 –  
 1924 – September  
 East Side  
 First State Bank  
 Farm Labor Union  
 J.W. Leazer

1924 – December  
 First National Bank  
 Valley View Drug  
 Ward & Connell Barber Shop  
 Tom Murrary Cleaning  
 Weazman Cafe  
 T.H. Moddox Grocery  
 Home Theater  
 Brownlee Cafe  
 Edd Macks Cleaning

1949 – November 4  
 Grocery store of Jack Lathams

The Lathams fire on east side the last fire.

**THE PRESTON JONES**

In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Preston F. Jones moved to Valley View from Denton County and into the home of Captain Lee, the founder of Valley View. The lumber for this home was hauled from Sherman where the nearest railroad was located. It is told that Captain Lee would not accept any piece of lumber for the home that had a knot hole. In the late 1920's and early '30's there was a saw mill on the Jones

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VALLEY VIEW, TEXAS

tarm near Spring Creek. It was the view of the valley from this location, now 517 High Street, the home of Mrs. Willard Kemplin., that caused Mrs. Lee to name the town Valley View.

The Jones family had five daughters, Jewel, Mae Ona, Amy, and Ruby, one son, Jack. Only one of the Jones children, Amy, made Valley View her home. It was in 1900 that Amy married Jeff Wheeler. The Wheelers had two daughters, Freda and Ruby. In 1920, Freda was married to Eddie Klinglesmith, son of T.L. and Bessie Klinglesmith, who had moved to Valley View from Collin County in 1908. Ruby made California her home and resides in Hermosa Beach, California now. The Eddie Klinglesmiths had three daughters, Anna Grace, Laura Mae, and Betty Lou. Betty Lou, the youngest, passed away in 1945. Laura Mae was married to L.C. Kinne, grandson of J.W. and Martha Lanier of Valley View. The Kinnes now reside in Temple, Texas. Anna Grace married Jack Highfill, son of George and Carrie Highfill and grand son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Highfill. The Jack Highfills of Valley View have two sons, Jack Wilson, Jr. and George Edward.

### J.B. MILLER

J.B. Miller was the son of Dr. W.D. Miller of Callisburg and came to Gainesville in 1908. He went to a farm south of Gainesville, to see the threshers operating. He thought south of Gainesville was God's country. He really took a liking to what he saw!

Mr. Miller's grandfather came to Texas in 1850 from Missouri and bought land for 50¢ (that's right—fifty cents) an acre. They lived near Custer City.

Mr. Miller remembers cutting wood each day and hunting horses by night to make certain his father, Dr. Miller would have a fresh horse, in case he was called in the night, to make a house call.

J.B. first worked for J.C. Wright who owned a Drug Store in Callisburg. He helped freight lumber from Jefferson, Texas to build the Turner Hotel in Gainesville, to help pay his way at Medical school. He stated a man owed him a large debt at a General Mercantile store, the man moved away, leaving the debt, Mr. Miller picked the man's cotton crop to pay the bad debt.

In 1907–1908, he taught school at the Black Jack school. It proved to be his first and last experience with teaching, he decided working in a Drug Store would be better. He recalls reprimanding a "mean" boy one time, and the next Friday when they were having a spelling bee, the boy and his rough friends rode horses around the school building and shot up the place. Mr. Miller received \$50 a month, from the county and paid \$10 of that to the family where he roomed and boarded. He helped feed and slop the hogs—and butcher too. He rode his horse from home to school on weekends, and his horse was boarded for free. He attended a Methodist school at Honey Grove for two terms.

Mr. Miller worked for a Mr. Wright in his Drug Store in Callisburg, and finally bought Mr. Wright out and operated the store for a few years. Then went to work in Gainesville, Texas.

His first Drug Store work was for Stark's in Gainesville, he later came to Valley View and purchased a Drug Store from Mothershed's who neglected his business too much, to play dominoes, with the customers.

He was a school trustee when Lone Oak was being consolidated with Valley View. One irate father objected because he didn't want his son subjected to jokes from the "city-dudes" at Valley View school.

He married Miss Essie Smoot of Custer City, at the Callisburg Methodist Church where his mother attended.

They operated a Drug Store in Valley View for 42 years, raised their family here. The children are David, Hardy (deceased) J.B. (known as little J.B.), Mary Olive and Royce Dale. They moved to California, where Mrs. Miller passed away. He now resides at Lubbock with J.B.

When J.B. Miller closed the doors to the Drug Store, Part of Valley View died, then and there! He was accomadating and friendly, a friend to the poor and those not so poor, he has been badly missed in the community.

There was an incident that happened just a few days after I arrived in Valley View and took over the Valley View Drug Company.

I think it was the early part of September 1918. One of the Honeycut boys was working for me there in the store. The Church of Christ meeting was in progress, and there was quite a crowd in town that night, men were sitting on the bench in front of the store. I was working on my books in the front part of the store. I heard some one say, "Come over here and put up your hands." I thought it was just a gag, and I said "Go on, I am too busy." The voice said, "Come on over, I mean it."

I looked around and the Honeycut boy was standing out in the middle of the store with his hands as high as he could get them. I then put my hands up and faced a small boy with a 45 caliber pistol. He held the gun on us and I backed up to the cash register and got the change that I had just cashed up for the day. I left the dollar bills in the register and gave him only the change. He took the money, and still holding the gun on us, made for the front door, and in a flash he was gone.

We went out on the side walk at once, and told the men that we had just been robbed. No one would believe us, so I went back into the store and called the sherrif, he told me that a boy had stolen a 45 caliber pistol that evening there in Gainesville, and they were looking for him. The sherrif and his Deputy came down at once and we looked for him for 3 or 4 hours. We never found him.

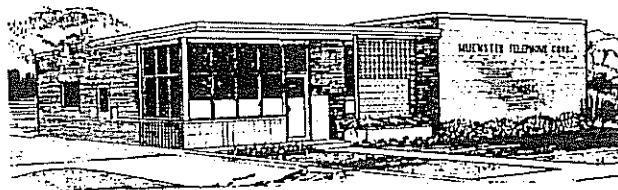
The next morning about daylight the boy walked into the Harvey House in Gainesville and asked to see the Manager. The laws had seen him go into the eating place and followed him in, While the boy was waiting for the Manager to show up, the laws walked in on him, one on each side, and as they got even with him, each grabbed an arm. I got my money back.

This story was my introduction to Valley View.

J.B. Miller  
August 30, 1972  
Lubbock, Texas

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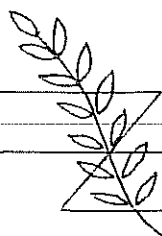
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