

The Tyler County Booster

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Price 10c

District 5 Meeting Slated Here Friday By East Texas Chamber

Life Was Different In Tyler County At the Dawn of 20th Century

The twentieth century dawned in Tyler County and the playgrounds of deep East Texas in a period that saw few of the modern conveniences in use that are taken for granted today.

Transportation was confined to the railroad, the rivers, the horse and buggy, and man's own two good feet.

Power for the main industries of the area, sawmills, and cotton gins, came from the many streams through the use of water wheels.

Recreation was in simple home parties and in log rollings when a new home was built. The logs were rolled up and burned; the neighbors from miles around gathered for a big dinner and dance afterwards.

These glimpses of the area at the turn of the century were recalled by five friends at a dinner at the Judge James E. Wheat home recently reminiscing about the early days.

The five, all born in the 1880s, were S. P. Sims, Sr., Cecil Smith, Lee M. Feagin, W. E. (Gene) Martin, and the host, Judge Wheat.

Although water was the principal source of power in Tyler County when the men were born, the steam engine had invented but its use in Tyler County was limited to railroads and river boats. Electrically was also in use, but not in Tyler County when the men were boys.

Incidentally, the first steam-powered sawmill in Tyler County was put in by Mr. Feagin.

The automobile, in its early stages of development, had not made much headway in this area. The roads were trails fraught with perils to the motorist in the form of tides of deep sand and, in rainy weather, deep mud. Mr. Sims recalled that the road from Chester to Woodville was one of the most difficult, and was almost lined with "prized" poles which motorists used to hit the wheels from the deep mud holes. The poles were left at these spots for use by other motorists.

Probably the first, if not actually the first, auto in the county belonged to Alec Thompson who operated the big sawmill in Doucette, Thompson's car was a Cadillac. Mr. Smith recalled that his first car was a White Steamer. Judge Wheat recalled that when he moved to Woodville in 1914 there were only two cars here--Thompson's and one belonging to Judge J. A. Mooney. In 1915, Mr. Wheat and five other persons went together to order a carload of six Oakland roadsters. Judge Wheat, Mr. Smith and

Livingston Lions

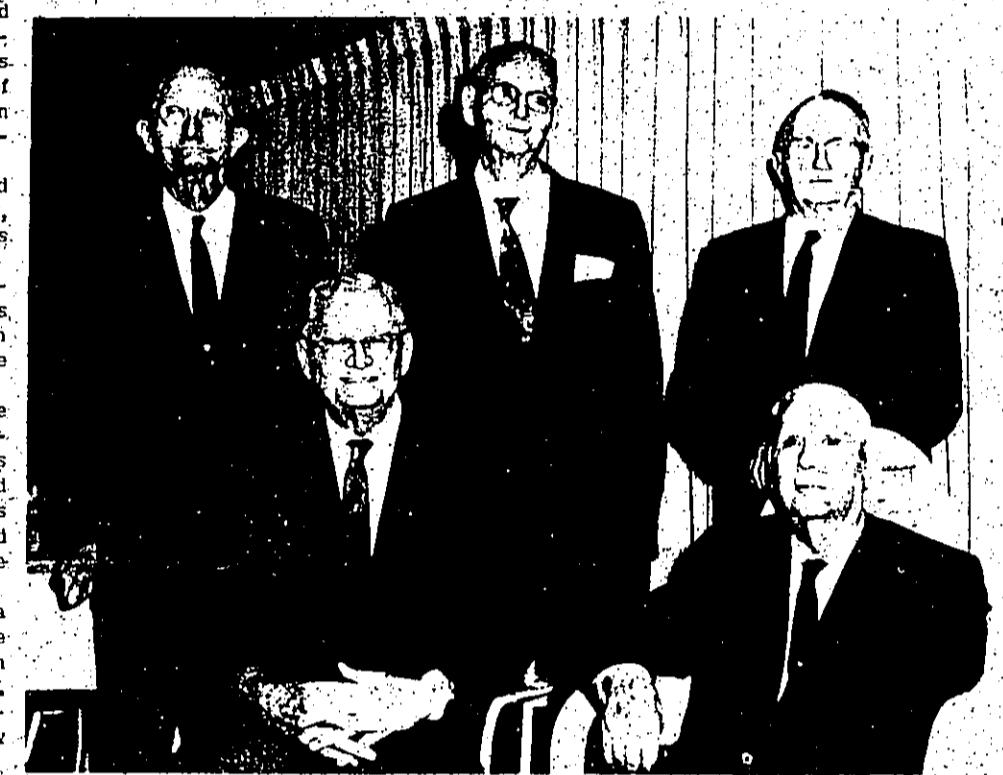
Installation Set

Here At Motel

The installation banquet of the Livingston Lions Club will be held here tonight (Thursday) at the Dogwood Motor Hotel.

Bill Dove, retiring president, said that Zona Chapman Tucker Weems of Lufkin will be the installing officer.

New officers of the club are: George Webster, president; President John Martin, second vice-president; T. E. Duke, 3rd vice-president; S. C. Laird, secretary; J. W. Knox, treasurer; John May, Lionmaster; Gary Walker, talltwister; Jimmy Neal Hooks, assistant talltwister. Directors are Eddie Martin, Nolan Archey, Beaman Davis, Billy Steele, Jim Banks and Dr. Woody Rees. Sweethearts are Linda Schrader and Roselyn Rasher.



These five Woodville men, all in their teens when the twentieth century dawned in Tyler County, met recently for a luncheon to discuss the days of their youth. Seated are James E. Wheat, and

Cecil Smith, standing from left are S. P. Sims, Sr., Lee Feagin and W. E. Martin.

was in the automobile business here most of that time.

Mr. Sims is a native of Comanche County. He came to Woodville in 1888. He is a former logging train engineer, but is remembered here as long-time city secretary of Woodville until he retired several years ago.

Mr. Martin is a native of Sabine County. He was born near Hemphill, and first entered the business at the town of Pineyland, which was not in existence when he was born. He came to Woodville from Jasper over 50 years ago and

Mr. Feagin has been, at various times, president of all three banks in the city.

Mr. Wheat has been a practicing attorney here for the past 53 years and served on the school board for 29 years.

But all five of the men recalled that as youths their first work was on the farm, which was the major place of summer employment when the one-room schools were not in session.

While Woodville was the

center of their activities, they met to make a name and success in their chosen businesses and professions. And, they met at head-on, and succeeded.

Mr. Wheat, who was born January 1, is the longest in the group. He was 13 at the turn of the century. Mr. Smith was a young man of 17. Mr.

Sims, 16, and Mr. Martin and Mr. Feagin just were 14

years old.

Another old friend, Jim Bryan of Spurger, was unable to attend the dinner because of illness. He is 90 years of age.

County Tax Equalization Hearings Set For July 10-17

First Carrier Based Fighter Squadron Reunion Set Here Sunday, Monday

A reunion of the first night fighter plane squadron in the history of the country will be held at Dogwood Motor Hotel here Sunday and Monday with members from throughout the United States expected to attend.

The squadron, officially designated as CVLG (n) 41, flew from the carrier USS Independence during World War II. The reunion here was arranged by a member of the squadron, Forrest M. Archer, who came out of the second world war with the rank of Full Lieutenant in the Naval Air Corps.

Major E. W. Gassett has designated July 2 through 8 as "Squadron Week" in Woodville as recognition of the group's selection of Woodville for its reunion.

Some 40 to 50 persons are expected here for the reunion. Many will arrive Friday and Saturday prior to the opening of the reunion Sunday. Early arrivals will be entertained with a barbecue at the Triple D Guest Ranch near Warren Sunday afternoon.

The reunion will end with a banquet and dance Sunday night at the Dogwood Motor Hotel.

The first reunion was held in Lancaster, Ohio, in June, 1948.

It was believed to be the first instance in which parents of a son killed in the service, had sponsored a reunion of fighting companions (sis-squadron).

An admission charge of 25 cents will be charged adults.

Children under 12 years of age will be admitted free with parents.

Mixon Attending

Kiwanis Meeting

In Houston Today

G. C. Mixon, Rockland, Texas, a member of the Woodville Kiwanis Club, Woodville,

is attending the fifty-second Annual Convention of Kiwanis International at Sam Houston Memorial Coliseum in Houston, Texas. A total of 16,000

people - Kiwanians and their families - are on hand for the affair, the third in Texas since 1935. They represent some 275,000 Kiwanians in 5400 clubs in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, and the Far East.

Kiwanians and their families in attendance are hearing from top personalities during the four and one-half days of the convention.

The program was planned by Mrs.

and Mildred Williams of Co-

united, but then more realistic, what actually was in the life of Tyler County then, according to Mr. Sims. He had a fair sawmill, employed many people, and had better sheep.

The town had sandy roads

to Woodville, traversed by less than a day in a car (with gas tank). Mr. Sims recalled that he went to his first cotton show in Doucette in 1901. It was usually crowded, and he recalls that it was in a church building. Admission was five cents.

Initially, while a motorist could go to Doucette or Chester, it was a two-day trip to Beaumont. Usually the tourist had to spend the night somewhere on the way. Kountz was often the first day's drive.

All combinations of char-

acter were prevalent in the con-

ditions. Services were held at

places only once a month.

Principally preachers dur-

ing their youth were Bro.

and C. C. Newlin.

He also recalled that in

the days, seed for the next year's crop had to be dried and saved since there were no available stores. With

the many cotton gins in the

area, a major problem was

the disposal of cotton seed

at that time practically useless after enough were sown.

The following year's crop,

the old water-wheel gin

dumped them usually in the

creek, sometimes damming

it with the seed.

The men tried to determine

in their own opinions, the one

thing that had contributed most

to the poor crops.

Following their sons death,

the Williams adopted the

remaining members of the

squadron. They travelled ne-

arly 50,000 miles thru 22

states to locate war-time sq-

adron comrades of their son.

The second reunion was again

held in Lancaster, Ohio in

June, 1950, as was the third

in 1952.

late in 1952, the Williamses

flew to California and held a

reunion at the Los Alamitos,

Calif. Air Base for all squad-

ron folks living in the area

of the West coast.

Then in 1955, another reunion

was held in Lancaster, Ohio,

which marked the tenth anni-

versary of the ending of the

war, at which time it was ag-

reed to stretch the reunions

(Continued on page seven)

District 5 of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce will hold a luncheon at the Dogwood Motor Hotel here Friday at noon. Principal speaker at the luncheon meeting will be Lt. Col. C. L. Gandy, president of the Dogwood Inn.

Mr. Gandy, a retired

officer, will speak on the

topic of "The Future of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce."

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State Capital NEWS

By Vern Corson

Exercising his veto power to cut appropriations, Gov. John Connally reduced \$32,000 of the one-time voter-approved capital bill and killed 27 bills passed by the 59th Legislature.

None of the vetoed bills called for general state expenditures of \$12,815,760 beginning September 1, 1968.

"By way of explanation of my veto action, in the

first, I understand the intent taken by the legislature to provide the funds needed to meet the state's increasing needs to its people. However,

as you know, the budget

of the Legislature was apportioned. That is, not everybody's capital is justified.

On the other hand, the Legislature which would have to use the budget of the state's

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AND MONDAY
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JACK SPRAT
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BENCO
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5 LB. BAG
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GEBHARDT'S
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FRESH DRESSED USDA WHOLE

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LB. 27c

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300 CANS

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POTATOES CALIFORNIA LONG WHITE 8 LBS. 49c CANTALOUPE

15c RED SWEET ONIONS CALIF.

4 FOR \$1.00

LB. 19c EXTRA FANCY WINESAPS

LB. 19c

FRESH CUCUMBERS

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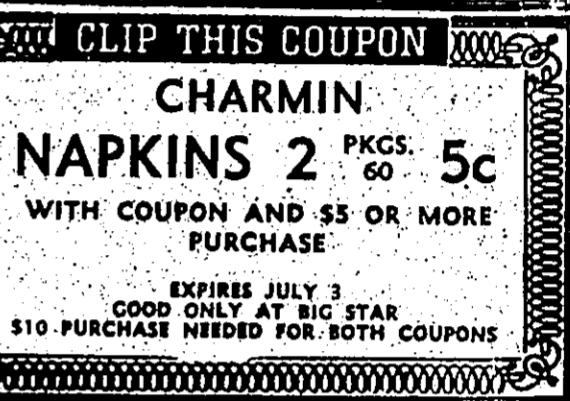
EACH 10c SEEDLESS

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