THE DEMOCRAT YEARS:
A GROWING PROCESS

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the
North Texas State University in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

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Denton, Texas
August, 1977

Changes of ownership, a seeming lack of interest in history, several deaths, and a fire prompted this study into the history of *The Weatherford Democrat*.

Data for the thesis came from back issues of *The Democrat*, *Ayer Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals*, letters from former publishers, and personal observations and experiences of the writer, who worked on the paper 14 years. All but about a dozen years of the back issues are available.

The thesis is written in chronological order, dating from the beginning in 1895 to 1967, when the Donrey Media Group gained control, ending local ownership.

*The Democrat* is the survivor of more than 20 newspaper ventures in the city and is still the principal county paper.
PREFACE

As our nation celebrated its Bicentennial Year, much interest was expressed in the past. Nostalgia reached new highs with a demand being exhibited for almost anything with some age to it, whether it had any real or imagined value. While this "fever" was gripping the country, people showed a renewed interest in the recording of history. Communities wrote or rewrote their histories, and families dug back into dark closets to search out family trees, and, in some cases, reveled over a skeleton or two. This upsurge of interest was good, because the preservation of the past is something that can not always be done.

With this renewed interest in the past, though, there was a lack of concern or, perhaps, a selective concern. Much of our past is rapidly disappearing. Our buildings and homes are being torn down to make way for so-called progress. Parking lots and shopping centers have ravaged once-peaceful residential areas and downtowns alike. On the other hand, some of our landmarks are being left alone to die on their own. Rust and deterioration are taking their tolls. Cleaning campaigns have added to the list of discarded historical items. Death is stilling the voices of the past. Granted, not everything can or should be saved.
Some thought as to the consequences needs to be given before an item is discarded or destroyed.

A fire, the destruction of a couple of old landmarks and the passing of a dear historian friend caused me to think more seriously about doing something to record some of the facts before it is too late. Fourteen years of working for the same business draws one closer to it than one might care to admit. Seeing a newspaper grow over those 14 years from a country weekly to an award-winning small city daily is an exciting experience in itself, but when one is on the inside, it is truly an adventure.

A newspaper is the life of any community and it is the recorder of its comings and goings, its joys and its sorrows. And, whether it accepts fully the role or not, the newspaper is a historian.

A fire in the press room destroyed some of the stored volumes of The Weatherford Democrat a couple of years back, setting me to thinking of that period of history literally going up in smoke. Like most other small newspapers, inadequate care had been taken to preserve the back issues and bound volumes. There were already vacant spaces in the back files when I joined the staff in 1952. I realized that someone must write the story of the newspaper and the history that it had recorded; why not I?

Death had already taken its toll of the pioneers but there were representatives of the past five publishers who
helped with pictures and statements. Brief summaries of their tenures helped in this preparation.

My search for circulation figures and ownerships led down some dark paths until I was able to secure copies of pages from all of the *Ayer Newspaper Directories* from 1895 to 1967. Some of the listings of editors and publishers were slow to be changed but, for the most part, the information was accurate.

The quest for back issues of the paper was even more difficult since the present ownership, the Donrey Media Group, has files only since its takeover in 1967. A search of university and public libraries over the state revealed only a few scattered years, and gifts and loans from individuals added limited numbers. The Fort Worth Public Library reported having a microfilm of the first years of the paper as well as a few other scattered copies. The librarian indicated that this was only a copy of the original microfilm in the Weatherford Public Library, which had begun to grow in recent years. Mrs. Saida Yoder, librarian, said she had acquired some back volumes that had been on loan to Weatherford College for a centennial research project and that she had borrowed on a somewhat permanent basis other back files from the newspaper before the fire. A complete cataloging of the papers had not been made, but a tabulation showed that all but about a dozen years are complete or partially complete dating from 1895. Many of the papers
missing are from the 1950's when I was an employee; and both of the publishers, Lyndol and Harold Hart, from that period are still in the community. Lyndol Hart taught journalism at Tarrant County Junior College and Weatherford College after the 1967 sale, and his brother, Harold, is an investment counselor in Fort Worth.

An interview with the widow and daughter of R. K. Phillips, who was with The Democrat the longest, provided help. His successor, Carl Hartness, a retired printer, wrote his memories of the paper, as did Guy Graves of the Graves-Mobley era. Graves retired in Irving.

The necessity of writing something was brought into sharper focus with the death of historian Fred R. Cotten, an authority on the county history who died without writing his knowledge of the past. With the exception of a few magazine and newspaper articles and a couple of taped speeches, his knowledge of the area was not recorded. He was closely associated with history as a participant, and he viewed much from his furniture store on the town square.

Perhaps my inquiry into the history of The Democrat will bear other fruit. Bill Boykin, past Texas Press Association manager, indicated in a letter that the TPA would begin microfilming the newspapers of 100 years or more ago for its Austin files. It is hoped that this will stir renewed interest into the histories of our state's older newspapers. This stored information will be available to researchers in future generations.

Jon R. Vandagriff
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CHAPTER I

THE EARLY YEARS 1895-1909

Newspapers have pioneered along with the early settlers in Texas, and Parker County was no exception. The newspapers came to the settlement along with churches and schools giving out information. The first Parker County newspaper—The Frontier News—was established only two years after the county and town were founded in 1858. The early venture was followed by others, and they in turn were followed by still others. Of the more than 20 such papers to be established, only a few had lives of any length and only one now stands as a monument to the pioneers who preceded it. The Weatherford Democrat, which had its beginnings in 1895, is the city's lone survivor and the county's principal paper.

The Frontier News lasted only three years. A second newspaper, The White Man, began operation two years later, in 1860, but this anti-Indian paper was later moved to Jacksboro, site of the famed Indian trial in 1871, in which two Kiowa chiefs, Satanta and Big Tree, were convicted of murder in the first Indian trial in a white criminal court.

A string of newspapers followed with very few lasting more than a few years until 1895, when The Democrat came on the scene. It was this weekly and a daily newspaper,
The Herald, founded five years later, that carried the journalistic banner into the space age. The name of The Herald was purchased by The Democrat in the mid-1960's, ending one of the country's few competing daily newspaper operations. Several weeklies have little more than got their feet wet before folding up.

It is in the 1896 edition of N. W. Ayer & Son's Newspaper Annual that The Democrat got its first listing among the newspapers of the nation. Cullum-Baker Printing Company was the editor and publisher. The original Thursday publication date would be changed several times during the weekly years but, more often than not, it was on the fifth day of the week that the paper was published. The average eight pages measured 15 x 22 inches and the subscription rate was $1 per year. The same number of pages and subscription rate remained popular for many years and it was not until the late 1940's that the number of pages ran consistently over that figure as a weekly newspaper.

Ayer listed the city's population at 3,369, with a county figure of 25,000. The decision to start another weekly in a community that small with an already full market--three other weeklies in operation--might have seemed unwise, but it was the newcomer that stuck it out. The Republic was the largest of the trio, with a circulation of 1,800; The Leader was next at 1,000. The smallest of the group was The Parker County News with 860 (1, p. 770). When The Democrat
decided to bring out a weekly to supplement the daily edition in the late 1960's, this was the name selected. The News and Republic had Friday publication dates and The Leader, Wednesday (1, p. 770).

In addition to W. V. Cullum and Captain Hiram Baker, others connected with the newspaper in the early days were Major M. V. Kinnison and A. C. R. Morgan. Major Kinnison helped establish The Democrat and soon thereafter moved to the editorial staff of The Republic, October 3, 1895 (2, Sec. 11, p. 1). In 1897, Ayer listed H. E. Moss as editor of the paper having a circulation of 1,481, according to a detailed statement (3, p. 799). Ben Hartley, who joined the staff as manager in the second year of operation, supplied much information about the early days in an article written for a special historical section in 1935. Charles Nolte, another early printer, resigned in the second year and, soon afterwards, Cullum left the staff to go to Houston, leaving Captain Baker in charge. At that time, the paper office was on the west side of the courthouse square, just south of the Haynes Opera House, which was on the corner (2, Sec. 11, p. 1). At the other end of the block, cornering on Palo Pinto Street, was the famed Carson-Lewis House, a landmark for many years.

The earliest edition of The Democrat available is one of the first, dated April 11, 1895. The first edition had been published three weeks earlier. This and other issues
from the initial two years of operation have been preserved on microfilm in the Weatherford Public Library. Advertisements were sprinkled liberally throughout the paper, including the first page. One of the larger front page ads was for the Merchants and Farmers National Bank, now a state bank. A capital listed at $150,000 with a surplus of $30,000 gives an idea as to the economy of that day. W. H. Eddleman was president of the bank. Other ads included "Maddox's Good Shoes That Fit" on the west side of North Main Street, and one for the North Central Business College.

Front page news items dealt with an interview with Ex-Governor James A. Hogg in New York; Democrats winning in Missouri; "On Shiloh's Historic Field"; a cattle market report; and several short paragraphs of Texas news. One-column heads, mostly of the label variety, were used.

Interest in the Civil War and its battlefields and veterans continued to show up in articles frequently until 1945, when the county's last Confederate veteran died (4, p. 1).

An interesting trend in advertising is noted from the first issues, carrying through until the 1970's. Merchants of the community seemed loathe to run merchandising ads. A signature or promotion-type ad had been the dominant type over the years. It could be that the paper had attracted advertising people who liked to use the simpler types of ads, but, again, the merchants over the years seemed to prefer that sort of thing. Ads run in the 1970's featuring
prices and merchandise seemed to be mainly from the younger businessmen or from people who moved into the community in recent years.

A house ad on page seven of the earliest available issue listed The Weatherford Democrat as a six-column, eight-page paper published every Thursday at $1 a year by Cullum-Baker Printing Company, "A progressive, wide-awake, no patent plate [all home printed] up-to-date newspaper. You will find The Weatherford Democrat right on the great and important issues of the day (4, p. 1)." The stated philosophy of being up-to-date and right on the issues was evidently a good one which enabled it to remain on the scene when the others failed.

Many short items of local interest did fill the pages. Most were not of any great consequence but they did carry a lot of local names. One of the longer stories, headed "The Compress Waterworks," gives an insight into conditions of the day. The story said the failure of the town's water supply compelled the Weatherford Compress Company to put in waterworks of its own. The company had dug a 40-foot-deep well 10 feet in diameter. Water was pumped into a tank on a tower 50 feet high. Problems of supplying enough water to the town were not solved until the city built Lake Weatherford in the mid-1950's.

In 1896, an early issue carried a story of "Our Water Prospects." A visit to the water plant on March 31 found
Captain Henry Warren, whose wagon train had been attacked by the Kiowa Indians in 1871, with his coat off and working with the men on the old waterworks plant. A Dallas company was reported to have the contract for boring new wells. In addition to the new wells, ice and electrical power would be furnished the citizens.

On the same page was a "for sale" classified ad for the C. C. Baker Stage Line. Baker, a relative of the paper's founder, had provided "first-class" transportation with his wagons and buggies for many years but he was now ready to retire. His son, Carson, carried on the family transportation tradition as agent for Greyhound Bus Lines in the city until that mode of transportation waned in popularity in the days following World War II.

Also in the transportation news of 1896, the Weatherford, Mineral Wells, and Northwestern Railway Company, a short-line railroad, had completely overhauled and rebuilt the large freight locomotive it ran to Mineral Wells (5, p. 1).

Early issues of the paper concerned themselves with another pressing problem of the day--that of communication. Each issue for many years carried a listing by the Postmaster of unclaimed letters for that week. This was necessary because there was no local delivery service. Each list carried the statement that if not called for within two weeks, the letters would be sent to the dead letter office.
Early issues carried classified listings of city directory (city and county officials), secret societies and their meeting times, and professional cards. This information is as valuable to the researcher as it must have been to early day readers.

In 1895, the city fathers were George P. Levy, mayor; A. A. Lewis, secretary; F. Applegate, treasurer; F. L. Hutcheson, city secretary; D. O. Bratton, city marshal; J. T. Lowery and T. M. Rushing, aldermen, Ward One; J. H. Maxey and P. W. Price, aldermen, Ward Two; William T. Ivey and R. B. Milliken, Ward Three; and J. C. McConnell and S. G. Maddox, Ward Four. Secret societies meeting in the town were Weatherford Chapter No. 105, A. F. & A. M; IOOF Lodge No. 77; Half Century Club of Parker County; Sam J. Randall Post No. 45 GAR; Linton Lodge No. 175 Knights of Pythias; and Lone Star Lodge No. 4 Knights of Pythias.

Churches listed were First Baptist, Couts Memorial Methodist-Episcopal, Central Christian, Cumberland Presbyterian, and First Methodist-Episcopal. The professionals represented in the list were W. E. Richards, lawyer; H. F. Henderson, DDS; Howard Martin, attorney; R. L. Watt, dentist; and Dr. G. S. Cotten (ear, throat, lungs, kidney, catarrh, uterine, rectal, eczema, ulcers, etc.).

Arrival and departure times for the mails and railroads were carried for the convenience of the readers.
Friendly banter between the town's newspapers was often carried on in what could loosely be called an editorial column. In the May 23, 1895 edition, the writer said,

Somebody saw an editor of a Weatherford paper on last Sunday fishing in Clear Fork. The Leader says it was not I, The Republic says it was not I, and The Democrat says it was not I, and further, the editor of The Democrat declares that he has not had the pleasure of wetting a line in the water for the finny tribe for more than two years past. We hope the brethren of the press will "remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy (6, p. 1)."

An editorial in the summer of 1895 demanded improvements for the town. "The Water Works Company, the Telephone Company, the Telegraph Company, the Transfer Line, the Express Company, the grocery merchants, the farmers, the newspapermen, the pastors of churches all want the streets and houses of Weatherford named and numbered." This was one of the items taken as a campaign by the paper and listed each week under things Weatherford needed. Other items included railroad, a cotton factory, another good hotel, a larger opera house, a street car system, an electric light system, and a city park. Most of these goals were reached in a few short years. However, the Haynes Opera House was destroyed and not replaced and, despite many efforts, another railroad was just not to be.

By the fall of the initial year, the masthead claimed The Democrat as the official paper of the city and boasted a circulation of 2,000 guaranteed. However, that circulation figure was not reached in the reports to Ayer for
several years after that. The published figure must have been used for local propaganda.

The new hotel that was hoped for was realized in November 1895 when Colonel J. F. Monfort, one-time proprietor of the Carson-Lewis House and, later, the Harris House at Terrell, bought the Sikes house with plans for a first class hotel having entrances on Houston and West Church Streets. The new hotel was in the first block off the southwest corner of the town square (7, p. 1).

Telephone service was expanded late that year as many new lines were added for residential customers several blocks from the courthouse square.

One item that almost slipped past unnoticed in the search through the early issues was one that was to have great consequence in the community and was even felt in Fort Worth. Law suits were filed contesting the wills of J. R. Couts and his daughter, Mary Couts Burnett. The page four story on December 12, 1895 was only about an inch long under the head "Quiet Wedding." The Reverend W. D. Brasfield of Couts Memorial Methodist-Episcopal Church married J. R. Couts, prominent rancher and banker, and Miss Sallie M. Buster, daughter of Colonel M. W. Buster, in her parents' home. The bridegroom was the philanthropic president and founder of the Citizens National Bank. (Couts Memorial Church was named in his honor when he gave the financially troubled church a considerable sum of money.) Miss Buster
was the second wife of the elderly banker. The wedding, which took place several years after the death of the first Mrs. Couts, caused the Couts children to become estranged from their father. Couts changed his will and this produced the fireworks at his death (8, p. 1).

In February 1896, an article copied from The Granbury Graphic suggested having a short daily discussion of the current news in the public schools each day, and suggested running a digest of the news from a daily paper (9, p. 5). Newspapers in the classroom is not such a new idea.

Initial steps were taken in late February to solve one of the city's needs with the formation of the Chicago, Weatherford, and Brazos Valley Railroad. Captain Warren was selected to head the citizens committee. Other officers were banker Charles Barthold, vice president; Mayor Levy, secretary; and businessman E. Bell, treasurer. Directors named were Couts, Bell, J. D. Baker, Warren, Levy, L. W. Christian, D. R. Coleman, and R. H. Foat. At the meeting held in the courthouse, Bell reported on a visit to Rock Island Railroad officials in Chicago and said they appeared to be in favor of speedy construction of their line to Bridgeport. Weatherford people were to build a line to that point (9, p. 5).

W. M. Feagle took over the editorial and business control of the paper with the February 27 issue. Baker said Feagle was a well known newspaperman, highly recommended as
a writer and gentleman. In his pledge to continue a good paper, Feagle said it would be Democratic and would advocate restoration of silver as money with a 16-to-1 coinage ratio. The silver issue was mentioned frequently and The Democrat sided with the "silverites (10, p. 2)."

Railroad news was to continue as the center of interest for the next several weeks. The possibility of the Rock Island's building a main line to the Gulf of Mexico was mentioned in one story, with representatives from Springtown, Bridgeport, and Weatherford working toward this end. Bridgeport representatives visited the city in early March and citizens were urged to double their contributions and the subscriptions totaled $20,000. A group of citizens from Decatur came to the meeting but were late in arriving and were only introduced. This was the highlight of the first issue of the second year (11, p. 8).

Although the railroad occupied the main interest of the citizenry, other things of importance were taking place in the next few weeks. The cornerstone of the Presbyterian Church was laid (12, p. 8), an election was held, and W. J. Carson, builder of the Carson-Lewis House and other brick buildings in the city, died (13, p. 2). Election winners were Peter Radford, representative; F. O. McKenzie, county judge; N. Haney, county attorney; W. M. Parsons, county clerk; L. L. Lindsey, district clerk; E. N. McCracken, sheriff; J. F. Swofford, treasurer; W. F. Noble, tax assessor;
A. M. Patterson, surveyor; and J. L. L. McCall, district judge. The city treasurer's report showed $7,914.81 as general fund receipts.

In late May, the paper republished an item from The Gazette of Austin to the effect that the charter of the Chicago, Weatherford, and Brazos Valley Railroad had been granted. The line was to run between Weatherford and Bridgeport, in Wise County, where it would connect with the Rock Island Line (14, p. 6). A route map showing the proposed line along with a story giving additional speculation about the road was printed July 3 (15, p. 3).

A sign of the times was noted as a city ordinance was published prohibiting bicycle and tricycle traffic at night without a light or alarm bell. The fine for the misdemeanor was not to exceed $5 (16, p. 5). Quite often, the editors carried stories on runaways. Frightened horses, quite often, bolted, and several people were killed and many others injured over the years.

The publishers of the paper ran a subscription contest through the latter part of 1896 and the winners were named in the November 26 edition. A. J. Walker was the winner of a new Brown Wagon. J. H. McClurcken of Springtown was second and R. F. Storey of Poolville, third. Newly elected officials named in the same issue were I. N. Roach, judge; H. C. Shropshire, state representative; R. B. Hood, county attorney; W. C. McFall, county clerk; A. C. R. Morgan,
district clerk; Y. H. Isbell, sheriff; William Boone, collector; J. J. Taylor, assessor; J. P. Kerr, treasurer; John Morton, surveyor; J. P. Gilliland, commissioner precinct one; J. A. Rutledge, commissioner precinct two; W. K. Neal, commissioner precinct three; and A. H. Davis, commissioner precinct four (17, p. 1).

The Spanish-American War called Captain Baker to service in 1898, so he leased the paper to Hartley and "Big Frank" Browder, who became editor succeeding Moss. Browder earned the nickname because there was another Frank Browder already in the community. Browder remained with the paper for only a short time and then moved to Denton. Sam Parsons was hired as editor and Al MacNelly, who later became owner of the longtime Democrat rival Herald, was employed in the mechanical department. Hartley later left the paper and moved to Waco.

Aaron Smith, who had been born without arms, served as editor of The Democrat from 1900 to 1905 and again from 1907 to 1908 (18, p. 1). Papers during most of Smith's tenure are unavailable but the Ayer Directory shows the paper made substantial circulation gains during that time. Despite the paper's claim of 2,000 in 1896, the figures carried by Ayer were 1,481 in 1897 (3, p. 799), 1,475 in 1898 (19, p. 804), and 1,485 in 1899 (20, p. 814). The turn-of-the-century figure was 1,537, ranking The Democrat second after The Republic in circulation, as the latter
boasted 1,860. The New Leader had 1,300, and The Parker County News, which was then the weekly edition of the new Daily News, 850.

It was in 1900 that J. E. H. Railey brought out The Herald as an evening daily, except Sunday, and a Thursday weekly to compete with The Democrat. This gave the city six papers, seemingly too many for a population of only 4,786 in the city and 25,823 in the county (21, p. 825). The daily and weekly News dropped out of the competition the following year and Smith added a morning, except Monday, daily Democrat (22, p. 838). The daily lasted only two years and the weekly was continued alone. A Populist paper, The Reformer, was listed by Ayer in 1903 but it dropped out soon (23, p. 855). By 1905, only the daily and weekly Herald and and The Democrat remained (24, p. 858).

A new face came on the scene in 1905 when T. R. Erwin and Company began publication of The Plain Texan. Victor E. Martin was editor. C. M. Smith had replaced Aaron Smith as editor and publisher of The Democrat, which, by that time, had a circulation of 1,790. (The armless Smith went to Fort Worth to enter the publishing business, establishing Branch-Smith Publishing Company.) Across town, Railey claimed his daily was up to 2,146 subscribers (25, p. 869).

In 1906, changes took place as the nameplate carried the name of Plain Texan and Democrat. Martin was editor and Aaron Smith had returned as assistant editor and business
manager. The paper was being published twice a week at 213 North Main Street. Moreover, for the first time, art work began to appear in editorial and advertising copy and individual mug shots (all single column) were added. The name change was to present problems for several years until it reverted to The Democrat (26, p. 2).

The five-column paper carried an account of the unexpected death of Alfred H. Belo, head of The Dallas and Galveston News, in Dallas on March 2, 1906 (27, p. 2). The next week, almost a full page was devoted to the death of Governor James A. Hogg. Many one-column and one-line label heads were still being used at the time. Also in the March 9 edition, an announcement was made that C. M. Smith had removed the job printing office from the newspaper building to the east side of the town square in a building formerly occupied by the Weatherford Furniture Exchange. New presses powered by electricity and new type were purchased for the print shop (28, p. 2).

During this time period, many patent medicine ads were running. Some of the more popular ones were Lydia Pinkham Female Compound, Dodd's Kidney Pills, Anti-Gripine, Bassett's Native Herbs Company, Sloan's Liniment, Wine of Cardui, California Fig Syrup Company, Castoria, Black-Draught, Wintersmith's Chill Tonic, Oxidine, Crazy Water Crystals, and Peruna. Little ads appeared in the front page ears (little boxes on either side of the page one nameplate).
In the news line, obituaries, out-of-town news (mostly copied from other papers), and county correspondents filled the pages. April 17's issue reported the New Telephone Company was in operation with lines reaching into Jack, Wise, Palo Pinto, and Hood Counties, and the Riddel Telephone System was given a new franchise to operate. In the city election, Hugh McGrattan was named mayor pro tem and Aldermen R. P. Lowe and John Porter were re-elected. Boyd Porter was reappointed, and G. A. Holland and J. E. Armstrong were new appointees to the city school board. John Prince and H. J. Bradfish went off the board (29, p. 1).

The April 20 front page took on a new look as a four-deck headline of varying type sizes recounted the destruction of San Francisco by earthquake (30, p. 1). Following issues had a large map of the disaster area and additional stories about the damage. Tragedy struck closer to home when the May 4 paper carried an account of a cyclone hitting Bellevue, Texas, killing 15. A long story with a three-column headline was used by the editor (31, p. 2).

Much ground work by the business community came to a successful conclusion when the announcement was made May 11 that title for the land had been secured for the Knights of Pythias Home. Charles H. Page, who drew the plans for the Texas building at the World's Fair, was chosen as architect. Copied after a French castle, the home for Pythian orphans and widows was to be built just east of the city on what
became the Bankhead Highway. Landing the home was quite a
plum for the city. Citizens had worked long and hard to
beat out other Texas cities for the construction site
(39, p. 1).

The nameplate of the paper was very crowded during this
time, reading Plain Texas and Weatherford Democrat, Volume I
and the issue number in large type. Smaller type below had
Plain Texan, Volume II and the number on the left side and
Democrat, Volume XII and the appropriate number on the right
side of the page.

On May 8, the editor gave the city a plug with a long
"Chamber-of-Commerce-type" story reading:

Did you know Weatherford has--a city park, com-
pres, three banks, three railroads, large pottery,
cotton oil mill, big flouring mill, $85,000 cotton
mill, free city mail delivery, electric lighted streets,
mammoth ice factory, two fine church schools, two job
printing houses, 11,000 population, taxable values of
$2,352,580, real values of $4,000,000, excellent fire
department, ten churches valued at $100,000, an
$85,000 water and power plant, five rural free mail
routes, two central energy telephone systems, two
large machine shops and foundries, average bank deposits
of nearly $1,000,000, annual jobbing business of
$1,700,000, Pythian State Widows and Orphans Home, 14
lodges of secret and fraternal societies, general
offices of Weatherford, Mineral Wells, and Northwestern
Railroad, five public schools with an enrollment of
1,430, one semiweekly, one weekly, and one daily news-
paper and one monthly trade journal (33, p. 1)?

Although the editor was inclined to exaggerate a little,
the information showed a marked gain since the paper's cam-
paign for improvements started in the summer of 1895. The
population listed by Ayer for 1906 (based on the 1900 census)
was 4,786, well below the editor's estimate of 11,000 (25, p. 869).

A special edition was run in mid-June of 1906 honoring the northwest Parker County community of Poolville. Four photographs of the square, school, and Methodist church were featured on page one. News about the area was included in the eight-page section (34, Sec. 2, p. 1).

The results of the primary election were carried in story form in the July 31 edition with a box-by-box tabulation run the following week. Winners were R. L. Stennis, judge; Henry Pope, sheriff; James C. Wilson, county attorney; R. Bonna Ridgway, state representative; Ed. R. Newsom, district clerk; G. J. Bankhead, county clerk; W. M. Bunch, treasurer; T. J. Parent, assessor; J. A. Dixon, collector; and commissioners W. I. Smith, J. J. Belew, A. H. Cleveland, and J. A. Milburn (35, p. 1).

Expenses reported by the candidates in the election showed a close race for county judge with a high of $312.41 spent by Stennis and his opponent, J. M. Richards, paid $111.80. Wilson spent $75 on his campaign and Ridgway was not too far behind at $56.95. Surveyor J. S. Morton spent only $5 in his unopposed race (36, p. 1).

A couple of young county men made big headlines on August 24 when they were arrested in El Paso and placed in charge of federal officers after attempting to steal a ride on a freight train. The young men broke the seal on a
car and entered it only to find it was loaded with silver bullion bound for the mint at New Orleans. Additional information on the men was not given in the story (37, p. 1).

Prices on real estate at that time were very low. A well-fenced, unimproved farm was advertised from $17.50 to $32.50 per acre. One six-and-a-half-acre farm east of Weatherford was listed at $150. Another place, 150 acres, fenced, fronting on a public road, four miles from Weatherford with 30 acres in cultivation and 40 in good pasture, a fine well, a small tank, and a dwelling was waiting for the first com'er with $1,500. The ad failed to say just how big the house was or in what condition it might be, but, at that price, it must have been a real bargain.

Poolville made the news in late December again as a fire swept through the downtown area. Citizens made an heroic effort but many buildings were lost, including the Post Office, the C. A. Moose building on the west side of the square, Jim Kendrick's Barber Shop, John Hobson's meat market, a restaurant, and two rooms occupied by the Kendrick family. Simmons' new drug store, 27 feet south of the buildings, caught fire but was saved (38, p. 1).

On the first day of 1907, the Reverend J. R. B. Hall was named to direct the business affairs of the Plain Texan and Democrat. He had been pastor of Couts Memorial Methodist-Episcopal Church. The newspaper announced the acquisition of the C. M. Smith printing plant on the east side of
the square. The plant was moved to the 213 North Main Street home of the newspaper. Martin was editor with Lockett serving as mechanical superintendent. The editor reverted to the old form of not using date lines or page numbers at the top of the pages. It was difficult to tell whether this was a style change or an oversight because the use of the lines was resumed later. The recording of page numbers and/or dates at the top of the pages was inconsistent until the 1950's (39, p. 1).

Arthur Martin, Victor Martin, and Aaron Smith announced a change of ownership November 15, 1907. Eugene Moore, who had been editor and publisher of the Stephenville Empire for more than 12 years but who for the past year-and-a-half had been editor of the Strawn Enterprise, purchased the entire plant, subscription list, and business. Moore changed the nameplate to read Plain Texan with "Successor to Weatherford Democrat" in parentheses. The establishment dates of both papers was still printed (40, p. 1). The first two-page advertisement was run the following week listing the many items carried by Baker-Poston and Company Dry Goods. Moore made some changes in the editorial content as more local news was included while the patent pages and book serials, which had been added over the years, were taken out.

Businessman H. L. Moseley made news in the last issue of November by announcing he had made a ten-year contract with the government and that a new post office would be moved
to the North Main and Spring Streets and York Avenue and block. The exact location was not certain at the time of the release but it was expected to be the Holly Grocery building in that block (41, p. 1).

On December 6, the longest story to date was plastered all over the front page, continued on page two, and jumped to page nine for three full columns. A four-deck head led the story off on the front page, "Big Case Postponed." The case that was to have been held regarding the Couts will was carried over until January 13. Couts, prominent banker-rancher, died, and a daughter, Mary Couts Burnett (Mrs. Burk Burnett), was contesting the will, declaring that her father was of unsound mind when he made the will. The children of Couts and his first wife had been estranged from their father because of his second marriage to a younger woman. The estate, which was considerable, had been left primarily to the grandchildren and to Weatherford College, which had fallen on difficult financial times. Mrs. Burnett was filing the suit also in the name of her brother, Robert Couts, as his legal guardian. He was unable to take care of his business (42, p. 1).

Another story of consequence told of the Court of Criminal Appeals upholding the conviction of J. B. Cason. Cason had been convicted earlier of the murder of Jeff McLemore, south of the city, and was the last person legally hanged in the county. Much ballyhoo was connected with the
trial and May 22 hanging. Detailed accounts were carried on his last hours and meal. Tickets were given out by the sheriff to a limited number of people to crowd inside the high board fence erected around the gallows. Others, who had followed the wagon from the jail, waited outside. Cason never admitted guilt but did sermonize to the young men present, warning them not to get into trouble as he had done (42, p. 6).

Changes in the name got the paper into difficulty with the postal authorities in late December 1907 as Moore made the switch from the Plain Texan to The Weatherford Democrat and Plain Texan. The Democrat had been dropped from the nameplate for a few issues and Moore returned it to the front position. Postal authorities held up delivery until the situation was clarified. The Plain Texan was dropped completely and no other changes were made in the nameplate until 1975 when the old English type was discarded for a modern, stylized heading bearing the Donrey Media Group emblem. Although Donrey bought the paper in the late 1960's, no change was made in the nameplate until that date.

Moore continued his upgrading program by running the first full page of New Year's greeting ads. He squeezed 41 merchants' signatures on a page with a little art work. He ran the first letters to Santa Claus and dropped the ads from the front page.
Signs of progress from the state legislature were noted in early 1908 as two arrests were reported in Parker County for violation of the law that had been introduced by the county's representative, R. Bonna Ridgway. The new law prevented automobiles from passing wagon teams on public highways at such speed as to frighten the animals (43, p. 1). Local interest in the New York Thaw murder trial was reported two weeks later. A former Parker County resident, Martin Littleton, was defending the millionaire businessman against the famed District Attorney William Travers Jerome. Harry K. Thaw was charged with the murder of Stanford White, a famous architect, in New York City (44, p. 1).

At the Couts will trial, Judge I. W. Stephens (executor for the estate of Couts) and Judge Richards (representing Weatherford College) chided Mrs. Burnett for including her dependent brother in the suit since she was quite wealthy in her own right and he could ill afford to lose the case. The presiding judge did uphold the will and the children received very little as the grandchildren and Couts' philanthropic interests got the bulk of the estate. Ironically, it would be only a few years later that Mrs. Burnett's relatives were to successfully sue to get her will set aside. She left the greater portion of her estate to Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. The library there was named in her memory.
By April 1908, Moore returned ads to the front page, and a story told of the formation of a company to run The Democrat as a daily and weekly. R. P. Lowe was named president; Colonel G. M. Bowie, first vice president; L. M. Bailey, second vice president; Moore, secretary-manager; J. W. Braselton, treasurer; J. B. Price and W. A. Chew, directors. The daily ceased publication after May 2 (election day). The venture had been purely political (45, p. 1).

Heavy rains in late April 1908 caused what was described as the worst damages ever. County roads and bridges were almost ruined. The Brazos River was said to be many miles wide in places. There were no trains for days and all rural mail delivery was halted. The Brazos reportedly was running higher than it had in 45 years and the bridge across Rock Creek at Garner was washed out. A telephone report said Poolville was isolated by high water (46, p. 1).

A trio of deaths shocked and saddened the citizenry in late June and early July as Ex-President Grover Cleveland died unexpectedly June 24 at his Princeton, New Jersey home (47, p. 1); Mrs. S. W. T. Lanham died at her Alamo Street home July 10 (48, p. 1); and her husband, Ex-Governor Lanham, died 21 days later. Lanham had been ill for several months before leaving the governor's office earlier in the year (49, p. 1). Heavily Democratic Parker County had honored the former President by changing the name of Weatherford College to Cleveland College after he was elected, breaking
the Republican reign. The name was changed back after his later defeat.

Lanham had been born in South Carolina but had come to Texas and Weatherford before he reached his majority. He served as district attorney and gained instant fame with his successful prosecution of Kiowa Chiefs Satanta and Big Tree at Jacksboro in 1871. He served in Congress 10 years before voluntarily returning home and was elected governor in 1902, serving two terms. One of his sons, Fritz, followed his father to Washington as 12th District representative and gained renown for his own ability. The Federal Building in Fort Worth was named in his honor.

In a rare move, the county commissioners voted to lower the tax rate from 50 to 30 cents in early July. Also on the front page that day, a report was given of a bond election being passed in a light vote. The $17,000 was approved for a number of construction projects comprising $5,000 for a North Main Street bridge; $1,000 for an Elm Street bridge; $1,000 for a Bryan Street bridge; $2,000 for sewer construction; and $8,000 for street improvements (48, p. 1).

Although nothing had come of the Chicago, Weatherford, and Brazos Valley proposed railroad, the city was assured of another transportation line at a September 18 meeting. Three hundred to 400 people turned out to hear plans for an interurban line that would run from Dallas through Fort Worth and Weatherford to Mineral Wells. Stock amounting to
$250,000 was sold to pay for the line. The connection with the cities to the east and west would prove beneficial for some time (50, p. 1).

One of the first mentions of a famed Weatherford institution, First Monday, was carried on the front page of the June 11, 1909 issue. Merchants were taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the big crowd of traders. The story said First Monday was already a well-established event and there was always a crowd, mostly men who came for the purpose of trading livestock. A free moving picture show, sponsored by the merchants, drew a big attendance (51, p. 1). Today's First Monday activity is still big and much livestock trading goes on, but "flea market" goods have been added to the list of items offered at a special site three blocks east of the public square, where it originated.

R. K. Phillips, whose association with The Democrat ranks as the longest, began work in mid-June 1909. He first joined the paper as business manager and later took control of the operation. Phillips and Moseley moved the office to 116 North Main Street, a block nearer the courthouse square. The paper was moved one other time while Phillips was publisher, in 1916 after the plant was destroyed by fire (51, p. 2). The second move of the paper offices by Phillips was one door south, to 114 North Main Street. The Democrat stayed there until the 1960's.
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CHAPTER II

PHILLIPS' EARLY YEARS 1909-1924

It was in the summer of 1909 that the first motion picture ads were run, and the Peoples Theatre ads said there was always a good show. As additional drawing cards, the advertisements said there were electric fans and "plenty of ice water" to keep the patrons cool on the hot nights as they watched the "flickers." Admission prices were a dime and 15 cents. Titles of the features were not run until later. The novelty of being the only show in town was still good enough then (1, p. 1).

The age of the newspaper was beginning to show in 1909 as Phillips began to dip back into the files for a feature on "What Weatherford Was Doing Ten Years Ago." This type of reflection column came and went over the years and was run under several different headings, the longest running head being "Way Back When." One of the first items used by Phillips in his column told of the free mail delivery that began in the city September 1, 1899. It stated there was considerable interest in the appointment of carriers, and the first route winners were John W. Miner, Ben C. McConnell, W. P. Anderson, and Alonzo Sims. A society note said Preston Martin, local attorney, and Miss Juanita
Pressley were married in Fort Worth August 10. (They became the parents of Broadway musical star Mary Martin.

Tax values of Parker County totaled $14,229,080 (an increase of one million dollars over the previous year) in the 1909 report compiled by tax assessor Norman H. Martin. Value of all Parker County land was $6,623,330 and city and town property was $5,430,060. The 13,005 horses and mules had a value of $859,280 and the 25,681 cattle, $430,590. There were 4,165 carriages, buggies, autos, wagons, and other vehicles (2, p. 1).

Either a lack of newsworthy events or the lack of personnel or time to report it took its toll in 1909, and patent (not locally produced) pages were again being run by the publishers in the late summer. Many of the feature articles and serialized books were probably well received by the readers although there would likely not be enough interest in them today.

With the age of the automobile dawning, city officials began to look to the future as they decided in September to put a coating of oil on both North and South Main Streets. Paving of streets would not come until much later (3, p. 1).

Weatherford's importance as a city in the state could be seen in the coming of William Jennings Bryan, famed orator and Democratic leader, to deliver an address at the Opera House. Introduced by Mayor Moseley, Bryan talked about "The Price of a Soul" and used the text, "What shall
it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Bryan left immediately afterward on the train to Abilene (4, p. 5).

In the September 17 "What Weatherford Was Doing Ten Years Ago" column, an account of a cotton war was told. A cotton ginning price war broke out between Will Chew of the Blue Goose Gin, the McGrattan Brothers, and John Rentz. The going bale price dropped to 20 cents a hundred before Chew offered to throw in a 15-cent dinner with each sale. Rentz ended the fun by buying out the Blue Goose and restoring the price. Rentz sold out to Planter's Oil Company a few days later (4, p. 1).

Weatherford's public schools opened September 24. Superintendent T. W. Stanley reported 330 were in the high school. He said the new high school building would be opening soon (5, p. 1).

The Democrat closed out 1909 in strong fashion by featuring a full-color picture of Santa Claus on the front page (6, p. 1). The preprint made the issue look more like a magazine than a newspaper. Phillips used the preprints on front pages several more times in the years that followed.

1910

The initial issue of 1910 told of the heaviest snowfall in many years: a seven-inch snow recorded in early January. The snow began falling January 5 after two cloudy and threatening days (7, p. 1).
In 1910, for the first time, many of the articles were signed with the writer's name at the end of the story. Some were signed with names like "Rough Rider" and "Blue Eyes."

Two big announcements greeted the readers January 15. First, the Honorable Fritz G. Lanham, son of Ex-Governor S. W. T. Lanham, was retiring from the legislature; and second, a big subscription contest was planned by The Democrat. The publishers said they wanted a big circulation increase in 1910. First prize in the contest that would be run through March 1 was to be a $30 gold watch, 17 jewels, either Elgin or Waltham. Second prize was a $30 tailored woman's coat or a man's suit (8, p. 1). Contest winners announced March 4 were Will Narry and Riley Burns.

Phillips began writing a weekly column, "Sketches from Life," in the March 4 issue. The articles, under a two-column head, were drawn from his life and observations.

Following the pattern begun at Christmas, a full-color preprint front page, showing a boy and girl playing with rabbits, was used for the Easter edition. A mass meeting of Weatherford citizens enthusiastically endorsed a proposition to build a rail line north and south. Businesses were closed from 2 until 4 p.m. for the meeting in the courthouse. Colonel G. M. Bowie explained the proposition by Hicks-Mitchell and Pigg Construction Company. The construction company would "make a road to Bridgeport or other Wise County intersection with the Rock Island for $60,000. Some
$30,000 was due when the first 10 miles of road was finished and the remainder when the job was completed. Citizens were to furnish right-of-way, depot grounds, and switch yards."

After much discussion, 200 businessmen signed the agreement to put up the money (10, p. 1).

The first picture of a car in an advertisement was used in the March 18, 1910 issue. Overland-Texas Auto Company, agents for Apperson, Overland, and Ford cars, said in its ad that the garage and salesroom was on Bridge, North Main, and York Avenue. Messrs. James and Hubbard (no first names listed) brought an Overland car from Dallas for the Weatherford Foundry and Machine Company and made the run in four hours, fast time for roads of that day. That included stops for 30 minutes in Fort Worth and 15 in Aledo (10, p. 3).

Banker H. W. Kuteman, father of Mrs. Douglas Chandor, announced March 25 that he would build a three-story brick building on the site of the old Carson-Lewis House on the west side of the courthouse square. The lower floor of the modern structure would house the Weatherford Bank and Trust, and the second floor would be devoted to office space. The third floor was to be the Elks Lodge Hall.

Also in the March 25 paper, a story told of Cole Younger's appearance at the Opera House. Younger, who was billed as an ex-bandit, had been a member of Quantrell's Guerrillas in the Civil War and had been a member of Jesse James' band (11, p. 1).
In one of the closest city elections, Joel W. Hicks was given the nod over mayoral candidate C. C. Littleton by 10 votes, 296 to 286. Five aldermen were elected unopposed. City voters approved a bond issue providing permanent street and sidewalk improvements (12, p. 1).

The next few weeks saw much concentration on the railroad. Weatherford raised the required bonus and Messrs. G. F. Mitchell and C. W. Pigg spent a week closing contracts with the other towns on the proposed route. Mayor Crawford closed city businesses at 3 p.m. May 13 so citizens could hear a proposition from the projectors of the Chicago, Weatherford, and Brazos Valley Railroad. Mitchell, Pigg and their chief engineer, Saylor, and Patterson proposed a route north to Gainesville and south to Brownwood. No action was taken on this idea at the time (13, p. 1).

On May 27, it was announced that construction would begin July 4 on the railroad. Towns along the way had done their part in raising the money and securing the right-of-way, and the deal was closed the following week (14, p.1).

The July 22 issue stated the grading crew had begun work after a 14-car train had arrived on the previous Sunday, loaded with mules and implements. A camp for the accompanying 65-man crew was set up six miles north of the city. The contractor had just completed grading the 51 miles between Tahoka and Big Spring (15, p. 1).
Parker Countians joined the state voters in giving O. B. Colquitt the majority of votes for governor in the election although Poindexter and Johnson ran a close race. D. M. Alexander was sent to Congress in Washington with O. S. Lattimore and R. M. Johnston going to Austin. F. O. McKinsey was named county judge; Bernard Martin, county attorney; S. S. Gilbert, sheriff; G. L. Young, county clerk; N. H. Martin, tax assessor; John F. Buster, collector; T. P. Everett, county school superintendent; Henry Barber, treasurer; and J. J. Stoker, district clerk (16, p. 1).

Mrs. J. T. Cotten, mother of historian Fred R. Cotten and grandmother of state Representative James Cotten, was elected Supreme Chief of Pythian Sisters at the convention held in Milwaukee during the biennial session of that order. The Knights of Pythias Hall was above the J. T. Cotten Furniture and Undertaking Parlor for many years and the family was long active in the work of the organization (17, p. 1).

While the work was progressing on the new railroad, two main lines were making news. On August 19, a report was given of a freight wreck on the Texas and Pacific tracks two miles east of the city. It was said to be one of the worst wrecks the division had seen in some time. A westbound work train and an eastbound local ran together on a sharp curve. Fortunately, there were no fatalities or injuries. Passenger trains headed west were detoured through Cleburne for 12 hours and eastbound trains waited until the tracks were cleared.
Santa Fe made news by beginning work on a $20,000 depot. The old freight depot was removed to make way for the new Fort Worth Street building (18, p. 1). The attractive red brick structure now houses the Texas Railroad Museum since Santa Fe discontinued service in Weatherford.

A week later, there was another wreck on the T&P. This one was worse than the first. The reporter writing the story said the work train operating between Weatherford and Fort Worth must be a "hoodoo" since it was again involved in a wreck. This time it was 10 miles east and it was struck by a westbound freight. Engineer Joe Wallace of No. 15 and Fireman M. P. Davis of the same train were killed (19, p. 1).

Railroad tragedy struck again the following week when a horseback rider was killed in an accident north of the city on the construction site. George Dugan, 22-year-old man living with his widowed mother in the Zion Hill community northwest of Weatherford, was struck in the head by a rock and killed. Dugan was riding his horse along the right-of-way some 500 feet away from where workers were drilling in a blasting operation when the accident occurred (20, p. 1).

Bad luck continued to dog the construction site in the weeks following. The next issue told of three men being killed as the result of a premature explosion of blasting powder. On Monday afternoon at the camp of the CW and BV Railroad, two men were killed and a third died a short time later. The men had been tamping powder into a hole for a
blast the next day. The body of Billie Gilliland, a foreman from Illinois, was buried in Weatherford, and the body of Posey Llewellyn, assistant foreman, was shipped to Snyder for burial. Claude Hill of Peaster, the third victim, was buried in Peaster. Two others, Henry O'Connor and I. Michou, were injured (21, p. 1).

1911

The Post Office annual report started 1911 off with a bang. Post Office receipts for 1910 totaled $17,336.48, $1,332.74 over the total for 1909. Business was showing improvement (22, p. 1).

Area baseball fans were reportedly pleased to hear of Big Jim Vaughn's first victory of the American League season. The Weatherford resident picked up the victory over Philadelphia, 2-1, on a three-hitter. Vaughn was one of the standouts on the New York Americans (23, p. 1).

On April 28, an account told of the sale of $15,000 in bonds for the construction of a city hall. The fire station was to be moved that week so that work on the building could begin.

Dedication services for the Texas Pythian Home brought many visitors to the city. The April 28 issue said a special T&P train stopped at the switch east of town, which was only one half mile from the home. Four hundred to 500 people were on the train and from 1,200 to 1,500 attended the festivities. The Woodmen of the World Band played.
Henry Miller, Keeper of the Grand Seal, was master of ceremonies, and Grand Chancellor J. R. Engledow spoke for the lodge. J. E. Longmoor represented the Home trustees (24, P.1).

In mid-May, the contract for work on the square was let to Davidson Brothers Contractors by the Commissioners Court. Plans for the concrete curbing around the grounds with a 14-foot sidewalk leading to each of the four courthouse doors were drawn up by C. W. Camp, superintendent of public works. The contractors were to furnish the material and do the work in 30 working days for $1,650 (25, p. 1).

A big Fourth of July celebration was held with Martin W. Littleton on hand to speak to his Parker County friends. The New York lawyer was introduced by H. W. Kuteman. A parade in the morning was led by Marshal John R. Brown, followed by the Woodmen Auxiliary Band, the Parker County Grays (Confederate Veterans group), city councilmen on horseback, and decorated autos and floats. Frank Putman's auto was named "best decorated." In the afternoon, firemen gave an exhibition drill followed by a doubleheader ball game between Weatherford and Fort Worth (26, p. 1).

Because of the series of accidents, work on the north and south railroad had been suspended; but on July 21, an article revealed that work was expected to be resumed as soon as Mitchell, one of the contractors, returned from a two-month trip to New York. This was welcome news to the
people who had been much disappointed that the work had stopped (27, p. 1).

In the prohibition election held the last of July, headlines proclaimed Parker County had voted dry by nearly 1,000 votes. The amendment carried in the county by the largest majority ever given in a prohibition election. The state, however, went wet by 6,000 votes. Nearly every county in North Texas went dry and Tarrant County gave only a 1,300-vote wet vote (28, p. 1).

Additional improvements in the square were announced in the August 4 paper. The Twentieth Century Club, a civic organization for women, donated two public drinking fountains to the city. They replaced the old public drinking trough occupying the southeast corner of the town square for many years. One of the new fountains was placed half-way between the courthouse and the Merchants and Farmers Bank on the north side of the square and the other on the south side, between the courthouse and Porter-Grant and Sawtelle Building. Cost of the project was $600 (29, p. 1).

Obituaries of two prominent public figures were reported in the November 3 edition. Winfield Scott, banking, cotton, cattle, and gin owner in Fort Worth and Dallas, died in Fort Worth's St. Joseph Hospital. The 64-year-old businessman owned the Worth Hotel, Scott Hotel, Metropolitan Hotel, Terminal Hotel, Century Building, and other property. His wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Simmons
of Weatherford. Joseph Pulitzer, owner of the New York World and St. Louis Post-Dispatch, died on his yacht in Charleston, South Carolina harbor (30, p. 1).

After a delay caused by disabled machinery and high wind, aviator Robert G. Fowler landed in Weatherford at 12:15 p.m. Sunday on his coast-to-coast trip. Flying in the largest biplane built by the Wright Brothers, Fowler made the trip from Thurber in 40 minutes and left for Fort Worth after eating lunch. (Thurber is 40 miles west of Weatherford.) Fowler was reported in the December 1 paper to have donned two heavy coats, a cap, and goggles for the trip (31, p. 1).

As merchants prepared for the Christmas season, the December 22 issue carried an ad for the Weatherford Drug Company, a Rexall store owned by Harry Snoddy and Fabian Bell. The copy for the ad read, "Make somebody happy with a Kodak (32, p. 5)."

1912

The volunteer firemen gave their annual New Year's Eve oyster supper in the recently completed city hall and fire station. Music was provided by the Woodmen Band in the main auditorium. Colonel Bowie, who served as toastmaster, offered a water toast in dedicating the building which was constructed on a site one block west of the town square on Palo Pinto, Waco, and West Church Streets. Fire Chief W. M. Waldock reported 110 people were in attendance (33, p. 1).
The year of 1912 started off quietly enough but it did not take very long for things to heat up. The January 12 paper carried an account of a disastrous fire that occurred the day before. Firemen were hampered by low water pressure in their efforts to contain the blaze that caused extensive damage to two buildings. The Porter Brothers building, owned by J. L. Hill, Frank Porter, and John Leiper, suffered heavy losses in addition to losses sustained by the second floor offices of the Porter-Lanham building. Damages were estimated at $30,000. Ephraim Carter, a second-floor roomer, discovered the fire and escaped in his night clothing. Smith Lipscomb and Charles Vandagriff, who were sleeping in the building, barely escaped. Vandagriff climbed out onto an awning and slid down a pole (34, p. 1). (Vandagriff was an uncle of the writer.)

In the continuing railroad saga, J. C. Fawcett of New York made an offer to G. A. Holland, president of Citizens National Bank and receiver for the CW and BV Railroad, to purchase the railroad. Fawcett was representing a group of New York capitalists. An agreement to sell was sent to the stockholders for their signatures. Two sale price figures, $57,000 and $67,000, were given in the story without explanation. One of the prices was probably a typographical error (35, p. 1).

Hugh McGrattan was elected mayor in the April 1912 election. The widely known businessman was winner in the
race by four votes, 229 to 225, over Joel W. Hicks. A six-year council member, McGrattan was owner of McGrattan Brothers Ginners and McGrattan-Millsaps Company. Aldermen elected were Earl Kearby, Ward One; A. H. Russell, Ward Two; M. B. Kouns, Ward Two short term; J. W. Stinson, Ward Three; and T. R. Erwin, Ward Four.

Phillips resumed the use of serialized novels in April. The novels, complete with line drawings, were run a chapter a week. A big ad in the April 5 issue announced a "big wrestling match at the Opera House." William Demetral, "The Greek Demon," and Young Hackenschmidt were featured in the Saturday night catch-as-catch-can, two-out-of-three-fall main event. Two local men were featured in the preliminary bout. House prices ranged from 25 to 75 cents, with ring-side seats selling for $1 (36, p. 1).

1913

The stock of Cotten-Bratton Furniture Company was almost destroyed and the building was heavily damaged in a fire April 18. The fire was confined to the warehouse at the rear of the store by a fire wall, separating the warehouse from the main store. Cotten was out of town at the time of the fire and later said the $20,000 stock loss was only half insured. The Knights of Pythias Lodge above the store was not damaged.
In a story about the high school graduation, the principal reported there would be 17 in the Central High School graduating class of 1913 (37, p. 1).

Members of the Commissioners Court, after much thought, adopted the air line road, known as the Kuteman Route, as the official road between Weatherford and Fort Worth. The April 25 story said the road ran straight, making the distance between the cities 28 miles. The road was fenced nearly the entire length in Parker County and a number of hands were engaged in other improvements. Lumber had been placed along the route for construction of bridges and culverts. The story said Tarrant County had agreed to cooperate in the venture (38, p. 1).

In May, an announcement was made that Judge J. M. Richards had been appointed to serve as postmaster (39, p. 1).

The first auto party to make the run over the 28-mile road to Fort Worth was reported May 16. A Fort Worth newspaper was sponsor for the endurance run to Mineral Wells. The new road was pronounced in fair condition (40, p. 1).

Stockholders of the Crystal Palace Flour Mill made a change in mill officers at their regular meeting that was reported June 20. C. A. Waller was named president-manager; D. D. Hartnett, vice-president; W. S. Fant, secretary-treasurer; and C. D. Hartnett and Eugene Martin, directors. In other business news, Manager Maben said the output of the Peerless Creamery for May was 15,080 pounds, over 1,000
pounds more than was anticipated. The first week of June saw 2,000 pounds handled.

Parker County commissioners adopted a resolution appropriating $20,000 for the federally designated post road to Fort Worth. Letters from Governor O. B. Colquitt and Postmaster General Burleson were read at the meeting. Fort Worth had designated $50,000 of the $80,000 needed for the pike that would run from Fort Worth to Mineral Wells (41, p. 1).

In the June 7 issue, plans were told of the Fire Department's program to raise funds for an auto chemical engine. Firemen contributed $200 to start the drive for $1,500 of the $3,500 needed. The city was to furnish the rest. The chemical engine was needed to increase the zone of action and availability. The city proposed to increase the number of fire hydrants to 24 (42, p. 1).

The sale of the CW and BV Railroad by the receivers was postponed by Judge F. O. McKinsey September 2. Baker-Poston and Company, a dry goods department store, announced in the same issue of plans to move into new quarters at the corner of York Avenue and the square. The new multistory structure was the tallest business building in the city. Other Baker-Poston stores were at San Angelo, Vernon, Quanah, Mineral Wells, and Oklahoma City (43, p. 1).

High school football received its first newspaper attention September 26, 1913, when a story told of Weatherford's 47-0 victory over Arlington in the first game of the season.
This was the beginning of much sports activity in the newspaper and the results of the games were carried mainly on the front page (44, p. 1).

In mid-October, Judge McKinsey handed down a decision in the sale of the CW and BV Railroad that was said to be satisfactory. The Citizens National Bank versus Mitchell-Pigg Construction Company bankruptcy suit was settled with a grand total of $168,858 in liens (45, p. 1).

Mayor McGrattan issued a statement November 21, giving his reasons for not signing the order to buy the new chemical fire truck for the fire department. He said, simply, that the city was overdrawn (46, p. 1). The city bought a new fire truck the following year.

1914

The Texas Methodist Conference of Education meeting at Austin announced its approval of the Central Texas Conference's plan for converting Weatherford College into a training school for boys of junior college grade. The meeting was held in February, 1914 (47, p. 1).

In the first week of March, fire destroyed the Haynes Opera House building on the northwest corner of the square. The fire, of undetermined origin, broke out at 11:30 Monday night and did considerable damage to the Kuteman Building and Elks Club next door. Only the upper part of the burned building was used as the Opera House, the ground floor contained the Bon Ton Grocery and Candy Kitchen. A hard wind
hampered the work of the firemen. Haynes had built the building in 1880 of small uncut field stone and it had been declared unsafe in recent years. Miss Ella Carroll, owner of the Bon Ton, rented the pool hall in the Kuteman Building, and George Corcanges was expected to resume his Candy Kitchen operation somewhere on the east side of the square (48, p. 1).

Another big fire was reported after the Water, Light, and Power Plant was destroyed. The 3:00 a.m. Monday, March 17 fire shut off water, lights, and power for the city. The wood and sheet iron building had a loss of not less than $25,000. The engine room, several yards north, was not damaged. One well and pumping equipment were not damaged and water in storage tanks gave limited use (49, p. 1). The city had electrical power again by the next issue (50, p. 1).

A quiet city election was recorded as A. H. Russell was elected mayor by a majority of 53 votes, a landslide compared to some of the earlier races. Ira Grogan was selected alderman in Ward One; Homer Turpin in Ward Two; J. W. Stinson in Ward Three; and T. R. Erwin in Ward Four (51, p. 1).

A bond, three-line head on the front page April 24 gave the war progress. "Twelve Americans and 200 Mexicans Killed When U. S. Marines Capture Vera Cruz! Carranzo Declares Himself Hostile to the U. S." Another page one story told of President Woodrow Wilson's request for forces to compel General Huerta's respect (52, p. 1).
First Monday had an added attraction in June. The May 29 issue said Booger Red, Jr., Cleburne's expert bronc rider, was coming to town. He issued a challenge saying he would ride any horse or mule in the county, no matter how wild. The rodeo was planned for the T&P stock pen with an admission being charged. Red, who had won several prizes in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Dallas, bragged he would ride with or without a bridle (53, p. 1).

A short story on June 12 told of a Weatherford party talking to New York by telephone. The conversation, which lasted 22 minutes at a cost of $4 a minute, was the first from the city to that state (54, p. 1).

Phillips was an active member of the Texas Press Association and this was apparently the first membership for The Democrat since no mention of the state organization was made before he took charge. Phillips used a two-column, 30-point headline to tell of the TPA meeting in Wichita Falls, "one of the livliest [sic] cities in the state." The governor's race was warming up in the state about that time and the same issue indicated that Jim Ferguson was bringing his campaign to the city on July 2. Others were speaking for Ferguson and Tom H. Ball in the county at every opportunity (55, p. 1).

Despite an exciting and partisan campaign, the voter turnout in the late July primary was not too great. Ball tallied 1,784 Parker County votes to 1,334 for Ferguson,
although the latter carried the state. The county was consistent, though, and gave B. B. Sturgeon a 1,772 to 1,143 vote edge over W. P. Hobby, who won the lieutenant governor's race. Other winners were Oscar Callaway, Congress; O. S. Lattimore, state senator; E. H. Grindstaff, state representative, Ward Bankhead, county clerk; J. J. Stoker, district clerk; George Gore, sheriff; Henry Barber, treasurer; J. R. Pickens, assessor; and W. I. Smith, collector (56, p. 1).

War news on another front was featured in the August 7 edition. A three-column, 30-point, all-caps head said, "German Invaders Repulsed by Belgian Forces—Thousands Reported Killed and Wounded." Three other front page headlines, from two to five lines each, were devoted to the war. Inside pages were filled with pictures and stories on the Trip Alliance and Triple Entente (57, p. 1).

The week of August 24-29 was proclaimed "Home Coming Week" for former citizens of the city and county to return and meet old friends. The Chamber of Commerce and Parker County Fair Association were sponsors of the activity and a free trip for three women to the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco was promised (58, p. 1).

County road teams were laid off in mid-September and the mules put out to pasture. In accordance with the order passed by the Commissioner's Court, all county road work was to be discontinued. In a spirited discussion, Tucker and Neal voted against the cessation and Guiles and Isbell, for. Judge Temple broke the tie. The action was not
unexpected since county finances were low. The county had been running behind for several years and was constantly borrowing money. Heavy August rains caused additional work and it was difficult to secure money, although two banks helped tide the county over in August. The $80,000 indebtedness would absorb the funds for the 1914 year. However, discontinuance of the road work would create other problems (59, p. 1).

The October 9 paper carried the news of the death of J. T. Cotten. The prominent Weatherford citizen died at his home after a protracted illness. A native of Tennessee, he had been a resident of the city for 30 years, operating a furniture and undertaking establishment. He was a director of the First State Bank and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He was a first director of the KP Home (60, p. 1).

Cotton prices in late 1914 were continuing to decline with the downward trend as low as $6.25. Only a small part of the cotton picked in the county had been sold. On October 16, a report said conditions were improving a little. Farmers were selling at prevailing prices and paying obligations as fast as they could (61, p. 1).

One of the largest headlines to date--three-columns, 36 points--was used on the story of Deputy Sheriff George Gore's being seriously wounded in a jail break. Three prisoners overpowered the deputy, who was sheriff-elect, as he was taking supper to them, and he was beaten unconscious. A
big posse was looking for the trio of escapers. Other prisoners, who did not escape with the three, carried Gore and his gun downstairs to his wife. Sheriff Sing Gilbert was in Richmond, Texas at the time of the breakout. The prisoner who struck Gore with a stick was Mack Ivy, charged with theft and burglary. Harry Stuart had been charged with burglary and Dike Seaberry, with selling whiskey (62, p. 1).

The three jailbreakers were captured the following Monday. They had been chased over three counties and the searchers did not return home until after the capture. Seaberry was caught by night patrolman Barney Barker in a house near Poolville. The others were apprehended, after much circling, in a field near Boonville, in Wise County. Sheriff Gilbert and others flushed out the pair and Stuart surrendered while Ivy ran. Barker shot the fleeing Ivy in the hip with a 25-20 rifle at 100 yards (63, p. 1).

In the middle of November, The Democrat said the Ham-Ramsey revival meeting was in progress at the First Baptist Tabernacle. There were 2,000 present for the Sunday night service with 100 singers in the choir that was directed by William J. Ramsey. Most of the churches of the city were participating in the campaign (64, p. 1).

The initial revival story was small but as the meeting progressed, the stories began to be longer and the size of the headlines increased. A two-column, 36-point step head, saying "Ham-Ramsey Meeting Draws Large Crowds" was used in
the second week. The crowds continued to get larger and the tabernacle was enlarged. The same size head was used November 27 but the story was longer. The third week of coverage showed increased interest in the revival, with reservations being taken and special groups from the area attended. Quotes from the messages were given in lengthy stories and a long front page story was given to the Reverend Mordecai Ham's sermon scoring dancing. Much interest was indicated in that sermon and some church discipline was exercised against members who danced (65, p. 1).

Another bad fire was reported November 27 after Charles J. Clark's store was destroyed. Other buildings nearby were damaged by the early Friday morning blaze. Night patrolman Barker turned in the alarm. Sporting goods, telephone supplies, and typewriters valued at $5,000 were destroyed. The building was owned by Mrs. D. M. Hart, Sr. The building to the south, owned by W. T. Ivy and occupied by Camp and Company, was badly damaged and the north wall of the building fell. The building to the north, occupied by the Oriole Theatre, had little damage (66, p. 1).

The tabernacle revival meeting was still in progress December 4 with interest unabated. Good crowds attended the three services on Sunday, and on Monday, the Reverend Mr. Ham visited Mineral Wells. On Friday, the evangelist was to preach to the women and girls at Central High School,
and on Sunday afternoon to the men only. It was said the meeting might continue for at least two more weeks.

Postmaster Richards announced the finishing touches were being added to the new Post Office building on Fort Worth Street. Plans called for the $77,000 building to be completed by December 20 (67, p. 1).

The last issue of 1914 told of an important meeting that would be held January 8 when farmers and businessmen would discuss diversification and marketing problems (68, p. 1). The week before, Dr. R. M. Harkey and William Ganzer of Texas A&M and the Department of Agriculture told farmers of another bumper crop of cotton with the prospects of three-cent cotton in 1915 (69, p. 1).

1915

Dr. Harkey explained the need for making a radical change in farming methods at the diversification meeting. He showed the evils of farming only cotton and, even with a 1915 bumper crop, it would hardly be worth the picking. Ganzer told of a variety of crops that would be good for this section of the state. The cotton price quoted in the January 15 issue was eight cents, said to be the best price since the slump in late September, 1914 (70, p. 1).

Fire again struck the city in early February as four businesses burned in the east block of the north side of the square. Firemen arrived to find flames coming out of the top of the wooden building housing Wright's Pressing Parlor and
Club Restaurant. The fire spread to Crowder's barber shop and the Pickard and Voorhies Confectionery. A brick wall saved Reynold's Drug Company. Both buildings were to be rebuilt shortly (71, p. 1).

A mass meeting was held at the courthouse February 14 in opposition to the county road system. J. A. Milburn was selected chairman of the meeting and J. E. B. Stewart, secretary. W. M. Bunch spoke for the group and said changes needed to be made. The condition of the county roads was bad and maintenance was needed. No work had been done since the county commissioners laid off the road team in September (72, p. 1).

The following week, R. W. Dent of Silver Creek in northeast Parker County reported citizens had pledged $1,200 in cash or work toward improving the Weatherford-Azle road. The commissioners agreed to help and the Chamber of Commerce added its support to the project. The Chamber leaders said that since there was a pike between Azle and Fort Worth, "we must offer these people at least a fairly good road to get them to come this way." An unusually big wheat crop was raised in Azle that year (73, p. 1).

President F. M. Bralley of the College of Industrial Arts at Denton delivered an address at Central School March 5. The article said, "Bralley is an earnest, forceful speaker, and one of the best posted men on educational matters in the state." In the same issue, a letter from J. E. B. Stewart
to the editor said a resolution he made at the taxpayer meeting opposing the action of the commissioners in "illegally and unconstitutionally borrowing from banks to keep up road gangs" had been side-tracked. Stewart added that he was in favor of paying off the debt and maintaining good roads (74, p. 1).

A fire at the Texas Pythian Home did a great deal of damage to the pantry between the dining room and kitchen, and heat from the blaze set fire to furniture in the auditorium above the area although there was a concrete floor between. The alarm was telephoned into the fire station and the new auto struck responded. The fire was quickly extinguished by the chemical truck. Driver Kit Thomas handled the truck in record time, considering the condition of the road. This was one of the first runs, if not the first run, made by the 1914 American-LaFrance chemical truck that had been purchased for the department. Fire Chief Charlie Heifrin got out of his sickbed to go to the fire (75, p. 1).

A special announcement was carried March 26, telling of The Democrat's Twentieth Anniversary Edition. Special articles on the city, schools, Parker County public roads, boys' and girls' club work, agriculture, and many other items were promised (76, p. 1).

Coca-Cola began using endorsements of professional baseball players in its 1915 ads. The first one to appear in
The Democrat featured Eddie Collins, Philadelphia star, April 25. Another item carried in the "Special Edition" was a column "News from North Texas State Normal." Among the shorts was a listing of new faculty members: Misses Fiero, Hillyar, and Clark, Mrs. Martin, and Messrs. Pender, Vity, Anderson, Leggett, and Snow (77, p. 1).

In the April 30 issue, a long story told of the victory of Jack Porter and Ernest May in the Interscholastic Debating and Declamation Contest at Fort Worth. The high school students defeated Nathaniel Jacks and Julian Effelbein of Dallas High. The young men advanced to the final contests in Austin by winning (78, p. 1).

The story of the sinking of the Lusitania and the tragic loss of life was headlined in the May 14 paper. Two stories were dropped from a two-column head. Also on the page was an account of May and Porter's winning the state championship at Austin. The young men were given a standing ovation when they returned to Central High School. They were given gold medals, the Eugene Harris silver loving cup, $50 worth of books and scholarships to the state university. The young men beat Cameron, 3-0; Tyler, 3-0; Timpson, 4-3; and San Antonio, 4-3 (79, p. 1).

Jitney service was initiated in the city May 21 with a flat fee of five cents charged for a ride anywhere in the city. L. F. Howard, Democrat foreman, was owner of the car, and his brother, Will, did the driving. The article said
over 500 jitney cars operated in Dallas, cutting into the street car revenue (80, p. 1).

Honored citizen Judge George A. McCall died in Fort Worth on the Saturday prior to the June 4 paper. He had been presiding elder in the First Presbyterian Church for many years. The former district judge had resided in the city for 38 years and had been the senior member of the law firm with his sons, Jim L. and George, Jr. Another son, Dr. Joe McCall, lived at Little Rock, Arkansas (81, p. 1).

Interest in the Civil War was still strong in 1915, and the Sam Lanham United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter announced plans to erect a Confederate monument on the courthouse lawn. Mmes. G. A. Holland, Frank Carter, B. W. Akard, Pearl Lowe, and Oscar Barthold were named as the purchasing committee. Alex Rawlins, local monument maker, got the contract for the seven-foot figure that was placed on the northwest corner of the square. The Commissioners Court had approved the monument of South Carolina granite two years earlier. The commissioners granted approval for a bond election in the June 18 issue. Registered indebtedness of the county as of May 7 was $46,612.94. The approximate revenue from all sources was $85,000.

Another story in the June 18 paper told of a train wreck on Saturday afternoon. Seven GT&W cars got loose and ran into a T&P freight near Earl's Switch, four miles east of the city. The westbound engine and the runaway cars were derailed.
The engineer and fireman were unhurt but four cars were smashed to kindling and 20 cows died. Two hoboes riding on the train were shaken up. Of the one riding the rods, it was said, "one leg was mashed and ground to pieces. He suffered nothing more than temporary inconvenience as the leg is a wooden one." Tracks were tied up until Sunday noon (82, p. 1).

The expected and hoped for record cotton crop in 1915 was just not to be. A heavy boll weevil infestation did great damage to the cotton fields of the county (83, p. 1).

The Democrat launched an editorial series in July after a long absence of real editorials. On July 9, the paper said,

The Democrat believes it is to the best interest of the people that this bond, the road bond, issue should carry but we are willing to publish communications from any of our readers who hold different views on the subject. Let us hear from you whether you are for or against the bond issue (84, p. 1).

The next week's issue had two editorials, one for the road bond and the other on the Chautauqua series that was in progress. J. R. Teagarden was the platform manager for the series and the speakers were former Governor R. R. Glenn of North Carolina, Dr. E. T. Hagerman, Opie Read, Senator T. P. Gore, and Dr. Charles C. Pearce (85, p. 1).

On August 6, the editor scored the defeat of the bond issue in an editorial, adding that something would have to be done about the road situation. Another editorial praised Weatherford College's opening after three years of neglect. In the front page story of the bond defeat, the result given
was 1,425 against and 564 for. Only four precincts--Annetta, Agnes, Veal Station, and Reno--of the 33 in the county favored the bond sale. Commissioners said all work would discontinue. The road gangs were to be called in and the teams sold until the county paid its debts and got on a cash basis (86, p. 1).

The next week, an editorial proposed a county manager system and recommended rancher Charles McFarland as a candidate for the job. McFarland said he could save the county $25,000 a year. A road story on the front page said county teams would work on the Springtown-Poolville road with the citizens paying for it (87, p. 1).

The county's agricultural agent was the next subject of editorial comment. The commissioners had indicated that money would not be appropriated to continue the agent's salary and the editorial suggested that commissioners be very careful before turning the proposal down.

Seventy-two-point type in three decks shouted, "Gulf Storm Does Great Damage! Galveston Cut Off From Communication With Outside World," in the August 20 edition. Electric plants were put out of commission by the high waters that reached three miles farther inland than the great flood of 1900 (88, p. 1).

A major change in the city banking scene was revealed in the August 27 edition. W. H. Eddleman, veteran county banker, resigned as president of the Merchants and Farmers Bank. Rancher-land owner W. R. Woodhouse replaced him (89, p. 1).
In late September, Weatherford had a distinguished guest, Senator Morris Sheppard, who delivered two addresses. Introduced by the Reverend E. P. West, Sheppard spoke of "Christian Citizenship" Sunday night at First Baptist Church. He discussed political issues Monday morning at the courthouse and was introduced there by Judge R. B. Hood (90, p. 1).

In the October 8 issue, Phillips announced a new subscription contest. The first prize was to be a 1916 five-passenger Ford car valued at $485. Nomination coupons would be used to determine the winner (91, p. 1).

Railroad hopes were revived in early December when a new railroad company was incorporated as the Chicago, Weatherford, and Gulf Railway. The charter called for the road to be constructed from Gainesville to Waco. The Associated Press reported the incorporation articles were approved with a capital stock of $250,000. The new company was purchased from H. L. Moseley. Ties were ready to be laid on a large part of the old road when operations were suspended four years earlier. New officers were W. D. Stratton, president; D. L. Decker, vice-president; G. A. Holland, treasurer; T. R. Erwin, secretary; and Moseley, general attorney (92, p. 1).

The December 10 paper told of George Wythe receiving a special invitation from Henry Ford to travel with his party to Europe on a peace mission to the warring nations. Wythe was a graduate student at The University of Texas. Another story said the City Council had decreed no fireworks on the
streets Christmas. Former Sheriff S. S. Gilbert was hired to assist Marshal John R. Brown (93, p. 1).

1916

The year of 1916 opened on a solid note as Parker County Commissioners reported that the county would be practically out of debt when the taxes were collected for the year. Just how much the debt was at the time or how much in taxes was expected to be collected as not stated.

Bank stockholders met and elected directors and officers January 14, with each bank giving optimistic predictions for the future. First State Bank stockholders selected H. W. Kuteman, A. N. Grant, W. T. Porter, George W. Fritz, D. S. Wright, Alex Rawlins, F. R. Putnam, and Ed H. Lysaght as directors. Kuteman was re-elected president. Directors at Citizens National were G. A. Holland, C. C. Barthold, G. A. White, J. O. Tucker, C. C. Littleton, H. O. Barhold, and Barney Holland. G. A. Holland was chosen president again. At the First National, president W. S. Fant was joined by G. M. Bowie, R. W. Davis, L. A. Davis, George Fant, W. J. Milmo, Hugh McGrattan, and Harry Baker as directors (94, p. 1). First National Bank, which was chartered May 15, 1880, was the fifth bank in the state to receive a national charter and the Citizens National was chartered June 6, 1882, becoming the seventh in the state.
In the subscription contest, Miss Minna Bell Bingham was winner of the Ford car. Mrs. W. J. Bradley was second and Miss Lena E. Dean, third (95, p. 1).

Disaster struck close to home in March when fire destroyed The Democrat plant. A front page story said prompt work by firemen held the flames to the one building, preventing heavy losses to other property. The North Main Street building was nearly gutted by the flames that destroyed Jensen's Barber Shop, which was in a front corner of the building. Southwestern Bell Telephone operators turned in the alarm. The fire apparently started in or near the northeast corner at the rear of the building. The March 15 paper was printed on The Daily Herald press (96, p. 1).

An advertisement in the next issue of the paper said The Democrat was ready for business.

Since the morning of March 15, we have been constantly repairing damage done by the fire. We have installed new machinery, put the plant in first class shape. We are now prepared to handle all classes of commercial printing. We are prepared to handle school and college catalogues.

No papers were printed for about a month (97, p. 1).

A special notice in the April 28 paper told the subscribers that their subscriptions would be extended for one month to make up for the time lost by the fire. The lead story that day told of William Jennings Bryan's visit to the city. The noted orator, introduced by G. A. Holland, spoke on "The War and the Lessons It Teaches Us." About 1,000
heard Bryan give essentially the same lecture given throughout the United States.

Railroad bonus subscribers were listed on the front page, and the long list totaled $13,517. Giving $500 each were C. D. Hartnett and Company, T. R. Erwin and Company, H. L. Moseley, W. R. Woodhouse, and the First State Bank (98, p. 1).

Coca-Cola continued its series of 3 x 8 ads on current baseball stars. Joe Tinker, Frank Baker, Fielder Jones, Larry Doyle, and Grover Cleveland Alexander were featured in ads along with short sketches of each player's career (99, p. 1).

In mid-May, headlines told of the militia of three states being mobilized for service on the Mexican border. Troops from New Mexico and Arizona joined those of Texas. Under the command of Captain James C. Wright (father of Representative Jim Wright), Weatherford's Company F, Fourth Infantry, left for San Antonio. Wright was appointed captain to replace Captain Sims, who had recently resigned. Garland Raborn was appointed first lieutenant. About 67 of the 74 men on roll were ready to leave Thursday morning. E. A. Swofford, though campaigning for county judge and got the call late, still made it in time to leave with the troops (100, p. 1).

The largest high school graduating class to date, 58, was graduated in the city hall auditorium. There were 16 mid-term graduates and 42 in the spring. Board president G. A. Holland was the speaker (101, p. 1).
On July 7, news of an oil and gas strike near Millsap was given. The well was brought in at a depth of 2,400 feet with a strong gas flow and a good grade of oil. On Friday morning before the paper came out, gas was struck at the Guy-English well on the Weatherford Development Company property west of Millsap. The well had a capacity of two million to three million cubic feet of gas daily. The same issue proclaimed the "Mexican Crisis Is Passed" as Venustiano Carranza sent a friendly note to the United States, averting war. The European war news was moved to the front page as the action was heating up (102, p. 1).

"Colquitt and Culberson Leaders in Senatorial Race--Submission Has Small Lead--Ferguson Re-elected and Garrett and McLemore Have Majority for Congressman at Large" headlines told the story of the July 28 election issue. Submission was leading by 153,026 to 151,963. Winners in the county were O. B. Colquitt, senator; D. E. Garrett, congressman at large; J. C. Wilson, congress; F. O. McKinsey, 43rd district judge; C. F. Sentell, state representative; E. A. Swofford, county judge; G. W. Buchannan, district clerk; B. C. Holyfield, county clerk; T. W. C. Nealy, tax assessor; W. I. Smith, collector; Sam Newberry, treasurer; E. H. Grindstaff, county attorney; George Gore, sheriff; and commissioners J. P. Gilliland in precinct one; F. E. Boley in two; J. Bullington in three; and W. M. Boyles in four (103, p. 1).
The Twentieth Century Club, which donated the water fountains on the square, purchased the Morrow property on Lee and South Main in late September. Buildings on the property were to be removed, the lot beautified, and a club house erected. Another story told of the dedication of the Aledo Baptist Church October 8 with the Reverend C. H. Ray, pastor, speaking (104, p. 1).

On October 27 the announcement was made that Hec A. McEachin had been hired as editor. Once the editor of The Daily Herald, McEachin had been serving as managing editor of the El Paso Morning Times before returning to his fruit farm six miles south of Weatherford. His name was added to the masthead. He changed the head style to all caps with smaller capital and lower case lines under the main line (105, p. 1).

One of the county's largest land deals was reported November 3 after the Eddleman Ranch sold for $83,169.65. The ranch comprised 19 tracts of land, more than 3,200 acres. J. B. Wilson of Dallas made the purchase (106, p. 1).

In a social item November 24, the nuptials of Miss Ellen Morland Bowie and Barney Ritchie Holland were reported. The wedding took place in the home of the bride's parents, Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Bowie on North Main Street. The bride's father was vice-president of Cameron Lumber Company and was a prominent civic leader. Holland, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. A.
Holland, served as director and officer of his father's Citizens National Bank (107, p. 1).

Word was received December 1 of the death of W. C. McFall in an automobile accident at Haskell. R. L. Bains was injured in the crash. McFall had been an early county clerk. The car overturned in passing and the victims were pinned underneath. The same issue told of the readiness of the new hook-and-ladder truck, which was constructed from a Thomas car purchased from J. W. Corn (108, p. 1).

December's second paper carried the death of the county's first sheriff. Robert P. Baker, 94, died at Tulia December 1 and was buried beside his wife in Amarillo, his home for the past 40 years. He was the 1856 sheriff (109, p. 1).

The Lyric Theatre purchased a half-page ad for the biggest spectacle of the time. "The Birth of a Nation," D. W. Griffith's movie, was scheduled December 29 and 30. Prices for the show were $1.50 and $2.00 at night and 75 cents and $1.00 in the afternoon. A 20-piece symphony orchestra was engaged to play. The ad said no telephone orders would be taken. No seats were held for the special showing (110, p. 1).

Two stories of some significance were reported in the December 22 issue. Rumors were floating around that the Santa Fe Railway would begin operating the Gulf, Texas, and Western Line and the sale was expected to be announced at any time one story said. In the other big story, Fairmont
School was not to reopen after the holidays. The female school, widely known as Texas Female Seminary, had been in operation 20 years, but Dr. and Mrs. McKee, who had headed the school for the past year and one half, said the school was not receiving enough support from the Presbyterian Church (111, p. 1).

1917

A few changes were noted in the annual meetings of the bank stockholders in January, 1917. H. W. Kuteman, A. N. Grant, Ed H. Lysaght, F. R. Putnam, Alex Rawlins, W. T. Carter, D. S. Wright, and G. W. Fritz were named First State directors. H. W. Kuteman, Jr., resigned and James Campbell was elected assistant cashier. W. S. Fant was re-elected at First National along with G. M. Bowie, R. W. Davis, L. A. Davis, George Fant, Hugh McGrattan, W. J. Milmo, and Harry Baker. At the Citizens Bank, G. A. Holland retained control with C. C. Barthold, G. A. White, J. O. Tucker, C. C. Littleton, H. O. Barthold, and Barney Holland being named directors. President W. R. Woodhouse was joined on the board at Merchants and Farmers Bank by J. H. Doss, H. L. Brevard, L. V. Harcourt, J. Tom Pickard, J. W. Brasleton, J. N. McCarty, and E. H. Martin. Holland had branched out and was listed as president at First State in Poolville and First State in Millsap.
Postmaster Richards noted a 20 per cent increase in postal receipts. Stamp sales accounted for $4,981.05 and money orders for $4,650; and expenses were $1,702.14. Also in the January 12 paper, the City Council favored the building of permanent streets. A $200,000 bond election was planned and help was sought from the county and Chamber of Commerce. The plan called for the paving of the four principal streets from the courthouse to the city limits and to put the roads of the precincts in good condition (112, p. 1).

A seven-inch snowfall, said to be the greatest known for many years, fell the following week. It began at 9:00 a.m. Sunday and continued until 10:00 p.m. The snow was reported to have provided the needed moisture for the small grain crop grown in the county (113, p. 1).

In early February, Weatherford's soldiers were returning home from the Mexican Border war. General John J. Pershing made the withdrawal announcement and said all of the soldiers would be home by March 1 (114, p. 1).

The promoters of the CW&G Railroad met in Weatherford but declined to make public the plans under consideration February 9. The CW&G had quite a history since work first started in 1910 and it still was not finished. Northern capitalists had invested $20,000 in the project and decided to build a cement plant after discovering a gravel and shale deposit five miles north of the city (115, p. 1).
Big Jim Vaughn, Parker County's pitcher in the big league, said he was holding out in the February 23 issue. The left-handed Cub pitcher said he wanted more money, $7,500. Fritz Lanham moved to Fort Worth to become assistant county attorney (116, p. 1).

On April 6, a state of war was declared. The United States Senate had passed a resolution presaging war with Germany, and the House was taking similar action. An immediate mobilization was ordered, and the National Guard departed for San Antonio on Thursday afternoon. The engineering corps was running the line for the new railroad from Bridgeport to Gainesville. Condemnation suits and proceedings were to be filed in county court to secure passage over seven tracts (117, p. 1).

It was announced April 27 that the city would get natural gas piped from the Mineral Wells field within 90 days as a result of a deal selling the local Crystal Ice Company gas plant to Owens, Wilson, and Palmer. A second well in the Millsap field promised to yield more gas and fine crude oil. The strike of gas was yielding three million cubic feet of gas daily (118, p. 1).

The city council decided to purchase a new fire truck for the fire department in May when they had the swearing-in ceremony for the new councilmen. Mayor Russell administered the oath of office to aldermen Jno. M. Hart, R. K. Phillips, Jim Crawford, and M. B. Kouns, attorney Jim L. McCall,
assessor-collector W. A. Kerr, secretary E. B. Ferrell, and treasurer L. V. Harcourt. The fire committee recommended that an American-LaFrance chemical engine and pumper be purchased. Firemen secured $2,100 in pledges from citizens to aid in the purchase. The fire rate was supposed to be reduced by from one to one and one half per cent because the truck was purchased. In a vote at the conclusion of the meeting, newspaperman Phillips was elected to serve as mayor pro tem (119, p. 1).

Registration for the military was announced May 18. Sheriff Gore had received the necessary forms and was ready to begin work. Every male citizen between 21 and 31 was required to register. In agriculture news, Aledo's "Babe" Woodhouse broke a world's record for the Fort Worth market on veal calves. He sold 84 head that averaged 249 pounds at $14 per hundred (120, p. 1).

On May 25, plans for Liberty Loan Fund bond sales were revealed. The total for Parker County's goal was $100,000. More than $50,000 had already been subscribed and interest was growing. A reminder of the registration law was given along with a list of registration places in the county. War news was increasing in the paper (121, p. 1).

Additional excitement was stirred up when the West Texas ringleaders of the Farmers and Laborer's Protective Association were arrested and charged with disloyalty to the government. The organization had flourished in Parker County
with at least four lodges and about 300 members until they became scared and "busted up" local organizations. A Hood County man was said to be the local organizer.

Almost as an answer to the F&LPA activity, a Parker County Patriots organization was announced in the same June 1 edition. Representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, city council, city schools, and the newspaper met at the H. C. Shropshire residence to organize (122, p. 1).

By June 6, more than 1,500 young men had registered in compliance with the law. They received encouragement from the women, who pinned flags on "each young patriot and fair hands served him with punch (123, p. 1)."

The old Fairmont Seminary was converted into a sanitarium and a reception was held by the ladies of the advisory board in late June. The new Weatherford Sanitarium was just south of the city on Seminary Heights (124, p. 1).

July's news was dominated by the war activity. A special flag raising was held July 4 with the Parker County Patriotic Society presenting the banner "in honor of brave young men who will serve their country during the war (125, p. 1)."

Drawing for the draft was announced with two thirds of one per cent of the populace scheduled to be inducted. The first draft tapped 148 county men, and it was estimated that between 400 and 500 would have to be examined to reach the required number (126, p. 1). Slow progress by the board
showed only 118 men being examined by August 17 and only about 60 per cent passing the physical. The exemption board, composed of George Gore, A. C. MacNelly, and Dr. W. A. Heartsill, was busy hearing the many claims. Four young men were given commissions at Leon Springs Officers Training Camp: George Wythe, captain, and Earl Bratton, Landon Wythe, and Ludie Barker, second lieutenants. Will T. Andrews went to Fortress Monroe and became a second lieutenant (127, p. 1).

The news front shifted to Austin in late August as Governor Jim Ferguson refused to tell where he got $156,000 to pay off a debt. Attorney M. M. Crane asked the question and Ferguson said he would resign before telling. This was just the first round in a long battle (128, p. 1).

The influx of oil people following the strikes made in the western part of the county had created a housing problem. On August 31, plans for a new hotel were reported. Public subscriptions in the amount of $37,500 would be sought to build a modern hostelry. Originators of the plan hoped it would keep the oilmen from going to Mineral Wells for suitable accommodations. Something new in advertising was in that issue. Chesterfield cigarettes had a 3 x 12 ad reading "20 for 10¢. Wrapped in glassine paper keeps them fresh." This was the first cigarette ad seen (129, p. 1).

County finances were evidently getting better because the September 23 paper told of the decision by commissioners to hire another agricultural demonstrator. W. H. Ganzer, District Demonstration Agent, said the appointment would be
made shortly. At the state capital, Governor Ferguson was impeached, convicted on 10 of 21 counts, and barred from holding office in the state (130, p. 1).

Only two bidders showed up for the sale of the old Chautauqua Park site at the courthouse steps October 3. H. L. Moseley and Mayor Russell put in bids and Mayor Russell's bid for the city, $1,500, won the 50 acres. The old soldiers' spring, a favorite stopping place for early day military and cattle drivers, is in the area just southwest of the city. The story said that in acquiring the vacant land, the city was looking to the future when land for park purposes would be hard to get. Plans to develop the area as a city park were not advanced until 1974 (131, p. 1).

R. C. Withers of Buna was named the new Parker County farm demonstrator in the October 12 issue. The new agent came to the county well recommended, and commissioners said all county farmers should use his services freely. The second Liberty Bond issue was set for the county and the people were encouraged to respond to the demands of the situation. Banks were selling the Liberty Bonds (132, p. 1).

Another chapter in the Couts' will case developed in early December when the Court of Civil Appeals rendered a decision sustaining the findings of the Parker County District Court. Mrs. Susie Grant versus I. W. Stephens, et al, ended with the ruling in favor of the Couts trustees, Judge Stephens as executor, G. A. Holland, Weatherford College, and
the grandchildren of Couts. The terms of the will, which was not probated until the grandchildren reached legal age, made final distribution of the property left in trust to the grandchildren and Weatherford College December, 1924, 20 years after Couts' death. Approximately $200,000 was involved and the college received 25 per cent.

The economy was booming and the Weatherford banks reported more than $1,000,000 increase in deposits over the last bank report. The increase of $1,191,119.60 brought the total deposits in the banks to $2,575,290.23. The county peanut yield was more than $200 per acre (133, p. 1).

1918

January, 1918 started off in high gear with the announcement that a Fort Worth firm had closed a deal to purchase the old cotton mill property on Fort Worth Street. The property was to be converted into a plant manufacturing all peanut products, employing 150 persons. The eight-acre tract had a two-story brick building, office building, warehouse, and residence. Purchase was made from W. R. Woodhouse, George C. Poston, and C. C. Littleton. J. R. Fleming headed the purchasers (134, p. 1).

Victor Martin, former Democrat owner, was named to serve as Austin city clerk in February, 1918. Martin had been associated with the Austin newspapers before his appointment (135, p. 1).
A three-column head told the tragic story of the unexpected death of a popular Baptist minister. The Reverend Carroll Smith was killed accidentally while hunting squirrels on Spring Creek. He had been accompanied on the trip by Theryll and Custer Knox, sons of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Knox. The 39-year-old clergyman had been pastor of First Baptist Church. He had come to Weatherford from Temple and his body was shipped to Belton for interment (136, p. 1).

An announcement May 3 called for all Texas women to register to vote from June 26 to July 12 at the office of the tax collector. Much interest was noted in women voting in the impending July primary. The first women candidates for public office made their debut. The listing of candidates on the classified page carried the names of Mrs. T. C. Thompson for tax collector and Miss Jewell Bratton for county school superintendent (137, p. 1).

The editor was still placing his lead story in the center of the top of the front page most of the time. A shift to the top right hand corner had not yet come about. The May 10 lead headline, a double-column, two-deck head, read "Yellow Paint Is Applied to Poolville Store Front." Jim Upton's place of business was decorated in honor of his alleged failure to invest in any war securities. The handwriting in yellow paint said, "If you are not with us, you are against us." "Are you pro-German?" "Get busy. We may come back again (138, p. 1)." A week later, Upton replied
in the paper that the yellow paint was an injustice. He said he had been buying war savings stamps when the painting was done (139, p. 1).

The American Red Cross held an auction to help raise money for the war needs. A Poland China pig brought $100, and a pair of Rhode Island Red chickens brought $55. Plans were being made for another drive to help meet the national goal of a second one billion dollars. In the same issue, the story of a 13-year-old boy's being convicted of manslaughter was told. Ray Dill, who was to be 14 in October, was convicted of killing Union School teacher Professor George T. Cooper. On January 18, Dill was taken to the woods for a whipping when the incident occurred. The case attracted unusual attention throughout the county on account of the age of the defendant. County Attorney E. H. Grindstaff was assisted by Preston Martin. R. B. Hood and Sam Shadle defended the youth (140, p. 1).

Politics continued as usual despite the war. W. M. Bunch was elected mayor in the first election under a new city charter. The old form of city government had been in existence since the incorporation. A mayor and two commissioners replaced the old mayor and two aldermen from each of the four wards. Jim Crawford, who won in place one, was the only member retained from the old administration. W. E. Richards was elected in place two. R. K. Phillips was defeated in his bid for re-election. The voters approved the school tax proposal, 297 to 113.
One of the old customs was eliminated that year by county political candidates. The tradition of speaking in the various communities was discontinued because the farmers were too busy with the war caused shortage of farm labor.

Movie makers were capitalizing on the war interest. The Lyric Theatre was playing "Over the Top" June 13 and 14. Sergeant Arthur Guy Empy, a war hero, was playing himself in the movie. Prices were going up, too. Adult tickets were 45 cents and a nickel war tax. Children's tickets were 22 cents and a three-cent tax. Baker Poston ran a June one-cent sale at the department store (141, p. 1).

On July 5, The Democrat reported that women of the county were becoming indignant with the tax collector. They were said to be experiencing delays in registering to vote and they said they believed deputies should have been appointed to serve in the various precincts instead of having only one site for registration. Several thousand citizens turned out to hear Governor W. P. Hobby deliver two addresses in the city. The crowds were said to be entirely in sympathy with the speaker, who gave a review of achievements and issues (142, p. 1).

A Parker County commodity, which had achieved some renown at the St. Louis World's Fair, was selling well: watermelon. On July 26, farmer C. D. Hodge was reported to have sold a load to local buyers at $25 a ton. Hodge sold about 100 cars of melons to W. E. Scott and Company (143, p. 1).
In the August 2 edition, Governor Hobby was reported as carrying the county by over 2,000 votes in the primary. Hobby tallied 3,542 to 1,226 for Ferguson. Mrs. T. C. Thompson made political history by becoming the first woman nominated by county Democrats. She polled 1,685 votes for tax collector to 783 for S. T. Scott. Other primary winners were W. A. Johnson, lieutenant governor; C. F. Sentell, state representative; James C. Wilson, Congress; E. A. Swofford, county judge; John R. Brown, sheriff; T. W. C. Nealy, tax assessor; G. W. Buchanan, district clerk; E. H. Grindstaff, county attorney; V. P. Craven, school superintendent, defeating Miss Jewell Bratton, 3,188 to 1,635; S. P. Newberry, treasurer; and commissioners J. P. Gilliland in precinct one; F. E. Boley in two; S. S. Gilbert in three; and W. M. Boyles in four (144, p. 1).

The seriousness of the war could be detected in the August 16 report that preparations were being made to register men between the ages of 18 and 45. One half of the second page was devoted to a picture and account of the death of Colonel G. M. Bowie. The business and civic leader had been ill for some time (145, p. 1).

For the first time, The Democrat used a headline above the nameplate on October 4. The banner urged voters to turn out for the October 5 bond election for good roads. Endorsed by the businessmen of the community, the proposed $400,000 bond election was called by the commissioners court. The
purpose of the election and all essential facts were pre-
sent in a circular letter mailed to all county voters.

County Attorney Grindstaff served notice that the
Sunday lid would be on. The county blue law would get strict
enforcement under the plan. Grindstaff sent a letter to
proprietors of all confectioneries and garages warning them
of the enforcement policy. On the international scene,
Germany asked for a peace parley and Great Britain's
Chancellor requested President Woodrow Wilson to take the
initiative in the conference (146, p. 1).

The October 11 paper told of the sweeping victory of
"those who stand for progress." The $400,000 bond election
for good roads passed 1,564 to 1,010. The money was expected
to give the county first-class roads. Superintendent T. W.
Stanley closed the city schools on account of the influenza
outbreak. City health officer Dr. Garrett and Mayor W. M.
Bunch decided on the closing. Picture shows and all public
gatherings were suspended for five days.

Two resignations were handed the city commissioners in
early October. L. V. Harcourt resigned as treasurer and
John R. Brown as marshal. H. L. Brevard was appointed to
serve as the treasurer and R. W. Turner as marshal. Turner
was to continue his work as street commissioner in addition
to the new task (147, p. 1).

On October 18, the announcement was made that work
would begin November 1 on the building of the road system.
The county commissioners said they would hurry action on the work, and arrangements would be made to start work without waiting on the sale of the bonds. An advisory committee composed of H. W. Kuteman, chairman, C. W. "Bud" Varner, William McKinnon, J. H. Davenport, Lem Lamkin, John White, W. H. Reynolds, Albert Milburn, and Walter Shirley was chosen. War news predicted an early collapse of the "infamous Prussian military machine" and an unconditional surrender. The influenza epidemic continued in Parker County with additional cancellations of public events being announced. The number of persons affected by the sickness continues to rise (147, p. 1).

A front page feature-news story November 8 told of one Weatherford factory that was making money. "Weatherford brooms are being sold all over the state of Texas," the story said. One of the busiest places in town, the factory used 50,000 pounds of broom corn weekly in the manufacture of its product. Owned and managed by J. W. Culwell, the factory sold brooms for from $7.50 to $14.75 per dozen. An international story reported German peace delegates had entered Allied lines with terms of surrender to be submitted to Marshal Ferdinand Foch for consideration (148, p. 1).

Weatherford joined the world in celebrating the signing of the Armistice. The November 15 paper told of Congressman Wilson's address to a large audience of happy and thankful
citizens assembled on the courthouse lawn. Another story said military calls were being suspended (149, p. 1).

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a day of national thanksgiving in the November 22 issue and called upon the people of the United States to render thanks for the victory and peace on the following Thursday. Fifteen pictures of servicemen were featured on page one flanking the two-column proclamation. Pictures of Captain H. S. Bunch, Army medical corpsman at Camp Upton, Long Island, and his son, Claude, who was stationed at Camp Travis, as the only father-son active servicemen in the county, were run. They were the son and grandson of Mayor Bunch. Another story featured on the front page told of Sergeant John Muller and his brother, Private George, who fought over the same French ground their father, Oscar, had fought over in 1870 as a member of the German army wresting the land from France (150, p. 1).

On December 6, the civil engineer arrived and began meeting with the county commissioners in preparation for the surveying of county roads. Mayor Bunch was planning for the paving of the square and the four principal streets to the city limits. The estimated cost of the paving was $36,000. Details of the plans for the paving would be presented to the people as soon as they were complete. Peter Radford, a widely known county resident, died on a trip to Wisconsin at the age of 66. He was known for his agricultural work and
was president of the state farmer's union for several years. He had served four years in the state legislature (151, p. 1).

A second influenza epidemic swept the city and county in December and it was estimated that 800 cases were in Weatherford alone. The epidemic extended into every portion of the rural areas as well (152, p. 1).

A feature story in the December 20 edition recounted the beginnings of the Sanger Brothers store of Dallas, which was then worth more than $10 million. The company had an interesting history and many incidents were recalled. Sanger Brothers had begun as Baum and Sanger in Weatherford, and many of the local citizens remembered the humble beginnings of the giant store. Sad news was conveyed in the paper that day. The proposed $400,000 bond issue had been passed under the law limiting the amount to $160,000 and would probably have to be called off. There would be no money left for maintenance after the roads were built under the lower amount (153, p. 1).

The following week, citizens called a mass meeting to discuss the bond matter and the holding of a new election. A petition was given to the county commissioners to order a new election seeking the issuance of $400,000 in bonds under the law requiring a two-thirds majority (154, p. 1).

1919

The year of 1919 opened on a bad note when an accident at Consumers Gas Company knocked out gas service. Manager
Walter Gregory said it would be five or six days before the service could be resumed. Linotypes at both The Democrat and Daily Herald were out of commission and both weekly editions were late. There was no daily on the day of the accident. Weatherford Laundry suffered heavily because of the loss of gas service (155, p. 1).

In late January, plans for the merger of the telephone companies was announced. The manager of Home Company made the announcement of the reaching of an agreement. The editor said the city commission should look into the transaction before approving it because it would probably mean higher rates. Southwestern Telephone Company had begun with 400 connections at a rate of $3 per month for residences and $5 for businesses. Riddle Telephone Service had been instituted by D. O. Riddle of Ranger and had about 200 customers. Later, Home Telephone organized and took over Riddle to give a combined business of 600 customers (156, p. 1).

On February 14, Mayor Bunch explained a proposed street bond issue. Voters would cast their ballots for a $60,000 street improvement bond on March 1. This would include the square and main street paving. Also on that date, the dipping law for cattle was to go into effect. Dipping would be compulsory and no cattle could be moved after that time without an inspection and an official permit (157, p. 1).

The county's effort to get a bond election passed by the needed two-thirds majority failed in March as the voters
turned down the proposition by 1,456 to 763. Commissioners began making plans for another road bond election. Fritz G. Lanham announced his plans to follow in his father's footsteps as a Congressman from the 12th District. James C. Wilson, who had been the representative, had been named federal judge and was leaving the post that had once been occupied by S. W. T. Lanham. Parker County friends of Lanham planned an active campaign (158, p. 1). A special election to select the 12th District representative was set for April 19. Lanham's only announced opponent, Marion Sansom of Fort Worth, withdrew before the election. R. D. Evans, county athletic director, announced plans for the interscholastic track and field events on Saturday (159, p. 1).

In still another effort to secure good roads for the county, commissioners answered a petition from citizens by calling for an $800,000 bond election April 26 (160, p. 1). City voters gave all-out support for their street improvement election. The tally showed 482 for and 44 against. F. Patrick defeated Jim Crawford for the number one commission post, and Richards was re-elected, defeating R. P. Cofer (161, p. 1).

School board president G. A. Holland called for a school improvement bond election June 3 in the amount of $20,000. Other board members at the time were George M. Jones, vice-president; W. R. Vivrett, secretary; Sam Shadle, Preston Martin, George W. Fritz, and W. R. Witherspoon (162, p. 1).
The June 6 paper told the news that Weatherford would have a new and modern hotel that would cost $100,000. At the conclusion of the World War I victory loan campaign, the Reverend C. H. Ray, pastor of the North Side Baptist Church, and others led a drive to put the donations over the goal. Screaming whistles at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday proclaimed the victory.

In an answer to the city's gas problems, Consumers Gas Company announced plans June 6 to build a 54-mile pipe line that would bring natural gas into the city. A derrick was going up on the Jim McFarland ranch. County Judge Swofford said Thursday that O. Leonard of Haskell County had been employed as engineer to survey local public roads for improvement. Captain E. N. Stanley, late of the U. S. Infantry, was hired to assist Leonard (163, p. 1).

After nine sites were offered to hotel stockholders, one on Palo Pinto Street was chosen for the new hotel. Property occupied by the F. M. Hardin Lumber Company was sold by J. B. Alvis to the stockholders for $8,000. The site had a 215-foot front on Palo Pinto Street and went back 150 feet to Dallas Avenue.

The commissioners court sold $400,000 in road bonds above par to Stern Brothers of Kansas City in late June. The first word was that the initial public road improvement would be between Weatherford and the Tarrant County line. Publishers indicated that a daily paper at that time would
not be considered although an earlier announcement said one was planned. The postponement, at least for that time, was decided after friends said they believed the publishers were giving the readers a good weekly (164, p. 1).

Because of the increased interest, the editor began an oil page with the July 4 issue. The page carried news of county explorations and results. Firemen observed the Fourth of July holiday by having a water fight between the engine and hose companies on the west side of the square. Fourth of July celebrations were big events, usually with a long parade (165, p. 1).

With the hopes of a north-south railroad line just about completely gone, the interest centered on the other direction when the Fort Worth and Mineral Wells Interurban Association established a survey office in Weatherford. The interurban line was part of a system that would link Mineral Wells on the west to Dallas on the east. Another line went south from Fort Worth to Cleburne. A railway strike and shortage of cars left the local watermelon market in a precarious position at that time. Shipments totaled only 125 cars (166, p. 1).

A picture on page one accompanied a story September 12 on a $100,000 oil refinery to be built with local capital. The plant was to be located in proximity to the Texas Pipeline Company on the Santa Fe Railway, about three miles southeast of the city. The refinery would have a capacity
of 2,000 barrels of oil a day. The famous Davis process
was to be used in the refining. E. A. Frantz was named
president of the board; J. H. Doss, vice-president; and

The September 19 paper carried information about addi-
tional construction. A canning factory was planned at a
cost of $17,000. A picture of the proposed factory was used
with the front page story. Local citizens subscribed the
money for the plant (168, p. 1).

A change in the advertising rates was announced, begin-
nning with the October 3 issue. The increased rate of twenty
cents an inch per issue was necessary because of the increased
cost of living. Tragedy and comedy were features of the
Sells-Floto Circus day in Weatherford. A man was killed in
a wagon accident and a Sanchez Creek stockman, M. C. Headrick,
was kissed by a long-lost Georgia sweetheart, who was
traveling with the circus. He almost swooned and had to be
led back to his seat. The story said she kissed about half
of the men there. In the same issue was an article stating
that a Fort Worth contractor, A. O. Harvey, was planning to
build the four-story, 54-room hotel (169, p. 1).

On October 17, editors carried a list of the property
assessments made to pave the public streets and square under
the recent bond election. The city would bear one fourth of
the total expense from the $60,000 bond issue, and property
owners had to pay the remaining three fourths under the law (170, p. 1).

Inventions by county residents were nothing new, but the October 24 paper carried a story about a windmill patented by O. L. Huffman. The windmill was going to be manufactured by an El Paso company. The Reverend C. H. Ray announced a new publication for the city, entitled Baptist Messenger. The monthly publication had a 60-cent-a-year subscription rate (171, p. 1).

The first sugarless Christmas in Weatherford's experience was noted in 1919. "Good housewives were foiled in their attempt to obtain the necessary and expected supply but there is a promise of more sugar and reduced living cost soon," the story said. A car shipped from Ogden, Utah, December 4 failed to arrive, though. As the editor had predicted, local telephone rates were to increase January 1, an announcement said. The increased rates were declared necessary to provide adequate facilities in "the moving city of Weatherford." A business special line would cost $4; residential special line $2.25; residential party line $1.75; and a business extension $1 (172, p. 1).

1920

The beginning of 1920 brought the announcement that the census enumerators were beginning their work. Supervisor Lovell said he expected to complete the entire job by the
end of January. Telephone rates were not the only things
going up the first of the year. *Democrat* subscribers were
informed that after January 15, the price would be $1.50
(173, p. 1). In late January, the census supervisor indicated
the figures would show 10,000 people in the city when
the work was completed (174, p. 1).

On March 19, the paper's masthead carried a new listing: H. L. Moseley, president; L. F. Howard, vice-president;
R. K. Phillips, secretary-treasurer; and Hec A. McEachin,
editor (175, p. 1).

An April 2 headline read "Aeroplane Crashes to Ground
on South Main." The crash occurred near Walter Crow's
grocery store Monday afternoon. The plane, which was flying
from Dallas to Mineral Wells, fell through a string of tele-
phone wires after having taken off from the old fair grounds.
F. H. Muncie and W. H. Davis, pilot and passenger, were
unhurt in the accident. The plane was taken to Dallas for
repairs (176, p. 1).

In the city election, Nolan Queen was elected mayor on
a majority of the 315 votes cast. He gave a speech to his
followers after the results were announced in the Tuesday
election (177, p. 1).

The highway through Parker County, reported May 21, was
to cost the county $475,686. This amount was appropriated
at a meeting of the commissioners court. Federal aid for the
31.6 miles would amount to $240,000 (178, p. 1).
On June 11, the advertising patrons of The Democrat received good news. A house ad told of a stereotyper in operation and that the paper was subscribing to a mat service to allow advertisers to use art work in their ads (179, p. 1).

It was decided in mid-June that the national highway would definitely enter the city on Palo Pinto Street on the west (180, p. 8). The next week, a story told of the weak bond market at the time. The county's road bonds were being sold at a great discount, and it was estimated that the county would lose about $50,000 on the remaining $400,000 in bonds (181, p. 1).

Early hopeful predictions fell far short as the Census Bureau reported July 9 that the city's population was well below estimates at 6,203. This was, however, a 22 per cent increase over 1910. A new comic strip, "Home Sweet Home" by Earl Hurst, was inaugurated that week (182, p. 1).

The July 30 headline concerning the election victors smacked heavily of editorializing. "Efficient Corps of Officials Elected to County Offices. Every Man Elected to Office Can Be Depended Upon to Give the County a Clean Cut Administration," the headline said. Winners in the election were Eugene Miller, state representative; C. N. Sullivan, county judge; E. R. Newsom, tax assessor; W. H. Hutcheson, county clerk; Jim L. McCall, county attorney; Scott Jordan, treasurer; John R. Brown, sheriff; Mrs. Jesse M. Thompson,
tax collector; V. P. Craven, county school superintendent; 
and commissioners V. J. Tucker in precinct one; W. J. Sears 
in two; S. S. "Sing" Gilbert in three; and John Guiles in 
four (183, p. 1).

Farmers had a little better luck with their 1920 crop. 
Watermelons netted farmers $180,000. Farmers made from $300 
to $500 per acre, some of the scientific growers earning the 
higher amounts. County commissioners reported a little 
better luck in August in selling part of the road bonds for 
par by paying a sales commission (184, p. 1).

A premature blast claimed the life of a construction 
worker on the national highway August 25. R. M. Patton of 
Womack Construction Company, contractor for the highway, was 
killed when two boxes of high explosives were accidently 
touched off. The dynamite shooter was working on Rock Creek 
between Millsap and Mineral Wells (185, p. 1).

One of the biggest local stories of the year was carried 
on page four of the November 5 issue. School officials set 
a $150,000 bond election for a high school building. The new 
structure would be built on property just south of the 
present building. National news of the day told of voters 
giving Warren G. Harding the greatest majority in history for 
a Republican president (186, p. 4).

Construction progress was the main interest in the 
December 3 issue. On page four, a story told of two paved 
streets reaching the market square. Hitching posts were
being installed on Fort Worth Street. Another story said a force of 23 carpenters was rushing work on Weatherford's new hotel on Palo Pinto Street (187, p. 5).

The December 17 issue had been clipped from the file book, but information in the papers just before and after filled in the lead story of the day. William Howard Taft had lectured on "Our Place Among the Nations" December 15 at the First Baptist Tabernacle.

1921

The new year, 1921, started on a stormy note as tempers flared between the city and county officials. The commissioners court refused the demand of the city to pay part of the expense of paving the courthouse square. The county leaders decided they were not obligated to share the expense. The city was asking for $14,700 (188, p. 1).

Under the heading "Introductory," news of the sale of the paper to Norwood and Peeler was given. H. E. Letson, who had joined the paper in 1920, was continuing as editor. Letson and his predecessor, Hec McEachin, were among the hardiest of the editors as well as being colorful. The subscription rate was dropped back to $1 (189, p. 1).

In 1919, during the Ranger oil boom, Phillips and Moseley went to Eastland and started that town's first daily paper, The Oil Belt News. They left McEachin in charge of The Democrat, but he soon joined them on the Eastland paper, and Letson became editor. L. E. Howard was manager of
The Democrat when the paper was sold to Norwood and Peeler. He joined the others in Eastland (190, Sec. 11, p. 1).

In late February, fire destroyed the hotel and feed barns of the O. K. Wagon Yard on North Main Street. The two-story hotel, feed barn with 2,000 bales of hay, a small building, and a blacksmith shop were lost in the blaze. Damage was estimated at $9,000. J. F. Stephens had only recently purchased the property (191, p. 1).

The high school bonds voted for the new building went at par value. The state purchased the $200,000 in bonds (192, p. 1). An architect's sketch of the building was run April 22. In the same issue, a story told of Dr. J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth preaching to capacity crowds at the First Baptist Tabernacle. The minister was to continue preaching there all the next week. A new fire alarm system was reported by the fire department. A wildcat whistle was being installed, replacing the old bell. The bell was cracked and had been repaired but would not be used again to announce fires (193, p. 1).

On April 29, a story told of the probable takeover of the highway by the national government. County Judge Charles E. Sullivan went to Austin to appear before the State Highway Commission seeking help in getting the county's money back. If the government took over the construction, Parker County's money would be refunded (194, p. 1).
The 45th annual state firemen's convention was held in Weatherford during May. The next annual meeting of the state organization was to be held in Brownwood. Firemen and their families from all over the state crowded the city for the meetings and festivities. It was during this period of time that the publishers completely dropped the *Daily Texan* from the flag. The *Texan* name had been subordinated to a small line under *The Weatherford Democrat* for some time (195, p. 1).

In late May, citizens of Weatherford were called upon to raise $75,000 to assist in improving Weatherford College. The school had again fallen on bad financial times (196, p. 1). The June 3 edition listed the eight students graduating from the college. The Reverend R. B. Hooper, Gorman Methodist pastor, gave the graduation address at the First Methodist Church auditorium. Graduates were Misses Dura Robbins, Pauline Coalson, Bessie Alice Kuhn, and Madeline Thomas and Messrs. Oakley Burns, Maxwell Browder, and George and Winston Hooper (197, p. 1).

County agent Robert C. Withers announced in the July 29 paper that Parker County Tom Watson watermelons would be featured on the movie screen. Fox News cameras were to take pictures of all parts of the melon industry of the county (199, p. 1). The following week, 10,000 visitors feasted on Tom Watsons at the annual slicing held under the auspices of the Parker County Watermelon Growers Association and the Chamber of Commerce.
A meeting of the Ex-Texas Rangers Association was to be held in Weatherford August 11 and 12. W. A. White, mortician, was arrangements chairman. The organization had its beginnings in Weatherford a year earlier with about 60 members signing up. On page five of the August 5 edition, a story told of one of the city's heavy fire trucks wrecking a gas station while making a run. The Lanier Garage and Filling Station on South Main Street was hit by the truck, which was headed for the E. D. Hamilton house on South Walnut Street. The story neglected to tell if the house was saved and what the damages to the station and truck were (199, pp. 1, 5).

A story in the August 12 paper said the entire county had shipped 35,690 railroad carloads of watermelons, compared to 29,406 the same time a year earlier. About 1,000 watermelons were sent to Buckner Orphans Home in Dallas by the Melon Growers. Miss Eloise Merritt, a county woman, had taught there the past winter (200, p. 1).

On page six of the September 9 issue, a story told school patrons of the latest information on construction progress at the new high school. The new building was equipped with steam heat, sewerage, shower baths, and other conveniences. During the summer months, many improvements were made in the schools: All ward schools were piped with gas; coal stoves were removed; sewerage was added to the old high school building; and radiators were installed in the
old high school building to be fed by steam heat from a large boiler in the new building (201, p. 6).

September 16 marked the return of McEachin as editor. He had served The Democrat as editor for four years before going to Eastland with Phillips, who still held an interest in the weekly (202, p. 1).

In another economy move, the county commissioners announced the elimination of both county agent positions in early November. Withers had been serving as agricultural agent and Miss Myrtle Murray, who was going to Texas A&M from Weatherford, was home demonstration agent (203, p. 1).

What is believed to be the first of many extra editions made its debut Friday, November 12. The front page bore the November 12 date; the inside pages, the November 11 date, indicating that only the front page was remade from the regular edition. Heavy type "Extra! Extra!" was printed across the top, the lead headline being "Death Penalty for Willis Todd. Jury Finds One of the Slayers of Jas. McNeal Guilty & Says He Must Die." The trial story was set in 12-point type. The verdict was announced in open court at 11:30 a.m. Friday. The story went into some detail about the jury's decision and about the trial itself. Todd had been tried, along with others, in the death of a Fort Worth service car driver. The slaying occurred near Aledo, August 31 (204, p. 1).
An exciting sports note came the following week when the Chamber of Commerce said the New York Yankees might train in Weatherford. Special inducements to the Yank management had been offered by the Chamber to bring the team to the city.

The second extra was run November 18, carrying the headlines: "Dawson Declared Juvenile. Gets 6 Years In State Reform School at Gatesville. Jensen Jury Not Yet Reported." The second member of the group, Forrest Dawson, charged in the McNeal murder, was declared a juvenile and sentenced to the state school after admitting his guilt. Judge McKinsey passed the sentence (205, p. 1). The following week, attorneys for Wayne Willis Todd moved for a new trial after Cecil Jensen, the third member of the gang, received a life sentence (206, p. 1).

An announcement that the Prairie Pipe Line Company was building through Parker County on the route from Mexia to Jacksboro was made December 2. Miss Ida Durrett sold the company 18 acres for a pump station, two miles east on the Dicey Road. Miss Durrett received $2,700 for the land. Prairie Pipe Line Company was a subsidiary of Standard Oil Company. A short story, also on the front page, said Tom P. Ritchey was taking up the work of county agent pending a new agreement with the commissioners (207, p. 1).

The December 23 Christmas issue again featured a full page color preprint picture by artist Norman Rockwell of
Santa Claus looking at a sleeping girl. A house ad said The Democrat had over 2,000 bona fide weekly subscribers. The paper had grown from 1,300 to 1,600 in the past year and was over the 2,000 mark at that time. A special subscription rate of 50 cents were being charged in December (208, p. 1).

1922

A valuable piece of property changed hands in the first week of 1922. Preston Martin, lawyer, sold two lots just west of the Monfort Hotel on West Church Street to Mrs. Maggie Foat of Dallas. No sale price was given for the property, which was just south of the city hall and fire station. Mrs. Foat, the widow of a local banker and a prominent Episcopalian, presented the property to the local congregation as a church building site (209, p. 1).

The Democrat assumed a more aggressive role in the local newspaper picture in 1922. Former Democrat employee A. C. MacNelly had become editor of the rival Herald, and the competition was getting keener. A house ad January 13 boasted a circulation of 2,110 while "the opposition claims something like 1,500 (210, p. 1)." Ayer's list showed 1,375 for the Daily Herald and 1,670 for the weekly Herald and 1,525 for The Democrat. Actual figures and reported figures were often wide apart. Advertising rates at the time were 20 cents a column inch for The Democrat and 15 cents for the Herald (211, p. 992).
A strong report was given by the banking institutions as they held their annual meetings for 1922. More than $2,000,000 was on deposit in the four banks. The First National was the largest bank with deposits of $715,991.64. W. S. Fant was re-elected president and was joined on the board by R. W. Davis, George Fant, Harry Baker, W. J. Milmo, Hugh McGrattan, Charles Fant, and I. M. Gardner. H. W. Kuteman, A. N. Grant, W. T. Carter, George W. Fritz, Alex Rawlins, Elmer C. Hill, and D. S. Wright. G. A. Holland was returned at Citizens as president. Deposits were $507,802.16 and other directors were J. O. Tucker, C. C. Barthold, G. S. White, C. C. Littleton, J. P. Booles, and the Reverend C. H. Ray. Merchants and Farmers had $413,571.79. J. H. Doss was president and H. L. Brevard, E. H. Martin, C. A. Waller, J. Tom Pickard, B. A. Danley, and Fred Smith were directors (210, p. 1).

Dr. Frederick Cook, who claimed Arctic exploration, spoke for the Chamber of Commerce program that drew 2,000 people at the First Baptist Tabernacle. In the February 17 paper, Cook announced he would seek some official recognition of his claim as the discoverer of the North Pole. After 14 years of silence, Cook said recent findings of field notes and instruments in the Arctic strengthened his claim. He said he wanted Congress to adopt a resolution or authorize a medal confirming his claim (212, p. 1).
Plans for a swimming pool were revealed February 24. O. E. Haman said construction was underway near the T&P depot on Town Creek. The pool would be between two dams built between a pair of bluffs. The dams were to be 77 feet long, five feet thick, and five feet high, making the pool 100 feet wide and 700 feet long. A concrete-floored bath house was built near the pool. A playground was to be opened there May 15.

Continued stories on the boll weevil infestation sounded a warning of what was to come. The once-profitable cotton business was dying a bitter death (213, p. 1).

On March 17, the announcement of a new postmaster for Weatherford was made. Walter M. Hudson was the appointee under the Republican administration. Judge J. M. Richards was retiring after nine years in the office (214, p. 1).

A wet, rainy day dampened the spirits of the city voters April 5 and only 861 votes were cast. Nolan Queen was re-elected mayor. In the opening of the spring term of the 43rd District Court, Judge McKinsey censured the membership of the Ku Klux Klan (215, p. 1).

The writer got a little carried away April 21 when he described a gusher in the northwest part of the county. "Parker County has a real oil well and it is the biggest thing that has ever happened in the history of the county," he said. The estimated production for the well, owned by Haile and Knight, was from 500 to several thousand barrels
a day. Although the oil was pronounced to be of very high quality, it did not last long and the county remained primarily a gas, not an oil producer (216, p. 1).

A 36-point banner across the front page April 28 told of a rainstorm described as the greatest in 20 years. Eleven inches fell within a 36-hour period, resulting in thousands of dollars' damage. Railways were put out of business by the raging waters and public highways and city streets were heavily damaged. Farm crops suffered great damage by the hard rains. It was reported that every stream in the county overflowed its banks. News that day was not all bad, though. Crane Creek Company reported finding the "finest coal deposit in Texas" while drilling for oil near Azle. The coal deposit was found at 800 feet and changed the company's production plans (217, p. 1).

In the giant size type usually reserved for very unusual events, an extra edition was put out May 1, telling of an oil test being run on the Knights of Pythias Home land. Five thousand acres were leased two miles east of the city for exploration. The contract, which was signed with the Home Board, provided a $25,000 endowment (218, p. 1). Excitement, if not the oil itself, was booming, and, the next day, The Democrat put out another extra. This one told of more test wells being drilled in the Whitt area. Landowners granted a lease and extension of two years on their property. The Bradley well was to be completed, the Discovery well was to
be drilled deeper, and two new wells started within 30 days (219, p. 1).

Weather continued its competition for the headlines. A six-inch rain on Monday that flooded the county was reported May 12. Great damage was done in every direction by this second downpour. The Brazos River flooded all of the valley farms, and railway transportation was suspended indefinitely. Fort Worth also got its second flood within two weeks and heavy water damage was reported (220, p. 1).

The school population was continuing to grow along with the city. When the spring term closed in late May, there were 75 graduates. They were listed along with a story on the new high school built for $175,000. To be ready for the fall term, the building had an auditorium with a seating capacity of 900, was fireproof, and had a moving picture booth, a $1,500 electric bell clock, and a cafeteria to serve 250 at one time. There were 350 students in grades nine through 12 (221, p. 1).

No announcement was made, but in the June 16 masthead, Claude L. Peeler and Willis Hall were listed as the owners. Hec McEachin was still carried as editor (222, p. 1).

A cultural note for the city was announced in late June when the Twentieth Century Harmony Club revealed that Ernestine Schumann-Heink had been secured to sing a concert in the city in March, 1923 (223, p. 1).
In the primary election, Joe Gilbert was nominated over Erwin for sheriff by a small majority in a very quiet election. Clyde Boley was nominated for tax collector; C. M. Winstead, county school superintendent; C. N. Sullivan, county judge; Jim L. McCall, county attorney; W. H. Hutcheson, county clerk; J. R. Mitchell, district clerk; Ed R. Newsome, tax assessor; Scott Jordan, treasurer; and commissioners J. W. Hutcheson in precinct one, W. J. Sears in two, J. W. Brock in three, and John Guiles in four. Pat Neff was nominated for governor and Fritz Lanham was unopposed for Congress (224, p. 1).

After an absence of several years, buffalo were returning to Parker County. Dr. Milling, a Mineral Wells chiropractor, purchased the John L. Jackson ranch near Peaster in mid-August and said he planned to make a buffalo preserve out of the several-hundred-acre ranch. A 10-foot-high fence was planned to encompass the pasture where the buffalo would be kept (225, p. 1).

One of the biggest events of the year occurred in October when "one of the most modern school buildings in the State of Texas" was delivered to the city. Mayor Nolan Queen accepted the building for the city, and Mrs. R. B. Hood made some remarks about education. Dr. W. W. Hall gave the principal address. The lot cost $15,000, and the building, $145,000; and $6,000 was spent renovating the Central School adjacent to the north. Four hundred steel lockers were placed in the
new structure for student use. Clarkson and Gaines of Fort Worth were the architects, and Central Building Company did the construction. The state still owed $92,000 on the bonds and the local banks--First National, $80,000 and Citizens National, $15,000--furnished other money (226, p. 1).

A Sunday afternoon street car accident in New Orleans claimed the life of one of Weatherford's most popular women, Mrs. G. S. White. She was attending the October national convention of the American Legion when the accident occurred. Mrs. White, who was accompanied by Mrs. Frank Hardin, was vice-president of the state Legion Auxiliary and was buried with full military honors by the local Legion Post. Banks closed as the city paid tribute to the woman who had memberships in First Methodist Church, Twentieth Century Club honorary, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, and American Legion Auxiliary. She was founder of the Weatherford Civic League and Cemetery Association, was vice-president of the Parker County Fair Association and had been a general supervisor of the Red Cross work rooms during World War I. A longtime resident of the city, Mrs. White had married at 17 and died on her 38th wedding anniversary.

Another death carried on the front page October 20 hit even closer to home. Veteran editor Hec A. McEachin died. He had not been feeling well for several days and had become ill at work Saturday afternoon. A physician was summoned and,
at 3:30, he was unable to be driven to his home in the Bethel community, a few miles south of the city. He became worse and died before his son returned with the doctor. A born newspaperman, McEachin was a Democrat of the old school. Governor James Stephen Hogg had appointed him First Assistant Secretary of State for a time. He returned to his first love--newspapers--after Hogg left office. He had been associated with the Abilene Reporter, Anson Western, Colorado City Clipper, Fort Worth Gazette, Texas Stockman and Journal, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, El Paso Times, and Weatherford Daily Herald. He had been an editorial writer for The Oil Belt News, the Eastland paper established by H. L. Moseley and R. K. Phillips, until his return to The Democrat a few months before his death. Column rules on the editorial page were reversed between his final editorials. The reversing of the rules created a black edge around the editorials. The Fort Worth Record also paid tribute to him (227, p. 1).

On December 22, the report was given that the Bankhead Highway was open through to Palo Pinto County. Federal Inspector Mayo, District Engineer Henning, Judge Sullivan, and County Engineer Barry made the official announcement. The masthead listed Perry and Peeler as publishers and Norwood was replaced (228, p. 1).
1923

The early issues of 1923 carried records of how the county was progressing. The semi-official bank report on resources of the county showed good gains. The county's poultry industry had brought in $1,000,000 in 1922. The compulsory school law had become effective. This law, requiring children between the ages of seven and 14 to attend school, was an attempt to insure at least a minimum education for the young people (229, p. 1).

Reports from county correspondents began making their appearances in the paper in 1923. Mrs. J. A. Coffman was listed as editor of the Millsap department. (She continued in that post for more than 50 years, until her death.)

On February 9, a story said hoped-for good weather in 1923 was high. The 40.45 inches of rain that fell in 1922 constituted the wettest year on record. Only .05 was recorded in December, though, and three months recorded under one inch each. The radio log for Fort Worth station WBAP made its debut on page three. The log for the entire week was carried (230, p. 1).

A picture of the girls' mandolin orchestra from the Pythian Home was run March 2. The girls gave a concert Monday, February 19, over WBAP. Miss Julia Struve was director of the orchestra. Dr. E. D. Fyke announced in the same paper that he was planning to build a sanitarium-hospital to accommodate his own patients and to furnish facilities
for other physicians and surgeons. Several sites were being considered.

J. L. Tullis purchased the paper from Perry and Peeler and was listed as publisher and editor for the first time in the March 2 masthead. He altered the makeup style slightly, going to a more verticle format with two-column headlines at the top of the pages (231, p. 1).

Renton Irving, junior college examiner for the Department of Education, reported in the March 23 paper that Weatherford College would receive recognition as a junior college. President Rand was to receive the official notification in early April. The 33rd annual meeting of the Building and Loan Association listed the directors of the organization as R. J. Norton, R. W. Davis, H. L. Brevard, W. L. Tucker, Ward Bankhead, George Fant, and Charles Fant (232, p. 1).

Another quiet city election was held April 4, with C. S. Davis being elected in place one on the commission. W. H. Reynolds was re-elected after two years on the commission (233, p. 1).

1924

Fire helped open the year of 1924 for the citizens of Weatherford. On January 2, fire destroyed the Bradfish Elevator with a loss of $60,000. The elevator warehouse and storage tanks of Henry J. Bradfish on Fort Worth Street
were burned in what was described as the heaviest fire loss in the city in 20 years. It had been discovered about 10:00 p.m. Also in the January 4 edition, the county was reported to have produced more than 10,000 bales of cotton in 1923, compared to 3,600 the year before. The crop sale averaged $150 a bale and the seed was averaging $20 a bale. The total value of the 1923 crop was $1,700,000 (234, p. 1).

After a four-year absence, R. K. Phillips returned to The Democrat as editor and publisher with the January 11 issue. Phillips and Moseley had sold The Oil Belt News to Eastland residents. They left Weatherford in 1919 to establish a paper in the oil boom area.

Clarence Hopkins, Ford dealer, was added to the list of directors of the Citizens National Bank at the January meeting. He joined president G. A. Holland, C. C. Barthold, G. S. White, J. P. Booles, and Couts Holland on the board. Holland was listed also as a vice-president. Directors named at the First State Bank were W. H. Kuteman, A. N. Grant, Alex Rawlins, Carter, Fritz, Hill, Wright, Campbell and Shadle. Merchants and Farmers directors were Martin, Waller, Pickard, Brevard, Smith, Donley, and President Doss. First National directors included W. S. Fant, Davis, Baker, George Fant, Gardner, Milmo, McGrattan, and Charles Fant.

The Chamber of Commerce announced January 11 that the Oklahoma City Indians would train in Weatherford. Arriving March 10, the team would be here for three weeks. Manager
O. J. Humphreys said he would bring 25 players and others.
Oklahoma City won the Western League crown in 1923 (235, p. 1).
An earlier attempt to get the Yankees to train here failed.
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Chapter III

PHILLIPS' LATER YEARS 1924-1934

J. P. Webster and Sons of Dallas purchased the J. L. Hill and Company Wholesale House for $150,000 in mid-January of 1924. Hill and Dr. J. P. Webster, associated here some 20 years earlier under the name of Webster, Hill, and Baker, bought out Coleman, Lysaght, and Blair after Wiley Blair went to Wichita Falls. Hill then bought out his associates. Dr. Webster took over the company's Cisco operation. Elmer Hill became president after J. L. Hill died. Other officers were Frank Porter, treasurer, and Walter D. Lucius, secretary.

In the same January 18 issue, the municipal band's name was reported changed to the Gold Medal Band. Conway King was director; and officers were Frank Rawlins, president; Carson Baker, vice-president; Irby Dyer, secretary; and Joe Wither- spoon, treasurer. After more than 45 years of barbering on North Main Street, pioneer barber Gus Jensen retired. He sold his shop to H. G. Elam of Agnes. He had been at that same site at 116 North Main for 26 years. Jensen's shop had burned along with The Democrat in the big fire 20 years earlier (1, p. 1).

Dr. F. D. Boyd of Fort Worth and Dr. W. M. Campbell, speakers at the Rotary Club meeting at the new Parker Hotel,
urged the building of a city-county hospital. The tax collector reported in the February 1 edition that the county poll tax payments were the heaviest ever known: 5,700, with 700 exemptions, 150 above 1922's qualified voters. There were 2,122 automobiles registered--compared to 1,900 the year before--and 164 commercial vehicles, bringing the total to 2,386 (2, p. 1).

A story on the death of Ex-President Woodrow Wilson was carried in the February 8 edition. Wilson died after a lengthy illness on Sunday morning in Washington (3, p. 1).

Oklahoma City's baseball team began training on the local diamond in early March. A pair of match games between the Indians and teams from Dallas and Fort Worth was set (4, p. 1).

A freak accident was reported in the March 21 paper. Miss Katy Nealy, who was injured slightly, had been playing the piano at the North Side Baptist Church Sunday night and had just sat in a seat when a bolt of lightning struck her. The Reverend C. H. Ray, pastor, had just begun preaching, but was not injured. The lights were knocked out. The young lady was taken to the home of an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Osborne. She was the daughter of a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student, T. W. C. Nealy. On the same page, a story told of Jim Vaughn pitching in an outlaw league. The former New York and Washington (American League) and Chicago (National League) star pitcher was hurling for the Fairbanks Morse team (5, p. 1).

In the city election reported April 4, Ward Bankhead won the post of mayor by a large majority, garnering 520 of the 1,060 votes cast. C. S. Davis had 314, G. W. Buchanan, 115, and J. M. Richards, 84 (7, p. 1).

George McCall was appointed city attorney April 11 and Ross Robertson was named police chief. Ed Hall was appointed fire chief. Governor Pat Neff was to address the people on the following Tuesday night about state problems. H. C. Shropshire, county Democratic chairman, presided over the meeting held at the high school auditorium. Governor Neff said he favored an uninstructed delegation to the national convention (8, p. 1).

Wide World Photo mats were first used May 16. The big story that day was a Tuesday night fire that started in the Milmo Lumber Yard and caused an estimated $60,000 loss. Mel Huffaker's Shoe Shop, and Land's Studio (a photographic studio) were burned, and Gilbert Brothers blacksmith shop
gave the three show dates, June 30-July 2, of "Covered Wagon," starring Lois Wilson, J. Walter Kerrigan, and Alan Hale (11, p. 1).

On July 11, the Pythians celebrated the starting of work on a dormitory for the girls at the Home. After the main building was completed, plans called for two dormitories to flank it. The boys' dorm on the west side had been completed earlier. Mrs. Virgil Watkins, Grand Senior of the Pythian Sisters of Texas, gave the address. "Uncle" Henry Miller, veteran keeper of the seal for Texas Pythians and a longtime Weatherford resident, broke the ground (12, p. 1).

"Saturday's Primary Brings Out a Heavy Vote in This County" the headline read on August 1. T. W. Davidson led the county voting for governor with Ma Ferguson third. Other vote leaders in the county were W. C. Edwards, lieutenant governor; Fritz G. Lanham, Congress; B. J. Forbes, state representative; Eugene Miller, state senate; F. O. McKinsey, district judge; J. R. Mitchell, district clerk; Joe Gilbert, sheriff; C. M. Winstead, county school superintendent; Clyde Boley, tax collector; Charlie Sullivan, county attorney; J. E. Carter, county judge; Clarence Canafax, tax assessor; Cleve Dill, county clerk; Homer S. Turpin, treasurer; and commissioners J. W. Hutcheson, one; V. L. Coalson, two; J. W. Brock, three; and J. A. Nichols, four (13, p. 1).

Judge J. C. Wilson spoke at the Tuesday night opening of Cherry Park, according to the August 8 paper. An estimated
four thousand people attended the dedication of the city park, which was on the block bounded by Alamo Street on the east, Davis Street on the west, Lee Avenue on the south, and Columbia Street on the north. The park was a work of love by manager Frank Cherry of the Weatherford Water and Light Company. Judge Wilson stressed the value of parks in his speech. Afterwards, six tons of watermelons, provided by Cherry, were sliced (14, p. 1).

A week later, it was reported that about 800 cars of watermelons had been shipped from the city. All records were expected to be broken with more than 1,000 cars anticipated. The melons were bringing from $10 to $14 per ton. Jim Ferguson was scheduled to speak that week in behalf of his wife's candidacy for governor. The rally was planned for 8:00 p.m. Saturday on the public square. Ma Ferguson was expected to say a few words (15, p. 1).

Runoff election results August 29 told of Mrs. Ferguson's being elected governor and the anti-Klan ticket's sweeping the state. Fine Bedford defeated B. J. Forbes in a runoff for state representative as Mrs. Ferguson carried the county. In another race, Eugene Miller and Roy Coffee of Decatur were almost tied for the state senate. Miller had 11,600 votes and Coffee had 11,591. Planters Oil Mill changed hands, and plans for its operation were announced. Clifton Brothers and Porter Braselton bought the mill from Citizens National
Bank and American National Bank of Dallas. Tom Messer was named foreman (16, p. 1).

A full-page advertisement was run September 12 announcing that, as of September 12, Baker-Poston Department Store would begin issuing S&H Green Stamps with purchases. This was the first mention of any store in the county giving trading stamps (17, p. 1).

On October 17, The Democrat branched out with an eight-page section on the City of Fort Worth. The special section had advertisements from Fort Worth businesses and a short history of the city (18, p. 1).

The G. M. Bowie home sale was carried in the November 14 edition. Dr. E. D. Fyke purchased the North Main Street home and announced plans to convert it into a hospital. "The Gables" residence just east of the property on Soward Avenue was also purchased by the doctor. The house had been recently remodeled as an apartment house. Mrs. Bowie, widow of the civic and business leader, had been living in New Orleans. Dr. Fyke said the 28-room Bowie home would be known as Bowie Memorial Hospital. He said he would live in "The Gables." The doctor formerly ran a sanitarium on East Josephone Street (19, p. 1).

The final chapter on the Coutts' will was closed in late November when the $300,000 Coutts estate was distributed to the legatees. The trusteeship ended December 1. Three fourths of the estate went to the grandchildren and one fourth
to Weatherford College. Couts had died in 1904 and the bulk of the estate had been held in trust for 20 years. G. A. Holland and Judge I. W. Stephens served as executors of the will. Couts had eleven grandchildren (20, p. 1).

Just eighteen days after the settling of the Couts estate, the report of a suit being filed to break the will of his daughter, Mary Couts Burnett, was carried in the paper. The suit filed in district court was for the largest amount of money in the history of the court, $4,000,000. Mrs. Burnett died in Fort Worth the Tuesday before. Petitioners in the suit were Mrs. Burnett's four sisters (21, p. 1). In the December 26 edition, Judge Hal S. Lattimore of the 96th District Court appointed I. T. Valentine, attorney, to serve as receiver for the estate of Mrs. Burnett (22, p. 1).

1925

The year 1925 opened on a sad note for the citizens as Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Moseley were killed Monday when a T&P train struck their car as they were on their way to their ranch at Brazos, west of Weatherford. The eastbound local passenger train struck the Ford coupe as it passed near the refinery on the ranch, knocking it 30 or 40 feet. Mrs. Moseley was the daughter of the late J. R. Couts. Moseley, who had lived in Weatherford since he married in 1891, was a law partner of the late S. W. T. Lanham and Judge I. W. Stephens. He was a former mayor and past Chancellor of Lone Star Lodge
No. 4, Knights of Pythias. Also in the January 9 paper, the deposits of the four Weatherford banks was listed at $3,004,933.36 (23, p. 1).

The following week, officers and directors at three banking institutions were announced. Directors at the Citizens were G. A. Holland, Barthold, W. H. Reynolds, Hopkins, Couts Holland, Booles, and W. Carter Moseley. Reynolds replaced G. S. White and Moseley replaced his late father. At First National, the re-elected directors were W. S. Fant, Davis, George Fant, McGrattan, Tucker, Gardner, Charles Fant, and Milmo. The First State directors were Kuteman, Grant, Wright, James Campbell, W. V. Shadle, Rawlins, W. T. Carter, and E. C. Hill. Campbell replaced Fritz (24, p. 1).

Construction took a jump as Weatherford College began construction of a $5,000 gymnasium. The 80-foot by 120-foot building was across South Main Street from the Twentieth Century Club building. It was to contain a basketball court, indoor games, shower baths, and a stage for special entertainment. The Parker County Fair Association purchased the Head property for the building site with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce. The building cost was borne by Weatherford College (25, p. 1).

On February 6, Governor Ferguson announced the appointment of Joe Burkett of Eastland and John H. Bickett of San Antonio to the Texas Highway Commission. Frank Lanham, brother of Fritz G. Lanham, was named chairman of the
commission. In the same issue, Phillips announced the start of another sales campaign for The Democrat. The first prize was a new automobile, this time a $1,265 Dodge (26, p. 1).

Four of the Burnett heirs settled with the trustees of the Burnett estate in late February. The heirs were to receive $150,000 each and the remainder went to Texas Christian University. Mrs. Leah Anderson and Mrs. Asa Grant of Weatherford and Mrs. Martha Putman of Mexia, along with the estate of Mrs. H. L. Moseley, made the settlement. (Mrs. Burnett gave Texas Christian University $150,000 outright to pay for the library that had just been completed.)

A two-column picture was run on the front page of the February 20 edition along with the obituary of H. W. Kuteman. The banker-civic leader had died in a San Francisco sanitarium following an operation the first of the week. Mrs. Kuteman and Mrs. Elmer Hill, their daughter, had accompanied him to the west coast. The funeral was held at the family home on West Simmons Street with the Reverend E. S. Barlow, rector of the Episcopal Church, officiating. Judge J. C. Wilson paid tribute to the businessman who had lived here 40 years. He had been reared in South Carolina and arrived at Mineola, Texas, when he was 21. A law partner of Governor Hogg for many years, he came to Weatherford in 1885 after his marriage. Kuteman was partner with the late Major Birdwell for a short time and then with Judge J. M. Richards and Judge F. O. McKinsey. A close friend of Martin Littleton,
he was appointed by the court to wind up the old Franco-Texan Land Company. In 1919, he built the Kuteman building on the west side of the square and acquired control of the First State Bank. He had sold the building to L. Woodhouse four years earlier. He owned a 5,000-acre ranch in the southwest part of the county. Fond of travel, he promoted the shorter route to Fort Worth, which became known as the "Kuteman Cutoff (27, p. 1)."

The March 6 paper told of the record-breaking run made by the Weatherford Fire Department. A call for assistance was received at 2:25 a.m. from the Mineral Wells Department and, in less than 33 minutes, the 20 men who responded were playing three streams of water on the burning Crazy Water Hotel building. The 22-mile run was made from the fire hall to Mineral Wells in 25 minutes. Hart Guerry was the driver of Stutz Engine No. 1 and was accompanied on the truck by chief Ed Hall, second assistant chief Byron Lovelady, Bernard and W. G. Waldock, Herbert Stoy, and Arthur Waldock. The firemen worked four and one half hours at the fire and put over 700 gallons of water per minute through the hoses. The fire loss was set at $750,000. There was no loss of life (28, p. 1).

In sports news, the Oklahoma City Indians beat the Dallas Steers 10-9 Thursday afternoon at the local field. They had beaten the Steers 14-7 Saturday and 13-4 Sunday.
Mrs. C. R. Davis was named first prize winner in the subscription contest on March 20, winning the Dodge (29, p. 1).

The report of the city election April 10 showed John M. Bradford nipping C. S. Davis, 371 to 369, for the place one post on the city commission. W. H. Reynolds had an even closer contest in beating W. L. Carroll, 370 to 369, for the other place (30, p. 1).

Texas Pythians laid the cornerstone for the girls' dormitory and the account was carried April 17. W. M. Gutch, past Grand Chancellor for the state, presided over the ceremonies. The all-girl mandolin orchestra played. Another opening program in the same issue reported Judge J. C. Wilson was to speak at the April 30 opening of Mineral Wells Hall, a $100,000 convention center in the Spa City. The Weatherford Gold Medal Band was chosen to provide the music (31, p. 1).

In the April 22 edition, some of the news of progress was given. Southwestern Telephone Company indicated the total number of subscribers for its service had risen to more than 1,000. The contract for the resurfacing of the Bankhead Highway across Parker County was let (32, p. 1).

Judge F. O. McKinsey ruled May 22 that city firemen were not qualified to vote because they had not paid the city poll tax. When the votes in the city election were re-counted, Bradford and Carroll were named winners of the commission positions (33, p. 1).
The First State Bank, which has been organized as Weatherford Bank and Trust Company in 1906, had another name change in mid-June. Mrs. Kuteman, who had been elected president on the death of her husband changed the name her husband had given the bank in 1908 to the Parker County National Bank. The Democrat editor told of plans to issue the 30th anniversary issue the following week. Issue Number One, Volume 31, reported 3,000 subscribers (34, p. 1).

Weatherford College announced July 3 that the Wall property at the corner of South Elm and East Josephine had been purchased for the purpose of constructing a $25,000, two-story, brick dormitory. The purchase of the 100-foot by 200-foot lot gave the college ownership of the entire block with the exception of the John Baker home. The edition carried a story that land near the Clerk Fork branch of the Trinity River had been bought to eliminate a dangerous curve on the Fort Worth highway (35, p. 1).

The golden-throated orator William Jennings Bryan died in late July, three weeks after participating in the Scopes monkey trial in Tennessee. Bryan had spoken at the old Haynes Opera House in 1910 and at the depot on his way to Mineral Wells in 1916, as a part of the Redpath-Homer Chautauqua series. He was an H. L. Moseley guest once (36, p. 1).

A good turnout was reported for the August 4 city improvement bond election. The bond carried 349 to 241. Also in
the August 7 edition, a Weatherford youth scored big at the Majestic Theatre in Fort Worth. Winston Holland, son of banker G. A. Holland, brought down the house with his whistling act (37, p. 1).

The August 28 paper carried the sad news that popular druggist Howard Rea had committed suicide at 3:30 p. m. Tuesday in the basement of his south side of the square drug store. It was only a week earlier that he gave the formal opening of the new store. Rea had been associated with Braselton-Smith Drug Company for many years. He had sold one store to Glenn Johnson and then bought out J. L. Wallacee. The publisher announced that Roy A. Scott, formerly with William Butler and Staff Merchandising Engineers of San Francisco and later ad manager for the Albuquerque Evening Herald, was hired to sell advertising for The Democrat (38, p. 1).

In the wake of a Travis County grand jury investigation of the road affairs of the state, Frank Lanham and Joe Burkett resigned from the Highway Commission in late November. R. K. Phillips was listed as the sole publisher after November 13 when Scott's name was dropped from the masthead (39, p. 1).

The Texas Conservation Association met in Mineral Wells in mid-December and the December 18 issue reported the theme of the meeting was the building of a great dam on the Brazos River. The structure would be used for conservation as well as for power production (40, p. 1).
1926

Clyde Boley, county tax collector, reported February 5, 1926, that 5,450 residents had paid their poll taxes for county elections (41, p. 1).

Kindel Chevrolet Company announced the purchase of the Bullock Building on the northeast corner of the square March 12. Kindel said the former poultry building would be remodeled into an automobile agency, indicating that the building would be ready by June 1. In another square business move, Corcanges Brothers moved into a new drug store, one door south (42, p. 1).

Cotton declined in the county in 1925 and the March 26 report showed 14,194 bales for the county. This figure compared to 14,884 bales in 1924 (43, p. 1).

In mid-April, Roland Jones became rich over night when an uncle died and left him one fifth of his estate. The uncle, Morgan Jones, a railroad construction pioneer, died in Abilene on Sunday, April 12, leaving an estate of $5,000,000 (44, p. 1).

A four-column headline on the front page announced the opening of the $60,000 Palace Theater on April 30. Warren Kindel and Walter Courtney said the formal opening would be May 5 at 7:30 p.m. The old Gernsbacher Brothers building on the north side of the square was remodeled to seat about 700, 300 of them in the balcony (45, p. 1).
On May 14, Dr. H. F. Leach reported the sale of his sanitarium to Dr. W. A. Maddox of Fort Worth. The $50,000 property was the old Fairmont College, just south of the city (46, p. 1).

One of the city's early problems, fire, struck again on July 14, burning the Quick Service Garage at the corner of Fort Worth and Elm Streets. D. Jenkins was owner of the Buick automobile agency that occupied the building, owned by W. J. Jones of Mineral Wells. Hearses belonging to Cotten-Bratton Funeral Parlor and W. A. White and Company, being rebuilt in the building, were destroyed. The loss was estimated at $30,000 (47, p. 1).

A special election edition was put out in late July with 72-point type screaming "Moody Wins by Clear Majority." Governor Ferguson indicated in the story that she would resign because of her defeat. Local runoffs were indicated for state representative, tax collector, and sheriff. Leaders in the local races were Fritz G. Lanham, Congress; Eugene Miller, state senate; B. J. Forbes, state representative; George R. Carter, district clerk; Charlie Sullivan, county attorney; J. E. Carter, county judge; J. R. Pickens, sheriff; W. M. Priddy, county school superintendent; Clyde Boley, tax collector; Clarence Canafax, tax assessor; Homer Turpin, county treasurer; and commissioners J. W. Hutcheson, precinct one; V. L. Coalson, two; J. W. Brock, three; and Peck Nichols, four (48, p. 1). In the runoff, Forbes was
nominated representative, Pickens, sheriff, and Dan Carroll, tax collector (49, p. 1).

On August 20, an announcement was made of the formal opening of the Dixie Barber Shop in the Merchants and Farmers Bank basement. I. B. Marquis and Jim Plumlee were listed as owners with Sam Farris and Burdett Martin in the shop (50, p. 1).

Weatherford College opened its new brick dormitory at the corner of South Elm and East Josephone Streets. Ready for the fall semester of 1926, the dormitory had 22 rooms, two baths with showers, and two private baths (51, p. 1).

Democrat subscribers received the news October 1 that an increase in the rates was due. Subscriptions for out-of-county readers jumped to $1.50 (52, p. 1). A week later, a front page editorial praised the city as a market place for the area, stressing the value of the city to the surrounding trade territory (53, p. 1).

1927

In a January 21, 1927 story, a report gave the cash value of the poultry-egg market for 1926 as $500,000 (54, p. 1).

The culmination of several weeks of sensational murder trial stories from Austin came to an end January 28 when Dr. J. Frank Norris, prominent Fort Worth minister, was acquitted. Dr. Norris, who had many friends in Weatherford, had been charged with the murder of a church member. Much local interest was expressed in the trial (55, p. 1).
Phillips continued his editorial policy of praising the city with another front page story on February 25. He urged the citizenry to support Weatherford College. He spelled out the value of the educational institution to the community and lamented the lack of support given in the past (56, p. 1).

Weatherford College did its part in responding after the Coyotes captured the Texas Junior College Conference basketball crown in early March. The Coyotes took two of three games with Burleson College at Greenville. The Coyotes won by 42-22 Friday and lost 22-31 Saturday. Weatherford came back Monday and won 30-18 (57, p. 1).

The controversial Dr. Norris came to Weatherford March 11 to lecture in the gymnasium on the Bible. "The Bible and Its Message" was the title of the minister's talk. In the business news of the day, J. E. Nichols announced that his bakery at 203 York Avenue was reopening and would make "Blue Ribbon Bread." Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Harper opened the Harper Bakery on North Main Street (58, p. 1).

A change in the headline style used by the newspaper was noted in the April 1 edition. Step heads were still being used but on one line, or large heads, the flush left style was adopted (59, p. 1). In the city election of the next week, John M. Bradford and W. L. Carroll were re-elected city commissioners (60, p. 1).
In an ambitious undertaking, Phillips produced a two-section progress edition on May 27. The project provided a wealth of historical information with short sketches being run on many of the city's businesses, giving the names of the owners and some of the history. Photographs of several businesses and residences were included in the sections. One of the feature stories was on the Post Office building, which had been constructed some 14 years earlier at a cost of $75,000. There were 25 employees, and Walter H. Hudson was postmaster (61, p. 1).

The June 10 issue contained an unusually large amount of local news. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller celebrated their Golden Wedding. They had married in 1877 and moved to Weatherford in 1881. He was elected Grand Keeper of the Seal and Records of the Knights of Pythias in 1888, a post he still held. "Uncle Henry" as he was known affectionately, was a fixture in the city. An indication of the growth of the transportation in the area was shown in a story saying the city would build a bridge across Town Creek on Fort Worth Street. The old bridge, which was narrow and had become unsafe for the heavy Bankhead Highway traffic, was to be moved to North Alamo Street between Bridge and Spring Streets. The new, modern bridge would be 24 feet wide and cost $5,000. A front page picture and several inside pictures told of Charles A. Lindbergh's successful solo flight across the Atlantic (62, p. 1).
Another big story was carried June 17 describing the enthusiastic greeting given Lindbergh on his return to Washington from France. Ten pictures were scattered throughout the inside pages (63, p. 1).

Phillips reported on his success in a national writing contest July 1. He won third place on an article published in the National Farm News of Washington giving a solution to the farm problem of the day (64, p. 1). Later in the month, Phillips was named a winner at the Texas Press Association meeting at El Paso. H. W. Stanley of the Gateway Club there offered three prizes for stories and Phillips' "El Paso, the Gateway City" took third. Joe Leonard of the Gainesville Register won first and W. N. Beard of Southwest Magazine won second (65, p. 1).

In a story of another newspaperman, Will C. Edwards of Denton, announced July 29 that he would begin publishing the Washington Herald. Widely known in newspaper and Rotary Club circles, Edwards had acquired the Denton Record-Chronicle in 1902 (66, p. 1).

Weatherford's banks announced a plan in early August to make a small charge for accounts averaging under $50. No charge for services had been made by the four local banks until that time. E. M. Jordan said he would build a modern brick building on the northwest corner of Spring and North Main Streets. The 25-foot by 70-foot structure was to be built by R. A. Gill and would house a grocery store.
President Calvin Coolidge said in a national news story he did not choose to run (67, p. 1).

Several thousand acres of grassland were destroyed in a pasture fire in mid-August. The fire began near the silos on the highway near Aledo and swept to the north. Several calls for aid were issued by the fire department. The smoke could be seen in Weatherfore, 12 miles to the west. The loss was estimated at $25,000 (68, p. 1).

Weatherford College reported a high enrollment of 250 for the fall semester. The largest previous class was the 183 registered the year before. Another story said Coach Beard was lining up football material and 50 young huskies were ready to play. On Tuesday morning, the college boys voted to abstain from using tobacco while the football team was in training. This sacrifice by the students was said to be "very unusual," and it was expected to help the morale of the squad.

Another story in the September 23 paper said the two Presbyterian congregations were planning to combine on October 1. A joint meeting of the two sessions of First and Grace was held Tuesday night with J. H. Doss presiding. A pulpit committee was formed to seek a pastor, and Sunday School officers were to be elected (69, p. 1).

The October 7 edition reported that the Coyotes had posted a 7-0 victory over Coach Fouts and his Denton Teachers College eleven (70, p. 1).
A football extra was printed and the time of 8:00 p.m. listed along with the October 14 date. Banner heads told of the 19-7 victory by the Coyotes over Clifton. Weatherford High's Kangaroos blanked Stripling High of Fort Worth, 12-0. Both scores in the high school game came on pass plays from fullback Boone Yarbrough to quarterback Ray "Rabbit" Cogburn (71, p. 1).

No extra edition was put out the next week after North Texas Agricultural College of Arlington whipped the Coyotes 13-0 (72, p. 1).

Citizens National Bank and the Parker County National Bank announced their consolidation on October 28. G. A. Holland was chosen president and Fred Smith was assistant to the president. Other officers of the combined institutions were D. S. Wright, J. S. Campbell, and Carter Moseley, vice-presidents; Couts Holland, cashier; Joe Witherspoon, O. R. Pickard, Fred Measures, and W. T. Hand, assistant cashiers. The directors were the two Hollands, Smith, Wright, Campbell, C. C. Barthold, Moseley, Couts Anderson, W. H. Reynolds, Clarence Hopkins, W. T. Carter, Alex Rawlins, Mrs. H. W. Kuteman, and Harry Kuteman, Jr. (73, p. 1).

B. L. "Black" Shirley gave the Parker County Fair a boost when he said he was going to attend. Shirley, who lived at Springtown, was easily the county's oldest resident at 108 years. He was to be accompanied by his 60-year-old
second wife and 18-year-old daughter. Shirley was born in
Tennessee in 1819. Another front page story indicated
thousands would take part in the Armistice Day parade in
the city (74, p. 1).

A second football extra came out November 18 at 8:00 p. m.
The Coyotes registered a 12-6 victory over the Decatur
Indians. The story under the 60-point banner said her hard-
fought game put the Coyotes in line for the state champion-
ship. Boyce House, a friend who had worked for Phillips at
Eastland, wrote a story on Southwest Conference football for
the special edition. Weatherford High lost to Bridgeport
12-13. Another story said Ernest Farquhar, a local young
man, had died as a result of injuries suffered in practice
at Texas A&M (75, p. 1).

Fans could consider the high school season a success,
however, when the Kangaroos defeated rival Mineral Wells,
31-0, in a Thanksgiving Day thriller. Boone Yarbrough was
again the hero. The Coyotes lost to the Hillsboro Indians,
2-13 (76, p. 1). Buried on page nine of the December 16
dition was a report of Weatherford College's battling Rusk
to a 0-0 tie at Rusk in the championship game. Both teams
were presented trophies (77, p. 9).

1928

Weatherford College continued to make headlines as 1928
began. The college won state honors with its one-act play
in the first one-act play tournament sponsored by the Texas
Junior College Forensic Association at Gainesville. The play, "Helena's Husband," won the silver cup. The director was Mrs. Flo Hutcheson (78, p. 1).

The February 24 issue was full of local news. In one of the stories, John L. Tullis, a one-time owner of The Democrat, died at his Abilene home. The Oklahoma City Indians baseball team announced it would begin spring training here about March 1. A report from Boyce House's hometown of Eastland said that when the old courthouse was being torn down to make way for the new $300,000 structure, a horned toad was removed alive from the cornerstone by Eugene Day. The toad had been sealed there 31 years earlier (79, p. 1).

On March 16, a pair of big league ball games was announced for the following week in the local park. Oklahoma City was to play St. Paul and the Fort Worth Cats. The Indians had defeated the Saints 8-3 in a practice game (80, p. 1).

The local manager set April 1 as the opening day for the new J. C. Penney department store on the west side of the square. S. L. Warner was manager and W. M. McDonald was assistant manager of the chain store. The building was constructed on the site of the old Haynes Opera House (81, p. 1).

In the city election, Ed P. Hall was selected mayor in the April 3 contest (82, p. 1). Weatherford College
reported April 20 that H. H. Chambers of Jefferson had been hired as dean (83, p. 1).

The Parker County float in the West Texas Chamber of Commerce convention parade at Fort Worth was reported to be unique. The float featured a big sheet metal Tom Watson watermelon mounted on the back of a truck. A hole was cut in the top of the melon and Miss Helen Massey rode there as maid of honor. Bands, directed by Conway King and Hall Buchanan, represented the city in the parade. The Gold Medal Band was judged second in the six-year class and the Weatherford High School band won first in its class. In the local movie ads, the Palace Theater was showing "Ben-Hur," a "wonderful picture with a stirring historic background (84, p. 1)."

A page seven story July 20 told of an invention by a Parker County man. John D. Rust claimed to have invented the first successful "wet spindle cotton picker." The story indicated that the inventor had made application for a patent for the cotton picker (85, p. 7).

A 2:30 a.m. election special edition was run Sunday, July 29, with heavy type spelling out the results, "Moody Has a Big Majority--Mayfield and Connally Head Ticket--County Races Hotly Contested--Carter Carries District for Judge; McCall Leads in County Judge's Race (86, p. 1)."

Complete returns in story and tabulation were given in the next election. Winners were Lanham, Congress;
Forbes, state representative; Carter, district judge; George R. Carter, district clerk; V. P. Craven, county attorney; John R. Pickens, sheriff; C. C. Corkern, county state school superintendent; Dan W. Carroll, tax collector; Jim M. Taylor, tax assessor; Lawrence Edwards, county clerk; Mrs. Ira McKinnon, treasurer; and commissioners Hutcheson, precinct one; Bedford, two; J. Roy Brown, three; and Nichols, four (87, p. 1).

Because of a bad foundation in the new city hall, Mayor Ed Hall reported September 21 that city officials had moved from the building across Palo Pinto Street into the Kuteman building. Hall said the abandonment was permanent because the walls were giving way, the bell tower was out of plumb, and the foundation was sinking. The $14,000 building had been constructed in 1912. The reason given for the difficulty was the foundation had not been dug deep enough and there was a bad seepage under the walls. The fire department moved into an old rock barn on Spring Street (88, p. 1).

On October 5, an account of the fire that swept through the roundhouse and shops of the Weatherford, Mineral Wells, and Northwestern Railway was given. The blaze, which began about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, accounted for damages estimated at $100,000 as there were three locomotives inside the roundhouse at the time of the fire. County clerk Cleve Dill said all records for marriage license sales were broken in September with 62 being issued. There were seven in 1878,
and 26 in September, 1903. Another story said plans were being formulated for the paving of South Main Street. Warren G. Kindel was working with the city commissioners on the project of paving the main streets from the courthouse square to the city limits (89, p. 1).

A grandson of Cynthia Ann Parker, niece of the man for whom the county was named, appeared at the Parker County Fair in late October. Chief Baldwin Parker, a grandson of the white girl who had been captured by the Comanches in 1836, gave a historical talk each day of the fair. Several of Parker's children performed Indian dances. Cynthia Ann had been captured along with several others at Fort Parker in a raid there and lived with the Comanches, marrying Chief Peta Nocona and bearing three children before she was recaptured and returned to her uncle, Isaac Parker. Baldwin was one of the sons of Cynthia Ann's oldest son, Quanah, last war chief of the Comanches (90, p. 1).

Herbert Hoover carried 40 states in his election as President in November. A former director of the Old Gray Mare Band, C. E. Winniford of Dallas, was elected to serve as leader of Weatherford's Original Gold Medal Band November 9. Willard Sadler, who had purchased the Palace and Princess Theaters in July, announced that "Phototone" had been installed at the Palace Theater. The story said "Phototone" synchronized the pictures with music (91, p. 1).
A picture of Baldwin Parker with his wife, Nora, and children, Buster, Johanna, and Simmons, was run November 16. The Oklahomans were visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rawlins. Shw was the daughter of Isaac Parker, uncle of Baldwin's grandmother. Baldwin, 41, was making the trip to Texas to familiarize himself with his early family history (92, p. 1).

City officials ordered an election November 23 to provide the money for a new city hall building. The $55,000 bond election was set December 20. The proposed two-story building would front 96 feet on Palo Pinto Street and 96 feet on Waco Street. A 54-foot by 34-foot fire house would be in the west wing of the building. A 7:00 p.m. football extra was run that night with large type saying, "Panthers win--Score 7-0." The Coyotes were defeated in the championship game by a fast Greenville team. More Boyce House stories were carried in the special edition (93, p. 1).

The following week, Weatherford High lost the district title in a 12-0 game with Mineral Wells on Thanksgiving Day. Henry Miller, who had been re-elected Grand Keeper of the Seal for the 40th time earlier in the year, celebrated his 80th birthday. The Coyotes closed out the season with a 14-12 victory over Hillsboro (94, p. 1).

City voters rejected 398 to 174 the $55,000 bond election that would have provided a new city hall (95, p. 1).
1929

The Church of Christ helped kick off 1929 by announcing plans for a building annex and other improvements. The 40-foot by 42-foot annex was to have a basement. Charles Rogers reported February 15 that he was opening a men's furnishings store on York Avenue. Two other building projects were reported with Weatherford Lumber Company, which had been destroyed in a December fire, rebuilding and H. J. Bradfish enlarging his operation by adding a big warehouse just east of his Fort Worth Street grain elevator.

The Weatherford, Mineral Wells, and Northwestern Railway said it was discontinuing its motor car service. Twenty-five carloads of pecans were shipped during the past season from Parker County. In other items, Clarence Hopkins, who had been in the automobile business for 15 years, reported that the new Model A Fords were selling fast. The name of Ray D. Jones was added to that of Phillips as publisher on the paper's masthead (96, p. 1).

On February 22, the Oklahoma City Indians announced they were returning to Weatherford in early March for spring training (97, p. 1).

A citizens committee met in late February and came to the conclusion that a new city hall was necessary. The meeting had been called by the mayor and city commissioners. Will Winston, contractor, reported to the group that he, B. H. Lott, and the Davidson brothers had examined the old building and found the concrete to be defective (98, p. 1).
Southwestern Telephone Company announced in the March 8 paper that it was building a conduit from Fort Worth to Cisco to better serve its customers. Work on the project had begun the first of the month (99, p. 1).

V. O. Hildreth and son of Aledo showed the grand champion steer at the Southwestern Exposition in Fort Worth. The steer was purchased by W. O. Weaver of Missouri Pacific lines at a record price of $3.15 per pound. Hildreth was one of the pioneer cattlemen in the county (100, p. 1).

A front page editorial March 29 set two columns wide urged the completion of "The Unfinished Task," completion of the Confederate soldier monument on the courthouse lawn. The base for the lifesize statue was finished by the United Daughters of the Confederacy had only $500 of the $1,500 needed for the monument (101, p. 1).

Beginning April 12, a new front page, left-hand column was started. Ray D. Jones was author of "Around the Town," which gave mention of various activities by the citizenry. A page four story told of the dedication of the boys' dormitory at the Pythian Home to "Uncle Henry" Miller. Past Grand Chancellor Lee A. Freeman of Fort Worth presided at the ceremony. Grand Chancellor P. O. Beard of Marshall was the featured speaker (102, pp. 1, 4).

Nash Novelty Wood Company on West Spring Street was featured in an article telling of the manufacture of an amusement novelty on a nationwide scale. The Baker Ball
Shooting Gallery was owned by Joe Kebelman and L. G. Baker and manufactured by Nash. The machine was an air-compressed pistol shoot. A page four story told of Richard Dix's starring in the first all-talking picture show at Fort Worth. "Nothing but the Truth" was playing a four-day engagement at the Fort Worth theater (103, pp. 1, 4).

The problem of trains blocking the North Main Street crossing was said to be solved in the April 26 edition and trains would no longer hold up traffic for long periods. A joint announcement by T&P President J. L. Lancaster and City Attorney McKinsey said, "No train will willfully block the intersection for five minutes or more." A. J. C. Penney advertisement that day listed silk dresses for $4.98, ladies hose for 49 cents, tennis shoes for 79 cents, and "Big Mac" shirts for 69 cents (104, p. 1).

On May 17, a graduating class of more than 70 was reported for Weatherford College with eight graduating from the academy. The old sanitarium property south of the city was leased by the college as a dormitory. The 75-room brick building had been erected by the Reverend George M. Oakley, president of Fairmont Seminary, and had been bought by Dr. H. F. Leach several years earlier for use as a sanitarium.

On May 24, the high school announced there would be 84 graduates in the commencement exercises. Mid-State Coffee Company indicated that it would begin making Blue Bell Blend
coffee here. The old name used by the company for its coffee was Criterion Brand (106, p. 1).

A story June 16 told of The Democrat's beginning its 35th year of operation. It had been founded in 1895 by Cullum and Baker. Three new members were added to the city school board. W. V. Shadle was reappointed and James Campbell, Bert Rawlins, and Preston Martin were added. Retiring members were G. A. Holland, W. A. White, and I. M. Gardner. Holland served about 40 years on the board. W. H. Bowden Department Store was advertising ladies knit union suits, summer weight, for 15 and 20 cents. Ladies hats were selling for 25 and 49 cents. A classified page had been initiated and barber Frank Thomas listed prices for his services as hair cut 25 cents, shave 15, shampoo 25, hair tonic 25, massage 25, and hair oil 10, or all of them for $1 (107, p. 1).

A new ice factory, the first of its kind, was announced June 21. A. N. Lee, president and manager, opened the business at 317 North Main Street, next to J. P. Webster Wholesale Grocery. The company was to make 10 tons of round-shaped ice daily. The new machinery and equipment needed to manufacture the round ice had been invented by Lee. County clerk Lawrence Edwards said another record had been set for marriage licenses. Fifty-two had been issued by June 12 and the total for the year was 264. The Dixie Barber Shop announced removal from the M&F Bank basement to the Brazos
Gas Company building. A full page ad listed the six Texaco dealers serving the county (108, p. 1).

W. H. Bowden and Sons reported the purchase of the M. S. Gordon building on North Main Street, next to Carter-Ivy Hardware, June 28. Sidney Haas bought the interest of his brother, Albert, in the Haas Store, another department store of the city. For the traveling motorist, the Chamber of Commerce said it was offering Texas and southern states road maps (109, p. 1).

A pair of promotions was announced in mid-July by the Citizens National Bank. Joe B. Witherspoon was elevated to cashier and James S. Campbell was named vice-president. The Democrat reported that its second annual Rural Life and Industrial edition would be ready the latter part of August. It was to sell for 15 cents and would be a "storehouse of historical information about the city and county at that time (110, p. 1)."

Bert Galloway, editor of the Millsap Messenger, said in an article July 26 the western Parker County community was well and prospering. Duke and Ayres announced the leasing of the Shropshire building, formerly occupied by Kincaid Confectionery. A partition between the two buildings was to be removed, making the variety store one of the largest and most modern in the chain (111, p. 1).

Judge J. M. Richards, long an admired judge in the county, died at 81 at his home on Palo Pinto Street in late
July. Another story in the August 2 edition said Weatherford was working with Lipan on a road building program between the two towns. Master cleaner and dyer Charles Rogers said he would clean and press suits for 50 cents. A grocery ad specified 17 pounds of sugar for $1 and 10 pounds of sugar for 60 cents (112, p. 1).

Springtown made plans for preparing better facilities for a consolidated school district by passing a $10,000 bond issue by a three-to-one majority. Six rural school districts joined Springtown in creating an independent school district. Fire destroyed the old T&P depot at Millsap Sunday and the loss was estimated at $5,000 (113, p. 1). Dennis Consolidated School District told of plans August 16 to erect a building (114, p. 1).

Professor D. S. Switzer, noted educator and early Weatherford College leader, died at his home in Dallas and was buried in Weatherford in late August (115, p. 1).

Miss Grace Woodruff of Decatur was named to succeed Miss Isla Mae Chitwood as home demonstration agent in early September. The last "Around the Town" column was carried on page one September 13 and Phillips was once more listed as the sole publisher (116, p. 1).

In a property transaction October 18, the Citizens National Bank and lawyer, A. E. Zellers, purchased the Moseley building. Zellers got the Princess Theater and
City Barber Shop portion of the building and the bank got the part of the building it occupied (117, p. 1).

1930

Phillips began using the Texas Press Association emblem on the masthead January 3, 1930. The big story that day told of the sale of Hopkins Motor Company to J. E. Hayes of Tulia. Hopkins, a pioneer automobile dealer, had opened the Ford agency in 1913 (118, p. 1).

The banks held their annual meetings in early January. Charles Fant was elected vice-president and Hugh McGrattan, board chairman at First National Bank. Other officers were W. S. Fant, president; George Fant, vice-president; and J. E. Whitsett, Jack Hart, and Fred Measures, assistant cashiers. Directors were R. W. Davis, Gardner, Milmo, McGrattan, and Tucker. At Citizens National, officers remained the same with the directors being C. C. Barthold, Rawlins, Reynolds, Moseley, and Anderson. Officers and directors at Merchants and Farmers were J. H. Doss, president; Shadle, Brevard, and Martin, vice-presidents; Ed Braselton, cashier; Howard Bell, assistant cashier; and other directors, Waller, White, and Pickard (119, p. 1).

A report by the county tax collector February 7 showed 4,700 poll tax receipts. There were 3,294 automobiles, 496 trucks, and 114 trailers registered (110, p. 1).

Baker Poston and Company announced on February 14 that it was closing out its business in Weatherford. Baker Poston
had been in business in the city for more than 40 years, beginning first in Granbury in 1884 and then moving here in 1889 (121, p. 1).

On March 7, W. H. Bowden and Sons Dry Goods reported it was buying out Baker Poston. The Baker Poston building at the northwest corner of the square was the largest in town, and the firm was the largest mercantile business. Bowdens had been in business here for 20 years after moving from Mineral Wells. The business was composed of the father, W. H., and sons, Lon, Floyd, A. J., and Roy. The latter operated a store in Mineral Wells. George C. Poston was named general chairman of a committee planning a David S. Switzer memorial day April 21. Professor Switzer had died the year before, after presiding over five educational institutions. Former students would be invited to the program (122, p. 1).

In the March national news, former President William Howard Taft died in Washington, D. C. The conference champion Weatherford College Coyote team was honored by the Rotary Club in mid-March. Club president Walter Hudson and toastmaster H. H. Chambers gave special recognition to Coach McDaniels and his charges. On page six of that edition, Hudson was appointed to a third term as postmaster by President Hoover (123, pp. 1, 6).
Mayor Ed Hall was re-elected by a large majority in the city election reported April 4. Hugh McGrattan and Fred R. Cotten were elected city commissioners (124, p. 1).

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of Mutual Building and Loan Association May 2, the directors elected were Charles and George Fant, Bankhead, Brevard, Whitsett, C. C. Dill, and Lon Bowden (125, p. 1).

A destructive wind, hail, and heavy rain storm swept over the area and was reported by The Democrat May 16. Crops were hurt, many houses damaged, trees uprooted, and streams flooded. The heaviest damage was said to be in the southeast part of the county along the Bankhead Highway. The 5.75 inches of rain was believed to be the most at one time in 25 years. City and county officials said they would complete the paving of the courthouse square at a cost of $4,000. City paving equipment would be used. Principal residential streets were scheduled to be paved in the summer (126, p. 1).

One of the city's best known businessmen, W. H. Bowden, died at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, the May 23 edition said. The 63-year-old businessman came to the city in 1913. He had six sons (127, p. 1).

A week later, the Round Ice Company announced the modern new plant was in operation on South Main Street. The brick building represented an investment of between $45,000 and $50,000. The plant was electrically equipped
and had a 20-ton capacity of round and cube ice daily. The three ice chutes handled 16.66 pounds, 25 pounds, and 50 pounds. A. M. Lee was president and manager and W. L. Lee was vice-president. Woodall Rogers was secretary-treasurer. Roy E. Coleman, a former Baker Poston employee, announced plans to open a new men's store on North Main Street, in the May 30 issue. The Doughty building in the first block of North Main was leased for the new business (128, p. 1).

In mid-June, Texas Public Utilities Corporation told of plans to erect a building on North Main Street. The corner lot of North Main and Bridge Streets was purchased from J. O. Tucker. The lot had been occupied by the W. H. Smith grocery and was 50 feet fronting on North Main, going back 150 feet to Austin Avenue. An office, ice sales room, storage and refrigeration room were to be built at the site. A gift by the late George T. Morrow paved the way for a hospital to be constructed at the Texas Pythian Home. Two wards of six beds each and a nurses' room were to be in the building. In another announcement, Dr. J. Max Browder said he was moving his office from the Dr. T. L. Bloom office to the area over the Citizens National Bank, formerly occupied by Dr. R. L. Watt. Dr. Browder was the city's youngest dentist (129, p. 1).

Heavy spring rains in 1930 caused the largest overflow of the Brazos River since 1922. Unusually heavy rains in Young, Throckmorton, Baylor, and other northwestern counties
sent the waters surging out of their banks. The first rise hit Dennis at noon Monday. Red-colored waves were reported running four and five feet high. Phillips said he was making plans to represent the local Rotarians at the national convention in Chicago (130, p. 1).

Clarence Hopkins, former Ford dealer, made his second big real estate purchase of the year in early July when he bought the Kuteman building on the west side of the square. Earlier, he had bought the I. M. Gardner home on South Lamar Street. The sale was one of the largest real estate deals in a number of years. The building had been erected 20 years earlier and sold to L. Woodhouse, then to Dr. R. L. Spann of Dallas. Hopkins made the purchase from Mrs. M. E. Angus of Dallas. He had had an office in the building since selling his automobile agency the first of the year (131, p. 1).

The July 25 issue told of the death of Sam Shadle, prominent attorney for 30 years. A two-column picture accompanied the death story. Shadle was reared in the county and began his law practice in 1900. He later joined R. B. Hood in forming one of the state's best known law firms (132, p. 1).

A four-page election extra was run Monday, July 28, reporting Mrs. Ferguson and Sterling were in a runoff for governor. County returns of leaders in the election were Morris Sheppard, senator; Lanham (unopposed), Congress; Miller, state senator; Forbes, state representative;
Lee Thompson, district clerk; Taylor, tax assessor; Mrs. McKinnon, treasurer; Edwards, county clerk; Carroll, tax collector; Barney R. Barker, sheriff; Craven, county attorney; George A. McCall, county judge; and commissioners Henry Miller, precinct one; Bedford, two; Brown, three; and Long, four (133, p. 1).

Another strong law firm was formed in the city August 1 when Hood was joined by Judge F. O. McKinsey. Their offices were in the Kuteman building. Judge McKinsey had been practicing law for 30 years and had served as 43rd District Judge for 16 years. Hood had been practicing 37 years, 30 as senior partner in the firm of Hood and Shadle. He served four years as county attorney and two terms as a state legislator (134, p. 1).

In the runoff election, Ross Sterling was nominated for governor and Woodruff defeated Miller for state senator. In the other county races, Barker was nominated in the Sheriff's race and Miller and Long in the commissioner posts. Complete returns showed Buchanan leading by four votes for tax collector.

Two inside stories on September 12 were significant. On Page five, a story told of the ground-breaking for an educational building at First Methodist Church. The Reverend John A. Siceloff was pastor. On page eight, it was reported that Charles Cope committed suicide at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Maddox. The 36-year-old man had been in
ill health and had drunk carbolic acid. Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, he went to Russia with the Hoover Food Relief Expedition, served in World War I, was a fund raiser for the Salvation Army, and was secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce for two years. Cope had been associated with the Dallas and Abilene Buildings and Loans (135, pp. 1, 5, 8).

On September 19, a story said Weatherford public schools opened with an enrollment of 1,360 students. Senator Tom Connally was a visitor to the city Tuesday evening, and S. H. Pearce reported a record with a watermelon weighing 128 pounds (136, p. 1).

The Patterson Hotel, one of the city's oldest landmarks, was destroyed by fire Monday morning the October 24 edition reported. The original building on Austin Avenue had been of stone but a wooden annex had been added. Built by W. C. Patterson, it was owned by Luther Martin at the time of the fire (137, p. 1).

Boyce House, editor of the Ranger Times and one of the state's better known newspapermen, visited his old friend, R. K. Phillips, in early November. House was editor of The Oil Belt News in Eastland when Phillips was manager. The national news of the day told of the re-election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as governor of New York (138, p. 1).

A feature story November 14 recounted the 25 years experience of Sheriff Barney Barker as a peace officer. He started as a deputy to Dave Bratton in 1903 and, with the
exception of two years, had been either a city or county officer since that time. He had served as constable, city policeman, and city marshal. He followed in the footsteps of his uncle, Joshua Barker, who was the first sheriff of the county in the 1850's (139, p. 1).

On November 21, Judge McKinsey was appointed to serve as first assistant to Attorney General James Allred of Wichita Falls (140, p. 1).

1931

Will Rogers made appearances in Fort Worth and Mineral Wells in early 1931 on behalf of the drought sufferers. The January 30 story said Rogers was to be at the Worth Theater in Fort Worth Friday and the Mineral Wells convention center auditorium Saturday. Rogers was piloted by Captain Frank Hawk, who married the daughter of Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Bowie (141, p. 1).

R. W. Kindel, pioneer businessman, died March 19. He had been a business and civic leader for 60 years. Born in Tennessee, he came to Weatherford as a young drug store clerk for Dr. W. B. Miller, who owned the first drug store here. Kindel went to Comanche for a time and returned to open the Kindel Drug Store. He was associated with J. R. Couts in establishing the Citizens National Bank, helped build the first water and light plant, and aided in getting the T&P and Santa Fe railroads here. In the same edition, John G. Eaton, former manager of the Mineral Wells Brick Company,
said he had purchased 80 acres of land in the western part of the county to build a $100,000 tile plant. Word was received from Altus, Oklahoma, that a 34-year veteran of the Parker County courthouse, had died. J. E. Hodges, former county clerk and justice of the peace, died at his home in Oklahoma (142, p. 1).

Plans were revealed March 27 for an unusual Sunday baseball game. The House of David baseballers with Grover Cleveland Alexander, former St. Louis Cardinal ace, were to play a local team (143, p. 1).

Governor Bill Murray of Oklahoma was named April 17 to be the speaker for the Old Settlers meeting and Half Century Club. The governor had attended the institute at Springtown (144, p. 1).

Two young men with Weatherford connections took on new newspaper jobs in early May. Boyce House, former Ranger editor, joined the staff of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Joe Thomas Cook, son of Mrs. Mattie Cook of Weatherford, was elected editor of The Daily Texan at The University of Texas. J. A. Martin, pioneer citizen and father of lawyer Preston Martin, died at the home of a daughter, Mrs. W. M. Massie, in Floydada, Texas (145, p. 1).

Although he had to miss Grand Lodge for the first time in 43 years, "Uncle Henry" Miller was re-elected to office for the 43rd time by Texas Pythians. Captain James C. Wright returned to the city after an absence of 15 years. He bought
the former L. J. Crowder home on East Lee Street. He was
with the United States Chamber of Commerce for five years
before he entered the advertising business (146, p. 1).

Only a couple of weeks after he had broken the ground
for the Pythian Old Folks Home, Henry Miller, beloved
Pythian state official, died June 10 in a Fort Worth sanita-
tarium (147, p. 1). A week later, Theo Yarborough was
selected as Grand Keeper of the Records and Seal by the
state Pythians, succeeding Miller. Yarborough was associated
with the Daily Herald for many years (148, p. 1).

On July 31, the death notice of John S. Grace was given.
A pioneer educator in the county, Grace was born in Tennessee
in 1868 and came to Weatherford in 1882. With R. B. Jones,
he had written a Parker County history about 30 years earlier
(149, p. 1).

Dr. J. D. Sandefer returned to his home county to speak
at the Old Settlers Reunion in August. Sandefer spent his
first 25 years in the county. He was president of Simmons
University at Abilene at the time (150, p. 1).

Two prominent University of Texas educators were men-
tioned in the September 18 issue. Dr. T. U. Taylor, dean of
the engineering college, told of plans to remove the bodies
of his parents, two sisters, and a half-brother from the
Ballow Farm on Bear Creek to the City Greenwood Cemetery.
Walter Prescott Webb, noted historian, visited at the home
of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Webb on Limit Street
(151, p. 1).
The formal opening of the Weatherford Airport on Mineral Heights was announced September 25. Paul Luke and Louis Dreschel were to be in charge of the October 4 event (152, p. 1). However, rains forced a postponement.

A report November 6 said paving had begun on Fort Worth Street and the work was due to be finished by the first of the year. An international dispatch said the League of Nations was alarmed at recent advances made by Japan (153, p. 1).

Safeway Stores announced November 13 that they would enter business here on the west side of the square beginning January 1. Safeway leased a 50-foot-front store in the Kuteman building. The space had been occupied by Jerry's Specialty Shop and the Elite Cafe owned by Clyff Collier (154, p. 1).

Phillips resumed the use of page numbers at the top of the pages December 4. After serving two years as county home demonstration agent, Miss Grace Woodruff resigned to marry E. B. Cartwright, local rancher and businessman. Miss Janie Parks was appointed to take her place. In another wedding, Judge George McCall married Miss Louise Steele (155, p. 1).

On December 11, Weatherford College won a decisive victory over Texas Wesleyan College, 38-6, to set up the first state championship on the local field Friday against Texas Military College. Coach Byron Rhome began the season,
his first at Weatherford College, with only four lettermen (156, p. 1). (No result was given.)

The Christmas Day edition told of Mrs. M. W. Bell of Brock, whose living room won the $50 first prize in the Personal Achievement Division of American Farm Bureau Federation. On page six, a list of county firsts from the Smythe history book was carried (157, pp. 1, 6).

1932

J. P. Webster and Sons Wholesale Grocery on North Main Street announced February 26, 1932 plans to move to Fort Worth. The First National Bank of Millsap was featured in a Texas News Photo Service national feature. Organized by G. A. Holland, the bank decided to liquidate voluntarily. It was said to be unusual because it was a time of depression, but the people did not want it closed. The money was paid to the customers in full. M. D. Plumlee, cashier, had been in charge of the bank for 15 years. Miss Thelma Dick was the assistant cashier (158, p. 1).

In the March 18 edition, T. W. Stanley announced his resignation as city school superintendent, effective June 30. Stanley had been with the schools for 37 years, 26 of them as superintendent. W. H. Eddleman, a former resident, died in Fort Worth. An organizer and president of the Merchants and Farmers Bank for many years, he served as president of 15 banks at one time. In 1904, he organized the Western National Bank in Fort Worth (159, p. 1).
H. H. Chambers, dean of Weatherford College for the previous four years, was named to succeed Stanley as school superintendent, March 25. Texas Public Utilities issued a warning citing the dangers of youngsters flying kites near electric power lines (160, p. 1).

The April 1 paper carried the report of Mrs. G. M. Bowie's being killed in an automobile accident east of Weatherford. The 3:30 p.m. Thursday crash occurred eight miles west of Fort Worth. Mrs. Bowie, widow of the civic and business leader, was a member of the Twentieth Century Club, was Park Lady in the Civic League, and had pushed for upkeep of City Greenwood Cemetery and a scenic drive around Harberger Hill. She was survived by two daughters, Mrs. Frank Hawk and Mrs. Barney Holland, and a son, Don Bowie, of Wichita Falls. Mrs. Bowie had been living away from the city since her husband died (161, p. 1).

In the city election reported April 8, G. A. Holland was elected mayor by a wide majority. He had 620 votes and Jordan Huddleston had 201 and the Reverend C. H. Ray had 190. The high school one-act play won first place in the district contest held at Denton (162, p. 1).

Plans for tearing down the main building of the Crystal Palace Flouring Mills were announced May 13. The business, once one of the largest in the area, had been closed for two years. Theo Yarborough was again chosen Grand Keeper of the Records and Seal at the Pythian Grand Lodge in Abilene (163, p. 1).
Phillips told the city June 3 that Weatherford would be host to the Texas Press Association for a barbecue June 10. The TPA meeting was being held the day before in Mineral Wells. The barbecue was planned for Holland's Lake. A feature story gave the background of the First Monday sale. Gernsbacher Brothers Company started the sale campaign 34 years earlier in 1898, advertising a "Stray Day Sale" when the strays were rounded up and sold at bargains on the first Monday. Gernsbacher offered popular merchandise for the people attending the stray sale and other merchants soon followed the lead (164, p. 1).

In early July, Phillips began dipping back into the files for old news. This time the column was called "In the Long Ago."

The primary election results published July 29 were Lanham, Congress; John W. Fain and Henry N. Pope, state representative runoff; S. W. Nash and C. V. Morris, tax assessor runoff; Mrs. Bess Wadsworth, treasurer; Vancil Wren, county clerk; T. R. Erwin, county judge; Craven, county attorney; and commissioners Miller, in precinct one; Bedford and W. J. Sears paired in a runoff for two; J. C. Caraway and S. R. Brashears in a runoff for three (165, p. 1). In the runoff election in August, Bedford, Morris, Brashears, and Fain were the victors (166, p. 1).

In the first loss to Decatur in six years, the Coyotes of Weatherford College dropped a 0-3 decision to the
Indians. The November 4 paper said the victory gave the championship to Decatur (167, p. 1).

An all-capital banner headline proclaimed that Franklin D. Roosevelt and John Nance Garner were elected president and vice-president November 11. Democrats were again swept into power by immense majorities over the country. Jno M. Hart, popular businessman, died of a heart attack Sunday. He started in business here November 15, 1892 (168, p. 1).

The last issue of 1932 contained only four pages. Light business and the holidays were cited as the reasons for the pages. The Reverend B. J. Forbes, who had served seven years in the state legislature, announced he would apply for the position of House Chaplain (169, p. 1).

1933

The year 1933 started off with the page numbers being omitted from the top of the pages. The January 13 edition was particularly newsy: Coke Stevenson was elected speaker of the 43rd session of the state legislature, and $7,200 was granted Parker County for relief work for the unemployed. Officers and directors of the banks were unchanged at their annual meetings. The two McCall brothers, George and Jim, opened law offices over the First National Bank. A new column that appeared with a new heading each month, "The January Sky," being the first, was begun on page two. Joe B. Witherspoon of the Weatherford Astronomical Society was author of the monthly report of the night sky (170, pp. 1, 2).
On January 27, it was reported that Roscoe Shugart and a man by the name of Taliaferro were operating a radio station in the Bowden building, at Spring Street and York Avenue. The station operated from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. under a state permit, although it was not licensed by the Federal Radio Commission. Call letters were PYTX (171, p. 1).

Deaths of two pioneers were reported in the February 17 and 24 issues. Sam P. Newberry, a pioneer from 1859 and former county official, died at the home of his son, W. D. (172, p. 1). B. L. "Black" Shirley, the county's oldest man, died at his home in Springtown at the age of 114. He had influenza (173, p. 1).

A vote of the four county commissioners retained the farm and home agents March 17. Weatherford banks opened for business Wednesday "on instructions from the state and national government." The banks were closed only one day. The Rotary Club resolved commendation to the banks for service rendered during the crisis and expressed absolute confidence in them (174, p. 1).

In another bond election, city voters approved a new city hall and fire station by an almost ten-to-one majority. The March 31 paper gave the results of the election as being 338 for to 35 against. Three buildings were reported destroyed by fire the previous week. Withers Laundry, north of Fort Worth Street and east of the Fair Park grounds,
along with the residences of Miss Gladys Wilbanks on East Oak Street and Lloyd Lowery on Mineral Heights (175, p. 1).

Parker County farmers pledged 5,663 acres for acreage reduction July 14. Judge T. R. Erwin, J. C. Hayes, Tom Carter, and Fred R. Cotten went to Austin the first two days of the week seeking Federal aid for the highway work in the county. The principal work as recommended by state commissioners was rebuilding Highway Number One through the city and an overpass at the T&P railroad crossing on Fort Worth Street. The highway through the city was a major one and the narrow bridge over Town Creek, paralleling the railroad tracks, was a source of irritation to travelers (176, p. 1).

Beginning with the August 4 edition, the National Recovery Act blue eagle and slogan, "We Do Our Part," were appearing in many ads (177, p. 1).

The appointment of B. N. Hudson as Deputy Internal Revenue Collector for Texas was announced August 25. W. A. Thomas of Dallas was state director and made the selection of the local man (178, p. 1).

A story September 1 gave a progress report on the new city hall and fire station. The construction work was near completion with only interior work lacking. The old building had been torn down and the material saved for use in the new structure. Texas voted for repeal in the repeal of the prohibition constitutional amendment election and the sale of beer was approved by a majority of over 100,000 (179, p. 1).
On October 13, plans for the erection of a monument to the pioneer teachers of the two Springtown seminaries by the Springtown Association, Merchants and Farmers Bank, and the College Hill Institute were made. The monument was to be placed near the square in Springtown (180, p. 1).

Local history was made October 27 when the Kangaroos of Weatherford High met Central High of Fort Worth in the first night football game. Lights were installed at the park by the merchants and the school. Mrs. McDaniel of the college faculty raised $500 toward the goal. Central won the contest, 20-0. The Coyotes also played night games (181, p. 1).

Work began November 10 on an erosion control camp here. Some 200 men came from Jacksboro under the leadership of First Lieutenant Carlos F. Ellzey, United States Army Corps of Engineer Reserves, to build a camp for the conservation corps. The camp was built at the Fair Grounds off Fort Worth Street (182, p. 1).

Although some schools were being closed and abandoned because of the depression, the Central Texas Methodist Conference meeting at Corsicana endorsed Weatherford College and allowed it to continue operating. President Roy Boger gave an impressive report on the condition of the college and won his point that the college should remain open. (183, p. 1).
Jack Mann, state highway engineer, was reported December 1 to be making a survey for straightening Highway Number One between Weatherford and Fort Worth. Dangerous curves would be removed and the route shortened. Highway Number 89 between Gainesville and Springtown was shortened by two miles (184, p. 1).

On December 8, J. R. Fleming and Company announced the purchase of the W. P. Webster building on North Main Street. Fleming and A. S. Moake bought the building which has been owned by J. L. Hill earlier. It had been a wholesale grocery, but it would be converted to a nut operation. The building, one of the best-equipped and -constructed structures in the city, was 150 feet long, running from North Main Street west to York Avenue. A cold storage plant and sprinkler system was included in the 12,000 square feet of floor space (185, p. 1).

The last issue of 1933 carried a report that full crews of men were employed on the civil works program. North and South Main Streets were to be paved under the plan. North Main paving was to be from the railroad tracks to Couts Hill and the South Main project would tie in with the present paving to the end of the street. Work on a disposal plant was planned (186, p. 1).

1934

On January 12, 1934, the Whitt State Bank was closed by the directors with enough cash on hand to pay all of the
depositors. The story said no chartered bank in Parker County was ever closed without paying 100 per cent to the depositors and stockholders. Peter Radford had started the bank 10 years earlier. W. S. Fant was president at the time of closing. Judge T. R. Erwin returned from Austin with $4,500 for the repair of the courthouse (187, p. 1).

Weatherford's water works was awarded a place on the honor roll released by the State Director of Health at the Southwest Water Works Association meeting in Dallas. Only 40 towns were on the coveted honor list. Formal dedication of the new city hall was reported in the January 19 issue. The Reverend E. S. Barlow, chaplain of the volunteer fire department, prayed and Mayor Holland made the presentation speech. Preston Martin accepted the building on behalf of the citizens. Fred R. Cotten, local historian, gave a history of the building (188, p. 1).

A new town, named LaJunta, was being started on Highway Number 34 in northeast Parker County, the January 26 paper reported. The town was one mile north of the old Sabathany community between Springtown and Azle. Citizens of the county had subscribed for some 700 pit type toilets through the work-free Civilian Works Authority program. The cost of each new unit was not to exceed $18, less if the building, lumber, etc. were available (189, p. 1).

An announcement February 9 said applications were being accepted for the position of postmaster. The term of
Walter Hudson was to expire in March. The courthouse repair plan received approval and approximately $10,000 was to be spent on the project (190, p. 1).

On March 9, Phillips initiated a money-making program for the newspaper. An industrial and business review page was started. Phillips placed 20 two-by-two ads on the page with a little copy about one of the advertisers (191, p. 1).

The city election reported April 6 showed A. T. Collier defeating W. L. Carroll for city commissioner by four votes. Mayor Holland was unopposed. Fred R. Cotten had recently resigned as commissioner, necessitating the election (192, p. 1).

Hugh McGrattan, city commissioner and business leader for many years, died April 11 at his home on North Main Street. Born in Pennsylvania, he served two years as mayor, four as alderman, and five as commissioner. He was a director of the First National Bank for 27 years and was the board chairman. He was director of Planters Oil Company for 10 years (193, p. 1).

On April 20, Texas Public Utilities Corporation announced the purchase of the Round Ice Company at a trustee's sale. TPU and its predecessor companies had been serving Weatherford from the ice plant on Fort Worth Street for 34 years and from the ice vault on North Main Street for five years. The purchase of the South Main Street plant added to the facilities available. Douglas G. Chandor, famed English
portrait painter, married Mrs. Ina Kuteman Hill Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church with Bishop Harry T. Moore officiating at the double ring ceremony. Mrs. Hill, widow of business leader Elmer and daughter of the late H. W. Kuteman, met the painter in New York (194, p. 1).

In a special election, John Baker was elected city commissioner in place one succeeding the late Hugh McGrattan. Edwin Lanham, New York writer and nephew of Fritz G. Lanham, was a visitor in May. The newspaper writer for some years was working on a novel at the Godley ranch of his grandfather, Judge I. W. Stephens (195, p. 1).

A double unveiling ceremony of monuments honoring the Springtown Male and Female Institute and College Hill Institute was planned for the annual Springtown reunion. Governor Bill Murray of Oklahoma was to be the main speaker. The June 1 paper reported the Federal Bureau of Public Roads had approved the concrete viaduct work for Fort Worth Street and the paving of Palo Pinto and Fort Worth Streets. (196, p. 1).

Congressman Fritz Lanham announced June 15 that the postmaster's job would be awarded to R. K. Phillips. The top three men in the competition were Phillips, C. E. Canafax, and Charles Layne Martin. Walter Hudson had served 12 years in the position under three presidents. Miss Violet Roberts, who had been news editor of The Democrat for the two previous years, left to continue her studies at The University of Texas. A graduate of Weatherford College, Miss Roberts had already spent one year at the university (197, p. 1).
The confirmation of Phillips as postmaster was carried June 22. The contract for the overpass and paving work was let to the Fort Worth firm of Purvis and Bertram for $135,000 (198, p. 1).

On July 13, the progress on the Brazos River bridge on Highway Number 89 was reported as rapid. Henry Harmon, a local businessman, won the contract for painting the bridge (199, p. 1).

Traffic was detoured through north Weatherford and down North Main Street as work on the overpass was started July 16. The T&P Railroad tracks were lowered and the gas and water mains moved for the construction. D. D. Bratton was awarded his 50-year jewel (a diamond pin) at the Knights of Pythias Lodge Tuesday (200, p. 1).

An election extra edition July 30 revealed Allred and Hunter were leading the primary ticket. Fulgham won over McCall for nomination as county attorney, and Stewart and Nichols were in a runoff for sheriff. Stone led the county superintendent's race (201, p. 1).

The complete results of the election were carried the following Thursday. Winners were Lanham, Congress; Miller, state senator; Fain, state representative; Homer S. Turpin, district clerk; Morris, tax assessor-collector; Wadsworth, treasurer; Wren, county clerk; Stone, county school superintendent; Lester Stewart, sheriff; Frank Fulgham, county attorney; Erwin, county judge; and commissioners Wade
Hutcheson, precinct one; Hubert Boyd, two; A. R. Brashears, three; and T. B. Young, four.

The end of an era came with the August 3 issue when the name of R. K. Phillips was dropped from the masthead. The new name read Democrat Publishing Company, Carl Hartness, manager. Although Phillips retained ownership until 1941 when Hartness made the purchase, he was not the guiding force that he had been during his active days of publishing (202, p. 1).
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CHAPTER IV
THE MIDDLE YEARS 1934-1951

Death claimed another early Democrat employee in August, 1934. Earl W. Tullis, 43-year-old son of the late J. L. Tullis, was buried in Abilene August 13. The younger Tullis had helped his father publish the paper during the time Phillips was in Eastland (1, p. 4).

In the primary election reported August 31, Stewart was re-elected sheriff, Stone, county superintendent, and Turpin, district clerk. The three commissioners were Wade Hutcheson in precinct one, Hubert Boyd in two, and T. B. Young in four. The Chamber of Commerce indicated it would furnish an auctioneer free every First Monday for the sales (2, p. 1).

Local Lion R. Roy Keaton, junior high school science teacher, left Weatherford in September to enter the service of Lions International at the Chicago headquarters as service manager. A good peach crop in 1934 swelled the income of Parker County growers more than $50,000. Fifty blocks of streets were to be paved soon and property owners would be assessed twelve cents per front foot by the Federal Relief Department to furnish the labor. City School Superintendent H. H. Chambers said the sixth graders in each of the city's elementary schools, with the exception of Ward
Two, would attend junior high school to help alleviate overcrowded conditions (3, p. 1).

Joe H. Stumpp was hired by the city in mid-September to be city band director. Stumpp was to organize a high school band, and perhaps, an orchestra (4, p. 1).

Chambers reported a total city school enrollment of 1,289. The majority of the students, 350, were in the high school. Junior high school had an enrollment of 325, the elementary grades, 514. Fifty students were in the Negro school. The county was mourning the death of Dr. W. J. Sparks, veteran Poolville physician, in a Fort Worth hospital. Born in Tennessee, Dr. Sparks had been the only doctor in the northwest Parker County area for many years and served the people there for 40 years. He came to Texas in 1878 near Reno (5, p. 1).

In late September, W. A. Johnston visited the city in the interest of the Federal Housing Act. He conferred with Mutual Building and Loan officials about handling loans under the new FHA act. County relief administrator F. E. Malone said a government canning factory would begin operation in the Fleming building. T. W. Stanley, retired school superintendent, died as a result of a fishing accident and was buried Monday. He had hurt his hand and it had become infected. The 74-year-old educator was born in Missouri in 1860, came to Texas in 1875, and married in 1893. The bridge on Highway 89 over the Brazos River was open to traffic.
In the national news, the Lindbergh baby kidnapping case appeared near a solution with the recovery of the ransom money (6, p. 1).

The state highway department announced in late October plans for reshaping the courthouse square. The state was to build highway drives directly through the square, next to the courthouse curbs instead of going around the outer pavement. A part of the courthouse lawn was to be removed, creating an oval area. The bandstand and Confederate monument would be moved from the northeast corner to the northwest. Hopes for a state park in Weatherford were dashed when voters rejected a bond election to fund the construction, 204 to 115. Pretty Boy Floyd, notorious gangster, was killed by federal agents in Ohio (7, p. 1).

Robert B. Anderson, a 1929 graduate of Weatherford College, was appointed to the state tax commission by Governor James V. Allred. A Godley High School graduate, Anderson had been practicing law in Fort Worth and Cleburne (8, p. 1).

The Junior Chamber of Commerce announced plans in mid-December to light the main business streets. On page four, a story told of the death of W. T. Waggoner in Fort Worth. He was the son of pioneer cattleman Dan Waggoner, who owned a ranch in south Parker County sixty or seventy years earlier. The son was once estimated as the richest man west of the Mississippi River. He was offered $50,000,000 for
his oil holdings at one time. He was Fort Worth's top citizen in 1933 (9, pp. 1, 4).

1935

The bank report in January, 1935, showed deposits at an all-time high, $290,000 greater than in December, 1933. Officers and directors at the Merchants and Farmers were Doss, president; Shadle, vice-president; Brevard, vice-president and cashier; Jack Davis, assistant cashier; and Doss, Martin, Waller, White, Pickard, Shadle and Brevard, directors. G. A. Holland was re-elected chairman at Citizens. Fred Smith was elected president; Campbell and Wright, vice-presidents; Witherspoon, cashier; W. T. Hand, assistant cashier; and Holland, Smith, Barthold, Rawlins, Moseley, Campbell, Wright and Witherspoon, directors. First National leaders were W. S. Fant, president; George Fant, vice-president; Whitsett, cashier; Hart, Measures, and Hatchett, assistant cashiers; and Fant, Fant, Whitsett, Milmo, Tucker and Charles Fant, directors (10, p. 1).

Festivities reached a high pitch for the opening of the Fort Worth Street viaduct in late March. The two-lane structure bridging Town Creek and the T&P Railroad was opened to traffic March 22 with a parade that formed at the courthouse at 6:00 p.m. Fred Cotten, J. C. Hayes, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce highway committee, Mayor Holland, and Judge Erwin were honored for their work in securing the
concrete viaduct (11, p. 1). R. Roy Keaton began writing an editorial page column "Hither and Thither" with the March 29 edition. The column was to be a fixture for many years (12, p. 1).

In the city election April 5, Conrad Russell defeated A. T. Collier for place two on the city commission. J. R. Baker ran unopposed for place one (13, p. 1). Later in the month, Douglas Chandor's portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt was unveiled as the feature of the Jefferson Day Democratic banquet in Fort Worth (14, p. 1).

Texas Christian University conferred an honorary Doctor of Literary Letters degree upon Judge F. O. McKenzie June 3. The judge was graduated from Add-Ran and later taught there. He was an assistant attorney general for four years. Dr. E. D. Fyke reported Bowie Memorial Hospital was being repainted and redecorated throughout (15, p. 1).

The fortieth anniversary edition of The Democrat was run June 14 in four sections and 32 pages. The price of the special edition was 10 cents. Ed P. Hall, former mayor and fire chief, was elected president of the state fireman's association at the annual meeting in El Paso (16, p. 1).

Officers were elected by the city school board in late June. Preston Martin was chosen president; J. N. Ward, vice-president; and A. A. Patrick, secretary. Other board members were J. S. Campbell, Bert Rawlins, Jeff Hartnett, and Fred Potter (17, p. 1).
On August 2, the banner story said that Holland's Lake would become a public park. The generous offer of the park and 23 acres by the mayor was accepted by the city and county. Long a community center for outdoor life, the area included a camp just east of the lake that was used by the YMCA, Girl Scouts, and others. The Old Settlers Reunion was held at the park each August. Governor James Allred was to attend the reunion August 22 and Congressman Martin Dies of Orange was the afternoon speaker (18, p. 1).

Three projects totaling $47,000 were approved by the Works Progress Administration for the city in August. One of the projects was to provide paving of South Main Street from Beck's Gin to the forks of the road, 11 miles of paving on Spring, Bridge, and other streets connecting the paved streets. Some three miles of curb and gutter were to be laid, including 333 feet on Palo Pinto Street. The third project was two sewer extensions on North Main Street and one on Dallas Avenue. The Parker County Relief Office was closed with the county relief work to be handled from the Mineral Wells office (19, p. 1).

A grandson of Cynthia Ann Parker, the Reverend White Parker, lectured at the First Methodist Church prayer meeting. The Reverend Mr. Parker, one of Quanah's sons, lectured on the history of the Comanche tribe. He told the group that his grandfather, Nocona, was not killed in the battle with Sul Ross but, as Charles Goodnight had said,
Nocona was not at the battle and died later from natural causes (20, p. 1).

In the August 23 edition, a story told of Springtown setting an election on incorporation for September 21. Another story gave details of the deaths of Will Rogers and Wiley Post in an Alaska airplane crash. Rogers had been piloted earlier by Frank Hawk, son-in-law of the late Colonel G. M. Bowie (21, p. 1).

The Junior Chamber of Commerce was continuing its efforts to get street lights for the city in September. Joe Witherspoon, Carl Hartness, and Conrad Russell were named to a study committee. On page five, an account of fire damaging the dance studio of Mary Martin Hagman was given. The brick walls of the West Oak Street studio had little damage but the interior of the building was destroyed (22, pp. 1, 5).

The Works Progress Administration approved loans and grants to construct elementary school buildings in the city. The WPA set aside $79,000 to build first, second, and fourth ward buildings (23, p. 1).

In late November, Judge F. O. McKinsey, well-known lawyer, died at his home on East Oak Street. The WPA Sewing Room at the City Hall had its work force increased to 40 women. The women were producing 2,000 garments per month. Miss Ada Neal was the supervisor (24, p. 1).
The banking institutions of the city reported improved conditions and increased business at their January, 1936 meetings. Only one change was noted in the list of officers and directors. Elmer Bradford was named assistant cashier at Merchants and Farmers Bank. The city commission awarded the $80,000 contract for the construction of the three school buildings to Butcher and Sweeny of Fort Worth (25, p. 1).

Dell Morgan, whose father, C. A. Morgan, lived on Holland Lake Drive, was making a name for himself in 1936 with his winning teams at Alabama's Auburn University. The coach formerly was on the staff at Texas Tech after playing for the St. Louis baseball Cardinals. He was born and reared in Weatherford (26, p. 1).

Hartness had the wrong date on the February 21 issue--February 20--but the paper was filled with news. Work on the Cresson road had started and the south end had been graveled. Gernsbacher Brothers Company closed the doors on its Weatherford store after nearly 41 years of doing business. R. B. Alexander, a pioneer peach grower, said the prolonged snap of freezing weather reminded him of February 12, 1899, when the temperature dropped to 15 below zero and the fruit trees were killed. A former All-Southwest Conference football player from Aledo, Charles Trigg, was elevated from freshman to varsity line coach at Southern Methodist University. A report indicated that the street lights would be
turned on the next Monday. Prompt payment of taxes and the collection of delinquent taxes was given as the reason the city had been able to install the lights (27, p. 1).

A young fireman, Ray Pattillo, was killed in early March when the fire truck he was driving overturned on Highway 89. Pattillo and E. M. "Meter" Jumez were going to a fire at the Vince Jones' place just west of the city when the accident occurred. Pattillo, who was interested in the Red Cross and had been teaching first aid at night at the city hall, expressed a desire to see first aid stations set up on the county highways. G. H. Long, a clerk at the post office, was given credit for suggesting the Texas Centennial stamp issued by the government. In 1934, at the state meeting of the National Association of Post Office Clerks in Mineral Wells, Long introduced a resolution requesting issuance of Texas Centennial stamps. He bought a full sheet as the first purchaser of the stamps here Tuesday (28, p. 1).

In compliance with the new law, tax assessor-collector C. V. Morris issued nearly 5,000 drivers licenses, according to a report March 13. The licenses were free. Another story said the number of WPA workers in the state would be reduced, beginning in March. Jack Holland, owner of the Oklahoma City baseball club, died in Oklahoma Tuesday. The baseball team trained in Weatherford some seven or eight years. Carl Hubbell and Dazzy Vance were two of the players developed by Holland (29, p. 1).
Roy G. Boger announced his resignation as president of Weatherford College in late March, effective June 1. He was to become dean of McMurry College in Abilene. Boger came to the college in 1923 from Jacksonville. He was president of the Texas Junior College Association and the local Rotary Club (30, p. 1).

The tax assessor-collector reported April 3 that he had issued 3,104 auto license plates to that date. This was 300 more than in 1935. Drivers licenses issued had increased to 8,000 (31, p. 1).

In the city election, G. A. Holland was re-elected mayor. He received 389 of the 770 votes cast. Robert S. Wright, son of banker D. S. Wright, was appointed Fort Worth utilities engineer (32, p. 1).

Plans for the construction of a hospital were reported in May. Drs. P. L. Allen, Theron H. Funk, and E. M. Russell purchased the Miss Anna Kerr lot at 201 South Waco Street. The brick building would house 20 rooms, an x-ray room, operating rooms, and clinic rooms for the partners (33, p. 1).

In what amounted to a trade, Dr. G. C. Boswell was elected president of Weatherford College, effective June 1. Dr. Boswell had been dean of McMurry College for the previous three years (34, p. 1).

The county commissioners reported May 15 that the county was practically out of debt except for the highway bonds that had not yet matured. Issued in 1920, the bonds totaled
$320,000, but the state was to pay 69.5 per cent, leaving only $96,000 to be paid by the county in 15 years. A new 20-year franchise was granted Brazos River Gas Company, although a $1.50 minimum fee request was denied. The company had provided natural gas for the city for 17 years, and the new contract was for the period 1939-1959 (35, p. 1).

An extra was run Monday, July 27, for the election. Allred was re-elected governor by a big majority. Judge Erwin, in a close race, defeated Craven in the county judge balloting. Erwin won by 102 votes. A runoff was seen for Congress, state representative, clerk, and assessor-collector (36, p. 1). In the official count, Erwin won by 95 votes with Wade Hutcheson in precinct one and Hubert Boyd in precinct two commissioners races winning by less. Other winners were Lanham, Congress; Delmar King, state representative; J. E. Carter, district judge; Victor Scherer, county clerk; Homer Roberts, tax assessor-collector; Mrs. Blanche Caraway, treasurer; and commissioners Dan Nelson in three and T. B. Young in four (37, p. 1).

Roberts won the nod for nomination as tax assessor-collector, and King, the representative spot, in the runoff election. A page three story that day told of R. B. Hood eulogizing Mayor Holland at the unveiling services of the Double Log Cabin monument at Holland Lake Park. The marker was one of five historical markers erected by the state in Parker County through efforts by the mayor (38, p. 1).
Several hundred citizens turned out for the open house at the new city elementary schools Monday evening. In addition to getting three new buildings, the ward schools got new names. First ward became James Bowie, second ward, William B. Travis, third ward, David Crockett, and fourth ward T. W. Stanley, for the former superintendent. The Negro school was called Mount Pleasant. Property valuations for the city were reported as being $3,529,425 (39, p. 1).

The new Medical and Surgical Clinic had open house the following Sunday and the new pipe organ at First Methodist Church was dedicated the same day. Miss Nona Akard was organist and the Reverend J. M. Bond was pastor. Work began that week on the new Presbyterian manse on South Main Street, next to the church. The Patterson House, a landmark, was being demolished on Austin Avenue to make way for the Cox Garage and Auto Wrecking Company. Rock from the famous hosteltry was used in building retaining walls in north Weatherford. The Patterson House was built 60 years before by a Mr. Neal on one of the main streets leading to the T&P Railway depot, near where Elm Street crosses the railroad. It had been damaged by fire six years earlier, but had remained standing. John and Mack Rust, Weatherford brothers, secured patents on a cotton picker they invented and moved to Memphis, Tennessee (40, p. 1).

On November 6, the main story told of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's landslide victory over Alf Landon. Dedication services were held at the site of the first district
court in the county for the granite historical marker erected by the state. The days of 1856 were recalled in the ceremony (41, p. 1).

Weatherford performers made good in the Casa Manana centennial program at Fort Worth. F. C. "Barry" and Tom Fenn Leach, sons of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Leach, signed a contract for a tour in vaudeville after the successful conclusion of the Billy Rose production. The VanHoosier Sisters, who performed at Casa Manana, returned home to complete their education at Weatherford High School. R. K. Phillips was appointed a member of the city school board, succeeding James S. Campbell (42, p. 1).

In early December, the band hall was moved to the Grace Presbyterian building from the original meeting place on the second floor of the Bradford building on the west side of the square. The Junior Chamber of Commerce announced plans to decorate the courthouse square for Christmas (43, p. 1). A week later, King Edward VI of England renounced his throne to marry Mrs. Wallis Simpson and his brother, the Duke of York, accepted the crown. John W. Fain, twice a state representative, was appointed legal assistant in the administration of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. The 28-year-old man had been graduated from Weatherford High School and Weatherford College (44, p. 1).

On December 18, the news was spread that Santa Claus was coming to town Saturday. Plans for the paving of Eureka
Street to the city limits were revealed and the completion of six Scout Camp houses at Holland's Lake was reported. Other work planned at the camp included a dining hall and bath house. A story on page four said 100,000 peach trees were to be planted in the county that year (45, pp. 1, 4).

Deaths of two prominent citizens made the news the day before Christmas. The Reverend J. A. Caraway, 60, of Fort Worth, died December 19. He was a former pastor of North Side Baptist Church. The other death was that of Captain F. M. Peveler, 93, who had enlisted in the Rangers in 1860. A famous "Minute Man" of the early days in battling the Indians and outlaws, he and his company saw service at Pease River when Cynthia Ann Parker was rescued from the Comanches. Peveler died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. C. Rice, and was buried at Granbury (46, p. 1).

1937

Publisher Hartness proudly announced January 1, 1937, that a Model 8 "Blue Streak" Linotype had been purchased. The new Linotype, "of unrivalled excellence," could set five sizes of type. A new type face was secured for reading matter. Work was started on Airline Highway west from Weatherford. Fred Hall Construction Company of Dallas had the contract for the four and six-tenths miles of paving between the city limits and the Bodiford place. The Dallas Grocery Store and other buildings in the area near the city
limits were moved back in order to connect the highway with Palo Pinto Street (47, pp. 3, 1).

Contractor R. W. Briggs and Company of Pharr got the contract for paving the Highway 89 cut-off, giving a direct route to Ranger. Bank deposits in Weatherford were up by a quarter of a million dollars (48, p. 1). Bert Rawlins was named to replace his father, Alex, on the board at Citizens National. The elder Rawlins helped organize the Weatherford Bank and Trust Company in 1906 (49, p. 1).

Three parcels of property off the Bain Peanut Mill site on Fort Worth Street were purchased for the construction of service stations and a tourist camp. Bud Northington bought 210 feet, including the W. H. Jones residence, to erect a modern rock veneer station and a dozen or more cabins. Charles Fant bought 110 feet between Northington and Jim Armstrong's property, which ran south to the T&P Railroad tracks. W. M. Jackson, Conoco agent, bought 226 feet west of Northington and south to the railroad. Police Chief Bert Reynolds put a curfew law into effect again, saying that youngsters must be in by nine o'clock at night (50, p. 1).

Mary Martin was given a permanent place on the Buddy Rogers radio program from Hollywood in late January. She was to sing and take part in the skits on the 8:30 p.m. Friday night program. A special meeting of citizens requested the city commission to make a study of the electric
company property with a view to municipal ownership. At Texas University, Dana X. Bible was made head coach and he selected a former Weatherford resident, Blair Cherry, as assistant. Cherry was reared at the Pythian Home and coached Amarillo's Golden Sandies to three consecutive state championships (51, pp. 1, 4).

Two North Main Street drug stores were severely damaged by fire in early February. The Cherry-Akard Drug Store was the most heavily damaged, although the R. W. Kindel Drug building was damaged also. Miss Nona Akard said the two-story Cherry-Akard building probably would be rebuilt as a one-story structure. Judge Erwin proposed the construction of a courthouse. The new government building would be oblong, east and west, with three stories and a basement. Judge Erwin said he would present the proposition to the people since the present courthouse would cost $80,000 to repair and a new one could be built for $150,000. Another story said Lloyd Downs, son of resident John Downs, was pilot on a large sleeper plane from Fort Worth to Los Angeles. Downs was born in Veal Station and recently visited his father. The American Airlines plane slept 21 passengers (52, p. 1).

The Democrat told of the sale of the Hood County paper to A. B. Crawford by Ashley W. Crockett, grandson of Alamo hero David Crockett. Crockett had been a newspaper man for more than 60 years and published the Hood County Tablet for 15 or 16 years. He worked for the Weatherford Times in 1870
under Colonel R. W. Duke, editor. Crockett returned to Granbury and purchased the plant in 1883. He moved to Tolar and started the Tolar Tablet, but moved back to Granbury to buy the Hood County Tablet. Crockett wrote a couple of articles for The Democrat describing the early days of the area (53, p. 1).

Lord and Lady Marley of England visited in the home of the Douglas Chandors in late March. They addressed the students and teachers at Weatherford High School and Weatherford College on worldwide affairs (54, p. 1).

In the city election, Lawrence Edwards defeated incumbent John R. Baker for a place on the commission. Edwards won by a margin of 240 to 174. Conrad Russell was unopposed for a second term (55, p. 1). Later in the month, a story told of Morris Sands playing center field for the Tulsa Oilers. The local resident had been a star player at the state university before signing a professional contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates (56, p. 1).

G. A. Dallas and his son-in-law, Leslie Murrell, announced the completion of their rock grocery store and gas station in May. The building had to be moved back when Highway 89 and the Airline Highway were joined at the west city limits. Texas Pythians unanimously re-elected Theo Yarborough to a fifth term as Keeper of the Records and Seal. At Lakehurst, New Jersey, 33 people were killed when the giant airship, Hindenburg burned after an explosion (57, p. 1).
Large neon signs were placed on the east and west sides of the courthouse in late May. The signs had pictures of the various agricultural products of the county and bore the lettering "Texas Fruit and Melon Center." Joe Frantz was presented a silver medal at the annual spring university publications picnic, honoring outstanding volunteer work on the Daily Texan. Joe Quante, local contractor, won the contract for rebuilding the bridge across the Brazos River at Dennis. The old bridge was torn down. E. D. Fyke, Jr. began his duties as desk editor at the Wichita Falls Post. Two other former Weatherford residents, Bob Hartness and Ernest Glazner, were employed at the Post (58, p. 1).

City valuations for tax purposes showed an unexplained drop in June. The figure reported was $3,451,545, "only $89,000 less than last year." The commissioners court was enjoined from repairing the Dennis bridge as an emergency measure. Dave C. Bratton, longtime city lawman, died Wednesday noon at the age of 82 (59, p. 1).

In early July, the McFarland Ranch was divided among the heirs. A petition was granted the heirs of rancher Charles McFarland to sell the Bear Creek property. Dr. H. F. Leach, practicing physician in Weatherford and Aledo for many years, died at his home in Fort Worth at the age of 61. G. A. Holland announced the completion of his Parker County history, The Double Log Cabin, which was described as the most complete history thus far. The Coca-Cola Bottling
Company on North Main Street announced modern machinery that would produce 90 cases every 24 hours (60, p. 1).

Mary Martin continued her rise to stardom as she was named to a lead role in Universal Picture's "Merry-Go-Round" of 1938 (61, p. 5)." In mid-August, the highway department was given permission to build the traffic lanes through the courthouse square, but only after the state threatened to by-pass the city (62, p. 1). A new drivers license law was to go into effect Monday, August 23, with the applicants having to take physical and mental examinations (63, p. 1). Many 100-pound watermelons were reported to be at the public market in late August. On September 3, a story said the Dennis suspension bridge was complete except for the decking (64, p. 1).

A new dam was planned in November for Holland's Lake. The concrete structure would be built during the winter as a Public Works Administration project. The state highway department reported that an asphalt topping would be laid on Highway 89 for a distance of five miles from the city limits. An open meeting was held to discuss the municipal ownership of the electric and water plants. A bond election was planned (65, p. 1). The November 26 edition said Weatherford voters gave approval for the issuance of electric-water bonds by a two-to-one majority. The election was said to be one of the "hottest" in many years (66, p. 1).
Remodeling work was completed and the "new" Palace Theater opened December 10 at 7:30 p.m. for the movie "Submarine D-1." The Palace and Princess Theaters, owned by Sadler and Kindel, were completely remodeled with new signs. Lieutenant Lecel Lee, highest ranking officer in the Philippine Air Service, was reported missing in a Philippine typhoon. He was the son of the late Jerry Lee. The city was taking on a holiday atmosphere as multicolored lights were strung across the square and main streets and down the sides of the courthouse. The Jaycees were offering six prizes totaling $52.50 in a home lighting contest (67, p. 1). A week later, Lieutenant Lee and his party were found safe on an island (68, p. 1).

Texas Public Utilities filed suit in district court in late December, the 23rd (the paper was printed one day early because of the Christmas holiday), alleging 261 votes were cast illegally in the city bond election. The utilities company was seeking to retain control of the city electric service (69, p. 1). Jaycee lighting contest winners were Leslie Murrell, Mrs. A. E. Zellers, Mrs. Preston Martin, Mrs. Hershel Nash, Mrs. Nolan Queen, and Mrs. W. D. Taylor. There were 740 couples married in the city during 1937, according to a report from the county clerk (70, p. 1).

1938

The year 1938 opened on a sad note as Bowie Memorial Hospital burned at an estimated loss of $25,000. The fire
was discovered at 2:00 a.m. Monday by the night nurse, who awakened Dr. E. D. Fyke. The nurse had smelled smoke and discovered the fire in a second floor wall. The sturdy construction of the former G. M. Bowie home hampered firemen. The plaster walls were unusually thick. Colonel Bowie had controlled the cypress industry in Texas and Louisiana at the time of construction 40 years earlier. Floors in the building were one and one fourth inch maple, and the stairs, baseboards, and wainscotting were also of maple. Twenty-eight rooms were in the two-and-one-half story building (71, p. 1).

M. C. Wellborn, state highway divisional engineer, announced that a four-lane 44-foot-wide highway would be built between Weatherford and Fort Worth. The project was included in the 1939 Federal plan. The 150-foot right-of-way had been secured and work started on the section from Z. Boaz Station to the Parker-Tarrant County line.

A few changes were reported in the election of officers at the banks as the reports from 1937 were said to be "gratifying." Citizens National added Harry D. Akard as an assistant cashier and James Doss, son of President J. H. Doss, was named assistant cashier at Merchants and Farmers. There were no changes at First National. Weatherford College's Coyotes were presented the trophy as Central Texas Conference champions for 1937. The team was tied with John Tarleton at the end of the season, but won a playoff. Clinton
McClain was named the most valuable player and was presented the Dorothy Watt trophy (a small football) (72, p. 1).

The Aledo High School gymnasium was dedicated in a program Friday, February 4. Classrooms were included in the building. Roger Williams, formerly of Abilene, opened a clothing factory in the city. The York Avenue plant turned out from 600 to 700 juvenile garments per week (73, p. 1).

A feature story February 18 told of the E. A. Frantz Cotton Buckle Company on Bridge Street. The father of Joe Frantz of the state university, E. A. Frantz had a number of inventions to his credit, including the perfection of a buckle and the machinery to manufacture it. The metal buckle proved superior in the binding of cotton bales. Frantz had his local plant in the old Lowe-Carter Hardware building on Bridge Street. He also had a Memphis, Tennessee plant (74, p. 1).

The Democrat made a move in late February and early March. The move was announced in the March 4 edition. The office was moved one door south into the former Cherry-Akard Drug Company building. The Democrat had operated nearly 30 years in the former location. The building, owned by Misses Nona and Bertha Akard, had been damaged by fire in 1937, but was completely renewed and remodeled by the new owners, Clarence Hopkins and Charles Fant. Jake Long, who had been serving as chief deputy sheriff, was promoted to
sheriff by the county commissioners. He was to serve the final 10 months of the term of J. L. Stewart, who resigned (75, p. 1).

In a late March sports report, Marsh Farmer of Aledo won honors at the Fort Worth track meet. The one-armed Texas Tech hurdler was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Farmer. He won the 220-yard low hurdles and was second in the 120-yard high hurdles. Farmer attained national fame in winning at the Drake Relays in 1937. The telephone company said new telephone cables were being installed and the new directory was planned for May (76, p. 1).

Dr. G. C. Boswell was elected for a three-year term as president of Weatherford College in April. W. B. McDaniel was dean (77, p. 1). Conrad F. Russell won the mayor's post in the city election and Frank Fulgham, local attorney, was promoted to Captain of Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery of the Texas National Guard. There were 3,744 motor vehicles registered in the county (78, p. 1).

Construction stories were big in April. The brick veneer was being completed on the Fyke hospital. The one-story building included much of the hardwood maple and cypress salvaged from the old Bowie home that burned the year before. The hospital had 15 rooms: an operating room, nine patient rooms, x-ray room, maternity ward, and large halls from the north and west. Much of the building rested on the original foundation (79, p. 1). First Methodist Church
completed its annex building, a three-story rock structure. The rock was purchased from the old Dr. H. F. Leach residence south of the city. Mayor LaGuardia of New York was the star attraction at the West Texas Chamber of Commerce meeting in Wichita Falls. The Weatherford High School band, under the direction of Joe Stumpp, took part in the parade opening the meeting (80, p. 1).

Willard Sadler was elected to the city commission, replacing Conrad Russell, who had been elected mayor. Lawrence Edwards was elected to the other commission post. John Downs received the news of the death of his son, Lloyd, in a crash of the plane he was using to sow rice. The 33-year-old aviator was one of the best airline pilots on the west coast for 10 years (81, pp. 1, 6).

The largest class in the history of Weatherford College, 82, graduated in late May. The school was said to be operating on a cash basis and many improvements were being made (82, p. 1).

Work on remodeling the old junior high school building was started in late June. Part of the structure, formerly the Central High School building, was being razed. A two-story part was slated for the front of the building, the back being one story. A gymnasium was built between the junior and senior high buildings (83, p. 1).

Fritz G. Lanham was honored at a homecoming rally at Cherry Park in July. The cornerstone of the old Central
High building was opened after 53 years. The building was built in 1885. The newspapers were crumbled, the tin box rusted, and the two or three small bottles in it were empty. A C. C. Baker Transfer Company brass check and a Mexican dime were in the box. Boyce House now had a regular column in the paper under the heading "I Give You Texas (84, p. 1)."

Dr. Theron H. Funk announced July 29 that he had sold his interest in the Medical-Surgical Clinic to Drs. Allen and Russell. H. H. Chambers tendered his resignation as city school superintendent to accept a position at Greenville. The final tabulation in the county precinct races was Turpin, district clerk; Stone, county school superintendent; J. B. Banks, county judge; Victor Scherer, county clerk; Homer Roberts, assessor-collector; Mrs. Blanche Caraway, treasurer; R. S. "Zeb" Vance, sheriff; Jack Borden, county attorney; and commissioners G. S. "Grover" Gilley in precinct one; Bedford in two; Dan Nelson in three; and Bryant Caraway in four. The Lions Club had Lieutenant Lecel Lee as guest speaker (85, p. 1).

H. L. Barber of Azle was named city school superintendent, replacing Chambers August 5. John R. Brown, who served 42 years as a peace officer in Parker County, died at his home. The Twentieth Century Club announced plans to build a club home at the corner of South Main and East Lee Streets. An auditorium seating 700 people was planned for the building (86, p. 1).
The city commission announced August 12 that traffic lights would be installed in the city. The contract called for alternating lights at the four main streets at the square and another one on South Main Street at Stanley School (87, p. 1). In mid-August, the city applied for a PWA grant to build a water and electrical plant. Harry Hines of the state highway commission said $270,000 had been appropriated for the new four-lane highway to Fort Worth (88, p. 1).

In late August, H. E. Wishard was elected coach of the high school athletics. He replaced Coach Flewharty, who went to Greenville. Frank Hawk, internationally known speed flyer, crashed near Buffalo, New York, and was killed. His widow was Edith Bowie Hawk. She was the daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Bowie (89, p. 1).

The runoff election, reported September 2, showed Banks winning in the county judge race, John Turned being elected sheriff, Carl Ramsey and J. A. Nichols elected commissioners in precincts two and four, and Turpin elected district clerk. Mary Martin was guest speaker at the Rotary luncheon as she was home for a short visit. Alex Rawlins and Sons monument works began work on a brick workshop building on Palo Pinto Street (90, p. 1).

Carter W. Moseley, local banker, died unexpectedly in Fort Worth Tuesday, September 13. He was the eldest son of
the late H. L. Moseley and the grandson of the late J. R. Coutts (91, p. 1).

In early October, city property owners were given the chance to secure sidewalks, curbs, and gutters for their property through a Works Progress Administration project. Property owners could pay 15 cents a running foot for sidewalks and 25 cents for curb and gutters. City secretary C. E. Canafax said requests could be made through his office at city hall (92, p. 1).

Mary Martin opened on Broadway in Cole Porter's musical, "Leave It To Me" in mid-November. The Weatherford singer-dancer received good notices from the New York critics (93, p. 3). Another county resident was honored in early December. J. A. "Peck" Nichols of Aledo, precinct four commissioner, was named to the advisory board of Governor W. Lee O'Daniel. There were 29 members on the advisory board (94, p. 1).

On December 16, the Jaycees completed the decoration of the courthouse square by placing large stars at the top of the courthouse tower and at each of the four corners. Mary Martin was featured on the cover of Life magazine that week (95, p. 1). This was the first of several times she was to be featured on the cover of the national magazine. The following week, her father, Preston Martin, died at his West Oak Street home. He was 66. A lawyer for more than 40 years, he had suffered a stroke two years before (96, p. 1).
1939

Mary Lou Bentley, who was reared in Weatherford, was chosen one of 12 most beautiful women in the nation and was featured in a national picture magazine. Miss Bentley was a star in Casa Manana. A. E. Zellers was named to the city school board, filling the vacancy left by the death of Preston Martin (97, p. 1).

An operatic production, "Cynthia Ann Parker," was presented by North Texas Teachers College February 16 and 17. The production was based on the story of the young white girl captured by Indians at Fort Parker in 1836 and married Comanche Chief Nocona (98, p. 3). In late February, the Chamber of Commerce and Weatherford Garden Club were hosts to a statewide pilgrimage to Parker County's peach orchards (99, p. 1). An estimated 20,000 visitors viewed the peaches in bloom (100, p. 1).

In the city election, Edwards and Sadler were re-elected commissioners without an opposing vote (101, p. 1). The widening of Palo Pinto Street from Lamar to Merrimac was announced the second week of April. The street was made seven feet wider with curbs and gutters added. This was another WPA project. The contract for the four-lane highway to Fort Worth was to be let in May (102, p. 1).

A foreclosure was held on Hotel Parker for a debt of $56,954. The hotel had been built by the citizens of the community in the boom days 20 years earlier. Charles McFarland
filed the suit. The high school gymnasium was nearing completion and the Jaycees had a water well drilled at the football field so a water system could be installed (103, p. 1).

Two deaths were reported April 28 involving former county judges. J. J. Stoker, a Confederate veteran, died at the age of 98. He was district clerk for three terms and served as county judge of Foard County before coming here in 1900. A. J. Hood, another former county judge, died at the age of 83. His father was a district judge in pioneer days. Judge Hood lived in San Benito, Texas, the last 30 years (104, pp. 1, 3).

Joe Ayers, principal at junior high school, died May 23 following a three-week long illness. The 54-year-old educator had served in city and county schools for 25 years. The contract for the first six miles of the four-lane highway was let to Gifford Hill and Company. The contract was for $220,171 (105, p. 1). Ayers was succeeded at junior high by L. B. Wilson, who had been principal at Stanley elementary for three years. The balance of the highway contract was to be let June 20 according to another story (106, p. 1).

In mid-June, Hotel Parker was sold at public auction to the Fants, who had operated it for the past few years (107, p. 1). The contract was let on the west section of the four-lane highway to Brown and Roote Company of Austin. The stretch of road was from Weatherford to the Clerk Fork of the Trinity River (108, p. 1).
Attorney A. E. Zellers was added to the board of Citizens National Bank in July. He joined Bathold, Campbell, G. A. Holland, Joe McKenzie, Bert Rawlins, Fred Smith, and Witherspoon (109, p. 1). Governor W. Lee O'Daniel and his family were in Weatherford the last of July when they visited their farm on the Clear Fork (110, p. 1).

The city awarded the contract for construction of the electric plant and distribution system. The contract totaled $218,745.82. Veteran banker W. V. Shadle died unexpectedly September 13. Shadle, born at Poolville in 1889, was elected county school superintendent in 1914 and served four years. He was connected with the old Parker County National Bank for a time and was vice-president of Merchants and Farmers for 12 years (110, p. 1).

A hint of what was to come on the international scene was told in the September 22 edition. The Rumanian premier was assassinated and the story said the whole of Europe may be involved in war. Mary Martin was to return to Broadway October 3 (111, p. 1).

Two football fans were killed in the wreck of a T&P football special west of Weatherford. The crash was described as one of the most disastrous wrecks in this section for many years. Engineer Leonard J. Perry was killed by escaping steam and conductor Neely McNeely was killed in the baggage car. Several members of the TCU band and football fans were injured. The train was bound for Los Angeles from
Fort Worth. The track was cleared by Wednesday noon, some 15 hours after the derailment (112, p. 1).

Weatherford's Mary Martin continued her rise to the top of the entertainment world and, in October, the announcement was made that she would be on the radio each week. The "Tuesday Night Party," broadcast from New York, was aired at 7:30 p.m. over KRLD in Dallas. Money was being sought from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to construct the DeCordova Bend Dam east of Granbury. T. B. Saunders bought the Barnett Ranch in the southwestern part of the county, paying Mrs. Florence A. Barnett $11,117 for the 447 acres (113, p. 8).

The advocate for a commission system of government for the city, A. H. Russell, died after a few days' illness in late October. A jeweler and optometrist for 46 years, he served as an alderman in 1912 and was elected mayor in 1914 in the first of two terms. He was 72 years old (114, p. 1).

A special eight-page section was run December 8 welcoming Mary Martin home. She was returning to Weatherford for the premiere of "The Great Victor Herbert," in which she starred with Alan Jones. The movie was shown at the Palace Theater (115, p. 1).

Plans were announced in December for a $30,000 public library to be built on two vacant lots next to the Weatherford College gymnasium. The library was to be maintained and operated by the college. Construction work was scheduled
by the National Youth Administration. Marsh Farmer, born without a left arm, was competing in the Sugar Bowl track meet at New Orleans. He set the 110-meter hurdle record of 14.2 seconds in the National Junior Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska, the previous July. He was said to be a top hope for the Olympics (116, p. 1).

1940

The last of the county's seven rural banks, Peaster, closed December 30. J. A. Wiggins, who began work at the bank in 1910, was president and sole owner. Wiggins went to Munday as vice-president of the First National Bank there. C. W. McCarty organized the bank in 1906 and was the only other president the bank had known. Mary Martin's homecoming was given a full page in the January 8 issue of Life. Several pictures accompanied the text. Marsh Farmer won the 110-meter race at New Orleans with a time of 14.5 seconds. Fire Chief Fred Potter released the loss report for fires in the past five years. In 1935, the loss figure was $5,815; in 1936, $8,011; in 1937, $9,590; in 1938, $25,644; and in 1939, $6,472 (117, pp. 7, 1).

Weatherford's banks made a couple of changes in their list of officers and directors at the annual meetings. Jack Hart was named a director at First National Bank and James Doss was elevated from assistant cashier to vice-president, replacing the late W. V. Shadle, at Merchants and Farmers State Bank. Plans were being made for the second annual
peach pilgrimage by the Chamber of Commerce and garden club. The local national guard artillery company was snowed in while on a two-day encampment at Camp Wolters. Maneuvers were cancelled and company commander Frank Fulgham said they would try again later (118, p. 1).

On March 1, Hartness told the readers that Texas newsprint was being used for the first time in that edition. The story described the new six million dollar paper mill that has been constructed at Lufkin. Mary Martin spent a few hours in Fort Worth on her way to Hollywood from Miami. She said her young son, Larry Hagman, had been given a spot on the "Baby Snooks" radio program. She was appearing on the Dick Powell radio show and was starring in the movie "Ghost Music" with Bing Crosby. Brick was being laid for the municipal water and light plant building on Fort Worth Street (119, p. 1).

The following week, a report said the contract for lighting the business district had been let to Graybar Electric Company of Dallas. The "white way" system was to cost $6,418. In addition to the square area, the lights were to be placed three blocks on North Main Street, two blocks on South Main Street and York Avenue, and to the city limits on Palo Pinto and Fort Worth Streets. Highway markers were placed on South Main Street and on to Cresson by the state highway department (120, p. 1).
A board of control for the city's new municipal water and electric department was selected in late March. J. C. Hayes, T. C. Hatchett, Joe B. Witherspoon, and Carl Hartness were named to the board (121, p. 1).

Trophies won by Marsh Farmer were displayed the week of April 5 in the City Pharmacy window on the north side of the square. The most prized trophy of Ralph Farmer's son was a silver plate presented to him when he set a world record in winning the 70-yard invitation high hurdles at the 5th Regiment Games at Maryland University. Farmer had 13 medals (122, p. 1).

Weatherford High School was admitted to the Association of Southern Colleges and Secondary Schools in mid-April. A study of the school preceded the accreditation by the regional group (123, p. 8).

Mrs. H. C. Shropshire, civic and religious leader, died in late April. She had helped organize the Twentieth Century Club 30 years earlier and was a 25-year member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Hartness reported, in the same edition, that The Democrat was using Texas-made newsprint exclusively. The newspaper had been using Canadian paper (124, p. 1).

The new city electric department announced in May that it would erect 300 street lights in the residential areas (125, p. 1). For the first time in the city's history, the United States Marine Band was to present a concert in the
football stadium. The program was to be jointly sponsored by Weatherford College, Weatherford High School, and the Chamber of Commerce. The band was playing four dates in Texas in 1940. In a surprise move, Mary Martin was married to film writer Richard Halliday on Sunday. Only a few people knew of the plans (126, pp. 1, 5).

On May 17, a national story said President Roosevelt was asking Congress for defense funds. The French admitted the peril they were facing and were discussing a battle tactic change. Groundbreaking for the new library was the top local story of the day (127, p. 1).

The 1940 census report showed the population of Weatherford was 5,915, an increase of 1,003 over the 1930 figure. The through traffic lanes on the square that were discussed first in 1937 were finally realized (128, p. 1).

Open house at the new municipal light plant was held June 21. A band concert was given on the plant lawn during the evening. The public market also opened that week. Pictures of the city officials, the light plant, and public market were featured throughout the paper (129, p. 1).

In an unusual report, it rained for 18 consecutive days, from June 12 to June 30. The regular bank call showed an increase of $80,000 in three months from $2,725,340 to $3,324,695. J. O. McKenzie was named vice-president of the First National Bank on July 15. He had been at Citizens National Bank. C. P. Webb, pioneer school teacher, died
Sunday at his home on Limit Street. He was a pioneer educator in Stephens County, but had lived here for 22 years. Webb was 78 years old. Among his seven children was Walter Prescott Webb, University of Texas historian (130, pp. 1, 3).

The population of Parker County was reported at 20,497 by the census enumerators. This was an increase of 1,738 since the 1930 census. Dick Witherspoon, an old stage driver, died on Monday. He was born in Missouri in 1852. In another story, the highway commission requested right-of-way for the Cleburne road from the city limits to the Farmer dairy (131, p. 1).

President Roosevelt was nominated on the first roll call at the Democratic National Convention. The second annual three-day fruit show opened July 19. Weatherford's field artillery company announced plans for maneuvers in Louisiana, if not mobilized before that time. Gus Jensen, who barbered here for 50 years, died at the age of 88. He came to Weatherford in 1876. His shop was in a portion of The Democrat building for a number of years (132, pp. 1, 3).

Hartness printed an election extra Monday, July 29, when O'Daniel was re-elected governor by a big majority. J. M. Taylor was in a runoff with Luther Hutcheson for county clerk. County leaders were Tom Connally, senator; Lanham, Congress; Arthur Cato, state representative; Carter, district judge; Banks, county judge; Turpin, district Clerk; J. B. "Jim" Shaw, assessor-collector; Mrs. Will T. Hand,
treasurer; G. C. Gilley, commissioner, precinct one; and Sam W. Nash, precinct three (133, p. 1).

A two-column front page wedding picture, the first in many years, was run August 23 when James Houston Doss, Jr. married Miss Dorothy Jane Smith at the First Baptist Church. He was vice-president of the Merchants and Farmers Bank. L. H. Lacy Company of Dallas started laying the concrete for the south lanes of the four-lane highway from the Parker County line to Z. Boaz Station in Fort Worth (134, p. 1).

The international news August 30 centered on the bombing of London and Berlin. The European war was escalating. On the local scene, Cato was nominated state representative and Taylor, county clerk, in the second primary (135, p. 1).

In September, R. K. Phillips was selected city school board president. J. N. Ward had resigned as president. Other board members were Bert Rawlins, A. A. Patrick, J. P. Hartnett, Dr. J. M. Browder, and A. E. Zellers. Weatherford's Public Market was featured in the West Texas Chamber of Commerce publication "West Texas Today (136, p. 1)."

Registration for the Selective Service was announced for October 16 in every county precinct. General Hood Simpson, son of Mrs. Jim Simpson of Aledo, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General at San Antonio. Simpson attended Aledo schools and Weatherford College, where he starred in football two years, and was graduated from West Point. The Marine Band, directed by Captain William F. Santelmann, drew 2,500 people in the afternoon and 1,500
people in the night concert. A new column of briefs was headed "Late War News." Dale Roark, local melon grower, raised a 101-pound Tom Watson to break the record for that type. Triumph and Jumbo varieties have reached 126 pounds (137, p. 1).

The Parker County draft board was formed October 11 and was composed of G. A. Holland, Fred H. Potter, and Billy Beard of Springtown. The municipal light company reported that over 900 electric meters had been installed (138, p. 1).

In the first registration of men, 1,968 signed up Wednesday. By October 25, more than 2,000 men had registered with the initial drawing for training scheduled October 29. A complete list of all the registrants was printed on the inside pages (139, p. 1).

Only a few Parker County men were slated to be called for training in November, because only 30,000 were to be called over the nation for a year of military training. Registration figures had reached 2,101 by November (140, p. 1).

The 36th Division was called into service November 8 and the Weatherford field artillery unit made preparations to leave for Brownwood. President Roosevelt's lead in the general election mounted to 39 states with the Democrats keeping control of both the House and Senate. Mayor Russell was chosen president of municipal utilities at the Texas Municipal League meeting in Fort Worth (141, p. 1). In late November, Parker County was allotted 45 men to be drafted
by February 28. Nine men had volunteered for service. Under the WPA program, free lunches for the county's rural schools were proposed (142, p. 1).

1941

Several changes were made in the lineup of bank officers and directors in the January, 1941 meetings. Joe B. Witherspoon was elected vice-president; Ralph Kindel, Jr., cashier; and James H. Malone, assistant cashier at Citizens National. J. O. McKenzie was elevated to the board at First National and R. B. Gibson became an assistant cashier at Merchants and Farmers State Bank. At Peaster, the citizens held a ground-breaking for a new school auditorium (143, p. 1).

As part of the defense program, plans were announced in late January for discarding the proposed Weatherford to Gainesville highway. The number of check-in gates at Camp Wolters was increased because of the stepped-up activity at the infantry post. Funeral services for lumberman W. J. Milmo were held Friday. He had been in the lumber business for 43 years. Mrs. Amanda Phillips observed her 106th birthday at Advance on Sunday, February 2 (144, p. 1).

Business began to boom in the early days of 1941 as workers from the army camp filled the homes and created a need for apartments. Big payrolls helped boost the area's economy. Nine men were to be inducted March 4 (145, p. 1).
In mid-February, a story said a traffic light at the highway junction at the west city limits was being considered. The United States Government was advising its citizens to leave the Far East as the situation was deteriorating there (146, p. 1). The city was taking on the look of a boom town as men from the army camp began to flock in. A signal light was installed at the intersection of Palo Pinto and Alamo Streets to help control the increased traffic (147, p. 1).

A story February 21 said 12 of the rural schools were giving free lunches. Dennis, Brock, and Poolville were the first with Fox, Garner, Bennett, Dicey, Wright, Harmony, Greenwood, Agnes, and Reno joining in. Rural Electrification Administration consumers were slated to begin receiving electricity at cost from the new Possum Kingdom Dam. C. H. Jones announced the opening of a theater, the Plaza, in the Martin building on the east side of the square. A trio of Weatherford army officers received promotions: Hall Buchanan became a major, Ben Hagman, a first lieutenant, and John Wright, a captain (148, p. 1).

On March 14, the Reverend C. H. Ray died after a long illness. The long-time county Baptist pastor and civic leader was 82. Work at Camp Wolters was finished and troops began to arrive. The old Cumberland Presbyterian Church building on South Main Street was sold to Roy Bounds. The
building was constructed in 1912 prior to a church split when the Palo Pinto Street church and the seminary were built (149, p. 1).

An announcement March 21 said General Hood Simpson was to be stationed at Camp Wolters. He was acting commander of the Second Division. Soldiers quickly replaced the workmen as the camp became fully activated (150, p. 1). Later that month, G. C. Boswell resigned as president of Weatherford College. Dean W. B. McDaniel was named acting president (151, p. 1).

Edwards and Sadler were returned as city commissioners in the April city election in one of the smallest voter turnouts; 147 votes were cast (152, p. 1).

Dedication ceremonies for the Springtown High School were held April 15. J. T. Jones was the new superintendent. Local attorney I. B. Hand accepted a position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington. A report said nearly 100 army officers resided in the city. The REA began stringing electrical lines in the southern part of the county. For the first time, Weatherford policemen were wearing uniforms. The five officers--two in the day and three at night--were issued blue uniforms with caps. In Washington, Senator Morris Sheppard died in Walter Reed Hospital (153, pp. 1, 7).

Weatherford city schools adopted the 12-grade system in May. The schools had been operating with 11 grades.
Captain E. M. Wells of the state highway patrol requested a 30-mile-per-hour speed limit to be put into effect in the silo hill area of the Fort Worth highway near Aledo. On the international scene, Rudolph Hess fled Germany in a warplane and parachuted over England. Hess was Hitler's right hand man (154, p. 1).

Major Jack Hart, a World War I hero, died at the age of 45 at his home northwest of Weatherford. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Jno. M. Hart, he was cashier and director of First National Bank. The Weatherford Poultry and Egg building on North Main Street was heavily damaged by fire Sunday evening. Firemen Hubert Adams and W. E. MacNelly were injured when the second floor caved in. Wesley Thomas was manager of the business and Mrs. S. J. Whitson was owner of the building (155, p. 1).

In late May, the city purchased the entire water system from Texas Public Utilities. The $137,000 purchase price included the filtration plant on the north side and the Cherry Park facilities. At Austin, Dean T. U. Taylor died. The son of county residents had been dean of the University of Texas engineering college for 30 years and had been on the faculty for 48 years. The British struck a major blow in the European war by sinking the 35,000-ton German warship, Bismarck (156, p. 1).

A report in June said the work on reducing the size of the courthouse lawn was to be done during the month and the
entire square repaved. Twenty-nine candidates were certified for the ballot in the special Texas senatorial election. The contest was seeking a successor to Morris Sheppard. The second draft registration was listed for July 1 (157, p. 1).

W. Lee O'Daniel led the long ticket in the senate election in Parker County by 320 votes. Mann was second and Lyndon Johnson was third. The contract was let for the concrete paving on the east highway to L. H. Lacy Construction Company of Dallas. The contract for 13.9 miles was $381,359. One hundred young men registered in the second session with the local draft board (158, p. 1).

Another page in the long history of the Couts-Burnett wills was written when John Sweatt, a former resident, killed himself. The 55-year-old trustee of the Mary Couts Burnett estate was defendant in a lawsuit seeking recovery of $400,000 allegedly due Texas Christian University. Cresson rancher Jeff Slocum was selected the most typical young cowboy at the annual Cowboy Reunion at Stamford July 4 (159, p. 1).

A 57-year-old county resident was killed in a shootout on the courthouse square. Deputy Constable Bill Bledsoe and night policeman Lev Terry had a report of a drunk driver and found a wrecked car and a man walking nearby. C. J. Hill reportedly had an old-fashioned single-action Colt pistol and fired once. Bledsoe shot three times and Terry twice. Hill was hit only once. W. N. Cox purchased the
old Rock Creek Coal Mine property 10 miles west of Weatherford from the Texas and Pacific Oil Company. The rancher paid $23,463 for the 2,500 acres that had been used for coal mining 30 or 40 years earlier (160, p. 1).

In early August, a story said the Cresson highway was expected to receive an asphalt topping in a few weeks. E. B. Cartwright and Joe Winston, county ranchers, were added to the First National Bank board (161, p. 1). A week later, McDaniel submitted his resignation as president of Weatherford College. After 16 years with the local college, he was returning to McMurry College as dean (162, p. 1). On August 15, the announcement was made that Dr. C. A. Sutton had been elected president of Weatherford College. He was formerly president of Westminster College. Furman "Red" Rutledge was appointed coach, succeeding Field (163, p. 1).

Weatherford's fourth movie house--the Texan--opened August 28. The Texan was owned by Warren Kindel and Willard Sadler. The Princess Theater, which opened in 1912, and the Palace Theater, which began operation in 1926, were also owned by the two men. The Cresson highway was completed and dedication ceremonies held for the 7,000-volume public library. Mrs. Gerald Vanlandingham was librarian (164, p. 1).

The oldest drug store in continuous operation in the city, Kindel Drug Store, was purchased by Jess Mahan in September. The store had been in operation more than 60 years. A report said 1,080 people were on the Camp Wolters payroll (165, p. 1).
The city received a federal grant of $56,200 in mid-September for the water and sewer systems improvement. A standpipe was to be erected on the west side of town. The enrollment of the city schools swelled to 1,450 with the influx of people from Camp Wolters. A military review at the post, featuring 6,000 soldiers, was open to the public September 20 (166, p. 1). General Hood Simpson, Camp Wolters commander, was promoted to the rank of major general in early October (167, p. 1). A week later, General Simpson was transferred to Camp Robinson in Arkansas. He was to head up the 35th Division (168, p. 8).

While the threat of war was hanging heavily, things were not all sad. Mary Martin and her husband, Richard Halliday, announced the birth of a daughter in early November. The seven-pound, 13-ounce girl was named Heller, a name Mary was called as a youngster (169, p. 1).

A story in the December 5 issue said 697 books had been added to the public library in the past three months. Wyatt C. Hedrick, Fort Worth architect, purchased the Black Cattle Ranch for $150,000. The ranch had been owned by the late H. W. Kuteman (170, p. 1).

Two major stories all but filled the front page of the paper December 12. Banker W. S. Pant died at his home Sunday. The First National Bank president had been in banking for 57 years. The other big story announced the
entry of the United States into the war following the
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, also on Sunday (171, p. 1).

War news immediately began to be featured on the front
page. Two Parker County men were lost in the Pearl Harbor
attack. Hugh Arlen Martin of Peaster and Maurice Hutcheson,
son of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Hutcheson, who had moved to Denton,
lost their lives. Seventeen lookout posts of Civil Defense
were designated in the county. Weatherford College reported
it was discontinuing football for the duration of the war.
Lieutenant Victor Scherer, who had recently purchased the
Lawrence Edwards hardware store on the east side of the
square, and Captain John Wright were recalled to active duty
at Camp Bowie and Randolph Field (172, p. 1).

A special announcement was printed December 12 revealing
the sale of The Democrat by Phillips to Hartness. Hartness
had been manager of the paper since 1934 and had worked at
the paper for more than 30 years at that time (173, p. 1).

1942

The 1942 copies are missing from the library files.

1943

Several changes were made in the appearance of the front
page with the start of 1943. Hartness was using the front
page ears to plug buying war bonds and stamps. One-column
pictures of county servicemen were run on the front page
each week. The McFarland rural school closed in January
after the only student, a 14-year-old girl, married a soldier
during the Christmas holidays. Mount Grove school closed,
sending its students to Greenwood (174, p. 1).

A story on the front page January 21 told of Lieutenant
Joe Freeman being killed on his 22nd birthday in a plane
-crash near Boston. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H.
Freeman. The four sons of Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Fambrough were
pictured. A. M., D. G., and O. G. were in the Navy and
Rex I. was in the Coast Guard. Slug lines "Buy War Bonds
and Stamps" were placed between each story in the "News of
Our Servicemen" column (175, p. 1).

J. E. H. Railey, founder of the Weatherford Herald,
died in Wichita Falls at the age of 78. He was in the newspa-
per business in Waco before the turn of the century when
he came to Weatherford and established the Herald. He sold
the paper to A. C. MacNelly in 1919 and moved to Wichita
Falls. Several changes were made in the election of offi-
cers and directors at Weatherford banks. Miss Thelma Dick
and J. C. Sullivan were named assistant cashiers and J. W.
Beard, Jr., was elected cashier at Citizens National. The
only change at First National was the election of George
Fant, who succeeded his late father, as president. W. D.
Newberry took the place of the late H. L. Brevard on the
Merchants and Farmers board, and Lloyd Hinkle was chosen
assistant cashier (176, p. 1).
On March 4, a story said local lawyers Jack Borden and I. B. Hand had been promoted in their service in the FBI. R. B. Hood, dean of the Weatherford bar, died Monday at his South Waco Street home, having been ill since August (177, pp. 1, 3).

Work on remodeling the county courthouse was completed in late March. The district court room was rearranged on the east instead of the west side as it had been for 50 years. Other offices were changed. Information was continually given on what ration stamp books were valid at what time. One story told parents of new babies that they would have to present a certificate of birth to secure War Ration Book One for the children (178, p. 1).

In April, Parker County women sacrificed and sent 9,250 pairs of old stockings to the government. The donations amounted to 370 pounds of nylon and silk stockings to be used in the war effort. The Jno. Hart grocery finally closed after 51 years of operation. Hart established the business at the corner of North Main and Sprin Streets in 1892. After he died in 1932, his daughter, Mrs. Marzelle Carter, ran the business and later moved it to the southeast corner of the square (179, p. 1).

Parker County was lagging on its part in the War Loan drive with only one fourth of the quota being collected by late April. The story said the county had never failed to raise its part before. H. E. Letson, Democrat editor, was
confined to his bed for a 30-day rest. He had a bout with influenza and was unable to regain his strength (180, p. 1).

The county went over the top in May on the War Bond quota. The report said 1,669 people bought $25 bonds; 335 bought $50 bonds; 388 bought $100 bonds; 98 bought $500 bonds; and 111 bought $1,000 bonds; and 110 bought G and F class bonds (181, p. 1). Joe B. Witherspoon was elected Grand Outer Guard by Texas Pythians at the state meeting. Theo Yarborough was again chosen Grand Keeper of Records and Seal (182, p. 1).

W. G. Gibbs became a member of the draft board in June, replacing G. A. Holland. The five sons of I. W. Middleton of Springtown were featured in a story as they were all serving their country. John W. Nix, pioneer educator, announced he was writing a history of the two early schools at Springtown (183, p. 1).

Holland Lake was closed by the park board in July because of the infantile paralysis (polio) scare. Several cases were reported in Fort Worth (184, p. 1). The first case of polio in Parker County was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dillion. J. R. Fleming and Company announced the production of pecan oil from waste (185, p. 1).

In late July, city trucks began hauling off garbage and trash regularly in an effort to clean up the city. The polio fear increased when the six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Morgan was diagnosed as the second polio
case (186, p. 1). Jimmie Jo Bradley, 14-year-old high school student, was recognized for collecting $449.50 for the polio fund. The historic ranch property of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Dalton of Mineral Wells was sold to Tyler oil man, M. H. McMurray. The Daltons, 84 and 82 years old, were to have been married 64 years in October. He was a member of the Trail Drivers Association and was the son of Marcus L. Dalton, who settled in Palo Pinto County in 1855 and was killed by Indians in 1869. Mrs. Dalton was the sixth daughter of the Reverend G. W. Slaughter, who came to Texas in 1830 and was a courier for Sam Houston (187, p. 1).

Eight-year-old Royce H. Allen, Jr., the 15th polio victim, died in the hospital July 31. Contributions listed for the polio fund amounted to $628.66 (188, p. 1).

The city gave its citizens the first tax reduction in many years in August. The five-cent reduction, to go into effect January 1, 1944, was made possible by the savings made through municipal ownership of the electric system. Mrs. Maggie C. Foat, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Coleman, died in Dallas. Born in Kansas, she came to Weatherford at an early age. She financed the building of All Saints Episcopal Church as a memorial to her daughter, Margaret (189, pp. 1, 8).

Eleven cases of typhus were reported in the county in mid-August, setting off a program of rat eradication. The state health department aided local officials in dispensing
rat poison to the citizens. Another story said costume jewelry was being collected by local merchants for use by servicemen to trade for native work in Africa and other places. A page of Weatherford College news was inaugurated on page three (190, pp. 1, 3).

The first week in September was set aside for a rat drive. The city and county were to divide the cost of the $5,000 drive to kill rats. In an effort to elevate some of the housing problem, the third floor of the Kuteman building was converted to apartments. There were eight large and three small apartments in the area that was once the Elks Hall. Walter Caraway, former cashier and director at Strawn, joined the Merchants and Farmers State Bank staff (191, p. 1).

The third war bond drive started September 9 with chairman George Fant urging citizens to buy more bonds to reach the $783,500 goal. Giant melon grower Dale Roark sold a 107-pounder for $15. The big watermelon was put on display at the J. B. Alvis feed store. The melon was to be shipped to New Jersey. Water department officials said nearly ten million gallons of water were used during August. The average monthly use figure before the population influx was five million gallons. Another story lamented the fact that there had been no rain in 78 days while "showers fall in the east whenever needed (192, p. 1)."
General D. D. Eisenhower announced the surrender of Italy in the September 9 edition. Top Monogram movie stars Johnny Mack Brown and Raymond Hatton, were slated to appear at the courthouse band stand September 15 for a bond rally (193, p. 1). About $200,000 worth of bonds were purchased at the big rally (194, p. 1).

Two county residents who made good received attention in the October 7 paper. Mary Martin was starring in the musical show "One Touch of Venus" at the Boston Opera House. The eventful military career of Hood Simpson had another highlight when he was promoted to lieutenant general (195, p. 1).

Hartness continued his practice of recognizing the county servicemen as he ran 18 full pages of single column pictures of the military personnel (196, p. 1).

1944

County pioneer Walter Reed made front page news January 6, 1944, when he paid for his 50th subscription to The Democrat. His first subscription was purchased from A. C. R. Morgan, who was at Spring Creek in 1895 taking subscriptions. Reed had not missed a single year since that time. He was a regular contributing writer, primarily giving his views on terracing which he pioneered in the county. Reed was still stock farming although he had moved into town a couple of years earlier (197, p. 1).
The board of education of the Central Texas Conference of Methodists approved the merger of Weatherford College and Southwestern University of Georgetown in late January (198, p. 1).

Workmen excavating under the M&F Bank found a considerable amount of coal and three quarts of wine that had been there for 60 years or more. The building was a saloon in the 1880's. One of the bottles was opened and the sampler said wine does improve with age. The excavating was part of the remodeling of the former basement into a storage area (199, p. 1).

In late February, Marsh Farmer purchased the old homestead of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. G. McCleskey in east Parker County. The track star paid $32 per acre for 1,115 acres (200, p. 1).

General Hood Simpson continued his climb in military circles, being named head of the Fourth Army in March. Boyce House, author of the best selling "I Give You Texas," spoke to a combined Lion-Rotary meeting (201, p. 1).

Mayor Conrad Russell was re-elected without opposition in the city election. Mrs. G. A. Holland died March 31. Born in Van Buren, Arkansas, she came to Parker County as a child. She moved to Weatherford after marrying G. A. at Poolville and was an active member of the Twentieth Century Club, UDC, PTA, church, and civic organizations (202, p. 1).
The two main stories in the April 13 edition differed widely in temperature. Mayor Russell announced plans to open a frozen food locker at 301 York Avenue. The locker plant would have 547 units. Box rent was set at $15 per year and drawer rent was $18. The other big story said 11 county schools were serving hot lunches to the students (203, p. 1).

On May 18, Mrs. Minnie Long was honored as a 12-star grandmother. She lived at Harcourt and Vine Streets. Mrs. Long had one son, 10 grandsons, and one great-grandson in the service. One star was gold since a grandson died in a Japanese prison camp, four were silver (wounded), and seven, blue (serving) (204, p. 1).

Stage and screen stars continued making war bond tours and, on June 29, eight screen and radio stars were accompanied by two wounded soldiers on a visit to Weatherford. Among the stars were Bill Elliott, Jimmy Wakely, Peggy O'Neal, and Adele Mara (205, p. 1).

Many Weatherford residents attended the open house of the new American Manufacturing Company facilities at Fort Worth. The business was formerly in Weatherford, and local men pictured in the souvenir program as executives were W. J. Gourley, G. L. Messer, Kenneth F. Barney, and J. Stafford Page. The local post office was elevated to a first class office in July. The 1943 receipts of the post office were listed as being $45,011 (206, p. 1).
Colonel Lecel Lee was reported as leading a bomber squadron from Italy to France in late July. The pilot, who was frequently in hot water over his actions, was said to be well past the maximum age set for combat flying. The son of dairyman Jerry Lee had been a pilot for 16 years (207, p. 1).

A light vote was recorded in the July primary election because of rain and war conditions. A single runoff was necessary. County leaders were Lanham, Congress; Arthur Cato, state representative; Carter, district judge; Bob Barber, district clerk; Mrs. Shaw, assessor-collector; Taylor, county clerk; Mrs. Hand, treasurer; Jake Long, sheriff; Nolan Queen, district attorney; Banks, county judge; and commissioners Paul Morgan in precinct one; L. C. Hardaway in two; Jube O. Dollahite in three; and Nichols in four (208, p. 1). Worth Barnett beat Taylor in a runoff (209, p. 1).

On a lighter note, an August 3 feature story said "Bear" Puryear was still pitching no-hit games. Clayton S. Puryear, the 38-year-old Peaster school superintendent, had pitched 16 no-hit softball games for Globe Air Craft the past season. He gave up runs in only two games. The Poolville native had been playing softball for 12 years (210, p. 1).

Funeral services for Mrs. Preston Martin were held August 14 in Los Angeles. She had died on Saturday afternoon. Born in Brenham, she came to Weatherford in 1897 as an instrumental teacher under D. S. Switzer at Weatherford
College. The former Miss Juanita Pressley, she married Preston Martin in 1899. They were the parents of Broadway star Mary Martin (211, p. 1).

Technical Sergeant James T. Johnson perfected a radio crystal testing device that enabled many United States and British planes to continue flying instead of being grounded for lack of radio communication. The testing device salvaged some 50,000 radio crystals since August 21 (212, p. 1).

A Parker County watermelon was sent to Santa Ana, California, in late September to be auctioned by the Lions Club at a war bond sale. Grown by J. F. Chunnof Garner, the 102-pound Triumph melon brought $14,500 in the auction (213, p. 1).

Colonel Lecel Lee was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in November. The Weatherford resident's name was sent to the Senate for promotion by President Roosevelt (214, p. 1).

Twenty-eight pages of servicemen's pictures were run in the December 21 edition (215, p. 1). In the last issue of the year, a story told of the open house for the new frozen food locker plant built by Mayor Russell. The Reverend Ray Lindley returned to Central Christian Church as pastor. He succeeded the Reverend Paul Campbell, who had followed him as pastor (216, pp. 1, 3).
1945

Lee again made the headlines in the first issue of 1945. The new general, who had been notified of his promotion by General Nathan Twining, who telephoned and said, "Hello, General," was honored by the Phillipine government. Lee's B-24 wing was approaching its 150th mission against European targets when he was transferred to the Far East. The command pilot had 17 years' service in the air corps (217, p. 1).

Weatherford banks made a few changes in the 1945 board and officer elections. James Malone was a new assistant cashier and R. A. Wheeler became a director at Citizens National. Two assistant cashiers were added at First National, E. C. Malone and Charles T. Proctor. J. H. Doss retired to chairman of the board and his son, James, became president at Merchants and Farmers (218, p. 1).

R. Roy Keaton was promoted by Lions International to the post of assistant secretary general with offices in Chicago. The former Weatherford Lion had been serving as state secretary and special traveling representative of Lions International in Texas (219, p. 1). Papers during this period were filled with stories of missing, wounded, or killed servicemen from the area. J. L. Jones, the county's last Civil War veteran, died at the age of 96 (220, p. 7).

Dr. J. N. R. Score, president of Greater Southwestern University, which included Weatherford College and Westminster Junior College, announced plans for expansion of local
facilities. A boys dormitory was to be erected along with a vocational workshop on campus and a vocational experimentation farm. Miss Joyce Hayes, daughter of Ford dealer J. C. Hayes, was in a cast of 26 from "The Mexican Hay Ride" appearing in New Guinea with a United Service Organization show troop. Small school closings were multiplying. Dixon, Balch, Dean, and Rucker's Chapel consolidated with South Weatherford.

The town clock in the courthouse tower was modernized in February, 1945. The old clock was converted to electric from a windup mechanism. It was said to keep good time. In a letter to his parents dated February 3, Sergeant Ralph Barber of Greenwood said he bailed out of a bomber over territory occupied by the Germans and landed in a foxhole occupied by Private Steve Hall, a former high school classmate. Barber was a gunner and Hall was a combat engineer (221, p. 1).

In one of the first major changes in paper size, Hartness increased the number of columns of the paper from six to seven in early March, 1945. The page width was increased from 15 to 15 1/2 inches, and the depth remained 21 1/2 inches. The columns were reduced from 13 picas to 12 picas. A copy of the June 20, 1901 issue was found when the Grace Presbyterian Church on Palo Pinto Street was torn down. Aaron Smith was editor then and the entire front page
told of the prohibition election. The four city wards voted wet, rural towns being strong for prohibition (222, p. 1).

Former Sheriff Barney R. Barker died March 11 at his North Waco Street home. Born in 1874 at Veal Station, he was the son of pioneers and Indian fighters, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Barker, who moved to Weatherford before 1905. He served as Dave Bratton's deputy and was elected sheriff in 1928, serving four years. He was stricken soon after leaving office and had been an invalid (223, p. 1).

In the city commission election in April, voters returned publisher Carl Hartness and theater owner Willard Sadler to office. Both men were unopposed (224, p. 1).

Roy Keaton's "Hither and Thither" column was run on the front page April 19 as he paid tribute to President Roosevelt, who had died the week before. J. E. Whitsett, local banker, purchased the old McGrattan Brothers store building on North Main Street and had it torn down (225, p. 1).

A story May 3 told of Lieutenant Willard Thomas being liberated from a German prison camp by allied soldiers. Thomas had been shot down and captured May 29, 1943 (226, p. 1).

Many area residents attended the victory prayer service Tuesday at the First Baptist Church. Sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance, the Reverend R. N. Ohman, pastor of Grace-First Presbyterian Church, presided and made the principal talk. The church auditorium overflowed. Other stories
told of Staff Sergeant Alex B. McCreary and Billy Jack Hart
being released from German prisons (227, p. 1).

The Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Lieu-
tenant Knight, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Knight of Route Five.
He was killed February 2, 1944, leading men on a charge on
the Burma Road, north of Lashio, Burma. His company was
trapped in a horseshoe ring of pill boxes and he destroyed
two of them. After being wounded, he reorganized his men in
another charge (228, p. 1).

Joe B. Witherspoon and Gus Vincent purchased the Ben
Franklin store on the north side of the square. Witherspoon
left the Citizens National Bank, where he had been for 25
years. He was replaced as vice-president by J. W. Beard, Jr.
Stanton M. Field, who had been city engineer for 19 years,
left to go to Amarillo. He was succeeded by Wilson Barker,
who had been with Austin Bridge Company for 18 years. Major
Graham McEachern, youngest son of the late editor, H. A.
McEachern, was in his Fort Worth home after four years in
the army. The bomber plant in Fort Worth began laying off
thousands of workers as the need for war planes ended
(229, p. 1).

Joe Thomas Cook, editor of the Mission Times, was
elected president of the Texas Press Association in June.
The native of Weatherford had been active in TPA since 1933.
His paper had won many awards, including the Belo Cup in
1943 for the best weekly newspaper. He was the son of Mrs. Mattie Cook (230, p. 1).

Thousands joined in welcoming General Hood Simpson home in ceremonies held on the courthouse square Wednesday. A grand parade met the general and his wife at the east city limits and escorted him to the west lawn of the courthouse where banners greeted him. Parker County girls presented the honoree with home grown peaches. Many residents attended a reception for General Simpson in Fort Worth. A special news feature of the homecoming was shown at the Palace Theater July 5 and 6 (231, p. 1).

Judge I. W. Stephens, 94, died July 17 in a Fort Worth hospital. Born in Tennessee 10 years before the Civil War, he attended Washington and Lee University when Robert E. Lee was president, and came to Weatherford in 1874 after finishing law school. He taught two terms before opening his law practice. Stephens was one of the first trio of judges when the Second Court of Civil Appeals was created. Judge Stephens moved to Fort Worth 40 years before his death (232, p. 1).

On July 26, a story said the Brazos River would be dammed near DeCordova Bend. Tentative plans had been made several years earlier, but funds were not appropriated. The story indicated another application was being made for funds. Will Barnett, chief tax deputy for eight years, was named chief bookkeeper at Citizens National (233, p. 1).
James Campbell, son of banker James S. Campbell, was featured in a story August 9 telling of his work on the atomic bomb. The young electrical engineer assisted in perfecting the bomb. Another story said, "New Atomic Bomb Turned Loose on Japan." Russia declared war on Japan and Soviet forces attacked in Manchukuo. City fathers left the tax rate at $2.30 for the next year (234, p. 1).

In one of the biggest stories of the war, 18 airmen were killed and two others were injured when two B-29s crashed over Weatherford at 9:20 p.m. Friday, August 17. Boards of inquiry from Alamogordo and Clovis, New Mexico, and Tarrant Field were convened to investigate the accident. One of the planes, from Clovis, headed due west after the crash and landed on the Lawrence Edwards farm. The other plane fell to the north of the oil mill on the Jacksboro road. All of the bodies were not found until Sunday. The crash, which lit up the night sky, was witnessed by many county residents (235, p. 1).

The August 20 edition told of the organization of the Weatherford Country Club with 200 charter members. Officers elected were E. B. Cartwright, president; Dr. E. M. Russell, vice-president; Frank Fulgham, secretary; and Alan McCrary, treasurer (236, pp. 1, 3).

War news continued in September with Lieutenant Colonel Ben Hagman awarded the Bronze Star for action in the Belgian Bulge; and Wendell Bedford and Odell Guess liberated
from Japanese prisons. Another story said the old belfry and tower at Grace-First Presbyterian Church was pulled down to be replaced by a shorter one. The tower, constructed in 1896, had been struck several times by lightning in the past 15 or 20 years and it was decided to lower the tower after the most recent strike. A new name, Sergeant Dub King, began appearing on sports stories (237, p. 1).

On Sunday, September 29, the country went off the "fast" war time and standard time went back into effect (238, p. 1). A story October 4 told of four Weatherford boys attaining the highest rank in Boy Scouts. All members of the First Methodist Church Troop 74, the honorees receiving Eagle Badges were Billy Guiles, Billy Bowden, Robert Cochran, and Billy Witherspoon (239, p. 1).

Flarenton Patrick, a cafe owner for 42 years, died in the hospital. He came to Weatherford when he was six and worked for an uncle, W. A. Lewis, in his grocery store. In 1903, Patrick opened the Club Cafe, which was later called the Texas Cafe. It was during his city commission years that the senior high school was built. A son, Byron, was assisting him in running the cafe (240, p. 1).

1946

A summary of the county's World War II activities was run January 31, 1946. Citizens purchased nearly seven million dollars of bonds and contributed almost 500 tons of scrap iron and thousands of pounds of aluminum, paper, and
clothing. Red Cross gifts amounted to nearly $60,000 and war chest drives added $15,000. One of the returned soldiers, L. A. Zellers, was licensed to preach in Sunday vesper services at First Methodist Church. The son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Zellers was preparing to enter Southern Methodist University.

On the same day, Hartness ran a page ad telling readers "They're Home Again...After Serving in The Armed Forces of Our Nation." Richmond McCarty and J. T. Mallory were back at work. McCarty began work at The Democrat June 1, 1936, as a linotype operator and entered the Navy June 7, 1944. He was discharged January 16, 1945. Mallory started work August 23, 1937, as a printer and went into the Army August 25, 1942. He was discharged in October, 1945. Thanks were expressed to those who stayed—H. E. Letson, editor; Ruth Christenberry, bookkeeper; J. E. Haddick, printer; and Don Mac Hartness, printer's devil (241, p. 1).

The city commission granted a franchise for a city bus line in February. The private operators began operation February 15 with two buses. The buses were scheduled to cover the entire city. Another story said the south section of the four-lane highway was to be retopped to the Tarrant County line (242, p. 1). A week later, the city bus line announced changes in the routes in an effort to secure more riders. Douglas Chandor was in Miami to complete the painting of the World War II Big Three leaders on the same canvas.
Chandor was finishing the painting of Churchill. The final portrait was to hang in the capitol in Washington (243, p. 1).

Sinclair Oil Company announced the storage tanks east of the city were being cleaned and improvements added. The tops and bottoms of the tanks that were built in 1921 were being replaced with steel. The First Baptist Church revealed plans to construct a $100,000 educational building on the site of the old tabernacle. E. H. Grindstaff was named chairman with Bert Rawlins, Lloyd Doughty, J. B. Kerby, W. A. White, W. W. Ashworth, Mrs. A. E. Zellers, J. J. Gilbert, Ira Miller, H. F. Moore, and Mrs. Frank Rawlins as committee members. Texas' Number One bad man, Jess Hill, was captured by Constable Bill Bledsoe and policeman Jim Norman. Hill, a 48-year-old prison escapee, was captured on a farm seven miles northwest of the city. Hill was serving 398 years in the penitentiary when he escaped. Movie star Gene Autry appeared at the Aledo Civic Club box supper (244, p. 1).

After much discussion, Texas Public Utilities discontinued doing electric business in Weatherford in late February. A three-column, all-capital headline announced the story. The 50-year franchise the company had been operating under expired February 6, 1946, and the city commission refused to renew it. All poles and lines were removed by the close of business February 28 and the 1,800 local customers were served by the city plant. All of the city was now served by the municipal plant, which had five
years of successful operation serving only a part of the city. The Aledo Civic Club's box supper, with Gene Autry in attendance, earned the club $1,232. The city and county schools took over the management of the Holland Lake property from the city and county. The Rotary Club celebrated its 25th anniversary on March 1. Dr. H. F. Leach was the first president and C. D. Bourke was current president (245, p. 1).

Parker County mourned the death of G. A. Holland, banker and civic leader, who died Monday, March 11, at 10:30 a.m. Holland had helped bridge the gap between pioneer days and modern era. Fritz G. Lanham announced he would retire after 14 terms as representative of the 12th District. Banker J. W. Beard, Jr., was elected secretary of the city school board replacing A. A. Patrick, who resigned after 15 years. Phillips was president; Bert Rawlins, vice-president; and board members Alan McCrary, Bob Jordan, A. E. Zellers, and Dr. J. Max Browder (246, p. 1).

In late March, the Parker County draft board announced it would induct men in April inasmuch as differences with the state headquarters had been ironed out. Under the new orders, expectant fathers would be deferred. No men had been called in five months. Mayor Russell issued a proclamation calling for a weed cleanup the week of March 24-30. In banking news, Barney Holland was elected to succeed his father as director at Citizens National (247, p. 1).
Former Army Air Force Major Achilles Corcanges of Mineral Wells applied for a patent on an invention to aid night landings by airplanes at unattended fields. The son of Weatherford residents designed a radio set to a specified wave length that would turn on airport lights from the airplane. Weatherford College was presented a P-40 War Hawk fighter plane to be used in the instructional program.

A one-half-page advertisement announced the appointment of Frank McEntire to sell the "amazing new Kaiser-Frazer" products. McEntire was selling the cars from his Mack Motor Company on Fort Worth Street (248, pp. 7, 9, 12).

Russell was re-elected mayor in April by a majority of 462 votes. The assessor-collector reported an increase in the number of cars registered in 1946. There were 4,215 cars, 554 trucks, and 613 farm vehicles (249, p. 1).

Weatherford residents cooked their Sunday breakfasts over open fires April 7 because a crew laying a New York to San Francisco cable severed a 16-inch gas line Saturday afternoon. John Moore, local gas company manager, and his workers did not get the line repaired until 8:00 a.m. Sunday (250, p. 1).

The volunteer firemen made plans in late April to erect a stand for the old fire bell. The bell had been purchased in 1883 and had cracked a few years later, but was repaired. A bell stand was built on the city hall lawn at the west end of the fire station (251, p. 1).
In a page eight advertisement April 25, the progress toward a county hospital was told:

In October, 1945, Dr. and Mrs. Fyke offered Bowie Memorial for sale but preferred that it would go to the county. George Fant, J. E. Whitsett, J. H. Doss, Fred Smith, and J. R. Fleming bought the hospital and the deed was made to J. R. Fleming, trustee. The committee purchased three vacant lots in the same block for $2,200 (252, p. 8).

Jack Hughes Chevrolet announced May 2 that a modern building would be constructed on Palo Pinto Street. The old Grace Presbyterian Church property was purchased by Hughes from the Diamond brothers. A two-story house on the property was purchased for removal by Odis Hill. M. O. Robertson, manager, said the acquisition gave the auto dealer 150-foot frontage on Palo Pinto, Waco, and West Church Streets. The hospital bond election passed 551 to 374. The county commissioners could now buy the property from the trustees. The first of the English war brides arrived in Weatherford that day. Mrs. Mavis Oliveros, bride of Louis, arrived from Birmingham, England, and Mrs. Truman Harris, from Manchester, England (253, pp. 1, 5).

Former resident Ernest May visited the city in behalf of his bid for the 12th Congressional District seat. The 1915 Weatherford High graduate had won the state debate championship with Jack Porter. May was graduated from the state university in 1920 and was assistant attorney general from 1925 to 1927. He served in both world wars. The National Selective Service was extended until July 1.
Weatherford's banks and loan association reported they would begin closing at noon on Saturdays effective May 25. The change in hours of business was made necessary to comply with the wage and hour law. Construction of the highway north was to begin the last of the month. In a page five advertisement, Bowdens congratulated the Class of 1946 and listed luggage at from $3.98 to $26.50 plus tax; handkerchiefs for 35 cents up; and two-toned cowboy boots for $7.98 to $12.50 (254, p. 1).

J. H. Surovik ended 10 years as county agricultural agent in late May when he left to join the general staff at College Station. J. O. Woodman was his successor. The local theaters were observing "Hit Parade Week." "The Bells of St. Mary's" was showing for seven days followed by "Tangier (255, p. 1)."

Editor Letson announced for county treasurer in the June 6 issue. Visitors from 25 states attended the annual Springtown reunion. J. B. Kerby was elected president. The Dean Ranch at Aledo sold a bull at an all-time record price at a two-day dispersal sale. Hills and Dales Farm near LaGrange bought Real Silver Domino 44th for $52,000 (256, p. 1).

The city commission discussed the possibilities of parking meters for the business district at the regular June 10 meeting (257, p. 1).
Two cases of polio were reported July 4 and city sanitarian Lige Fox issued a plea for citizens to clean up their property. The telephone company announced a $52,000 expansion program to handle the 445 new telephones that had been added in the last 10 years. The company had increased from 885 telephones in 1936 to 1,500 in 1946 and 200 were on the waiting list. Resurfacing of the south lanes of Highway 80 was underway to Mary's Creek. Miss Gloria Sadler, daughter of Willard Sadler, was listed as society editor.

A page one announcement July 4 said "Effective July 1, 1946, The Democrat Publishing Company, formerly owned and operated by Carl Hartness, was purchased by Willard Sadler, who will continue to operate The Democrat on the same basis as heretofore." Hartness expressed his appreciation to the general public for their cooperation, to the advertisers, and to the employees of the office. Sadler indicated that Hartness had agreed to remain with the paper for a while (258, p. 1).

Hartness wrote in a letter to Jon R. Vandagriff:

R. K. Phillips agreed to sell me The Weatherford Democrat on December 7, 1941, and that afternoon at four o'clock the radio announced that the Japanese had struck Pearl Harbor. I kept the newspaper until June of 1946 and we went through some perilous times when we did not know if we would have enough help to manage to get the paper off the press.

The Democrat was equipped in about the same manner as most country weeklies were in those days. We printed the paper on a four-page drum cylinder, a Cranston press, and as long as the circulation was around 1,000 papers, we managed very well. However, the day came when we found ourselves running two to three thousand
copies each week, and we felt that we were forced to look around for a faster press. In the Graphic Arts Monthly, we found a Meihle four-page, two revolution press advertised for sale in Pennsylvania. We bought the press over the telephone, and when it came we hired a pressman out of Dallas to erect the press for us. Not a piece was missing, and finally the day came when we were ready for the try-out. The press ran perfectly.

Hartness said he purchased a Mentagages folder and an Elliott Addressing machine to help take care of the increased circulation. New job printing equipment was added "to the point where we could turn out quality work in a minimum of time."

His letter continued:

As the war with Japan continued, one by one the printers went into the service and finally the entire force consisted of the editor, a man of about 60 or 65 years, and myself. My wife helped with the sale of advertising and other tasks that go with the publishing of a newspaper.

The day came when General Hood Simpson of the United States Army was scheduled to make a speech on the courthouse square on Wednesday afternoon. (Our press day was Thursday.) On Tuesday of that week, our editor received notice that his brother had passed away in Oklahoma, so he caught the afternoon train to attend the funeral. On Wednesday when General Simpson came to Weatherford, I took notes of his talk, came back to the shop and typed out the story, went back to the linotype and set the story in type, put it in the paper, and finally off the press and turned out the paper ready for mailing.

Through the years there were many frustrating instances that made one wish that he had never seen or heard of a weekly newspaper. On the other hand, there were countless heartwarming incidents that more than made up for the instances that tried one's patience to the limit (259).

On July 25, Sadler told of a tug boat being named in honor of the late Colonel Thomas H. Stanley, son of Mrs. T. W. Stanley. The million-dollar tug was dedicated June 29
at Buffalo, New York, with Mrs. Thomas Stanley in attendance. Charles Fant, an officer and director of the First National Bank for 61 years, died. He had operated the Parker Hotel and had been associated with Mutual Building and Loan Association. Mrs. J. B. Shaw, assessor-collector, reported the lowest state tax rate since 1910. She said only one time since 1884 had the tax been as low. In 1910, the rate was 20 and two thirds cents per $100 and the current rate was 37 cents. The tax the previous year was 72 cents (260, p. 1).

A committee was appointed to manage and operate the Parker County Hospital in late July. Named to two-year terms were J. R. Fleming, Ernest Turpin, and Wesley Strain. Joe B. Witherspoon, Ray Smyth, and G. Q. Woody were named to one-year terms. Colonel Lecel Lee was awaiting a new assignment. He had been with the 15th Air Force. Lieutenant General Hood Simpson was in the Army-Navy Hospital at Hot Springs with a recommendation for retirement because of a physical disability. The Lions Club announced Tex Ritter had been signed as the feature attraction for their rodeo August 22-24.

All of the precinct offices, with the exception of the sheriff, justice of the peace, and two county commissioners, were decided in the first primary. County leaders were Connally, senator; Beauford Jester, governor; House, lieutenant governor; Wingate Lucas, Congress; Hagman, state senator; Jim Wright, state representative; Medford, district clerk; Easterwood, assessor-collector; Harrington, treasurer
(defeating Letson); Will Barnett, county clerk; I. B. Hand, county attorney; Ivan Stone, county school superintendent; Dodson, county judge; and commissioners Dollahite in precinct three and Nichols in precinct four (261, p. 1).

On August 8, Mayor Russell tendered his resignation effective September 1 as manager of the municipal water and electric systems. Russell said his frozen food locker business was expanding to the point he could not spend the time required with the water and electric department. Alton Cumming was named acting manager. Cumming came to the city in April, 1941 and had served as plant manager. Russell's mayoral term expired in April, 1947.

Friends of lawyer Ben Hagman held a rally and organized a state senator club in early August. Hagman was in a runoff with Bob Proffer of Denton for the senatorial district that included Parker, Wise, Palo Pinto, Jack, Denton, and Montague Counties. R. C. Laning of Jacksboro did not seek re-election.

The government thermometer registered 107 in Weatherford August 6. A. A. Patrick, weather observer, said the mercury went to 106 in July. There was practically no rain for 40 or more days (262, p. 1). The county was not covered by good rains until late August when the first rains since June measured one and one half inches, helping the pastures (263, p. 1).
The most disastrous automobile accident in the history of the county occurred Monday, August 26, when Mr. and Mrs. Walter Chamberlain and four of their children were killed in the collision of their automobile and one occupied by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Wallace of Mineral Wells. Another son, J. W., was injured critically in the crash. The Wallace vehicle was going east at the time of the collision five miles west of the city. Mrs. Wallace received two broken legs and head injuries, while her husband had minor injuries. The Chamberlains had been to Fort Worth and were returning to their home seven miles west of the city. The editor wrote a two-column front page editorial set in a box discussing the accident. He lashed out at the "break-neck speed" on the highway. "Is a minute worth a human life?" he asked.

Two more inches of rain fell August 28 and it was described as "just what we needed" by the editor. In the election, Jester led for governor; House for lieutenant governor; Lucas, Congress; Hagman, state senator; John Young, sheriff; George Isbell, commissioner precinct one; Ed Keith, commissioner precinct two; and Bob Oakley, justice of the peace precinct one. Bob Proffer was leading Hagman in the district by 576 votes. Dr. E. D. Fyke, a practicing surgeon and physician for many years, died at his farm five miles north of the city. Since the county purchased Bowie Memorial Hospital, Fyke and his wife were retired. He established the
first hospital in the city 40 years earlier and, 20 years before, had purchased the Bowie residence for a hospital (264, p. 1).

Hope, Arkansas, began a long rivalry by shipping a round melon that weighed 148 pounds. A 146-pounder was raised 15 years earlier after Parker County ceased to grow the big watermelons in quantity. The record for 1946 was 103 pounds for a Tom Watson melon shipped to California by J. B. Alvis. Round Jumbos or Triumphs were not grown in the county much (265, p. 1).

Former mayor and district attorney Nolan Queen died at Bowie Memorial Hospital after a two-year illness. A veteran of World War I, Queen was elected mayor in 1920 and served four years. He was district attorney for nearly six years. The 52-year-old lawyer had formed a partnership with J. E. Carter and continued until Carter was elected judge about 20 years earlier. The movie, "Courage of Lassie," with Frank Morgan, Tom Drake, and Elizabeth Taylor, was showing at the Palace; "The Bells of St. Mary's," at the Princess. Double features were being shown at the Texan (266, p. 1).

The Commissioners Court appointed I. B. Hand to replace Queen as county attorney September 19. A new column, to become syndicated, "Look Up and Live" was begun in that issue. Run on the back page at first, the column was written by Alta I. Starnes, wife of the Reverend Homer J. Starnes, pastor of First Baptist Church (267, p. 1).
A two-column front page box on October 3 was used by the editor to explain that all of the stories were not run that day because of a newsprint shortage. The bank reports showed deposits were up nearly $300,000 during the past three months. Deposits as of September 30 were $13,123,302 and on June 30, the report was $12,827,347 at the three banks (268, p. 1).

Eugene Miller made a bond of $500 in October after he was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of libel. The indictment was made in connection with a circular issued just before the runoff election against Ben Hagman. Hagman was running for the state senate (269, p. 1).

In mid-October, the American Legion purchased the former J. E. Whitsett home for $14,000. The two-story brick house was on the Holland Lake Road. Charles Proctor was Post commander at the time. All draft calls and physical examinations for the next few months were cancelled because of the record number of volunteers. No other calls were to be made for the remainder of the year. Fort Worth architect Wyatt C. Hedrick purchased the old Winfield Scott Ranch north of Cresson for $600,000 or about $49 per acre for the 12,250 acres. There were 100 acres in Parker County, with the rest divided about evenly between Tarrant and Johnson Counties. In addition to "Scotland Ranch," other Hedrick ranches were in Parker, Erath, and Hood Counties. George Tate was ranch manager (270, p. 1).
The sale of Parker County ranches continued in November when the J. A. Milburn ranch of 1,351 acres was sold to a Fort Worth man. In one of the largest real estate deals in some time, William Smith paid $67,550 for the ranch nine miles south of Weatherford. The ranch originally had 1,600 acres, but Milburn's son-in-law, Raymond Haydon, bought some of the land (271, p. 1).

In late November, Humble Oil and Refining Company announced plans to construct a large distributing plant on property purchased from E. A. Frantz. The old foundry property was on Water Street near the railroad side-tracks. Humble bought all of the retail stations of Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Company in the county. Achilles Corcanges told of plans to open radio station KORC December 7 in Mineral Wells. The 250-watt station would cover a 50-mile radius (272, p. 1). Shortly after KORC began operation, a studio for the station in Weatherford was discussed. Bert Rawlins, vice-president of the city school board, resigned and James Doss was named his replacement. Rawlins served 18 years on the board (273, p. 1).

C. C. Barthold, 86-year-old pioneer business and civic leader, died after an extended illness December 16. He came to Weatherford in 1877 when his father and brothers entered the mercantile business. Barthold was a president of the Chamber of Commerce and was a director of Citizens National Bank for many years. He was married to the daughter of
Judge J. L. L. McCall in 1882. A full page ad gave information on the dedication for KORC on December 20 and the schedule for the daytime only station. A picture of the staff in the Baker Hotel studio was included (274, pp. 2, 3).

In late December, the trial of Eugene Miller ended in a hung jury. Jurors deliberated 45 minutes on the libel trial (275, p. 1).

1948

County Judge Joe Dodson reported January 1, 1948 that Mrs. Lilith Fleischer had been hired as home demonstration agent. The Palo Pinto County native replaced Mrs. Mary Ruth Strube, who was teaching at Weatherford College. Jeanne McCarty, wife of linotype operator Richmond, was listed as the society editor replacing Gloria Sadler. Comic strips were included in the paper again—"Mutt and Jeff," "Nancy," "Little Reggie," and "Silent Sam." Walter Winchell's syndicated column was being printed (276, p. 1).

Weatherford Ford dealer Jack Sisco was honored by the Texas Sports Writers Association in January. The former coach and referee was voted "Southwesterner of the Year." Southwestern Bell Telephone reported two local positions had been added to handle the greater volume of calls. Grantland Rice's "Sportlight" column made its appearance on the sports page (277, p. 1).

Several additions to the official personnel of local banks were made in the 1948 meetings. At Citizens National,
J. B. Beard, Jr. was made vice-president with Rupert H. Phillips, Jr. becoming cashier and Will Barnett, assistant cashier. John C. Broyles was named assistant vice-president along with Jim A. Ferguson. Charles Hunt was elected assistant cashier, and Ward Bankhead became a director at First National. Ralph Barber and Boley Pearson were selected assistant Merchants and Farmers cashiers (278, p. 1). Pictures of the newly elected Parker County Sheriff's Posse officers were run January 22. The officers were Tom Saunders, captain; Ferd Slocum, lieutenant; Walker Good, corral boss; Walter Caraway, secretary-treasurer; and S. A. Wheeler, wrangler (279, p. 1). The group had organized the year before.

A two-column picture and headline February 5 told the story of the death of postmaster and former publisher R. K. Phillips. Phillips died at his home at 313 East Lee on January 30, although he had been in the hospital earlier. He came to Texas from Alabama in 1897 and with a brother, had farmed for a year or so before teaching school. He went to work for the Waco Times Herald in 1901. He was employed by newspapers at Waco, Amarillo, and Wichita Falls before coming to Weatherford in 1905 to establish a print shop. Phillips became manager and editor of The Democrat in 1908. He sold the paper in 1921 when he established a paper at Eastland but repurchased it four years later, retaining ownership until 1941. He had also been a postmaster (280, p. 1).
Ray Oliver was appointed postmaster February 19 on the recommendation of Congressman Wingate Lucas. An assistant was to be named later. Walter Reed, inventor of terracing in Parker County, celebrated his 85th birthday. Roy Elders, a senior at North Texas State College, wrote and directed an original radio drama "A Piece of String" that was aired over KDNT. Harvard awarded a fellowship to Joe Frantz for post-doctoral work. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Frantz (281, pp. 1, 5, 9).

Construction work was slated to begin on the new football stadium in early March. The stadium was planned to run east and west along the north property line of the high school. A replica of the ship "Green Dolphin" was displayed February 24 in front of the Palace Theater, where the movie was being screened. Publisher Sadler announced for the unexpired term for the office of mayor (282, pp. 1, 5, 9). A story the week before told of the approaching marriage of his daughter, Gloria Jane, to Richard Knowlton (283, p. 9).

Radio station KORC was sold to Clovis, New Mexico businessmen, Raymond Rives and Don Boles, in late March. Corcanges had established the station in Mineral Wells in late 1946 and added the Weatherford studio the following year (284, p. 1).

Sadler was elected mayor in April, receiving 119 votes. He was unopposed on the ballot. The state highway department reported all work on the square was to be completed by the
following week. The state paved two through traffic lanes and the parking area around the courthouse. The city landscaped the space between the lanes, sidewalks, and curbs (285, p. 1).

Nearly $13,000,000 was on deposit in the three Weatherford banks in the April bank call. Some $12,875,622 was deposited. A novel, "The Red Wagon," by Weatherford author, Edward Anderson, was purchased by RKO Movie Company. Douglas Chandor's portrait of Winston Churchill was reproduced on the cover of Life magazine. The oil painting had been purchased by Bernard Baruch (286, p. 1).

In late May, Breedlove and Jones were selected as architects by the county commissioners to draw up plans for the remodeling of the county hospital. Voters had approved $100,000 to be used for equipment and additions. The hospital committee was to be in charge of the operation of the county-owned former Bowie Memorial Hospital (287, p. 1).

On May 27, the first of several funeral stories was carried for servicemen who were killed during the war. Private Glenn Quante, killed in France in June, 1944, was buried May 23. Funeral services were held the same day for Private Joe Morgan, killed at Normandy, June, 1944 (288, p. 1). Dedication of the Glenn Quante Scout Camp, seven miles west of Weatherford, was held June 6. I. B. Hand presented the charter to Joe B. Witherspoon, president of the corporation operating the camp. Quante had been an assistant scoutmaster
before entering the service and land for the camp was given by his parents. C. H. Jones, owner of the Plaza Theater, said he had purchased 12 acres on the Garner Road and was going to construct a modern drive-in theater that would accommodate 400 cars (289, pp. 1, 5).

A feature item June 10 indicated that Adele, the last of three Bourke sisters, was being graduated from the Texas University Law School. Gerry Bourke Chilcoat and Gayle Bourke Nuessle had been graduated earlier and both had married lawyers. The Sunset Ranch, southeast of Weatherford, was sold under court order for $180,000 to Robert S. Muir of Dallas. The judge ordered the ranch sold in litigation between William Walker Stevens and Viola Osborn Stevens. He owned the Wayside Inn in Fort Worth. Mrs. Stevens had sued for divorce (290, p. 1).

Representative candidate Eugene Miller was slain in his yard about 9:30 p.m. July 7. The 49-year-old was reportedly shot down by an unidentified assailant. The six-column all-capital headline said he was a bitter foe of Communism. District attorney Hand asked Texas Ranger George Roach of Stephenville for assistance in the investigation. Miller had been elected state representative in 1920 and served four years as state senator from 1925 until 1928. He was running against Jim Wright, who was seeking his second term in Austin (291, p. 1).
In the primary election in July, the county leaders were Lucas, Congress; Stevenson, senate; Jester, governor; Floyd Bradshaw, state representative; Carter, district judge; Bill Ashcroft and Barnett were in a runoff for county clerk; and Nichols and O. O. Wilson were in a runoff for commissioner, precinct four (292, p. 1).

Although no mention was made until the next January, Sadler sold The Democrat to Guy Graves and Jack Mobley, Graves' brother-in-law, July 22, 1948. The sale took place just before the big annual rodeo and pioneer days sponsored by the Sheriff's Posse, which probably accounts for the delay. The activities still filled the better part of a week.

Weatherford and Parker County cooperated in hosting the world premiere of the movie "Red River" in August. A full page advertisement announced the premiere at the Palace Theater beginning August 26 and running for five days. Regular prices held for the special showing. In other activities, construction was begun on the additions to the county hospital and the First Baptist Church (293, p. 1).

Ashcroft was elected county clerk in the runoff and Nichols was returned to his commissioners post. In the senate runoff, Stevenson led Lyndon Johnson, 2,060 to 1,780 in the county, but the state voting was reversed. Commissioners announced a new lighting system for the courthouse square. Fourteen mercury vapor-type lights were to be placed on 25-foot-tall steel standards (294, p. 1).
City school superintendent L. B. Wilson said September 15 that more rooms were needed to take care of the record-setting enrollment of 1,765. Junior high topped the list with 409 students enrolled, and senior had 377, and Stanley elementary, 313. Enrollments at the other elementary schools were 287 at Bowie, 230 at Travis, 99 at Crockett, and 50 at Mount Pleasant. The high school Kangaroos played their first football game in the new stadium against Fort Worth's Carter-Riverside. On the political scene, Texas Republicans nominated H. J. "Jack" Porter to run for the United States Senate. Porter had teamed with Fort Worth lawyer Ernest May in winning the state debate title when they were in high school (295, Sec. 1, p. 1, Sec. 2, p. 7).

In a surprise move September 30, Jube Dollahite resigned his place on the County Commissioners Court. The commissioners named Lawrence Edwards to replace him in precinct three (296, Sec. 2, p. 3).

Fred Smith, president of Citizens National Bank, revealed plans for the expansion of the bank into the old Princess Theater building in October. A four-column headline led off the expansion story. The theater had been closed for several months. Lawyer A. E. Zellers, whose offices were on the second floor, owned the building. In another story, the state highway department told of plans for a farm highway to be constructed from Weatherford to Poolville in 1949 (297, p. 1).
One of the city's oldest landmarks--the Monfort Hotel--was destroyed in an explosion and fire early Monday, October 18. A traveler, identified as Sam Wells, was killed. Loss was estimated at $20,000 to $40,000, and owners, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Brooks, were undecided about rebuilding. The original hotel on the site was the Sikes Hotel, operated by Mammy Sikes during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Food served there was well known and city people as well as travelers ate there often. The hotel passed into the hands of J. T. Monfort in 1907 and he changed the name. Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Pflanz purchased the building in 1919 and, after his death, the widow, daughter and son-in-law (the Brookses) assumed management. A three-column Byron Scott photo accompanied the fire story (298, p. 1).

Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson led a Democratic sweep in Texas and in Parker County by a two-to-one edge. Countian Jack Porter was running on the Republican ticket against Johnson. Bowdens Department Store and Pharo and James Grocery were about the only merchants consistently advertising goods and prices. Men's all leather work shoes, fitted by x-ray, were listed at $3.98 and heavy work pants were $2.98. Veal steak was selling for 69 cents a pound, bacon a dime higher, and Texas oranges 19 cents a bag (299, p. 1).

In late December, a story told of the Parker County Sheriff's Posse being invited to the Lions International Convention in New York City, July 18-21. R. Roy Keaton,
assistant secretary general, and local businessman Dave Hudson, 2-E district governor, extended the invitation. The First National Bank announced, in the same edition, that a new four-faced clock was being installed on the corner of the building, which cornered on Fort Worth Street and the square. The clock was illuminated and it chimed (300, p. 1).

1949

Both the First National and Citizens National added new directors at their January, 1949 meetings. First National voted to increase the size of its board from six to eleven and selected A. J. Bowden, George W. Fritz, Morris Hare, O. S. Jenkins, and J. L. Lary. W. Burette Hobson was added to the Citizens board. James Doss, Merchants and Farmers president, reported business had increased seven-fold in 10 years and that the bank was going to remodel and expand. The basement, which had housed a barber shop in earlier days, was converted into the bookkeeping area and the first floor was remodeled. In another story, Fire Chief Fred Potter said the insurance rate would remain the same in 1949. Losses the past year were estimated at $19,000 for the city. This was about the same as the year before.

"Pop" Letson, editor for more than 16 years, announced his retirement in January, and Ben Hartley was named to replace him. Letson had been in the newspaper business in Weatherford for 25 years, both at The Democrat and at the
Herald. During the war, he was responsible for the soldier pictures that were run each week on the front page, and he catalogued 3,000 pictures of "his boys" in the service. Four of Letson's sons were in the service. Hartley was the grandson of Mrs. S. L. Rieves and had graduated from The University of Texas Journalism School. His grandfather, Ben, was editor of The Democrat exactly 50 years earlier. His father, Louis Hartley, Sr., owned the newspaper at Mart (301, p. 1). Under Hartley's editing, the inside pages began taking on the appearance of a modern newspaper rather than an early twentieth century paper. He improved the overall makeup and added multicolumn heads on the inside as well as on the front page.

Graves, the publisher, began writing a double-column editorial page column called "Between Times by Guy" in January. Two clock faces bracketed the words. The column was general in nature, sometimes current and other times, reminiscent.

A week after the other banks had met, stockholders of the Merchants and Farmers added a trio of directors: Herman Carr, Lloyd Doughty, and Edgar Bowden (302, p. 1).

In February, Hartley jumped on the bandwagon and began a campaign to equip the Youth Center at Cherry Park. A war surplus building from Camp Wolters had been purchased and moved to the park, but there was no equipment for it. A story February 3 said $400 had been collected on the way to
the goal of $1,500. Contributors were listed in the story. Another page one item said the city had purchased a $6,800-booster truck for the fire department. The truck had 400 feet of hose and an 800-gallon water tank. A society note on the first page of the second section told of the wedding of two high school teachers, Miss Coye Miller and Woodrow Wilson Emmons. Head football coach, Keith Ranspotwas his assistant's best man (303, Sec. 1, p. 1, Sec. 2, p. 7).

Graves, whose son, Tom, was a high school journalism student, began publishing articles written by members of the class. Two of the y-lined articles were by Jennilu Kelly and Maurice Jackson. A feature article in the February 10 issue was about shoe shineman Ike Simmons, who was celebrating his 38th anniversary shining shoes in the city. The popular citizen, whose youthful appearance belied his years, worked in the Crow-Dunn Barber Shop on the north side of the square (304, p. 1).

In mid-February, Ben Hartley, 80, died and was buried in Weatherford. He had celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in January (305, p. 1).

A devastating storm struck Millsap and Springtown shortly before 1:30 a.m. Saturday, March 26. The violent wind left 17 families at Springtown and two at Millsap homeless. The Red Cross moved into the two communities and set up assistance programs. Damages were estimated at $150,000. Two
pictures were run on the front page showing the damage, and several others were run on the inside pages (306, p. 1).

Contracting to rebuild the storm victims' homes was reported April 7. The storm damage was being cleared and the two communities were getting back to normal. Construction on the four-lane highway to Fort Worth hit a snag: the new road was giving motorists a bumpy ride. The highway department said equipment to smooth out the bumps was on its way. In the city election, carried on the front page, Byron Patrick and Burette Hobson were re-elected commissioners. Only 100 ballots were cast (307, p. 1).

Some of the nation's best cutting horses competed in the two National Cutting Horse Association shows April 16 at the Red Wood Arena on the Mineral Wells highway. Red Boy, owned by Loyd Jenkins of Cresson, won the championship. A staff change was reported on the front page. Miss Dorothy Hubbard, a sophomore student at Weatherford College, was named society editor, replacing Mrs. Jeanne McCarty. Miss Hubbard was high school Grass Burr editor and worked at the Herald in 1947 and 1948. Mrs. McCarty, who joined The Democrat in 1946, also had been a Grass Burr editor and had worked on The Daily Texan.

Weatherford's show business family made the news again April 21. For the third time, Mary Martin appeared on the cover of Life magazine. The first time she was featured was after she received acclaim for her role in "Leave It To Me"
in 1938 and again in 1943 when she starred in "One Touch of Venus." Her son, Larry Hagman, was the star of the three-act comedy "This Girl Business" being presented by the drama group at Weatherford High School (308, pp. 5, 1).

Several big stories were run on the front page April 28. A four-column picture of the joint revival services of North Side Baptist and Couts Memorial Methodist at the North Side Baptist tabernacle was used. The story said 2,500 people heard the final sermon by the Reverends G. W. Bales of North Side Baptist and Wallace J. Shelton of Couts Memorial Methodist. Attendance averaged 1,200 each night and there were 500 decisions registered. The Tin Top community of south Parker County received the sixth place prize in the Rural Neighborhood Progress Contest sponsored by Farmer-Stockman magazine and Texas A&M Extension Service. In the first story in boldface type, The Democrat was getting ready to celebrate its 54th birthday and was looking for the first subscriber and for Volume One, Number One published in March, 1895. In another story, the Red Cross reported spending $18,152 to aid county victims of the March 26 storm. A section two, page three story said Representative Floyd Bradshaw had introduced a resolution at Austin honoring Dr. W. M. Campbell who, at 90, was one of the state's oldest practicing physicians (309, Sec. 1, p. 1, Sec. 2, p. 3).
In one of the biggest stories in many years, Southwestern University trustees informed the city commission that they were ceasing to operate Weatherford College after May 31. The possibility of a city takeover of the junior college was to be investigated by a four-member committee appointed by temporary chairman, George Fant. James Doss, A. E. Zellers, L. B. Wilson, and editor Hartley, met in Austin to discuss the situation. Another far-reaching story dealt with a Houston organizer, B. E. Statlones of South Texas Milk Producers Association, meeting with the Parker County Dairy Association, led by C. O. Norton. At Austin, a Senate bill was passed to permit the government to buy Trinity River watershed land. Plans called for a series of watershed lakes to prevent siltation of the river (310, p. 1).

Heavy rains and flood damage were reported May 19 as a five- to six-inch rain hit the county. The southwestern part of the county, particularly around Aledo, was the hardest hit. There was some road damage and many bridges were out. On page two, a list of all county graduates was run, along with graduation stories. This was a first for the paper. Listing all the graduates. In appreciation for the dramatic training given her son, Larry, Mary Martin sent a $500 check to the high school to purchase new stage fixtures. Larry was a senior (311, Sec. 1, pp. 1, 2, Sec. 2, p. 1).
Following graduation, J. E. Grandstaff retired as high school principal. He had served in that position for 20 years. Junior high principal Charles Hamilton was promoted. It was estimated that 7,500 students had passed through the classes of Grandstaff as principal at Stanley, junior high, and senior high. He was born at Walnut Creek and attended the Springtown schools. One of his more famous graduates, Larry Hagman, was leaving June 1 for a tour of Sweden as a graduation present from his mother, Mary Martin. On page six, a story said The Democrat was closing out Volume Fifty-three after 2,800 weekly editions. Miss Bess Baker, whose uncle, W. V. Cullum, and brother, Hiram C. Baker, were the first publishers, brought in an original copy of the first edition, dated March 21, 1895. Both founders were retired in Dallas at that time. M. V. Kinnison was editorial writer and A. C. R. Morgan was local editor the first issues. Mrs. Walter Coleman of Veal Station was one of the first subscribers (312, pp. 1, 6).

The city's recreation program got a director in June and had a fund raising show. A banner headline announced the opening of the summer recreation program. Miss Louise Taylor, a North Texas graduate and former Denton playground director, was hired to direct the local program. Featured in the show were Jimmie Jeffries, the Light Crust Doughboys, Little Willie, Peg Moreland, and other radio performers. Another story said the long-awaited opening of the city swimming pool
was to be June 4. Workmen had just finished constructing the 60-foot by 120-foot pool. The depth varied from 30 inches to 10 feet. The first steps were taken in creating a junior college district when petitions were sent to the State Board of Education (313, p. 1).

Parker County dairy leaders were the organizers for the North Texas Milk Producers Association formed in Arlington. Eighteen counties joined the new dairy group that was called the "salvation of producers." A manager would be named later. A three-column head led into the story about the launching of a city-wide drive to prevent a polio epidemic. A two-column box contained information on how to fight polio at home. The city reported that 500 people crowded into the swimming pool in the first 12 hours of operation (314, p. 1).

In a shakeup of officers in late June, the First National Bank replaced George Fant as president. J. L. Lary assumed the leadership and John Broyles was named cashier. Hawthorne Hatchett went to Santo as a vice-president. Fant continued as head of Mutual Building and Loan Association. The city's first direct move toward a Community Chest was reported in the same issue as a council of agencies was formed. Representatives of the county's social agencies were meeting to set up a chest drive. Another story said the county's five-man school board killed six dormant school districts in a consolidation move necessary under the Gilmer-Aiken Law. Advance and Toto were consolidated with Poolville Independent School District; Bennett joined Millsap;
Adell combined with Peaster Common District; Spring Creek became part of South Weatherford Command District; and Agnes was split between Springtown and Poolville. A three-column picture showed National Guardsmen preparing to leave for two-week summer camp. On page three, it was reported that the new $97,000 Parker County Hospital had been completed by Rea Brothers Construction Company. Dr. Campbell furnished and decorated rooms one and two (315, p. 1).

The county commissioners court announced July 14 that the college election would be called August 6 after getting state endorsement. Seven men from seven areas of the county filed as candidates for the board of trustees. Candidates were Ben Keeling of Springtown, M. L. Farmer of Aledo, Wesley Strain of Millsap, A. S. Brashears of Brock, F. G. Abney of Poolville, C. P. Woody of Peaster, and Frank Fulgham of Weatherford. The city's first polio case of the year was reported as Kenneth "Skeeter" Evans was sent to Fort Worth with what was described as a mild case. Hartley, in another big front page story, said the Frontier Days celebration would be the biggest ever, July 27-30. The Rodeo Contestants Association sanctioned the rodeo in the Red Wood Arena (316, p. 1).

County agricultural agent J. O. Woodman announced his resignation July 21. He was resigning to accept the position as manager of the new North Texas Producers Association. Also in that edition were many rodeo advertisements.
Frontier-type scenes and cowboy cuts were included in the ads for the first time. This was the beginning of a long tradition of big rodeo editions with many advertisements from Weatherford and area merchants (317, p. 6).

Hartley used a seven-column headline with a three-column picture of the Sheriff's Posse headquarters with the Frontier Days story July 28. Seven thousand people witnessed the mile-long parade opening the celebration Wednesday afternoon. Parade winners were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Russell, oldest couple; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Smyth, best pioneer costumes; and James N. Eddleman, most typical dress under 12. Rodeo champions were Bill Mullins of Fort Worth, calf roping; Bob Rothel, steer wrestling; Speck McLaughlin of Fort Worth, bareback bronc riding; Cotton Proctor of Belton, saddle bronc riding; Harold Watson of Belton and Ernest Pope of Fort Worth, bull riding; and Flying H, owned and ridden by V. O. Hildreth, Jr., of Aledo, cutting horse. A page five story said the county would use secret ballots for the first time in the college election. In the past, ballots were numbered corresponding to a number by the name on a list. Tommy Graves, son of the publisher, made his debut as a columnist with "Teen Talk by Tommy (318, p. 1)."

A small story at the bottom of page one August 4 said Jim Willmon was the new Democrat editor. Willmon, a graduate of Texas Christian University, formerly worked on

By an overwhelming majority of four-to-one, county voters approved creation of a junior college district and set the maximum tax of 30 cents for each $100. The vote was 1,199 to 413 with 16 of the 27 voting precincts approving the district. Dean L. B. Plummer, who was named president, set September 12 as the opening date (320, p. 1). Faculty and staff members elected were Justin Anderson, Roy Gene Elders, Martha Louise Grandstaff, Clyde D. King, Mrs. Carmel Little, James Little, O. D. "Mutt" McCauley, R. A. Middleton, Eula Lee Mock, Floyd D. Rogers, Kenneth Sisserson, Aline Vanlandingham, Forrest Johnson, Zealand Queen, J. E. Adams, and Frances Harrison.

An explanation for the demotion of Colonel Lecel Lee was given August 25. In an interview, Lee said he had a run-in with a "five per-center" and it caused his demotion from brigadier general to colonel. John Maragon, a former bootblack, was under investigation. Keith Ranspot resigned as high school coach to take a similar position at Southwestern Oklahoma Teachers College at Weatherford. "Red" Emmons replaced him (321, p. 1).

A two-column Dennis Norton picture and story told of the arrival of Tom Krouns, a Dutch young man, in Weatherford. He was being sponsored in the United States by the Twentieth Century Club. When he was met by Mrs. W. H. Bateman
and Mrs. Jennie White at the bus, Krouns said he liked Texas but "it is very hot." He made the 1,500-mile bus trip from New York, where he arrived by boat. Krouns went to work on the dairy of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Skrehot, east of Weatherford. In a banking announcement, Couts Holland was selected a vice-president at Citizens National (322, pp. 1, 8).

September's second issue was a newsy one with four major stories on the front page. Weatherford College began its 81st year with an assembly and faculty meeting. Mayor Willard Sadler resigned effective September 15. Patrick, mayor pro tempore, assumed control until an election could be called. Sadler recommended a city manager form of government for the growing city. The old Red Wood rodeo arena area on the Mineral Wells highway was sold to the state highway department. John Guthrie, resident engineer with offices in the Kuteman building, said a warehouse and district offices would be built. The rodeo was to be moved to the Posse headquarters, one mile west. In the other item, Miss Barbara Feagin was named queen of the Fort Worth Cats baseball team. She was the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Feagin. There were 40 contestants (323, p. 1).

City commissioners made plans to call a charter amendment election on a city manager form of government, extension of the city limits, and other amendments. In education news, Weatherford College enrolled 103 and the city school count jumped to 1,769. In another story, dairymen continued
to organize. A Dairy Herd Improvement Association was formed in a meeting at Springtown. Dr. T. L. Bloom, Mervin Hayes, Hugo Horstmann, W. E. Dillard, O. W. Jones, J. B. L. Hancock, and Frank Abney were elected directors (324, p. 1).

County oilman and rancher R. A. Wheeler died at his home at 410 South Main Street Tuesday, October 18. The director of Citizens National Bank had been in declining health. He was 68. A pioneer rancher in the Brazos community, he had oil and ranch holdings in Winkler, Ector, Hood, and Parker Counties (325, p. 1).

In the city charter amendment election in late November, the city manager amendment was hung on a tie vote, but the other proposals passed. A special mayoral election was set for January 17. Weatherford College president L. B. Plummer and Dean Clyde D. King were appearing before the Southern Association seeking approval for the school (326, p. 1).

Former county residents made national headlines in December. Harold Scarlett won a $1,500 Pulitzer travelling fellowship for being the outstanding journalist at Columbia University December 8 (327, p. 1). The daughter of former Weatherfordites, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan Simpson, Elizabeth Sloan Simpson was reported December 22 as marrying New York Mayor William O'Dwyer (328, p. 1).

1950

Postmaster Ray Oliver said postal receipts in 1949 set an all-time high. The $67,905 surpassed the $64,115 figure
of 1948. Another year-end report showed the fire department answered 185 calls in 1949. Fire Chief Fred Potter said 137 of the runs were made in the city. Insurance was collected on 20 claims and the payments amounted to $29,154. Twenty claims were paid in 1948, but the amount was only $18,826. Potter said the five-year loss report was $105,737 (329, p. 1).

In the special mayoral election, Jim Wright defeated E. B. Buffington, 490 to 175. Weatherford poet Mrs. Jennie White (she was later society editor for The Democrat) reported she had two books scheduled for publication during the summer. In another story that day, Weatherford Oil Tool Company said a plane would be furnished to fly polio victims from the city for treatment. Elmer D. Hall, one of the sons of the company's founder, made the offer (330, p. 1).

Early publisher Aaron Smith, 81, died at his Fort Worth home after a two-and-one-half-week illness in late January. Smith was born in Arkansas in 1868 and moved with his family to Cass County, Texas, when he was seven. At age 16, he decided on a law career and began reading law books. He passed the bar examination when he was 20. Although he was born without arms, he entered the newspaper business in Titus County and later moved to Weatherford. He wrote with a pencil held in his teeth and typed with his toes. After leaving Weatherford, he purchased the National Co-operator and Farm Journal, a Dallas trade publication, and moved it
to Fort Worth. Smith established the Branch-Smith printing company and remained active in the trade publishing business for many years (331, p. 1).

Mayor Jim Wright held his first weekly press conference Wednesday, February 1. He set the conferences to keep the newspaper and radio people informed on city activities. The new mayor said a band stand was planned for Cherry Park, near the swimming pool, and three play areas would be established in the city. Larry Hagman was appearing in his second Theatre '50 role in Dallas. He was starring in "Cock-a-doodle Dandy" after completing "My Granny Van." Hagman returned to Bard College in New York after he finished the play (332, p. 1).

In March, Mayor Wright told of plans to install street signs at his regular press conference. He said 169 cast aluminum signs and 68 permanent cement posts were ready to be installed. Four large plaques were to be placed at the corners of the square giving directions for the various streets. The signs were designed and funds provided for by businessman A. J. Bowden. No city expenditure was involved. The city did let the contract for $3,497 worth of playground equipment for the three proposed community parks and the colored school grounds (333, p. 1).

Four choices were listed by the mayor March 16 to end the city's deficit financing. Mayor Wright said the city had $49,986 in overdrafts. The choices he proposed were
to curtail city services; raise the tax rate; have greater property evaluations; and find new sources of revenue. Bodiford Motors advertised the 1950 Mercury with overdrive was America's Number One Economy Car. A half-page advertisement for Penney's included nylon hose for 79 cents and a Covert short coat for $10 (334, Sec. 1, p. 7, Sec. 2, pp. 3, 1).

At its regular meeting, the city commission determined to live within a definite budget and to take court action to collect back taxes as a means of reducing the deficits. Tax delinquencies totaled more than $59,427 and went back to 1919 (335, p. 1).

Wright won re-election in the city voting for a full term. He replaced Willard Sadler, who resigned the year before. Voters approved the consolidation of Dicey School with the Weatherford Independent School District, 137 to 0. The annual clean-up week was announced for April 24-28. Scouts and grade school students planned to aid in the effort to clean the city as a polio precaution. There were 246 cases reported in Texas as of March 18 (336, p. 1).

The Television Center, 305 York Avenue, ran a page advertisement April 27 answering questions about television. Television was new to the area and prospective buyers had many questions about what was needed in the way of equipment to receive the picture and sound sent from Fort Worth. Former mayor and water and electric department manager Conrad
Russell was named temporary manager of the electric plant by the Water and Light Board. Alton Cummings, who had followed Russell, resigned. Historian Fred R. Cotton was featured in the April issue of *The Alcade*, alumni magazine of The University of Texas. Cotton had served as editor of *The Daily Texan* in 1914-15. *The Daily Texan* celebrated its 50th anniversary that year and two other former Weatherford residents were honored for their service as editors. Fritz Lanham was the first *Texan* editor in 1900 and Joe T. Cook was editor in 1931-32 (337, Sec. 1, p. 7, Sec. 2, p. 3, 1).

Vernon D. Parrott was named president of Weatherford College effective June 2. A native Texan, Parrott served four years as instructor and counselor at Amarillo College, was head of foreign languages and director of counseling and guidance at Kilgore Junior College for 11 years, and was the first president of Southwest Texas Junior College at Uvalde. He replaced L. B. Plummer, who resigned. Texas Pythians re-elected Theo Yarborough and Joe B. Witherspoon to Grand Lodge offices at the 77th annual meeting in Mineral Wells. Weatherford's new telephone directory expanded from 17 1/2 pages in 1949 to 19 1/2 pages of residential listings. The yellow pages increased from 52 to 60. The story said residential phones increased from 2,554 to 3,004. Business telephones increased from 387 to 537 (338, p. 1).
In a continuing effort to cut costs, Mayor Wright met with officials of Brazos River Gas Company in June to discuss the possibility of converting the electric plant from diesel oil to natural gas. Wright felt the operating costs could be reduced substantially by a conversion. The American magazine depicted a day of Mary Martin's life in pictures. The photographs for the June issue were made in the Norwalk, Connecticut home of Mary, her husband, Richard Halliday, and their eight-year-old daughter, Heller (339, Sec. 1, p. 1, Sec. 2, p. 7).

Most of the city's street and garbage equipment was ruined in a $23,000 fire that destroyed the municipal warehouse June 7 at 6:00 p.m. Situated near the North Elm Street railroad tracks, the warehouse contained a caterpillar tractor, two garbage trucks, two street department trucks, a pickup truck, a maintainer, air compressor, asphalt distributor, tools, and supplies. Two pictures by Dennis Norton showed the fire that was fought by 40 firemen for one and one half hours (340, p. 1).

In an address to the Lions Club, Wright listed six objectives he hoped to accomplish for the city. The goals he established were: better water supply, adequate sewerage system, city limits extension, city dump ground move, warehouse restoration, and debt free status. The Wednesday noon meeting was held at the First Methodist Church fellowship hall (341, p. 1).
A two-column photograph of Chandor's portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt accompanied an article about the painting written by novelist Claud Garner. The story said the portrait was being displayed in the Washington National Art Gallery. It was a part of the "Makers of History in Washington, 1800-1950" exhibition being featured by the National Art Gallery. A one-column bulletin, the first of its kind, said Weatherford missionary Lawrence A. Zellers had been captured by Communists in Korea. The Red Cross apprised the C. E. Zellers family that their son had been captured in the war area, but his wife was safe in Japan. They had been living at Kaesong, 40 miles northwest of Seoul (342, p. 1).

Because of the difficulties in Korea, Governor Allan Shivers requested that an "emergency" plan be scheduled for the city. Other cities in the state were requested to make disaster relief and Civil Defense plans. The city commissioners were to name a coordinator and five-member staff (343, p. 1).

A seven-column headline and two three-column pictures were used with the story telling of the observation of the annual Frontier Days celebration. Another story indicated that the edition was the largest full-sized issue of The Democrat in its 55-year history. There were 36 pages in five sections, many of the pages bearing old pictures and stories of the past. Businessman H. C. Shropshire, who died
July 17, left his estate, in excess of $50,000, to Weatherford College as an endowment. Bequests were given to a sister and nephew (344, p. 1).

The Red Cross reported Lawrence A. Zellers was safe but being confined to his home in Kaesong by the Communists July 27. Zellers' wife was enroute to Weatherford at the time. The story was set in two-column boldface type. Movie cowboy Bill Elliott was appearing in the Frontier Days rodeo. Thousands were said to have watched the parade the day before, Wednesday, and a near capacity crowd saw the opening night performance. Around 5,700 ballots were cast in the Saturday primary election. Bob Proffer and Wayne Wagonseller were in a runoff for state senator. County winners were Allan Shivers, governor; James Cotten, county attorney; Ella Carter, treasurer; W. D. "Bill Carr, assessor-collector; George Isbell, commissioner precinct one; Ed Keith, two; Lawrence Edwards, three; Odis O. Wilson, four; Floyd Bradshaw, state representative; Bill Ashcroft, county clerk; Coy Young, county school superintendent; and Dorothy Rutledge, district clerk (345, p. 1).

In the first draft call since World War II, 22 county men were called to report for their physicals Friday, August 11. The county's first Korean War casualty was reported that day. Lieutenant Robert Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hill of 442 West Water Street, was wounded slightly in Korea. The 1948 graduate of Weatherford High School
married Joyce Sheppard. Editor Willmon quoted from a daily Herald editorial in a two-column bold-faced editorial giving Russia's plan of divide and conquer in defeating the capitalistic nations. Willmon said a famous radio commentator had said this and that about Weatherford and that lies should not be repeated. (Commentator Walter Winchell had reported on his Sunday night radio program that many Communists were living in Weatherford.) The city's first polio case of the year was nine-year-old George Fleischer, son of the county home demonstration agent. He was in Fort Worth's City-County Hospital. One case was diagnosed in the county in 1949 (346, p. 1).

Mrs. Jessie Milton Hughes was notified in mid-August that her husband, Staff Sergeant Hughes, had been killed in action in Korea. This was the first local death of the Korean conflict, although others had been wounded (347, p. 1). Ed Maddox, veterinarian, was named by Mayor Jim Wright to head the city's Civil Defense Program August 24 (348, p. 1). In the runoff election, Alfred Mullenix was elected county judge and Louis Peoples, sheriff (349, p. 1).

Lieutenant Robert Hill was wounded for the second time in Korea in September and was awarded a Purple Heart with cluster and a Silver Star (350, p. 1).

The Democrat was named one of the best American weeklies in October, 1950. The Community Research Bureau gave the paper a AAA rating, highest given any weekly. The
ratings were based on circulation, advertising rate per thousand circulation, buying power of area, and the amount of local news carried. The Democrat was named one of the leaders in make-up and typography by the Texas Press Association at the convention in Fort Worth (351, p. 1).

Hal B. Lary, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lary, visited his parents in November, vacationing from his position with the United Nations. Lary had served as director of the Research and Planning Division of the Economic Committee for Europe. Prior to that, he was with the Treasury Department, the Commerce Department, and the Export and Import Bank. The elder Lary was First National Bank president (352, p. 1).


A pair of resignations highlighted the news of December 14. J. E. Carter resigned as 43rd District Judge and the local bar association recommended Frank Fulgham as his successor. Carter served for 22 years. J. L. Lary ended 31 years of banking when he resigned as First National president. Directors selected Walter Caraway, who had been with Merchants and Farmers State Bank as executive vice-president, to be president (354, p. 1).
The publishers used green ink on both the front and back pages for the December 21 Christmas edition. The use of the colored ink in quantity was a first. The lead story of the day was the request of the Air Force for $3,208,000 for unspecified facilities at Camp Wolters. Senator Lyndon Johnson reported that the military post was to be reactivated. In a five-column advertisement, Safeway listed holiday turkey toms for 49 cents a pound and hens for a dime more (355, p. 1).

1951

The year of 1951 opened with the death of pioneer Mrs. E. A. Frantz. She was the 74-year-old granddaughter of J. B. Pigg, who settled this region in the 1850's. She married inventor E. A. Frantz in 1896. Among her six children was Dr. Joe B. Frantz, University of Texas historian. The editor was bemoaning the lack of rain in the last two months of 1950. He said it was the driest year in the past five. November, 1949, was the only other rainless month (356, p. 1).

A five-column headline told of the opening of Camp Wolters the following week, January 25. Representative Omar Burleson said $2,280,000 was being spent to reconvert the facilities for Air Corps use. At the height of World War II when the facility was an Infantry Replacement Center, Camp Wolters contained 7,000 acres (357, p. 1).

Pioneer monument maker Alex Rawlins, 88, died in the hospital February 4. He had been ill for a week. Rawlins
came to Weatherford from Eastland in 1882 and established the monument works on Palo Pinto Street in February of 1887. Former tax assessor-collector and county clerk Jim Taylor died unexpectedly at his home the morning of February 8. He operated the Retail Merchants since leaving the clerk's post in 1945. Taylor was born October 14, 1884 (358, p. 1).

County attorney James Cotten called for an investigation of punchboards in the county March 8. He said marble tables must go. He picked up two slot machines at a Lake Mineral Wells pavillion in a Texas Ranger-led raid over the weekend. (Lake Mineral Wells was in the western part of Parker County.) In addition to asking the grand jury to investigate the gambling, Cotten indicated he would prosecute driving-while-intoxicated cases. City commissioners Byron Patrick and Burette Hobson were virtually assured of re-election when the deadline for application passed and no opposition was listed. In the "From the News Beats" column, Charles Brinkley reported between 700 and 800 county residents attended the Billy Graham revival at Fort Worth's Will Rogers Coliseum Tuesday night (359, p. 1).

The first floor of the courthouse began to look like an amusement arcade as the gambling clean-up continued. Raids netted 14 marble machines in the second week of March. The machines were being held for grand jury action. Colonel
Jack D. Mage assumed command of the Seventh Aviation Engineers stationed at Camp Wolters (360, p. 1).

Looking to the future, an item in "From the News Beats" column said if Weatherford got a television station, the Federal Communications Commission had assigned the city UHF channel 51. The announcement had been made in Washington (361, p. 1).

Tin Top community placed second in the annual state improvement contest sponsored by the Texas A&M Extension Service. The community earned $400. First place among the 92 entries was Poetry Camp Ground on the Hunt-Kaufman County line (362, p. 1).

A story on May 10 said the second B-36 crash in 10 days took the life of another local man. Staff Sergeant Bob Baker, 25, was killed Sunday in a crash at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. Major R. N. Renner had been killed in Oklahoma April 27. The William B. Hill family was not partial to any branch of the service, a feature story said. Lieutenant Robert Hill, in the Army, had been wounded twice in Korea; and Private First Class Charles Hill, in the Marines, had been wounded April 23; and Bill was in the Navy Reserve and was reporting for shipment to Japan June 1 (363, p. 1).

A two-column Dennis Norton photo accompanied a story on the completion date being set for the Baptist extension on Eureka Street. The Reverend H. J. Starnes, pastor of First
Baptist Church, said the mission church would be completed July 1 (364, p. 1).

In the biggest story of the year, fire destroyed the Hopkins (Kureman) building on the west side of the square Sunday, June 3. Fire broke out in the Safeway store early Sunday morning and rapidly spread through the structure that had been built in 1910 by the late H. W. Kuteman. Fire Chief Bryant Teague estimated 115 firemen battled the blaze in the three-story building. The Hopkins family said they had no definite plans to rebuild the $80,000 building (365, p. 1).

Bob Rothel, county rancher, made headlines when he won the horse race that was a feature of the world premiere of the movie "Fort Worth," starring Randolph Scott, Phyllis Thaxter, and David Brian. Four riders, one from each direction, raced 10 miles through the downtown streets to the Worth Theater where Scott presented the winner with a new saddle and a plaque. Rothel covered the distance in 23 minutes and 52 seconds, five minutes ahead of his nearest opponent. He used six horses, three from Slocum Brothers Ranch and one each from S. W. Nash, Slim Hall, and El Chico Ranches. Rothel had been foreman at El Chico Ranch for six years before entering business on his own. In other news, E. A. Thomas, Jr., and Alan McCrary were reappointed to the school board by the city commission. Iverson Martin, local
golf pro, was the first golfer to tee off at the National
Open June 14 at Oakland Hills, near Detroit (366, p. 1).

The only life portrait ever done of Mrs. Eleanor
Roosevelt was published in *Life* magazine in late June. The
portrait, painted by Douglas Chandor, featured several views
of Mrs. Roosevelt's hands, captured by Chandor while she
was posing. Chandor did portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Winston
Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Bernard
Baruch, and James Cox, among others (367, p. 1).

Another of Mayor Wright's goals for the city was
realized in July when he reported that the city was living
within its means. Wright said $4,000 had been saved to apply
to the deficit in the last fiscal year and that the over-
drafts had been reduced to less than $15,000. A year earlier,
the overdrafts were almost $60,000. Conrad Russell, acting
water and electric department manager, reported the city
was pumping over one million gallons of water a day and no
shortage or low pressure had been reported. In the literary
field, Dr. Joe B. Frantz published his first book, a biogra-
phy of dairyman Gail Borden (368, p. 1).

Some changes were made in the lineup of city school
principals for the 1951 school year. Jack Frost, who had
been principal at Crockett elementary, was elevated to
junior high, replacing G. E. Denney, who resigned. Wayne
Davee took over at Crockett and J. W. Ford was new at Travis
elementary. The other principals and their assignments were
G. D. Vanlandingham, Bowie elementary; Jack Price, Stanley elementary; J. T. Jones, South Weatherford elementary; and Lucille Rucker, Mount Pleasant elementary. Postmaster Ray Oliver announced a change, too. He said T&P trucks would no longer carry truck mail for the local post office. The truck mail was to be carried by a star route contractor. Oliver said the switch would make little change in the service, but it would be economical (369, p. 1).

Parker County registered a heat wave in August. The August 16 edition reported only two days with less than 100 degrees being recorded. The first day of the month registered 99, and a 97 was recorded August 11. The temperature hit 108 and 109 on August 5 and 6 (370, p. 1).

In early September, negotiations were completed between the city and the McGrattan estate for the purchase of the former mayor's home and land on the north side. The property was secured for a park site to be named in honor of the late civic and business leader. The city paid $5,000 for the three and one half acres of land, $5,000 for drainage and filling in, and between $2,000 and $2,500 for equipment, including picnic tables, tennis courts, ball diamond, and playground equipment. An update on the school principals was reported, with James Boyd replacing J. T. Jones at South Weatherford. The county's fifth polio case was two-year-old Laural Ingle (371, p. 1).
Weatherford lost its good fire rating when the insurance figures were reported in late September. The Hopkins building loss of $123,251 was the major part of the city's total loss for the first eight months of the year, $125,879. The rate, to become effective March 1, 1952, was expected to be 25 to 30 per cent higher than for the past five years when the city operated under a 20 per cent credit. A full page advertisement told of open house at the new location of Jackson Butane Gas and Equipment Company. The open house was in the new Masonic building on South Main Street. Orchids were given the ladies and balloons to the kids (372, p. 1).

An audit of the city finances in October by Bassinger and Pickard showed the city was gaining ground. Thirty-two thousand dollars worth of property was added during the year and the bonded and warranted indebtedness was reduced by $27,000. In addition, the city took a $31,000 slice out of the bank overdraft, cutting it by half and would up the year with $12,000 more cash on hand than the year before. In observance of the "Movietime in Texas" promotion, movie actor Chill Wills and starlets Mary Murphy, Ann Robin, Joan Taylor, Virginia Hall, and Laura Elliott visited the city. A short item told of Columbia Broadcasting System beginning a tape recording of the Tin Top story for the People Act Project of the Ford Foundation. A new feature "Meet the Kangaroos" was added in the October 11 edition. Local artist
Charles Anderson was producing the three-column cartoons each week (373, p. 1).

With an eye to the future, Mayor Wright led the city to purchase the old T&P or Sunshine Lake, as it was sometimes called, just northwest of the city. The city paid $20,000 for the 61-acre lake, 45 acres of land, a 100,000-gallon overhead storage tank, chemical house, and network of pipe. Fishing rights were retained by the former owners for 20 years. Although the city water supply was adequate for the time, city officials expressed a desire for additional sources of water in addition to recreational facilities (374, p. 1).

The polio epidemic continued in November as Mark Murray, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Murray, became the county's ninth reported case. Rent controls became effective November 1 as the Weatherford-Mineral Wells area was named as one of 23 critical defense housing areas. The Federal Stabilization Office set the March 1, 1951 rent level as the maximum rate (375, p. 1).

Dr. Joe B. Frantz was awarded $1,000 for the Carr P. Collins prize at Texas Institute of Letters in Dallas. He won the award for his book, "Gail Borden, Dairyman to the Nation." A presidential choice ballot was run to determine the county's preference in 1952. Listed on the ballot were Harry Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Robert Taft, Earl Warren, and Douglas MacArthur. A place was provided for other choices (376, p. 1).
On December 6, Mayor Wright said the people wanted a new sewage disposal plant and he was calling a bond election for the necessary funds February 1. Henry Gremminger, Eddie Tomlinson, and Mike McDaniel were elected on the All-District 2-AAA team. Miss Elaine Vandagriff, sister of Jon R. Vandagriff, was named society editor in a staff change (377, p. 1).

For the second time, green ink was used on the front page for the December 20 Christmas edition. Mobley and Graves announced the sale of The Democrat to Lyndol and Harold Hart of Cooper, Texas, effective the first of the year (378, p. 1).

Graves, who bought the Grand Prairie Banner after leaving Weatherford, said they purchased the paper in 1948 from Sadler, who was then mayor. He added that the biggest new stories of their tenure was the Hopkins building fire and the county takeover of Weatherford College (379, p. 1).
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CHAPTER V

THE GROWING YEARS 1952-1967

When the Hart brothers took over operation of the paper, the circulation was listed at 2,250 and the subscription rate was still $2. Jim Willmon continued as editor (1, p. 981). Elaine Vandagriff was society editor and Richmond McCarty, who began work at The Democrat in 1936, was foreman of the back shop. One of the first new employees hired was Jimmie Wallace in the advertising department. Wallace continued with the paper a couple of years and then joined the Dallas Times Herald advertising staff. The majority of the missing back issues fall into the period of the 1950's, but the writer was an employee during most of this time and had first-hand knowledge of the growth period.

1952

In November, the first of many equipment changes was made. The old four-page, hand-fed Meihle press and Montgagne folder that had been purchased by Hartness were replaced. An eight-page Goss Cox-O-Type flatbed web-fed press with folder was purchased. The installer, John Honus, completed the installation, ran a few papers through and left. Since it was Thanksgiving, the usual Thursday weekly edition was to be run on Wednesday afternoon. Page forms
were put on the press, but the paper web snapped every time the press started running. After several hours, a pressman from Stephenville was contacted to get the run out Thanksgiving morning. This pattern continued for several weeks until the proper adjustments were made. The new press allowed a switch to an eight-column format instead of seven.

1953

In 1953, the subscription rate was increased to $3. Circulation increased to 3,000 (2, p. 988). Lyndol Hart took over the editing after Willmon left and the makeup of the paper began to take on a new appearance. Hart gave the paper a look more like a daily than a country weekly. More multi-column headlines were scattered over the pages instead of primarily being at the tops of the pages.

New job printing equipment was added periodically until the job printing department was one of the most modern in the area. At the peak, there were two sizes of Heidelberg presses, a Meihle vertical, and a hand-fed "snapper" press that was used for small jobs, such as postal cards.

Camera equipment was purchased during the early years, giving the newspaper more flexibility in the use of pictures. The negatives were sent off for processing until a darkroom was constructed in the late 1950's. A Fairchild Scan-O-Graver was purchased to make plastic engravings, eliminating the need to send photographs off for zinc engraving. These
equipment changes enabled the paper to become more visually oriented with pictures and art work.

In November, 1953, a Sunday edition was added to the Thursday edition. Preprinted colored comics were included in the Sunday package for about six months and then discarded. The first attempt at carrier delivery was made but abandoned and mail delivery resumed.

1954

Problems arising around the printing and distributing the Sunday paper on Saturday were corrected in 1954 when the publication date was changed to Monday. Ayer listed the circulation at 3,950 for the semiweekly (3, p. 991). During this time, Hal Cherry was editor and Frank Catka replaced Wallace in the advertising department with Harold Hart.

1956

Since 1956 was the centennial year for the city and county, the Hart brothers decided to shoot for 100 pages in the centennial edition that corresponded with the opening of the annual Frontier Days Rodeo and Celebration. Many old photographs were copied from county residents and historical stories as well as organization histories were written for the special edition. Printed on July 23, 1956, the paper fell 12 pages short of the hoped-for 100 pages, but the 11 sections of eight pages each was the largest edition published in the city or county. Letters of congratulations
were run from Governor Price Daniel, Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, and Representative Jim Wright.

Bob Getty, a former Associated Press newsman, was hired as editor in 1956. He returned the long absent front page editor's column with his "Weatherford Coffee Cups." Getty remained with the paper until 1960 when he moved across town as editor of the daily Herald. Society editors came and went during the semiweekly days. Among the women writers were Mrs. Fern Jefferson; Mrs. Jennie White, who had served as society editor earlier; Mrs. Adele Smith; and Mrs. Lila James.

1957

In late 1957, Jon R. Vandagriff returned to the paper as its first titled sports editor. He had taken out two years to complete work for his bachelor's degree. His name was added to the masthead. He had worked in the back shop of the paper from 1952 until 1955.

1959

On January 1, 1959, a contract was signed with The Associated Press for wire service and The Democrat made the jump into the daily field. The publishers made the first price increase in annual subscriptions in seven years when the daily was begun. The increase was to $4.50 per year. The daily was published evenings, except Saturday and Sunday, and Sunday morning. Circulation increased from 3,652 (4, p. 1012) to 3,963 (5, p. 1022).
1962

The demise of the daily Herald came in 1962. A. L. MacNelly had died several years earlier and declining advertising and subscriptions proved too much for his widow and sons, who had tried to continue the operation. The Hart brothers bought the name and the family disposed of the vintage equipment. For the first time in 60 years, there was only one publication in Parker County (6, p. 2).

The Democrat became one of the first daily papers in Texas to make the conversion to offset printing October 28, 1962. In order to make the transition as smooth as possible, trial press runs were made at the new plant in the first block of Fort Worth Street until most of the "bugs" were worked out. The move from the 114 North Main Street location was made on the week-end and the next week was begun in the new plant. Along with the change in printing method came a change in style. The Hart brothers adopted a six-column front and back page format and removed the column rules throughout the paper, giving it a more open look. Headlines were changed to a down style, in which only the first and proper words were capitalized. The use of six columns on the back page was soon dropped because of the conflict with the standard advertisement sizes.

1965

In July, 1965, Sam Logan and Bill Hollingsworth bought an interest in The Democrat. Logan and Hollingsworth, who
became editor and advertising manager, had published the Hamilton Herald. To complement the daily, a weekly edition—the Parker County News—was begun. Special incentives, such as reduced advertising rates, were offered merchants who advertised in both the daily and weekly (6, p. 2).

1966

Logan left the paper the following year and Jon R. Vandagriff, who had returned to the paper after another two-year absence to be sports editor, was named news editor. Lyndol Hart was again editor. The circulation rate was increased to $12 a year (7, p. 1058).

1967

The three-column headline lead story February 1, 1967, accompanied by a three-column picture, told of the sale of The Democrat and Parker County News to the Donrey Media Group, Donald W. Reynolds, president. Ross Pendergraft, vice-president of Donrey and general manager of the Fort Smith, Arkansas Southwest Times Record, handled the negotiations. Donrey, the fourth largest newspaper chain, had newspaper, radio, television, and outdoor advertising properties in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Billy Moore, formerly manager of the Levelland, Texas Daily Sun-News and, more recently, classified advertising manager of the Fort Smith papers, was named general manager.
Vandagriff was promoted to managing editor and Hollingsworth, advertising manager. Mrs. Nita Kimsey was foreman of the back shop.

The new owners said that the same aggressive policies to promote business and improve the economic and social level of the area would be continued and increased where possible (8, p. 1). A new era, that of being a part of a chain operation, was begun for The Democrat.

Summary

The Weatherford Democrat began its long career as the fourth weekly in a town of only 3,336. However, it did not take the newcomer long to establish itself as a leader in the community as the other three papers fell by the wayside. Although several other newspapers came and went, The Democrat managed to stay and grew from a weekly to a daily.

While the circulation figures throughout the years have not been outstanding, the growth has been a steady and continuous climb. The circulation was near the 4,000 mark when the independent-owner era ended in 1967.

Perhaps one of the stabilizing factors over the years has been the long service of publishers and employees. R. K. Phillips was directly associated with the paper for almost a quarter of a century and was an owner for seven years. Carl Hartness was an employee and owner for about 25 years, Richmond McCarty was associated with the paper for almost 20 years, the Hart brothers (Lyndol and Harold) were owners for
15 years and Jon R. Vandagriff was with the paper for 14 years.

The Democrat was a positive force in the county. The early stated policy of providing local news was continued as a major part even when the paper became a daily and a wire service was added. An early editorial campaign to provide the "needs" of the town was followed through the years with a strong emphasis on transportation improvements and education. The Democrat survived the years and was the city's only paper at the beginning of the chain ownership period.
CHAPTER BIBLIOGRAPHY


Captain Hiram Baker—Democrat founder

H. F. "Big Frank" Browder—1898 editor
Aaron Smith—Democrat publisher 1900-1905; 1907-1908
R. K. Phillips
Publisher 1919-1921; 1925-1941

H. E. Letson
Editor 1936-1949
North Main plant in 1950's

North Main plant in 1940's
Willard Sadler
Publisher in 1940's
Publisher Guy Graves, left, and late 1940's employees

First web-fed press purchased in November, 1952
Harold, left, and Lyndol Hart Publishers in 1950's
Editor Jon R. Vandagriff compares 1969 and 1955 front pages...
Fort Worth Street plant in 1960's
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Guy Graves, Irving, Texas, March 5, 1974.

Carl Hartness, Weatherford, Texas, April 15, 1974.