

The Donley County Leader

Historical News of the Pioneers of the "Green Belt" of the Panhandle of Texas

A supplement to The Clarendon Enterprise.

Volume 76 ***PIONEER EDITION*** CLARENDON, DONLEY COUNTY, TEXAS, JULY 2, 2026 ***A Common Paper For Common People***

The Ideal Place For A Home Of Peace And Plenty

Gem of Panhandle

Donley's Varied Products An Eye-Opener.

A View In The Dallas News - 1908

If Donley county had no other distinction it could point to Clarendon as the prettiest town in either the upper or lower Panhandle, and, jealous as the towns of that section are of one another, the claim would hardly be disputed.

Donley county is almost a succession of hills and valleys. Clarendon sits on four of these hills. The intervening valleys are quite well occupied. And over them all, hill and valley, there are trees and flowers and lawns. One might for a moment think be had been dropped down into semi-tropical Texas. One might think also that the first settlers had come laden with trees, for man, not nature, put them there, and they are of a stately magnificence which proves that they must be almost as old as the town.

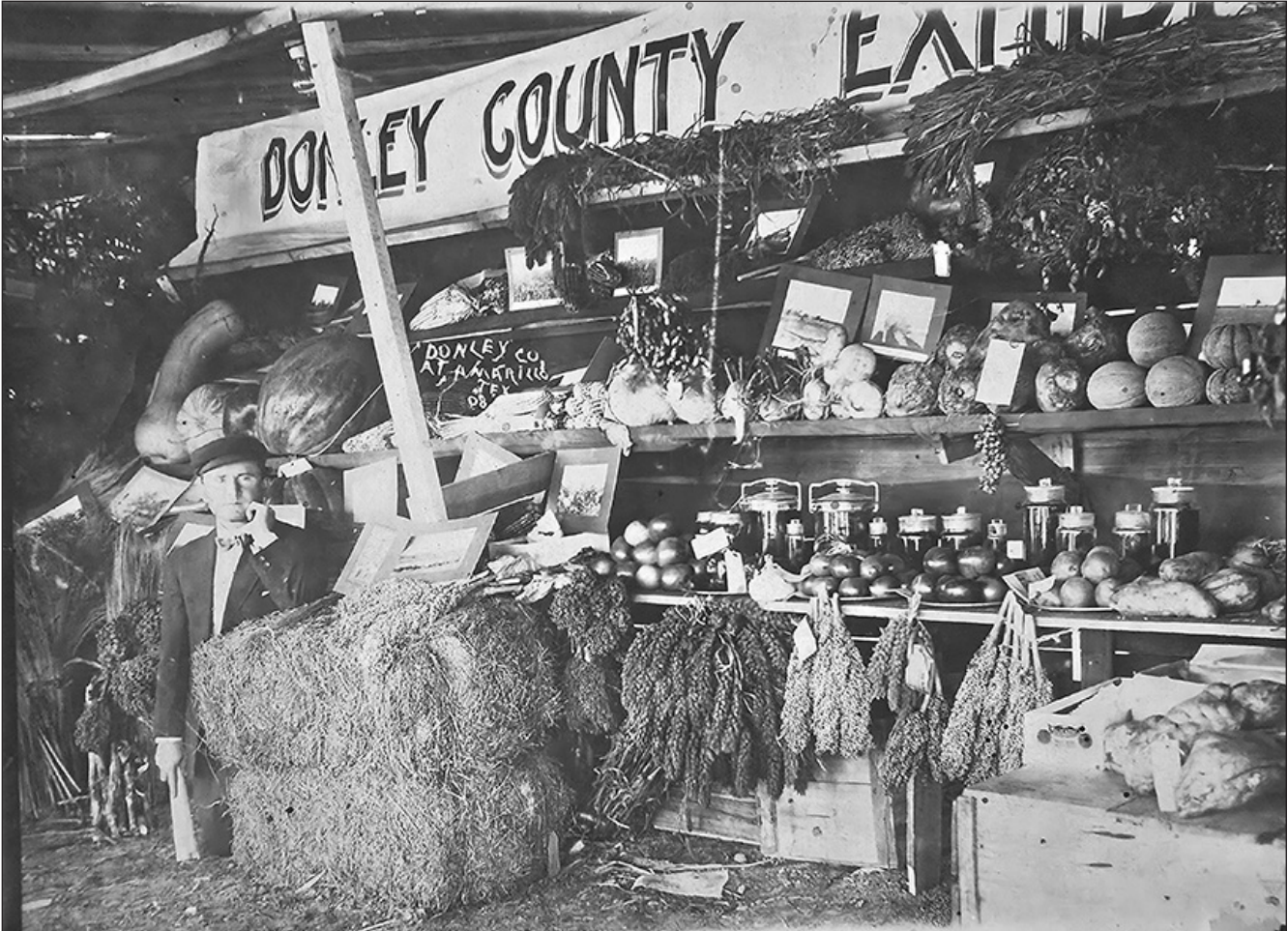
If, when your train stops at Clarendon, you look out the car window toward the town you will see a small-sized glass-sided house filled with so many specimens of field, orchard and garden products that you cannot count them within the time allowed by the train schedule. There are stalks of cotton, corn, oats, wheat, peanuts, cow-peas, milo, maize, sugar beets, broom-corn, sweet and Irish potatoes, apples, peaches, plums, apricots, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, alfalfa, watermelons, cantaloupes and all the things that come out of the garden. To the man whose mind still clings to the ancient and libelous notion as to what the Panhandle is good for this little house is a revelation.

They assert at Clarendon that Donley county produces more things than any other county of the lower or upper Panhandle. Certainly in no other section of the Panhandle is diversification better practiced. It is in response to the invitation, if not the command, of nature. There are at least five distinct varieties of soil in Donley county, running from black waxy to red sandy. Intermediately there is a black sandy, a mixture of sand and clay, and also a grayish soil so exceptional as to have been given the distinguishing name of Donley county loam. It is, of course, in this variety of soil that one finds the fundamental reason for the large variety of crops.

But another reason is that, independently of the seasons, Donley county is remarkably well watered. As to the seasons, they claim a special favor by reason of the fact that Donley county is almost under the brow of the caprock. This, they say, brings about meteorological conditions which create a rain belt. The rain belt, as locally marked out on the maps, is composed of Donley, Hall, Gray, Wheeler and Collingsworth counties. But, irrespective of this, Donley county is especially well watered. The Salt Fork of the Red River runs through it, and in addition there are four or five creeks. But the most remarkable fact is that there are probably a thousand springs in the county. Water seems to come out of every side of every hill, at some places in a trickle and at others in a bold, gushing stream. The flow of some of these springs is enough to make them valuable for irrigation, but except that a few of them are being used on gardens this immense quantity of water is not being utilized.

They will tell you, if you ask why, that the rainfall is sufficient, and in proof of this they will add that Donley county has never had a crop failure, which means only that they grow so many things that nothing less than a year's drouth could wholly defeat their efforts.

Five years ago Donley county was typically and almost wholly a cow country. The J A ranch, owned by Mrs. Cornelia Adair of England, lies partly in Donley county. Literally carpeted with grass, dotted with sheltering hills and a thousand living springs, Donley



Clarendon Sends One of the Best - D.C. Priddy and family of Clarendon was in Amarillo in charge of the Donley county exhibit for the fair, which the Amarillo Panhandle said is "one of the best in the whole lot and speaks well for our neighbor under the cap rock."

The Clarendon Chronicle, September 30, 1908 / LEADER ARCHIVE PHOTO

county was a paradise for the cattlemen. There they were more reluctant than perhaps at any other place to give way to the farmer. But they are doing it now. The farmers who edged themselves in eight or ten years ago have proved the soil's capabilities for crop growing, and that demonstration has put such a price on the land that even the ranch owners can not resist. They are being moved out by an irresistible, economic law.

In several ways Donley county differs from those immediately to the south of it. Cotton is not its chief crop, and there, as if by con sequence, the greater part of the immigration is from the north and west rather than from the south, as is the case in the other counties of the lower Panhandle. They say that in Donley county the acreage in corn is ten times greater than that in cotton.

Colorado parties have established a real estate exchange in Colorado, and it is doing an effective immigration work in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and one or two other central western states. With in a year it has sold 15,000 acres of land, nine-tenths of it land that never before knew the touch of a plow. Last fall it brought in 50 families from the states named, and it is estimated that within a year 250 families have been located on farms. They have been particularly fortunate in getting farmers from Colorado. They boast in their advertising that in Donley county they have for \$25 an acre better land than that which in Colorado is selling for \$200 an acre. A number, after investigation, have been moved literally and figuratively by that statement. They tell the story of a Colorado man, who, after having looked over Donley county, went back home, sold 100 acres and with the proceeds bought 640 acres in Donley county, having a good supply of cash left after the transaction. The epilogue of the story is that this man is now doing better in his new than he did in his old home.

H.G. Shaw, who is in charge of the Clarendon office of this real estate exchange and who, incidentally, is president of the Clarendon Commercial Club, is himself from Colorado, and he brings to his work rather an extensive experience. He proceeds on the theory that the best advertisement is the prosperity of those whom he has induced to come into the country. He exerts himself, therefore, to promote the well-being of the farmers. In pursuance of this policy he has made it possible for a local produce company to contract this year with the farmers to plant 250 acres in watermelons and 50 acres in cantaloupes. The produce company, of course, has already contracted for the sale of this produce. The first of these cantaloupes, Mr. Shaw says, will be sold in Colorado. If you manifest

some surprise that a Texas cantaloupe should invade the home of the Rocky Ford, Mr. Shaw will tell you that the Donley county cantaloupe is better than the Colorado specimen. But its chief advantage is that it comes earlier than the Colorado melon. In all the Panhandle counties, and in none of them perhaps so much as in Donley, they are designing to command the market for fruits and vegetables during that period between the coming of the south Texas fruits and those of Colorado. Mr. Shaw says that Donley county can put its

melons on the Colorado market before the home-grown fruit is ready, and then, when it meets strong competition there, it can face about and sell to south Texas, which by that time will have exhausted its own early supply. Mr. Shaw says the best prices got last season for Donley county cantaloupes were paid in Houston.

So far Donley county has given more attention to melon growing than to the cultivation of any other fruit, but it is doubtful if that statement will much

Continued on page 6.



Flooding at present day US 287 and Gorst Street looking at Holland Bros. on left and Noble Garage (most recently Signs Plus) on right.

LEADER ARCHIVE PHOTO

Total Rainfall Near Eight Inches

Splendid Rains Mean Much To Donley Farmers and Businesses

The rattle of mud chains as they flap on the pavement and the splashed condition of automobiles is again the order of the day in Clarendon and Donley County as this part of the Panhandle is rejoicing over a series of rains that means much to the producers of the county.

The rain started falling last Thursday evening and scarcely halted for an hour until Sunday night when a short respite was had. A shower Monday afternoon completed the settling of the dust and raised the total received to 3.48 inches for the session with Jupiter Pluvius.

As far as has been determined, the rainfall was fairly genera, all over the Panhandle and other parts of the state. Parts of Donley County were the recipients of a great deal more moisture than was recorded in Clarendon although no part of the county received so much rain as to cause a great amount of damage to crops planted or to the roads of the county.

The portion of the county North of the river received a heavier rainfall, as did the Hedley country. These sections received more than three inches before the rains of Sunday and Monday, which would probably bring the total precipi-

tation to more than four inches.

One farmer was heard to say that the rain had come exactly right. The rainfall would be heavy until the furrows of his field were ready to run over and start washing. This would be followed by a slack time to allow the water to be soaked up and then another rain would follow to repeat the performance.

The benefits derived from the rain in Clarendon might be gauged by the amount of water running in the ditch. This watercourse barely carried enough to run, signifying that all the moisture received soaked into the ground and none of it was lost.

The Clarendon News,
May 17, 1928

Dark Horse Wins Race

Today has been the liveliest that Clarendon has seen for several weeks. About noon Bartlett and Walter Dyer struck up a horse race for \$250.00 a side. The running took place about 2 o'clock. As we have neither space nor time to give a full description of the race we can give only the result.

As is customary the dark horse came in ahead, about three lengths, and as Bartlett was running the dark horse he of course was the winner of the \$250.00. But somehow, we don't know how, Mr. B. is a loser by \$15.

The Clarendon News, December 1, 1882

Fourth of July At Clarendon

Clarendon celebrated the Fourth of July with one of the largest crowds ever in attendance. A large delegation of several hundred went from Memphis and enjoyed the day's variety of different features of entertainment were well attended and especially the races in the afternoon.

Clarendon is always doing things, and among the latest is the installment of what they call "The Miniature White Way." On each side of Main street in front of each business house is suspended a large electric light from a cable.

There are about forty-six of these lights and Main street is as bright as day when the lights are turned on at dark. In connection with this, we were informed that the city was making preparations to install eighty-three street lights in different parts of the city. This will indeed be a great improvement over the dark streets as they now are and we congratulate Miss Clarendon in her thrift and enterprise.

Clarendon promises us a big crowd during the Old Soldiers reunion in August. — from *Memphis Democrat*

Thanks for the nice compliments. Clarendon appreciates the large attendance from Memphis which helped to make the affair a success, and the assistance of Memphis band boys who helped to make the music good. You can depend on a good representation from this burg at your Old Soldiers Reunion.

The Clarendon News,
July 12, 1912

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Hijacker Nabbed In Short Order

A hitch-hiker was in jail within a short time last Wednesday afternoon due to prompt action of Hobart Moffett, Hedley businessman and officers.

The man arrested was Robert Caldwell of Rochester, Michigan, and the victim was Fred Nabors, Brunswick Tire Salesman of Amarillo. Nabors picked up Caldwell on the other side of Claude and the friendly act was turned on him when the latter party pulled an automatic pistol on him.

Near Lelia Lake Nabors was instructed to turn south on a country road and was relieved of \$33 cash and the truck he was driving. Nabors walked to a farm house and called officers.

In the meantime, Hobart Moffett had called in, stating that a man had abandoned a truck at Hedley and had taken to the highway.

P.C. Messer and R.Y. King drove to Hedley and spotted the hijacker but knowing he was armed and they weren't, they watched him until a highway patrolman appeared.

Caldwell offered no resistance and was hauled in to the local jail for safe keeping.

Donley County Leader,
October 14, 1948

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Fire Destroys Ashtola Gin Last Thursday Morning

Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the Ashtola Gin early last Thursday morning.

J. R. Brandon, manager of the gin, discovered the blaze about 1:45 and at that time very little could possibly be done to prevent complete destruction. The blaze consumed the main gin building, cotton house and feed house. The estimated loss was set at around \$75,000.

Mr. Brandon stated that the gin would be rebuilt between now and harvest time next year, and that the latest ginning equipment would be set up.

Donley County Leader
October 14, 1948

THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

Established 1929

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HISTORY: The DONLEY COUNTY LEADER was founded on March 12, 1929, by J.C. Estlack and was published weekly by the Estlack Family until November 28, 1974. It was then purchased by THE CLARENDON PRESS, which continued the LEADER for a short time as a Sunday paper before suspending its publication just shy of its 46th anniversary in 1975. The LEADER volume number was carried on the PRESS' masthead thru 1976. The LEADER was revived on March 14, 1996, and merged with THE CLARENDON NEWS in the creation of THE CLARENDON ENTERPRISE. In July of that year, The LEADER's annual Pioneer Edition was launched to reflect on the pioneer news and history of Donley County.

The Declaration of Independence

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.—We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—**That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,** laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.—He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.—He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.—He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.—He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.—He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.—He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.—He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.—He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.—He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.—He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.—He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.—He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.—He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:—For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:—For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:—For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:—For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:—For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:—For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences—For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:—For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:—For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.—He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.—He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.—He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.—He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.—He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.—We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.— And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

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* TEMPLE OF TRUTH *

By the Apostle

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What has become of the old geezer who came to the picnic with his vest front covered with lodge buttons and badges?

Pink Rodgers tells of a mule he owned that held the record for being slow. Once when he had it staked to a stump, the hired hand rode the mule all day before he discovered that It was tied.

One thing about this prairie country, styles never cut in on our personal liberty far enough to make us wear ties, sox or hats. Some of the women wear shorts, but the men folks are trying to maintain that bashful attitude of the pioneer cow hand.

Bachelor Bill, laid up from rheumatism in a squeaky knee for three months, has found out It was only a cricket that had crawled up his pant leg.

What a lot of difference a little thing can make. Take the “r” out a t the word “free”, for instance and – well it’s anything else but.

Well come on. You have as much right to celebrate the 4th of July as anyone.

As a morning bracer, we are advised to take a “dive” into wheat breakfast food. We have known for some time that it made a desirable salve for a number of ailments, but we never before had thought of substituting the shredded grain for bathing salts. After all, we are just beginning to realize Just how dumb Ponce de Leon was in look for the fountain of youth, when he might have staid closer home and found it in a grain field.

Motion picture actors have started “mugging” contests to see who can make the ugliest face for a new film that is designed to make us laugh.

The less learned people are, the more willingly they jump up to make public addresses, thinks the editor of Liberty Magazine. He may be right, on second thought – or any thought thereafter.

Distance may lend enchantment, but It doesn’t do anything for bean and bread when you are hungry. Bachelor Bill says he could have held his own had it not been for the public schools in this Panhandle.

Does life really begin at 40, or does it just look that way when you begin to wear glasses?

A bright future some times turns out to be merely a tail light.

Hastoon Yazzies says he’s got to the point to where he “ain’t fitten for nuthin.” In a political argument with a neighbor Saturday, his mule started to bray, and he didn’t even slap its mouth shut.

In buying a used house you have one advantage, they can’t turn the odometer back.

The Gainsville community circus, world-wide reputation, has about everything that you will see in a first-class circus. Home talent alone has been used for the past dozen years. The only things that have possibly been overlooked. Is the woman who walks like a cow. the dog-faced man, the boy with ears like a bnboon, the boy who squirts water out his eyes. etc. But they’ll be added by fall.

Donley County Leader
June 25, 1936
(Editor's Note: "The Temple of Truth" was the observations of Leader founder J.C. Estlack from 1929 through 1950.)

Sheriff Issues

Public Warning

Friendly Suggestion Made To Avoid Trouble In Celebrating 4th

Sheriff Pierce came to the Leader office Tuesday and asked that this newspaper carry a message of warning to those who might for some reason take advantage of the occasion on the 4th to drive while intoxicated.

“The law says intoxicated to any degree subjects the driver of an auto to a heavy fine or prison sentence,” the Sheriff stated.

“We invite all the folks to come to Clarendon July 4th and have a good time, but we won’t tolerate any drunkenness of any kind,” Pierce stated.

Accidents are avoided by driving carefully, he said, and the best judgment is required at times to avoid a smash. The crowd, which is expected to be large, will be carefully policed for the protection of the public – life and property alike.

Donley County Leader
July 2, 1936

Turtle Race Announced
The Turtle Race will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 5, at the courthouse. The race is being sponsored by the Clarendon Jaycees. Age groups include one day to five years old; six to 10; and 11 to 15 years old. Entries must register at Spier’s Department Store.

The Clarendon Press
June 26, 1975

FOUND!!! Two hair-pins. One, a meek, mild, stay-at-home sort of hair-pin, with long legs and a decided bald head. Looks as if it might have seen trouble. The other an aesthetic, Oscar Wild sort of pin. Supposed to have been left by the surprise party at the Court House last week. Owners can have them by calling, no agents need apply.

The Clarendon News,
February 2, 1883



HAPPY Birthday!

Sweet Land of Liberty!

HEDLEY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

GOD BLESS

AMERICA

★ ★ ★ MY ★ ★ ★

HOME

SWEET

HOME

J&W Lumber

US 287 & Carhart • Clarendon, Texas

Do it Best

Family Tradition

Your local news has been delivered by five generations of the Estlack Family.

THE CLARENDON ★

Enterprise

THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER & THE CLARENDON NEWS

Spreading the word since 1878.

Miniature Chuck Wagon Made By Local Ranchmen

The miniature chuck wagon featured in the Sunday Star-Telegram is one of the pieces of work that has taken part of the time of three of the JA Ranch employees for the past few months.

This miniature outfit is complete in all its details, down to the cook, his pots and pans. The horse of the wrangler is possibly the most complete piece of work in the entire outfit and has elicited much praise from critics of this sort of work. The wagon and its equipment is complete to the smallest, the sacks of feed for the horses and the supplies used for the feeding of the hungry boys being in place in the chuck box at the rear of the wagon. Harness for the team is placed in the tongue of the wagon just as if the lilliputian cook had removed it from the team and left it handy.

These works of art were made by Clinton Henry, book-keeper at the ranch headquarters, Jimmie Moore, cook for the same place and W.J. Heim, keeper of the Plains Corral camp on the ranch. Spare time for more than four months was put into the manufacture of the articles, all of which are constructed on a scale of one eighth inch to the foot. The outfit will finally be placed in the University of Texas, where it will be kept as an exact model of the days when such equipment was in daily use in almost all parts of the state.

The Clarendon News
April 26, 1928

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BUSINESS LOCALS.

We want to collar every horse in Donley county before plow time. — Rutherford & Davis.

Winter overshoes will save leather and doctor's bills, and you can find the best artics, and rubbers for men, women and children, at Bryan & Land's.

When you want leather goods, go see Rutherford & Davis and get their prices before you buy. For the best up-to-date Jewelry, go to Clowers. New stock just in.

When you want leather goods, go see Rutherford & Davis and get heir prices before you buy.

Jewelry of the best quality, newest pattern and beautiful in design at Clower's. Be sure and see his new watches, lockets, pins, etc.

The Clarendon Chronicle
February 22, 1908

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**We need more
Plows, Sows, & Cows
in Donley County.**



JA Miniature Chuck Wagon Camp created by ranch employees on display in the windows of Goldston & Douglas building in 1928.

LEADER ARCHIVE

1976 Saints' Roost Celebration Winners Named

Donley County's annual Saint's Roost Celebration produced winners in such diverse categories as racing turtles to bucking bronses last weekend.

The annual celebration was kicked off Thursday, July 1, with the yearly turtle race on Clarendon's Main Street. Large crowds of spectators as well as children entering tortoises turned out. Grand prize winner of the day was 5—month-old April Tyler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Tyler of Clarendon. Her turtle, entered by her father in the under five years of age category, beat the other two finalists in the run-off race.

Other winners were turtles entered by Michelle Fricks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Fricks, in the 6-10 age category; and Cindy Topper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Topper, in the 11-15 age group.

Saturday morning, July 3, several prizes were awarded to persons attending the Old Settlers Reunion. Recognition awards went to Mrs. W.R Wilkerson of Clarendon for having the most children of all old settlers attending the reunion; Mrs. Jack Killough, oldest settler living in Donley County; and Ben Andis, oldest settler outside Donley County.

Eleven trophies were given out Saturday afternoon to entrants in the July 4th Independence Day Parade. Winner in the Buckaroo Division was Lynn Alderson of Clarendon. The division consisted of children riding decorated bicycles. In the Float Civic Division, the Shrine Club from Amarillo took 1st place and Clarendon's Beta Sigma Phi placed 2nd. For the Commercial Float category, 1st place winner was the Hedley Security State Bank. Second was the Hedley Insurance Co. Winning 1st place in the Riding Club Division was the Vernon

Riding Club. The Leather and Lace Club of Pampa won 2nd.

In the Car Club category, the Tejano 4-Wheelers of Amarillo won 1st with the Longhorn Model A Club coming in 2nd. Winner of the Open Division Saturday was the entry from Alderson Chevrolet. Best overall entry of the parade was won by Schooler-Gordon-Robertson Funeral Home of Clarendon.

Six top finishers in the Old Fiddlers Contest Saturday shared \$300 in prize money. Bartow Riley and David Cunningham of Paducah were asked to play a second time before contest judges decided Riley the winner. Top six fiddlers were Riley Cunningham, J.L. Storey, Amarillo; David Morris, Amarillo; Jim Adams, Clarendon; and Thurmond Trew, Alanreed. For taking top honors, Riley was presented an engraved silver platter commemorating him as top fiddler of the contest.

Rodeo entrants placed in six divisions for top prizes in the Saint's Roost Rodeo. Two saddles were also presented to the "All Around Bronc Rider" and the "All Around Roper" entered in the event. Winner of the "Rider" saddle was Jud Sims. A tie developed for the "Roper" saddle between Randy Wells and Mike Goad. Wells won the flip of a coin and the saddle.

Other rodeo winners and how they placed were: Bareback Bronc Riding — 1st, Monte Elms; 2nd, J.W. Myers; 3rd and 4th tied between Carl Keener and Ronny Lynch; 5th, Dean Torres. Calf Roping — 1st, Johnny Johnson; 2nd, Mike Goad; 3rd, Joe Pierce; 4th, Randy Wells; 5th, Bryon Thoms. Barrel Race — 1st, Johnny Jarvis; 2nd and 3rd tied between Linda McClesky and Melony Goad; 4th and 5th tied between Lometa Smith and Wanda Eakin. Saddle Bronc - 1st and 2nd tied between Reese

Bowen and Wayne Matiska; 3rd, Larry Bates; 4th, Bob Waide; 5th, tied between John Avent and Jud Sims. Head and Heeling — 1st, Lonny Brown; 2nd, Larry Crump; 3rd, Dick Morgan; 4th, David Armes; 5th, Randy Wells; 6th, Bud Breashears. Bull Riding - 1st, John Jarvis; 2nd and 3rd tied between Buster Hanning and Eddie Blackshear; 4th, Ray Mataska; 5th, Alex Bell; 6th, Tom Stout.

The Clarendon Press
July 8, 1976

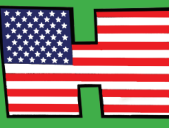
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The Clarendon News,
June 26, 1926

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Turtle Race



Sat., July 4, at 1:30 p.m.

in downtown Clarendon

Register Daily at Henson's. Age group 0 - 14...FREE

WIN PRIZES • Register turtles before 12:00 p.m. on July 4th

Adult Races ages 18 - 100 ...\$5.00

Win 1/2 cash pot & 1/2 to charity

Extra Turtles? We'll take 'em

WATER TURTLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RACE

HAPPY

4th of July

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Education is
the key to unlock
the golden door to
freedom.

-George Washington Carver

Have a Safe and Happy
Fourth of July!

 **Clarendon**
COLLEGE



Happy Birthday,
Sweet Land of Liberty!

Wallace Monument Co.

"Makers of fine memorials."

Wishing all of our friends and neighbors here in the community a safe and happy July 4th! We hope your weekend is a blast, but please remember to celebrate responsibly and stay sober behind the wheel. We can wait.

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JULY 4

Choral Club Presents The Japanese Girl

An Operetta of Exceptional Merit Manner of Presentation Evokes Favorable Comment

A passing glimpse of the Far East and a breath from the land of cherry blossoms and chrysanthemums were the reward for those who witnessed the production of the operetta, "The Japanese Girls," by the Thursday Matinee Musical Club at the Clarendon College auditorium Monday evening, January 26th.

Thirty-three girls under the direction of Mrs. Mary B. Adams staged the operetta, which was a pronounced success from start to finish.

The theme is based on an ancient custom of the Japanese requiring that when a member of a family must absent himself from home for a considerable period, he leave a young plant or singing bird with his relatives to represent himself. The constant care bestowed on the object is, thus, regarded as a guarantee of the good fortune to follow the absent one."

The first act opens by a number of Japanese girls visiting a young Japanese beauty, who is about to celebration her eighteenth birthday, regarded in Japan as "the coming of age." In the midst of the festivities a message is announced stating that the father of the young girl has been called to war in China, and sends his daughter a brilliant hued parrot to represent his spirit. The part changes to one of sorrow; and the first act closes with the chorus singing a song of consolation to O Hanu San, the bereaved young Japanese.

In the second act, to American girls who are touring in Japan with their governess for education and pleasure are impelled by curiosity to enter the garden of O Hanu San, and while there their governess is sketching, they slip away from her.

The Japanese girls returning, resent the intrusion of a foreigner and awake the governess, who has fallen asleep at her easel, and pretend not to understand her explanations. O Hanu San comes to her rescue and in the end invites the American ladies to remain as her guests, which invitation they accept, and later witness the reception given the visiting Mikado. The story ends with a tribute paid America by the singing Japanese girls.

A profusion of flowers, together with the gorgeous costumes and the splendid state setting, gave an Oriental atmosphere to the performance which charmed the audience during the entire hour and a half required for the program.

A number of solos of excep-



The Clarendon College Choral Club performed "The Japanese Girl" in January 1920 at the college auditorium (where the Clarendon High School Auditorium is today). The photo is unique because it appears to have been taken from the balcony of the auditorium – a feature that was destroyed when the building was struck by a tornado in 1941.

RUTH AVERYT ALBUM

tional merit were sung – notably those of Misses Alma Averyt, Anne Ligon, Cleora Brummett, Pearl Miller and Gertrude Miller. A duet by Misses Kate Allen and Pauline Ozier, who played the part of the American school girls, was also well received. The role of the Mikado was played by Mr. Don Hitton, the only male member of the cast.

Music for the occasion was provided under the direction of Miss Evangeline Loeffler, by the college orchestra, who contributed no small part to the success of the operetta.

The performance of "The Japanese Girl" shows the careful training and hard work the club has undergone in order to stage the production, and it is to be hoped that we may get further benefit of their industry in forthcoming numbers.

The Clarco, February 1920

A husband on being told that his wife had lost her temper, replied that he was glad of it, and he hoped it would be replaced by a better one.

Clarendon Chronicle, July 11, 1908

Local Boys Make All-Stars' Teams

Clarendon of the Babe Ruth League will have 12 players playing on three all-stars teams during tournaments scheduled for the next two weeks.

Coach Jimmy McElroy announced Tuesday that representing Clarendon in the 15-year-olds in the tournament at Elkart, Kansas, on July 7-9 will be Irvin Thomas, Gary Thomas, Billy Gardner and Keith Topper. Representing Clarendon in the 14-year-old all-star tournament at Perryton on June 30 and July 1 and 2 will be Gary McClellan, Keith Floyd, Stacy Hohenberg, and Larry Davis. Thirteen-year-old all-stars from Clarendon are Terry Putman, Jeff Topper, Dean Hawkins and Chris Ford.

They will play in a tournament sponsored by the Pampa Lions Club sometime between July 11th and 15th. Clarendon is presently tied for first place with White Deer for the league lead.

The Clarendon Press
June 26, 1975

Notice: We will stand the following animals at the Drew wagon yard at Clarendon this season: A standard bred Kentucky stallion, and a young richly bred pacing stallion. Also two large well-bred Missouri jacks. For terms apply to E.T. Vanvooris or J. West at Jericho, Texas.

Banner-Stockman, March 8, 1907

Clarendon WELCOMES

All Pioneers and Visitors

As the oldest thriving town in the Panhandle, Clarendon has constantly been building upwards since 1878. Together we will continue to grow in the future and enjoy many July Fourth celebrations yet to come.

We extend a hospitable welcome to all guests of the City during the 149th annual Saints' Roost Celebration.



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CITY OF CLARENDON

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Happy 4th of July
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Clarendon Insurance Agency

Happy Birthday, America

and enjoy the
July 4th weekend,
everyone!

Stocking Ice Cream Parlor

DOWNTOWN CLARENDON

As One Pioneer to Another

The Founder of the Donley County Leader arrived at Tascosa in 1883. All of his life, except his school days, had been spent in the Panhandle and great Southwest. He believed in her history, the stability of her people as the most progressive and persevering in existence. Every member of the Leader staff is a product of the Southwest. We hope you appreciate our efforts to present to you, unbiased, the news each week.

THE LEADER STAFF

THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER



The Goldston Quilting Club works on a quilt as they ride in the July 4th parade in about 1963. The parade is passing by the Clarendon Hatchery Building, which is today's Osburn Appliance building.

Ashtola Methodists
Merge With Clarendon

At a regular Church Conference of the Ashtola congregation of the Methodist Church, called by the District Superintendent, the Rev. W. E. Hamilton, Sunday, July 20, at 3:30 p.m., it was decided that the Ashtola congregation unite in a body with the congregation of the Methodist Church in Clarendon. It was also decided that the Union Sunday School at Ashtola should receive the support and encouragement of the Church in Clarendon, and that every effort possible be made to preserve the spiritual interests of that community.

This move is the result of the many removals from the Ashtola community and because of the fact that they have been without regular pastoral supervision for several years.

A special reception service for this group will be held at the Methodist Church in Clarendon Sunday evening, July 27, at eight o'clock. This service is to be followed by a social hour in the Fellowship Hall of the Church to which all

members of both congregations are cordially invited.

Donley County Leader, June 26, 1947

Hancock's host 'Old
Fashioned 4th

More than fifty Masons and members of Eastern Star enjoyed a picnic on the spacious grounds at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Paul Hancock Thursday evening, July 1st.

After the picnic a program was given on a stage decorated for the 4th of July celebration with 'Old Glory' waving high above. Following the invocation by J.L. Butler and words of welcome by Ruth Hancock, everyone joined in singing the Star-Spangled Banner and repeating the Pledge To The Flag. Redell Henson gave "The American Creed" and Charles Blackburn told of "The Men Who Signed For Us." "This is America" was given by Mrs. Mollie Ritter and Mrs. Wilma Batson told of "The Future of America."

Interspersed in the program were vocal solos and duets with organ accompaniment by the Rev. Paul Hancock and Dee Williams. Clarendon Press, July 8, 1976

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Celebration & Rodeo!

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Our Heritage Lives On

Celebrating more than 135 years in the historic 1890 Donley County Courthouse, we join our fellow citizens in commemorating the Pioneer Spirit that brought civilization to the Texas Panhandle.

The Commissioners Court of Donley County along with our elected officials and employees welcome visitors to the annual Saints' Roost Celebration.

Have a safe and happy
Fourth.

Our offices will be closed
Friday, July 3



Baling alfalfa hay in about 1900 on the J.H. Roberts farm east of Clarendon. Charlie Speed pitching hay to Sam Roberts. Edd Speed standing on the hay wagon. Charlie Speed's father is driving the team to the wagon. Girls in the buggy are sisters of Charlie Speed.

Leader Archive Photo

Donley County Grows Wide Crop Variety

Continued from page one.

longer hold true. Enough has been done to ward the production of other fruits to show that they deserve equal if not more attention than is given to melon growing. This year Donley county will grow more peaches than it eats, and it is arranging to bring packers from Colorado to prepare them for shipment. In addition to peaches it will also have about 500 crates of cherries to ship, as well as some dewberries. Donley county has grown some strawberries this season, but not enough for home consumption. The fruit grows excellently, however, both as to size and flavor, and it is probable that next year some strawberries will be shipped by express.

It will be only a few years until Donley county will have apples to ship; not apples of the spring and summer variety, which can be grown in almost every part of every part of Texas, but of the fall varieties. Successful apple-growing is as much a matter of climate as of soil. Almost every section of the state has the requisite soil, but not all of them of course have in combination the requisite soil and climate, Donley county lays claim to this combination, and it offers as proof the eating of the apple. Thousands of apple trees have been set out within the last two years, and when these come into bearing there will be more apples than Donley county can eat.

When you ask the Douley county man where the market is for these products of the garden and orchard he will reply Denver, Kansas City, St. Joe, Mo., Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Galveston, and all South Texas. And then he is apt to point out on the map that Clarendon is practically in the center of a circle drawn to embrace those cities. If so much has been said of what is being done toward the production of fruits to the exclusion of field crops it is because it is very remarkable phenomenon that a county on the lower edge of the Upper Panhandle, which a few years ago was supposed to lie good only for grazing purposes, should now aspire to compete with other sections, supposed to be more favored, in the growing of those things which require the nicest adjustment of natural conditions.

Fruit and truck growing is only a sideline in Donley county; field crops are and must be the main dependence of the people, and they are showing a keen appreciation of this fact. But the spirit of diversification is at large in the field as well as in the garden and orchard. Everything that may be grown successfully in Donley county is being tried. Donley county grows cotton because it can be grown and because the growing of it is a part of the policy of diversification. But Donley unlike other counties of its section, is not making a specialty of cotton. The whole crop last year probably did not exceed 1,200 bales; in shipments from Clarendon, the largest market, were only slightly in excess of 500 bales.

As has already been remarked, the acreage in corn is ten times greater than that in cotton. Last year Donley county shipped something more than too carload – of corn, selling most of it to surrounding counties that had gone in so heavily for cotton raising that they did

not grow enough corn for their own consumption. Gradually it has been going out of the business of wheat-raising because tor several years the acreage in this cereal has been decreasing and it has been smaller this year than ever before, notwithstanding the cultivated area is larger than ever before. Nearly every valley in Donley county offers an invitation to grow alfalfa, and the invitation is being very generally accepted. The first alfalfa was sown about five years ago, the seed having been bought by W. H. Patrick and given to those who would agree to give it a thorough trial. Now it is estimated that there are 1,000 acres in alfalfa. In some places as much as five tons to the acre have been cut, but the average is about three tons. Experiments made with sugar beets leave no doubt that they can be grown to satisfy all requirements of sugar refiners. Some grown last year showed from 12 to 15 per cent in sugar. Fifteen per cent is required by sugar makers. Last year they were not planted deep enough, with the result that they were sun-sapped, which reduced the percentage of sugar. They are grown only for stock feeding.

A few farmers grew peanuts last year, and, since they got from 100 to 200 bushels to the acre, found them profitable, notwithstanding that they had to hand thrash them. The question of putting in a steam thrasher is now being agitated, and if that is done it is certain that the acreage in peanuts will be greatly increased.

There are two educational institutions in Clarendon, one St. Mary's Institute, under the direction of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, and the other Clarendon College, fostered by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The first has an enrollment of nearly 200 and Clarendon College an enrollment of nearly 300.

Results are already achieved, together with the enterprising spirit of its citizens, leaves no room to doubt that Donley county must speedily become one of the important agricultural counties in Texas. At present, scarcely one-fifth of its tillable soil is being cultivated, but every year the area is being enlarged. The success of the last few years may have been

due, in the opinion of some, to exceptionally seasons, but if that is so, one may reply that it has been done also without a full utilization of all the advantages given to the county. When these are brought into service, whatever adventitious favors may have come of the seasons may be surrendered without fear.

The Clarendon Chronicle,
July 4, 1908

—:—

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MOORE, MARY GRADY,
JOHNNY HUBBARD
CITY SECRETARY, SANDY LYNN
FIRE CHIEF, JACOB HODGE



Troop 33 Emergency Preparedness Badge class members hoist Dean Hawkins on a stretcher. Billy Ray Johnston and Delbert Robertson conducted the classes. The class includes Drew Thornberry, Lance Thornberry, Rick Hayes, Dan Sawyer, Terry Putman, Chris Ford, Steve Rives, John Nichols, Dean Hawkins and Keith Floyd.

The Clarendon Press, March 13, 1975

Literary Social Is Well Attended

The Literary social of Wednesday night was well attended and can be pronounced one of the most successful meetings of the season. The programme was not fully carried out on account of the inability of several of the members (bad colds).

The remainder of the programme was well supported, especially the impromptu readings contributed by Messrs. Pemberton and Clarke. Mrs. Cooper read "Betsy and I Are Out" and Mrs. Allen contributed the sequel.

Mrs. Lyman read "Over the River," an appropriate selection and well rendered. The singing was superintended by Mrs. B. H. While assisted by Mrs. Allen, A.R. Carhart, W.A. Allen and Messrs. White and Barton on the violin.

The music was grand. The apparent and general good will that prevailed will insure a full attendance at the next meeting to take place two weeks from the date of the last session at some house of which due notice will be given.

The Clarendon News
December 1, 1882

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