003351
1 F 2

HSR, PT. I, CASTOLON

PART I

INDIANS, MEXICANS, ANGLOS, AND CAMELS

Beginning as a clear trout stream high in the Colorado Rockies, the rowdy young Rio Grande descends swiftly into the Chihuahua Desert.[1] Draining thousands of qquare miles of the Spanish Southwest, the river forms fertile valleys and deep, quiet canyons as it maps a great bend in the southern boundary of the United States. The region cut by the Rio Grande from Presidio, Texas[2] to Boquillas Canyon[3] contains some of the most rugged, beautiful scenery to be found anywhere.

Volcanic, sedimentary, and conglomerate formations[4] form mountain ranges,[5] mesas and ridges. Throughout the entire area can be found fossils of many ages which tell of great forests, tropical swamps, and the coming and going of inland seas.[6] South of the Big Bend of the Rio Grande lies the vast Bolson Mapimi, a vast basin broken only by isolated mountain groups.[7] Erosion is great in this young country. Water and wind often change the face of a locality within a few short years.[8]

Species of desert plants and animals vary according to altitude, moisture and soil conditions.[9] Temperatures near the river remain high most of the year. With the exception of some parts

of the canyons, the Rio Grande river banks often seem much hotter than the gravel ridges nearby.[10]

Evidence of man predating the basket-maker has been found in the region.[11] The influx of the Comanche, Apache, and Kiowa Indians in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries has given rise to much speculation as to where they came from and why they came.[12] The story of the pre-Columbian Indians as well as the more recent ones will never be completely known, but research by dedicated historians and scientists as contributed much to our knowledge of the early inhabitants.[13] Some of the Indian trails, both of the Jumano Period[14] and later times have been retraced with a considerable degree of accuracy.[15]

There is written and visible evidence of Spanish and Mexican activity at scattered locations along the Big Bend of the river,[16] The region from what is now Lajitas, Texas[17] to the Mariscal Canyon[18], however, received little attention in available documents. This is probably due to the fact that it lies between two major Indian trails and little trouble occurred there.[19] Pressure by the Comanche on the small villages and ranchos of the peaceful Indians and Mestizos during the last few years of the seventeenth century increased until entire villages were abandoned by fleeing inhabitants or destroyed.[20] For the next two hundred years Indian raiders came out of northern hunting grounds for annual trips down the well traveled trails into Mexico to plunder, trade, and enjoy themselves.[21]

As Indian depredations increased local Spanish captains sent out military scouting parties. Later, governors of provinces tried to stem the ever increasing tide. So on up the chain of

command went the responsibility until King Charles III of Spain, in 176[illegible], appraised the situation and call for reconstitution of the military department of frontier New Spain.[22] During the next decade Spanish civil, military and church representatives made a number of surveys, resulting in several changes in colonization, mission, and military procedures.[23] Under the direction of the Marquis de Rubi/ extensive studies were undertaken concerning what might be done about the Indian problem. Recommendations made by Rubi/ in 1773 were adopted with little change in 1776. The use of mounted "flying companies" which could move in a hurry against the enemy, a system of forts across the northern frontier, and plans for campaigns against the marauders were included in the policy.[24] With a fort located at La Junta de los Rios and a "permanent" fort established for the flying companies at San Vicente,[25] most likely the first white men in the immediate vicinity of present day Castelon were Spanish soldiers on patrol.

Many of the forts and missions along the Rio Grande were abandoned in 1810 when the intense hatred of the lower class Mestizos for the pure-blooded Spaniards, who kept them bonded in a fantastic caste system, finally erupted into open warfare.[26] As civil conflict in the interior of Mexico increased, Comanche trails deepened, Apaches roamed where they pleased and the people of the region quickly came to some sort of terms with the aggressors, or fled, or died.[27]

Civil war in Mexico raged intermittently until 1821 when Spain relinquished the last of her claims, but the new country, still torn by internal conflicts, was unable to give much aid to her northern settlements outside of the more populous areas.[28] The period from

1821 to 1854, the year the boundary between the United States and Mexico from El Paso to Brownsville was surveyed, is barren in written reports for the vast region, but it may be assumed that despite Indian raids and depredations, population increased in small pockets of fertile land along arroyos and the Rio Grande. Just what percentage were Spanish is unknown, but after more than three hundred years, the blood of the Spanish soldiers, many of whom were the first settlers of a new region, was much more Indian than Spanish. The Indian women they married diluted the mixture still more. The Spanish language, or a corrupted version, was in common use even among many pure-blood Indians. Soldiers of both the Spanish and Mexican periodsoften married womenoof nearby tribes or ranchos and had families by the time they were discharged. The free, fertile land and the remoteness from the oppressive conditions many of them had experienced prior to military service encouraged them to accept discharge at the various outposts despite the constant threat of danger from the Comanche and Apache. Officers often applied for and were granted large tracts of land by the government.[29]

The signing of the Treaty of Guadeloupe-Hidalgo in 1848 divided the region politically along the Rio Grande. The Republic of Texas had claimed the river as the boundary prior to that time, but here claim was doubtful.[30] Guadeloupe-Hidalgo ended the Mexican War, but a three-way family fight among Texas, New Mexico, and the Federal Government soon began to take shape, not to be settled until the Compromise of 1850.[31]

The first few months after the Treaty of Guadeloupe-Hidalgo saw a number of Trans-Pecos expeditions planned both by the Federal government and by Texas. The Texas legislature, disturbed by rumors that

individuals in New Mexico were attempting to establish territorial government, created Santa Fe County on March 13, 1848.[32] As the rumors died down, Texas once more turned here interest to finding a practicable wagon road to El Paso.[33] About the same time several privately financed parties, hoping eventually to profit from the Chihuahua-Santa Fe-California contacts,[35] ventured into the region west of the Pecos River. Across the upper portion of the area several military reconnaissances were undertaken by the United States Army in search for roads and suitable sites for military posts.[35] Simultaneously, the first immigrant trains bound for the California gold fields entered the barren region between Horsehead Crossing and El Paso.[36] By the closing months of 1849, an upper road and a lower road cut across the face of the region. Tales of illness, hardship and death soon found their way into the newspapers not only of Texas but elsewhere.[37]

Efforts to find easier routes to California led gold-hungry men across Texas and northern Mexico. Most of these routes were not only dangerous and often impassable, but actually much longer than the available trails.[38] Discussions of routes through the Big Bend, by newspapers with inaccurate maps, sounded plausible and possibly practicable, but fortunately none of the trains ventured into the region btween Presidio and Fort Ringgold.[39]

When Santa Fe Country was created by the Texas legislature, it vaguely included the entire trans-Pecos region of Texas. "Vaguely" is the proper word, as the legislators had no conception of the entire region-- its vastness, barrenness, dangers.[40] Their main concern was to prevent New Mexico from claiming it. Rumors once more sprang up that New Mexican population was increasing,[41] and the people around the town of Santa Fe desired some plan of government. Reacting to these rumors, the Texas legislature created,

in December, 1849, three more counties out of the Santa Fe County: North, El Paso, and Presidio.[42] The Big Bend region was included in the newly created Presidio County.[43] Robert S. Neighbors was sent to organize the new counties, but proved unable to do more than pass through Presidio County on his way to Santa Fe as the only settlement, Presidio del Norte, was much out of his way.[44]

The United States government at this time was no sure just how much land was to go to New Mexico and how much to Texas. Powerful Senator Thomas Hart Benton, of Missouri, was no friend of Texas. Benton was all for giving a vast portion of the disputed area to New Mexico, but the Compromise of 1850 settled the boundary.[45] The next step was the establishment of the international boundary.

The reports of the Boundary Survey Commission are lengthy and contain the best descriptions of the vast Southwest. Much of the region is described in minute detail. Unfortunately, the Survey party was not especially interested in the inhabitants, so information on the small settlements in the Big Bend area is meager. The reports mention the settlements at Presidio and Fort Leaton, the Comanche trails and the encountering of Indians,[46] but scarcely more than that. The Castelon area was completely skirted by the survey party who left the Rio Grande at the entrance to what is now called Santa Helena Canyon and returned to the river twenty miles below the mouth of the canyon.[47] In doing so, the party chose to pass on the Mexican side of the river, actually traversing much rougher country on their detour than they would have crossed on the United States side.[48]

The passing of the Boundary Survey Party is the last written report extant on the Lower Big Bend region until the coming of

Lieutenant William H. Echols and his camel corps in 1860.[49] For the first time there is written evidence that the Castelon region was "found" and explored. Lt. Echols had been sent on this, the second camel expedition, to locate the route of the main Comanche War Trail to the Mexican village of San Carlos and to find a site suitable for a military post.[50] On July 26, 1860, the expedition camped four miles below the "Grand Puerta".[51] Echols wrote in his report that the place "attracted my attention very much for a post-- Have found what I was in search of."[52] There was plenty of timber,[53] wood, grass and building sites as well as a fine valley.[54]

The camel train soon plodded northward towards Fort Davis and the coming of civil war caused the fine fort location to be forgotten, not to be rediscovered for many years, when another army officer recommended the site once more and a small post was established on or very near the site chosen by Lt. Echols.[55]

During the Civil War, the Indians once more gained what little gound they had lost to the encroaching frontier fortifications. After the war forts were built, abandoned, reoccupied, and moved as the need for protection of the settled areas and routes of travel changed. Appropriations for the War Department were small, and the Southwest was huge, necessitating military concentration in widely scattered areas.[56] The lower Big Bend, containing few Anglos, had to be largely ignored. The ability of the few military patrols to control the Indians was next to impossible. The political organization of the Trans-Pecos, with the exception of the immediate vicinity of El Paso, existed only on paper.[57] As late as 1878, the country was still in the hands of the Apache and the Comanche.[58] Gradually, however, the United States began to function once more as a whole nation. More and more people

moved into the Southwest and the number of posts and troops increased. Many of the Indians were restricted to reservations, but the confined life and the pressure of new or growing settlements led to factional quarreling among them. Many left the reservations, going south into the Big Bend and joining other bands that had no intention of submitting to the white man.[59] When army patrols came too close to their rancherias or camps, it was easy to slip across the Rio Grande into Mexico where friendly villages and tribes gave them no trouble. Extensive military campaigns were planned and carried out by the United States and Mexico in the 1880's, lessening the Indian menace.[60] With the coming of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1880's and the reorganization of counties into more manageable units, the country began to take on a more civilized look.

The hope that the country would prosper is reflected in county organization.[61] Predisio County was divided into five county units: the Castelon area became part of the newly-created Foley County. When Foley and Buchel counties failed to attract enough people for formal organization,[63] they were incorporated into Brewster County in 1887. Alpine, the county seat of Brewster, lay one hundred and twenty-five miles north of the great bend in the Rio Grande. The inaccessibility of the area encouraged few Anglos to settledpermanently along the river until quicksilver was discovered in the Terlingua region.[64] Mining activity brought an influx of Mexicans and Anglos.

Records of land being bought and leased began to increase after 1890.[65] Roads into the lower Big Bend were no more than trails at first,[66] but gradually money was appropriated for "county" roads. With better means of travel came more settlers and more supplies for the mining areas. Commissaries established at the mines proved

profitable and possibly were a major contributing factor to the establishment of stores along the Rio Grande. These often had little more on their shelves than a few canned goods and boxes of crackers, but many managed to stay in business, some growing as the years passed. Several of these small stores were located in the Castelon region.[67]

Spain, Mexico, and the United States -- all had claimed the lower Big Bend at one time or another, but the Indian ruled in reality until the last decades of the nineteenth century. Small isolated pockets of people of mixed blood managed to survive in spite of the Apache and Comanche. Little interest was shown in the lower Big Bend region until the Indians were finally subdued. After that, the portion west of the Chisos was still sparsely settled by Anglo-Americans until the discovery of quicksilver.

PART II

RANCHING, MINING, FARMING, RANGERS, AND SOLDIERS

Ranching activity in the lower Big Bend around the turn of the century can be divided, roughtly, into two types, as well as two overlapping phases. In the early years, from about 1865 until well into the twentieth centuby, ranchers of Mexican ancestry tended to have small sheep or goat ranches often near a good source of water where corn, fodder, and a truck garden could be raised.[68] There were exceptions, of course. The Bialva Ranch west of the Chisos was fairly large[69] and on the eastern and southern slopes, the Solis ranch was predominant.[70] For the most part, Anglo ranchers leased the land in or near the Chisos prior to 1900, using it primarily to fatten their cattle in thw winter.[71] After the turn of the century, settlers became more numerous and, while much of the land they grazed on was leased, several sections were usually bought and built on.[72] The earliest mention of a ranch in the immeidate Castelon area in available materials is that of Cipriano Hernandes.[73]

Ranching in the Big Bend is a large topic but little of it concerns this report. Agricultural activities along the Rio Grande in the Castelon area are largely confined to farming, although some Mexicans owned small herds of goats, sheep, and cows.

While mining activity was not entirely confined to the immediate area around what is now the ghost town of Terlinguia[75] and that of Study Butte[76], this region contained most of the more successful producers. The first mine of any size was the Marfa-Mariposa[77] west of Terlinguia at the foot of California Hill.[78] The only producing quicksilver mine east of the Terlinguia area was the Mariscal mine.[79] Most of the producing mines closed down from time to time for lack of fuel or water[80] and before a half century had elapsed operations had ceased in all of them.[81]

Farming in the entire lower Big Bend area has always been confined to the River and creek bottoms. For many years only Mexicans farmed this region.[82] The first Anglo farmers located around Presidio.[83] Later, Anglo farmers moved into the Boquillas and Lajitas areas. The land around Castolon, farmed for years by Mexicans, was owned by a number of Anglos, but so far as can be ascertained, none farmed for themselves prior to the second decade of the twentieth century.[84]

Ranger activity, like that of other law enforcement agencies, was largely confined to the more populous areas during the early years. There were constant requests for more law enforcement as the years passed[85] but the ever present shortage of funds kept both state law enfprcers and county officials to a minimum. After 1900 Terlingua was "visited" by rangers from time to time,[86] and the precincts had a justice of the peace.[87] The sheriffs made trips when necessary.[88] Some of the law enforcement officers were popular,[89] but the small amount of pay received by the rangers and deputy sheriffs did not encourage too many of the "right sort" to enter the service. Evidence of early rangers and sheriffs being "too quick on the trigger" can be found in the newspapers and in the number of

in killing not only persons under suspicion or arrest, but innocent bystanders.[90] After the removal of troops from along the river in 1923-25, the number and quality of lawmen increased.[91] Permanent ranger stations were occupied[92] and regular patrolling of the river took place.[93] Bootlegging activities, a supplementary source of income for many people, took up much of the time of the lawmen.[94] Smuggling and stealing as well of "Cinco de Mayo" scares[95] kept rangers, border patrolmen, and members of the county law enforcement units busy.[96] Repeal of prohibition in 1933 lessened the problem to a great extent, but never erased completely the need for the presence of some sort of law along the Rio Grande.[97]

The Big Bend Region came under the Eighth Army Command, with headquarters at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, at a yet undetermined date.[98] The small outposts along the Rio Grande from Candalaria[99] to La Noria[100] fell under the immediate jurisdiction of Camp Marfa.[101] Little military activity occurred prior to the Madero uprising in Mexico in 1911.[102] After that date, the army patrolled farily often and permanent camps were established at a number of locations.[103]

Each topic touched upon in the past few pages could be expanded into a multi-volume work. As noted, the mining activities in the Big Bend have been covered fairly adequately in several published and unpublished books and articles. Ranching activity, somehow more glamorous, has been touched on by several writers, but their accuracy is often questionable. One or two theses written at Sul Ross College do contain a good bit of accurate information. Farming activity, often classified with ranching, has received less attention. This topic, due to the lack of information available as well as the fact that so many of the small farmers were Mexicans, and therefore scarcely

remembered unless they were well known or left their names as place markers![104] Ranger activity in the state of Texas has received attention not only from historian Walter Prescott Webb,[105] but from several individual rangers. However, available books by the latter indicate their interest lay in South and East Texas.[106] Material on the military activity in the Big Bend, except for the well known Glenn Springs raid[107] is almost non-existant, so far as has been ascertained. It is hoped that some obscure book will turn up that will cast some light on the situation. Records for Camp Marfa and the Eighth Army Command have yet to be located. As destruction of papers at small posts is not unknown[108] all that can be hoped for is that copies of important reports and other pertinent material found their way into safe repositories and are waiting to be used.

FOOTNOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY
PARTS I AND II

1. The more arid regions of New Mexico, Texas and Mexico are separated by the mountains forming the Continental Divide. Together they form the area plant ecologists call the Chihuahua Desert. The lower and central region of the Trans-Pecos, with the exception of a small north central portion, lie entirely within the Chihuahua Desert.

2. The present location of Presidionis downstream from the Junction of the Conchos and Rio Grande Rivers or La Junta de Los Rios. The Mexican side had Jumano settlements when Espejo passed in1582. The American side had a few missions from time to time, but actual settlement is recognized as being in 1849 with the coming of Burgess and Leaton.

3. Boquillas Canyon has also been called Deadhorse Canyon as well as El Carmel canyon. There are possibly several other local names.

4. D. B. Brand, " The Natural Landscape of Northwestern Chihuahua." University of New Mexico Bulletin No. 316; F. B. Plummer,"Cenozoic Systems in Texas," Part I, University of Texas Bulletin 3232; and G. B. Richardson, "Description of the El Paso District," U. S. Geological Survey Geological Atlas, No. 166, (Washington, D. C., 1909).

5. Charles Laurence Baker, "Structural Geology of Texas," Part 2, University of Texas Bulletin No. 3401, January, 1934, p. 136. One noticeable feature of the southern extension of the Rocky Mountain Range is the isolated mountain groups it forms rather than the more continual chain of Colorado.

6. Robert T. Hill, The Present Condition of Knowledge of the Geology of Texas, (Washington, 1887), pps. 1-95 gives a brief summary of the types of fossils of the Trans-Pecos. There are a number of recent studies of particular areas available.

7. Names for many geological locations were given by B. T. Dumble and Robert T. Hill as well as members of the boundary survey of 1854. Some of the names used by early Spanish explorers were retained by the geologists.

8. Within a period of thirty years or less an arroyo can change from a small stream bed with fertile land extending back for half a mile to a boulder strewn, barren drainage system of a half a dozen stream beds cutting across the entire valley, leaving no tillable land in their paths.

9. The shade of a rock or an overhanging ledge along the Rio Grande can produce an entirley different colony of plant life and small animals or insects.

10. It was because of the heat along the river banks that so many of the early settlers built on the ridges. J. O. Langford at Hot Spring and Don Martin Solis at Solis are examples.

11. There are a number of survey bulletins covering specific areas of the Trans-Pecos. Robert S. Reading's Arrows Over Texas (San Antonio, Naylor Co., 1950), gives a fair summary of both the early and late Indians in the region. The Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society Bulletins contain several good articles on the Trans-Pecos. An interesting study made in 1935 attempted to define the cultures of Texas and determine their relation to the Hohokam of Southern Arizona. See Edwin Booth Sayles, An Archeological Survey of Texas, (Privately printed for the Medallion-Gila Pueblo: Globe, Arizona, 1935).

12. Frederick Webb Hodge's Handbook of North American Indians, (Washington: Gov't Printing Office, 1912) 2 volumes, is still a standard work. Alfred L. Kroeber, Native Cultures of the Southwest, (Berkeley: University of California, 1928) is a good reference. Rupert N. Richardson, The Commanche Barrier to South Plains Settlement, (Glendale: A. H. Clarke and Co., 1933) is also good. There are recent studies under way, but as yet unavailable to the writer.

13. A recent trend in the writing of books and articles is the cooperation by various branches of science and historians to produce better coverage of the subject.

14. Jumano is a generic name applied to several tribes in Texas and northern Mexico. For the most part they lived in the Staked Plains of Texas, but there were several rancherias in the Conchos River and Rio Grande River area. They have been mistakenly connected with the Apaches because of their warlike attitudes at a later date, but they are of a different stock. Herbert E. Bolton, "The Jumanos in Texas, 1650-1771," The Texas Historical Association Quarterly, XV, pp. 66-84.

15. There is no book available which covers all of the trails. However, the New Mexico Historical Review and the Southwestern Historical Quarterly contain several articles on individual explorations and studies of the early Spanish documents relating to the subject.

16. Charles J. Kelley, "The Historic Indian Pueblos of La Junta de los Rios," New Mexico Historical Review, XXXVII, 1952, 257-295, XXXVIII, 21-51. Kelley gives much information on the early Indians and Spanish activity in the Presidio area. Norman H. Whalen, "The Trans-Pecos Country of West Texas during the Spanish Period, 1535-1775," unpublished seminar paper by Father Whalen now of Benson, Arizona, contains much unpublished information on the missions near present Presidio. Father Whalen is also interested in the old presidios such as the one at San Vicente, and as he has access to archives in Mexico, is able to produce much information as yet unpublished. Other information can be obtained in the works of Bancroft and Bolton as well as the boundary survey reports.

17. Lajitas is near the site of the old Comanche crossing to San Carlos. H. W. McGuirk was the first Anglo to settle there. By 1903, an inspector of customs was usually stationed at the crossing. A post office was established in 1917.

18. The Mariscal Canyon has been called San Vicente Canyon. The Vado Fleche to the west of Mariscal Mountain was also the site of an Indian crossing.

19. There were actually three trails, one crossing at Lajitas, one near the old Det Walker or Tally ranch, and one near present Boquillas.

20. Pressure by French and English explorers, traders, and trappers has been considered one reason for the Comanche turning his interest toward the south. Among the numerous works can be found Leroy R. Hafen and Carl Coke Rister's Western America (New York: Prentice Hall; 1941); Green Peyton's America's Heartland: The Southwest (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1948); and Frederick Webb Hodge's article "French Intrusion toward New Mexico in 1695," New Mexico Historical Review, IV, 1929, pp. 72-76.

21. The Comanche raided as far south as the state of Durango. The village of San Carlos "cooperated with" the Indians and was seldom molested. An interview with Seferina Alvarado in 1960 indicated that the village was also the site of much gambling between the Indians and Mexicans. She recalled the story of two Mexican ladies entertaining the Indians by playing cards with them as late as the 1870's. The women made their living in this manner. Many villages in the Bolson Mapimi were completely destroyed by the Indians. Others were tolerated if they gave contributions of some sort to the Indians.

22. Julia Kathryn Garrett, Green Flag Over Texas: A Story of the Last Years of Spain in Texas, (New York: The Cordova Press, Inc., 1939). Chapter I gives a brief summary of this era. For more complete coverage see Alfred Barnaby Thomas, Forgotten Frontiers: A Study of the Spanish Indian Policy of Don Juan Bautista de Anza, Governor of New Mexico, 1777-1787, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press,1932); Cleve Hallenbeck, Land of the Conquistadores, (Caldwell: the Caxton Printers, Ltd, 1950); and Herbert E. Bolton, Texas in the Middle Eighteenth Century, (New York: Russell and Russell, 1962) first printed in 1915.

23. Translations of two of the personages involved gives a good deal of material. Carlos Casteneda (trans. and ed.) History of Texas 1673-1779, (Albuquerque: The Quivira Society, 1935), 2 parts. and Elizabeth Howard West translated Antonio Bonilla's Brief Compendium in the Texas State Historical Association Quarterly, VIII, pp. 9-72. Works by Bolton and Bancroft also give much information.

24. Small forts were situated along the Rio Grande from which the soldiers obtained provisions, but kept moving. One of the plans was to make friends with either the Apache or the Comanche, then encircle the other tribe, gradually closing in until they were either killed or surrendered. This worked occasionally, but not as often as hoped.

25. Totsy Nelle Hitchcock, " Representative Families of the Big Bend Park Area, 1895-1925;" unpublished Master's thesis, Sul Ross College. Since this was written (1960) there have been a number of translations with additional data given, but the material is not changed, only expanded.

26. Father Hidalgo, leader of the peons, was killed soon after the beginning of the revolt, but other men took his place. The caste system was based on the amount of Spanish, Indian or Negro blood a person had in his veins. There was conflict also between the Spaniards born in Spain and those born in New Spain or Mexico.

27. Jane M. Berry, "The Indian Policy of Spain in the Southwest, 1783-1795," Mississippi Valley Historical Review, III, 1916-1917, pp. 462-477.

28. The situation was not remedied after 1821. Mexico was not only poor, but constantly in a state of uprising and rebellion. The soldiers were poorly paid. The living conditions at the forts did not encourage moral.

29. One of the largest tracts of land to be claimed was that granted to Jose Ignacio Ronquillo by Cesario Herrera, Alcalde of Presidio del Norte (Ojinaga) in 1832 and confirmed by the Congress of Chihuahua in1834. This land grant included most of present Presidio County.

30. Texas had sent the abortive Santa Fe Expedition in order to establish her claim to the Rio Grande in New Mexico. Maps of the region during the Spanish-Mexican period indicate that the Big Bend did not come under the jurisdiction of Texas or Coahuila.

31. The people of Texas and New Mexico never got along. Only in the last two or three decades has there really been any cooperation between the two states to speak of. Most of the federal officials favored New Mexico in many instances as Texas was much too greedy in her claims and much to belligerant in her attempts to establish them.

32. A. B. Bender, "Opening Routes Across West Texas, 1848-1850," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXXVIII, 1933-34, pp. 116-135, gives an indication of how much interest was taken in Texas of finding easier routes across the Trans-Pecos area. Gammel's Laws of Texas, III, covers this period.

33. The Corpus Christi Star kept constant commentaries on the possibilities of new routes across to El Paso in their editorial section for a number of years.

34. Much of the enthusiasm stemmed from the success of such personages as Dr. Henry Conelly, a merchant in Chihuahua. Lynn I. Perrigo, Our Spanish Southwest, (Dallas: Banks, Upshaw and Co., 1960) gives a short summary of some of the trade between Chihuahua and El Paso-Santa Fe.

35. In addition to A. B. Bender's article, a second good reference is John Salmon Ford's Rip Ford's Texas, (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1963).

36. The Comanche Trail crossing on the Pecos River was named Horsehead because of the large number of skeletons of horses lying on both sides of the river. The crossing, being on the main trail to and from Chihuahua, was a favorite camping place. Indians, returning from raids in Mexico, would drive stolen horses hard to reach the water. The loose animals, coming sixty miles from the last water, often drank until they sickened and died.

37. As late as August 7, 1858, a letter to the editor of the Dallas Herald written by William Curless asks the editor to warn other supply or immigrant trains of the dangers of the trip from the North Concho to the Pecos and from there to El Paso adding that "only one train in a hundred can make the trip." This was nine years after the first wagon trains had crossed the region. Federal military expeditions had been sent across both the upper and lower routes, but had decided the lower route was best. Later, attempts were made to make the upper route more useful by drilling wells in the artesian water district, but this did not work. The newspapers in the east often spoke in glowing terms of the possibilities of finding an easy crossing with the result that many of the California bound emigrants landed at Corpus Christi and other Texas ports ill-equipped to make the journey.

38. The upper and lower trails lay in a fairly straight line toward El Paso. There were several routes through Mexico from various ports to Chihuahua. Also, a few emigrants used the route from the Texas ports to Presidio del Norte and from there cut down into Mexico and back to El Paso del Norte. This was not only huger but much more dangerous.

39. The Corpus Christi Star at first encouraged the promotion of an expedition into this region, but later began to chide other newspapers for underestimating distances and for inaccurate maps.

40. New Mexicans for the most part remained blissfully unaware of Santa Fe County during this period. The only settlement of any size was at Presidio del Norte, excluding the El Paso area.

41. Many of the emigrants bound for California settled in the El Paso and Mesilla valleys. The army officers often took a hand in political affairs.

42. William Campbell Binkley, " The Question of Texas Jurisdiction in New Mexico under the United States, 1848-1850," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXIV, No. 1, July 1920. For an account of the troubles of Robert S. Neighbors in creating the counties see Kenneth F. Neighbors, "The Taylor-Neighbors Struggle over the Upper Rio Grande Region of Texas in 1850," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXI, 1958, 431-463. See also Rip Ford's Texas. Presidio county was not organized, but the county seat was considered to be Presidio. E. L. Batts, "Defunct Counties of Texas," Texas Historical Association Quarterly, I.

43. This was the second trip across the Trans-Pecos for Neighbors. In February, 1849, Major Robert S. Neighbors and Dr. John S. Ford in obedience to orders from Col. Wm. J. Worth had organized a party to find a practicable wagon route from Austin, Texas, to El Paso. The second trip saw him acting in a civilian capacity for the state of Texas.

44. Presidio county was created in 1849, but remained unorganized for years. The Texas Almanac, (Galveston: W. Richardson and Co., Dec. 20, 1866) gives the following description of the county:" This county is unorganized, but for judicial purposes is attached to El Paso County. It contains no population whatever, except a very small settlement opposite Presidio del Norte in Mexico. . . . The Comanches and Apaches have undisputed control of all this region. Trains and trading parties occasionally succeed in fighting or stealing a passage through."

45. Judge Spruce M. Baird had been sent by the Texas Legislature to organize the Eleventh Judicial District of Texas in 1848 with offices in Santa Fe. He accomplished nothing. Later he was accused of furthering personal interests rather than attending to business. Evidence seems to indicate that he was intimidated by the military government and was unable to cope with the officers in New Mexico. Senate Executive Document 56, 31st Congress, 1st Session Ser. No. 561 is a letter from the President to the Senate which shows that Taylor had only contempt for Texas plans. The Congressional Globe 31st Congress, 1st Session, 244-245 indicate that in order to stave off a civil war all references to Texas and New Mexico in relation to slavery was stricken from the Compromise of 1850. The boundary lines suggested by James A. Pearce of Maryland were used in forming the present boundary. Several congressmen expressed their fears of trouble and felt that Texas was right to defend her claims. Thomas Hart Benton was opposed to giving Texas anything. If his suggestion had been carried out, the Big Bend would either belong to New Mexico or half to New Mexico and half to Texas.

46. Executive Document 135, 34th Congress, 1st Session, Vol I, p. 50, mentions Presidio and Fort Leaton. The party encountered "Manos" and his party on their way to Mexico.

47. Ibid, p. 56. "Below this /canyon/ the country presents from a birds eye view an extended basin, set off by the rugged volcanic mountains of the Chisos... distance gives a softening characteristic of fertility not by any means borne out on a nearer inspection." P. 57. "Rumors among the Mexicans living near here of the attempted passage of this canyon by some individuals ... No authentic record of /success/". P. 58

the party, in order to reach the lower basin beyond the "San Carlos" canyon, the party made an extensive detour up the San Carlos Creek about ten miles to the old presidio of San Carlos, then over the mountain and by a series of steep descents passed into the lower basin at a slow pace until they once more reached the Rio Grande about twenty miles below the mouth of the canyon. The bottom land there (near the Mariscal Canyon) was limited and generally barren. There were Indian fords and broad trails. They crossed once more to the Texas side and went around the spur of what is now called Mariscal Mountain.

48. There is no explanation why the Mexican side was chosen but possibly because the party wished to see San Carlos they chose the longer, rougher route.

49. Lt. Echols was a member of the Topographical Engineers. He had been with the first camel expedition which had gone to the east of the Chisos, but was not in command at that time. Reports of the trip can be found in Congressional documents. Personal copies were made and sent the writer by Dr. Ross Maxwell along with commentaries by E. E. Townsend.

50. Echols describes much of the country between Presidio and the Castalon area, indicating that the river formed too many canyons and cut through too many mountains for a suitable site.

51. Echols seems unaware that the boundary party called the canyon the "San Carlos."

52. His description would fit any one of the gravelly ridges, but the majority of them are not as close to the river as the one where an army post was later established.

53. There is no indication of what sort of timber was available.

54. A valley in which to raise feed for horses and mules was needed. Echols states that he found the place some four miles below the mouth of the canyon.

55. The army needed a river outpost in 1919 and leased 4 acres of land from Mr. Wayne Cartledge on a 99 year lease at this spot.

56. There are a number of good references on this phase of Southwestern history. Robert M. Utley had done a great amount of research on the subject. See also Albert H. Schroeder, "

A Study of the Apache Indians," (Santa Fe, 1960) a mimeographed study found in the J. A. Carroll files; A. B. Bender "Military Posts in the Southwest, 1848-1860," New Mexico Historical Review, XVI, 1941; James Farber, Texas C. B. A. A Spotlight on Disaster, (San Antonio: Naylor Co., 1947).

57. There are several master's theses on the Trans-Pecos most rather poor in quality. However, John Ernest Gregg's "The History of Presidio County," University of Texas , 1933, (published without footnotes in the Voice of the Mexican Border, Centennial Edition, 1936) is very good. Since that time (1933) additional research and more accessable material have added more information.

58. James L. Rock and W. I. Smith, Southern and Western Texas Guide for 1878, (St. Louis: A. H. Granger, 1878) p. 30 describes Ft. Davis as charming and healthy with 19 one-story buildings and officers quarters located 1,146 miles from St. Louis. Descriptions by cowboys attempting to drive cattle to the region around present Pecos, Texas, from Buffalo Gap, Texas, are filled with tales of hardship and trouble expected with the Indians. Popular versions of the region can be fo nd in the works of Virginia Madison and Carlysle G. Raht.

59. There are more romantic versions than historical versions of the Indians "last stand" in the Big Bend. See Utley and Schroeder for accurate information.

60. Just as the coming of the heliograph tamed the Apache in Arizona, the coming of the railroad was the beginning of the end for the Indian in the Trans-Pecos. By the 1880's there were a number of ranches in the region and most were able to hire or keep enough men to fight off the Indians.

61. Presidio, Brewster, Jeff Davis, Buchel, and Foley.

62. Foley county included much of the present Big Bend Park. Both Buchel and Foley records were kept separate for a number of years at the Brewster county seat of Alpine.

63. R. L. Batts, "Defunct Counties of Texas," Texas Historical Association Quarterly, I, p. 91. See also Gammel's Laws of Texas, III.

64. There are a great number of bulletins on the quicksilver mines of the Terlingua Region. Most of them contain some historical background. A thesis by Kathryn B. Walker, 1960, Sul Ross College, concerns itself with the Marfa-Mariposa and the Chisos Mine for the most part. It is very good.

CASTOLON HISTORIC COMPOUND - 600-601-602-603-604-605-606

Due to conflicting evidence the above numbered buildings will be treated as a group although they were not all built at the same time. A background of land ownership, not completely verified by records, will be given first followed by information obtained from Mr. Wayne Cartledge, Mr. R. W. Derrick, Mr. Harris Smith, Mr. W. D. Smithers, Mr. and Mrs. Lige Bledsoe, Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Burcham, and Mr. Macario Hinojos as well as various documentary records in personal files and in Alpine, Texas. The record of ownership is closely tied to the irrigated land in the river bottom as well as the old store and other buildings at the foot of the hill on the west side, but for purposes of convenience to the reader the buildings on the mesa will be placed in a separate category.

In a quick summary of land ownership Mr. Wayne Cartledge stated that to the best of his knowledge Cipriano Hernandez was the first owner of Surveys 12, 13, and 14. (It is possible that Hernandez leased the land and sold the lease. This was common along the Rio Grande.) He went on to say that he bought from Buttrill and Sublett, but after being asked if he knew Carroll Bates or Will C. Jones, he retracted his first statement and said he bought from Bates, but

that Carroll Bates had owned it only a short time. Mr. Cartledge bought the property in 1918, but did not move there until 1920 or 1921. He had owned it for a year and a half or two years before he moved from Terlingua to Santa Helena. He was in partnership with Mr. Howard Perry of the Chisos Mining Company at that time. During the months previous to his move, he had a man by the name of Payne running the "old" store located in the flat to the west of the mesa. Mr. Cartledge sold to the Park in 1957.

Records available in the records of La Harmonia now stored at Big Bend Headquarters give some material on the buildings included in this report. Because the buildings were described as what would be suitable for salvage rather than further use, identification is made from the amount of material as well as the description given by the Quartermaster Supply Officer. It should be noted here that special arrangements could be made with the government not to raze the buildings and few buildings built along the border were razed.

A supplemental agreement dated May 18, 1925, and signed by L. H. Palmer, Captain, Q. M. Corps, Assistant, Eighth Corps General Area Depot, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, gives the following information.

Whereas, by a certain lease dated the 30th

> day of June, 1919, and renewed for the fiscal years 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925, the Lessor leased to the Lessee certain premises described in said lease as follows:
> "Aplot of ground located in Block 16, Section 13, near town of Santa Helena, Texas, of approximately 4 acres."

In the same material is a description of the Buildings located on the four acres. The officers quarters (603-604), the building later to become the store (600), the lavatory (602), and the recreation building (described as adobe construction containing 1 water heater, incomplete) (601) are easily identified. In addition to these, stables, a grain shed, and a building described as Building #6, Barracks and Mess, to be sold "AS IS" are included. The "grain shed" and the barracks and mess identified as #6 are the two features which are now questionable. Mr. Wayne Cartledge states that he built the Magdelena house (605) for the rangers. He does not remember the date. The inclosed picture taken by Mr. Smithers indicates that the Magdelena house and the Garlic house were both standing in 1922. However, Mr. Smithers has the date incorrect it is believed. The picture was taken after Mr. Cartledge once more had the property in his possession and possibly should be dated 1925. Since Company "C" of the Texas Rangers wasein the Big Bend prior to 1918, it is possible that the Magdelena

house was built by Mr. Cartledge for the rangers prior to 1919.

The Garlic house (606) is even more questionable. Personal interview with Mr. Harris Smith, June 5, 1965, gives the information that the house was built on a slab of concrete that previously served as the floor of a tent building for the Army. He stated that the Slab has the name of the company and the state that it was from on the west side. It was a national guard unit from an "eastern state." Mr. R. W. Derrick writes that Mr. Garlic repaired the house while he lived there after 1925, but that the house was built while the soldiers were there and was called the cook house or mess hall.

The property was purchased by Mr. Cartledge and Mr. Perry for $1,280.00. The tower and tank shown in the picture as well as several thousand feet of unused lumber was included in the purchase. Mr. Smithers stated that the buildings were contracted by the army, but did not know who built them. It is hoped that more information can be obtained at a later date on the buildings.

CASTOLON OLD STORE COMPOUND BBH 616,17,18

The old store and buildings 616 and 617 were the "original" buildings for commercial use at Castelon - then called Santa Helena. It is not known if Cipriano Hernandez or Clyde Buttrill built them. The tin roof on the store, according to Mr. Wayne Cartledge, had to be put on about the same time as the big barn at the cotton gin was built. The Alpine Avalanche reports Clyde Buttrill living at Nine Points ranch in 1900, and material on the Alvino house indicates that Cipriano Hernandez lived at Santa Helena by 1901. Clyde Buttrill came to Brewster County in 1884 (Alpine Avalanche, December 11, 1931) and lived near Nine Points until July of 1901 when he sold to Jackson and Harmon. It is not known just when he purchased the property at Castolon. The area was known as Buttrill's place and Jim Sublett worked for him according to various news notices in the paper (Alpine Avalanche) in 1916.

Mr. R. W. Derrick writes that Jim Sublett lived between the canyon and Coyote " a long time before he worked for Clide (sic) Buttrill." He goes on to say that after Mr. Cartledge and Mr. Perry bought the Buttrill place, Sublett moved back on his place and Perry and Cartledge put a man "named pain (sic) on the Buttrill place. Mr. Derrick was in charge of the store after 1920.

Mr. Wayne Cartledge states that there was a cafe at the old store compound, but just where one could be served a meal at a table if he were hungary, not a "regular" restaurant. The store-keeper lived in the house -but when and how long is not known.

Mr. Cartledge and Mr. Derrick both indicate that business was good at the old store from 1916 forward, especially during the time of the border troubles. The Alpine Avalanche notes raids on the store in May 1917 and November of 1916. These, however, are not mentioned in the Senate Investigation Reports of 1920, so are to be assumed as "not important."

Additional information on the old store is possibly to be found in the documents andpapers at Big Bend Headquarters.

SUBLETT AND DORGAN AREA - BBH 12, 13, 14, 15, 139

Information available at this time indicates that the above structures are better considered as a unit for early history. There are a number of recorded instruments, but little information is absolutely correct in personal interviews and correspondance. There are members of the Sublett family living at Alpine, but attempts to contact them personally or by letter have failed. The buildings and farming areas are located on Surveys 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Block 16. Instruments were not filed in sequence for several transactions, but an attempt will be made to keep dates in order by references made in personal interviews. It might be noted here that several references to "bad feeling" between Sublett and Dorgan were made in personal interviews, indicating some reason for reluctance on the part of individuals to give information. Not all instruments can be found as yet showing direct line of ownership, but are possibly in the abstracts at Santa Fe.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 29, pp. 619-620, 620-621, 635-635: Three deeds filed the same day - June 2, 1913. Cruz Rey and wife, Aurelia Gongales do Rey, sold Surveys 6 and 7 to J. H. Derrick and John A. Hardy. Survey 6 had been awarded Cruz Rey in December, 1908,

Survey 7 had been awarded Cruz Rey in March, 1912. Both valued at $2.00 an acre by the General Land Office. Rey received $400.00 for Survey 6 and $10.00 and other considerations for Survey 7. His payments to the land office were current. There was a lein to J. F. Rogers for $781.15 at 8% interest. The same day as the above mentioned instruments were filed, J. H. Derrick filed a deed in which he sold John A. Hardy all of Survey 6 and 7 for $220.18 cash, promissory notes of $79.80 and $100.65 due in September of 1913 and 1915, assumption of State debt and assumption of the debt to J. F. Rogers.

The next two instruments are confusing as there are no indications made of what other transactions were involved in order for land ownership to change so rapidly. It might be noted here that no one remembers John A. Hardy but Mr. R. W. Derrick writes that J. H. Derrick was the cashier at the First National Bank at Alpine. Mr. J. F. Rogers was also inthe bank at that time (1913).

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 31, pp. 8-10. A deed of trust, also dated June 2, 1913, from J. H. Derrick to G. W. Baines, Jr., trustee for J. F. Rogers. The deed covered (for $10.00) an undivided one-half interest in Surveys 6 and 7 " for the better security for J. F. Rogers" on his note.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 30, pp. 368-69:

a quit claim deed with vendor's lein to Surveys 6 and 7 of Block 16 from John Hardy to R. A. Wade. The total amount was for $7,800.00 with a down payment of $2,400.00 and five promissory notes of $1,080.00 due each January 1st. The instrument was filed November 25, 1913.

Thus, four transactions took place in 1913 with an ever increasing price for the land. It is not known just what building or equipment increased its worth, but further research, it is hoped, will indicate something. No one recalls R. W. Wade living on the land. The following two instruments indicate that R. W. Wade also acquired Survey 5 sometime between 1913 and 1918, or possibly prior to 1913. Mr. R. W. Derrick recalls that Jim Sublett lived on the land before he worked for Clyde Buttrill. It is possible that he leased the land from R. W. Wade or worked for him.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 37, Pp. 615-616: a special warrenty deed from R. W. Wade to J. C. Brooke of El Paso, Texas all of Surveys 5, 6, and 7 of Block 16. The instrument was made October 1, 1918, and recorded October 7, 1918. The price was $50.00 and other considerations.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 37, Pp. 616-617: a special warrenty deed from J. C. Brooke to J. L. Sublett for Surveys 5, 6, and 7 of Block 16. The consideration and dates are the same for this deed

as on the previous instrument.

It can only be speculated that J. C. Brooke either bought the land for an investment for J. L. Sublett. It is noted in the deed records that the same day Sublett sold lots in Alpine to J. C. Brooke. As stated elsewhere, Mr. Cartledge states that the old store area belonged to Clyde Buttrill. He leased to Jim Sublett. Mr. Cartledge indicated that Mr. Sublett had a man, somehow related to him, by the name of Spann running that store. It is believed that Spann was a son-in-law. When Sublett moved - the first or second time - to the land between the canyon and Coyote, he built the store at the foot of the hill. Mr. Cartledge states that Sublett did not run the store very long himself, but had let his daughter, Eunice Sublett Spann, run it. He thought this was in 1919. He also indacated that Mr. Skaggs, a long time resident at Lajitas, was in partnership with Mrs. Spann. They did not keep it open for over a year as well as he remembers. Just when the store reopened or who ran it is not known at this time.

Sometime in the 1920's Albert Dorgan and his wife, Avis Ann, moved to the Castolon area. The interviews again indicate a family relationship, but again no one is sure. Most indicate that Avis Ann

was Jim Sublett's daughter. No one remembers the exact date of their moving to the lower Big Bend. Everyone recalls Mrs. Dorgan's illness which will be mentioned later. Almost everyone also indicates "bad feeling" between the Subletts and Dorgans, but do not wish to be quoted. The following instruments bear them out in this instance.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 91, Pp. 198@201: a deed settling Suit No. 1710 on the Civil Docket. J. L. and Malissie Bell Dorgan plaintiffs and Albert and Avis Ann Dorgan defendants. Title and possession of land to be divested out of defendants and vested in plaintiffs was all of Survey 4, 5, and 30.92 acres of Survey 6. Title and possession of lands to be divested out of plaintiffs and vested in defendants was Survey 7 and Survey 16, Block 16. The Subletts were to get all attachments of 85 horsepower engine and 2 - 1,000 gallon pumps. Also all buildings and machinery on their part of the land. The Dorgans were to get 2 - 2,000 gallon pumps, feed mill, windmill, and all buildings on their part. This was in 1927.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 91, Pp. 201-204: a deed from Albert W. Dorgan to Avis Ann Dorgan for Surveys 6 and 7. They were living separate and apart at

this time (September, 1927). Avis Ann Dorgan received the Brewster County property and Albert Dorgan took the Oakland County, Michigan, property. Avis Ann Dorgan assumed a mortgage in favor of E. B. O'Quinn.

Mr. R. W. Derrick writes that he remembers Albert Dorgan and Mrs. Dorgan living on the "Sublett place" before there "was a park there." He writes:

> ... I do not remember the exact date. But that was in the thirties. Mrs. Dorgan was in bad health and Dorgan put her in a hospital and Dorgan and Sublett both moved away as soon as they could sell their land. And Mrs. Dorgan was well enough to drive one of the trucks -- to Florida, and she lived 2 or 3 years and died.

Mr. Harris Smith, interviewed June 5, 1965, said that after the "trouble" with the Dorgans, Sublett moved from the house on the hill to the Rock house that he had built himself. (From BBH-12 to BBH-15) He lived there the last years. The big troughs were vegetables washers, but were only used about one year. Mr. Smith added that Mr. Sublett was an architect. Just which houses he built other than the rock house is not known. The adobe shed, according to Mr. Lige Bledsoe, again saw service as a store, but who ran it, or what was stocked in it is not known. He, Mr. Bledsoe, thought it did not close until the Subletts sold to the park. An interview or two produced the information that Mrs.

Dorgan had lost her mind after she and Mr. Dorgan separated and had managed once to cross the river while it was up, find a mule and ride to San Carlos before she was picked up and returned to the United States. Another interview included the information that Mrs. Jim Sublett also lost her mind before she died, and that this was one of the reasons Mr. Sublett built the rock house and moved to it - to get away from old memories. As can be seen, all of this is hearsay, backed by a few legal documents which indicate something of this nature. the next deed gives some veracity to the matter.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 94, Pp. 96-97: a deed from Avis Ann Dorgan to Albert W. Dorgan for an undivided one-half of Survey 7 and 622 acres of Survey 6. Mrs. Dorgan had had her disabilities of coverture removed. Deed dated March 5,1940, and filed the next day.

Abstract notes from the Trans Pecos Abstract Company indicate that Albert and Avis Ann Dorgan sold Survey 7 and their part (622 acres) of Survey 6 to the State of Texas in 1942.

Deed records indicate that J. L. Sublett and his wife gave a warrenty deed to Surveys 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Block 16 to Watson - Anderson Grocery Company in April, 1936. Exception being the 200 acres homestead out of 5 and 6 on which the principal buildings were

located. The note was paid off, and J. L. Sublett Sold all of Surveys 4, 5, and 30.92 acres of Survey 6, Block 16 to the State of Texas for $6,715.00 in May, 1942. Just how he had been able to mortgage Survey 7 in 1936 is not known.

The building BBH-13 is still a question, but it is felt that Mexican farmhands must have lived in it. As stated before; personal contacts with living relatives has yet to be accomplished. However, it is hoped that possibly someone or something will encourage them to talk or write about the Sublett farm.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834

IN REPLY REFER TO:

~~H30~~
H2623

April 14, 1966

RECEIVED
NPS SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
APR 18 1966

	Surname	Date
Regional Director		
Operations		
Administration		
Coop. Activities		
Development		
Resource Studies		
Files		

Attachment sent to Washington 5/4 WO

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region

From: Superintendent, Big Bend

Subject: Part I, Historic Structures Report for Castolon (Notes for only)

Enclosed is a copy of Mrs. Beatson's abstract on her historical report for the buildings in the Castolon area, as requested in your memorandum of April 8, and a copy of her letter to us.

We do not feel that this abstract contains sufficient material to serve as the basis for Part I of the Historic Structures Report. The history of some of the small adobe homes may never be known. Records were not kept. But there must surely be records on the army buildings somewhere in military files, perhaps at Fort Bliss or in National Archives.

We have not approached Dr. Casey yet regarding the preparation of the Historic Structures Report, as he will be in the park all next week with the Research Plan Study Team. During that time, we will have a good opportunity to explain our needs to him.

Perhaps Regional Historian Brown can best answer Mrs. Beatson's questions regarding format and contents of the final report.

Perry E. Brown

Perry E. Brown

Enclosures

H30 Bibe

1208 N. Plumer
Tucson, Arizona
85719

Superintendent Perry E. Brown
Big Bend National Park, Texas

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith three copies - unbound- of the first abstract of the material on Castolon. Due to the flu, typists and family have had a bad time getting this out. The three styles are to be regretted, but everyone worked on it in order to get it in some time near the deadline.

I am hoping to be able to go to Washington, D. C., in August for research in the archives. It is possible that additional information on army activities can be obtained there.

I would appreciate very much knowing in what form you prefer the final draft. Do you want more in the text and less footnotes? Do you wish more subtopics or chapters? Do you wish it in a folder? I would like to make it easy for you to use, but have no idea what form that would be.

Mr. Wm. Brown writes that you might approach Dr. Casey of Alpine for additional work. Any material I might have he is welcome to use if you are able to get him. He was one of the finest teachers I ever had. He knows the area well. I did my thesis on the Big Bend under his direction.

I might add that when you get ready for material on the Mariscal area, I would like to do that for you "for free." You see, that was my home. I do not have the land abstracts, but I have gathered many mining and geological reports as well as data on ownership over the years. I also have a good bit of material on the Solis ranch and family, La Noria, Terlingua, Boquillas, Hot Springs, and just about every other place in the Park <u>but</u> Castolon.

Any information you might give me on your requirements on the final paper would be appreciated as I really have no idea just what is desired other than information.

I enclose also two maps made by Mr. Smithers of Alpine. They are self explanatory - not completely correct - but fair.

Sincerely,

Totsy Nelle Beatson

The next two instruments are confusing as they indicate that Survey 10 was conveyed from M..T..Junker to Mrs. A. D. McElroy, but evidently was repossessed.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 70, pp. 527-28: affidavit made in Wichita County, Texas stating that Arlie D. Duell and T.M. Duell were married December 31, 1926, and the land should have been conveyed to A. D. Duell not A. D. McElroy. Instrument is dated April 26, 1930.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 72, p. 251: a warrenty deed from M. T. and Elizabeth Junker to H. L. Hord for $3,000.00-cash in hand of $2,311.50 and $688.50 indebtedness to the State of Texas to be assumed by H. L. Hord. Dated July 29,1930,and filed August 27, 1930.

Just who was in possession of the land in 1942 is not known. Mr. Cartledge and Mr. Derrick state that they do not recall that any of these individuals ever lived at Coyote. Mr. Wayne Cartledge recalls that Survey 10 has a shallow crossing with rocks at the edge of the river. The rocks served as a place to "dry off" after a wet crossing to Mexico.

SURVEY 11 - Block 16

With the exception of the Northwest quarter of this survey, it is unknown at this time as to who owned it in 1942.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 51, p. 165: a warrenty deed from Will C. Jones to Carroll Bates for $640.00 paid for Survey 11, Block 16, Containing 640 acres more or less, dated December 15, 1924, and filed January 7, 1925. (No mention of Jones patenting Survey 11 is made.)

Personal interview with Mr. Wayne Cartledge gave the information that Carroll Bates had been an early ranger captain in the Big Bend area. He thought he had been there during the Madero Revolution, but was not sure. He said that rangers lived in the house near the old store. Clyde Buttrill was appointed to the rangers while Bates was there. Trouble arose over some mules belonging to Jim Sublett resulting in the killing of a Mexican by Will Stillwell, a ranger. Clyde Buttrill "got uneasy" about the situation and wanted to leave the area. That is when Buttrill sold to Jones and Bates and Wayne Cartledge bought some of the land. The Annual Report of the Adjutant General of Texas for the Year Ending December 31, 1918, Jas. A. Harley, Adj.-Gen. (von Boeckmann- Jones Co., Printers: Austin, Texas, 1919) P. 44, indicates that Company "F" of the Texas Rangers under Captain Carroll Bates was moved and Company "C" under C. F. Starns came in at Marathon, Texas. The Alpine Avalanche of April 4 and 11, 1918, give information of the death of Will Stillwell who was killed as a result of this incident.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 67, p. 44: a deed from Carroll Bates of Tom Green County (a single man) to T. I. Morgan also of Tom Green County for the NW¼ of Survey 11 containing 153½ acres more or less. Dated April 17, 1929, and filed May 21, 1929.

Mr. Wayne Cartledge states that T. I. Morgan was a ranger and later became a deputy sheriff of Brewster County.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 67, pp. 44-45: Carroll Bates to P. B. Wilson of Tom Green County a deed for the S½ and NE¼ of Survey 11.

This is the last instrument located for the three-quarters of Survey 11. It is not mentioned in the land sale from Wayne Cartledge to the Park. No one recalls "right off" who P. B. Wilson was. If Mr. Cartledge did buy it, the instruments are filed "out of sequence" or the land is under some other description.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 68, pp. 10-11: T. I. and Georgia O. Morgan of Tom Green County to B. H. Hambrick of Tarrant County a warrenty deed for the NW¼ of Survey 11, Block 16. The price was $1,200.00 with one-forteith down payment. Instrument made July 16, 1929 and filed August 7, 1929.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 68, pp. 426-27: B. H. Hambrick et ux to Porter J. True of Tarrant County a warrenty deed for the NW¼ of Survey 11. The price was

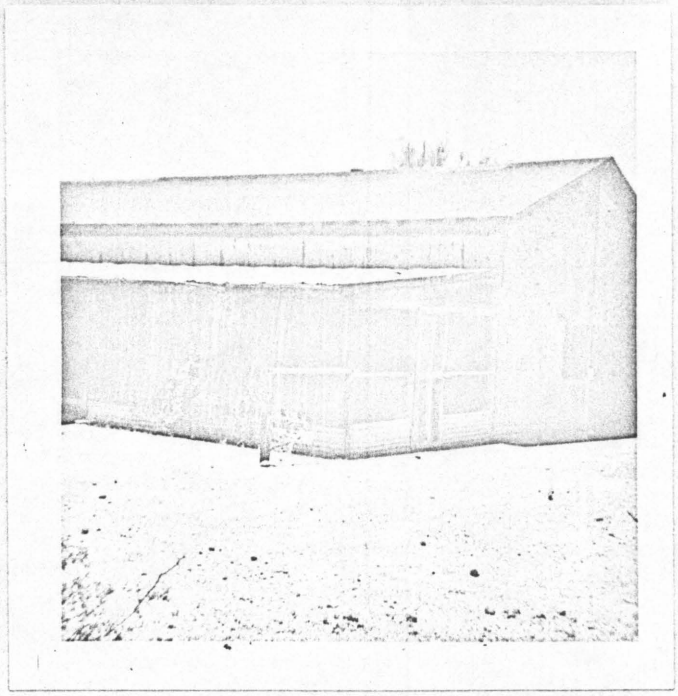
$1,500.00. Deed was dated September 17, 1929, and filed October 1, 1929.

This was evidently a speculative investment on the part of B. H. Hambrick. He is not recalled by anyone interviewed.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 99, pp. 328-29: Porter J. True to the State of Texas a warrenty deed for $229.57 for the NW¼ of Survey 11. Filed May 12, 1942.

Porter J. True is not recalled to memory byanyone interviewed. If the above prices are correct, True lost over twelve hundred dollars on his investment.

The above information on the Coyote Community is incomplete. Interviews by Mexicans at Santa Elena might clear up some of the problem. It might be noted at this time that the people along the river minded their own affairs and seldom inquired into the affairs of others. Information in interviews is skimpy and several are needed with the same individual to enable them to recall incidents and people.



BBH - 111 DERRICK HOUSE

Located on Survey 15, Block 16 GH & SA Ry - 630.50 acres. Patent Record, Brewster County, Vol. 7, p. 33: patented by Agapito Carrasco; paid December 19, 1913. Located 75 miles S 57°30' E of Alpine.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 50, p. 287: special warrenty deed from Agapito Carrasco and wife, Petra Urquide de Carrasco for $2,500.00 (paid) deeded to R. W. Derrick. Notary Public was W. R. Cartledge. Petra Carrasco signed with an X. The deed was made on January 25, 1924, and filed on January 29, 1924.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 99,pp. 571-72: Warrenty deed from R. W. and Alice E. Derrick to the State of Texas for $4,476.55. Use of land for grazing and farming reserved to December 31, 1944. Filed June 16, 1942.

Ownership of Survey 15 from the time Agapito Carrasco patented it in 1913 to the present is easy to trace. Just where Carrasco lived is unknown. Personal correspondance from Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Derrick, Box 672, Cleveland, Texas, indicates that the house was built in 1926. Mr. Derrick writes:

> In the year 1920 I moved from the mine at Terlingua to what was then called Santahelena District from the canyon to a Mountain in Mexico called Searo (sic) Chino. We were 4 years growing wheat, corn and beans. Then start(ed) growing cotton. Then I bought from Agapito Section 15 in Block 16 in 1924- and in 1926 I was appointed postmaster there. We named the office Castolon same as the mountain or pick (sic) nearby. Then the whole District on this side of the River was called Castolon, Tex. - and I built the Derrick house and Lived in it a short time.

Mr. Derrick, now 78 years old, did not indicate in what house he lived after he moved from the Derrick house. He continues:

> I worked for Mr. Cartledge about 25 years as Farm Manager, Clerk and Manager in the store and Postmaster. When Mr. Cartledge (was) away I worked in supervising capasity (sic) on (any) thing that might come to hand.

Mrs. Derrick writes that she lived at Castolon for twenty-three years " and the best years of my life."

In a personal interview with Mr. Wayne Cartledge on June 9, 1965, he indicated that Agapito Carrasco went to Ojinaga, Chihuahua, after selling to R. W. Derrick.

BBH * 607 ALVINO HOUSE

As far as can be acertained at this time, Cipriano Hernandez (or Hernandes) built this house around 1900. This would make it one of the oldest in the Castolon area. Endeavors to trace ownership through records at Alpine were unrewarding. Mr. Wayne Cartledge, interviewed on June 9, 1965, stated that he was fairly sure that Mr. Clyde Buttrill bought Survey 15 from Cipriano Hernandez. He added that Mr. Jim P. Wilson, a well-known ranchman of Brewster County, may have financed Cipriano Hernandez. This could well be as it was not uncommon for an Anglo-American to aid a Mexican friend financially. Crecencio Sanchez of San Vicente, Coahuala, indicated once that he thought Francis Rooney helped to finance Don Martin Solis.

Information indicating that Cipriano Hernandez did

live at or near this place is easier to find in writing. Spirit Leveling in Texas: 1896-1915 Inclusive. Marshall, Chief Engineer. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1916. Pp 110-111: indicates that M. S. Bright surveyed the Terlingua Quadrangle in 1901-02. One benchmark reads: " Cipriano Hernandes Ranch- 10 feet north of forks of road, 300 yards north of ranch house in embedded boulder." Indications are that probably an aluminum tablet with 2124 was put there. Dr. Ross Maxwell, interviewed in May of 1963, stated that he had never found this marker but had had much success in finding others.

Tax records in personal files indicate that Cipriano Hernandes had a small store, but no indication of where it was is included. The Register of Leases: Public Lands, Brewster County, Vol. 1, p. 47 indicates that Cipriano Hernandez had leased Survey 17 sometime prior to 1902 as his lease was cancelled then. Page 61 indicates that in 1902 he leased Surveys 26 and 28 of Block 16 for two years.

Death Record: Brewster County, Vol. 3, p. 39 indicates that Cipriano Hernandez was working in the mines and was killed in an accident May 10, 1915.

Patent Record, Brewster County, Vol. 7, p. 35: Sipriano /sic/ Hernandez paid the General Land Office of Texas for patent of Survey 312, Block G-4, located 81 miles S 4½° E from Alpine, February 17, 1915. It is noted that Mr. Wayne Cartledge did not own such a survey when he sold to the Park, but he did own a Survey 321 in Block G-4. This could be an error in transposition.

In the files at Big Bend National Park Headquarters is a typed interview of Magdelena Silvas by Lloyd Whitt (date unknown) in which Magdelena Silvas states that Cipriano Hernandez owned a store "there at the spring. That was his first store and from there he moved over here /Castolon/." She indicated that he built the old store building at Castolon, but did not indicate which spring he had a store at first nor which building was the first store at Castolon. The interview infers that several families lived at the Hernandez house between 1915 and 1944. Among these were the Alvino Ybarra family and the Alvino family. This is all the available information on the Alvino house at this time.

65. Personal files on the records of Brewster and Presidio counties indicate an increase in people, land, taxes and trouble. Interivews indicate that few ventured as yet into the lower Big Bend.

66. For many years the road into the Terlingua region came south from Marfa. Repeated requests for a road from Marathon, then much larger than Alpine, led to the establishment of a road from Marathon to Terlingua. About 1900 a "Road and Bridges" tax was imposed on ranchers and people in the outlying communities. It was small, but was evidently enough to enabbe the county to build better roads. The soldiers, in 1916 and 1917, improved the roads into the lower Big Bend.

67. From 1900 to 1915 notations of stores at Castelon (or Santa Helena), Lajitas, Boquillas or La Noria, the Solis farm near Boquillas, and at the various mines can be found in the Alpine Avalanche.

68. Records for Presidio county and for Brewster (Buchel and Foley) give much indication that each Mexican had his own ear mark for sheep and goats as well as very fancy brands for his horses, mules and cattle. Locations of Mexicans in the Big Bend are almost completely confined to the creek and river bottoms.

69. Early records indicate that the Bialva family owned scattered sections west of the Chisos. This would enable them to graze nearby land. The family eventually "outlawed" to a great extent. Many of them moved to Mexico.

70. Personal files on Solis holdings are extensive. At one time the family owned most of the land south of the Chisos. Glen Springs was once Solis property as was the Graham place.

71. Interview with J. J. Roberts (now deceased) of Marathon, Texas, in 1958. Jim Roberts worked for the Gage ranch as well as others for a number of years. He recalled taking cattle into the lower Big Bend for fattening during the 1890's.

72. Personal Files. Interviews with ranchers in 1958-60 all indicate that the general plan was to own a few sections and graze nearby lands that were either leased from the State of Texas or were not as yet bought or leased.

73. More will be said about Cipriano Hernandez in Part III. Record of Marks and Brands, Brewster County, p. 91, indicates that he branded a running SR on the right hip. He registered his brand April 5, 1901.

74. In this instance reference is made to the Terlingua site of the Chisos Mining Company. The word "Terlingua" means nothing in English or Spanish, but possibly stemmed from Las Linguas - the tongues; Early county records refer to Tes Lingua and Las Linguas Creek. See Hitchcock, "Representative Families of the Big Bend Area, 1895-1925."

75. Ibid.

76. W. L. Study staked his claim in1902. By the end of the first month, according to the Alpine Avalanche, April 4, 1902, he was taking out high grade ore.

77. Alpine Avalanche, 1901. W. A. Hawley, Life Along the Border (Spokane, Washington: Shaw and Borden, 1955)., p. 48.

78. E. H. Sellards and C. L. Baker, "Structural and Economic Geology," The Geology of Texas, Bulletin #3401. The first men to find cinnebar and recognize its worth were Charles Allen, Socorro, New Mexico, and George W.Wanless, Jiminez, Chihuahua. Presence of quicksilver in the Big Bend was probably known as early as the 1850's. The mountain and part of the mine name comes from the quicksilver mine of the State of California.

79. Sellards and Baker, op. cit. pp. 546-47. Alpine Avalanche, July 15, 1904, tells of the discovery. Personal files of fathers records give amounts of quicksilver and bestyears of production as well as the mining tunnels, layout, and geology.

80. The Alpine Avalanche constantly refers to the shortages between 1901 - 1910.

81. The Chisos Mining Company went bankrupt. The Mariscal was reopened temporarily during World War II. There is some promotional mining yet in the region.

82. As stated before almost every creek bottom had families living along it. There was a fair sized settlement at Glen Springs. The Tornillo was lined with small farms well into the twentieth century.

83. Burgess and Leaton reportedly came there in 1849.

84. As can beseen in Part III, little actual farming was done by Anglos prior to 1913 and possibly did not start then. However, there were Anglos at Lajitas by 1903 - possibly earlier.

85. The Alpine Avalanche and the county records of Brewster carry constant demands and requests for more law enforcement.

86. Comments by ranchers living in the lower Big Bend after the turn of the century as well as newspaper reports indicate that many of them were "a sorry lot."

87. Often the Justice of the Peace served in almost every other capacity. Marriages, deaths, records of murders, stealing, insane people, and just about everything else fill up the basement at the court house at Alpine.

88. One necessary trip still made by county sheriffs is that of electioneering. Sometimes this would be the only trip he would make unless there was a murder.

89. There were few officers popular with the Mexican population. The ones that were usually were not popular with the Anglos, or, if elected officers, were seeking votes.

90. County records of Pecos, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, and Reeves counties cite a number of officers for being careless.

91. There have been a number of books written by ex-rangers, but none have any informati n on the Big Bend, lower region.

92. Walter Prescott Webb, The Texas Rangers (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1935) gives more information on the Big Bend Park area than any other as yet discovered.

93. Personal recollection and personal files. The writer lived at Glen Springs and Mariscal as a child and recalls the ranger patrols.

94. Bootlegging was not only a source of income, but outwitting lawmen was somewhat of a pastime. It was possible to stand on a bluff on the Texas side and whistle with wet results in a short while almost any where along the river.

95. Personal recollection.

96. Troubles varied with troubles in Mexico. The presence of the traveling court of Mexico in the early 1930's put an end to many raids and outlaw activities.

97. Tempers still flare at the dances and get togethers at the stores and houses along the river. Smuggling and other illicit activities still occupy the time of the law officer.

98. It is hoped that the records of the Eighth Army Command are at the National Archives which will be visited in the fall if possible.

99. Candelaria is upriver some thirty miles above Presidio.

100. The site of Max A. Ernst's store and post office near Boquillas, Texas.

101. W. D. Burcham, personal interview June 8, 1965. Material available at Big Bend Headquarters.

102. Personal files.

103. Personal files and material available at Park Headquarters.

104. An example of this is Cipriano Hernandez. A great number of records were searched and people interviewed without producing enough material to be sure of the ranch and store location prior to the Silvas-Whitt interview. The Solis name, on the other hand, is well known and material is ample.

105. Webb made a visit to the Big Bend prior to publishing his book in 1935. He mis-identifies Bob Pool, a ranger, calling him John Pool, but other than that, his work is good.

106. As mentioned before there are a number of these books. Examples are C. L. Douglas, The Gentlemen in the White Hats William W. Sterling, Trials and Trails of a Texas Ranger.

107. The Glenn Springs raid is the most popular story for almost every writer on the Big Bend. Accurate information can be gained from C. D. Wood or the Senate Investigation of 1920. Cap Wood is getting old, but is still able to recall the incidents with accuracy. However, he has told the story so often that he is rather tired of it and of being misquoted.

108. According to Col. Greeley of the University of Arizona, he saw most of the papers of the post Fort Clark destroyed while he was stationed there.

PART III

CASTOLON

Prior to the establishment of a post office at La Harmonia store in 1926, the entire area west of the Santa Helena Canyon assumed the name of the canyon. This included the small settlement just across the Rio Grande which is still called by that name with only a Spanish spelling. Prior to that year, mail was sent to Terlingua post office, wherever that happened to be. It should be noted here that post offices in the lower Big Bend "traveled" with the postmaster and with the people. An example of this is the McKinney Springs post office which was moved, name and all, to Glenn Springs. The Terlingua post office also moved from one Terlingua to another at least three times and possibly more. A letter from L. C. Cole, Inspector, Post Office Department, El Paso, Texas, found at Big Bend Headquarters indicates that Mr. Wayne Cartledge had contacted the Post Office Department about applying for a post office at Castolon, Texas. Mr. R. W. Derrick of Cleveland, Texas, writes that he was appointed as postmaster in 1926. He states that the area was known as Santa Helena, but that the post office was named for the peak.

The name - Castolon - has no meaning either in English or in Spanish. However, Macario Hinojos of Terlingua and

the late Hon. E. E. Townsend, lawman and state legislator as well as amateur historian, both indicate that the name originated from the fact that the land once belonged to a Spaniard, a Castillian. The people in the area referred to the region as Castillon which was corrupted to Castolon. Personal files indicate that the Chisos Mining Company Ledger Statement for the year ending December 31, 1916, show among Accounts Receivable a J. Castillon listed just above J. L. Sublett. No further reference to J. Castillon has been found as yet.

The remainder of this report will be divided into individual houses or groups of houses. The entire history of the area will probably never be known, but it is hoped that more information can be found from sources now being contacted.

Coyote Community

Attempts to define the small houses in the area have not proved fruitful. However, some indications of ownership have beem made and interviews have given the names of several of the Mexican families who lived there. Each of the river surveys are one-half mile in width. The area includes Surveys 8, 9, 10, and 11 in Block 16. The following information might be of some help in acertaining whether the Mexican families leased, owned or were employed by absentee owners. A complete search of records would provide more information.

SURVEY 8 - BLOCK 16

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 73, p. 440: a warrenty deed from R. B. Ridgeway and wife, Maudea, to E. T. Mitchell of Upton County, Texas for $1,000.00 cash and the assumation of all debts. The land had been awarded to R. B. Ridgeway in 1923 by the Commissioner of the General Land Office of Texas. It was reappraised in 1926 and again awarded at $2.00 an acre. It was never used as a homestead by Ridgeway. The deed is dated April 8, 1931. It was filed April 11, 1931. No one interviewed remembered either Mr. Ridgeway or Mr. Mitchell.

Survey 9- Block 16

Patent Record, Brewster County, Vol. 6, p. 602: Patent to Ruperto Chabaria on May 13, 1942, filed May 18, 1942, Survey 9, Block 16, located 73 miles S 6° E from Alpine. Bought and fully paid for on application of R. Chabaria from the General Land Office of Texas on May 1, 1908. Classified as the sale of Public Free School Land.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 99, p. 348: Ruperto Chabarria and wife, Angelita, for $1,962.00 all of Survey 9 containing 654 acres more or less. A warrenty deed to the State of Texas dated May 13, 1942, and filed the next day. Bob Cartledge was notary.

Personal correspondance with Mr. R. W. Derrick indicates that he remembered Ruperto Chaverria and Mareano Rametes at Coyote but no one else although " a good many more" were there. Mr. Derrick writes:

> They farmed corn, beans and wheat in the small valleys along the river and Alimo/sic/ creek, and hauled wood for the smelter at Terlingua.

Personal interview with Mr. and Mrs. Lige Bledsoe of Alpine, Texas, gives the information that at one time a James Kemp taught school at Castolon and Coyote - one-half a year at each place, but they could not recall what year that was - sometime in the late twenties or early thirties.

SURVEY 10 - Block 16

Deed Record, Brewster County, Vol. 51, pp. 274-75: a warrenty deed from Will C. Jones to M. T. Junker of Wichita County, Texas, for $2,000.00 and assumption of State debt, all of Survey 10, Block 16, containing 612 acres. Deed was dated January 29, 1925 and filed March 18, 1925. Information that Will C. Jones patented the land in 1920 also included, but was not checked in the patent records. Will C. Jones was from Tom Green County.

Mr. Wayned Cartledge stated in a personal interview that he thought that Will C. Jones and possibly M. T. Junker were rangers stationed either at Castolon or nearby. Mr. Derrick did not remember either of these men.

Deed Record, Brewster Co., Vol. 65, pp. 606-07: a warrenty deed from M. T. and G. Elizabeth Junker to Mrs. A. D. McElroy of Tom Green County made April 24, 1929 and filed May 10, 1929. No amount of money named.

Deed Record, Brewster County, Volume 67, pp. 298-299: a sheriffs deed from W. N. Gourley to J. H. Blevins. State and County taxes delinquent for the years 1924-1927 inclusive. Sold at court house at Alpine, Texas for $50.17 to J. H. Blevins, the highest bidder, but could be redeemed by M. T. Junker within the next two year period.