

## RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY DAY BORDEN COUNTY

by  
Mrs. Charles Miller Snyder

I am delighted to be here with you today. I felt quite honored when Mr. Shepperd asked me to talk to you about my native Borden County.

You know, on last August 14, we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the organization of our County. Many, many oldtimers were present. There was one couple, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Smith, of Ackerly, who said they knew me when I was a baby. Mr. Smith was awarded the prize for having lived in Borden County longer than anyone else!

When the planning committee for the celebration asked me to briefly review the history of the County, they told me I would be allowed ten minutes. It has taken me over 65 years to live this history. How could I possibly tell it in ten minutes? Seriously, I will take only a short time and give some of the highlights of the fabulous history of our County.

By an Act of the Texas Legislature in August, 1876, Borden County, along with 53 other counties, was created from Bexar County.<sup>1</sup> At first the County was attached to Shackelford and later to Howard County for surveying and other administrative purposes --- just as Garza County was attached to Borden for some time after its organization.

Our County was named for Gail Borden, a leading Texas Patriot - Co-author of the First Texas Constitution, a newspaper man, surveyor and member of the group establishing Baylor University. But the accomplishment for which he is most remembered was the process for condensing milk. He also invented a prairie wagon pulled by hugh sails.<sup>1</sup> I'll bet he didn't get far in that.

When the County was organized in 1891, the first site of Government was at Durham, a small community about 12 miles southeast of Gail, where we used to go for all-day preaching and dinner-on-the-ground. This settlement, including a post office, was named for I. E. Durham, who took up several sections of land in this area before the County was formed.

On April 8, 1891, the Commissioners' Court met and declared Gail the County Seat. Attending this meeting were the first Borden County officials - T. D. Love, Sheriff; W. S. Moore, Clerk; C. L. Wasson, Judge; W. H. McCollock, W. L. Danner, D. V. Carter and J. S. York, Commissioners. The annual salaries for officials were set: Judge \$360, Sheriff \$400, County Attorney \$480, but they didn't have a County Attorney.<sup>2</sup>

















