

Panhandle Soddis Fading from Scene

AMARILLO, (AP) — Crumbling foundations and stone piles remain today as remnants of "soddis" that once dotted the Texas Panhandle.

A "soddis" is a house made from soil—often the only building material available to pioneers.

Transformation of the country began about 75 years ago when pioneers first began to arrive in great numbers. The period of sod houses lasted about 25 years.

A vanguard of hunters, cattlemen and nesters already had forged into the region when the state created the 54 Panhandle counties in 1876.

Solved Problem
Shelter was the first problem that maced the pioneer and he used the material at hand—sod, rocks, adobe and logs. The log houses were found only along wooded waterways.

Sod houses didn't cost much. One historian itemized expenditures on a two-room sod house and came up with a total of \$2.78, not

including labor. The same sized structure today would cost an estimated \$3,000.

Short Life
The soddis' life was from 7 to 10 years. An exception is in the museum at Beaver, Okla. Plastered over with concrete to prevent further erosion, it promises to be substantial for many years.

A sod plow was used to cut 12-inch strips of sod from the virgin soil. The long strips then were cut into 18-inch lengths and hauled to the building site and used somewhat like bricks.

Roofs varied. Rough lumber or picket poles overlaid with sod usually were used.

The average size of such a house was 12 feet by 20.

Used for Towns
Pioneers sometimes built entire towns of sod. Perhaps the most famous of these was Sod Town, a raucous little cowtown along the south edge of Coon Creek, about 10 miles northeast of Darrouzett.

The town was started in 1886 and gained a notorious reputation in its three-year history.

The town listed 50 residents, but multiplied its population many times on payday when thirsty cowhands arrived to slake their thirst.

Even today, scattered bits of glassware remain at the site.

The arrival of the railroads at the turn of the century marked the doom of the sod houses. Every homesteader looked forward to the day when he could build a frame house, made easier because the railroads could transport lumber to the settlers.

Funeral Services Held for Col. Trail

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church for Col. Charles D. Trail, '39.

Col. Trail, who was married to the former Billie Marburger of College Station, died Thursday at Lackland AFB Hospital in San Antonio.

Born in Kaufman in 1918, Col. Trail had been stationed at Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt AFB, Neb.

Besides his widow, Col. Trail is survived by three children, one a junior student at A&M, Bea; his mother; three sisters; and five brothers.

Burial was in the College Station Cemetery.

Veterinary Prof To Study in Mexico

James R. Dixon, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, will leave Friday for a research trip into the arid western regions of Mexico.

The trip will be conducted to complete final research analysis of the zoography and taxonomy of certain vertebrates for Dixon's Ph.D. program. He will remain in Mexico until Sept. 19.

Accompanying Dixon will be his wife, Mary. They will visit the Mexican states of Guerrero, Michoacan, Colima, Jalisco, Nayarit, Sinaloa and Sonora.

Reserve Officers Elect Mayfield Local President

Col. Henry Mayfield, A&M College System Architect, has been elected president of the newly organized Brazos County Chapter of the Reserve Officers Assn.

The election was held last recently at the Bryan Reserve Armory.

Lt. Col. James R. Bradley, assistant research economist with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, was elected vice president, and Maj. Edward L. Scott, tactical officer in the School of Military Sciences, was named secretary-treasurer.

Maj. Scott said the next meeting of the chapter will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 1 at the Armory. All Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine reserve officers are invited to attend.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



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CALHOUN TOURS ARCTIC AREA

(Continued from Page 1)

were Dr. Jay W. Forrester, professor of industrial management, and Dr. Rolf Eliassen, professor of sanitary engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. George A. Hawkins, dean of

engineering, Purdue University; Dr. Howard W. Barlow, dean of engineering, Washington State University; Dr. Donald E. Marlowe, dean of engineering, Catholic University, Washington, D. C.; Arthur L. Malcarney, executive vice president for defense electronics products, Radio Corporation of

America; Col. Balchen of Chappaqua, N. Y.; Air Commodore Richard B. Whiting, chief, construction engineering for the Royal Canadian Air Force; and Col. Clarence A. Eckert, director of the Civil Engineering Center (AUIT), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

New Students End Session Of Counseling

A&M has just completed one of several two-day counseling and testing clinics this summer for new students.

The next clinic will be held Aug. 26-27 in the Counseling and Testing Center.

S. A. Kerley, director of the center, said every freshman student entering A&M is given the

opportunity to participate in the program.

Purpose of the tests, he said, is to give students a chance to intelligently plan a fall study program with a representative of the dean in the school in which they desire to study.

The tests gauge a student's ability for college work, science, Eng-

lish, mathematics, reading and vocational interests.

Kerley said A&M is one of very few colleges and universities to offer this service to new students.

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