

Read Battalion Classifieds

Taft Ranch Story Told By Professor

President Lyndon B. Johnson's visits to his ranch west of Austin are newsworthy these days, and in the fall of 1969 President William Howard Taft's visit to the Taft Ranch on the north side of Corpus Christi Bay drew considerable attention.

Details of President Taft's visit are told as part of the story of the Taft Ranch, A Texas Princi-pality." Dr. A. Ray Stephens of the A&M history faculty is author of the book published Tuesday by the University of Texas Press.

The Taft Ranch became the popular name about 1908 for the Coleman - Fulton Pasture Com-pany's more than 160,000 acre hold-ings whose history is traced to post Civil War Days when South Texas and cattle ranges were syno-nymous. Stephens explains that a land agent promoting sales of the ranch acreage to farmers used the name Taft Ranch about the time William Howard Taft was nominated for the presidency. Charles Phelps Taft, half-brother of the nominee, long held a major interest in the pasture company.

President Taft's visit came dur-ing an extended tour of the nation and was planned primarily for his relaxation from the stren-

uous tour.

The president played golf on a course laid out especially for the occasion, swam in Corpus Christi Bay, "especially enjoyed" a round-up enlivened by some rodeo-type events and even mounted a horse named Old Sam.

Stephens writes: "Old Sam be-came the symbol of endurance in Texas when the Dallas Morning News reported: 'Speaking of your troubles, how much would you have liked to be the cow pony that Mr. Taft rode to the round-up?'"

The President's visit is a side-light to the story of the Coleman- from 1880 to 1930 played an im-fulton Pasture Company which portant part in the advancement of South Texas.

"The Taft Ranch with its ef-fective leadership fostered the growth of agriculture and farm-related industry in South Texas," Stephens writes. Thousands of acres of rangeland grazed by scrubby Longhorn cattle became a diversified agricultural area with purebred livestock and productive crops.

The pasture company helped bring a railroad to the area, established such towns as Taft and Sinton and otherwise provided progressive leadership for several decades.

Stephens writes of the transition from rangelands to farms, a story as old as the West but so new many Texans still personally re-call the experience, with the aid of company records, documents in various libraries and archives and personal interviews. The material originally was written by Steph-ens as his dissertation.

The A&M history faculty mem-ber came here in 1962 after com-pleting his doctoral studies. This fall he will be teaching as an as-sistant professor.

The historian now is in South Texas gathering other materials.

Statistician Joins Faculty

A health statistics specialist who has been a visiting lecturer at health centers on both coasts will join the A&M University Institute of Statistics Sept. 1 as an as-sistant professor. Institute Di-rector H. O. Hartley announced the appointment of Lynn C. Hayward.

Hayward now serves as manager of computer operations, Office of Research, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tu-mor Institute at Houston. He was chief of applied programming, Health Services Computing Fac-ility, Center for the Health Sci-ences at the University of Califor-nia before going to Houston last year.

Hartley said Hayward will be supported by a National Science Foundation grant. He will teach and do research on halftone ap-pointment with remaining time spent as a doctoral student.

Hayward has lectured at the National Institutes of Health, the School of Medicine of the Uni-versity of California and Stanford University.

He is the author of numerous publications and a contributor to the "BMD Biomedical Computer Programs," notable publication in the field of health statistics and computers.

Hayward also is a member of the editorial consultant staff of "Computer Reviews" and vice president of the Houston Chapter, Association for Computing Machi-nery.

Old Auto Batteries Studied For Use

The feasibility of using dis-carded automobile batteries to pro-duce asphalt is being investigated by the Texas Transportation In-stitute staff at A&M University.

Bob M. Gallaway, project super-visor, said a successful hot-mix asphaltic concrete produced with the batteries should find a ready market for paving parking lots, city streets and residential drives.

Lead Products Company, Inc., of Houston has signed a research contract with the A&M Research Foundation to pursue the study.

Gallaway, head of TTI's highway materials department, estimates 47-million battery boxes going to the junk pile from 83-million vehicles in operation.

Laboratory studies for the \$3,872 project will be conducted by the highway materials section.

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