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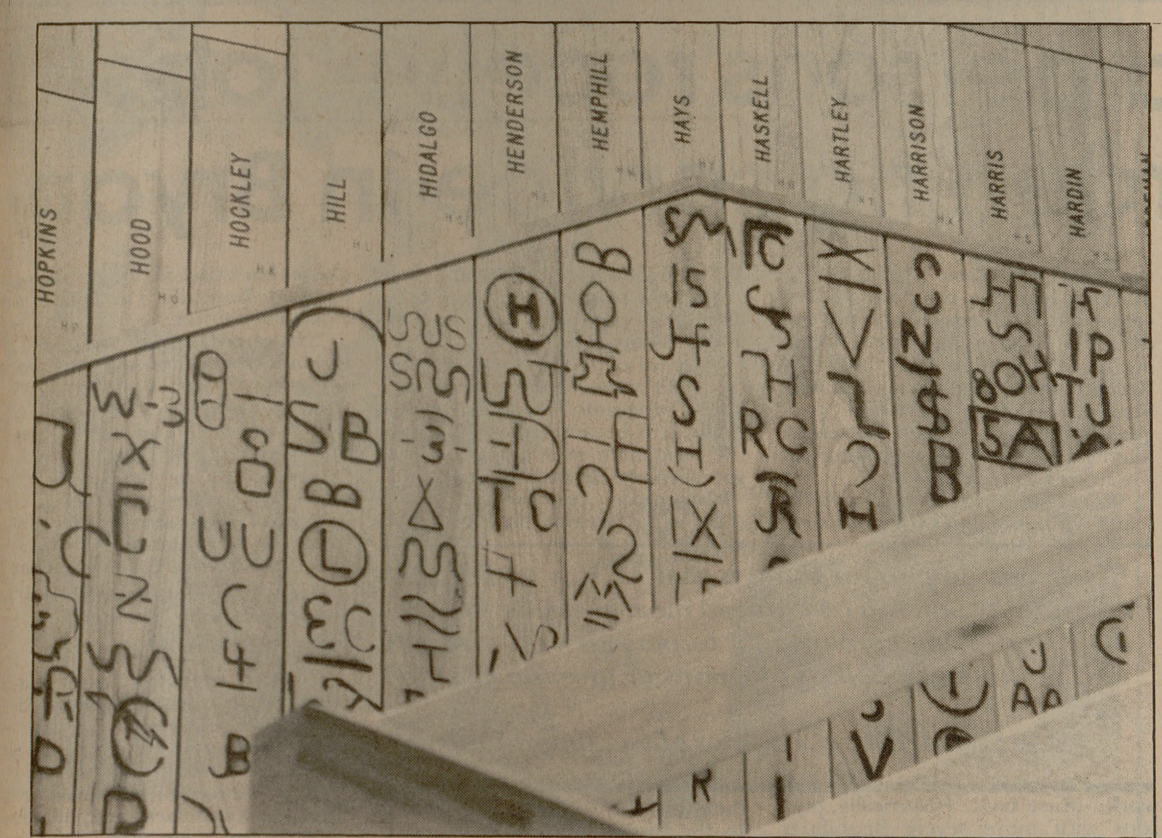
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More than 3,000 brands are on display in the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center.

Kleberg branded with history

By Kellie Copeland
Reporter

Ranchers' brands usually appear on cattle hides to identify their animals, but visitors to the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center may be in for a surprise. Authentic brands from ranches in Texas appear on 254 oak panels in the building.

The branding project was initiated in June 1978 by Dr. O.D. Butler to help preserve historical information about leaders of the state's livestock industry and to provide a proud heritage for youth of ranching families, as well as for visitors to Texas A&M.

Butler, now retired, headed A&M's Animal Science Department from 1950 to 1978 and served as associate vice president for agriculture and renewable resources for several years.

More than 300 members participated in the first branding ceremony, in which the branded stairway was dedicated to Butler for "distinguished service to the livestock industry of Texas."

Every Texas county except Loving County is represented by at least one brand in the oak panels.

Selection of the first brands was left up to county extension agents and historical society members.

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Texas Farm Bureau helped identify leaders to take a part in the branding ceremonies.

"We had to set up some kind of rules because we just couldn't accommodate everyone who wanted his brand on the wall," Butler said.

Between 3,000 and 4,500 brands have been added to the wall since.

L.A. Maddox, a leader in animal science and chairman of the project, said some 200,000 brands are recorded in Texas and on file with the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association in Fort Worth.

"This is the state's most complete record of historic and active brands," Maddox said.

Butler said, "We invited ranchers from all over. These guys lined up to brand and really had a ball. They had more fun than any bunch of kids."

When first registering, ranchers were responsible for registering in the official brand registry the brand name, ranch name and address, brand design and any other historical information concerning the brand's origin.

County still consisting of the original acreage and using the same brand.

The "JLC" brand, owned by the Walsh Ranch in Bexar County, has been used continuously since 1840. Mahoney said the Walsh brothers' mother and grandmother and their families lived in the Spanish Governor's Palace. Ownership of the palace remained in the Walsh family until 1921, when it was deeded to the city of San Antonio.

Many of the brands originated during the days of the Texas trail drives, when ranchers took their cattle to markets in Kansas and other states.

The largest ranch in Texas, the King Ranch, is represented by the famous "Running W" branded by Stephen J. "Tio" Kleberg. The King Ranch family also is represented by the "J3" and "HK" brands in Nueces County and the "S" brand in Kerr County.

Sam Houston's "SAM" brand was burned into the panel by Mrs. Henry Boehm, Jr., of the Historical Society of Washington County, and Houston's "X" brand was added to the Walker County panel.

Butler said the branding project was created to bring about closer relationships between ranchers and the animal science facilities at A&M, as well as with research and educational work throughout Texas.

The branded stairway has attracted national attention. The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers in Fort Worth have imitated the branding idea.

Some ranchers have left their historical branding irons as a permanent part of A&M's branding iron collection, which is also displayed in the Kleberg Center.

Gallagher's niece, who inherited the ranch, sold it in 1927 to Mrs. V.H. McNutt, who is currently using the brand.

This is the oldest ranch in Bexar

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Local doctors volunteer time to help A&M med students

By Mark Gee
Reporter

Making the transition from listening to a class lecturer to listening to a patient's heart can make a medical student's own heart skip a beat.

He learned to recognize abnormal heart sounds his freshman year. First-year students take a physical diagnosis class and an introduction to patients class to prepare them to work with patients.

"I like for students to get hands-on experience," says Huddleston, a family practitioner for 18 years, who has accepted students since the preceptorship program was initiated nine years ago.

"I don't expect much," Huddleston says, "except for them (students) to think. I ask a lot of questions that I don't expect them to answer correctly. They don't have to answer correctly. I just want them to think

properly. Their real knowledge will come later."

Huddleston reduces his patient load from about 15 to 10 on the afternoons he has a student in order to have time to explain clinical concepts. He enjoys the interaction with students because it makes him recall technical information.

The coordinator of the preceptorship program, Dr. O.C. Cooper, says it is well-received in the medical community because it offers physicians the reward of sharing their knowledge with students.

Patients also benefit from the program, Cooper says. He has worked with more than 120 preceptorship students in his family practice in College Station.

"Patients appreciate having another person (the student) take care of them," Cooper says.

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Judge's ruling may bring changes in school districts

AUSTIN (AP) — A judge's ruling that Texas short-changes poor school districts could be among the most expensive court edicts in state history, officials said Wednesday.

The ruling by State District Judge Harley Clark could require massive consolidation of school districts and could also change the face of rural Texas, according to a state lawyer.

Thompson, the Texas Education Agency lawyer who unsuccessfully defended the school finance system.

Judge Clark said in his order, "There is no underlying rationale in the district boundaries of many school districts."

If the order is upheld on appeal, Thompson said state lawmakers would have to carve new districts to guarantee fair distribution of wealth.

In many places in Texas the school district is the center of town, not just educationally, but socially and in other aspects," said David