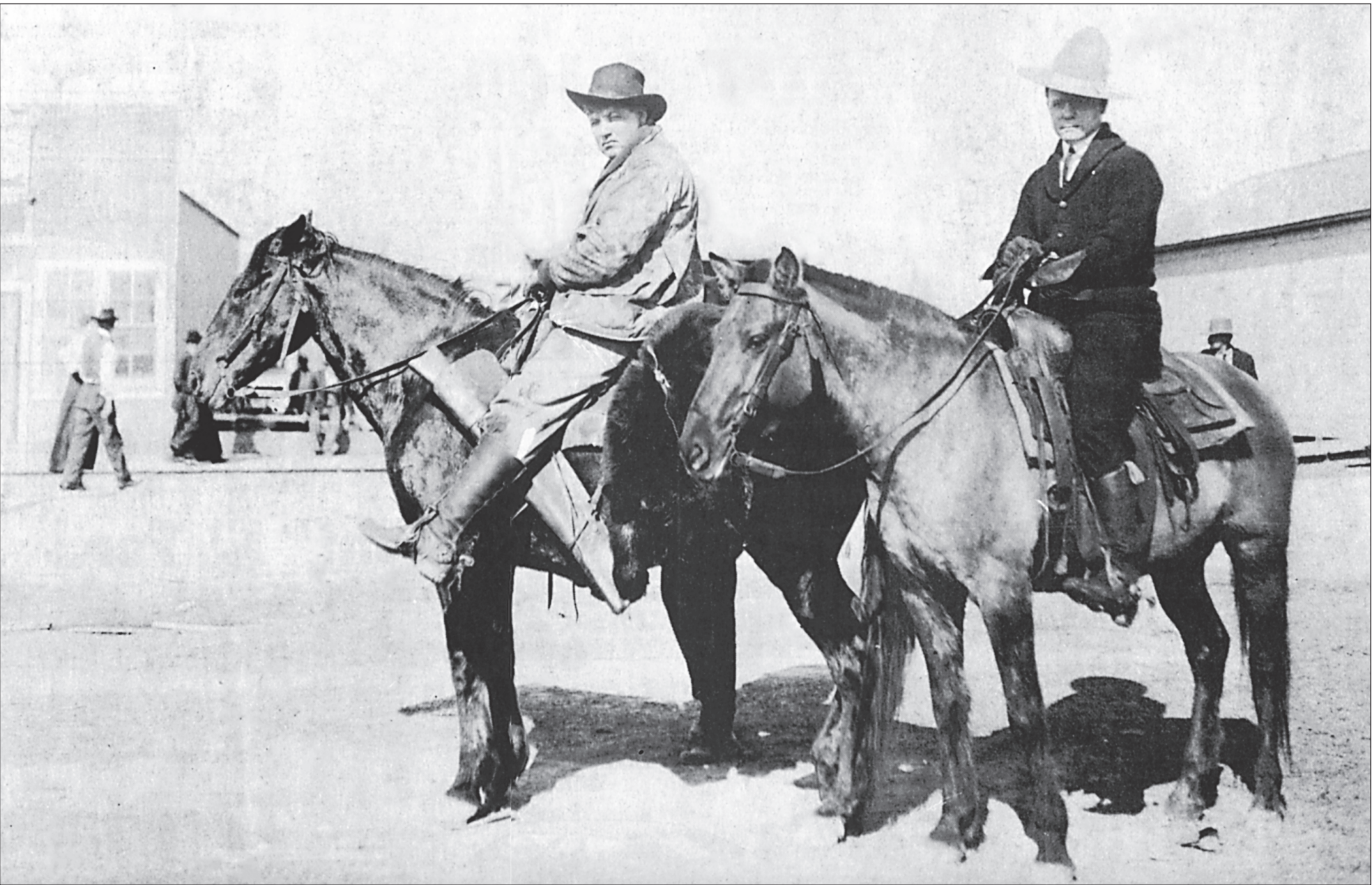


HISTORY & FOLKLORE



From Liberty Gazette, Thursday, April 7, 1977 –

Ole Henry, Mr. Drake and the bear plus Mr. Billy Bryant. We showed these pictures to Mr. Bryant before his death. He wasn't on the hunt and couldn't identify the last two men on the hunt but did remember the picture-taking. A dead bear in Sour Lake must have been fairly common at this time. Notice the people in the background going on about their business, paying no attention to bear, men or photographer. Outside a few obvious details – like that being a twisted horsehair girt on Mr. Bryant's saddle – that's all we know about these pictures.

–Bill Brett

Gas Leak in Daisetta in 1980

From Dayton Liberty Voice,
Wednesday, May 28, 1980
H-D HIGH SCHOOL CLOSED

DAISETTA - The Hull-Daisetta High School campus has been closed down following the discovery of gas under the slab of the high school and under the school administrative offices. High School Principal Doug Moore said that the decision to close down the high school campus in advance of the end of regular classes came last Wednesday following an inspection of the campus by inspectors from the Texas Railroad Commission. Moore said that Superintendent Grady Finch had secured permission to "close the books" for the district's high school students five days early from the Texas Education Agency.

Moore said that the office of Superintendent Finch was moved to the Hull elementary campus. At Finch's request, routine inspections were also made at the elementary facilities in Hull and at the Woodson Junior High near Raywood. No gas leakage was discovered at either of those two campuses.

A debate of sorts is also underway between various official agencies over the exact type of gas that is leaking. Earliest reports identified the substance as natural gas, but later reports indicated that it was propane gas that was leaking under the buildings. The shutdown decision at the high school came under what Finch called a "routine inspection by the Railroad Commission." The commission normally conducts routine safety inspections of gas mains. Gas is distributed in the Hull-Daisetta area by the Southwest Gas Company of Raywood. As the search continues for the source of the gas leakage, speculation around Daisetta centered on old customer-installed pipeline as the principal source of the leakage. Due to the closing of the campus, the graduation exercises were moved to the football field. The exercises had originally been scheduled for the auditorium of the high school. Despite the fact that the high school closed in advance of the last day of school, classes at both the elementary and the junior high campuses continued on a normal basis. The last day of classes will be today.

appeal to any families who were on vacation or out of town during the search last week to contact the Daisetta City Hall. Searches were not made of homes where no one was home. Only two homes were discovered to have leaks. One was said to have a serious propane leakage problem and that was the home of school tax collector Joe Barrow. Barrow has evacuated his family from the home until the situation can be corrected. The Oil and Gas Division of the Texas Railroad Commission took charge of the investigation on Thursday at the direction of Railroad Commissioner Jim Nugent, one of three men who sit on the commission. Nugent's directive came following a phone call conversation with Daisetta City Attorney J.C. Zbranek and ordered them to take over the effort to determine the origin of the leaks. Nugent and Zbranek served together in the Texas House of Representatives during the 1950s. Nugent's order reversed an announcement made by Milton Fagenbush, assistant director of the Gas and Utilities Division, at a Wednesday public hearing in Daisetta. Fagenbush announced at that time that the investigation would be assumed by an outside consultant.

Daisetta sits on top of a salt dome that is used by Mobil Oil for the storage of various types of fuel, including propane, butane and others. The story has managed to secure a firm berth in state news reports throughout last week and this week as well. The Texas State Network news service has carried stories on the problems almost around the clock since the middle of last week. Papers in Beaumont and Houston in particular, have had reporters assigned to the story as well. The problems first came to the surface on May 20 when investigations from the Railroad Commission conducted a routine search of the Daisetta area and found high levels of gas under the high school in Daisetta. Further investigation determined the gas to be propane. The high school, the school administrative building, and the Assembly of God Church were all closed indefinitely. The source of the leaking propane gas remains an unsolved mystery as this paper went to press on Monday. Southwest Gas Distributing, Inc. provides natural gas service to the Daisetta area.



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From Dayton Liberty Voice,
Wednesday, June 4, 1980
GAS SEARCH CONTINUES

DAISETTA - A house-to-house search of 450 homes in Daisetta for propane gas leaks was completed this weekend, but several homes are yet to be checked. Mayor Harold McCann has issued an

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