

HISTORY & FOLKLORE

From The Big Thicket-Atascosito Gazette,
Thursday, November 3, 1977 -

Bragg The Way It Used To Be

by Linda Gilliam

12th Place, Big Thicket Essay Contest

Bragg is not anything to brag about now, but it used to be the busiest town in these parts.

All that is left of the bustling town is the two-story home of Mrs. Ayers. It is at the end of the famous Ghost Road. And also there is an historical marker, which tells that the town was named for General Braxton Bragg, a Confederate War hero, who later became a Santa Fe Railroad official in Texas.

Santa Fe was what made Bragg. During the boom days of Saratoga and Batson, the Santa Fe carried passengers, baggage, and freight, not to mention oil, since pipelines were not yet used.

Bragg was once an important junction and switching point so, therefore, a number of families settled in the area. Even now a few trains still pass only a few feet from the front door of the hotel.

Mrs. Conchran opened the hotel in 1903. Then Mrs. Ayers took over the hotel in 1910.

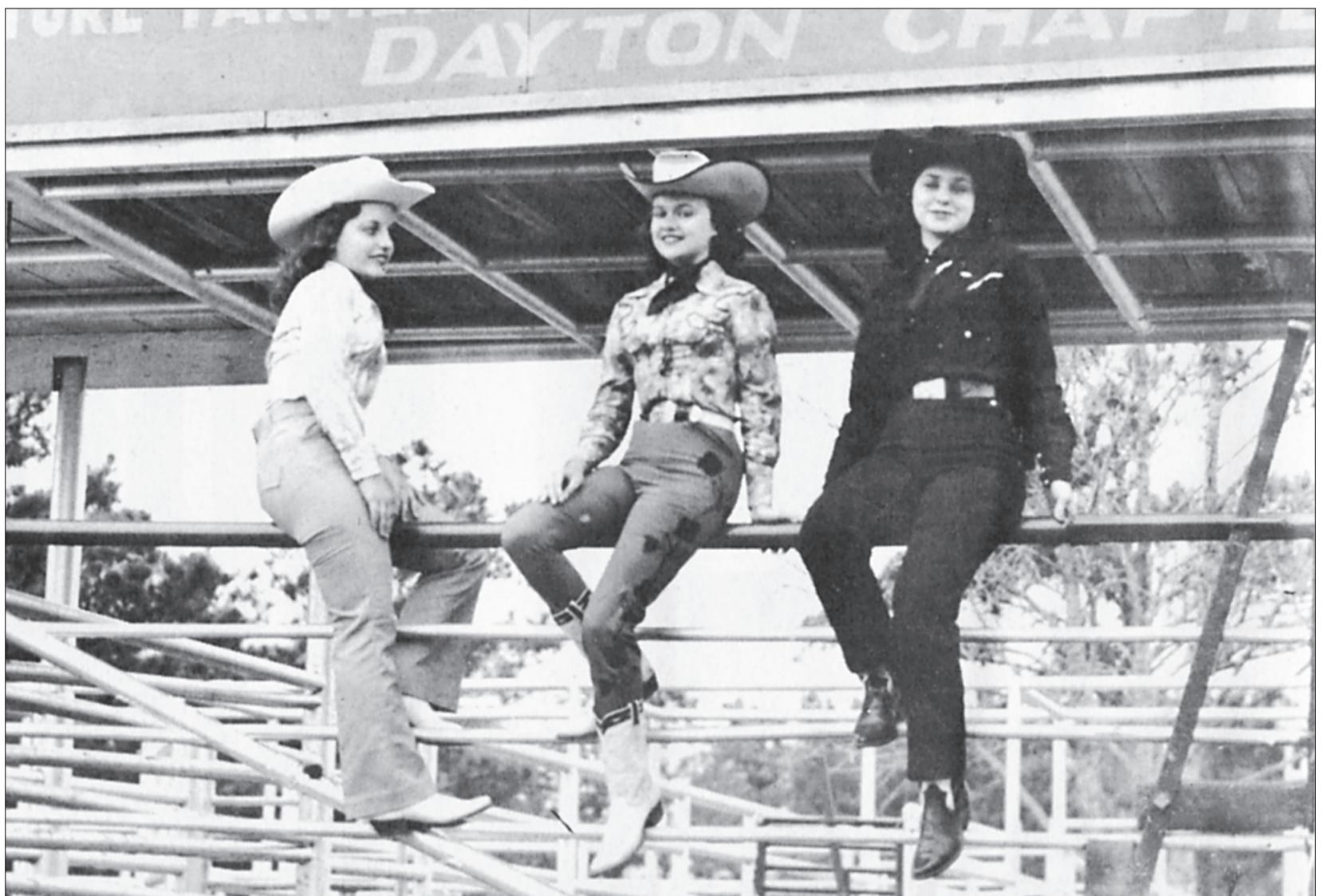
Even Teddy Roosevelt was supposed to have stayed there while bear hunting in the Big Thicket, but the depression of 1907 cancelled his trip.

Oilfield and timber workmen as well as traveling people came from as far as Canada, Mexico and Alaska to stay in the hotel.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, December 14, 1961-

"Our Hearts were Young and Gay" is the junior class play to be presented tomorrow night, Friday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Liberty High School Auditorium. Charlotte Chapman, above left, and Judy Gilliland, right, play the principal parts in this famous play. It is a comedy in three acts.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, May 3, 1962 -

Dayton's biggest annual rodeo gets underway tonight at the FFA Arena at 8 p.m. The FFA's own three-day show inaugurates the 1962 season as it has for several years. The stands and facilities have been greatly improved so much that the arena is clearly the best-looking rodeo showplace in this area. A contest will again be held to select this year's rodeo queen. A new feature this year was the street dance held downtown last night as part of the rodeo festivities. A record turnout is expected to view the 1962 show. These rodeos have advanced a great deal in the last five years and have been made more entertaining to the average spectator through variety and faster pacing. Perched on the arena fence are rodeo queen contestants Kitty Hoover and Charlene Reed with FFA Sweetheart Judy Robinson, right.



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