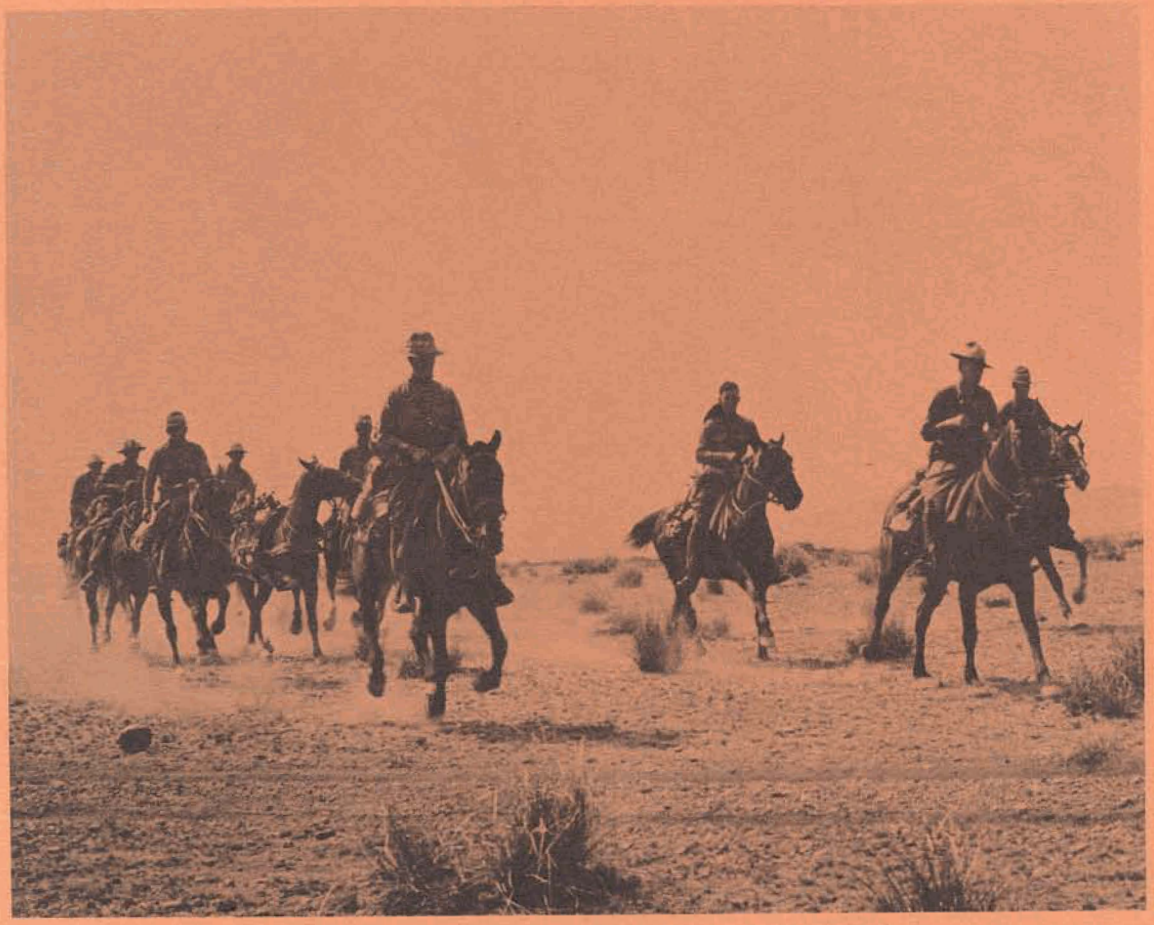
SOLDIERS, RANCHERS AND MINERS IN THE BIG BEND



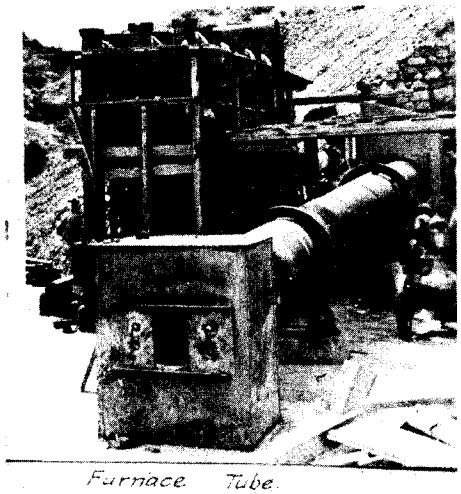
SEPTEMBER 1969

SOLDIERS, RANCHERS AND MINERS IN THE THE BIG BEND

BY

CLIFFORD B. CASEY

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TEXAS



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PREFACE

As the Rio Grande flows from the Rockies to the Gulf it ma a mighty turn 107 miles long. Known as the Big Bend, it encompasses a terrain of sweeping deserts, perilous canyons, and woo mountains permanently preserved as a National Park. Its unique wildlife makes it first a natural wonderland. But one cannot explore this intriguing country without discovering the handiwo of man.

Visitors express deep interest in the human story of Big E They are intrigued by the discovery of historic ruins throughou the Park. Many of these features are important memorials to th region's history. They testify to the presence of the early people--Apaches and Comanches--and to the existence of Mexican settlements, ranching and mining endeavors, army occupation, bo conflict, and peaceful commerce.

In order to get an accurate picture of the story, the Nati Park Service asked Dr. Clifford B. Casey of Alpine, Texas, to pr pare the following studies on several of the historic districts in the Park. Dr. Casey, former Professor of History and Chairm of the Department of Social Studies at Sul Ross State College, has devoted much of his life to the history of Big Bend and to private collection of documents and materials relating to that colorful locale. Though he is retired, his enthusiasm has not abated. His knowledge, ability, and integrity are unquestioned

The three studies, although bound together, were prepared separately by Dr. Casey. They deal with three distinct themes of the Big Bend story--U. S. Army occupation, mining, and ranching. Each paper reveals the lengths to which man will go to test nature's resiliency and exploit her resources.

Although prepared for the National Park Service, these papers have not been edited by the agency, except for minor changes in their format to give continuity. Dr. Casey's work is a scholar's unretouched product, speaking for itself and its author.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

PREFACE i

BOOK ONE: CASTOLON 1

CHAPTER

I. INTRODUCTORY BACKGROUND 2

The Land and Its Characteristics 2

The Early Peoples of the Area 10

The Coming of the Europeans to the Region. . 13

II. EARLY ANGLO-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES, 1849-1910 . . 18

The Rio Grande Becomes An International Boundary 18

Activities of the International Boundary Commission 20

Anglo-American Exploration and Occupation of the Big Bend 21

The Beginning of Political and Economic Activity in the Area 28

Factors in Promoting A Rapid Change Early in the Twentieth Century. 30

III. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA-CAMP SANTA HELENA 35

Border Raids in the Big Bend Country 35

The Establishment of Cavalry Camps 44

Camp Santa Helena 48

Troop Morale and Recreation Along the Border. 52

Other Problems Along the Border 56

The Question of Crossing the Border 58

Smuggling 60

IV. LAND AND LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF WHAT IS NOW CASTOLON 61

The Geology of the Region 61

Topography of the Area 62

Early Occupants and Owners of the Land 64

The Partnership of Wayne R. Cartledge and Howard E. Perry 68

V. LA HARMONIA COMPANY AND ITS ACTIVITIES, 1919-1961

A Frontier-Border Trading Post 74

Farming Development in the Area 97

Ranching in the Area 111

The Establishment of the Big Bend National Park 125

Other Activities in the Area 127

VI. SUMMARY 133

BOOK TWO: RANCHING IN THE BIG BEND 141

CHAPTER

I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT 142

II. THE LAND AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS 144

The Geology of the Area 144

Climate and Vegetation 146

Adaptability of the Area to Ranching 148

III. EARLY OWNERS OF THE LAND 149

John T. Gano and Associates, Large Operator . 149

The Coming of Small Operators 154

IV. HOMER WILSON AND HIS RANCHING ACTIVITIES . . . 160

Important Factors for Ranching in the Big Bend 167

V. PROBLEMS OF RANCHING IN THE BIG BEND COUNTRY . 172

Enclosing or Fencing the Properties 172

Improving the Native Water Supply 176

Other Problems of the Ranch 176

Livestock, Livestock Losses from Diseases and Other Causes 178

The Range and Livestock Feeding 182

Transportation and Livestock Marketing and Ranch Supplies 183

Eudcation of the Children and Other Problems. 184

VI. THE END OF RANCHING IN THE BIG BEND PARK AREA . 186

The Big Bend Park Project 186

Reaction of Ranchers to the Park Project . . 190

Acquiring the Land by the State and Closing Out of the Ranches 194

The National Park Service In the Area 198

VII. CONCLUSION 202

BOOK THREE: QUICKSILVER MINING IN THE BIG BEND OF TEXAS . 204

CHAPTER

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS 205

Definition of Terms 205

Theory as of Origin and Deposition of Quicksilver 207

The More Important Uses of Quicksilver 209

The Major Areas In Which Quicksilver is Produced 211

II. QUICKSILVER DEPOSITS IN THE BIG BEND OF TEXAS . 215

The Terlingua District 215

Outside the Terlingua District 220

III. THE MARISCAL MINE 223

Early History and Development 223

The Mariscal Mine 234

Workmen at the Mariscal Mine 244

IV. THE MARISCAL MINE AND THE BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK 250

National Park Policy Relative to Mineral Rights 250

Regulations of the State of Texas Relative to Mining and Prospecting 251

Mineral Rights on Lands Belonging to Individuals and Corporations 255

Disposition of Mineral Rights and Mining Claims in the Mariscal Area 258

V. PRESENT STATUS OF MARISCAL MINE AND SUMMARY . . . 261

Status of the Mariscal Mine at Present Time . . 261

Summary 264

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C A S T O L O N

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY BACKGROUND

THE LAND AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS

During the long ages of past earth history the area now included within the Big Bend National Park has been intermittently a sea bed, a swampy marsh land, a semi-tropical forest, the scene of extensive volcanic activity, and a land subjected to the many forces of uplift and erosion until it has finally become the semi-arid country as we know it today. It has been said that the Big Bend is one of the world's great geological textbooks, and it is certainly one of the outstanding revelations of Nature's efforts at mountain building on the continent. To the geographer it is a wonderland where the plants and animal life of two climatic regions and the civilization of two great peoples meet.[1] These opinions may be verified even by the layman as he visits the area and examines the geological and geographic features which are evident on every side.

Many millions of years ago a vast inland arm of the sea

a vast inland arm of the sea

covered the entire area. During the time that the

[illegible] Dr. David Duke of Texas,

National Texas Geographic Magazine, I (May 1937), 2.

the area there were deposited on the ocean floor, mud, sand, and gravel, and these sediments were slowly consolidated into layers of rock. Then an accumulation of stresses within the interior of the earth resulted in an uplift which elevated the ocean floor, causing the waters to withdraw. Parts of what had been an open sea became high mountains. Then a long period of erosion followe during which time the mountains were reduced to low ridges. And again the land was submerged and new and different types of sediments were laid down on the sea bed. The latest submergence took place during the Cretaceous period of land building. The sedimen of this period reached a thickness of up to 8,000 feet, and consisted of heavy limestones, chalks, marls, clays, sandstones, and volcanic ash.[2] Another period of warping and folding caused much of the sea to withdraw, which left marshy areas where dense fores and lush vegetation developed. It was during this period that the dinosaurs lived in the Big Bend country.[3]

Following the period of the dinosaur the area was again subjected to forces from the interior of the earth, which continued intermittently over a long period of time. Much of the activity

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2. J. A. Udden, "A Sketch of the Geology of the Chisos Mountain Country, Brewster County, Texas," 21-22; Ross A. Maxwell, "The Big Bend National Park," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 12 (June 1948), 12-13.

3. Maxwell, 12-13.

was definitely volcanic and produced the major mountains and present land forms of the Big Bend country. The volcanic activity was not always uniform in its mountain-building processes, thus producing varied types of igneous rock formations in the area--lava flows, plugs, dikes, domes, and also deposits of volcanic ash and other similar materials. This same volcanic activity brought about a general deformation of the existing Cretaceous and older deposits of the area, resulting in uplifts, arching, and other types of deformation of the old sediments.[4]

The above mentioned mountain-forming period was a major factor in producing the present topographic features of the Big Bend. Meanwhile, time has done its work and during the millions of years that have followed, the powerful forces of erosion have done their share in this process of shaping the land. Vast canyons have been cut through uplifted mesas; soluble materials have been dissolved and carried away to far-off oceans; sands, gravels, and smaller rocks have been carried off by the flood waters forming arroyos, basins, and wide plains. At the same time, the more resistant rocks were left as peaks, high ridges, mesas, spires, and cliffs, each of which gives a beauty and splendor to the country.[5] Thus

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4. Udden 21-22; Maxwell, 12-13.

5. Ross A. Maxwell and J. W. Dietrich, "Geographic Summary of the Big Bend Region," West Texas Geological Society Publication No. 65-51 (October 1965), 11-32.

from a combination of the many forces of land-forming, sedimentation, volcanism, weather changes, and erosion, the Big Bend country has become the rough semi-arid landscape, or near-desert region, with the many contrasting features that it is at the present time.

The Big Bend National Park region is one of great contrasts and the Castolon area presents an unusual opportunity for the examination of many of them. Castolon is situated on a continen gravel fill which was probably deposited prior to the developmen of the extensive northwest-southeast faulting, evident between Mesa de Anguila and the Del Carmen fault to the east of the Chis Mountains. This gravel fill is believed to have been formed or deposited in post-early Miocene time or perhaps the Pleistocene. This gravel fill, which consists of a mixture of sand, sandstone conglomerates, and angular and rounded cobbles of various sizes, has been subjected to erosion until we find it as it looks today The fill stands out as broken hills above the alluvial flood pla of the Rio Grande, and is frequently cut by draws or ravines which have been made by the flood waters coming down from the mountain area to the north and east.[6] The elevated fill on whic Castolon stands is rather drab in appearance because of its typi

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6. John A. Wilson, "Cenozoic History of the Big Bend Area, West Texas Geological Society, Publication No. 65-51 (October 1965), 36.

desert plants, in contrast to the lush green floodplain of the Rio Grande with its mesquite and many semi-tropical plants.

While Castolon and the immediate vicinity may be somewhat drab in appearance, the area is located in the center of a panoramic view which reveals the major geographic and geologic characteristics of the entire Big Bend National Park. In addition, it offers an excellent view of much of northern Mexico just across the Rio Grande. To follow the panorama to the south from Castolon, first there is the winding green bottom land of the Rio Grande. Then just across the river is the very interesting Mexican farming community of Santa Elena. Beyond this village is the vast expanse of the Chihuahuan Plateau, while to the southeast is the extension of the Terlingua Fault for a considerable distance into Mexico. Along and above the fault stands the stately Sierra Ponce which is the Mexican portion of the Mesa de Anguila. Across or through this uplifted mesa, the Rio Grande has carved the most spectacular canyon of the Big Bend--Santa Helena Canyon. The eastern face of the Sierra Ponce-Mesa de Anguila uplift presents in clear relief from the bottom upward the following geological formations: the Glen Rose limestone, a dark nodular shelly material with many fossil specimens; the Telephone Canyon formation, a dark nodular material topped with a yellowish marl; then for more than four hundred feet is to be seen the massive bedded cherty structure of the Del Carmen limestone; next in line upward comes about two hundred and seventy-five feet of the Sue Peaks formation, which is

characterized by its thin bedded dark nodular limestone alernating with a dark calcareous claystone; above this is something over seven hundred feet of Santa Helena limestone, which is a massive bedded gray cherty limestone; above this massive limestone and far back from the edge of the mesa is some two hundred feet of Del Rio Clay, which topped by a considerable layer of Buda limestone; beyond and above the Buda limestone, but not easily visible, is the outcrop of the Boquillas flags, into which has been emplaced numerous sills of intrusive rock. There is also a narrow slice of the Boquillas flags at the base of the cliff. In addition to these formations, one may find in the lowland in the immediate vicinity of Santa Helena Canyon the following formations: numerous intrusive igneous rocks, the Alamo Creek basalt, the Javelina formation, the Agua formation, the yellowish clay of the Pen formation, a few outcroppings of the Chisos formation, and in addition two minor faults.[7]

Yet we are less than half way around the panoramic view to be seen from Castolon. As we move to the north and east away from the Terlingua Fault and the Mesa de Anguila uplift, we follow the basin drained by Terlingua Creek, and to the east may be seen Rattlesnake Mountain, an eroded remnant of a laccolithic intrusion of analcite syenite in the Agua formation. Moving on to the

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7. William K. Stenzel, "Road Log," West Texas Geological Society, Publication No. 65-51 (October 1965), 130-133, 138.

east one sees the vast stretches of semi-desert plains broken by small hills of clays and other materials. Then just to the north of Castolon is one of the most beautiful landmarks of the area--Cerro Castellan, which is very beautiful in the evening sunlight; it derives its beauty from the colorful rocks which make up the peak, including a basalt flow, a gray tuff, a flow breccia, and a rhyolite. On to the north and east are the easily recognized Mule Ear Peaks which are intrusive dikes surrounded by eroded Wasp Spring breccia. The Mule Ear Peaks and Cerro Castellan have long served as Landmarks in the area because they are recognizable from great distances, in spite of the fact that they were remote from any well-traveled road or highway. Beyond and to the east are the many foothills of the Chisos Mountains and the Sierra de Chino Mountains. The eastern part of the panoramic view brings into focus the asymmetric anticlinal formation of the Mariscal Mountains, and Mariscal Canyon which was cut by the Rio Grande as the Mariscal Mountains were uplifted during the mountain-forming period.[8] Most of the wonders of nature may be seen from the immediate vicinity of Castolon. In addition, one may see and enjoy many more of the significant geological features of the area by using the Park road guide as he travels the paved highway within the area.

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8. Clyde P. Ross, "Quicksilver Deposits of the Terlingua District," Bulletin: The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, 35, No. 2, March-April 1941, 125.

The combination of geologic, geographic, and related facto which have gone into the forming of the vast Big Bend country have had an important influence on the distribution of human, animal, and plant life in the area. The Rio Grande, Terlingua, Alamo, and Blue creeks, and the scattered springs along the foo hills of the mountains have for centuries provided the major wa supply for man, and the plant and animal life of the region. M for the most part, did not go far from these sources of water. On the other hand, the plants and animals of the semi-arid regi have adapted themselves to the area and are found distributed a cording to their capacity to adjust. In the Rio Grande and the creeks which empty into it are many types of fish, the most important being the yellow or channel catfish. Along the river, especially in the canyons, are the Rio Grande beaver. Away fro the river and in the semi-arid plains and the foothills of the mountains adjoining the Castolon area are found the Sonora deer, the Texas peccary (wild hog), the fox, the coyote, the cottontail and jack rabbit, and many types of mice, lizards, and snak The more numerous birds found along the river area are the cactus wren, dove, hummingbird, quail, many types of hawk, the goldfinch, and many other smaller birds.[9] Except for the immediate river area, the vegetation is that which has adjusted

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9. J. G. Burr, "Texas Fauna, Past and Present," Texas Geographic Magazine, II (December 1935), 19-30.

to the climatic conditions and is similar to that of the Chihuahuan Plateau of northern Mexico. The more common of these are ocotilla, many types of cacti, allthorn, tarweed, creosote bush, guayule (rubber plant), cat-claw, scrub or desert mesquite, sotol, candelilla (wax plant), black persimmon, wild walnut, salix (water willow), lechuguilla, cottonwood, and many blooming or flowering plants, including the bluebonnet.[10]

THE EARLY PEOPLES OF THE AREA

The area of the Rio Grande in the immediate vicinity of Castolon, with its wide valleys, favorable climate, and a plentiful water supply, was occupied by man at a very early date. Early man, sometimes referred to as Paleo-Indian, lived not only along the valley of the Rio Grande, but also along the valleys of each of the creeks which drain the country from the north into the Rio Grande, and likewise in the vicinity of the many springs which are found along the foothills of the Chisos Mountains. Evidences of such occupation have been found in the old gravel beds along the Rio Grande, along the walls of the many creeks of the area, and in the dry shelter caves to the south of the Chisos Mountains.[11] Recent exploration and re-examination of previous

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10. Omer E. Sperry, "Check List of Plants of the Big Bend National Park Area," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 11, 17-18; H. J. Cottle, "Studies in the Vegetation of Southwestern Texas," Journal of Ecology, XII (January 1931) 105-154.

11. Frank M. Setzler, "Cave Burials in Southwestern Texas," Smithsonian Institution, Publication No. 3235 (1935), 35-37; J. Charles Kelley, "Archeological Issue," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 10 (1948), 14-15.

finds in the area indicate that man lived here as early as 9000 B.C.[12] Late Pleistocene man lived as nomadic hunters of big game Milling stones and manos are in evidence during this early post-glacial period, indicating the use of plants, nuts, berries, root and the like which were ground into meal for food. Doubtless these early peoples had migrated southward ahead of the ice sheet of the last glacial period. Then, with the recession of the ice there was a long period of drouth during which the desert conditi of the southwest began to develop. With the desert conditions, the large game on which this early man depended for much of his food disappeared or became extinct, and the peoples were not able to adjust and either left or possibly became extinct.[13] Followir the disappearance of this early man from the Big Bend region all evidence seems to indicate that there was a period of almost 2,0(years before man again entered the Big Bend country. Following the period of the long dry season there was a gradual improvemen1 with more water and more favora'le living conditions. Thus, afte about 4000 to 3000 B.C. man again began to enter the area and to leave abundant evidence of permanent occupation.[14]

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12. T. N. Campbell, Professor, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas (letter), to Clifford B. Casey, March 9, 1967.

13. Dee Ann Suhm, Alex D. Krieger, and Edward B. Jelks, An Introductory Handbook of Texas Archeology, Texas Archeology Socie Vol. 25, 16.

14. T. N. Campbell to Clifford B. Casey (letter), March 9, 1967.

During this period, Archaic man, as he is called, began to use polished stone for various of his implements and to improve techniques for hunting. Thus by the end of the period, sometime between A.D. 900 and 1400, the bow and arrow had come into use. Likewise, he began the first elements of agriculture and was able to cease his nomadic life.[15] With settled life came more improvement in the building of permanent homes or houses, the making of pottery, and well-organized tribal life; thus was developed the pre-pueblo and the pueblo cultures somewhat as they were found in the sixteenth century, when the first of the Spanish explorers came into the Big Bend country of the Rio Grande.[16] Thus, early in the sixteenth century, with the historic stage in the life of the native peoples of the area, we find them living in permanent houses and tilling the soil, with an organized religion and tribal government.

By A.D. 1500 the desert conditions had developed to the point that most all the native peoples of the area lived along the Rio Grande or in a few well-watered valleys or streams which emptied into the river.[17] Soon thereafter the peaceful sedentary type of

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15. Kelley, 131-132; Suhm, Krieger, and Jelks, 20-21.

16. A. V. Kidder, Southwestern Archaeology (1924), 74-77.

17. A. F. Bandelier, The Journey of Cabeza de Vaca, 148-155; Diego Perez de Luxon, Expedition into New Mexico by Antonio de Espejo, edited and translated by Hammond and Rey, 52-104.

Indian life along the Rio Grande came to an end as there began to appear in the area a more aggressive and troublesome type of India from the north and east.

By the early eighteenth century the Mescalero Apache, the Kiowa, the Comanche, and other nomadic Indians who had been pushed farther into the western plains country came to disrupt the settle life of the pueblos. In spite of this fact, many of the natives of the Rio Grande whose ancestors had lived along the river for many centuries were able to survive the raids from the north. At the same time, however, they had been subjected to the various so-called civilizing influences of the Spanish. Thus, in time most of the native peoples of the Rio Grande had assumed Spanish names, adopted the Catholic religion, and by intermarriage, legal or otherwise, had incorporated a degree of Spanish blood into their native Indian bloodstream. Therefore, even today, we find many of the peoples along the river with characteristics of both the Indian and the Spanish.

THE COMING OF THE EUROPEANS TO THE REGION

Within less than fifty years after the discovery of America by Columbus, the first Spaniard made his way into the Big Bend country of the Rio Grande. In 1526 Panfilo de Narvaez was commissioned by the King of Spain to explore and exploit the land from the Rio de Las Palmas (Rio Grande) to the Cape of Florida. For some unknown reason he reversed the activity, and in 1528 landed on the west coast of what is now the state of Florida.

A party of some one hundred and eighty men was landed on the Florida coast and after some months lost contact with the ships. In a desperate effort to reach New Spain they attempted to cross the Gulf of Mexico by means of crudely constructed boats and rafts. After a long period in the open waters of the Gulf, about half of the party was caught in a Gulf storm and the rafts were wrecked on the Texas coast, possibly on Galveston Island.[18] During the storm the raft which carried Narvaez, the commander of the expedition, was lost at sea. Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, the King's representative on the expedition, took command of the remnant of the party which had survived the storm. After spending six years among the Indians of the Gulf Coast of Texas, Cabeza de Vaca and three of the remaining members of the expedition escaped from their Indian captors and continued their journey toward New Spain. For some unknown reason, instead of going on down the Gulf Coast to the Spanish settlements they crossed the continent, and in the spring of 1536 finally found their way to the west coast settlement of Culiacan.[19] On this journey across the continent it is believed that Cabeza de Vaca crossed the Rio Grande twice: the first time at some place

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18. Morris Bishop, The Odyssey of Cabeza de Vaca (1933), 60-61.

19. Ibid., 144-148.

near the Big Bend of the river, and the second time near the present Ojinaga-Presidio area.[20]

Cabeza de Vaca described the Indians of the Rio Grande as the most intelligent that he had encountered on the entire journey. They lived in permenant houses, cultivated the soil, but did not use pottery implements.

During the next one hundred fifty years most of the Spanish activities along the Rio Grande were limited to the area from La Junta (Presidio-Ojinaga) northward into New Mexico.[21] In the meantime, however, the troublesome nomadic Indians from the north had been making forays southward and across the Rio Grande in the Big Bend area, and, in time forced the Spanish authorities of New Spain to make some effort to offer protection to the native peopl living along the Big Bend of the Rio Grande.[22] Thus, after about 1776 two combination mission-presidios were established in the immediate area of the Big Bend of the Rio Grande. Mission San Vicente was established on the south side of the Rio Grande just below the San Vicente-Mariscal range. This mission-presidio was to protect the villages along the river in the area where the Apa

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20. Ibid., 130-134; Bandelier, 148-155.

21. Herbert E. Bolton, Spanish Explorations in the Southwest (1916), 197-280; Luxon, 52-114.

22. Hubert H. Bancroft, History of the North Mexican States and Texas, 607; Vito Alescio Robles, Coahuila y Texas en la Epoca Colonial, 369-386.

Even today the ruins of both San Vicente and San Carlos may be seen in their respective areas.

The failure of the Spanish to give proper protection to the peoples of the Big Bend area due to pre-occupation at that time in the upper Rio Grande and East Texas areas was no doubt the major factor in bringing about the depopulation of the region and the abandonment of the mission-presidios of San Vicente and San Carlos. Thus, there was a period of fifty or more years in the last years of the eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries that the Castolon area was rarely, if ever, touched by Europeans. The area was left largely as a temporary passageway and camping ground for the Apaches and Comanches as they made their raids into the northern part of New Spain. During this time from 1810 to 1821, the Mexican War for Independence added to the confusion and caused additional neglect of many portions of the Spanish-Mexican frontier. There was little, if any, improvement under the independent Mexican government due to the very high degree of instability down to and including the war between the United States and Mexico (1846-1848). At the close of this war, by the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, all lands north and east of the Rio Grande to a point just north of El Paso were transferred to the United States.[25]

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25. Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States of America, 5, 207-236.

CHAPTER II

EARLY ANGLO-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES, 1849-1900

THE RIO GRANDE BECOMES AN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

With the approval of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848, the middle of the stream of the Rio Grande became the international boundary line between the United States and Mexico from its mouth to the southern boundary of New Mexico. Thus the Big Bend of the Rio Grande was no longer an interior stream along which peoples of one country or state could freely reside or engage in commercial and other types of activities on either side of the river. In spite of this theoretical fact, however, for most of the last half of the nineteenth century the Mexican-Indian peoples along the river continued to live by their centuries-old pattern of freely moving back and forth across the river. Likewise, the so-called "Comanches Trail" which had three crossings of the Rio Grande in the immediate area of the Big Bend was used by the Apaches and Comanches for much of the last half of the century on their raids into northern Mexico. The easternmost of the trail crossings was in the vicinity of the Presidio-Mission San Vicente; the second, El Vado de Chisos or Grand Indian Crossing, was just above the mouth of Mariscal

Canyon; while the third was near present Lajitas and just above Santa Helena Canyon.[1]

The preponderance of evidence seems to indicate that the Indians used El Vado de Chisos, or Grand Indian Crossing, much more than the other, and that they used the secondary routes or crossings only when they wished to make contact with Mexican-Indians at San Vicente or at San Carlos.[2] As a result of this continued and increased use of the Grand Indian Crossing by the marauding Indians well toward the close of the nineteenth century, both sides of the Rio Grande in the area of present Castolon had been vacated by the native peoples. This conclusion is upheld by the fact that none of the early expeditions into the area mentioned finding peoples living along the river in the Big Bend. Thus the Rio Grande in the immediate area of Castolon became an international boundary with no inhabitants living along the river. And, for the most part, this remained true until the close of the nineteenth century. At the same time, however, the area was frequently visited by bands of Apache, Lipan, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians going and returning from their forays into Mexico. Captain John Pope in his report of an

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1. E. E. Townsend, "The Comanche Trail," (unpublished manuscript); J. Evetts Haley, Fort Concho, 3-4.

2. Townsend, "The Comanche Trail."

expedition for the exploration of a route for the Pacific Railways said that on October 17, 1854, his party came upon a group of Kiowas with more than one thousand horses moving northward in the Trans-Pecos area of Texas.[3]

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Major W. H. Emory in his report of the work of the International Boundary Commission made it clear that the surveying party bypassed the Castolon area as they departed from the river some distance above Santa Helena Canyon going southward into Mexico by way of San Carlos and on around Sierra Ponce and returned to the river some twenty miles below the canyon where they recrossed the river into Texas and then moved north and east around the Mariscal Mountains toward San Vicente and on down the river.[4] Major Emory did say, however, that the country between the canyon (Santa Helena) and the Chisos Mountains consisted of an extended basin which was not suitable for cultivation except for the limited bottom lands along the river.[5] At the same time, the report of the International

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3. Report of Captain John Pope, House Document, No. 129, 19-25.

4. Executive Document No. 135, 34th Congress, 1st Session, I, 50-58.

5. Ibid., 57.

Boundary Commission does give an excellent description of the general area with detailed etchings of the canyons and the Chiso Mountains.

ANGLO-AMERICAN EXPLORATION AND OCCUPATION OF THE BIG BEND

Even before the time of the survey made by the International Boundary Commission, in September of 1850, Major W. W. Chapman in a letter to Major General T. S. Jesup, Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C., gave a somewhat detailed report of a twelve-man expedition led by Captain John Love. This expedition moved up the Rio Grande from Ringgold Barracks in Starr County, Texas, along the lower Rio Grande to a point which Love called Babbitt' Falls, which is likely the great falls in the Santa Helena Canyo Captain Love reported that the country was mountainous and barre He told of the Grand Indian Crossing, which according to his estimate was one hundred fifty miles above Chihuahua, that the trail was very wide, well beaten, and resembled a much traveled thoroughfare and extended for two hundred miles to the north where it crossed the Puerco (Pecos River). Captain Love recommended that a garrison be established at or near the "Crossing" to enable the United States to prevent the passage of Indians into Mexico, and to aid materially in carrying out treaty stipulations with that country. Moreover, he said, "The Indians appear to be the natural enemy of the Mexican, for he kills

him whenever he can find him, and frequently for no possible reason."[6]

For some seven years after the International Boundary Survey Party traversed the Big Bend, there were apparently no written records relative to the area; none have been found. Early in 1859, however, a special United States War Department Order No. 24, dated April 7, 1859, provided for the sending of a reconnaissance expedition into the Big Bend country of Texas to determine the capabilities of camels as a means of transportation for military purposes across the semi-arid portions of the southwestern part of the United States. In addition, the expedition was to locate the so-called Comanche Trail and make recommendations realtive to the proper means or methods of protecting the area from the marauding Indians from the north. The initial expedition was placed under the command of Edward L. Hartz, Second Lieutenant, 8th Infantry, by orders from Major D. H. Vinton, Quartermaster for the Headquarters Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas. The expedition left San Antonio about the middle of May of 1859 and proceeded westward by way of Camp Hudson and Fort Lancaster to Camp Stockton (present Fort Stockton, Texas), where they arrived June 12. During the month of June a preliminary

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6. M. L. Crimmins, "Two Thousand Miles by Boat in the Rio Grande," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 5 (1933), 44-52.

trial run with the camels was made to Fort Davis and a return to Camp Stockton at Comanche Springs. On July 11, 1859, the camel train consisting of twenty-three camels, a conductor, and six drivers, accompanied by fifty soldiers, proceeded southward along the Comanche Trail by way of Pena Colorado, Del Norte Gap, Persimmon Gap, and Tornillo Creek to the Rio Grande at a point near the eastern Indian Crossing opposite Presidio-Mission San Vicente. After spending a few days along the Rio Grande in the area between Mariscal and Boquillas Canyons, the party returned to Camp Stockton where they arrived on July 28.

It appears that the military authorities were not satisfied with the report of the Hartz expedition of 1859, as evidenced in a letter dated May 31, 1860, San Antonio, Texas, signed by Colonel Robert E. Lee, Commander of Headquarters Department of Texas. This letter ordered that there be a resumption of the reconnaissance of the Comanche Trail, and that Lieutenant W. H. Echols, Topgraphical Engineers, who had attended the Hartz expedition the previous year as topographical officer, be in command of the renewed endeavor. Lieutenant Echols was given a military escort of one Second Lieutenant, one sergeant, and thirty privates to carry out the expedition. The party followed San Antonio-El Paso route to Camp Hudson. Soon after leaving Camp Hudson, in an effort to find a shorter and better route from the Pecos River to Fort Davis, they made a very difficult journey across what is now northwestern Val Verde and the central

portion of Terrell County, following rather closely much of the route of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Dryden to Alpine, and then on to Fort Davis. From there they proceeded south to Presidio del Norte. From Presidio del Norte they went eastward to Terlingua Creek in the vicinity of Agua Fria Mountain, near which along Terlingua Creek they came upon the San Carlos branch of the Comanche Trail. Instead of following the Trail they went on down the creek to its mouth where Lieutenant Echols said they "went to see a wonderful curiosity, which the guide told us of; a place where the stream runs thru [sic] a mountain precipice, about 1500 feet high. The opening is just the width of the stream, the precipice springing vertically from the water to its summit." This describes very well the mouth of Santa Helena Canyon. After spending some time at the mouth of the canyon the party moved to the north and west around Mesa de Anguila to the San Carlos Crossing. However, not finding this location suitable for a military post they returned to the mouth of the canyon which he called "Grand Puerta," thence down the river for some four or more miles and "camped at a spot which attracted my attention very much for a post. Very pretty, plenty of timber; abundance of grass; plenty of wood; building sites. Have found about what I was in search of." This "spot" doubtless was the present site of Castolon. In addition to the above statement by Lieutenant Echols, he said, "The River has a fine valley on each side . . . more timber and wood than a post can use. I saw one or two good sites on moderately elevated

gravelly mesas, easily accessible from the river bottom, elevated just sufficiently for the purpose; in a word, the location is well adapted for the purpose of building a post."[7] In spite of this glowing report, it was almost sixty years before a United States army post, Camp Santa Helena, was established on the site.

Soon after the Echols report relative to the Big Bend country had reached Washington and had been given serious consideration by the War Department, there began to appear a much greater threat to the national existence and security of the United States--civil strife. The election of 1860 and its results proved to be so upsetting to many people of the southern states that the secession movement got under way and Texas soon joined the seceding states. Thus as a result of the Civil War, all national activities along the International Boundary of the Big Bend country came to a halt. During this period of war and the Reconstruction which followed, the United States military forts and posts of Texas were inactive, and the Indians were free to strike at will in much of Texas. This was especially true in the Big Bend area which was completely unoccupied by settlers. It was during this period that the raids across the Rio Grande by way of the Comanche Trail became the most pronounced, and the Castolon region became the scene of

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7. Senate Executive Document, No. 2, 6th Congress, 1st Session, Serial No. 1024, 422-446.

'requent visits from the Mescalero Apaches, the Comanches, and :he Kiowas as they made their way to and from the interior of lexico during the season of the "Mexican Moon," or as the Mexicans alled it--the "Indian Moon."[8]

Prior to the War Between the States only four areas of the 'rans-Pecos region in Texas had been occupied: the El Paso valley, he Presidio area, and the two United States military posts at 'ort Stockton and Fort Davis. With the reoccupation of the military arrisons after the war there was a considerable reduction in man-ower, materials, and money for the effective protection of the xtensive frontier. The Big Bend, where very few people lived, as given little protection. Therefore it was not very inviting o settlers. The coming of the railroads and the gradual sub-ugation of the Indians made it possible for cattlemen to enter he area in the 1880s. The first extensive leasing of land in he Castolon area was to J. E. Wlison, who in February 1884 leased 11 of Blocks 16, 17, and 18 of the G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co., in he lower Big Bend country.[9] In the meantime Mexican families egan to drift back into the area, primarily because there was no onger danger from Indian raiders from the north. Most of the

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8. Rupert N. Richardson and Harold B. Simpson, Frontier orts of Texas, xiv-xvii.

9. Brewster County Records, Section 5, File 1.

Mexican families had small herds of goats and a few burros. In addition to tending their herds they farmed small tracts of land near each of the springs and along the narrow valleys of the creek and the Rio Grande valley. A few of these settlers were natives of the United States although many came from the interior of Mexico.[10] Most of these people did not go to the trouble of eithe leasing or filing on lands they occupied, and when the Anglo-American ranchmen came into the area and leased the land they did not bother the "squatters". They found the Mexicans to be assets since they could provide a supply of fresh vegetables as well as necessary labor for the ranches. Some few, however, owned the land on which they lived: Cipriano Hernandez owned survey 17, 26, and 28, Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co.; Ruperto Chavarria had title to survey 9, Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co.; and Cruz Rey was the owner of survey 7 of the same block. Each of these sections included land extending down to the Rio Grande which made them useable as irrigated farm lands.[11]

It appears that there were no Anglo-Americans in the immediat Castolon area until very near the end of the nineteenth century. In the fall of 1899 when Dr. Robert T. Hill made his historic

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10. Family records and interviews.

11. Brewster County Records, 1, 29, 47, and 61.

›at trip down the Rio Grande, he reported that in the area tween the mouth of Santa Helena Canyon and Mariscal he saw only ‹ persons: four Mexicans who were driving a small herd of stolen ttle into Mexico, and two white men, one of whom was the then famous "Greasy Bill," a well-known outlaw of the West Texas gion.

With the discovery of quicksilver in the Terlingua region ere was a rapid increase in the population of the entire area, d there soon appeared such settlements as Santa Helena, Coyote, rlingua Baja, and Molinar. The last name village got its name om the leading family of the small farming settlement along rlingua Creek about halfway from the Rio Grande up to the rlingua mining area.[12]

THE BEGINNING OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE AREA

Soon after the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, El Paso and esidio Counties were created by acts of the Texas Legislature. was not until 1871, however, that Presidio County was organ- ed, embracing all of what is now Brewster County. With the ›ming of the railroads in 1882-1883, there was a very rapid ›velopment of the area with considerable increase in population. ı 1885, with the removal of the county seat of Presidio County

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12. Robert T. Hill, "Running the Canyons of the Rio Grande," ›ntury Magazine, LXI, 371-378.

from Fort Davis to Marfa, dissatisfaction developed in the north and in the eastern part of the country. This sentiment resulted in pressure on the state legislature, and in turn four new count were created, the territory for these counties to be taken from Presidio County. These counties were Brewster, Jeff Davis, Foley and Buchel. Brewster County was organized in February 1887 with Murphyville as the county seat. By petition and election, however, the name was soon changed to Alpine, and this change of nar was officially recognized by the Post Office Department of the United States on February 3, 1888. The proposed counties of Buch and Foley were attached to Brewster County for civil and criminal purposes, but later, in 1897, they were abolished and the territo was added to that of Brewster County.[13] Thus the first county records relative to the Castolon-Santa Helena area are listed as having been in Presidio, Buchel, and finally Brewster County. Copies of all these records, however, may be found in the Brewste County Clerk's Office.

The economic development of the extreme Big Bend area, or the Castolon area, was slow because of the long period of Indian depredations across the river in the vicinity, and in addition to the characteristics of the land, difficulties of communications, and the general feeling or attitude on the part of many people that it would be unprofitable to go into the area. By the late 1880s and early 1890s, however, large scale ranching activities.

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13. Clifford B. Casey, "Trans-Pecos in Texas History," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 5, 17.

gan to get under way with the appearance of such names as Thomas ıth, Harve Dodson, L. V. Steele, T. D. McKinney, Clyde Buttrill, M. Gano and sons of G-4 fame, Pink Taylor, Dock Gourley, and ıers.[14] In the following section of this paper there will be a re detailed tracing of the economic development of the area after ɜ opening of the twentieth century.

FACTORS IN PROMOTING A RAPID CHANGE EARLY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The most powerful factor in the more rapid economic develop- ıt of the lower Big Bend country was the discovery of quicksilver the area. It is believed that white men knew of the presence quicksilver in the area as early as 1850. It was not until ›ut 1894, however, that a Mexican sheepherder, Juan Acosta, reported to have picked up and displayed a sizable chunk of ınabar. It is reported that some men from California heard of › find and came down and located the deposit and attempted to 'elop the area. In their effort they carved the words "California .l" at the location on a cliff, later known as California Hill, California Mine. At about the same time a Charles Allen of :orro, New Mexico, and George W. Wanless from Jimenis, Chihuahua, :ico, heard of the cinnabar strike and came into the area.

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14. Brewster County Court Records, 2,7, and 8; The Alpine .lanche, July 4, 1903.

There is no definite evidence of production until 1896 when the Marfa and Mariposa mines began to operate in the California Hill region. During the next five or so years a dozen or more mines were in operation in the area, and by 1903 there were more than 3,000 people living in the area. The mining region extended ove: an area of some fifty miles from west to east and possibly eight or ten miles from north to south, or from the Solitario Mountain to the Mariscal mine at the north end of the Mariscal anticline.[15] This rapid development of mining activities and consequent increase in the population of the region was indirectly an importa factor in an increase in ranching, the development of irrigated farming, and other activities such as road building and improved communications which took place in the lower Big Bend country.

Cipriano Hernandez came into Texas from Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico, in the middle 1890s and worked at the Shafter mines for a few years. In 1903 he moved into the Big Bend area where he took up sections thirteen and fourteen and farmed along the floo plain. At about the same time Patricio Marquez filed on section twelve. Both Hernandez and Marquez maintained small supply store in portions of their home. After some ten years, these three

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15. Kathryn B. Walker, "Quicksilver Mining in the Terlingua Area" (unpublished Master's thesis, Sul Ross State College, Alpir Texas), 1-22; Clyde P. Ross, "The Quicksilver Deposits of the Terlingua Region, Texas," Economic Geology, XXVI, 115-20; Robert G Yates and George A. Thompson, "Geology and Quicksilver Deposits of the Terlingua District," Geological Survey Professional Paper 312, 50-52.

ections along the Rio Grande were sold to Clyde Buttrill in the ummer and fall of 1914.[16] Then on February 16, 1916, Clyde ttrill entered into a written contract with James L. Sublett, o was to level the land, prepare irrigation ditches, and help plant and cultivate cotton and other crops. After some two ears, Mr. Buttrill, who was first of all a ranchman, tired of e farming activity, and in 1918, he sold his interest to Carol ates. Later in the year, however, Bates sold to Will C. Jones. th Bates and Jones were in the Texas Ranger service and had ttle time or interest for farming, and early in 1919 their in-erest in sections twelve, thirteen, and fourteen were sold to yne Cartledge. Mr. Cartledge had been a clerk bookkeeper for ward E. Perry at the Chisos Mining Company since about 1909. e real period of irrigated farming began with the transfer of ese properties to Cartledge. Soon after acquiring the land, . Cartledge entered into a partnership agreement with Howard E. rry. In the meantime, James L. Sublett had acquired three or ur sections up the river just a few miles below Santa Helena nyon, where he, with the assistance of a number of Mexican milies and a partnership with Albert W. Dorgan, put in another rigated farming project. This partnership came to be known the Grand Canyon Company and was engaged largely in the

16. Brewster County Deed Records, 27, 32, 37, 50, 52, 67, , and 99.

production of garden crops or vegetables to supply the miners at Terlingua.[17] Irrigated farming gave work for twenty or more Mexican families and thus was an active factor in the economic development of the lower Big Bend in the Castolon area.

Along with the growth of mining and irrigated farming in the region, there was also a material increase in ranching activity. Improved roads and a better market for livestock with a better labor supply served to induce an ever-increasing number of men to venture into the previously sparsely settled portion of Brewster County. The county register of cattle brands shows some six times as many registered brands by 1910 than there had been in the lower country prior to 1900. In spite of this growth of ranching in the area, it was still a hazardous business and fraught with many serious problems. Some of these were long distances to markets, poor roads, lack of water, and with the increase of the number of livestock, a consequent deterioration in the ranges, a more rapid washing of the draws and stream beds, and other problems resulting from overgrazing. The following are some of the new names which appear in the Record of Marks and Brands: W. L. Wattars, Newt Gourley, O. H. Hector, Ira Hector, William Pulliam, J. W. Poter, Charles Burnham, T. V. Skaggs, George Reed, Waddy Burnham, Fredrico Billalba, Sam Nail, Cipriano Hernandez, Creed Taylor, Archie Miller, and Wayne R. Cartledge.[18]

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17. Ibid., Vol. 99, 403-404.

18. Brewster County Records of Marks and Brands, 1.

The Madero Revolution of 1910 in Mexico and the disturbed :uation for the next few years in much of the northern area of ıt Republic called for increased action on the part of the United ıtes to protect the people along the Rio Grande. A military ;t was established at Marfa, Texas. In addition, a number of ›-posts were placed along the international boundary extending ›m Candelaria on the northwest to Glenn Springs to the south- ;t. It was the function of these small outpost garrisons to :rol the border and to cooperate with county and state officers, :luding Texas Rangers, in maintaining peace and order along : Rio Grande.

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CHAPTER III

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA--CAMP SANTA HELENA

BORDER RAIDS IN THE BIG BEND COUNTRY

Instability of the Mexican government following the Revolut of 1910 made it difficult, if not impossible, for Mexico to cont the many diverse elements of the land, especially along the nort boundary. Thus from California to Texas there developed border problems as the result of the appearance of many bandit gangs in the northern provinces of Mexico. The rough mountainous region of the Big Bend country of north Chihuahua and Coahuila offered excellent hiding places for the bandits and later for the forces of Pancho Villa as he sought, in various ways, to involve the Mexican government in unfavorable relations with the United Stat During this very unsettled period, a number of raids were carrie out against small settlements in the Texas Big Bend country.[1]

Banditry in Mexico has long been, more or less, a family affair. Along the immediate Big Bend country some of the more outstanding have been the Cano brothers, who along with ten or fifteen of their close kin preyed on the ranches along the borde

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1. Walter Prescott Webb, The Texas Rangers, 437-504.

›r much of the first two decades of the twentieth century. On ınuary 23, 1913, Chico Cano, the leader of the group, was cap- ırred by Joe Sitters and a group of the customs service. While ı their way to Marfa, Texas, with the prisoner, they were way- .id by Cano's gang and one of the men of the customs service .s killed and two others were wounded. Chico Cano escaped and 'ore that in time he would get Sitters. Bandits of this type rely forget this kind of pledge, and three years later, on y 24, 1916, while Inspector of Customs Joe Sitters and three her men of the customs service, and a Texas Ranger, were rking the border above Presidio, Chico and his gang maneuvered em into an ambush in which Sitters and the Ranger were killed[2]

During this same period there were three or more bandit ıgs which operated in the immediate Big Bend area. These gangs ›perated with whatever group was in control of the Mexican ›ernment at any time, or with any revolutionary group which seemed have effective control of the area. On May 5, 1916, the Glenn :ings raid, led by one Rodriguez or possible by Navidad Alvarez, .ieutenant of Pancho Villa's, and some forty or more Mexicans, ›k place. At this time Villa was well in control of this 'tion of northern Mexico. In the Glenn Springs raid three diers and a small boy were killed. The store was looted and

2. Ibid., 498; Harry Warren (unpublished notes, Candelaria, :as).

burned, along with most of the houses of the area. Another part of the raiding party had gone down the river to Jesse Deemer's store; there they looted and took an undetermined amount of mor The gang, knowing that assistance could not reach the area soon, remained at Boquillas all the next day. At nightfall they movec across the river taking Deemer and his helper, Monroe Payne, wit them. Jesse Deemer, who lived for some time at Sierra Mojada in the interior of Mexico, had come to Boquillas, Coahuila, during the 1880s in connection with mining operations in the area. Soc thereafter he had acquired property in Texas across from Boquill Some time after 1900 he had transferred most of his activities t the Texas side of the river. However he seemed to have maintain some sort of close relationship with certain peoples in Mexico. Consequently many people of the Big Bend area believed that Deem had instigated the Glenn Springs-Deemer store raid.[3] For exampl the soldiers stationed at Noria, inland a short distance from Boquillas, put out a post news sheet which they called Lanoria. In an issue of the sheet dated October 25, 1916, the following appeared: "The man responsible for the Glenn Springs raid and th Boquillas robery [sic] made a misleading report to our governmen and we the militiamen were called out. No good citizene [sic]

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3. C. D. Wood, Testimony before the United States Subcommi on Foreign Relations, El Paso, Texas, February 5, 1920; Cas Edwa "The Glenn Springs Raid," Big Bend Sentinel, September 1, 1950; The Alpine Avalanche, September 14, 1951, 47-49.

the Big Bend country believes this man's story, but our govern-
nt did. Today he is enjoying the comforts of Sunny California
d the patriotic Militiaman is guarding the sand hills where
is Border Howler pulled his graft." [4]

Another of the well-known border raids was the Brite Ranch
id of December 25, 1917, just above the Caprock from Candelaria,
Presidio County, Texas. Christmas Day came on Tuesday in 1917,
d since it was the practice of the cowboys to go into town on
ristmas Eve, even though it was not on the weekend, almost all
e men on the ranch departed late on Monday afternoon. The ban-
ts, more interested in supplies than a fight, had sent a small
rican boy to the ranch on Sunday to check and give the necessary
gnal after all the cowboys were gone. Late on Monday afternoon
e boy walked out into the pasture, doubtless to some prearranged
ot, where he built a fire to give a smoke signal to the bandits
o were hidden in the nearby hills. The small boy had given the
bi that he had come to the ranch to meet a friend from Pecos,
xas. However, later that evening after having built the fire
disappeared.

The foreman of the Bar-Cross Brite ranch was Van Neil. He
l his wife and three small children lived in the headquarters

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4. Webb, 499-402; Warren (unpublished notes); Noll Keith, e Brites of Capote, 107-120; Dorothy Weatherby Massey (interview 15; William A. Raborg, The Villa Raid on Glenn Springs, 105; nnoria" (unpublished news sheet), October 25, 1916.

house. In addition to the main house there was a well-stocked store and postoffice building, a bunkhouse, a small house for help at the ranch, and the postmaster's cottage, which was some two hundred yards from the main cluster of headquarters buildings On Monday night, December 24, 1917, there were only thirteen people at the Brite ranch headquarters. Of these, five were children, four were women, and four were men. The four men included Van Neil, his father Sam Neil, and two Mexican-American ranch hands. The four women included the wife of Van Neil, his mother, Mrs. Sam Neil, and two Mexican-American women who had remained at the ranch to prepare the Christmas dinner. The childre included those of the ranch foreman, and two visitors--nieces of the senior Mr. Neil--Dorothy and Jessie Weatherby from nearby Fort Davis. Thus it was this small group who were gathered at the Bar-Cross Brite ranch headquarters for a Christmas Eve party in anticipation of a happy Christmas day and big dinner on the morrow.

Early the next morning, the elder Mr. Neil, after having had his morning cup of coffee, walked out into the yard to enjoy the early morning sunrise over the hills to the east and to get a breath of the brisk morning air as he stretched his legs in the free and open spaces. After some little time he looked off to the southwest and saw twenty-five or more strangers approaching on horseback. Mr. Neil rushed into the house to awaker the late sleepers with the cry of "Bandits!" He and his son

:abbed their guns and posted themselves at windows while the omen and children hurriedly dressed and sought shelter in the ining room which was an inside and protected place. The two exican men who were in the corral milking the cows were seized the bandits. The bandits, after firing a number of shots at ie house, sent one of their captives, Jose Sanchez, to the ouse to demand that they cease firing and surrender. The answer is "no" and the bandits resumed their firing. After some time ose was again sent to the house to report that the bandits did ot want to kill and that they were only after the supplies in ie store, thus would cease firing if the keys to the store were ent out. This was done and soon the looting of the store got ider way.

In the meantime, about mid-morning, the mail hack driven Mickey Welch with two men passengers arrived at the ranch. The o passengers, who were Mexicans and evidently knew many of the ndits, were killed so that they might not at some later time lentify those of the raiding party. The mail driver, since he s a United States Government employee, was carried into the ore and tied up. However, later he was tied by his neck to a iling rafter and his throat was cut. To add insult to injury, ie throat-cutting bandit had wiped his bloody knife on the shirt the dying mail carrier. Somewhat later in the midmorning, the verend H. M. Bandy of Marfa arrived with his family and ad- tional visitors for the coming Christmas dinner, which never ook place. With little hope of saving their lives Van Neil

sent out word to the bandits that the Padre and his family were coming to spend the day and requested that they might be allowed to enter unharmed. To everyone's surprise, the bandits sent word back that they would be allowed to enter, but that no one would be allowed to leave the house. At about the same time, Mr. Hoot Hunter, a brother-in-law of Neil's, approached from the Valentine road. He, being properly warned, turned back and managed to get to safety. Then about noon, a Mr. James L. Cobb, who lived some one and a half miles from the Brite headquarters house, discovered the situation and called into Marfa to report the raid on the Brite ranch headquarters.

In the meantime, however, the bandits had done their deed of murder, looted the store, and packed their horses with the loot. They were departing from the scene of the crime when they saw the dust from the cars of the rescue party from Marfa. Quite they made their getaway without further violence. Apparently they hoped to reach the precipitous Rimrock trail before the posse could catch up with them.

The posse, consisting of Texas Rangers, military personnel and armed citizens of Marfa, followed in hot pursuit but were not able to overtake the bandits before they reached the trail down the cliffs toward the Rio Grande; thus most of the bandits made their escape into Mexico. One day later, however, the combined forces from Camp Marfa under the leadership of Colonel Lahorne, and troops from the outposts at Ruidosa and Candelaria

llowed the bandits into Mexico for about five miles where they gaged them in a running battle, and it is believed that few of e culprits escaped. All evidence seemed to indicate that the iding party was a part of the Chico Cano gang, in spite of the ct that the dead body of the leader, who had been killed and ft along the trail, was wearing a Carranza uniform.[5] Thus ded one of the better known bandit raids of the Big Bend region.

In addition to these major raids and disturbance along the rder, there were many minor incursions and other types of tress- ss from both sides of the Rio Grande which tended to make nec- ssary the constant service of local peace officers, the Texas ngers, militia troops, and units of the regular army. World r I and the efforts of Germany to enlist Mexico in some sort of coalition against the United States played its part in creating situation of tension along the International Boundary. German ents operated in many parts of Mexico, especially along the rthern border. German military officers were active in helping e Mexican armies to improve their methods and tactics. Doubt- ss much encouragement was given to the bandits along the Rio ande by these foreign agitators. Also, the adoption of the ohibition amendment to the United States consitution was a urce of much trouble along the border. Not only did Mexicans

5. Webb, 497-501; Warren (unpublished notes); Keith, 107-10; Dorothy Weatherby Massey (interview), 1945.

from both sides of the International Boundary engage in the tra of illegal liquors north of the border, but many Anglo-American who could see a way to easy money became "bootleggers" in the major populated areas along the border.[6]

To make matters worse, Texans living along the border, Tex Rangers, and United States troops tended to feel that all Mexic were alike and thus any person of Mexican heritage, whether he a citizen of the United States or of Mexico, was looked upon wi suspicion. A good example of this is found in connection with Glenn Springs raid: at Boquillas there were two small stores, c operated by Jesse Deemer and the other by a Mexican-American na Garcia. The store belonging to Garcia was not disturbed; thus when the forty or more men arrived the next day and found that Garcia's store had not been bothered, they at once jumped to tl conclusion that he was in on the raid. And according to "unof: reports, Garcia was given twenty-four hours in which to remove himself and all his possessions to the other side of the river. These same "unofficial" sources reported that Garcia said he would need only twenty minutes.[7]

Men of the border area were not too careful to recognize and carry out all the rules of international law and relations

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6. Webb, 474-475.

7. The Alpine Avalanche, April 28, 1921; The Alpine Aval September 14, 1951, 49-50.

us there was often abuse and this in turn caused many men of xican origin to become criminal in their activities, men who der normal circumstances would have been law-abiding citizens. ubtless these conditions along the international boundary be- ɜen the United States and Mexico was the basic factor in the de- sion of the United States Government to establish a considerable nber of sub-posts along the Rio Grande, extending from the vicin- y of Sierra Blanca, Texas, to Boquillas. One of these was Santa lena, on the property of Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge.[8]

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CAVALRY CAMPS

The combination of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, the out- ɜak of World War I in Europe, and later the adoption of the ɔhibition amendment in the United States conspired to create ɜ situation along the international boundary between the United ıtes and Mexico which culminated in the long list of raids along ıs border. This in turn created a condition of such magnitude ıt local law enforcement officers aided by Texas Rangers were ıble to protect life and property along the long border from ɜ Gulf of Mexico to the California coast. Consequently, in ll the United States Government began the deployment of the ɣalry forces along the extended line of unprotected and, ıerally, unfortified boundary. At that time there were United

8. Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge, Lease agreement :h the United States Government, July 1, 1919.

States troops stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tex at Fort Bliss in El Paso, and at Fort Clark in Brackettville. of these forts were near large centers of population, and the bandits did not engage in their activities anywhere close to th population centers or to troop concentrations. On the other ha along a vast stretch of unprotected Big Bend country where ther were high mountains, deep canyons, and vast desert areas, the raiders engaged in some of their most disastrous activities.[9]

Anticipating the developments, however, the United States Government, as early as 1911, sent Troop M of the 3rd Cavalry f Fort Bliss to Marfa with orders to patrol the border area from vicinity of the Quitman Mountains to Boquillas in the Big Bend country. Later in 1911, Troop H of the 14th Cavalry was sent t Camp Marfa. This increase in cavalry forces helped a great dea in reducing the number of minor raids along the border. It was soon evident that this small number of cavalrymen could not pat such a vast and difficult terrain. Thus in 1913 the entire 3rd squadron of the 15th Cavalry was sent into the area with orders to place permanent outpost patrols all along the border. There after, for some eight years, there were twelve or more cavalry

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9. Big Bend Sentinel, September 1, 1950; Colonel Frank Tompkins, Chasing Villa, 228; Mrs. O. L. Shipman, Voice of the Mexican Border, 83.

nits stationed at various points along the Rio Grande from near ierra Blanca to La Noria, which was just opposite Boquillas, oahuila, Mexico.[10]

During this time no serious raids occurred along the border. owever, the problem of supplying the scattered cavalry units roved to be a very heavy burden on the small garrison maintained t Camp Marfa, and in the summer of 1915, when the 2nd squadron f the 15th Cavalry was sent to replace the "well-worn" 3rd squadron, hey were accompanied by Troops C and D of the 13th Cavalry, and n addition by Pack Train No. 1 of the Quartermaster Corps. Early n 1916, units of the 14th Cavalry were sent into the area with eadquarters at Camp Marfa under the command of Major O. B. Meyer. t the same time various troops of the unit were stationed at lpine, Presidio, and Valentine. It was from the outpost units hat the small detachments were sent out to patrol the border egion. Thus it was that Sergeant Charles E. Smyth and nine roopers of Troop A, which was located at Alpine, was on patrol uty at Glenn Springs on May 5, 1916, and was attacked by Mexican andits. Soon thereafter the pressure of World War I was such hat in the summer of 1916, when the units of the 2nd and 14th avalry were relieved, they were replaced by the 6th Cavalry and n addition by the 4th Texas Infantry, the 1st Texas Cavalry, and wo battalions of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Following the

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10. Mrs. O. L. Shipman, Taming the Big Bend, 157.

Glenn Springs raid of May 5 Major George T. Langhorne and units of the 8th Cavalry were sent down from Fort Bliss. At the same time additional troops from the 14th Cavalry, which at the time was stationed at Fort Clark, were sent into the area.

Later during 1917 and 1918, the entire 8th Cavalry squadron was moved to Marfa under the command of Colonel George T. Langhor who in the meantime had been promoted from Major to Colonel. Various units of the squadron were distributed all along the Mexican border, and during these years were called upon to follow up a number of the more active of the border raiders, including the Cano gang which perpetrated the Brite ranch raid on Christmas Day of 1917. Colonel Langhorne was an effective leader and was successful in securing the cooperation of the ranchers and others of the Big Bend country during these troublesome days. It is estimated that by the end of 1916 there were more than one hundre thousand National Guardsmen along the border, scattered from the Gulf of Mexico to the California coast.[11]

In spite of this material increase in the number of troops stationed along the Mexican border, during the years 1916 and 1917 raids became more numerous and with more disastrous results. Thus, to more effectively protected life and property along the

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11. Big Bend Sentinel, September 1, 1950; Thompkins, 228. W. D. Smithers, "Bandit Raids in the Big Bend," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 19, 75-105; Shipman, Voices of the Mexican Border, 83.

ıternational boundary, the United States War Department decided ıat the many small and temporary outposts along the border should ɜ enlarged and made into permanent or semi-permanent cavalry ɔsts. To this end the entire area was created into what came ɔ be known as the Big Bend District, with headquarters at Camp ırfa. Many of the sites where there had been stationed small ɜtachments of cavalry troops housed in tents were to be en-.rged and permanent or semi-permanent quarters constructed.[12]

CAMP SANTA HELENA

In line with the objective mentioned above, a contract was tered into by the Government of the United States on June 30, 19, with Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge for the lease a plot of land of four acres, more or less, near the town of nta Helena, Texas. The plot of land was in the north portion of ction thirteen of Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co. All ground vered by the lease was to be on top of the mesa except an ad-ining corral space below. This ground was to be used by the ɔops of the United States Army as a camp site or for such other rposes as might be necessary.[13]

In May 1919, just prior to the time this contract was entered :o, there was stationed at the camp one officer, nineteen cavalry-ı, twenty infantrymen, twenty-six cavalry horses, two mules,

12. Big Bend Sentinel, September 1, 1950; Smithers, 83-84.

13. Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge, Lease agreement :h the United States Government, July 1, 1919.

one wagon, and one water cart. It was reported that the well water in the immediate area was not good, and thus they hauled th water from elsewhere. To house or take care of these men and animals, the camp consisted of the following buildings or structure two adobe houses, 15' x 30' x 8', one with an adobe floor and roof, the other with a board floor and paper roof; one frame officer's quarters, 10' x 10' x 8', with wood floor and paper roof; one kitchen mess, 16' x 16' x 8', with paper roof and dirt floor. In addition to the above there were eight tents which housed the infantry troops. All of these were on the mesa, while just below and along the floodplain were located the stables, 30' x 12' x 8' with a capacity for fourteen animals. Thus about half of the cavalry horses and other animals were staked in the open.[14]

To replace these rather inadequate facilities, Major F. G. Chamberlain, Q.M.C. of the Construction Division, War Department, San Antonio, Texas, by the middle of May 1919, had approved a very elaborate set of plans which had been drawn up by Fred J. Harman, Captain 8th Cavalry. The plans were entitled POST PLANING--MEXICAN BORDER PROJECT, job No. 102 B plus C, plan No. 801-1 dated May 13, 1919. The plans provided for one officer quarters, 25' x 26'; two barracks for enlisted men, 21' x 141' each; one mess-kitchen, 21' x 85'; one lavatory, 21' x 25'; two quarters fc non-commissioned officers, 23' x 25'; two stables, 24' x 160' eac

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14. Captain Vincent P. Brine, Troop C, 8th Cavalry, Santa Helena, Texas, to District Commander, Camp Marfa, Texas (wire), March 12, 1919; R. W. Derrick to Totsy Baetson (letter), March 15, 1966.

one blacksmith shop-guard house combined, 21 x 111'; one hay-shed, 40' x 64'; and a grain barn, 18' x 32'. In addition there was to be a powerhouse with street lights and light in all the buildings, and a septic tank to be connected to all buildings by a six-inch sewer line.[15] It is evident from these plans that the government was fearful that the difficult situation along the Mexican border would last for many years to come, and thus was in the process of constructing permanent facilities for military troops along this border.

In the meantime there had developed a definite change in the war in Europe, and well before work had gotten underway for the Camp Santa Helena project these elaborate plans were drastically changed. On September 3, 1919, approximately half of the proposed structures were canceled. Not only did they cancel or cut out more than half, but they rearranged and relocated those that were constructed. The original plan called for the long way of the barracks to have extended almost north and south and to have been placed somewhat to the south of where they were finally located. As finally approved and constructed, the camp at Santa Helena consisted of one barracks building, a lavatory, one building each for officers and non-commissioned officers, a combination hay-grain barn, and a well-fenced corral with one set of stables. These buildings were ready for use during the early

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15. F. G. Chamberlain, Major, Quartermaster Corps, POST-PLANNING MEXICAN BORDER PROJECT, Job 102-B and C, Plan No. 80101, May 5, 1919.

part of 1920. In addition to the planned-for buildings by the government, the Salvation Army donated funds for the constructic of recreation buildings at both Lajitas and Santa Helena.[16]

By April 1920 much of the camp construction in the Big Benc District was canceled or temporarily suspended pending the report of the Inspector. All work at Glenn Springs was to be suspended indefinitely. However, on April 15, 1920, instructions were issued to proceed with the completion of all construction previously authorized on the reduced construction at Santa Heler This order made possible the completion of the Santa Helena project. The camp facilities as reduced from the original plans would have served well the average number of troops that had bee or that might thereafter be stationed at Santa Helena. By the time all work had been completed and the facilities were ready for occupancy in the fullest sense of the word, all war clouds had cleared away and there was little danger of trouble from Mexico, especially since an effective revolution had given stability to that government. Thus the danger of trouble along Mexican border decreased. General Orders No. 15, issued on Apri 1920, closed down a number of the border stations and materially

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16. Fred J. Herman, "Drawing of Campsite at Santa Helena Texas"; F. H. Enckhausen, First Lieutenant, 27th Infantry, Repor to Commanding Officer, Big Bend District, October 10, 1919; A. B Ames, "Survey of Premises at Santa Helena, Texas," June 1, 1920.

17. F. G. Chamberlain, Lieutenant-Colonel, Quartermaster Corps, MEXICAN BORDER PROJECT, April 15, 1920.

:educed others. The entire cavalry unit at Santa Helena was ;ithdrawn and the Infantry detachment was reduced to sixteen men. 'his sixteen-man detachment was to be furnished with five mounts .nd was to be supplied by wagon or packtrain from the camp at .ajitas.[18] With these developments, it appears that Camp Santa elena was actually never fully utilized by United States troops. n fact, many items of the interior furnishings of the buildings ere never installed. Thus down to the very end of troop concen- ration along the border, the men stationed at Santa Helena con- inued to more or less camp out because of the fact that new arracks and other facilities were never made completely available.[19]

roop Morale and Recreation Along the Border

The problem of maintaining a high state of morale among the :oops of the Mexican border is very clearly revealed in a report : Colonel George T. Langhorne, Commander 8th Cavalry, Marfa, Texas, ıted October 7, 1918. The report was addressed to the Commanding :neral, Southern Department, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In this :port Colonel Langhorne, in explaining disciplinary action against .ve men of the border command, said: "The only reason for this rect violation of orders that I can see is the absolute monotony

18. Clyde V. Simpson, Lieutenant-Colonel, 5th Cavalry, Dis- ict Adjutant, Big Bend District, Marfa, Texas.

19. Wayne R. Cartledge (interview), June 21, 1967.

of life at the river stations, when off duty, and it is thought that these men went into Mexico more as a childish prank, and their action was the result of thoughtlessness. What they meant evidently for a friendly visit resulted disastrously." To counteract these conditions, the Big Bend District created and maintained a corps of trained men with the title "Morale Officer." These officers were required to make regular reports through proper channels to the Department Morale Officer, Southern Dist: Fort Sam Houston, Texas. It appears that throughout this perio that Camp Santa Helena was maintained it was subordinate to the commander at the camp at Lajitas. The Morale Officer at Lajita was W. R. L. Reinhardt, 1st Lieutenant, Medical Corps, who in turn was subject to the supervision of the District Morale Offi Chaplain John MacWilliams, Camp Marfa, Texas. On September 10, 1919, Chaplain MacWilliams in a regular report to the Departmen Morale Officer at Fort Sam Houston said:

> In our Morale Work we have kept in touch with every agency that has to do with the contentment, well-being, efficiency and development of the soldier inside and outside the camp,--his food, his clothing, his associations, his relation with his officers, his entertainment and recreation. Every local need is supplied locally, every complaint or indication of probability of a condition arising that would allow a complaint is forthwith investigated and forthwith remedied. The larger part of the Morale Work in this district, excepting the handling of the welfare organizations which in proportion to other duties is small and presents few difficulties, is done quietly and the actual working of the system is never seen. We try to have nothing but results show

> in the open. Very seldom does anyone except the Morale Officer and the District Commander, Colonel Langhorne, know of any plans made or of the handling of any problem. Then when results appear every soldier and officer thinks that he had a part in the affair and takes credit to himself, while the real workmen are never known. This distributes the pride of achievement and puts the entire command on its mettle. We believe this is the secret of creating high morale, of increasing efficiency, and the removing of difficulties, and engendering loyalty . . . We have a number of entertainments and social affairs and we are so few in number that we can be as one big family.

A few months later, November 12, 1919, Captain F. R. Lafferty, mmanding the 5th Cavalry, Acting Morale Officer, at Lajitas, ›orted that the troops of his command were split into three :achments: Lajitas, Terlingua, and Santa Helena. He then added:

> There is little opportunity for amusement for these men--there is nothing but a small Mexican settlement at Terlingua, and La Jitas and nothing at all at Santa Helena. This station is located at a point over one hundred miles from the nearest railroad and the men rarely leave here except under exceptional circumstances.
>
> A football team has been organized between the Infantry and Cavalry detachments here. An effort has been made to enthuse the Infantry in riding but they do not take kindly to the idea of riding.
>
> A camp is being established in the Chisos Mountains about fifty miles from here where it is proposed to send detachments from time to time and allow them to hunt.
>
> An effort has been made to get a moving picture here but none have been shown here for months. One method I have adopted to keep up the spirit of the men is to feed them in the best possible manner, a difficult problem under the present ration

> system and method of supply; and to have them change stations frequently.
>
> The older non-commissioned officers seem to be contented here but the younger--the recruits seem to long for a change of environment occasionally.

Then in August of 1920, Lieutenant W. R. L. Reinhardt, Mor: Officer, in a report to Chief of Morale Branch, War Plans Divis: Washington, D. C., made the following report:

> Motion pictures are given twice a week. A decided change for the better in pictures has been noted.
>
> The new camp will be ready for occupancy this month. The men are anxiously awaiting this as they have been living in tents the last ten months.
>
> The men are amply supplied with current literature, the leading newspapers, magazines and books.
>
> Swimming remains the most popular of the different sports. A barber shop has opened at the camp as an auxilliary to the post exchange.

These reports give some idea of the problems of morale alo the remote border stations and the efforts made by the proper authorities to meet and solve these problems, and to give the men of the various detachments the best possible situations und which to work and at the same time to use effectively their fre time. It appears that the program was reasonably successful as the Morale Officer reported that there had been no disciplinary

:s since the previous report, no desertions, and no men absent
ıout leave.[20]

:r Problems Confronted Along the Border

Communications in the vast Big Bend area presented a constant
:e during the troubled years 1910-1920. Marfa, which became
center for military activities, was some two hundred miles
ı El Paso and about four hundred from San Antonio. There was
·ct and effective rail and telegraphic and telephone communications
each of these places. From Marfa to the various border out-
s, however, there were only poor dirt roads, and in some cases
trails, with no wire or telephone connections. Consequently
United States Government had to provide these necessities.
a Helena was over one hundred miles from the railroad, and
poorest of dirt roads connected it with the outside world by
of Presidio to Marfa, or by Boquillas to Marathon, Texas. In
mpting to make improvements, the government found it difficult
et the needed legislative funds. Thus in January of 1920,
iff E. E. Townsend of Brewster County, in an effort to secure
ngressional appropriation, wrote a letter to the Honorable
. Culbertson, Senator from Texas to the United States Congress,
hich he stressed the need for improved communications between

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20. Beinhardt, First Lieutenant, Medical Corps, Report to
f of Morale Branch, War Plans Division, Washington, D. C.,
st 1, 1920.

the various military outposts of the Big Bend District as a me of better protecting life and property of United States citize from raids across the Mexican border. A copy of the Townsend was sent to the Adjutant General of the United States who in t channelled the communication to the Commanding General, Southe Department, Fort Sam Houston, asking that a full investigatior made of the problem of poor communications in the Big Bend Di: trict as it was related to delays and inability in following u raiding parties.[21]

Normally military channels work slowly. In this case, hc ever, on February 2, 1920, Colonel Jas. J. Hornbrook, Commandi Officer of the 5th Cavalry stationed at Camp Marfa, mailed to Adjutant General of the United States a schematic diagram of a proposed telephone system for the Big Bend District. In conn with the diagram Colonel Hornbrook wrote:

> This scheme, if approved and supplied, will give alternate talking circuits to the River station of Polvo, Lajitas, Santa Helena and Glenn Springs, which is a most desirable feature. A circuit from Marathon to Glenn Springs is . . . practically a necessity as this is a ninety-seven mile stretch and there are trucks and trains constantly on the road and there is no other source of communication except the tapping of this line when they break down on the road.
>
> This District at one time was a sub-district to the El Paso District, and in the event of active operations, will probably fall under the El Paso District again and have its operations directed

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21. E. E. Townsend to The Honorable C. A. Culbertson (1 January 13, 1920.

> from that point. That it is, at present, impossible to talk from Marfa to El Paso and the advisability of having a talking circuit between these two points is readily recognized.[22]

The Question of Crossing the Rio Grande

Closely related to the problem of communication and the effective pursuit of bandits and cattle thieves across the Rio Grande was the question of when and under what conditions United States forces could or should cross the river. A War Department General Order of May 1918 specifically stated that the pursuit of Mexican bandits by United States troops "will terminate at the border line," except in cases involving the rescue of American citizens who have been captured by the bandits and whose rescue by forces of the Mexican "is open to serious doubt." The guiding rule "will be to utilize the assistance of the Mexican authorities whenever possible; and to avoid the appearance of infringing upon the sovereign right of the Mexican Government." [23]

Relative to the question of crossing the river, Colonel Jas. J. Hornbrook, in a letter to the Commanding General, Southern Department, Fort Sam Houston, dated December 30, 1919, stated:

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22. James J. Hornbrook, Colonel, 5th Cavalry, to the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C. (letter through channels).

23. Ralph Harrison, Colonel, Adjutant General, Southern Department, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

> In my judgement, the only solution is prompt following of the thieves across the river, and successful crossing in this sector will actually stop the thieves....Reason for requesting that the authority be vested in the District Commander without reference to the Department Commander is the necessity for prompt action.

Closely related to the crossing problem, communications, a curtailing of bandit raids was a proposal that a road be constr along the Rio Grande from below Sanderson, Texas, to El Paso, a that a high fence be built between the road and the river. Col George T. Langhorne, who was at the time commander of the 8th Cavalry at Marfa, favored the construction of a road as near th river as practicable. At the same time he opposed the construc of a fence, insisting that it would be too expensive and that i would require constant patrolling.[24]

A limited problem of crossing the river which involved onl the camp at Santa Helena arose in the winter of 1919 when the troops at the camp ran out of fuel for cooking and heating. Evidently the only real source of wood for fuel was on the Mexi can side of the Rio Grande; thus on January 24, 1919, Captain Jesse P. Green put in a request to the Commanding Officer of th Big Bend District for permission to bring wood across the river Captain Green insisted that the shortage of wood exposed the me of his command to the danger of cold and influenza.[25]

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24. George T. Langhorne, Colonel, 8th Cavalry, Marfa, Tex May 19, 1919.

25. Jesse P. Green, Captain, 3rd Infantry, to Commanding Officer, Big Bend District, Marfa, Texas (letter), June 24, 191

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One other issue that was constantly before the military forces ɔng the Rio Grande during the period was that of smuggling gally purchased items across the river. This became increasingly re difficult after the enactment of the prohibition amendment the Constitution of the United States. It became so serious the Big Bend District that Colonel Langhorne requested the jutant General of the State of Texas to send Texas Rangers into ɜ area to assist the military. The major items smuggled into cico were arms and ammunition, while various types of liquors, ɔng with silver bullion, were major items smuggled into the United ates.[26] There were many other problems which confronted the ited States military forces along the Rio Grande. The above ɔuld, however, give one a fair picture of the situation and ce possible an effective interpretation of the river area during ɔse troubled times from 1910 to 1920.

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26. Cosme Bengoches, Mexican Consul, Presidio, Texas, to iacio Bonilla, Mexican Ambassador, Washington, D. C. (letter), just 21, 1919; W. D. Cope, Assistant Adjutant General of Texas, Colonel George T. Langhorne, Marfa, Texas (letter) August 19, .9.

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CHAPTER IV

LAND AND LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF WHAT IS NOW CASTOLON

THE GEOLOGY OF THE REGION

Castolon is almost in the middle of an intermontane area between the Mesa de Anguila and the Chisos Mountains and the immediate Chisos foothills. It is a plain of low elevation which is broken by many mesa-like hills and cut by many stream channels. These channels carry water only during and immediately after heavy rains in the surrounding hills. Castolon is near the middle of the great sunken block between the Terlingua Fault on the west and Cow Heaven Fault to the east. The Castolon Complex is located on an old Gravel fill of the post-early Miocene period. The fill is extensively cut by stream erosion, and along the walls of these eroded gullies may be seen the characteristic forms of sand, sandstone, conglomerates, and cobblestones of various types and sizes which have been deposited in the fault block by the flood waters from the higher lands surrounding the area. This Old Gravel mesa-like plain stands forty or so feet above the alluvial floodplain of the Rio Grande. The floodplain varies from a few feet to a mile or more in width in the area. This indicates that at various times during the life of the Rio Grande it has wandered

about in its course, thus cutting back the Old Gravel fill to its present location and giving to it the appearance of being low-lying hills adjoining the valley of the Rio Grande.[1]

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA

As mentioned above, Castolon is situated on a mesa-like bluff of the Old Gravel formation overlooking a broad flood-plain of the Rio Grande. This mesa-like Old Gravel fill is considerably cut by the small drainage channels which empty onto the floodplain and into the Rio Grande. These many channels, or dry arroyos, tend to give the area the appearance of rolling hills, whereas, in fact, it is a low plain which has been left hill-like by centuries of erosion. Just to the north and west of Castolon is the only major drainage system of the region--Blue Creek--which drains the southwestern portion of the Chisos Mountains and the intervening lands on its way to the Rio Grande. Blue Creek is a dry channel except for short periods during and following heavy rains in the mountains to the north and east. Blue Creek, like the Rio Grande, has cut through the Old Gravel fill as it empties onto the floodplain. The alluvial floodplain of the Rio Grande

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1. Robert J. Yates and George A. Thompson, "Geology and Quicksilver of the Terlingua District, Texas," Geological Survey Professional Papers 312, 4; John A. Wilson, "Cenozoic History of the Big Bend Area," West Texas Geological Society, Publication No. 65-51 (October 1965), 36.

presents a great contrast with the Old Gravel fill above. The floodplain is somewhat like a great green snake winding its way along the drab grays and browns of the dwarf shrubs of the adjoining hills. It is along this floodplain that man for centuries has lived and tilled the sub-irrigated and overflow lands as a means of livelihood. It was here along this floodplain between Castolon and the mouth of Terlingua Creek in the vicinity of Santa Helena Canyon that the earliest settlers of the lower Big Bend established themselves and made their homes.

The General Land Office of the State of Texas realized that the narrow valley of the Rio Grande was the most valuable land of the area, and thus the designated sections as they were surveyed for distribution to the various agencies active in the early development of the state were not laid out in the usual one-mile-square blocks, but rather in long narrow blocks so as to give more potential landowners access to the river and the advantages of the fertile floodplain. The land from the mouth of Santa Helena Canyon down the river to Johnson's ranch was created into thirty-six surveys, numbered one to thirty-six and labeled Block 16, and assigned to the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railroad Company. While this assignment was made under a legislative act of January 30, 1854, controversy arose with the railroad, the state claiming that due to excessive and unnecessary mileage the railroad had acquired too much land from the state. Thus by District Court action of April 6, 1892, all

of Block 16 was recovered by the State of Texas, and then placed on the market for sale as sectionalized school lands.[2]

For ease of handling, the area has come to be known as Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co. land. As the land was taken up, however, it became clear that all of the thirty-six sections of the survey were not equally blessed with wide and fertile floodplain lands. Some had little or no floodplain, as the Rio Grande cut high, overhanging cliffs right up to various types of more resistant formations, thus leaving nothing but high, semi-arid hills or mesas, while others were badly cut by the drainage channels from the mountains to the north and east. In time it was found that sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 35 were the more desirable of the sections of Block 16. And it is these sections that we shall follow up in tracing the early owners and settlers of the Castolon area.[3]

EARLY OCCUPANTS AND OWNERS OF THE LAND

With the beginning of quicksilver mining in the Terlingua district in 1899, Mexican-American families began to move into the lower Big Bend area. Most of the families lived near the mines; however many of them settled at various small floodplain

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2. J. H. Walker, Acting Land Commissioner, to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), October 23, 1928.

3. Wayne R. Cartledge (interview), April 12, 1967.

valleys along Terlingua Creek and the Rio Grande. The Molinar settlement was about halfway between Terlingua Arriba and Terlingua Abajo not too far from Rattlesnake Mountain. Terlingua Abajo, as the name indicates, was below, or near, the river. Then some three or so miles below the mouth of Santa Helena Canyon was Coyote, and below that was the Hernandez ranch settlement--the present Castolon. During the first few years of residence in the area, it appears that none of these Mexican-American families made any effort to acquire title to the land on which they lived. It was not long, however, until they began either to lease the sections on which they had settled or to file application for a survey that they might purchase.[4] An examination of the early Lease and Deed Records of Brewster County indicates that all of the early holders or owners of land in Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co., were Mexican-Americans. For example, Cipriano Hernandez leased sections 17 and 18, Block 16, in 1901, for a two-year period. Then in 1910 he filed on sections 13 and 14, Block 16, with certificate number 1895, abstract numbers 5338 and 6437. During this period and up to 1915 no Anglo-Americans had filed on any of the sections. However, the following Mexican-Americans had filed on the following sections: Miguel De La O filed on section 5, Block 16, in 1910; Adolfo Arredondo filed application for survey on section 6 in 1906; Arredondo seemingly did not

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4. Brewster County Lease Records, Book No. 1, 95.

follow up on the application, and in 1918 Cruz Rey filed a certificate of occupancy on section 6. In the meantime, in 1913, Cruz Rey had filed on section 7, Block 16; section 8 had little river floodplain and thus was passed up by the Mexican-Americans. Ruperto Chavarria, the patriarch of the Coyote settlement, filed on section 9, Block 16, in 1908, which he held until he sold it to the State of Texas for park purposes in 1942; sections 10 and 11 were passed up by the Mexican-Americans because of the character of the land; Patricio Marquez, by certificate number 1894, filed on section 12, Block 16. Then Cipriano Hernandez filed on sections 13 and 14, Block 16; and section 15, the last of the desirable sections of Block 16, was filed on by Agapito Carrasco in 1915.[5]

Before 1920 a few Anglo-Americans began to see the possibilities of developing the river area. In 1914 Clyde Buttrill acquired section 12 from Patricio Marquez, and sections 13 and 14 from Cipriano Hernandez. In 1915 C. E. Metcalf filed on section 4, Block 16. As early as 1906 one M. C. Cantu Terrazas had filed an application for the survey of this section, but seemingly had not followed up on the application. In the meantime, with the border raids which had resulted from the Mexican Revolution of 1910, a company of Texas Rangers had been sent

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5. Brewster County Deed Records, Vols. 6, 51, 65, 67, 68, 73, and 99.

into the Santa Helena area under Captain Carroll Bates. The borde raids proved distasteful to Clyde Buttrill even though, with the aid of James L. Sublett, he had cleared and leveled the flood-plain of his sections and had produced a few good crops on the land. He sold out in 1918 to Captain Bates and left the river farming to the Captain and his associates. Two other Rangers--Sergeant Will C. Jones and M. T. Junker --were associated with Captain Bates, and between them they acquired control of sections 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Seemingly the border activities of the Rangers was such that they were not able to devote much attention to the farming activities. In 1919 they sold their interest, the desirable sections 12, 13, and 14, to the partnership of Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge.[6]

Howard E. Perry was the president and owner of the Chisos Mining Company which operated the most famous of the quicksilver mines in the Terlingua mining district. Mr. Perry was a business-man with extensive financial interests scattered from Maine to Texas, including Chicago, Illinois. On coming to Texas to look after the quicksilver mining activities at the turn of the century, he found need for legal aid and employed an Austin, Texas, law firm to represent him. This law firm assigned the task to a young lawyer by the name of Eugene Cartledge. This relationship developed into a close personal friendship as well as a legal tie.

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6. Ibid., Wayne R. Cartledge (interview), April 12, 1967.

Consequently when the son, Wayne R. Cartledge, was old enough to take on responsibilities, he came out to assume the duties of clerk and bookkeeper for the Chisos Mining Company at Terlingua. This was in 1910, and during the next eight or nine years, the young Wayne Cartledge became a close friend, associate, and co-worker with Mr. Perry. Their relationship was such that when Mr. Perry decided to venture into the farming and ranching business in the Rio Grande valley area, he insisted that young Cartledge enter into an equal partnership with him.[7]

THE PARTNERSHIP OF WAYNE R. CARTLEDGE AND HOWARD E. PERRY

There is included in the body of this paper a complete text of the Perry-Cartledge partnership certificate. This partnership, however, had been entered into almost ten years before the legal document was filed with the County Clerk's office.[8] The partnership was entered into late in 1918 and formed the basis on which Mr. Cartledge began the activity of leasing grazing lands and the purchasing of farm land--sections 12, 13, and 14 of Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co.--along the Rio Grande. The partnership also provided that they should engage in a mercantile

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7. Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge, Certificate of Partnership, Brewster County Records, Vol. 52, 406.

8. Howard E. Perry to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), November 1, 1922; Wayne R. Cartledge (interview), April 12, 1967.

business. Thus there was begun in 1918 a joint enterprise, which by 1921 was officially registered with the County Clerk of Brewster County as La Harmonia Company. This business continued as a partnership of Perry and Cartledge until the death of Mr. Perry and then as a father and son partnership until the properties were taken over by the National Park Concessions, Inc., in February of 1961.

The Perry-Cartledge enterprises along the lower Big Bend seems to have been the major factor in consolidating the peoples of the area into some four related, yet, in many ways, independent settlements or villages. The immediate area of Camp Santa Helena which soon thereafter came to be known as Castolon, was made up of the Cartledge family, the La Harmonia Store manager, Richard W. Derrick and his wife, and a dozen or more Mexican-American families, all of whom in some way were employed by the La Harmonia enterprises, farm, store, or ranch.

In 1924, soon after becoming associated with La Harmonia, Mr. Derrick purchased section 15, Block 16, from Agapito Carrasco and built his own house some three-quarters of a mile to the southeast of the Castolon store. Cartledge and his family lived in the main house on the hill, while most of the Mexican-American families lived in the three or more clusters of adobe buildings which were located just below the hill along the edge of the floodplain. Alvino Ybarra and his family along with Amaro Nunez and family, Guadelupe Avila and family, and George

Valenzuela lived in the so-called Alvino House, which was originally built by Cipriano Hernandez. Then up the river about one-half mile, or along the upper portion of section 13, was another cluster of houses which had previously been the Sublett residence, and there resided Juan Liando and Chico Silvas and their families. In addition, there were a number of other small adobe houses used from time to time by seasonal laborers. These Mexican-American families did not not need too much room, as a great deal of their living was in the out-of-doors. Much of the year, cooking, sleeping, and recreation were more enjoyable outside than in the house. The homes of the area were always well kept, and flowers could be found blooming in the yards at all seasons of the year.[9]

In addition to the above, Magdelena Silvas lived in what is now called the Magdelena House. This house was constructed by Alvino Ybarra and his brother after Cartledge took over the properties for a Ranger station and customs house. Just to the back of the Magdelena House there was, at the time Camp Santa Helena was constructed, a two-room adobe building which the military used as a combination kitchen, mess hall, and barracks.[10]

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9. Alvino Ybarra (interview), June 22, 1967; R. W. Derrick to Totsey Baetson (letter), March 3, 1966.

10. Alvino Ybarra (interview), June 22, 1967; L. H. Palmer, Captain, Quartermaster Corps, Specification of Sale for Government Property, March 15, 1925; A. B. Ames, Major, Quartermaster Corps, Camp Supply Officer, Camp Marfa, Texas, Item labeled "Survey of Premises," Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge at Santa Helena, Texas.

There were other scattered houses in which other Mexican-American families lived including such names as Jose Villaba, Martin Moreno, Mario Ramirez, and others. The men living in the immediate Castolon area all worked for Mr. Cartledge, either on the farm, on the ranch, or at the store. Likewise many of the women and children worked in the fields during the season for gathering crops, especially during the harvesting of vegetables and cotton.[11]

Up the river some two or so miles on the west side of Alamo Creek there was another settlement which was made up entirely of Mexican-American families. This settlement was called Coyote, and consisted at various times of a dozen or more houses. The largest and most pretentious of these houses was on a hill or mesa overlooking the river and Alamo Creek, and was occupied by the Garcia families. At the foot of the hills along Alamo Creek there were scattered many smaller houses which were occupied largely by various members of the Chavarria family, some eight or more in all, including the father, Severiano Chavarria, and his many sons and their families. The names of some of the sons were Ruperto, Rocindo, Pablo, Juan, Cecelio, and Cisto, among others. In addition to the Chavarria families, there lived at Coyote the families of Atelano Pando, T. M. Garcia, Tirbusion Ramirez, Tomas Dominguez, Juan Silvas, Sabino Estorga, Patricio Dominguez, Mario Ramirez, and others. These families engaged in the or three major activities. They farmed small plots along the creek

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11. Alvino Ybarra (interview), June 22, 1967.

for themselves, worked on the larger Sublett farm nearby, and also cut and hauled wood to the Chisos mines. Today there is little left of the many houses which once made up the settlement of Coyote. The ruins, however, are still sufficient evidence of the fact that a considerable number of people had lived in the area.[12]

The third aggregation of peoples was in the vicinity of the Sublett farm, which was a mile or so up the river from Coyote. Mr. James L. Sublett, following the sale of the Buttrill farm to Wayne R. Cartledge and Howard E. Perry, acquired possession of sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co., in a partnership with Albert Dorgan. This was in the fall of 1918. At that time Charles Metcalf had a small two- or three-room house and the Subletts moved into this house and lived there for awhile until they constructed a larger house up on a hill nearby. This house became the center of what may be called the Sublett complex. At the foot of the hill to the south they constructed an adobe house which served as the Sublett store. Just at the toe of the hill to the west was a small adobe house occupied by Cisto Avila and his family, who worked on the Sublett farm. Then to the southwest about three-quarters of a mile, and across an intervening valley, they constructed a three-room rock and adobe

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12. Cecelio Chavarria (interview), June 18, 1967; Mateo Ybarra (interview), June 22, 1967; Mrs. Eunice Sublett Newman (interview), May 2, 1967.

house which was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dorgan, Sublett's farming partner. Some ten or more years later Mr. Dorgan supervised the building of a very elaborate house up on the hill about one-half mile and a little to the northeast of the Sublett home. This house had a large living room with a two-way fireplace in the middle of the room. The fireplace was made of native stone and was very attractive and unusually well designed. It is reported that Mr. Dorgan was an architect of considerable ability. In addition to these houses there were a number of small adobe structures in which various members of the farm workers lived.[13]

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13. Mrs. Eunice Sublett Newman (interview), May 2, 1967; Wallace R. Sublett (interview), June 28, 1967; Mrs. Ray Newsom (interview), June 25, 1967; Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 33, 254.

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CHAPTER V

LA HARMONIA COMPANY AND ITS ACTIVITIES, 1919-1961

A FRONTIER BORDER TRADING POST

The first border store to be operated in the lower Big Bend of the Rio Grande was located in the east end of the so-called Alvino house. In 1901 Cipriano Hernandez, a native of Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico, moved into the area from Shafter, Texas, where he had been working in the Shafter silver mines. Hundreds of Mexican-American laborers had flocked into the Terlingua quicksilver mining district, and there was a very definite need for meat and fresh vegetables to supply the mining village. Mr. Hernandez, with somewhat "itching" feet and having tired of working in the silver mines, came to the Big Bend, took up land, ran some goats on the open range, and began to farm the fertile floodplain of sections 13 and 14 of Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co. In order to make his farm and ranch produce available he opened up a store in the east side of his home. In addition to his own products he soon found that there was a demand for such items as sugar, flour, corn meal, salt, and a minimum of other items, including the essential spices used by the Mexican-Americans in preparing their meals. The major products of the farm were beans,

squash, pumpkins, and watermelons. It is not possible to give the exact year in which Mr. Hernandez opened up his store. It is believed, however, that it must have been soon after he came into the area in the year 1901.[1] Cipriano Hernandez lived at the foot of the hill and farmed the land until 1914 when he sold the properties to Clyde Buttrill, who only a short time before had sold his ranching interests in the Nine Points region to Jackson and Harmon.

Clyde Buttrill was a bachelor and did not spend a great deal of his time at the river farm. Rather he engaged the services of James L. Sublett, a dirt contractor, to take over the management of the farm. A part of the agreement was that Mr. Sublett would be permitted to operate the store and derive the profits, if any, therefrom. The Sublett family moved into the Cipriano Hernandez house and continued the store in the same location. For various reasons during the three or so years that Sublett operated the Buttrill farm, he found it necessary to move the store twice. The first move was to what is called the Juan Silvas house, which is number 612 in the Park listing. In the meantime the large building known as the "old" store was constructed and the store was moved into a portion of this new building. This building is number 618 in the Park listing. During this period the store was managed variously by Thomas V. Skaggs, Worth Frazier

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1. Guadalupe Hernandez (interview), April 13, 1967 (son of Cipriano Hernandez).

(who for many years was County and District Clerk for Brewster County), and Jim Spann, a son-in-law of Mr. Sublett's.[2] The store was being operated in this location in the spring of 1919 when Howard E. Perry and Wayne R. Cartledge purchased the land.

Thus, in 1919, when Wayne R. Cartledge took over the management of the Perry-Cartledge properties, the frontier-border store had been in operation for almost twenty years. In the meantime, due to the rapid development of ranching, mining, and farming in the area during the first two decades of the twentieth century, there had been a considerable increase in the population of the lower Big Bend. In addition, the disturbances across the border in Mexico had resulted in an influx of Villaist forces along the border in the northern part of the state of Chihuahua, and to offset these activities United States troops were stationed in the Big Bend. Each of the above mentioned factors was important in the rapid growth of the Santa Helena store, soon to become known as Castolon. Another important factor was that Mr. Cartledge, due to the Perry-Cartledge partnership, was in a position to carry a well balanced stock of merchandise, including almost any item needed by his patrons. In fact, his store was soon to take on the characteristics of a frontier general store. The fact that it was along the Mexican border and adjacent to a vast region of the northern portions of the two states of Chihuahua and

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2. Wallace R. Sublett (interview), June 28, 1967.

Coahuila, which was very difficult to serve from the interior of Mexico, gave to him a large clientele from the northern part of Mexico. In addition, Mr. Cartledge was often able to get favorable consideration from the wholesale dealers as he could make his orders in conjunction with the Chisos Mining Company which also maintained a general store and was wholly owned by his partner, Mr. Howard E. Perry.[3]

Just prior to the time Mr. Cartledge acquired the river property a rather serious problem had developed between the cavalry troops and the Texas Rangers. This problem concerned the disposal of manure, garbage, and other refuse from the cavalry camp, in the fields below which were owned and controlled by Captain Carroll Bates of the Texas Rangers. Thus in an effort to restore and maintain peace and order in the area, to give an international flavor to the Perry-Cartledge enterprises, and to promote the idea of harmony between the Anglo-Americans and the Mexican-Americans of the area, the trade name "La Harmonia" was selected and registered with the County Clerk of Brewster County.[4] The enterprises continued to operate under this trade name until they

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3. Robert L. Cartledge (interview), December 26, 1966.

4. Wayne R. Cartledge to Henry Lease, County Clerk, Brewster County, Texas (letter), September 28, 1921; Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 11, 404; Wayne R. Cartledge (interview), August 2, 1967.

were transferred to the National Park Service in February 1961. This trade name had a significant appeal to the Mexican clientele and doubtless was a powerful influence in the success of the business. An examination of the records of La Harmonia shows that the store (la tienda) had a dozen or so large customers in Mexico in addition to the many small (spending-wise) customers from across the Rio Grande. Also, La Harmonia had its share of the "peddler" type (los combidores) customers who frequently visited La Harmonia to dispose of their accumulated stock of furs, skins, and hides. These traders were much like the old-time "peddlers" of the West who made more or less regular trips through the countryside trading for the produce of the peoples who were in no position to deliver their products to a market. The trader would bring the materials into the frontier-border store, La Harmonia, and there trade them for various types of merchandise which he in turn would take back into Mexico and dispose of at a profit to his customers, and then pick up their produce on his next trip. This type of business was a source of profit to both the itinerant trader and La Harmonia.[5] La Harmonia shipped most of these furs, skins, and hides to St. Louis, Missouri, where they were purchased by such wholesale dealers as Funsten Bros. and Company, Fouke Fur Company and Maas & Steffen. However, many shipments were made to Finnican-Brown Company, El Paso, Texas, and to Weil

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5. W. D. Smithers, "The Border Trading Post," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 18, 42-45.

Brothers, Fort Wayne, Indiana. A typical shipment was as follows:

> We are sending you by express two bundles of furs as follows: One bundle numbered one contains 32 skunk, 35 wolf, 36 goat, 1 civet cat, 10 ring tails, 12 grey fox and 4 swift fox. Bundle No. 2 contains 12 beaver furs.[6]

It appears from the records of La Harmonia that the business of dealing in hides, skins, and furs continued at a lively pace until about 1940, at which time the supply from the interior of Mexico dropped to the point that there was very little profit in the operation; consquently the trading post discontinued the purchase and shipment of these items.

During the years from 1920 to 1940, especially in the winter months, La Harmonia often looked like an old western fur trading post with hides, skins, and furs stacked in every possible nook and corner. During those times one did not need to have too good a sense of smell to know that the fur traders and trappers had visited the trading post. When one examines the prices received for these hides, skins, and furs, it is doubtful if anyone of the three or more parties involved made or derived very much profit or income from the transactions. The parties to the activities were the individual Mexican trapper, the Mexican trader (el combic the border trading post, and finally the wholesaler who purchased

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6. Wayne R. Cartledge to Funston Bros. & Company (fur deale St. Louis, Missouri (letter), January 23, 1923; Adrian Pool, Collector of Customs, El Paso, Texas, to La Harmonia Company (letter) January 14, 1935.

the items. The final price paid per skin or pelt was as follows: skunk, $1.10 each; coon, $2.00; grey fox, $1.50; wolf, $2,00; wildcat, $.75; ringtails, $1.00; civet cat, $.20; Mexican goat, $.30; javelina, $.75; oppossum, $.75; beaver, $6.00 to $10.00. The advertised price list was always much better than the actual price received for most of these pelts. On one shipment of fifty wolf hides in 1925, the best offer was $1.25 per pelt. In spite of these low prices, the low-income population of northern Mexico continued to bring the pelts for more than twenty years, and it seems that they managed, through this trapping endeavor, to provide themselves with a small amount of ready cash with which they were then able to purchase a few highly desirable items from the border trading post.[7] It is evident, however, that it was rather "smelly" business with little in the way of profit for anyone. It is likely that La Harmonia, the trading post profited more than any other party, as it not only made a small profit from the pelts but an additional profit from the items which it in turn was able to dispose of or sell to the Mexican traders and trappers.

The management at La Harmonia soon learned to stock only those items which had a ready sale with the clientele of the border, and the laborers on the farms and ranches in the southern part of Brewster County. In addition, there was a limited demand on the

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7. Funston Bros. & Company to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), January 6, 1925; La Harmonia Sales Records, 1920-1940.

part of the occasional tourist for certain Mexican items such as blankets, glassware, pottery, and other items. Most of these Mexican products were procured through dealers at El Paso or San Antonio. The major portion of the items on display for sale in La Harmonia were things which had practical value for the peoples of the area. It would be impossible to give a complete list of the merchandise sold over the counter at the trading post. However, a partial listing can be made.

In general, most of the items in the store could be listed under the heading of hardware, groceries, drygoods, medical suppli ranch and farm supplies, and sundries. Under the heading of hardware and ranch supplies, one could find almost anything from a pocketknife to barbed wire, windmills, plows, harnesses, saddles, screwworm medicine, and so on. The grocery department carried the staple items of sugar, coffee, meal, beans, salt, crackers, spices, karo syrup, sardines, prunes, raisins, American cheese, and a few other items. The medical section included such things as salves, Quinine capsules, ointments, diarrhea pills, toothache drops, liniments, and some patent medicines. The drygoods department carried broad-brimmed hats, shoes (mostly work shoes), shirts trousers, socks, underwear, lace ribbon, a few dresses, and on occasion a man's full suit. One drygoods order included 1/4 dozen bridal wreaths and 1/4 dozen bridal veils.[8] Under the heading

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8. La Harmonia Company to Haymon Krupp & Co., El Paso, Texas (letter), January 27, 1926.

of sundries one could find most of the things he was looking for, such as candies, beer, shoelaces, even a few toys, and many other items which appealed to the peoples of the river country who rarely had a chance to visit a city department store.[9] Also, many items of furniture were for sale in the general store operated under the trade name of La Harmonia.

All was not easy sailing for La Harmonia. The store did not make a profit during each of its more than forty years of operation along the Rio Grande. This was especially true in the period of the Great Depression, and for a few years during this time it not only failed to show a profit at year's end, but its books registered sizeable losses for a number of years.[10] On one occasion, following a disastrous fire in April of 1935, Wayne Cartledge suggested that he would likely have to make a loan from his personal fund to get things going again.[11] Mr. Perry requested monthly "blotter" reports on the activities of the business. These reports, however, did not always get off to Mr. Perry at the end of each month. This was a source of much complaint on the part of the senior partner. Usually there was a logical reason for the delay,

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9. La Harmonia Records.

10. Ibid., 1935-1940, especially.

11. Wayne R. Cartledge to Howard E. Perry (letter, April 9, 1935; Eugene Cartledge to R. W. Derrick (letter), August 12, 1940.

such as too much work, a breakdown in farming equipment, illness among some of the employees, or something else, which generally satisfied Mr. Perry, who knew that, in time, he would get the blotter sheets.[12] Mr. Cartledge often had his troubles in the management of La Harmonia. On one occasion, in a letter to Mr. Pe dated November 3, 1937, he wrote, "I thought I was having plenty of worry but when I think of you and the Chisos mine I am ready to forget my troubles."[13]

In addition to the usual activities of a general merchandisin frontier-border store, La Harmonia, under the management of Wayne R. Cartledge, found it wise and at the same time profitable to perform many other functions and services for the peoples of northern Mexico. From time to time he acted as agent for large operators in the sale and delivery of their products to purchasers in the United States. As an example, Los Ranchos de Armendaiz in Sierra Majada, with headquarters at Cerro Blanco, Coahuila, which operated on a large scale and was managed by one Don Augusti Rodriguez, often called on Mr. Cartledge for aid in disposing of calves, refined wax, and other products of the ranch.[14] The close

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12. Howard E. Perry to Wayne R. Cartledge (letters), August 1923, and December 28, 1931.

13. Wayne R. Cartledge to Howard E. Perry (letter), November 3, 1937.

14. Don Augustin Rodriguez to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), November 27, 1925; Howard E. Perry to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), November 3, 1936.

relationship between Ranchos Armendaiz began in 1921 and continued after 1940 as is shown by the great volume of correspondence in the La Harmonia files. Letters with orders for merchandise or for a request for aid in disposing of products were always delivered to Castolon by personal messengers who often transported as much as four to six hundred dollars to settle accounts. On one occasion a wax shipment, which Cartledge handled for Señora Herlinda Nova de Rodriguez after the death of Don Augustin, for some reason did not meet the requirements of the New York firm which purchased more than twenty five thousand pounds. This shipment was rejected by the firm even after they had mailed the check in payment for the wax. Both Mr. Cartledge and Mr. Perry, each of whom had had some part in the transaction, exerted every effort possible to bring about a satisfactory adjustment in the dispute so as to prevent a monetary loss to Señora Herlinda.[15]

Another valuable service rendered by La Harmonia was that of wholesale distributor for United States merchandise which the smaller operators in northern Mexico wished to purchase, but because of location, difficulties of transportation, and other problems were unable to acquire except through the aid or assistance of La Harmonia. Thus during the years that Castolon and Santa Helena were recognized for customs purposes, La Harmonia in

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15. Wayne R. Cartledge to Howard E. Perry (letter), October 27, 1936.

conjunction with the Chisos Mining Company would order in carload lots, and the Mexican storekeepers would send wagons to Castolon to pick up their merchandise.[16] This type of service was a great help to the peoples of northern Mexico. At the same time it was a service which more than paid for itself in the form of good will and additional business for La Harmonia.

In a number of instances between 1920 and 1940, Mr. Cartledge used his close ties with the peoples of northern Mexico to the benefit of Texas ranchers who had suffered losses at the hands of Mexican cattle rustlers. In July 1934 a few head of cattle were stolen and driven across the river into Mexico, and the ranchman and a deputy sheriff who were in search of the stolen cattle came by and requested Mr. Cartledge to accompany them into Mexico since he knew many of the peoples across the river and could speak Spanish fluently. Mr. Cartledge not only went with them, but, in addition, wrote a long letter to one of his close business associates in Mexico and requested they be given assistance in the apprehension of the criminals.[17]

Even murderers and deserters from the military service were not too secure if and when they came into the jurisdiction of

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16. Juan Castillon to Wayne R. Cartledge (letters), February 9, 1929, and November 11, 1930; Alexandro Gonzales to La Harmonia (letter), May 16, 1929.

17. Wayne R. Cartledge to Señora Herlinda Rodriguez (letter), July 20, 1934.

the district of Castolon. On December 3, 1927, one Antonio Orduna of Santa Elena, Chihuahua, after attending a dance at Castolon, became involved in some sort of an argument and shot and killed one Manuel Avila; he then fled into Mexico to escape punishment. During the weeks that followed, Mr. Cartledge followed up the case with the Mexican authorities in Santa Elena and Ojinaga. In addition, he wrote letters to the sheriff of Brewster County, the Honorable Dan Moody, Governor of the State of Texas, and to the Secretary of State of the United States, in an effort to secure the extradition of the criminal for trial in the courts of Brewster County.[18] Even earlier than that, in 1921, two men had deserted from the army at Marfa, Texas, and had stolen two mules and were seeking to escape, possibly into Mexico, when they were apprehended and held by Mr. Cartledge until he was able to turn them over to the Sheriff of Brewster County for delivery to the military authorities at Marfa.[19] Many other cases could be given to

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18. Wayne R. Cartledge to Jefe de La Aduana, Seccion de Santa Elena, Chihuahua, Mexico (letter), February 13, 1928; Wayne R. Cartledge to The Honorable Dan Moody, Governor of Texas (letter), January 31, 1928; Wayne R. Cartledge to Administrador de Aduana, Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico (letter), December 22, 1928; Wayne R. Cartledge to The Honorable Secretary of State, Washington, D. C. (letter), January 31, 1928.

19. Wayne R. Cartledge to E. E. Townsend, Sheriff of Brewster County, Texas (letter), October 11, 1921; Wayne R. Cartledge to Commanding Officer, U. S. Troops, Marfa, Texas (letter), September 9, 1921.

indicate the extent to which Cartledge went in his efforts to help in the preservation of peace and order in the lower Big Bend country.

In many and unusual cases, Mr. Cartledge attempted to meet the needs and to satisfy the desires of the people of the remote Big Bend country. On one occasion, as previously mentioned, he ordered bridal wreaths and bridal veils for a Mexican wedding. Early in his business as a storekeeper he found that the Mexican peoples liked to get green coffee and prepare it for use themselves. To meet this need he got in touch with the wholesalers and secured special shipments of coffee at prices which the Mexicans could afford. Then in 1929, to meet a special demand he wrote the following to the Chicago Portrait Company:

> We are enclosing herewith two Mexican photos left with us to be enlarged. The Mexican wants enlargements as is usually sold by your agents along the border. He wants only the busts to show in enlargements and without hats.[20]

Thus it may be said that La Harmonia was not only a business enterprise which attempted to make a profit for its owners, but that it also sought to give to the community which it served a type of service worthy of the name La Harmonia.

Prior to the time that the State of Texas began to make any serious effort to keep track of the vital statistics of the

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20. La Harmonia Company to W. D. Cleveland & Sons, Houston, Texas (letter), February 20, 1922; La Harmonia Company to Chicago Portrait Company (letter), November 26, 1929.

peoples of the state, a person often found himself in need of definite evidence that he or she had been born. Again, under these circumstances, it was the manager of La Harmonia, Senor Wayne, who came to the assistance of the individual Mexican who needed proof of his existence, thereby making it possible for him to remain in the United States or otherwise to satisfy some demand for proof of having been born.[21] This service often prevented some poor Mexican from being deported, or otherwise extended aid to the person so that he might engage in the normal activities of life in the United States without constant fear of being picked up by the immigration officers along the border.

There is another file which has been labeled "Good Samaritan" in which there are twenty or more records of instances in which Mr. Cartledge went out of his way to do a service to someone in need. For example, on September 27, 1921, the following is recorded:

> Sometime ago Bob Beaty was down here and one of our tenants, Juan Mendeze gave him 50¢ to have his brand recorded and to get receipt. So far he has not received his receipt. Possibly Bob forgot it. Please remind Bob when you see him.[22]

Then in July of 1928 Mr. Cartledge followed up an extensive correspondence relative to a $3.57 Post Office money order which

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21. Wayne R. Cartledge to Father Brocardus (letter) March 12, 1930. (Many more in file.)

22. Wayne R. Cartledge to County Clerk, Brewster County, Texas (letter), September 27, 1921

Juan Chavarria had sent to the Chicago Mail Order Company on August 1, 1925. The money order was in payment for a blanket which he had ordered. The blanket was not shipped, or at least it was not received and for almost a full year Mr. Chavarria had been trying to get something done, with no success. Even though there was not much money involved, Mr. Cartledge, in behalf of the client of the store, wrote a full page, single-spaced on a typewriter, in an effort to get a final settlement.[23] This definitely indicated that Mr. Cartledge and La Harmonia had a real interest in the welfare of the customers, irrespective of whether there was a large or a small sum of money involved. Evidence of many other comparable events can be found in the files of La Harmonia Company.

There was still another area in which La Harmonia rendered services to the Big Bend country. The nearest banks were a hundred miles away at Marathon, Alpine, or Marfa. Thus the trading post, which had facilities for the safekeeping of valuables, was frequently called upon to act as banker for its clients. For example, an undated note signed by Nona Biasa reads as follows: "Please deliver to Fred Spann $450.00 (four hundred fifty dollars) which I have in your care." Many tax and leasing accounts were paid by check from La Harmonia, as the money had been placed on

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23. Wayne R. Cartledge to Chicago Mail Order Company (letter), June 10, 1926.

deposit with the store.[24] In addition to this the store was frequently called upon to act as a collection agency. On March 3, 1923, Mr. W. N. Brown of Oakland, California, wrote: "Please advise me if you have collected the yearly rental from Ortega, and if so kindly send same to me at above address." Near the same time Dr. R. A. Wilson, who had been the company doctor at the Chisos Mine, but had recently moved to El Paso, asked Mr. Cartledge if he would collect a $35.00 bill due him from Ricardo Sanches.[25] And here is a good one:

> On advice from Dr. Turney and Boss Miller am sending <u>this man</u> down there as he wants to go to Terlingua and is in pretty bad shape. Turney says to turn him over to you and you will pay for bringing him down or stand good for the bill. Is this all O.K.? His bill is $35.00.[26]

There is no end to the unusual types of activities which La Harmonia was called upon to perform for the peoples of the Big Bend. The United States Department of Agriculture used La Harmonia to distribute cotton acreage checks, and to act as a sort of weather bureau for the Department. On February 19, 1929, a note from the Department said:

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24. La Harmonia Company to W. N. Gourley, Brewster County Tax Collector (letter), April 20, 1926.

25. R. A. Wilson, M.D., to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), October 14, 1923.

26. William Cotter to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), May 3, 1926.

> I have just completed working up the temperature data for Castolon for December. I am wondering if it will be possible for you to give me the rainfall for December.[27]

The Castolon area is now embraced within the Big Bend National Park and is served by good paved roads and much of its clientele from the American side of the Rio Grande is made up of tourists who are well-dressed and ride in new automobiles. Yet, from time to time, there still appears at La Harmonia the poor Mexican client from "otro lado" with his burro and packsaddle. This gives definite evidence that things have not changed too much on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. Most of these peoples speak little or no English and thus it is necessary to keep a Spanish-speaking person at the trading post at all times.

The frontier-border trading post, La Harmonia, was, during the most of the period of its operation, located in the main barracks building which had been constructed by the United States Government in 1919 as a military outpost to patrol and guard the Rio Grande. The land on which the camp was constructed had been leased from the partnership of Howard Perry and Wayne Cartledge. A lease agreement was signed June 30, 1919, whereby the Government of the United States acquired, for a token amount of one dollar per year, the right to use a plot of ground consisting of four acres, more or less, on top of the mesa in the

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27. F. A. Fenton, United States Department of Agriculture, to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), February 19, 1929.

north part of section 13 of Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry Co. land.[28] The permanent buildings were constructed during the winter of 1919; by the time they were completed, however, the war in Europe had come to a successful close in favor of the Allied forces, and in the meantime, General Obregon had gained control of the Mexican government and had given stability to that country. Consequently Camp Santa Helena was never really used by the military forces of the United States.[29] During 1920 and early 1921 there were a few men stationed at Santa Helena, but never for any long period of time. Thus in 1921 Major Harlow gave Mr. Cartledge permission to move his store into the barracks building with the provision that all of the buildings might be used by the partnership of Perry and Cartledge until such time as the Government might again need them for military purposes.[30] The store was moved into the barracks, and the Cartledge family moved into the quarters which had been constructed for commissioned officers, and Mr. R. W. Derrick occupied the quarters for non-commissioned officers. For the time being the Government continued to renew the lease annually, even though, in 1923, an official order was issued for the abandonment of Camp Santa Helena. In

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28. Renewal of Lease form (copy), July 1, 1922; signed by J. H. Conlin, Captain, Quartermaster Corps.

29. Wayne R. Cartledge (interview), April 12, 1967.

30. Wayne R. Cartledge to Commanding Officer, Camp Marfa, Texas (letter), November 28, 1922.

the same order there were detailed instructions for the disposition and sale of all government-owned buildings at the camp.[31]

Some two years elapsed during which time detailed data was distributed to the public asking for bids, with the provision that the buildings would be sold to the highest bidder. The specifications provided that all should be sold "as is" and "where is." These provisions gave to Perry and Cartledge a considerable advantage, since they owned the land on which the buildings were located. Nevertheless they had many misgivings as to the possibility of some outsider making a lower bid for the properties, or buildings. Consquently Mr. Perry insisted that every care should be taken to assure that La Harmonia, which was now in occupation of the buildings, would be all means get permanent title to them.[32] Thus he urged that every move should be carefully thought out, and that a bid should be submitted only after it was assured that there would be no possibility of a lower bid on the buildings. In line with this thinking , Mr. Cartledge moved carefully and made a number of trips to Camp Marfa to ascertain, if possible, just what he should do relative to the proposed bid. All bids were to be mailed to the Quartermaster at Camp Marfa, on or before January 30, 1925.

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31. Office of the Quartermaster, Camp Marfa, Texas, August 21, 1923.

32. Howard E. Perry to Wayne R. Cartledge (letters), September 25, 1923, and December 10, 1924; F. D. Wheeler, First Lieutenant, Quartermaster Corps, Quartermaster, Camp Marfa, Texas, January 3, 1925.

A change was made, however, and the final date for the opening of the bids was delayed until April 15, 1925. There was a provision in the instructions relative to the presentation of proposal of bids which provided that "bids shall remain open for acceptance for thirty days after April 15, 1925."[33] In line with these revised instructions, Mr. Cartledge presented a revised bid. On May 3, 1925, he was informed that the bid had been forwarded to Washington, with a recommendation that it be accepted. Then on May 5, 1925, a letter from the Eighth Corps Quartermaster Supply Officer at Fort Sam Houston informed Perry and Cartledge that their bid of $1,280.00 had been accepted:

> You are requested to forward to this office a cashier's or certified check for $780.00 to complete the purchase price....Upon the receipt of the above amount a supplemental agreement, terminating the lease and rewarding you the buildings, will be drawn up and forwarded you for execution.[34]

The above-mentioned requirements were complied with, and on May 18, 1925, two documents were excuted between the Quartermaster of the Eighth Corps at Fort Sam Houston and the Perry-Cartledge partnership. One document was a supplemental agreement providing for the transfer of all government-owned properties on a "plot

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33. "Proposal for the Purchase of Government-owned Property at Santa Helena," with instructions, March 15, 1925.

34. L. H. Palmer, Captain, Quartermaster Corps, to Perry and Cartledge (letter), May 5, 1925.

of ground located in Block 16, Section 13, near the town of Santa Helena, Texas," to Perry and Cartledge. The other document cancelled the lease which had been entered into on June 30, 1919, and renewed each year thereafter, including the year 1925. Thus, on May 18, 1925, all government control and ownership of the land and buildings of Camp Santa Helena ceased and full jurisdiction and control passed to Perry and Cartledge and La Harmonia, the partnership-owned general merchandising business which had been occupying and using the buildings since 1921.[35] Upon completion of these transactions, both Mr. Perry and Mr. Cartledge expressed relief and satisfaction that ownership and control of the properties at Santa Helena, now known as Castolon, had finally passed into their hands.[36]

There can be no doubt that Castolon and La Harmonia had a major share in the development of the Big Bend of the Rio Grande. The store has been an important factor in making it possible for many of the peoples of the area to continue their activities and to maintain contact with the outside world. Today it is an effective link between the old frontier and modern tourism.

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35. Ibid., cover letter and copies of supplemental agreement, properly signed and witnessed, May 18, 1925.

36. Howard E. Perry to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), May 25, 1925; Wayne R. Cartledge to Howard E. Perry (letter), June 12, 1925.

For the first few years after the beginning of the operations of La Harmonia, Mr. Cartledge and all of the families which were associated with his farm and other activities received their mail through the post office at Terlingua, Texas. In 1922, however, Mr. Cartledge bid on the contract to transport the United States mails from Alpine to Terlingua, and, by special arrangement, for some four years thereafter all of the mail for some thirty-five families in the lower part of the Big Bend and along the Rio Grande had their mail placed in a special sack at the Terlingua Post Office. Mr. Cartledge, the mail carrier-contractor, then delivered it to the La Harmonia Store where the people picked up their mail when they came in.

About 1924 Mr. Cartledge entered a request with the Post Office Department seeking to get Santa Helena designated as a recognized legal post office. He received some encouragement, but was told that there was already a Santa Helena Post Office, and that he would have to select another name. Thus in 1926 the Post Office Department designated Castolon, Texas, as a new mail station. Richard W. Derrick was named the first postmaster, and he remained in this position until 1936 when Gilmore T. Gwin was named to succeed him. Mr. Gwin was postmaster from April 1 to November 11, 1936, at which time Eugene H. Cartledge, son of Wayne R. Cartledge, was named postmaster of Castolon Post Office. In October of 1951 Mr. Derrick was again postmaster,

with Mr. R. G. Anderson taking control on July 14, 1952, a position he held until the Castolon station was closed on June 30, 1954.

The Castolon Post Office was housed in the La Harmonia Store and consisted of an enclosed booth with the solid outside wall of the building as one side, two heavy mesh steel wire walls, and a fourth wall of heavy wood containing the service window, slots for receiving mail, and fifty small and eight larger boxes for individual patrons to receive their mail. The Castolon Post Office operated a special-permit station, and did not have the authority to issue or pay out money orders. The post office booth is still in good condition at the Castolon store.[36a]

FARMING DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA

Modern agricultural activities in the Castolon area, in so far as it can be ascertained, began in or about 1901 when Cipriano Hernandez and his family moved into the area from the Shafter silver mine in Presidio County. Mr. Hernandez cleared a small field along the floodplain of the Rio Grande, likely on section 13 of Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co. land. Mr. Hernandez did very little in the way of leveling the land and developing it for artificial irrigation. Rather he depended on sub-irrigation and the overflow waters from Blue Creek and the Rio Grande. The

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36a. Letters and certificates dated from 1922 to 1936 (most of the Post Office records destroyed).

surplus products which he produced beyond the needs of his family he was able to dispose of at the Terlingua district quicksilver mines.[37] Within a few years, Cipriano Hernandez was able to persuade a number of other Mexican-American families to move into the lower Big Bend country, and soon all of the more favorable sections along the river were occupied by Mexican-American men and their families. The agricultural success of these men was soon to attract the attention of Anglo-Americans. In the meantime border disturbances along the Rio Grande and the entire United States-Mexican boundary had made it necessary to send Texas Rangers and United States military troops to the international boundary.[38] The combination of factors--mining activities on both sides of the Rio Grande, disturbed conditions in Mexico, and successful agricultural development in the region--had resulted in a considerable increase in population on both sides of the river in the area called Santa Helena, as all of the river district from the mouth of Santa Helena Canyon down to the Mariscal Mountains had come to be known. Doubtless, to take advantage of the presence of a cheap labor supply, in 1914 Clyde Buttrill, who had been ranching for a number of years at various locations to the north of the Big Bend, purchased section 12 from

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37. Guadalupe Hernandez (interview), April 13, 1967.

38. Robert M. Utley, The International Boundary, United States and Mexico, 75-83.

Patricio Marques and sections 13 and 14 from Cipriano Hernandez.[39] This transaction marked the real beginning of what might be called large-scale farming along the Rio Grande.

James L. Sublett, a dirt contractor, had come to Alpine from Sweetwater, Texas, after having done a considerable amount of grading and railroad dump work in connection with the construction of the Orient railroad westward from Sweetwater from 1910 to 1912. Mr. Sublett liked the country around Alpine and decided to remain in the area rather than return to his former home at Sweetwater. For two or so years he had been engaged in the building of surface tanks for the Jackson-Harmon ranching interests and for others of the region. After Mr. Buttrill acquired the potential irrigated farming land along the river, he looked around for someone with the proper equipment to do the work of clearing, leveling, and preparing irrigation ditches and drainage ditches for the effective irrigation of the river lands. Mr. Sublett, who still had his heavy railroad construction equipment, proved to be just the man for whom he was looking. Thus in the latter part of 1914, Mr. James L. Sublett was employed by Clyde Buttrill to prepare the river lands for irrigated farming.[40] The land was

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39. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 32, 544.

40. Wallace Sublett (interview), July 9, 1967; Mr. Eunice Jewell Newman (interview), May 2, 1967.

cleared and leveled somewhat. An engineer, Mr. R. S. Dod, surveyed the land and worked out a detailed plan for terracing at the proper levels and the location of the ditches for the distribution of the water to effectively irrigate the entire area which was to be put under cultivation. On the basis of this plan and some subsequent alterations and improvements, the land was farmed for more than forty years.

The preparation of the land required something more than one year during which time they turned in the water as rapidly as ditches were ready, and put in the crops. Early in the year 1916, Clyde Buttrill entered into a contract agreement with James L. Sublett which provided that Buttrill should furnish all necessary capital to purchase all equipment required to put the land in cultivation, and that Sublett would bear half the expense required in keeping said equipment in proper shape after being installed on the farm. In addition, the agreement provided that Sublett was to take full control and supervision of the farming of the land of sections 12, 13, and 14, Block 16, G. H. and S. A. Ry. Co., Brewster County, Texas. The contract agreement also provided that in case additional labor should be needed to operate the farm, Sublett should pay one-half the cost of such labor. In the meantime the two, Buttrill and Sublett, had continued to operate the store which Buttrill had taken over from Cipriano Hernandez, and the agreement provided that Sublett should continue to operate the store and that each party to the agreement

should bear one-half the cost of operations, and also each should derive one-half of all profits from the store. The contract provided further that in case the land should be sold during the life of the contract that Sublett was to receive 10 per cent of the sale price of the land. The contract was for one year, and subject to renewal by mutual agreement each year thereafter.[41]

Buttrill and Sublett continued to farm the land for the next three years. In 1918, the last year of the farming operation, it became evident that Buttrill was going to dispose of the land, which would leave Sublett with no land to farm. Being faced with this situation, Sublett negotiated for and purchased some three or four sections up the river toward Santa Helena Canyon, where, under the name Grand Canyon Farms Sublett, and his associates operated what came to be known as Rancho Estelle. The area was called by this name by the Mexican population of the area because at one time a Mr. L. V. Steele had ranched along the river and had done a lot of mining prospecting on both sides of the Rio Grande, and thus was well known to the Mexican peoples in the area.[42] In addition to the Sublett farm, there were three or four small farms along Terlingua Creek near where it empties into the Rio Grande, and up the creek for a number of mi

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41. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 37, 385.

42. The Alpine Avalanche, November 2, 1900; Wallace Sublett (interview), July 9, 1967.

These were all up the river and west and north from the Castolon farm. Somewhat later, in 1924-1925, two young men from Kentucky, G. N. Graddy and W. B. Williams, put in a farm on section 36, Block 16, about fifteen miles down the river from Castolon.[43] These men did not stay long and the property was acquired by Elmo Johnson and came to be known as the Johnson farm. The place is best known, however, for the fact that an army landing field was located near the Johnson home. This field was used in the program of patrolling the border by plane during the late twenties and early thirties.[44] Thus by 1930, farms were scattered along the Rio Grande at every available floodplain from the mouth of Santa Helena Canyon to Johnson's farm just above the Mariscal Canyon.

The center of this farming activity was to remain at the site of its beginning, sections 12, 13, and 14, or the site of the original Cipriano Hernandez farm. Clyde Buttrill, who had acquired the properties in 1914, transferred the land to Captain Carroll Bates of the Texas Rangers in October 1918. This deal must have been some sort of a makeshift proposition, as Bates and Sergeant Will C. Jones, also of the Texas Rangers, held title to the land for only a few months, and on March 1, 1919, title

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43. Wayne R. Cartledge to Howard E. Perry (letter), June 12, 1925.

44. Smithers, "The Border Trading Post," 54.

was transferred to the partnership of Perry and Cartledge. The details of the transaction are not known. However, the records do show that the partnership received title to the three sections of land with all improvements and the inventory of the store plus all debts or obligations due the store by the Mexican clientele of the farming district. The books show, in addition, that both Perry and Cartledge acquired a posted book interest in the store inventory and accounts in the amount of $2,262.64 and $2,262.63 respectively. This would suggest that the deal represented something in the neighborhood of forty-five hundred dollars.[45]

The Castolon farm, known after 1919 as La Harmonia, was not only the center of the agricultural activity in the lower Rio Grande country, but it was also the most progressive and, in many ways, the most productive, acre for acre, of the farms of the district. The first important innovation was the broadening of the production pattern of wheat, corn, beans, and melons to include cotton, hogs, turkeys, honeybees, fruit trees, permanent grasses, crop rotation, and many other means and methods of increasing farm income for the individual farmer.[46]

Prior to 1921, little if any cotton was produced in Brewster County. This was because of the fact that it was almost two

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45. La Harmonia Company, General Ledger, February 21, 1919, to July 31, 1919.

46. Countless letters in La Harmonia files, 1919 to 1942.

hundred miles to any gin which could process the cotton. In 1921, La Harmonia farms, under the direction of Wayne R. Cartledge, planted small patches of both regular and long staple cotton. This cotton, in seed-cotton form, was shipped to Houston for processing.[47] The results were so satisfactory that Mr. Cartledge made plans to plant his fields to cotton in the growing season of 1922 just as soon as the wheat and other crops were gathered. To make this worthwhile, however, he would need to install a cotton gin on the land. Consequently, on January 23, 1922, he addressed a letter to the Continental Gin Company, Birmingham, Alabama. In answer to this letter of inquiry, the Continental Gin Company replied on February 3, 1922, as follows:

> We note that you are trying to encourage the raising of cotton in your section, but the farmers do not think well of the proposition on account of the closest gin being 200 miles away, and further, that no one in that section is familiar with the operation of a gin plant.[48]

It was not possible to get a gin in operation for the 1922 season; thus the crop for that year was shipped to El Paso for processing. By April of 1923, however, a complete one-stand gin was on the grounds of La Harmonia farms, and a Continental Gin Company representative was on hand to install and give instructions

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47. William C. Christian, Commission Merchant, Houston, Texas, to La Harmonia (letter), December 9, 1921, and February 3, 1922.

48. Continental Gin Company to La Harmonia (letter), February 3, 1922.

for the operation of the gin.[49] On October 20, 1923, bale number one was ginned at the La Harmonia Company gin.[50] This one-stand Pratt Huller gin with a single box, Uppacking 5-inch screw-power press was delivered to Alpine for a cost of $978.30 plus freight charges. With certain repairs and improvements this gin continued to serve La Harmonia and other nearby cotton farms for the next twenty years, or until 1942, with the exception of the year 1938, during which year no cotton was planted due to low prices and other factors. In the first season of 1923, they ginned 146 bales, and during the next twenty-year period the gin putout was over two thousand bales of lint cotton, most of which was shipped to Houston or Galveston for sale to cotton brokers.

It might be well, at this point, to say that most of the other innovations, such as raising turkeys, hogs, cantaloupes, and tomatoes, did not prove to be exceptionally successful as far as producing additional revenue. These crops did, however, go far to improve the standard of living of the majority of the river population, especially in improving the diet of the average family. The main reason for the lack of financial success of these crops was the difficulty encountered in marketing these items. The quantities produced were not large enough to ship to distant markets, and the nearby markets, such as El Paso, had local producers that made it impossible to compete due to the high cost of shipping,

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49. Ibid., April 11, 1923, and April 27, 1923.

50. La Harmonia's Cotton Ginning Record Book, October 20, 1923.

in contrast with the fact that the local El Paso Valley products were able to deliver to the wholesale houses, and thus had no shipping cost to reduce their profits.[51] With reference to the production of hogs for the market, Gene Cartledge, son of Wayne R. Cartledge, who took over management of the farm around 1938, stated:

> Have finally sold what hogs I had left, but did not realize very much. Now I can try to do something else, they were such a nuisance that you couldn't even have a watermelon patch.[52]

It is hoped that the above does not leave the impression that the production of cotton was without its problems. Transportation was an ever-present problem as the La Harmonia farms were one hundred miles from the nearest railroad, and to complicate the problem, during most of the twenty years there were no paved roads into the area. Furthermore, the usual shipping season for most products was during the rainy season of the year. Thus it was a very common complaint that a truck had stuck in such and such a creek, or been held up until the water ran down. In an effort to improve the roads into the area, Mr. Cartledge served as Road Overseer under the County Commissioner of Precinct Number 4, and later he gave his support to a road bond issue of $300,000, fifty thousand of which was to be used for the improvement of the road south from Alpine. On various occasions, Mr. Cartledge gave his support in the elections for county commissioners

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51. Crombie & Company, El Paso, Texas, to La Harmonia (letter), July 7, 1939.

52. Eugene Cartledge to R. W. Derrick (letter), September 24, 1940.

of Precinct Number 4 to the candidate whom he believed would do the most toward improving the roads into the Big Bend section of the country. In addition, Mr. Cartledge ran for and was elected County Commissioner of Precinct Number 4 in 1922.[53] No major improvement to the roads into the Big Bend came, however, until the creation of Big Bend State Park and the State of Texas designated and took over the maintenance of Highway 118 which leads south from Alpine into the Terlingua-Castolon area of the Big Bend Country. This program began in 1948, and by 1953 the road was paved all the way to the northwest boundary of the Big Bend National Park some five or six miles to the south and east of Study Butte.[54] In the meantime, after 1944, the National Park Service had taken over the construction of roads within the Park boundaries, and by 1965 the road was paved by way of Ward Mountain, Burro Mesa, Mule Ear Peaks, and Castolon Peak to the Castolon complex and Santa Helena Canyon.

Cotton farming along the Ric Grande was frequently hampered by the lack of a reasonable labor supply. Very few people lived on the United States side of the river who did not already have full-time work, and since cotton culture called for a considerable number of seasonal workers, this posed a real problem. There were no cotton picking machines in those days, and much of the seasonal labor came from the Mexican side of the river. The enforcement of new and stricter rulings for the granting of visas increased

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53. M. S. Burke, County Judge, Brewster County, Texas, to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), September 29, 1922; Howard E. Perry to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), June 24, 1922; Wayne R. Cartledge to Commissioners' Court, Brewster County, Texas, November 1, 1935.

54. Minutes, Brewster County Commissioners' Court, December 13, 1948, to January 12, 1953.

the seriousness of the problem after the middle 1920s. Among other things the rules prohibited the entry of contract laborers into the United States. Thus no prior arrangements or agreements could be entered into by the cotton farmer and the prospective workmen prior to their entry into the United States.[55] The situation became more difficult than it appeared on the surface due to the fact that all applicants for visas had to appear in person at Chihuahua City, Juarez, or some other city where an American Consul was stationed. This made it practically impossible for the poor laborers of the northern portion of Chihuahua and Coahuila to secure visas as they could ill afford to make the long journey. The following paragraph taken from a letter dated August 22, 1930, sheds a somewhat different light on the problem:

> Two years ago when Border Patrol began strict enforcement of our immigration laws several families who had lived on our farm for from ten to fourteen years became alarmed at seeing whole families who had been here equally as long hauled out to distant ports and deported, and fearing the same might happen to them moved back to Mexico. Since then we have had a labor shortage and now at this picking time we are going to suffer more than ever a shortage of pickers ....[56]

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55. W. J. McCafferty, American Consul, Chihuahua, Mexico, to La Harmonia (letter), June 14, 1929.

56. Wayne R. Cartledge to The Honorable Harry Hull, Commissioner-General of Immigration, Washington, D. C. (letter), August 22, 1930.

The Big Bend cotton grower, like growers everywhere, had to fight insects. The leaf worm was the most common and oftentimes the most harmful to the crops in the Castolon area. Control of the leaf worm depended largely on a sufficient and effective use of poison. At times, however, the worms struck so suddenly and in such numbers that the damage was inflicted before anything could be done to prevent heavy loss to the cotton crop. At times the farmer ran out of poison just when he needed it most, and being a hundred miles from a railroad there was little he could do to get a new supply of poison in time to protect the crop.[57] During the early part of the century the pink bollworm had made its appearance in Texas, and in 1919 the United States Department of Agriculture placed Brewster County in a non-cotton zone, which lasted for two years. This ban was lifted just at the time that cotton production began in the Castolon area. In addition to creating a non-cotton zone as a means of controlling the pink bollworm, the Department of Agriculture could and did from time to time permit the growing of cotton, but required that all seed be disinfected and that the lint be fumigated. When a non-cotton zone was created, the farmer was paid compensation for his losses. However, in the case of regulated growing, he received no compensation for the cost of disinfection and of fumigation, thus

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57. Wayne R. Cartledge to Eugene Cartledge (letter), September 17, 1925.

materially reducing his profit from his cotton crop. In 1928, for a second time, Brewster County was placed in a non-cotton zone. Consequently no cotton was planted on the La Harmonia farms that year. After some two years of delay and a considerable legal expense, compensation was received, but it was far short of covering the loss sustained during the year that the non-cotton zone was operative. Beginning in 1929 the La Harmonia gin was permitted to operate under regular growing conditions, which entailed the expenses of disinfecting and fumigation. This was expensive and added to the ills of the cotton farmer. To lessen the burden somewhat, a fumigating plant was located at Alpine at the railroad shipping point, and proved to be a material benefit.[58] The cotton farmer in the lower Rio Grande area faced many more problems, such as hail, lack of rain, root rot, low cotton prices, and the like. With all of these difficulties, plus the fact that the La Harmonia gin was about at the point that it must be replaced or else transport cotton some two hundred miles to the nearest gin, cotton farming on the La Harmonia farms ceased with the gathering and ginning of the 1942 crop.

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58. R. E. McDonald, Department of Agriculture, Austin, Texas, to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), March 7, 1928; J. M. Del Curto to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), September 28, 1931; R.H. Forbes to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), August 20, 1931; Ben. F. Chapman, State Department of Agriculture, to La Harmonia Gin Company (letter), December 1, 1933.

RANCHING IN THE AREA

Wayne R. Cartledge, the driving force as manager of La Harmonia, had had no previous experience in either farming or ranching when he took over the direction of the activities of the Perry-Cartledge enterprises in the Santa Helena area in 1919. His father, Eugene Cartledge, an Austin lawyer, had for many years been closely related to ranching in the western part of Texas in his capacity as an expert land lawyer. For more than twenty years prior to 1919, Eugene Cartledge had been a careful student of Texas land laws, and had aided many clients in acquiring clear titles to the public lands of the state.[59] In cases where clients did not wish to acquire title, Mr. Cartledge had been able to evolve an effective system of applying for, and establishing leases on state and school lands. Also, he made a specialty of working with the railroad companies which owned and controlled much of the land in West Texas. In addition to this legal assistance which Wayne Cartledge had at his disposal, his sister, Mrs. Louise Harwood, was a clerk in the Texas Public Land Office. This was of material assistance to Wayne Cartledge when he decided to turn his attention to acquiring land for ranching purposes.[60] Mrs. Harwood was particularly helpful in the

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59. Eugene Cartledge to S. A. Thompson (letter), January 20, 1901.

60. Mrs. Louise Harwood to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), September 25, 1928.

matter of status of school lands, dates of public sales, problems related to the incident of forfeiture due to failure to pay interest, new laws relative to redemption, and in many other matters pertaining to the public lands of the state. Thus with an outstanding land lawyer as a father and a sister in the Public Land Office, Wayne Cartledge had wise counsel on the one hand and an effective informer on the other. This aid was very valuable in enabling the ranching project of Wayne Cartledge to succeed in acquiring, either by purchase, redemption of forfeited lands, or through leasing, a tract of land with good water, accessible to the farm and the store; the various sections were so located that it was not too difficult or expensive to properly fence the holdings.[61]

Mr. Cartledge was in his early twenties when he came to the Terlingua quicksilver mining village, headquarters of the Chisos Mining Company, which was owned and completely controlled by Howard E. Perry of Portland, Maine. Even though he was young, soon after his arrival Cartledge became convinced of the possibilities of ranching in the area. As early as 1918, after having worked up from the position of clerk in the company store to the position of manager and chief accountant for the Chisos Mining Company, there are records which indicate that Mr. Cartledge

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61. Wayne R. Cartledge to E. L. Probst (letter), February 22, 1929.

leased his first three sections of land for grazing purposes.[62] This first lease was recorded in the county records under the date of October 7, 1918, before the beginning of a ranching enterprise which was to continue until the National Park Service took final and complete control of the area in February of 1961.

During the next few years Mr. Cartledge devoted most of his time to the management of La Harmonia enterprises. In spite of this preoccupation, he found time to check on and determine the sections of school land in the immediate area of Castolon which the state was about to declare delinquent for failure to pay interest on the balance due. On a number of these sections he made applications and secured redemption certificates and thus acquired title to them. By 1921, Mr. Cartledge had acquired and rendered for tax purposes on the Brewster County tax roll five sections of land in the southern part of the country.[63] During the next two or three years a number of proposed deals for the purchase of additional sections were considered, and in 1924 two additional sections were purchased.

In 1925 there was a change in the land policy when the Texas Legislature enacted and the Governor approved a bill for

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62. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 37, 614.

63. Brewster County Tax Receipt for 1921.

the relief of purchasers of school land.[64] This act provided that those who allowed their land to be forfeited for non-payment of interest would have a preference right to repurchase all such land forfeited at a price to be fixed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and at the same rate of interest of the original purchase. In addition, the act provided that anyone who allowed his land to forfeit must run the risk of having the price raised, lowered, or maintained at the present price, but in any case he would be relieved from paying the back interest. The act further provided that all lands forfeited and not repurchased would later be placed on the market for sale to the highest bidder.[65]

Under the provisions of this act Mr. Cartledge forfeited all of his school lands, on October 9, 1925, applied for re-valuation of his land forfeited, and mailed to the Land Commissioner a check for $32.00 to cover the charge of 1 per cent per acre on all land to be so re-valued.[66] Under date of January 30, 1926, Mr. Cartledge received formal notice of revaluation of his land at $1.00 per acre, which price was from one to six cents per acre

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64. J. T. Robison, State Land Commissioner, to County Clerk, Brewster County, Texas (letter), March 25, 1925.

65. Ibid.

66. Wayne R. Cartledge to J. T. Robison, Land Commissioner (letter), October 9, 1925.

lower than the original price. The letter of instruction which accompanied the revaluation form stated that within ninety days separate application must be made for repurchase at the "New Price," and that the application forms must be accompanied with 1/40 of this "New Price" and a note, properly signed for the other 39/40, to bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.[67] Thus during 1926 title was regained to all forfeited school land, and soon thereafter Mr. Cartledge entered into a rather aggressive program for enlarging his ranch land holdings. This was made possible by the fact that many persons who had allowed their school land to forfeit had not repurchased, and in 1927 the General Land Office began a program of placing these lands on sale at public auction to be sold to the highest bidder. In addition to the purchase of re-evaluated school lands from the State of Texas, Mr. Cartledge in the next few years purchased a number of sections from private owners, and by 1930 the Brewster County tax roll shows that he owned and was paying the taxes on twenty-six sections of land in the southern part of the county.[68] Due to the fact that all of these sections of land were school lands, they were alternate sections, and many of the adjoining sections belonged to private individuals, many of whom were absentee landholders

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67. J. T. Robison to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), January 21, 1941.

68. Brewster County Tax Receipt for 1930.

Mr. Cartledge entered into lease contracts with many of these non-resident holders and thus was able to enclose his properties within a well-constructed fence. Five of the owned sections were at some distance from the major portion of the holdings and thus were not enclosed within the fenced ranch. In 1941 Mr. Cartledge made the following statement relative to the ranch:

> In the ranch we own twenty-six sections totaling 17,742 acres. Also, lying within the ranch are 26 additional sections that are controlled by our twenty-six....Besides these 52 sections, a neighbor owns four sections lying within our ranch. This land alternates with five other sections....All of this alternating land....All included there are sixty-one sections inside the ranch.[69]

While land is essential to ranching, the success of any ranching endeavor is, to a large extent, determined by many other phases of ranch management. Possibly one of the most important of these has to do with the proper stocking of the land as it is acquired. Even though the major part of the ranch was not fenced and ready for large-scale stocking until about 1930, Mr. Cartledge began a program of buying quality heifers and registered bulls in the early 1920s.[70] During the next few years he continued

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69. Wayne R. Cartledge to Harry Weaver (letter), January 21, 1941.

70. Jim Anderson to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), March 5, 1927; Wayne R. Cartledge to T. C. Taylor (letter), July 13, 1932.

to add to a small herd of well-bred cows a number of common range cows, which he bred to high grade or registered bulls. After the ranch was fenced, from time to time he purchased large numbers of two- to three-year-old steers as the condition of his pasture would justify.[71] By 1932 the Cartledge herd of cows had grown to the point that Cartledge then branded some two hundred calves.[72] This level of production was maintained for most of the following years, except during a few of the drouth years when it was necessary to reduce and even to ship all of the steers and many of the older cows and calves to grass pastures in Kansas in order to get them in shape for the market.[73]

The La Harmonia farm and the open range enabled Mr. Cartledge to begin the program of building up the herd of livestock. It was not possible to engage in a full-scale program of production, however, until the ranch was properly fenced. The fencing of the ranch proved to be a major undertaking and required much time, attention, and a considerable outlay of funds. After more

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71. Wayne R. Cartledge to W. N. Gourley (letter), March 5, 1930; Wayne R. Cartledge to T. C. Taylor (letter), January 7, 1931; W. B. Mitchell to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), March 27, 1936.

72. Wayne R. Cartledge to Eugene Cartledge (letter), February 20, 1933.

73. C. R. Dean, DeGraff, Kansas, to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), May 14, 1933.

than a year of careful consideration of the problems involved, including such things as the proper location of fences, the cost of posts, net wire fencing, and labor for building the fence, by late summer of 1930, in a letter to his father, Wayne Cartledge reported that he was completing the building of sixteen miles of fence at a cost of two hundred dollars per mile. By the time the job of fence building was completed there were some twenty-five miles of 48-inch net wire fences with one strand of barbed wire along the top, and all posts were high-grade cedar from the famous hill country of Central Texas.[75]

A ranch in the semi-arid country of the Big Bend of Texas would be of little value without a supply of good water. Much of the water problem was taken care of in the selection of the sections of school land which Mr. Cartledge acquired; on six of the sections and well-distributed were six permanent springs which provided a considerable amount of good water. In addition, Mr. Cartledge drilled three wells and from these he extended six miles of pipeline providing additional watering places. A concrete dam was constructed across the canyon, and in another area there was constructed a surface tank with an earthen dam. These combined facilities provided a minimum of fourteen watering places at all times of the year, which made of the ranch an exceedingly well-watered place for any type of livestock.[76]

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75. Wayne R. Cartledge to C. C. Dabney (letter), December 3, 1938; Wayne R. Cartledge to J. H. Murray (letter), September 23, 1931.

76. Wayne R. Cartledge to C. C. Dabney (letter), December 3, 1938; Wayne R. Cartledge to Harry Weaver (letter), January 21, 1941.

By the time the Cartledge ranch was in full operation the roads into the Big Bend had been considerably improved, and with the development of the transport trucks the problem of transportation of livestock to and from the ranch was no longer a serious issue. In spite of this, however, the problem of marketing his livestock posed something of a problem due to the long distances to the railroads and the infrequent visits made into the remote area by agents of the more reputable livestock marketing institutions. Oftentimes it was necessary to ship cattle to El Paso, Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, or Kansas City, Missouri, and there await inspection and bids from potential buyers.[77] This often caused delay and thus loss of weight to the cattle and at times complete loss due to the death of some of the cattle. Even when delivered to the market and sold, the price was often very low, and so little profit was left for the producer. Low prices ranged from $2.75 to $4.50 per hundredweight.[78]

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77. Peyton Packing Company to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), May 7, 1931; La Harmonia to Rex Ivey (letter), June 11, 1937; Daggett-Keen, Commission Company, to Eugene Cartledge (letters), May 19, 1938, and June 3, 1938; Livestock Marketing Association, Fort Worth, Texas, to Eugene Cartledge (letter), June 3, 1938; James D. Farmer, Commission Company, Fort Worth, Texas, to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), October 2, 1939.

78. James D. Farmer to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), October 2, 1939; Daggett-Keen, Commission Company, to Eugene Cartledge (letters), May 19, 1938, and June 3, 1938.

Losses from low prices were not the only losses which a ranchman in the Big Bend country had to face. Predatory animals which often descended from the nearby Chisos Mountains were a constant source of loss to the ranchman, especially during the calving season of the year. Some of the predatory animals, such as the mountain lion, often attacked and successfully killed full-grown animals on the range. This situation demanded a constant effort on the part of the rancher to keep down the population of the predatory animals by a governmental subsidized system of trapping. With the development of the Big Bend Park by the State of Texas, which was subsequently taken over by the National Park Service, all trapping of wild animals in the Park area was discontinued, and this resulted in an increase in the predatory population, and in turn an increase in the losses of livestock to the ranchers.[79]

Losses from predatory animals were not the only losses suffered by the ranchers living near the Rio Grande, as there were frequent night and, at times, even daytime visitors from south of the river, and said visitors often managed to drive a few livestock to the south side of the Rio Grande. The situation became so bad during the mid-1930s that a detachment of the United States Coast Guard was sent into the Big Bend country to protect

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79. Homer Wilson to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), [n.d.]

the border ranches from raiding and cattle stealing from the northern part of Mexico.[80] For the most part, however, Mr. Cartledge was able to reduce the danger of losses from stealing by effectively maintaining a very good and friendly relationship with most of the Mexican-Americans on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, and also the immediate Mexican population of Santa Elena, Chihuahua, Mexico, just across the river from the Castolon area.

On at least two occasions during the period that Mr. Cartledge maintained the ranch in the Big Bend area, serious drouth conditions proved expensive to his operations. During the first period of 1932-1933, he met the difficulty by shipping most of his livestock to pasture in Kansas. Then in 1934 the United States Government came to the aid of the drouth-stricken Southwest by passing emergency legislation known as the Agricultural Adjustment Act, approved May 12, 1933. Under this act there developed an emergency cattle purchase program which enabled the ranchmen to dispose of the poor and older cattle of their ranges and thus protect the badly depleted ranges for the younger and stronger livestock. Under this program for the year 1934 the Government condemned and destroyed ninety-two head of Cartledge livestock and compensated him in the amount of $1,823.00.[81]

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80. Homer Wilson to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), January 30, 1932; Howard E. Perry to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), July 10, 1935; Wayne R. Cartledge to Howard E. Perry (letter), July 11, 1935.

81. Ernest Gibbens, Tri-County Agent, to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), July 11, 1934; United States Department of

A much more effective and a longer lasting type of governmental assistance came in the Farm Ranch Management Program, also under the direction of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Basically this was a program of soil conservation, which had as its purpose the long-term improvement of the grazing capacity of the land. The program provided for governmental compensation for certain types of approved programs of range building improvements which the rancher carried out during the year. The list of range building practices included such things as removal of harmful plants; building of new fences which would enable the rancher to give portions of his range rest during the part of each year; the drilling of new wells to improve and give better distribution of the water supply; the laying of pipelines to aid in water distribution; the construction of spreader dams, which would help to conserve the rainfall; the construction of surface tanks with earthen dams, and also header dams of concrete or stone for storage of water in mountainous canyons; and the application of deferred grazing practices.[82] From 1937 to 1941 Cartledge entered into this program and put up a number of additional miles of new fence, constructed a number of spreader

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Agriculture, Vouchers Nos. 74-189-A90 and 74-189-A345, August 21, 1934, and December 31, 1934.

82. Ernest Gibbons to Wayne R. Cartledge (letters), March 1, 1937, April 5, 1937, and April 17, 1937.

dams, drilled two new wells, developed four dirt tanks, constructed one stone header across a canyon, and placed 25 per cent of his land in the deferred grazing program.[83] This program did a great deal to improve the Cartledge ranch, and was an important factor in conserving the soil of the area and in restoring it to much of its possible productivity. However, this program was materially slowed down with the establishment of the Big Bend Park and the feeling of uncertainty and insecurity which came to the ranchers of the area within the proposed boundaries of the Park.

This instability, due to the Big Bend Park movement, began in the mid-thirties and reached its climax in the early forties as the Texas State Parks Board engaged in the program of purchase of the land for the Park purposes. An act of the Texas Legislature of July 3, 1941, appropriated funds and authorized the State Parks Board to purchase privately-owned lands within the proposed Park area. Soon thereafter, on August 11, 1941, the Big Bend Land Department of the Parks Board was organized, and on September 1, 1941, headquarters were opened in Alpine with Frank D. Quinn as Administrator; E. E. Townsend, Associate

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83. Ernest Gibbens to Eugene Cartledge (letter), April 22, 1938; W. W. Crawford to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), May 11, 1938; Winnie V. Hunt, Secretary, Brewster County A.G.A. Office, to Eugene Cartledge (letter), April 3, 1940.

Administrator; Eugene Thompson, Chief Appraiser; and Robert L. Cartledge, Auditor. In addition to these major officials there was a corps of aides and assistants who proceeded rapidly with the program or task of acquiring control of the privately-owned lands of the area. Many of the land owners were reluctant to sell or otherwise give up possession of their land. They were not so much opposed to the creation and development of a Park in the area, but rather they had come to be very much devoted to the land for which they had struggled and sacrificed in the early years of the development of the isolated region. Then, there were those, like Wayne R. Cartledge, who felt that the appraised value of their land was too low.[84]

During these years of instability and uncertainty Mr. Cartledge made many efforts to dispose of the Castolon property, both farm and ranch, and to acquire ranch properties in some area of Texas or New Mexico where there was less danger of being removed from his land due to public demand for the area.[85]

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84. E. E. Townsend (unpublished materials); Jack Whitehead to Eugene Cartledge (letter), May 24, 1940.

85. L. E. Tennison to Wayne R. Cartledge (letter), February 14, 1936; Wayne R. Cartledge to Federal Farm Loan Bank (letter), May 21, 1937; Wayne Cartledge to E. N. Regua (letter), May 21, 1937; Wayne R. Cartledge to John F. Allison (letter), March 13, 1940; Eugene Cartledge to Harry Weaver (letter), January 21, 1941.

As a result of his efforts, late in 1937 he purchased and leased a ranch in the southern part of Presidio County consisting of some sixty sections of land.[86] Thereafter, with two widely separated properties to manage, the Castolon holdings suffered from more or less neglect.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

In the meantime, the Big Bend Park movement in Texas had made considerable progress, while at the same time the United States Congress, as early as 1935, had taken up the question of the possibility of the creation and establishment of a national park in the Big Bend country of Texas. On March 1, 1935, identical bills were introduced in both Houses of Congress by Senators Sheppard and Connally and Representative Thomason to establish the Big Bend National Park, such establishment to become effective when lands of that area were deeded to the Federal Government. On June 20, 1935, the bill became effective contingent upon the acquisition of all privately owned lands within the designated area by the State of Texas, and the

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86. Presidio County Tax Receipt for 1937; Wayne R. Cartledge to W. L. Moody III (letter), December 31, 1937.

delivery of these lands to the Government of the United States. The land purchase program was completed in August of 1942 and on September 5, 1943, Governor Coke Stevenson of the State of Texas presented a deed to the lands within the Big Bend Park to M. R. Tillotson, Regional Director, Region Three, of the National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico. This presentation ceremony was held on the campus of Sul Ross State College, and as such was fitting tribute to the Honorable E. E. Townsend and H. W. Morelock, President of Sul Ross State College. Each of these men had a large share in the long fight to make the Big Bend National Park a reality.[87] Officially, however, it was not until June 12, 1944, that the Big Bend Park was established by appropriate action by the Government of the United States.

Following the establishment of the Big Bend National Park, the Cartledge ranching activities were gradually and materially reduced due to the fact that the alternate sections which had been leased and fenced within the ranch were now Park property. For a number of years after 1944, Mr. Cartledge was permitted, by signed agreement with the National Park Service, to run a total of not more than three hundred head of livestock within the area of the former pasture. In 1954 the permit was reduced

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87. Clifford B. Casey, "Big Bend National Park," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, Number 13 (June 1948), 36-40.

to two hundred head, and again in 1955 it was further reduced to one hundred head, with plans to reduce the number of livestock to be permitted on the Cartledge non-farm lands to only fifty head in 1956. With these limitations placed on his ranching activities, Mr. Cartledge finally came to terms with the National Park Service, and on January 28, 1957, a deed was signed transferring the Cartledge Castolon properties to the United States Government.[88] The terms of the final sale agreement provided that the Cartledges would be permitted to use the store and five hundred acres of the farm land for a period of three years, with an additional six months within which to gather all crops and to remove personal properties from the premises. This period of time ended in February of 1961, and at that time the National Park Service assumed full control of the area, and the National Park Concessions, Inc., took over operation of the Castolon store.[89] With this there came the end of the farming, ranching and store operating activities of La Harmonia Company which had functioned in the lower Big Bend area for more than forty years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA

There was another activity which should be mentioned relative to the La Harmonia and Cartledge enterprises in the Big

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88. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 132, 131-132.

89. Roland Richart, Stabilization Requirements: Big Bend National Park, Texas (1962), 5.

Bend country. The area was long a favorite hunting place for many of the outstanding sportsmen of the state. During most of the forty or so years that the Cartledges lived and operated in the area, they extended free hunting privileges to their many friends and business associates, as is evidenced by the many letters of appreciation from such individuals. But in or about 1935 they inaugurated a system of a commercial type hunting preserve. Under provisions of an act of the regular session of the Forty-fifth Legislature, a shooting preserve license was required to operate such a preserve; thus in the years that followed, Eugene Cartledge, the junior partner of Cartledge and Son, assumed direction of the preserve and represented the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission for what became known as the Mule Ear Ranch Hunting Preserve. The provisions of the act required the operator to keep careful records and pay to the Commission 10 per cent of all fees charged for hunting privileges on the preserve. The law further required that the operator must purchase a shooting preserve license each year that he operated such a preserve.[90] From the records it seems that the year 1942 was the best year for the preserve, with a total of thirty-seven hunters. The fee for hunting was $25.00 per person plus an additional fee of $1.50 per day for the use of a horse; most hunters used horses, as oftentimes they covered many miles

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90. Mule Ear Shooting Preserve Record Books, 1937-1942.

during a day of hunting. A little mathematical calculation will make it clear that this preserve was a considerable source of income to the ranch. In addition, the Castolon store profited from sales to the hunters.

And finally, early in the development of the La Harmonia frontier trading post the management became interested and attempted to establish themselves as a "selling agency" in small lots as well as in carload lots for the effective marketing of Candelilla wax, which was produced extensively in northern Mexico and in the Big Bend Country of Texas.[91] At the same time, La Harmonia sought to acquire the right to distribute sulphuric acid, which was used in considerable quantities in the process of extracting the wax from the Candelilla plants.[92] Before the end of 1922 La Harmonia had acquired and was seeking to dispose of a shipment of ten thousand pounds of Candelilla wax at 30¢ per pound, F.O.B. cars, Alpine, Texas.[93] The following quote appeared in a letter from La Harmonia to the Chicago Varnish

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91. Wayne R. Cartledge to Lee Harrington (letter), January 3, 1922; Wayne R. Cartledge to H. R. Lathrop & Company, New York City, Importers and Exporters of Drugs, Seeds, Wax, and Chemicals (letter), September 12, 1922.

92. Texas Chemical Company, Houston, Texas, to La Harmonia Company (letter), October 31, 1922.

93. Wayne R. Cartledge o H. R. Lathrop & Company (letter), December 18, 1922; Wayne R. Cartledge to Charles L. Huisking Company (letter), December 18, 1922.

Company in January of 1923:

> We are in the center of the wax producing district in this vicinity and would like to help some of our customers who run wax factories save some of the commission charged by brokers. In order to do so we realize that we have to sell a little under the New York market. This we can do and also can give prompt shipments at all times in any quantity from 100 to 4000 pounds. Can also accumulate and forward in carlots if necessary.

Much of the wax which La Harmonia sold to brokers, and to paint and varnish companies was produced in Mexico. It appears that most of the Mexican wax factories were near the Rio Grande and thus the most accessible market was by way of La Harmonia and on to the shipping point at Alpine, Texas. By 1935 all of the wax factories on the Texas side of the river had closed down and for almost twenty years thereafter most of the wax handled by La Harmonia came from the Mexican side of the river.[94]

During the early years of wax production, La Harmonia derived income from sales of general merchandise as well as from the commission from the sale of wax to brokers and large companies which used the wax in their industries. As an example, the monthly statement of the Mex Tex Wax Company, Sierra Chino, Texas, for January 1923 was $856.00, all of which was purchased

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94. Wayne R. Cartledge to Argyle Campbell (letter), February 17, 1935.

from La Harmonia Company. Doubtless this was one of the larger operations in the area.[95]

The full story of how large quantities of Mexican wax have crossed the Rio Grande and subsequently have been sold to markets in the United States would fill many volumes if all the facts were available and could be published. By Mexican law there is a 100 per cent export duty on most products of the soil produced in the Republic of Mexico. This duty applies to Candelilla wax. Consequently the many small producers in northern Mexico who have little chance of selling their products in Mexico have long resorted to the practice of smuggling their products across the international border into the United States, or, to be more specific, into Texas, where it is in turn acquired legally by wax dealers and brokers. The laws of the United States provide that an incoming vessel which finds it impossible or inconvenient to pass through a port of entry may disgorge or unload its cargo at any place, provided it is immediately taken to a United States Customs House, where it is properly checked and thereby legally becomes United States goods, and thereafter is subject to the usual regulations as though it were produced in the United States. Consequently, by meeting this technicality of the laws of the United States, La Harmonia continued to handle thousand of

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95. Mex Tex Wax Company in account with La Harmonia Company (statement), January 29, 1923.

pounds of Mexican Candelilla wax well into the 1960s.[96] About this time, however, the Mexican authorities began to put more and more pressure on the smugglers. In a letter of October 22, 1951, Robert L. Cartledge made the following comment:

> It seems that the wax business has blown up. About all the wax we are getting is small batches from 100 pounds down.
>
> It seems, that they are unable to get by Forestales with any large batches.[67]

In spite of this rather pessimistic outlook, from the last months of 1941 right up to the present time, wax has continued to cross the border. As the records of the National Park Service will attest, many illegal operations have been uncovered and destroyed within the jurisdiction of the Park Service, especially in the major canyons of the Rio Grande.

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96. Robert L. Cartledge to Eugene Cartledge (letter), February 5, 1952.

97. Robert L. Cartledge to Eugene Cartledge (letters), October 22, 1951, and April 7, 1952.

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CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

The land of the lower Big Bend of the Rio Grande in which Castolon is located presents a varied picture to the visitor in the Park area. In times gone by it has been a submerged sea bed, a swampy marsh land, a tropical forest, the scene of great volcanic activity, a land visited by great forces of erosion, and, finally, a semi-arid grazing land. Castolon is situated on an Old Gravel deposit of the Early Miocene period, which was left by erosive action of an early period of deformation in the area. This Old Gravel deposit has been cut by erosion of much more recent origin following the faulting and mountain-forming action to the north and northeast until it gives the effect of being a series of rolling hills overlooking the more recent alluvial flood-plain of the Rio Grande. This somewhat drab, elevated, gravelly mesa on which Castolon is located is in considerable contrast to the green ribbon of the winding snake-like valley of the Rio Grande as it stretches from west to east immediately to the south of Castolon. Likewise there is considerable contrast in the low rolling gravel hills and the picturesque panoramic view presented by Sierra Ponce, Santa Helena Canyon, Mesa de Anguila, Castolon

Peak, Mule Ears, the Chisos Mountains, and the Mariscal Mountains. This combination of ancient geological formations, faulting, mountain-forming, resultants from erosion, and the contrasting effects of great differences of elevation, gives to Castolon and its immediate environs the characteristics of a semi-desert, a land of semi-tropical vegetation, and a high mountainous expanse, all in one area.

This attractive, remote, and, in some ways, desolate land has long been the habitat of man as is evidenced by the remains of early man found in the dry shelter caves. Then in more recent times it has been the scene of the visits of the warlike Apaches and Comanches as they followed the famous Comanche Trail on their raids into northern Mexico. This period of raiding destruction was followed by a brief period of depopulation of the region due to fear of the native peoples of the raiding parties of the Apaches and Comanches. Not until the warlike Indians were subdued and under effective control did man in any considerable numbers return to the Big Bend of the Rio Grande.

Toward the close of the nineteenth century, with the last of the troublesome Indians on reservations, ranchmen, mining prospectors, and Mexican-American farmers again began to enter the Big Bend country of Texas. Dr. Robert T. Hill, in his report of his famous float trip down the Rio Grande in 1899, made no mention of anyone living in the valley of the river between Santa Helena and Mariscal Canyons. However, by 1901 Cipriano

Hernandez and his family were living on the floodplain of section 14, Block 16 of G. H. & S. A. Ry. Co. land, which was later to become the La Harmonia farm. Within the next fifteen years more than twenty families of Mexican-Americans had come into the area along the valleys of Terlingua Creek, Alamo Creek, Blue Creek, and the floodplain valley of the Rio Grande, occupying many of the more favorable sections of the famous Block 16, which by this time had been recovered by the State from the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway Company, designated as school lands, and made available for sale to the public.

Within less than fifteen years the first of the Anglo-Americans, Clyde Buttrill, came in and purchased the holdings of Cipriano Hernandez and Patricio Marques. Mr. Buttrill, with the assistance of a dirt contractor, James L. Sublett, enlarged and leveled the farm and put it under irrigation. After 1919, this region was taken over by Wayne R. Cartledge and then became the center of the activities of the La Harmonia frontier trading post and farm of the Perry-Cartledge partnership, which continued to operate until the area was taken over by the National Park Service in 1961.

In addition to operating the La Harmonia trading post and farm, Mr. Cartledge gradually acquired grazing lands and developed a considerable ranching activity along the southwestern foothills of the Chisos Mountains, extending south to the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Castolon. As a sideline to the

ranching activity, the Cartledges developed what they called the Mule Ear Shooting Preserve, which attracted many of the outstanding sportsmen of the state during the mule deer season each year.

Since most of the workmen at the Chisos quicksilver mine spoke Spanish, Mr. Cartledge, who had worked there prior to his entry into the farm and ranch business in the Santa Helena-Castolon area, became unusually fluent in the use of the Spanish language. This accomplishment proved to be a valuable asset in his business on the La Harmonia farm, where all of his employees were Mexican-Americans, few of whom could speak English, and also in the La Harmonia border trading post, since much of his trade was with Mexican citizens from south of the Rio Grande, many of whom came for more than one hundred miles from the interior of Mexico to sell furs, hides, and other products of their farms and ranches and to purchase needed supplies. Many of these people from Mexico depended upon Castolon for their postal service as there was no Mexican postal service in the far northern part of the state of Chihuahua and Coahuila. These close contacts with the peoples of northern Mexico did much to reduce the friction and ill-will which often existed along the United States-Mexico International Boundary. Oftentimes Mr. Cartledge, through his friendly relationships with the better-class Mexicans, was able, because of prior knowledge gained from these contacts, to avert or settle troubled situations which developed such as cattle stealing and minor crimes committed by individuals on both sides of the International Boundary. Also, his effective

use of the Spanish language tended to make Mr. Cartledge the "Father Confessor" of many of the Mexican-Americans on both sides of the Rio Grande. In this respect, he was often able to give assistance in solving the personal and family problems of the Spanish-speaking people of the Big Bend country.

Almost half of the period from 1919 to 1961, during which time Cartledge lived and operated in the Castolon area, there existed a certain amount of tension, instability, and uncertainty in his activities and operations due to a number of causes: personal illness of Mr. Cartledge because of low blood pressure and other complications from about 1935 to 1945; inability of the Texas State Parks Board and Cartledge to arrive at a satisfactory price for the transfer of his properties to the State for Park purposes; and an extensive effort on the part of Mr. Cartledge to dispose of his land and to acquire ranch holdings elsewhere. The latter was probably the major contributing factor to the decline of the operations in all of the La Harmonia enterprises of the Castolon area from the early 1940s until the final disposition of the properties to the National Park Service in February of 1961.

The remoteness of the area from any centers of population, as well as the meager and poor means of communication and transportation tended to make of the people living in the Castolon area a self-sufficient community and thus result in a minimum number of contacts with the outside world. Consequently, after

Also, Terlingua provided a social and recreational outlet for festive occasions, such as "Cinco de Mayo."

The closing of the mines in the early 1940s corresponds closely with the fourth factor in the life of the people of the lower Big Bend country--the establishment of the Big Bend National Park. With the gradual transfer of the privately owned land to the State Parks Board and the closing of the mines, most of the Mexican-American families, who represented more than 95 per cent of the population, were forced to move out of the area and to locate elsewhere. With these Mexican-American families gone from the Big Bend, the Castolon area could never be what it was prior to the 1940s.

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RANCHING IN THE BIG BEND

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The purpose of this paper is two-fold; first, to give a general picture of the development of ranching in the Big Bend Country of Texas; and second, to present a somewhat detailed account of the origin and development of the Oak Canyon-Blue Creek Ranch which belonged to Homer M. Wilson at the time of the inception and subsequent development of plans for the creation and development of a park in the Big Bend of Texas.

The ranching industry developed late in the Big Bend due to a number of factors. First, from the political standpoint, the area was considered to be a part of New Mexico rather than the frontier province of Texas during the period of Spanish and Mexican control. Second, even after the independence of Texas, Mexico claimed possession of the region until after the close of the war between the United States and Mexico, 1846-1848. In the third place, the great distance from the centers of political and military jurisdiction and the extensive raiding activities of the Comanches and Apaches across the Big Bend into Mexico discouraged most settlers from coming into the area prior to the coming of the railroads in 1882.

In the meantime, however, Presidio County was officially organized in 1875. Soon thereafter the railroad companies and private individuals holding land certificates for land within the jurisdiction of the county entered into contracts with surveyors to locate and survey lands located therein. This activity disclosed the extensive opportunities for ranching in the vast unoccupied stretches of the Big Bend where there were thousands of acres of virgin grasslands. Except for the large herds of stolen horses and cattle that the raiding Indians had driven across the Big Bend country, few, if any, domesticated livestock had ever grazed there. For hundreds of years the valleys and hills of the area had escaped the eroding influences of occupation by the white man. Consequently, the grass was excellent and the land was well watered by streams and running springs. Thus it was attractive as the last "open range" for the development of ranching within the state of Texas. Subsequent sections or chapters of this paper shall be devoted to activities of the more important developments which made the Big Bend country the last outpost of large scale ranching in Texas.

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CHAPTER II

THE LAND AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS

THE GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

The Homer Wilson country, known as the Oak Canyon-Blue Creek Ranch, included within its limits the Boot Springs Canyon area, and all of the two main water drainage basins of the west side of the Chisos Mountains. It extended to the west and southwest to include much of Burro Mesa, the south side of Tule Mountain, Kit and Goat Mountains, and the rolling hills with their related creeks, draws, arroyos and the talus pediments adjacent to the Chisos Mountains and the major hills of the region. Geologically, the ranch is dominated by some four major characteristics. First, the intrusive and extrusive igneous bodies of Vernon Bailey Peak, Ward Mountain, the South Rim, the cap of Burro Mesa, Tule Mountain, Kit Mountain, Goat Mountain, Trap Mountain, and many dikes and spires have been left standing as the forces of erosion have carried away the weaker Cretaceous and other softer formation of the area. Second, the Burro Mesa Fault line extends across the entire ranch from the northwest to the southeast along the east side of Burro Mesa and on to the southeast. Third, the crumpled Chisos Formation, and the Old Gravel beds with gravels, cobbles and boulders of a wide variety of Paleozoic, Cretaceous,

and Tertiary rocks accumulated during the Miocene and later age.[1] In addition to these major geological features which are easily seen from most any part of the Wilson Ranch, one may, if he desires, go into the many deeply cut canyons and draws and examine many more of the specific formations to be found in the immediate area.

Just as there is a great variety in the character of the geology and the topography of the land, there is likewise a wide variation in the type and character of the soils within the area. Along the valley adjacent to Boot Canyon, in the heavily forested areas, there is a deep soil rich in humus derived from centuries of decaying vegetable materials from the pine, aspen, maple, Douglas fir, Arizona cypress, and the many grasses and weeds along this well watered valley. The steep-walled canyons and the near perpendicular walls of the major peaks and cliffs have little soil. The pediments of the higher mountains and mesas slope toward the drainage channels which carry large boulders and coarse gravels. Near the base of the peaks and mesas the texture of the soil gradually becomes finer as by sheet flooding. Many of the rounded or rolling hills are well covered with a fine silty gravel and sand which provides good soils for vegetation of the area. The ground-cover soil varies in thickness from

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1. Ross A. Maxwell and J. W. Dietrich, "Geology of the Big Bend Area," West Texas Geological Society, Publication No. 65-51, (October 1965), 118-123.

little or nothing on the steep-walled canyons to as much as 150 feet thick along some of the old fills of the outlying areas.[2]

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Rainfall in the Wilson Ranch portion of Big Bend Park varies from eight to ten inches in the lower elevations to fifteen or more in the higher mountains. Most of the rain comes during the summer or growing months of the year and thus the grasses and other vegetation derive the greatest possible benefit from the limited amount of rainfall. Most of the ranch is above the 3000 foot elevation and does not experience the one hundred degree plus temperatures of the lower elevations along the Rio Grande. Summer nights in the desert-like atmosphere are always cool and windy due to the rapid cooling of the land areas after sunset. Winters are, for the most part, mild with little frost except in the higher elevations of the Chisos Mountains.[3]

The great differences in elevation, with increased humidity as one goes upward, within Big Bend Park have resulted in a condition which has led the botanists to divide the park into five plant or vegetation zones:

1. Rio Grande Flood Plain Zone, the immediate flood plain of the river.

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2. Ross A. Maxwell et al., Geology of the Big Bend National Park, 19-22.

3. Ibid., 9.

2. Desert Scrub Zone, elevations up to 2500 feet away from the flood plain.

3. Desert Grassland Zone, elevations from 2500 to 4000 feet.

4. Pinyon-Juniper-Oak Woodland Zone, elevations from 4000 to 7000 feet.

5. Ponderosa Pine-Douglas fir Forest Zone, elevations above 7000 feet.

Most of the Wilson Ranch is above the 2500 foot elevation and thus comes within the three more favorable plant zones. The greater part of the acreage falls within the 2500 to 4000 foot level, or the Desert Grassland Zone. The rest of the ranch comes within the two upper zones, which are more favorable for ranching purposes than the two lower zones. In these three more favorable plant zones there are many bean and fruit bearing bushes, shrubs and trees: Mesquite, Screwbean or Tornilla, Mescal Bean, Texas Persimmon, Algerita, various types of fruit bearing cacti, hackberry, and others. In addition, there is to be found much sotol and more than eighty species of grass, the most important of which are the various types of gramma grass, Chinco and Burro grass. Also, during the periods of most rainfall there are to be found many weeds and flowering plants along the rolling hills and the flats of the major drainage systems.[4]

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4. Walter L. Ammon, West Texas Geological Society, Publication No. 65-51, (October, 1965), 172-176.

ADAPTABILITY OF THE AREA TO RANCHING

The favorable combination of high elevation, mild climate, limited rainfall at proper time, good soil, a reasonable growth of bean and fruit bearing bushes, shrubs and trees, many varieties of food valuable cactus, sotol, and the many species of grass to be found growing within the area of the Wilson Ranch, made it one of the more favorable ranching sites in the entire Big Bend Country. Thus it is not surprising to find ranchmen competing to acquire control of the area as an ideal place to graze their herds. In the following pages we shall trace the activities of the various operators along the west side of the Chisos Mountains.

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CHAPTER III

EARLY OWNERS OF THE LAND

JOHN T. GANO AND ASSOCIATES

Richard Montgomery Gano, a native of Bourbon County, Kentucky, brought his family to Texas in a covered wagon in 1859. He raised horses and cattle in Tarrant County, Texas, and served as a frontier soldier against the Indians. In 1860 and 1861 he represented Tarrant County in the Texas Legislature. With the outbreak of the Civil War he organized two companies of Texas cavalry. This group came to be known as Gano's Squadron and joined the cavalry forces of General John H. Morgan. Gano served with this group for fifteen months, rising to the rank of brigadier-general. After the war, he moved with his family to the state of Kentucky. However, in 1866 he returned to Texas where he entered the ministry of the First Christian Church in which capacity he served in the Dallas, Texas, area for many years. General Gano had nine children that lived to maturity. Of these there were two sons, Clarence W. and John T. Gano, who were to have an active part in the land and ranching development of Presidio and Brewster Counties.[1]

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1. Handbook of Texas, 669-670.

As early as 1879, John T. Gano, a young surveyor, is listed as a deputy surveyor for Presidio County, Texas, where he did extensive work in surveying and locating land for land script holders. At various times during the next six years he is found associated with the surveying team of E. M. Powell and E. L. Gage. Also, from time to time he did work in conjunction with S. A. Thompson. All of these men worked out of Ft. Davis during the period that Ft. Davis was the county seat of Presidio County, and prior to removal of the county seat to Marfa, Texas, and the subsequent creation of four additional counties from the area originally embraced within Presidio County. The four new counties were Brewster, Buchel, Foley and Jeff Davis Counties.[2]

It appears, from county records, that the surveying parties received land script in payment for their services in most instances. The usual compensation was one half of the land located and surveyed. Powell and Gage established an office in Dallas listing themselves as "Land Script Locator and Dealers in Texas Land." Mr. E. L. Gage purchased much of the land which was held in partnership and thus augmented his growing ranching interest in the Big Bend Country. After about 1887 the partnership was broken and Powell continued to operate with offices at 1007 Main Street, Dallas, Texas.[3]

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2. Presidio County Commissioners' Court Record Book, No. 1, 160-214.

3. E. M. Powell to S. A. Thompson, February 21, 1888.

During the same time, John T. Gano and his brother, Clarence W. Gano, established a business with headquarters at 1101 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, under the title Gano Bros., "Dealers in Real Estate and Livestock." In addition, they organized a ranching activity under the name, The Estado Land and Cattle Company, and used their accumulated holdings in Brewster County, Texas, for this large scale "open range" ranching enterprise. The company owned something over fifty-five thousand acres of land in southern Brewster County. Most of the land was located in Block G4, and G4 was adopted as the brand of the company's livestock. In addition to the land owned by the company, they leased or otherwise controlled a well watered block of land extending from Agua Frio Mountain on the north to the Rio Grande on the south, and from The Solitario on the west to the Chisos Mountains on the east. At the time of the establishment of The Estado Land and Cattle Company not a single person lived within the area and there was not one head of cattle grazing on the land. Thus it was truly virgin cattle country.[4]

Captain James B. Gillett, an ex-Texas Ranger, was selected by the Ganos to manage the ranch for the company. By the late summer of 1885 the Ganos had purchased three separate cattle herds of two thousand each. Thus, within a few months more than

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4. James G. Gillett, "The Old G-4 Ranch," Voice of the Mexican Border, (October 1933), 82.

six thousand head of cattle were brought into the virgin grazing land. As a means of controlling the cattle and to prevent them from drifting beyond the general limits of the area, one line camp was established near Agua Frio, which is some eighteen miles north of Terlingua. A second line camp was set up at the mouth of Terlingua Creek near Santa Elena Canyon. Captain Gillett pitched his headquarters camp at what they then called Chisos Springs (Oak Spring or Oak Canyon), just west of the Chisos. The three camps were some thirty or more miles apart and Captain Gillett, with only ten cowboys, had the task of keeping the cattle within the area. They had little difficulty as the grass was good, there was plenty of water, and the weather was rarely bad enough to cause cattle to drift from their normal grazing ground.[5]

The year 1886 was a very dry one and most of the cattle men operating in the northern part of Brewster County suffered heavy losses to their herds. However, not a single head of G4 cattle died from lack of grass or water, and in the fall of 1886 the G4 crew branded some nine hundred fifty calves. In describing the area as it looked in 1885, Captain Gillett said the following:

> It may be interesting to know that at the time this ranch was established in 1885 the Terlingua was a bold running stream, studded with cottonwood timber and was alive with beaver. At the mouth of Rough Run there was a grove of trees, under the shade of which I have seen at least

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5. Ibid.

> one thousand head of cattle. Today (1933) there is probably not one tree standing on the Terlingua that was there in 1885. All have been washed away . . . My cowboys located sixteen bee caves along the Terlingua, and forever after, when at work with the cattle along the creek, we were never without plenty of honey.[6]

The Estado Land and Cattle Company did well under the management of Captain Gillett for six years during which time the herd increased from six to thirty thousand head. The next few years did not go so well for the company, however, and when the company was disbanded in 1895 only about fifteen thousand head of cattle were rounded up from the G4 ranch for the market. The Ganos sold the remnant of strays not gathered in the roundup to Doc Gourley and Pink Taylor, and it is estimated that they were able to collect and sell an additional two thousand head. Then after a year or so Gourley and Taylor sold the right to gather additional strays to other parties, who in turn were able to roundup enough cattle to make a profit.[7]

The large scale "open range" ranching activity of The Estado Land and Cattle Company did much to increase the interest of small operators in the area. In the meantime, however, quicksilver had been discovered in the Terlingua area and for more than twenty years there was little stability to ranching in the Big Bend Country. During the period, however, many of the larger

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6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.; E. E. Townsend, "Rangers and Indians," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society, Bulletin No. 6, (1935), 44-45; James G. Gillett, Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 238-239.

operators in the northern part of the county often wintered their herds on the open and temporarily unused ranges of the southern part of Brewster County. By 1893 Martin Solis had established himself to the southeast of the Chisos along the Rio Grande. Soon thereafter such names as James Dawson, T. J. (Tom) Miller, J. M. Talley, "Det" Walker, Pink Taylor, Fredrico Billalba, Santiago Biasa, Jim Reed, William Pulliam, Joseph Moss, T. D. McKinney, "Waddy" Burnam, Newt Gourley, H. G. Wigzell and many others became associated with the Big Bend as indicated by the many place names still to be found in the area. The activities of these men and their families during the somewhat unsettled time of the mining rush into the country did a lot to make it possible for a more stable ranching activity after the opening of the twentieth century.[8]

THE COMING OF SMALL OPERATORS

Prior to the time that Captain Gillett pitched his headquarters camp at Chisos Spring, Father Joseph Hoban, in addition to doing service as a Catholic priest in the Big Bend Country, acted as a deputy surveyor for Presidio County during the years 1879 to 1883. He covered most of the southern part of what was then Presidio County and in 1880 he filed on and had surveyed sections 483 and 485 in Block G4. Section 483 is described in the original field notes which were made by Thomas O. Murphy,

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8. Mrs. Totsy Hitchcock, Unpublished Thesis, 20-35.

surveyor for Presidio County, March 3, 1880, as including "Ojo de Chisos Springs," 105 miles south, twenty-one degrees east from Ft. Davis, Texas.[9] At the same time he filed on and had section 485 surveyed. Father Hoban held these sections for speculative purposes for only a few years, and in June of 1882 he sold them to Thomas O. Murphy for the sum of $500 each.[10] This was the beginning of a number of speculative ventures which were to continue for more than thirty years before these sections and the adjoining lands were acquired for the purpose of actually engaging in ranching.

As early as July of 1881 we find Francis Rooney, at the time a deputy surveyor for Presidio County, competing with Powell and Gage for a contract to locate and survey public School Lands which had been assigned to the county from the public domain with the county. Powell and Gage turned in a bid of $300 per section, or one half of the land surveyed. Rooney made a bid for $250 or 4/10 of the land surveyed. The contract was given to Rooney and he was to receive land equivalent to 4/10 of all that he surveyed for the country.[11] Thirty years later, Francis Rooney, son of

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9. Presidio County Surveyor's Field Notes, Record Book No. 4, 48.

10. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. , pp. 8, 76.

11. Presidio County Commissioners' Court Record Book No. 1, 160.

the elder Francis Rooney, owned and leased considerable land in Brewster County and ranched in the Nine Points Mesa area; during the early 1900s he put up a two-story frame house. The house was a Sears and Roebuck prefabricated house, which was crated and shipped by rail to the nearest shipping point, Marathon, Texas. The crates were then hauled to the home site and put together. Sometime soon after putting up this house Mr. Rooney took a job as foreman at the Study Butte Quicksilver Mine. While on this job in June of 1919 he purchased sections 483 and 485 of Block G4 from the heirs of M. Frank, San Antonio, Texas, the last of the speculators to own these favorable, well watered sections.[12]

Seemingly, it was Mr. Rooney's intention to make this his permanent ranch home and thus he moved the two-story house from Nine Points and located it along Oak Canyon just below the spring, which by this time had come to be called Oak Spring, rather than Ojo de Chisos, or Chisos Spring.[13] In addition to the above mentioned sections, Mr. Rooney also acquired and had rendered on the Brewster County Tax Rolls for 1919, sections 325, 29, and 31, all of Block G4.

In spite of Mr. Rooney's plans to make Oak Canyon his ranch home, the chance to profit was more than he could pass up.

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12. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 38, p. 459; Interview, Harris S. Smith, December 28, 1966; Harris S. Smith to Clifford B. Casey, September 6, 1967.

13. Smith to Casey, ibid.

Soon thereafter, in fact only about two weeks, he sold section 483 to Charles Burnam for the price of $1500. Mr. Burnam owned three other scattered sections in Block G4 and with 483, or Oak Canyon, as headquarters and the use of a large number of "open range" sections he ranched in the area until he sold section 483 to a young unmarried man by the name of H. G. Carter. Carter did not propose to ranch, but rather he was going to raise chickens and supply the market at Alpine and Marathon. However, cost of feed, the problems of transportation over unpaved roads, predatory mammals, and owls made the endeavor unprofitable. After five years of losses, heavy obligations to the Marathon State Bank, and his inability to meet the payments on the notes on the land, Mr. Carter sold section 483 to Harris S. Smith.[14]

In the meantime, on August 31, 1922, Francis Rooney had sold sections 29, 31, 485, and 325 Block G4 from Harris S. Smith.[15] In the years from 1922 to 1928 Mr. Smith had acquired sections 1, 26, 72, 74, 110, 266, 268 and the 483 from H. G. Carter.[16] Now Smith had or owned twelve sections and access to more than twice that number of unfenced land in the area. At the time

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14. Ibid.

15. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 49, p. 189.

16. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 60, p. 621; Vol. 50, p. 81; Vol. 67, p. 369.

there were about one hundred sixty acres in the immediate area of the Oak Spring Ranch house, which were fenced on two sides and bound by mountains on the other two sides, which was used as a holding trap. Other than that, according to Mr. Smith's own statement, the rest of the country south of the Christmas Mountains was open from "Cape Cod to Hickory Bend." However, by June 1, 1929, when he sold the land to Homer Wilson, he had some ten or more miles of drift fences which enabled him to keep his horses and cattle separated from the livestock of the other operators in the Chisos country.[17]

One other small operator in the country west of the Chisos Mountains should also be mentioned. Sam R. Nail and his younger brother, Jim, moved into the area just to the east of Burro Mesa in 1916. The two borthers, with little outside assistance, constructed a one-story adobe house following the building techniques of the native Mexican-Americans along the river. The house had a concrete floor, a vega-and-cane ceiling, and a corrugated metal roof. In addition, they dug a well, put in a garden, and constructed small holding pens for a milk cow, chickens, and to hold horses. The two brothers lived there along for two years, or until June of 1918 when Sam married Miss Nena Burnam. They drove from the Burnam place at Government Spring to the Nail Ranch home near Burro Mesa in a surrey with fringe around the top. The surrey was pulled by two young mules. Here the Nails lived, reared a family, and ranched seventeen

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17. Harris S. Smith to Clifford B. Casey, September 6, 1967.

sections which they owned, plus about an equal number of leased or otherwise used sections which were within their fence. The Nails, like most other ranch people of the area, produced much of their living on the ranch. They kept milk cows, had chickens and hogs for additional food supply, and developed a garden in which they produced many types of vegetables, melons and fruits. Although life on the ranch was difficult at times, on the whole, they loved the place and while they were in sympathy with the movement for the establishment of a park, they gave up their ranch with a considerable amount of regret.[18]

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18. Interview, Mrs. Sam R. Nail, April 13, 1967.

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CHAPTER IV

HOMER WILSON AND HIS RANCHING ACTIVITIES

Homer Marvin Wilson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Wilson, Del Rio, Texas, was born on February 27, 1892. He received his elementary and secondary education in the Del Rio public school and graduated from the Del Rio High School. After the completion of his high school work he attended the Missouri School of Mines, Rolla, Missouri. He graduated in 1915 with a degree in Petroleum and Mining Engineering. During the following two years he worked as a mining engineer in zinc and lead mines near Joplin, Missouri. Then with the outbreak of World War I he entered the military service and served in Europe. At the time of his discharge on April 18, 1919, he was lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. Soon after his release from the military service he returned to his home and engaged in the ranching business in the "Blue Hills" country near Juno, Texas, in Val Verde County.[1]

Ranching activities, however, did not prevent Mr. Wilson from devoting some of his time and interest to his chosen field of training. During the period from 1920 to 1929 he did

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1. Interview, Homer M. Wilson Jr., September 9, 1967; Alpine Avalanche, July 23, 1943.

considerable service as a petroleum engineering consultant for the Texas Company and other private concerns, and at the same time interested himself in personal mining possibilities. This interest doubtless had something to do with his decision to sell his nine thousand acre ranch in Val Verde County and acquire ranching holdings in the mining district of Brewster County, Texas. Mr. Wilson gave one half of the Val Verde County Ranch to his mother, Mrs. T. A. Wilson, and sold the balance to his brother, Earl Wilson.[2]

After a number of trips to the Big Bend Country during 1928 and 1929, Mr. Wilson began, early in 1929, to purchase land in the area west of the Chisos Mountains. On March 30, 1929, he acquired section 22, Block G4 from J. W. Nix, a non-resident owner, for only $600. This purchase was the first of a number of acquisitions which, within five years, was to include some forty-four sections along the western slopes of the Chisos Mountains. Just a few days later, on April 5, 1929, he acquired 16 sections from Wayne R. Cartledge at the purchase price of $15,360. This acquisition included sections 18, 20, 28, 30, 32, 70, 76, 78, 108, 114, 146, 148, 152, 154, 188, and 270, all in Block G4. Just ten days later, April 15, 1929, he closed a deal with

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2. Copy of Deed, Homer M. Wilson to Mrs. T. A. Wilson, April 1929; Copy of Deed, Homer M. Wilson to Earl Wilson, April 1929.

W. H. Sartin of San Antonio, Texas, for eleven sections for $10,849.50. This purchase included sections 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 27, 111, 113, 115, 269, and 271 in Block G4. Then on April 30, 1929, one section (number 18) of Block 1, BBBC Ry Company was purchased for $960. At the same time Mr. Wilson was in negotiations with Harris S. Smith for the Oak Spring section and eleven other sections which Mr. Smith owned in the area. On June 1, 1929, the deal was closed, and for $26,784 Mr. Wilson acquired sections 1, 26, 29, 31, 72, 74, 110, 266, 325, 483 (Oak Spring section) and 485, all in Block G4. A few months later, on November 5, 1929, at a sheriff's sale, Mr. Wilson purchased title to section 71, Block G4. A choice section high up in the Chisos Mountains which included Boot Spring was acquired in February of 1930 for a purchase price of $2560. This was purchased from a nonresident holder, Mr. P. B. Wilson. By a second sheriff's sale on Arpil 15, 1934, Mr. Wilson acquired section 24, Block G4 for a price of $10, plus taxes due on the section. Then, in order to round out their respective holdings, Mr. Wilson and Sam R. Nail, his nearest neighbor, made an exchange of sections which each held within the holdings of the other. By this exchange Mr. Wilson transferred to Mr. Nail sections 1, 18, and 70 in exchange for sections 14, 112, and 150 all in Block G4.[3] The total cost of these

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3. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 65, pp. 441, 547; Vol. 67, p. 370; Vol. 69, pp. 548, 637; Vol. 70, p. 495; Vol. 80. pp. 8, 57, 59.

forty-four sections of land on the west slopes of the Chisos Mountains was $59,341.84. In addition, Mr. Wilson is reported to have said in about 1941, he had added improvements to the amount of between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars.[4]

In the meantime, the Wilsons had established headquarters and set up housekeeping at the Oak Springs place in the house which had been brought in and set up by Francis Rooney some ten or so years earlier. The house was a large two-story building with a long porch extending all along the house both front and back. The back porch had been enclosed and in effect created two additional rooms and a large hall space. The front porch was screened and thus made a large place for indoor lounging at times when the family could not get out into the open. During good weather, which was more than three hundred days of the year, the family and visitors on the ranch, when not working at ranch duties, loved to spend every possible free moment under the beautiful trees along Oak Creek or on the open hills of the house which faced the north. In the back there was cedar post fence which served to keep animals, both domesticated and wild, from trespassing on the premises. The house was situated on a terrace protected by a rock retaining wall, along the south side of Oak Creek just below the spring and no doubt at or very near the same spot which had been used by Captain James E. Gillett as

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4. Interview, Robert L. Cartledge, October 16, 1967.

headquarters for the G-4 outfit back in 1885 to 1895. Mr. Louis J. Wardlaw, who visited the Wilson ranch home in November of 1939 as a member of a committee checking on the wisdom of the proposed Big Bend National Park, has this to say:

> We arrived at the Homer Wilson ranch house just at dusk. The house sets on a rocky terrace above a lively flowing stream at the entrance to Oak Canyon. After dinner we sat on the porch and talked over plans for tomorrow's ride to the South Rim. While we talked the "Moon came over the Mountain."[5]

It was in this beautiful setting that the Wilson family spent the most delightful years of their lives. It was here that the three Wilson children were reared. One girl, Patricia Anne, was born August 25, 1931, and some three years later Homer M. Wilson Jr. was born on October 3, 1934. After that it appeared that no more children were to come to the Wilson household. But as Mrs. Wilson later expressed it, "A special gift of God" came in the form of Thomas L. Wilson who was born May 21, 1942. This happy condition did not last long as only four days after the birth of the last child, May 25, 1942, the deed was assigned between the Wilson and the State Parks Board by which the entire ranch was deeded to the state of Texas for park purposes. Not long afterwards Homer Wilson had a rather serious heart attack.

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5. Mrs. Louis J. Wardlaw, "The Proposed Big Bend National Park," November 4, 1939.

More than a year later he suffered a fatal attack on July 13, 1943, and died that night. This left Mrs. Wilson with the three small children to conclude the affairs of the ranching activities in Big Bend's Chisos Mountain Country.

While Oak Canyon remained headquarters for the Wilson Ranch for the entire period of their operations, Blue Creek and the Blue Creek area became the heart of the ranch and its productive activity. Early in the operation of the ranch a line camp was established along Blue Creek. Within a few years there was erected at this location a secondary and very impressive ranch house, the major portion of which was constructed by Rafeal Acosta. For the greater part of the period that Wilson operated in the Blue Creek area, ranch foreman Mr. Lott Felts lived in the Blue Creek line camp ranch house. The house was twenty-four by sixty feet with a sixteen by sixty foot screened porch on the south side of the house. The house proper consisted of two bedrooms, a kitchen and a large living room-dining room combined. In the living room near the middle of the north wall there is a large fireplace in which the mantle is made by very artistic placement of long slabs of stone placed horizontally. Some of these slabs are up to eight feet in length, and placed in a colorful arrangement. The double roof is supported separately by large poles. The ceiling is made of reeds in the pattern which has been used for centuries by the inhabitants of the river. The story goes that Mrs. Wilson wanted the reed ceiling with the adobe mud on top to which Mr. Wilson agreed. However, since such a roof

would leak, he used a two-inch concrete mixture in place of the adobe mud, and above that a sheet metal roof, thus making the house leakproof. This arrangement not only accomplished its purpose but in addition made the house much cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter as it created an air space between the metal roof and the ceiling. It was a very satisfactory means of insulation. The interior partition walls carry little if any support for the roof and ceiling as this was done by sturdy poles set in cement and holding up the weight of the ceiling and roof. Practically all materials for the construction of the house came from the area. The stone, sand, and gravel came from Blue Creek Canyon, the timbers from the Chisos Mountains, and the reed from the nearby Rio Grande. Thus the Blue Creek line camp ranch house may be said to be indigenous to the area.[6] The floor of the house was made of well selected flags, while that of the porch was concrete. In addition to the house, there was in the Blue Creek complex a small one-room house for living quarters for additional ranch help, a small storeroom, an outside barbecue fireplace, a cistern to catch and hold fresh rain water, a circular corral with a snubbing post for the training of young horses, and a nearby dipping vat and chute. There was also a chemical outhouse, a small chicken house, and a combination rock and tin

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6. Interview, Homer W. Wilson, Jr., October 13, 1967.

sturcture likely used for the storage of salt and other equipment and tools. Access to the Blue Creek house was over a reasonably well maintained dirt road which came up the valley from Oak Canyon along the flats between Burro Mesa and the Chisos Mountains and then over the ridge into Blue Creek Canyon. Aside from the two major housing establishments at Oak Spring and Blue Creek, Mr. Wilson maintained three or four minor line camps which were used from time to time by the Mexican-American cowboys who worked on the ranch. Also, government and privately employed trappers maintained three or four semi-permanent camps from which they attempted to protect the range from predatory animals. Most of these locations were accessible over reasonably well kept roads during most of the year.[7]

IMPORTANT FACTORS FOR RANCHING IN THE BIG BEND

Water was always an important item to be considered in locating a ranch in the semi-arid region of West Texas. There were twelve rather well distributed living springs within the Homer Wilson range. These springs made water reasonably accessible to almost any portion of the ranch. Most of these were named and well known springs. Oak Spring was on section 483, Ward Spring on section 485, Cedar Spring on section 26 along upper

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7. Interview, Robert L. Cartledge, October 15, 1967.

Blue Creek Canyon, Boot Spring on section 30 in the upper Chisos, Burro Spring on section 77 along the south end of Burro Mesa, Wasp Spring on section 112 on the north side of Goat Mountain, and Tule Spring on section 115 on the southeast side of Tule Mountain. In addition to these named springs there were lesser springs on sections 146, 152, 188 and 270. Adding to the effectiveness of these springs, Mr. Wilson dug a number of wells and installed windmills which pumped water to the more remote areas which were not served by the natural springs. To improve the effectiveness of the windmills, Mr. Wilson used a special booster pump which he had invented and acquired a patent on. This pump enabled him to pump water high up on Burro Mesa and other high areas making it possible for livestock to water without having to climb down from the high mesas. In addition, Mr. Wilson constructed a considerable number of concrete dams, basins, and tanks,all of which tended to make water more accessible for livestock on the ranch.[8]

In spite of all these favorable water locations and improvements, unusual drought conditions during the mid-thirties caused some of the lesser springs to be reduced to the point that careful attention was required to meet the water needs of the livestock.[9] At such times, the stock was gathered into the more favorable areas where there was sufficient water.

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8. United States Patent Office, Patent Number 1,724,157, August 13, 1929.

9. Interview, Harris S. Smith, October 9, 1967.

As has been previously mentioned, most of the Wilson Ranch came within the classification of the two better range types of the Big Bend Country where much of the range had not been too badly overgrazed in previous years. Consequently, the range which Mr. Wilson acquired offered good opportunity for a favorable income at the prices which he paid for the land. Of the forty-four sections which he purchased, twenty-seven sections were public school lands and seventeen were patented sections. Only two of the patented sections had been taken up early as a means of acquiring control of the favorable springs. Those two were sections 483 and 485, which were filed upon in 1881 by Father Joseph Hoban, the priest-surveyor of Presidio County, Texas. Father Hoban had not occupied these sections. In time they became available to the livestock operators who came into the area in the early part of the twentieth century and were eventually acquired by Mr. Wilson.[10]

Homer Wilson had established a good credit rating with the Del Rio National Bank prior to the time he came to the Big Bend Country. This credit standing enabled him to acquire control or ownership of the extensive holdings west of the Chisos Mountains. He had owned some nine thousand acres in the Del Rio area, one half of which he had sold to a brother with a note

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10. Brewster County Patent Records, Vol. 4, 48.

bearing interest at 6 per cent representing the greater portion of the transaction. With cash, which he was able to negotiate from this note and other cash on hand, Mr. Wilson was able to make the smaller transactions and meet the cash payments on the larger ones. Mr. Wilson acquired sixteen sections from Wayne R. Cartledge for a total of $15,360. He paid $5,360 in cash and the balance of $10,000 in eight notes of $1,250 each, one payable each year for a period of eight years with interest at 7 per cent per annum. The second major purchase of eleven sections from W. H. Sartin of San Antonio, Texas, involved a consideration of $10,849.50. In this deal Mr. Wilson paid $3,849.50 in cash, four notes of $1,250, and two notes for $1,000, each bearing interest at 7 per cent and payable within a period of six years. The third and last of the major land transactions, with Harris S. Smith, transferred twelve sections to Mr. Wilson for $26,784. In this deal Mr. Wilson assumed an obligation due the state of Texas in the amount of $3,869. In addition he paid Mr. Smith $4,000 cash and ten notes, each in the amount of $1,891.42 with interest at 6 per cent, with the provision that one of the notes with all accrued interest was to be paid each year over a period of ten years, beginning one year from the date of the transaction. Thus by 1934, when the last of the small land deals had been negotiated, Mr. Wilson had paid in cash something near eighteen thousand dollars, and had outstanding in notes a total of approximately thirty-six

thousand dollars, making a total of fifty-four thousand dollars. In the meantime, he had borrowed an additional twenty-five thousand dollars from the Del Rio National Bank for the purpose of financing the construction of fences for the ranch, and laying pipelines to improve the water supply on the ranch.

Dry weather during the early thirties, accompanied by low prices for livestock, made it increasingly difficult for Mr. Wilson to meet his financial obligations.[11] With increasing demands on his dwindling finances, Mr. Wilson decided to consolidate all of his obligations with two agencies: the Producers Wool and Mohair Company, Del Rio, Texas, and the Federal Land Bank, Houston Texas. The combined obligations assumed by these two loaning agencies came to something over seventy-eight thousand dollars.[12] Under arrangements with the Federal Land Bank, the creditors of Homer M. Wilson received in payment bonds of the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation. These bonds carried an interest rate of 3 1/4 per cent per annum.[13] By this action Mr. Wilson not only consolidated his loans under two sources but also acquired loans at a lower rate of interest, which was a considerable advantage taking into consideration the amount involved.

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11. Wayne R. Cartledge to Homer Wilson, October 31, 1932.

12. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 78, p. 395, Vol. 95, p. 83.

13. Agreement to Accept Bonds, Bond Number 151321 J, April 14 1934; Wayne R. Cartledge to John Perkins, September 19, 1934.

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CHAPTER V

PROBLEMS OF RANCHING IN THE BIG BEND COUNTRY

ENCLOSING OR FENCING THE PROPERTIES

As Homer Wilson consolidated his holdings he constantly considered the problem of enclosing or fencing the properties. As he made his various purchases he made every effort to acquire those sections of land which would enable him to enclose all of his holdings within effective barriers, such as fences, mountains, bluffs or cliffs. Prior to the time Mr. Wilson acquired the properties only a few drift and barrier fences had been constructed. Some of these were connected with the high cliffs of the western side of the Chisos and the south side of Burro Mesa. Some he was able to utilize. However, much of it he had to remove to adjust to his property lines or as near the property lines as possible. Ranchmen often found it necessary and convenient to exchange properties in order to adjust their land to the topography and thus to utilize natural barriers created by the character of the terrain. The time of the "open range" was gone, and by the 1930s it was the hope and desire of every ranchman to have his holdings effectively enclosed so as to keep his livestock within

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1. Harris S. Smith to Wayne R. Cartledge, October 28, 1928.

his boundaries and to exclude outsiders from tresspassing on his grazing land. This desire often called for resurveys, the exchange of properties, and in some extreme cases open hostilities which on rare occasions resulted in killings.

The type of barrier or fence constructed depended on whether a ranchman was a cattleman or proposed to raise sheep and goats. Since Mr. Wilson was engaged primarily in the raising of goats and sheep, he desired to have what was generally labeled a "sheep-proof" fence enclosing his properties. In addition to building a sheep- and goat-proof fence, Mr. Wilson soon found that, in the mountain area, he needed a panther-proof fence. Thus, much of his fence in the area immediately adjacent to and within the Chisos Mountains was what was termed a more or less panther-proof fence. This was a five-foot net wire, upright fence, topped with a two- to three-foot net wire leaning at about forty-five degrees to the outside.[2] By effective and judicious use of the natural barriers, even though it was something more than forty miles around the Wilson Ranch, he had only about forty-two miles of fence, which included a number of cross fences which divided his ranch into some six separate pastures. The longest single stretch of continuous fence was from near the northeast corner of section 116 at the southwest side of Burro Mesa extending west to the northwest corner of the Wilson Ranch then

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2. Interview, Homer M. Wilson, Jr., July 18, 1967; Ross A. Maxwell to Clifford B. Casey, November 1, 1967.

south to Bee Mountain, a total of about eight miles. The rest of the fence varied from about one mile to as much as five miles in length. In each case, every fence connected with some natural barrier thus affording a continuous barrier for the area enclosed. Fence lines did not always follow the property lines. There were a number of reasons for this. First, many of the alternate sections belonged to nonresident holders who would not sell and who did not fence their properties; the rancher often fenced and used these lands. Sometimes the rancher leased the land, and at times no legal arrangement was made relative to its use. Second, neighbor ranchmen would agree on the location of the fence in adjusting it to the topography of the land. Third, often owners of inaccessible land would permit their neighbor ranchman to fence and use it in exchange for other land. Fourth, mountains, escarpments and bluffs often made better barriers than a fence so a ranchman would fence the gaps and use the land regardless of ownership. Lastly, in many places the terrain was solid rock. Since it was impossible to dig post holes, fences often would be constructed around the rocky ledges, not following the property line. Departure from the property line when building a fence was always done with the knowledge and approval of the ranchers involved.[3]

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3. Harris S. Smith to Wayne R. Cartledge, October 28, 1928; Maxwell to Casey, November 1, 1967; Interview, Wayne R. Cartledge, June 21, 1967.

Some ten to twelve miles of the Wilson fence on the south and west were constructed jointly between Homer Wilson and Wayne R. Cartledge, as it was common fence separating their ranches. Thus Wilson and Cartledge went in together and purchased three carloads of fence from the Harris-Luckett Hardware Company of San Angelo, Texas.[4] Cedar post for the fencing was purchased from F. M. Del Curto, producer and shipper of Mountain Cedar, Austin, Texas, and from J. C. Huddleston, Knippa, Texas. Cedar post, like the wire, was purchased in carload lots.[5] The total cost of building this fence ran from three hundred to four hundred dollars per mile. A regular four-foot net wire fence cost three hundred dollars per mile while the panther-proof fence ran four hundred or more dollars per mile. Mr. Wilson constructed something near forty-five miles of fence, of which approximately twenty miles were built jointly with his neighbors. Thus it may be rather definitely estimated that Mr. Wilson expended something near twelve thousand five hundred dollars on fence construction at his ranch.[6]

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4. Harris-Luckett Hardware Company (San Angelo, Texas) to Wayne R. Cartledge, April 12, 1929.

5. J. C. Huddleston to Wayne R. Cartledge, August 29, 1929; F. M. Del Curto to Wayne R. Cartledge, August 23, 1930.

6. R.W. Derrick to Homer Wilson, September 13, 1929; Interview, Homer M. Wilson, Jr., October 13, 1967.

IMPROVING THE NATIVE WATER SUPPLY

Even though the Wilson Ranch had living springs that were all distributed over the ranch, Wilson expended something near ten thousand dollars in making water accessible at never more than one mile to animals on any part of the ranch. In order to accomplish this he constructed concrete, rock and dirt headers and dams to hold and divert water. In addition he constructed concrete watering places in the more remote areas and piped water from springs or wells which he dug on the ranch. As a means of serving these watering places he laid some six or seven miles of pipeline. All of this pipeline was laid on top of the ground for easy servicing and repair, since it rarely gets cold enough in the area to freeze waterlines. To serve the watering places on the higher mesas, Mr. Wilson installed a special booster pump, which he himself had developed and patented. This pump enabled him to pump water to elevations as much as a thousand feet above the source of the water.[7] This combination of springs, concrete dams and reservoirs, wells with windmills, pipelines, and watering places made of the Wilson Ranch one of the best-watered ranches in the county.

OTHER PROBLEMS OF THE RANCH

In the remote area of the Big Bend Country a ranchman always had a difficult time in finding and keeping efficient and

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7. United States Patent Office, Patent Number 1,724,157. August 13, 1928.

dependable help on his ranch. Mr. Wilson was very fortunate in having a foreman, Mr. Lott Felts, who was with him for most of the fifteen years that the ranch was in operation.[8] Additional help was often difficult to secure. For the most part, the ranch had to depend on Mexican or Mexican-American cowboys. Often the Mexican workers were "wetbacks." That is, they were in the Unitec States illegally and thus were not dependable as a source of labor, since they were often picked up by the immigration authorities and deported.[9] An act of the United States Congress of March 2, 1929, made it rather easy for Mexican laborers to make application for registry as an alien seeking to become a citizen of the United States and thus remain in the area legally. However, most of the Big Bend border Mexican laborers were seemingly unwilling to establish such a status.[10] Since it was difficult for the ranchmen to keep dependable help they often took turns in helping each other at roundup time. During most of the time that Mr. Wilson operated in the Big Bend area he was able to keep from two or four local Mexican-Americans as fence riders and helpers on the ranch. The usual pay for such services was thirty dollars per month plus provisions.[11]

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8. Interview, Mrs. Sam R. Nail, October 24, 1967.

9. H. M. Blackwel to Wayne R. Cartledge, December 23, 1932, and March 29, 1933.

10. United States Form #659, Application for Registry of an Alien under act of Congress, approved March 2, 1929 W. J. Cafi American Consul, Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico, to La Harmonia, June 25, 1929.

11. W. R. Cartledge to G. S. Gibson, June 10, 1934.

LIVESTOCK LOSSES FROM DISEASES AND OTHER CAUSES

On the average Mr. Wilson ran about 4,000 grown ewe sheep, 50 to 60 bucks, 2,500 grown nannie goats, 35 to 45 billies, 40 to 60 head of cattle, three or four mules used for working livestock in the mountains, and 10 or 12 head of horses which were used to work the livestock on the ranch.[12] With this number of livestock scattered over the mountains, hills and valleys of some forty thousand acres of land there was usually to be expected losses from disease, screwworm attacks, and predatory animals and accidents. Patricia Anne Wilson, now Mrs. Grant M. Clothier of Liberty, Missouri, recalls that often she would go out to look for and find angora goats, which because of their long hair would get caught in cat-claw bush. The goats would starve to death if not found and released from the cat-claw.[13] To keep the losses from disease and the screwworms to a minimum, Mr. Wilson made every effort to see that his flocks were checked daily,

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12. Bergine (Mrs. Homer) Wilson to G. T. Sartwelle, March 28, 1944; G. W. Fuller to Commanding Officer, Amarillo Air Field, August 24, 1943; Ross A. Maxwell to Clifford B. Casey, November 1, 1947; Patricia Anne Wilson Clothier to Homer Wilson, March 7, 1968.

13. Interview, Homer M. Wilson, Jr., September 14, 1967, Wayne R. Cartledge to Eugene Cartledge, November 8, 1938; Patricia Anne Wilson Clothier to Homer Wilson, March 7,1968.

and all fence riders and herders were required to carry at all times the necessary equipment to treat diseased animals and those afflicted with screwworms.[14]

There were limited losses from thievery as is indicated by an item in the Alpine Avalanche under date of January 3, 1930 which says, "Ten horses were stolen in southern Brewster County. The trail led to the Rio Grande." Again, on January 30, 1932, Homer Wilson in a letter to Wayne R. Cartledge wrote, "Too much Mexican traffic through that side (west), we should change the locks on the gates between us." To counter this activity and to protect the ranchers from Mexican bandits and thievery, the ranchers in the area attempted to get the state of Texas to send an additional Texas Ranger into the Big Bend area.[15] The Wilson Ranch, however, experienced few losses from thievery of livestock or other materials from the ranch. As a precaution Mr. Wilson painted an outline of all tools and equipment of the toolshed in red so that as soon as any item was taken or disappeared it would be immediately missed. It was his policy that even the smallest item or tool taken was followed up immediately and the guilty Mexican was punished when there was definite

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14. Interview, Homer M. Wilson, Jr., September 14, 1967.

15. E. Cartledge to Colonel H. H. Carmichael, November 30, 1936; Wayne R. Cartledge to H. H. Carmichael, January 12, 1937.

evidence of guilt. Thus by administering immediate and sure punishment there were few losses from thievery. Mr. Wilson was a just and kind man; however, it was his theory that the best way to prevent thievery and trouble from border Mexicans was to be firm with them and deal out punishment as soon as possible. In addition, as a means of impressing his Mexican helpers and as a warning to any that might think of getting tough, from time to time Mr. Wilson would have one of the cowboys release a coyote from a trap and then Wilson would shoot the animal after permitting it to run for some distance.[16]

Most of the loss of livestock suffered by the Wilson Ranch was from predatory animals. This conclusion is derived from the witness of many of the people who have lived in and ranched in the Big Bend area. For example, Mrs. Ira Hector says, "There will never be any freedom from wildlife until the panthers are killed. The ranchers organized a 'Panther Club' and paid $25 for each panther killed." Then in an undated letter from Homer Wilson to Wayne R. Cartledge, Mr. Wilson says, "Mr. Graves is a good trapper and I would appreciate it if you would let him clean out the coyotes in your country as they keep coming under my fence." Mrs. Dorothy Burnam Bibb says, "He (her father) trapped them (predators) and shot panthers, etc. if he could

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16. Interview, Homer M. Wilson, Jr., September 14, 1967.

find them." Ross Maxwell, onetime superintendent of the Big Bend National Park, in a recent letter dated November 1, 1967, says, "Homer had a more or less panther-proof fence in the mountains . . . The fence was not panther-proof but it helped. Homer also kept traps set in arroyos, along the trails, and in places frequented by the cats. He caught 40 or more, seems like 48 to me, from 1929 to 1944." Then in 1943, Mr. G. W. Fuller, member of the Brewster County Draft Board, in a letter addressed to the Commanding Officer of the Amarillo Air Field in which he was seeking to get Jack Ward, a nephew of Homer Wilson's, released from the military service says, "Furthermore this ranch is located in the Chisos Mountains area which is a rugged country and is infested with wild animals which cause damage to stock."

Mr. Wilson, in an effort to protect his livestock from the predators, constructed "more or less" panther-proof fences in the mountain area, and had wolf-proof fences throughout the area where fences were constructed. In addition he set many traps along the fences where predatory animals were prone to enter and along the trails used by these animals. To make these traps effective he had them run every day by trained and experienced fence riders. Mr. Wilson also set traps on high cliffs and precipices where hawks and eagles were accustomed to light.

In addition, he made extensive use of poison capsules which were carefully placed where predators made their more frequent visits.[17] Harris Smith sums up the problem of losses in the following words, "Ranching was hazardous in the early days, few lasted too long. Financing, losses from wild animals, drouth, thievery and low prices took their toll."[18]

THE RANGE AND LIVESTOCK FEEDING

The Oak Canyon-Blue Creek Ranch rarely found it necessary to provide extra feed for the livestock. Wilson had an excellent range for raising sheep and goats, and his major problem was one of effectively using the range by judiciously tending his herds so that they derived the greatest possible benefit from the native vegetation. During a few of the dryer years he made some use of his own sotol plants; however, this was in frequent and of little consequence during the fifteen years of his operation of the ranch. This situation was assured by careful use of his range and a definite policy of not overstocking the ranch. As a matter of fact, on a number of occasions during the 1930s.

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17. Ibid; Interview, Mrs. Sam R. Nail, October 24, 1967; Ross A. Maxwell to Clifford B. Casey, November 1, 1967.

18. Interview, Harris S. Smith, December 28, 1966.

he pastured livestock for neighboring ranchmen whose ranges were unable to carry their stock.[19]

TRANSPORTATION AND LIVESTOCK MARKETING AND RANCH SUPPLIES

By the time Mr. Wilson entered the Big Bend Country the country roads to Alpine and to Marathon were in good condition for dirt roads, and they were well maintained by the county road crews. In addition, by this time larger trucks were available for the transportation of livestock from one place to another. Also, well-equipped shearing crews were available on a well worked out schedule which was agreed upon and acceptable to the ranchmen. Consequently, Mr. Wilson experienced little difficulty relative to the transportation and marketing of his livestock and the clips of wool and mohair.[20] The only worry that Wilson had relative to the marketing of his products was the low price which he often had to take as he found it difficult to hold for better prices. Mr. Wilson disposed of most of his wool, mohair and other ranch products through the Producers Wool and

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19. Account Record Book, R. L. Cartledge, 1933; Homer Wilson to Wayne R. Cartledge, June 21, 1932.

20. Interview, Wayne R. Cartledge, June 21, 1967; Bergins (Mrs. Homer) Wilson to G. T. Sartwelle, March 23, 1944.

Mohair Company, Del Rio, Texas.[21] Likewise, he secured much of his ranch supplies through the Del Rio Wool and Mohair Company. Other supplies, groceries and the like, he purchased at Marathon, Alpine, and the La Harmonia Store at Castolon.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN AND OTHER PROBLEMS

Brewster County maintained four elementary schools in the lower Big Bend during the first third of the century; one at the Dugout, east of the Chisos Mountains, another at Castolon along the Rio Grande, the third at Terlingua, west of the Chisos, and one south of Persimmon Gap near Cooper's Store. The ranchers in the vicinity of the Oak Canyon-Blue Creek area found each of these schools too far away and thus attempted to meet the elementary school needs of their children in the home. Mrs. Charles Burnam had been a teacher in St. Paul, Minnesota, so she taught her children the work of the elementary grades in her home. Later they rented a house in Alpine and sent the children to secondary school and then to Sul Ross College. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nail employed a private teacher, Miss Florence Pope, who lived with them at the ranch and taught the children. Miss Pope moved to Oak Canyon in 1937-38 as a governess for Patricia who was in the first grade at this time. When Homer was about seven,

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21. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 95, 83; Homer Wilson to Wayne R. Cartledge, October 23, 1933

Miss Mammie Broyles lived at the ranch for a very short time as a teacher for him. In 1938, Mrs. Wilson moved into Alpine during the school term for two or three years prior to going to Del Rio, Texas, (in 1945) where the children entered and completed secondary school.[22]

Mr. Wilson, like most ranchmen with favorable hunting ranges, had the bother of deer hunters during the hunting season each year. Some of Mr. Wilson's relatives and close friends hunted on the range in the Chisos and the Blue Creek area each year. In addition, he usually had a dozen or so "pay" hunters each of which was charged $25 for permission to hunt on the Wilson Ranch. These hunters produced three or four hundred dollars of revenue for the ranch each year. However, they were considered to be more trouble than they were worth in dollars and cents, and in 1941 Mr. Wilson referred those seeking the privilege to hunt on his ranch to Gene Cartledge and his Mule Ear Ranch Hunting Preserve.[23]

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22. Interview, Dorothy Burnam Bibb, June 26, 1967; Interview, Mrs. Sam R. Nail, April 13, 1967; Interview Homer Wilson, Jr., September 14, 1967.

23. Homer Wilson to Gene Cartledge, November 10, 1941.

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CHAPTER VI

THE END OF RANCHING IN THE BIG BEND PARK AREA

THE BIG BEND PARK PROJECT

In 1899, Robert T. Hill, the father of Texas geology, made a float trip down the Rio Grande from Presidio, Texas, through the entire area of the Big Bend Country to the vicinity of Del Rio, Texas. Two years later (in 1901) the Century Magazine carried his account of this trip under the title "Running the Cañons of the Rio Grande," in which he says, "Every aspect of the Big Bend Country--landscape, configuration, rocks, and vegetation--is weird and strange and of a type unfamiliar to the inhabitants of civilized lands." This article, with Dr. Hill's graphic description of the river, its canyons and the adjacent mountains, created a considerable interest in the Big Bend Country. It was more than thirty years, however, before the article bore real fruit. In February of 1933, during the early weeks of the forty-third session of the Texas Legislature, Representative R. N. (Bob) Wagstaff of Abilene, Texas, read the article. With much exitement he came to the desk of the Honorable E. E. Townsend, also a member of the Texas House of the Representatives, and placed before him a copy of Century Magazine opened

at the Hill article, and said, "Say, Townsend, is this authentic? Is the Big Bend Country actually anything like this?"

Mr. Townsend replied, "Sure, it's like that, only more so. You will have to go see it for yourself before you can really appreciate what's there. No one can adequately describe it."

Wagstaff replied, "Then why don't you do something about it? If it's even half as good as this guy says it is, you've got the making of one of the grandest parks in the nation."[1]

This conversation between the Honorable E. E. Townsend and Representative R. M. Wagstaff resulted in the introduction of House Bill 771 by Wagstaff and Townsend which called for the creation of the "Texas Canyons State Park," and in addition, for the transfer of fifteen sections of public school lands in the vicinity of Santa Elena, Mariscal, and Boquillas Canyons to the Texas State Parks Board for park purposes. The bill was passed by both houses of the Legislature and approved by Governor Miriam A. Gerguson, May 27, 1933.[2] Widespread interest in the park project resulted in an enlargement of the program, and in a called session of the Texas Legislature September 1933,

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1. Interview, E. E. Townsend, April 1948.

2. Clifford B. Casey, "The Big Bend National Park," West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Publication, No. 13, 30-31.

bills were introduced and passed which provided for the transfer of all unsold public school lands in Brewster County south of latitude 29 degrees and 25 minutes to the state for park purposes, and for the transfer of all delinquent tax lands within the same area, which had been or might hereafter be sold for taxes, to the state for park purposes. This act, approved by the Governor on October 27, 1933, used the title "Big Bend State Park" instead of using the term "Canyons State Park," however.

In the meantime, all parties interested in the Big Bend Park project turned their attention to secure the enactment of legislation by the Congress of the United States for the inclusion of the Big Bend Park in the National Park System. On March 1, 1935, identical bills were introduced in both houses of the Congress by Senators Sheppard and Connally and Representative Thomason to establish the Big Bend National Park in Texas, such establishment to become effective when lands of that area were deeded to the Federal Government.[3]

The act of the United States Congress, in a definite sense, was only an enabling act. Thus the establishment and creation of a Big Bend National Park were contingent on favorable action by the state of Texas in acquiring and delivering to the Federal

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3. Dallas Morning News, April 27, 1935, and October 17, 1935.

Government in area which would meet the standards of the National Park Service. Considerable difficulty arose and it was not until July of 1941 that Governor O'Daniel of the state of Texas approved a bill which appreciated $1,500,000 to purchase privately owned lands within the area of the proposed Big Bend National Park. Under the authority of this act the Texas State Parks Board organized the Big Bend Land Department with offices at Alpine, Texas, with the necessary staff to locate, appraise, and purchase such privately owned lands within a designated area which had been previously prescribed by the National Park Service On September 1, 1941, the Big Bend Land Department opened its office in Alpine and began the program of land acquisition. Some delay and a certain amount of uncertainty developed when State Representative A. H. King of Throckmorton, Texas, filed an injunction enjoining the state comptroller from paying out the $1,500,000 which had been appropriated by the Legislature. On February 4, 1942, however, the State Supreme Court ruled against King and his injunction suit. And on September 19, 1942 the Land Department's Alpine office was closed since all but about twenty sections within the proposed area had been acquire

The National Park Service, through M. R. Tillotson, regiona director, Region Three of the National Park Service, officially

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4. Casey, op. cit., 39-40.

accepted a deed to the land from the Honorable Coke Stephenson, Governor of the State of Texas, at ceremonies held at Sul Rose State College on September 5, 1943.[5] However, it was not until June 12, 1944, that Big Bend National Park was officially established as the twenty-seventh National Park. The area involved contained 707,895 acres and made the Big Bend National Park the sixth largest park of the National Park System. The deed from the state of Texas had included all but something over sixteen thousand of the total acreage included in the park which was subsequently acquired by the Federal government.[6]

REACTION OF RANCHES TO THE PARK PROJECT

No two of the people who lived and ranched in the Big Bend Country looked upon and thought of the Big Bend project from the same viewpoint. Each was in a different situation with different interests, obligations and ties to the land. Thus, as may be expected, there was a wide range of reaction on the part of the landowners as the park project developed during the years from 1933 until ten years later in September of 1943, when the state of Texas delivered a deed for the land to the Federal Government. Many nonresident owners had held title to land in

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5. Alpine Avalanche, September 10, 1943.

6. Annual Report, Director of the National Park Service, June 30, 1944, 223-224.

the Big Bend for as much as fifty years and more and had neve: derived any cash returns from such ownership. Still they had paid taxes on the land for all of those years. For the most part peoples in this category were very delighted with the pr spect of the state buying their land. This, however, was not universally true. One woman, for example, in a letter to the Governor of Texas said: "We are offered $30 for twenty acres. We traded sixty acres in East Texas on which there was timber worth more than $300 for this land. Can't you give us at lea $50 it seems unfair to me."[7] On the other hand those who act owned and lived on the land in the Big Bend Country had come to love it as their home, and thus there were mixed reactions on their part as they gave consideration to the park project and the fact that they would have to give up their homes and relocate elsewhere. In the first place they were in the area because they loved the mountains, the desert, and the wide-op spaces. Sure, it was lonely at times, and they had experienc many hardships, but on the whole they were happy and loved th land and life well away from the hustle and bustle of the mor congested areas. In spite of these reactions, however, most of the people of the Big Bend were happy to see their beloved

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7. Mrs. H. J. Green to Governor of Texas, March 9, 1942 H. W. Wiedermann to Gene Cartledge, January 20, 1942.

a made accessible to all the people of the country through agency of the National Park Service.

There were those, however, who were opposed to the idea of ning up the area to the descrating influence of the thoughts public. One woman who lived in the Oak Canyon area had s to say: "I believe that the beauty and wilderness would be ned with tourists just looking and not really loving the ntry." [8] Another has responded as follows: "Ranchers at st were sympathetic to the park movement, but after they were ced to sell as they were they felt differently."[9] Mrs. Ira tor, in a letter addressed to James Anderson late in 1965 in lying to a question as how she felt about the park project. this to say: "The man who gave his land, home, and occupan and moved out should be paid a pention [pension] from the enue received. We were certainly not treated fairly. We were ced to give up our lands early and never received all we e promised." Another landowner of the area responded thusly: that time I felt the price was fair and equitable. I felt was better to sell than to wait and have a board set an luation on the land, because a board would have been made

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8. Interview, Dorothy Burnam Bidd, June 26, 1967.

9. Julia Nail Moss to James G. Anderson, February 13, 1966.

up of men from Alpine and Marathon and they wanted the park. Looking back, I think the land was worth much more than was pa: for it."[10] A response in a somewhat different tone and with mixed feelings follows: "I do know that I felt very sad to see the old ranches like the Burnam Ranch deserted and eventually torn down (the Oak Canyon Ranch house). People were happy on those ranches and did not get enough for their land to purchase elsewhere ....The older members of the family (Fulcher) felt resentful, but I told them they were selfish....I am proud of the park and enjoy it immensely."[11]

To sum up the section of rancher reaction to the park proj one may quote from the summary report of Eugene Thompson, chief appraiser in charge of the land acquisition program for the Tex Parks Board, in which he says: "Many of the ranchers living in the area and making their living from the land may not have bee paid its true value, but to their everlasting credit it must be said that they unanimously accepted our evaluation and distribution of available funds as equitable. To this group we give thanks."[12] Also, in September of 1944, the Alpine Chamber

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10. Wayne R. Cartledge to James G. Anderson, August 6, 19(

11. Elvie (Fulcher) Williams to James G. Anderson, August 1965.

12. Eugene Thompson, Summary Report of Big Bend Land Acqu: sition Program, File #1, 4; El Paso Herald Post, September 8, 1(

of Commerce published a small leaflet called the "Big Bend-Davis Mountain Round-up," in which we find the following: "The National Park Service rules that according to sales contracts all livestock will be removed from the area by January 1, 1945. Many people who went into the area and carved out homes will find it extremely hard to give up their places and look for new locations. These ranchmen deserve every bit of help possible from people in making their move easier."[13]

ACQUIRING THE LAND BY THE STATE AND CLOSING OUT OF THE RANCHES

On August 11, 1941, the Texas State Parks Board organized the Big Bend Land Department, with Frank D. Quinn, executive secretary of the Texas State Parks Board, as administrator, and E. E. Townsend, associate administrator. Eugene Thompson, Breckenridge, Texas, was named chief appraiser. These men had the aid of a legal staff, tax specialist, and other assistants to carry out the program of the acquisition of the privately owned lands within the area which the National Park Service had previously approved for the proposed Big Bend National Park. The Big Bend Land Department opened its office in Alpine, Texas, September 1, 1941, and on December 2, 1941, they made a report

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13. Brewster County Chamber of Commerce, "Big Bend-Davis Mountain Round-up," 2.

to the State Parks Board in which they listed 2,354 landowners within the area involving a total of 777,718.18 acres of land with an estimated appraisal value of $1,486,315.24. The Board had at its disposal only $1,500,000, which would mean that they had little room for extra or unexpected expenses and delays in the program. Consequently, the National Park Service was requested to agree to accept Title Insurance in lieu of title opinions based on abstracts on all privately owned lands, and to accept Certificates of Fact from the Texas land commissioner on all lands acquired directly from the state of Texas. Ranchers were permitted three year's free grazing on their former holdings after purchase in order to give them time to relocate and move their stock, also to permit landowners to remove improv ments not enumerated as purchased, and lastly to permit the Big Bend Land Department to make minor adjustments in the boundary of the park where found to be practicable and advantageous to the success and rapid closing out of the purchase program. The National Park Service agreed to each of these requests, thus adding a great deal to the success of the acquisition program.

The state press from all the major and many minor cities of the state gave wide publicity to the land purchase program and this made it evident to the landowners that the park project was destined to succeed. As a result most of the landowners

cooperated well and the land purchase program progressed rapidly. The Big Bend Land Department failed to reach an agreement in price with only two people, both nonresident owners for a total of only 840 acres.

The actual purchase of land did not begin until February 1942, but by September 30, 1942, the Big Bend Land Department offices in Alpine were closed. On November 2, 1942, a final report was made to the State Parks Board which listed 20 sections of land within the park boundary which had not been purchased due to the lack of funds.[14]

No further efforts were made by the state of Texas to purchase the remaining lands in the area designated as the Big Bend National Park until 1947. In that year the Legislature appropriated an additional $12,000 to purchase remaining lands. In addition, the Big Bend Park Association, a private nonprofit organization, donated $3,000. With these funds and by the exchange of the state-owned sections outside the park boundary, Mr. Eugene Thompson, the former administrator of the Big Bend Land Department, acquired an additional 7,680 acres of land, which was deeded to the Federal Government.[15] Since that time the Federal Government has purchased all remaining lands within the designated area.

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14. Thompson, op. cit., File #1, 1-6.

15. Ibid., 7.

On May 25, 1942, the contract for the sale of the Wilson Ranch to the State Parks Board was completed. In accordance wi the policies of the purchase program, Mr. Wilson was given unti January 1, 1945, to remove his stock and relocate elsewhere. I addition, the sales contract provided for free grazing privileg on the land previously owned until such time that he removed hi livestock under the terms of the contract.[16]

In the land acquisition program of the Big Bend Land Depart ment, a policy of land classification was developed as a basis of determining prices to be paid for land within the area. The scheme developed under this classification policy was as follows

Classification I. Very poor to be valued at $1 per acre.
Classification II. Poor to be valued at $1.50 per acre.
Calssification III. Fair to be valued at $2 per acre (hill country near mountains).
Classification IV. Good to be valued at $2 plus per acre (Chisos Mountain area).

In addition, the appraisal committee of the Big Bend Land Department of the State Parks Board took into consideration the type and condition of improvements on the land in determining the price to be paid to each ranchman. All of the Wilson Ranch was appraised as coming within Classifications III and IV. Due to this classification, and the type and condition of the improv

16. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 99, 423; Thompson, op. cit., File # 1, 3.

on the ranch, Mr. Wilson received an average of almost $5 per acre for his land. He owned something over twenty-eight thousand acres and received $137,376.06.[17]

Even though Mr. Wilson was given until January 1, 1945, to remove and relocate his livestock, he did not complete the task because of his death in July of 1943. As a result, Mrs. Wilson, with the assistance of a nephew, Jack Ward, terminated the ranching affairs of the Wilson Ranch within the time allotted by the sales contract.[18]

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN THE AREA

One of the major long-range policies of the National Park Service has been to secure and maintain, as near as possible in their native state, areas which possess superlative characteristics in fields of scenery, natural science, and history. The scenery of the Big Bend Country was early evaluated by special committees representing the National Park Service as having those superlative and unusual characteristics which would justify its being set aside as an area worthy of being maintained as an outstanding national attraction "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

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17. Ibid., 5.

18. Interview, Homer Wilson, Jr., September 14, 1967, and October 13, 1967.

In the annual report of the director of the National Park Servi

for the year ending June 30, 1944, we find the following:

> Big Bend National Park deserves the place it has been granted among the primary areas of the National Park System. It embraces a region of elusive lasting charm and arresting scenery. Perpendicular gorges cleft by the Rio Grande and the Santa Elena and Boquillas Canyons are sharp contrast to the cool forested slopes and summits of the Chisos or "Ghost" Mountains that rise above the arid plain. Human history, rare wildlife species, mountain and desert plant life, and their combination in natural settings make it "a biological island in an expanse of desert." The paramount purpose of the national park must be the preservation of its vast wilderness as an inspiring "last frontier" on our southern border.[19]

Since the establishment of the Big Bend National Park, it has been the basic policy of the Park Service to restore and pr serve the plant and animal life of the area as nearly as possib to its original natural state, as it has existed prior to the coming of the ranchmen and miners into the area during the closing decades of the nineteenth century. The National Park Service has considered it desirable to interpret "open range" type of ranching as a distinctive characteristic feature of the Big Bend. The Oak Canyon-Blue Creek Ranch of Homer Wilson was, without doubt, the best example of ranching within

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19. Annual Report, Director, National Park Service, 1944, 224.

what is now the Big Bend National Park. It is, therefore, proper that this area be used to interpret to the park visitors the practices of "open-range" ranching.

During the years since the National Park Service took over the Big Bend area practically all "man-made" physical properties have been removed from the area of the Wilson Ranch. The two-story ranch home which was located along Oak Creek below Oak Spring has been completely removed, leaving only the slightest sign of a terrace on which the house stood. In addition, all fences, with the exception of a few isolated short spans and scattered posts here and there, have been removed from the land. Much of the fencing was used, in cooperation with the ranchmen outside the park area, to fence the outside boundaries of the park. There still remains, however, a number of stone and concrete structures which had been a part of the system for the improvement of the watering of livestock on the ranch. Also, the remains of a number of windmills, and the line camp ranch house and outlying facilities in Blue Creek. There are still to be seen the signs of the ranch roads which were used by Mr. Wilson to serve the various portions of the ranch from headquarters in Oak Canyon and the line camp in Blue Creek. At the present time, however, the entire area is traversed by a paved park road which follows rather closely the Burro Mesa Fault, then over the saddle between the valley and Blue Creek, and along the rolling

sotol-covered hills on down into the flat between Burro Mesa and Goat Mountain. It is of interest to note that the Sotol Vista is almost in the geographic center of the Wilson Ranch. Thus, from this point on the paved road, one may get a rather complete and comprehensive view of the forty to fifty thousand acres embraced within the Oak Canyon-Blue Creek Ranch.

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CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSIONS

Ojo de Chisos, Chisos Spring, or more generally known as Oak Spring, has been closely related to ranching in the Big Bend since 1885 when Captain James B. Gillett, as manager of the G-4 outfit of the Estado Land and Cattle Company, established his headquarters near the spring. Almost fifty years later, when Homer Wilson acquired the greater portion of the land to the west of the Chisos Mountains, he occupied the two-story ranch house at Oak Springs as his headquarters from which he directed the activities of his extensive holdings. Since the major part of the ranch extended from the area of Boot Spring, the South Rim of the Chisos, and down Blue Creek and on to the southwest, Mr. Wilson established a line camp in Blue Creek and there constructed a very unusual ranch house which was occupied by his ranch foreman. As a means of improving the water supply on the ranch, Mr. Wilson dug a number of wells, installed windmills, constructed water tanks or reservoirs, and connected these by using many miles of pipelines. To make more effective his windmills, Wilson installed on those which were to deliver water to

higher elevation, a booster pump which he had developed and he secured a patent from the United States Patent Office. T Wilson Ranch was effectively enclosed by the judicious use o natural barriers augmented by four-foot net wire fences wher native mountains, cliffs, bluffs, and canyon walls did not connect. In the mountain areas, Mr. Wilson made an effort t panther-proof his ranch by constructing a four-foot new wire topped by a two-foot net wire extending outward at an angle degrees. Drought, low prices for livestock and livestock pr such as wool and mohair, plus the fact that Mr. Wilson opera his ranching activities during the difficult years of the gr depression, tended to make it very hard for him to keep the ancing of his ranching activities in good shape during those With the understanding cooperation of the people of the Prod Wool and Mohair Company of Del Rio, Texas, the First Nationa Bank, Del Rio, Texas, and the Federal Land Bank of Houston, Mr. Wilson weathered the financial difficulties of the perio his estate was able to show a profit after the sale of the p ties to the State Parks Board in 1942.[1]

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1. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 99, 423.

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QUICKSILVER MINING IN THE BIG BEND OF TEXAS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines mercury as a heav silver-white metallic element, the only metal that is liquid a ordinary temperatures. In addition, Webster says that it is popularly called quicksilver. Under the word quicksilver, Web ster gives the following explanation: The metal mercury is ca quicksilver because of its fluidity, quick or living silver. well-known mining engineer, W. D. Burcham, Alpine, Texas, who has been active in the mining of quicksilver for many years, gives the following explanation of the terms: "When it is refe to as one of the chemical elements it is mercury. As the silv white metal of commerce it is quicksilver. Under either name it has peculiar and intriguing characteristics which make it one of the most useful articles in the service of mankind." In the 1919 issue of the Report of the United States Geological Survey on page 247, we find the following: "Quicksilver, or mercury, is a silvery-white metal, which remains liquid at ordinary temperature. It freezes at minus 38.9 degrees Centigr boils at 357 degrees Centigrade, and is 13.6 times heavier than water."

Cinnabar, a red mercuric sulphide, HgS, in a more or less ıre state is the chief ore of quicksilver and almost the only ıe mined in the United States. When pure it contains 86.2 per ınt of the metal. It is soft (hardness 2 to 2.5) and heavy ›ecific gravity 8.0 to 8.2). Thus the ore is generally easily .stinguishable due to its cochineal-red color and is unusually ›avy weight.

Breccia is a fragmental rock whose components are angular ·agments cemented together, thus distinguished from conglomerate ›ck which is composed of rounded particles.

Flask is a heavy iron or steel bottle or flask in which ıicksilver is marketed. The flask holds about 3 quarts of .quid metal and weighs about 76 pounds.

Magma is a naturally occurring mobile rock material, generated ' heat and pressure within the earth's crust. Magma is capable : forming either intrusive or extrusive igneous rocks by solid- :ication. Magma may be liquid, solid or gaseous, depending ı temperature, pressure, and other factors.

Winze is a steeply inclined passageway or shaft driven to ›nnect one mine working with another at a lower level.

Other terms not in common use to the non-mining vocabulary ıll be explained from time to time as they are used in the paper.

THEORY OF THE ORIGIN AND DEPOSITION OF QUICKSILVER

All major authorities in the field of mining engineering seem to be of the opinion that mercury or quicksilver deposits have been formed by hydrothermal solutions associated with gas eous phases. The solutions have their origin in some deep-sea rock magma far within the earth's crust. It is believed that such mineralizing solutions are formed in the rock magma and thereafter ascend toward the surface through small fissures or fractures in the rock strata above the magma. In addition, it believed the rising solutions may have gotten the quicksilver from the magma, or that it may have been distilled by magmatic heat from the overlaying sedimentary rocks. The mineralizing solutions are alkaline and must carry sulphur as well as quick-silver in suspension. Often there are other chemical elements. These, however, precipitate at different temperatures and conditions than those which tend to cause mercury or quicksilver to precipitate. Most, if not all, quicksilver deposits are related directly or indirectly with volcanic activity. Volcani implies formation of igneous extrusives. There could be no quicksilver without any volcanic activity.

As the ore-bearing solutions move toward the surface and are subjected to favorable conditions of temperature and pressu the quicksilver is deposited as both chlorides and sulfides. Mr. C. N. Schuetts, Sebastopol, California, who is possibly one of the best-known authorities on the origin and deposition

›f quicksilver, says:

> Briefly stated, the theory of ore deposits formed by primary concentration, which classification includes practically all quicksilver ore deposits, is as follows:
>
> 1. The source of ore is a deep-seated igneous rock magma.
>
> 2. The ore minerals are carried to the point of deposition by hot alkaline solutions ascending through fissures in the rock.
>
> 3. The ascending mineral-bearing solutions are directed and limited or even dammed at some point in their upward course by relatively impervious rock.
>
> 4. Precipitation of the ore minerals is caused by cooling and dilution of the mineral-bearing solutions, by loss of pressure by precipitating agents such as organic matter or gaseous reagents.
>
> 5. The orebody forms in any pervious rock or in the interstitial spaces of any broken rock mass or in other void underlying and relatively impervious rock.
>
> 6. The forming of the orebody is due to the concentration of the ore mineral in a trap formed by the relatively impervious rock. This trap structure has directed and limited the upward flow of the mineralizing solutions to the porous rock mass below.
>
> 7. The ore minerals are predominantly primary minerals, secondary minerals being rare and of little importance as ore.[1]

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1. W. D. Burcham,"Mercury Mining and Refining"(an unpublished paper).

Mr. Schuette assures us there are inevitable exceptions to th somewhat categorical precepts or conditions conducive to the formation and deposition of quicksilver. He says, however, t these can all be accounted for by specific and variable condi under which individual ore bodies have been formed and depos If, at the point of contact with the relatively impervious fo there were reasonably large fissures or other void space, the will be a heavy concentration of ore, called an ore body. If however, there is no such place or places for heavy concentra then the mineralized solutions will penetrate the more pervio materials or formations and thus form less heavy concentratio of quicksilver.[2]

THE MORE IMPORTANT USES OF QUICKSILVER

Quicksilver, the only metal that is liquid at ordinary temperatures, is a good conductor of heat and electricity. I weighs more than thirteen times as much as water, remains flu to more than 38 degrees Centigrade below zero, and reaches th high of 357 degrees before it boils. Because of these and other peculiar and intriguing characteristics, quicksilver is

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2. C. N. Schuette, "Occurrence of Quicksilver Orebodies American Institute of Mineralogy and Metallurgical Engineers Technical Publication, No.335, 5-13; Robert G. Yates and George A. Thompson, "Geology and Quicksilver Deposits of the Terlingua District Texas," United States Geological Survey Professional Paper, No. 312, 75; Clyde P. Ross, "The Quicksil Deposits of the Terlingua District, Texas," Economic Geology, Vol. 36, 137-139.

extensively used in industry, medicine, and the home. Since early prehistoric times quicksilver has been used by man to amalgamate and refine gold and in the gilding and silvering of utensils and ornaments. Cinnabar was used as a pigment and a medicine as early as the first century A. D. At the present time its major uses are in the production of electrical apparatus, control instruments, electrolytic soda preparations, mildew-proofing, pesticides, medical and dental preparations, the incandescent lamp, explosive detonators, the thermometer, and hundreds of other specific uses. Many of these uses are closely related to every day life and others are essential to any country in time of war. A table taken from the Bureau of Mines' Minerals Yearbook for 1961, gives the exact amount used for the year 1961 in flasks, each containing 76 pounds of liquid quicksilver, as follows:

Agriculture (includes insecticides, fungicides, and bactericides for industrial purposes)	2,557
Amalgamation	278
Catalysts	707
Dental preparations	2,154
Electrical apparatus	10,255
Electrolytic preparation of chlorine and caustic soda	6,056
General laboratory use	1,484
Industrial and control instruments	5,627
Paint	6,061
Paper and pulp manufacture	3,094
Pharmaceuticals	2,515

Redistilled	9,01
Other	5,96
Total Flasks	55,76

MAJOR AREAS IN WHICH QUICKSILVER IS PRODUCED

SPAIN AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

A small vessel containing quicksilver dating back to the sixteenth century B.C. was found in a grave at Kurna in Mesopotamia. The Greeks knew of, and used it as early as the time of Aristotle, with no recorded reference to its origin. Chine records mention the use of cinnabar and the liquid that the Almaden Mine began production in about 400 B.C. The Almaden Mine is located in Cuidad Real Province, Spain, some 150 miles to the northeast of Madrid. The mine was operated by the Iber the Romans, and the Moorish invaders. Since the twelfth centu it has been operated and controlled by the Spanish Government. The Alamaden Mine of Spain has been, by far, the largest singl producer of quicksilver in the world since the time the mine first opened. During this period of almost 25 hundred years the Alamaden Mine has produced more than 7 million flasks of quicksilver.[4] Due to general political conditions in Spain in

3. Burcham, op. cit.; John E. Shelton, "Mercury," Bureau of Mines Minerals Yearbook, 1961-1965; Yates and Thompson, op. cit.; F. L. Ransome, "Quicksilver in 1918," United States Geological Survey, 143-146.

4. Yates and Thompson, op. cit., 6; Shelton, op. cit., 9.

ent years and to the fact that Spain has not improved and ernized methods of recovery of quicksilver from her vast ore ly, she has slipped into second place among the producers urope. The following table lists the countries in order of luction for the year 1961.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF MERCURY BY COUNTRIES

Country	Production in Flasks
North America:	
United States	31,662
Mexico	18,507
South America:	
Peru	2,700
Chile	2,900
Colombia	100
Europe:	
Italy	55,434
Spain	50,000
U.S.S.R.	25,000
Yugoslavia	15,000
Austria	725
Rumania	400
Asia:	
China	26,000
Japan	5,300
Philippines	3,000
Turkey	1,300
Africa:	
Tunisia	80[5]

THE UNITED STATES

For many years, from about 1890 to 1940, the United States the second-largest producer of quicksilver in the world.

5. Yates and Thompson, op. cit., 6; Shelton, op. cit.,

It was second only to the Almaden production in Spain, with Italy ranking third during much of that time. The first production of quicksilver reported in the United States was for the year 1850, when the California mines produced 7,728 flasks. For more than 30 years no other state in the Union reported any quicksilver production. The peak year of production was 1877, when the California mines reported a total of 79,395 flasks. Thereafter there was a gradual reduction in the number of flasks until by 1884 the average annual production leveled off and has remained at near 30 thousand flasks. During the years prior to 1920 the United States produced about one-third of all quicksilver produced in the world. Today, however, she produces something less than one-eighth of the world's total production. In the years from about 1900 to 1920, the Texas mines produced about one-third of all quicksilver produced in the United States, with only California's mines producing a greater amount. Today, however, Texas produces little, if any quicksilver. In the meantime production has been extended to Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Alaska. Nevada now ranks next to California. Since the beginning of production in the United States, this country has produced more than 3 1/2 million flasks.[6]

OTHER COUNTRIES

Two countries in South America, Chile and Peru, each produce some 2 thousand flasks annually with Colombia producing

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6. Ransome, op. cit.; Shelton, op. cit. 3.

from 100 flasks or less. Mexico produces an average of near 16 thousand flasks each year. Outside Europe and the Americas, China is the major producer. Within the last 10 years, China's production has jumped from an annual average of near 10 thousand to 25 or 26 thousand flasks annually. Japan has an annual production of more than 5 thousand flasks, and the Philippine Islands produces nearly 3 thousand flasks. Thus it is evident that of the more than 240 thousand flasks that are produced in the world today, Europe still produces almost two-thirds of the total, with Spain and Italy producing more than 100 thousand of the total for Europe.[7]

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7. Shelton, op. cit., 9.

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CHAPTER II

QUICKSILVER DEPOSITS IN THE BIG BEND OF TEXAS

THE TERLINGUA DISTRICT

Indians who used the so-called "Comanche Trail" on their raids into northern Mexico knew of and used the red iron oxide which is often related to quicksilver deposits. The Indians a known to have used the iron oxide or cinnabar for mixing their war paint and for the red pigments in "Indian Paintings" or pictographs. Many of these pictographs may still be seen on t rocks and limestone bluffs of West Texas. In addition, the Indians used quicksilver as a medium of commerce. As early as the 1840s Dr. Ferdinand Von Roemer, a German geologist, while on an expedition into Comanche territory with Major R. S. Neig reported that he traded a leather lasso to the Indians for a small quantity of mercury.[1] Reports of the presence of quicksilver in the Big Bend country of Texas reached white men in Mexico and Texas as early as or before 1850. It is reported that a number of Mexicans visited and examined the area in sea

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1. Ferdinande Roemer, Texas (Translated by Oscar Nueller 268; R. L. Biesele, The History of German Settlements in Texas 1831-1861, 184.

quicksilver during the next two decades. However, it was not til 1884 that the first real effort was made to exploit the re-rts of quicksilver in the Big Bend area. In that year, Ignatz einman, a Hungarian Jew who operated a general merchandising ore at Presidio, Texas, took up claims near what later came to known as California Mountain. This mining endeavor proved successful in so far as the production of quicksilver was con-rned. It did, however, arouse the interest of California op-ators who came into the area and made an extensive search for e. They found nothing of real value and as they left, one of e party carved "California Hill" on the face of a rock, thus ving a name to the location.[2]

The first real production of quicksilver was by the Marfa d Mariposa Mining Company which was organized in 1896. The re important men of the organization were: Bert and James Nor-n, Montroyd Sharpe, and Thomas Colby. The Marfa and Mariposa ning Company was the first to be organized and actually produce icksilver in the Terlingua area. Their mine was in the Cali-rnia Hill region which is in the western part of the Terlingua icksilver District. Soon after the Marfa and Mariposa Mining mpany began their operation, Devine McKinney and J. M. Parker

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2. Kathryn B. Walker,"Quicksilver in the Terlingua Area," Unpublished thesis, Sul Ross State College, Alpine, Texas), 22.

opened up what was known as the McKinney-Parker Mine some four miles to the east of California Hill. The claim was later to to the Chisos Mining Company under the ownership and control o Howard E. Perry.[3] The Chisos Mine soon became the most import producing mine of the district and operated continuously until 1942.

During the early years of the twentieth century, hundreds of prospectors flocked into the Terlingua District and many claims were filed throughout the area. It was soon realized, however, that the quicksilver-bearing area was limited to a ve small section of the region centering around the mining villag of Terlingua, which was located on the Chisos Mining Company p erties. The ore-products area was about fourteen or so miles and west and only about four miles north and south. Within th limited area there were more than thirty mines that produced some ore. Of these thirty or more producing mines, the greate portion of the more than 150 thousand flasks that have been pr duced came from only half a dozen of the mines.[4] The Chisos Mining Company produced something over 100 thousand flasks.

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3. Clyde P. Ross, "The Quicksilver Deposits in the Terlingua Region, Texas," Economic Geology, XXXVI, 1941, 119; Alp Avalanche, March 14, 1902.

4. Robert G. Yates and George A. Thompson, Geology and Quicksilver Deposits of the Terlingua District, 50, 100-101.

The Marfa and Mariposa Mine produced between 20 and 30 thousand flasks. This means that the remaining major-producing mines, Study Butte, the Waldron properties (including the Rainbow Mine), the Colquitt-Tigner, and the Two-Forty-Eight Mine, with other small-producing workings, have added less than 30 thousand flasks to the total of quicksilver produced in the Terlingua District.[5]

The production of quicksilver in the Terlingua District was reasonably stable during the first twenty years of operation, 1899-1920. This was due to two major factors. First, the continuous operation of the Chisos Mine. Second, a good margin of profit between the cost of production and the prevailing price of refined ore. However, after the end of World War I there was a big drop in the price of quicksilver. As a result of this decline in the price most of the mines closed down. The Chisos Mine alone continued to produce ore during the period between World War I and World War II. The following table will give some idea of the fluctuation of production from the early years of the opening of the Terlingua area until 1960:

PRODUCTION OF MERCURY IN TEXAS, 1899-1960

Period	Production in Flasks
1899-1910	44,252
1911-1920	47,991
1921-1930	22,020
1931-1940	23,503

5. Ibid., 84-109.

1941-1945	7,889
1946-1950	none
1951-1960	1,556 [6]

In spite of the fact that the Terlingua District produced about one-third of all quicksilver produced in the United States from 1900 to 1920, fluctuations in mining, exploration and development due to low prices, and other factors since 1920 have reduced the Terlingua District production to an average of about 9 per cent of the total national production for the period from 1899 to 1960.[7] Since 1960 there again has been a favorable increase in the price of quicksilver. Consequently, exploration and development have picked up in the Terlingua area, and today a number of mines are in operation and other groups are doing extensive exploration and development. The most significant activity is that of the Diamond Alkali, now Diamond-Shamrock Company, which has acquired control of some forty sections of land in the Terlingua District and is, at the present time, doin extensive development and exploration in the Study Butte area on the eastern edge of the Terlingua Quicksilver District. The company expects to be handling close to 100 tons of unrefined ore per day by late 1968 or early 1969.[8]

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6. Bureau of Mines, United States Department of the Inter: Information Circular No. 8252, Mercury Potential of the United States, 337-338.

7. Ibid., 338; Ransome, op. cit., 143-146.

8. Alpine Avalanche, February 1, 1968; Interview, John Whittleman, Manager, Diamond-Shamrock Company, February 22, 196

OUTSIDE THE TERLINGUA DISTRICT

The most productive area that has been discovered and developed outside the original Terlingua District is the Fresno-Contrabando Dome area in the extreme western part of Brewster County and along the eastern edge of Presidio County some seventeen miles to the west of the old mining village of Terlingua, Texas. Harris S. Smith and Homer W. Wilson discovered and developed this area in the early 1930s. The Buena Suerte Mine of the Fresno area was the most important of this western extension of the Terlingua District. This mine was the largest producer of mercury in Texas during World War II and has remained one of the few mines that has continued to produce much of the time since 1945. The Buena Suerte Mine produced over 35 hundred flasks of refined quicksilver between 1940 and 1960. During 1953, the Amerimex Mining Company, under Robert M. Pulliam, did considerable exploration in the area with the aid of a 75 per cent grant from the United States Government. Since that time little exploration has been carried out, and in 1959, the lease to the properties was canceled by the owners. Soon thereafter in 1960, Dow Chemical Company did much exploratory drilling in the Fresno area.[9] While there has been considerable exploration and development of the Controbando Dome Prospect since 1935, it

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9. Interview, Harris S. Smith, October 9, 1967; Bureau of Mines, op. cit., 342-343.

has produced very little refined quicksilver. One interesting and unusual thing about this prospect is that the ore is a crys line variety of cinnabar and was the only ore in Texas which wa concentrated prior to furnacing.[10] During 1956-57, with a Defe Minerals Exploration Administration project grant, the Big Bend Mining Company drilled nine or more holes in the Contrabando Dome. The deepest hole was 662 feet. However, no valuable new deposits were located in any of these holes. Consequently the lease was dropped and no further exploration has been done.[11]

In addition to the extension west of the Terlingua Distric there were three other favorable structural formations. The ou standing structural features of the Terlingua quicksilver producing area is the dome structure known as the Terlingua uplift. Two smaller but similar dome-type structures have been located to the north and east of Terlingua. Small domes in the Adobe Walls area and the Christmas Mountains are identified with cinnabar-bearing ore. To date, however, no ore of commercial valu has been discovered at either of these places. The third locat outside the Terlingua District is some forty or more miles to the northeast along Maravillas Creek along the southern flank o the larger Marathon dome. This discovery, while of little prov

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10. Ibid., 342.

11. Ibid.

value, was made in 1949 along a west to east fracturing zone which is similar to the most productive mines of the Terlingua area.[12]

The last and second most important producing area outside the Terlingua District is the Mariscal Mine which was first discovered about 1900. The Mariscal area is about thirty miles to the southeast of Terlingua. Most of the ore deposits lie along a zone of thrust faulting close to the crest of an asymmetric anticline near the northern tip of Mariscal Mountain. The widely scattered cinnabar deposits of the area are found in outcrops of sedimentary and igneous intrusive sills which are associated with reverse faulting that trends to the northwest. The most productive period of operation was from 1917 to 1923. During this time the mine produced about one thousand flasks of refined quicksilver.[13]

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12. Ibid., 339, 342, 348.

13. Ross, op. cit., 136-137; Bureau of Mines, op. cit., 348.

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CHAPTER III

THE MARISCAL MINE

EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Cinnabar was first discovered along the northern ridge Mariscal Mountain in 1900 by Martin Solis, who ranched in tl area between Mariscal Mountain and the Rio Grande. Soon af this discovery, D. E. (Ed) Lindsey, a United States immigra inspector, with headquarters at Boquillas, Texas, filed a nu of mining claims on what he believed to be Section 34, Bloc a section of public school land.[1] Lindsey engaged in a rapi development of his claims. In the meantime, however, in 19(the Sanger Brothers of Dallas, Texas, represented by T. P. E has leased Section 33, which was immediately to the west of tion 34. After checking over the activities of Lindsey in area, Barry entered suit in the Brewster County Court claimi that Lindsey was developing mining claims on Section 33. Th Court designated J. C. Bird to survey the area and determine the boundary line between Section 33 and Section 34. As a r

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1. Clyde P. Ross, "Quicksilver in the Terlingua Region, Economic Geology, Vol. 36, 119; Brewster County Mining Recor Vol. 1, 527-538; Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 9 119; A Avalanche, December 11, 1903.

of this and other independent surveys, it was determined that most all of the producing Lindsey claims actually were on Section 33.[2] Soon thereafter in 1906 Lindsey is reported to have sold all of his mining claims. In spite of the fact that he operated for only a few years, he produced enough high-grade ore to make some 50 flasks of refined quicksilver. All of this high-grade ore was transported to the Chisos Mining Company furnace at Terlingua where it was refined. The ore was carried by burro pack over more than thirty miles of rough semi-desert terrain from Mariscal to Terlingua.[3] It is likely due to the fact that Lindsey carried out this early activity that most of the early maps list the Mariscal area as the Lindsey Mine.

As early as 1902, Issac Sanger and other parties of Dallas, Texas, leased the mineral rights to much of the land owned by the Texas Pacific Railway Company in southern Brewster County, including Section 33. By 1904 Issac Sanger and the Dallas bussinessmen had organized the Texas Almaden Mining Company, and in November of 1905, Sanger transferred all title in mineral rights to Section 33 to the Texas Almaden Mining Company.[4]

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2. Brewster County Court Records, Vol. J 2, 194, 198, 258; Brewster County Mining Records, Vol. 1, 575, 582, 583; Alpine Avalanche, August 5, 1904, August 12, 1904.

3. Interview, Lloyd Wade, February 27, 1968.

4. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 9, 632.

During the period from 1904 to 1908 the Texas Almaden Mining Company, under the direction of H. M. Nesmith, carried ou an extensive exploration on Section 33. As a result of a favora showing of ore in the test holes which they drilled, plans were made to construct a furnace in the area so that they might refir the ore. A sudden drop in the price of quicksilver, however, caused the company to concentrate its interest and activities ir the Study Butte area where they had in operation a furnace, at what was known as the Dallas Mine. In 1909 the Texas Almaden Mining Company dropped its lease on Section 33.[5]

Section 33 contained all of the mining claims of any value and was the source of much controversy during the early years o: mining prospecting and development in the Mariscal district. This section was originally granted to the Dallas and Wichita Railway Company in 1884. In the same year, however, the Dallas and Wichita Railway Company transferred all of its land in the area to the Texas and Pacific Railway Company. Soon thereafter the Texas and Pacific Railway Company designated W. H. Abrams, Dallas, Texas, as their agent with authority to represent the company in the selling or leasing of surface and mineral

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5. Alpine Avalanche, August 19, 1904, August 26, 1904, October 21, 1904; Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 9, p. 633, Vol. 10, pp. 11, 14, 286, 452.

rights to all lands within Brewster County.[6] The Texas and Pacific Railway Company retained title to Section 33 until it was transferred to the state of Texas for park purposes.

Section 34 was important to mining in the Mariscal district because the topography of Section 33 prevented the construction of buildings necessary for the refining of the ore and for the housing of workers for the operation of the mines. Section 34, which adjoined 33 on the east, presented, within a few hundred yards of the major mining shafts, plenty of level ground on which to construct all necessary buildings. This section was a public school section and thus subject to lease or purchase. W. K. Ellis had at first leased the section, but in 1919 he patented the section. Later, however, he allowed the section to revert to the state.[7]

Section 20 is of major importance because the source of all water used in the Mariscal mining activities came from wells dug along the banks of Fresno Creek in the northern part of this section. This section, like Section 34, was patented by W. K. Ellis. When Ellis disposed of his mining interests in the area he failed to keep up his interest payments and the section

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6. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 83, p. 139; Vol. 3, p. 89; Vol. 4, pp. 356, 360, 503.

7. Brewster County Patent Records Vol. 1, p. 603; Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 3, p. 474; Vol. 39, p. 553.

reverted to the state of Texas. At a later date, in 1917, the Mariscal Mining Company leased both Sections 20 and 34, and in 1940, W. D. Burcham, manager of the company, acquired title to these sections by redemption certificates.[8]

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, there was a rap increase in the price of quicksilver. With this increase in price there was, as might be expected, a rush of prospectors back into the quicksilver district of southern Brewster County One of these new prospectors was Mr. W. K. Ellis, who had, in February of 1916, acquired a lease for the exploration of mine on Section 33, Block G-3, from the Texas and Pacific Railway C pany and began exploration and development in the area of the previously developed Lindsey and Texas Almaden Mining Company activity along the northern end of Mariscal Mountain.[9] The El development in the Mariscal area marks the real beginning of productive quicksilver mining at Mariscal. Thus it is frequen spoken of as the Ellis Mine even though Lindsey and others hac done a considerable amount of developing in the area prior to coming of Mr. Ellis. At the same time that Ellis was working at the Lindsey shafts he did additional exploration up and ove the ridge of the north end of Mariscal Mountain and soon founc

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8. Brewster County Redemption Records, Vol. 2, 474.

9. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 35, 546.

a much more valuable deposit of ore at the site of what was to become the location of the major shaft of the Mariscal Mine. Below this area, Mr. Ellis constructed a four-bin box of concrete from which he fed his cinnabar ore into a nonrevolving retort for refining of the quicksilver. Records show that the Ellis Mine, which was in active operation from July 1917 to May of 1919, produced and shipped 894 flasks of refined quicksilver. The retort used by Ellis was such that it required a rather high grade of ore for economical production. Consequently, with the close of World War I with a consequent drop in the price of quicksilver, Mr. Ellis sold his holdings and mining lease on Section 33 to the Mariscal Mining Company.[10]

THE MARISCAL MINING COMPANY

The Mariscal Mining Company, a corporation of the state of New York, was organized and financed by a group of men from New York City with the specified purpose of operating and developing the Mariscal Mine in Brewster County, Texas. William D. Burcham was president, and Charles Bondies was named secretary of the company with August A. Wesserschied vice-president and Baldwin F. Schirmer as trustee. In addition to being named president of

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10. Interview, Lloyd Wade, February 27, 1968; Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 39, 553; E. L. Salisbury, Geological Report on Section 33, Block G-3, D & W Ry. Co., (unpublished) dated May 15, 1934.

the Mariscal Mining Company, Mr. Burcham was named general ma ager of the mining operations. The company, when originally organized, had a capital stock of $40,000. These funds were be used for the purchase of necessary equipment and the insta of such equipment as a means of putting the mine into product The company was in operation for something over four years an during that time it was necessary to refinance the operation least three times. This was due to two major factors: first, the fall in the prices of quicksilver; and second, the low le of efficiency of the Scott Furnace which the company installe near the main shaft of the mine.[11] In August of 1921 (by boa resolution), the Mariscal Mining Company created a special Bo of Trustees with full authority to administer the affairs of company. All the trustees, except W. D. Burcham, resided in N York City, and thus, by special action of approval and waiver, Mr. Burcham, the president of the company, who resided in Brev County, Texas, agreed to approve all action of the other trust in case he was not able to make the meetings held in New York.

At the same meeting, August 26, 1921, the trustees author the issuance of 200,000 shares at 10 cents per share as a mean of raising $20,000 for needed funds to continue the operation the mine.[12] The continued low price of quicksilver soon

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11. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 47, pp. 34, 112; i Vol. 48, 127.

12. Ibid., Vol. 47, 34.

necessitated additional financing, and on December 5, 1921, a deed of trust was made to Mr. I. L. Martin, Brewster County, Texas, as security for a note made by the trustees of the company in the amount of $11,805. These funds were borrowed in order to meet the current operating expenses of the mining operations. Within less than a month, on December 30, 1921, the deed of trust was revised and the note was increased to $20,000. Slow production, ineffective exploration, and a depressed market for quicksilver soon forced the trustees to borrow additional money, and in January of 1922, they secured additional funds in the amount of $7,120.82.[13] To secure these notes the trustees gave a deed of trust, which included all mining properties, mining claims, and some nineteen sections of land which the stockholders held within Brewster County, Texas. This consolidation of obligations seemingly met the needs of operation expenses for the year 1921.

By the middle of 1922, however, again the trustees found it necessary to raise additional funds, and in June of 1922, a new deed of trust was made to L. E. Ball. This deed of trust was made to insure payment of new obligations in the amount of $40,000. More than half this amount was loaned to the company by W. D. Burcham. During this same period A. C. Spalding, at two different times prior to 1923, loaned the Mariscal Mining Company Trust Estate $4,000 and $6,000 respectively. These

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13. Ibid., Vol. 48, pp. 7, 11, 24.

notes to Spalding were kept up to date by being properly renewed and with some interest paid from time to time. On the other hand the notes that were protected by the deed of trust were not renewed after January 10, 1925. Consequently, in 1936, Mr. Spald entered suit in district court in Brewster County, after having filed a petition of attachment to all properties belonging to the Mariscal Mining Company Trustees Estate.

The district court found that Mr. Spalding had a just claim and rendered judgement in the amount of $19,687.40, and ordered that all prior claims to the properties of the trust estate were void by the statute of limitations. In addition, the district court ordered that the properties of the Mariscal Mining Company be sold at public auction to satisfy the judgement rendered in favor of Mr. Spalding.[14]

Under the terms of this decision of the district court, the sheriff of Brewster County was ordered to attach and offer for sale at auction the properties of the Mariscal Mining Company. On September 8, 1936, said auction was held on the steps of the courthouse of Brewster County. The high bidder for the properties was A. C. Spalding. His was a token bid of $100. Thus in settlement of the judgement of more than $19,000, he acquired the title to Sections 20 and 34 of Block G-3 plus all mining claims

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14. Brewster County District Court Records, Vol. 5, 70.

and other real and personal properties held by the Marsical Mining Company Trust Estate.[15]

This judgement, however, did not carry with it rights to the mineral claims or mineral lease to Section 33 as the lease had previously been forfeited by the Mariscal Mining Company, and thus all rights had reverted to the owner of the land, the Texas and Pacific Railway Company.

WILLIAM D. (BILLY) BURCHAM

Mr. William D. (Billy) Burcham, the major promotor and local general manager of the Mariscal Mining Company activity in Brewster County, Texas, was born June 10, 1884, in Salem, Indiana. When he was six years old his parents moved to Salem, Oregon. Billy Burcham attended public school in Salem, Oregon. From 1905 to 1908 he attended Leland Stanford Jr. University where he studied mining engineering. Prior to graduation, however, he had a case of "gold" fever and spent two years, 1908 to 1909, prospecting for gold in Alaska. The tour of gold prospecting proved of value for the training and experience of a young engineer but of little profit from the monetary standpoint. In 1910 he returned to Stanford University for an additional year of engineering studies. For most of the year 1911, Mr. Burcham worked in the silver mines near Silver Peak, Nevada. In the fall of 1911, he took a job

15. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 98, 488.

with the Shafter Silver Mine at Shafter, Texas. Mr. Burcham remained in Shafter until 1915, when he took a job with the Study Butte Mining Company, Study Butte, Texas, as manager of operations. While in Study Butte, Mr. Burcham married Miss Rubey Richardson, who was at the time, teaching school at Study Butte. On April 24, 1919, Mr. Burcham acquired the holding of W. K. Ellis at Glenn Springs, Texas, and in addition, the Ellis mining operations at Mariscal. Also during the summer of 1919, Mr. Burcham organized and became the president of the Mariscal Mining Company, an unincorporated joint-stock company. The company was organized under the laws of the state of New York with authority to operate in the state of Texas. In October of 1919, the Burchams moved to Glenn Springs, Texas. With Glenn Springs as headquarters, Burcham served as general manager of the Mariscal Mining Company operations from 1919 to 1923. He remained president and general manager of this company until it was dissolved by the voluntary action of the stockholders in 1927.

In the same year, 1927, Mr. Burcham organized the Brewster Quicksilver Consolidated Mining Company, which took over the few remaining assets of the dissolved Mariscal Mining Company. Mr. Burcham acted as general manager of Brewster Quicksilver Consolidated and operated the Study Butte Mine and other operation until 1935. In addition to his duties and functions relative to the mining activity in southern Brewster County, Mr. Burcham

served as county commissioner for Precinct Four of Brewster County from 1922 to 1940. In 1942, Burcham organized the Vivianna Mining Company, secured a lease on Section 33, and reopened the old Mariscal Mine. He continued to direct the work of the Vivianna Mining Company until about 1947. Since that time he had devoted his time to serving as a mining consultant in the Big Bend country. Mr. Burcham is now living in Alpine, Texas, and is inactive due to a paralytic stroke which left him seriously handicapped.[16]

THE MARISCAL MINE

At the time the Mariscal Mining Company took over the work and operation of the Mariscal Mine the plant consisted of a four compartment ore bin which fed directly into three small non-revolving retorts. During the latter part of 1919, and in the year 1920, the Mariscal Mining Company constructed a more extensive plant which consisted of the following structures: well up the hillside, and not more than 100 feet from the entrance to the main shaft of the mine, a large ore bin which was fed from the top by rail ore cars operating directly from the mouth of the main shaft. At the bottom of the ore bin there were chutes with doors which permitted the ore to empty by gravity

16. Who's Who in America, 1947, 324; interview, W. D. Burcham, January 8, 1967.

into ore cars which in turn delivered the ore down the hill; likewise by gravity, to secondary ore bins which emptied direct into a 45-ton Scott Furnace, which was constructed by the Maris Mining Company after they took over the operation and control o the mine. The Scott Furnace was constructed of bricks, which were burned locally at a brick kiln some two miles away on the west side of the north end of Mariscal Mountain. Closely relat and just above the Scott Furnace there was constructed a series of concrete condenser chambers which were connected to the furn by large ceramic tile tubes. In turn the condenser chambers we connected by four smaller ceramic tile tubes or pipes to a larg rock chimney about 100 yards up the hillside.

In addition to the concrete condenser chambers, in an effo to reduce the amount of stack loss of refined ore, the company had put in two large redwood tanks through which all fumes were directed on their way from the main condensers to the chimneys outlet. Along the lower side and at the bottom of the main condenser chambers there were openings out of which the condensed quicksilver ore came preparatory to being bottled into flasks for shipment to the market. Some 100 yards down the hill from the Scott Furnace there was constructed a stone building which served as a combined commissary store and office. This building was just below the original ore bins and retort which had been used by Ellis in his operations. In addition to the above mentioned structures, there was at the foot of the cliff and in

close relationship to the main mine shaft a blacksmith shop. Then near the main shaft and on the opposite side from the blacksmith shop there was a large concrete platform to which was anchored the engine and hoisting equipment which was used to lift and lower the baskets from the main shaft of the mine.[17]

Following a period of almost twenty years of inactivity, due to a heavy drop in the price of quicksilver, in 1942 the newly organized Vivianna Mining Company, under the direction and management of W. D. Burcham, reopened the Mariscal Mine. The Vivianna Mining Company installed a 30-ton capacity Gould-type rotary furnace just below the main ore bin up near the main shaft of the mine. In addition, the Vivianna Company added a considerable amount of new mining equipment, including two small hoisting plants, numerous miscellaneous mining tools, a single-stage air compressor, and a caterpillar 100-kva diesel-electric generator.[18]

Housing for the workmen and the foreman of the mine were, as previously mentioned, all located on Section 34 along the hillside and out in the flats below the mine. The foreman's home was a six-room frame stucco house with a garage near by and was constructed by the Mariscal Mining Company. On the other hand, the

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17. Ibid.; Interview, Lloyd Wade, February 27, 1968.

18. United States Department of the Interior, "Mercury Potential in the United States," Bureau of Mines Information Circular #8252, 348; W. D. Burcham, "Geological Report on the Vivianna Mine," (unpublished) December 21, 1946.

twenty or more stone or rock buildings occupied by the workmen and scattered along the foot of the hillside and the flats, were all constructed by the workmen themselves, since the company assumed no responsibility for housing the workmen. As the workmen came onto the job they often lived in brush shelters for a few weeks or months. During this period they would, after worki hours, construct their small stone or rock houses. Some of the older workmen, who did only part-time work, aided by the women, often cultivated small gardens along the nearby creeks in which they produced melons and vegetables to augment their food supply which was purchased from the company commissary. During the period of operation of the Vivianna Mining Company, 1942-43, an additional ten or more concrete and stucco houses were construct by the company to house additional workmen.[19]

The Mariscal Mine is located along the northern end of Mariscal Mountain. Most of the ore deposits lie along a zone of thrust faulting close to the crest of an asymmetric anticline in the Boquillas flags, a member of the Eagle Ford formation. Cinnabar ore deposits were best in the vicinity of igneous intrusiv sills. Most of the ore has been found in fractures which are out across in the flags just below the sills. Geologists are in agreement that all quicksilver deposits have developed in areas where there has been magmatic activity or where there

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19. Interview, Lloyd Wade, February 27, 1968.

ists some type of hot springs which are associated with heated volcanic magma in the interior of the earth. They also agree at there must be fractures or fissures in the overlaying formions through which the mineralized solutions ascend toward the rface. In addition, there must be some sort of a more or less pervious formation which would tend to stop or slow down the cending solutions and thus create a condition favorable for position.[20] Each of these conditions definitely exist in the riscal area. Evidence of magmatic activity is found in the trusive sills and dikes. These intrusive sills and dikes in rn have caused fractures and other types of cavities along ich the solutions could travel upward, and eventually these isures and fractures have reached a more or less impervious mation favorable for deposition. In the Mariscal area it is base of the Boquillas flags which has served to trap the cksilver. Quicksilver is found not only in the fractures the Boquillas flags, but in the adjoining intrusive rock, re by the process of impregnation, cinnabar has been formed a secondary mineral.[21] Much of the better ore has been found

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20. Schuette, op. cit., pp. 5-13; Ross, op. cit., pp 131-, 141.

21. J. A. Udden, A Sketch of the Geology of the Chisos ntain Country, Brewster County, Texas, pp. 90-91; Ross, cit., 137.

in the northeast trending fractures which traverse the principal axes of the folding of the Mariscal anticline. These fractures of northeasterly trend were more open, thus presenting more and better space for the deposition of the cinnabar than in the fractures which were parallel to the axes of the folding. It is evident that the parallel fractures and fissures were closed by the very force which produced the folding. In the area of the main shaft of the Mariscal Mine the major intrusive sill is almo perpendicular while the base of the Boquillas flags falls to the north and west at various degrees as it extends northward from the region of the main shaft. To date most of the better ore ha been located along this inclined fracture to the north and west of the main shaft.[22]

Production of quicksilver in the Mariscal area may be divic into three periods: an early period, the World War I period, anc World War II and since. Little refined ore was produced from tl area prior to World War I. It is known, however, that D. E. (Ec Lindsey, who did the first effective work in the region, produc some high-grade ore which he transported by burro pack trains tc the Chisos Mine at Terlingua for refining. It is estimated by some that he might have produced from 30 to 80 flasks of refine ore during this period.[23] Sometime after the outbreak of World

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22. Ibid., interview, Lloyd Wade, February 27, 1968.

23. Ibid.

/ar I, W. K. Ellis acquired a lease from the Texas and Pacific :ailway Company to the mineral rights on Section 33, Block G-3. .t first he did most of his work on the northwestern slopes of he north end of the north-plunging anticline of Mariscal Mountain n the same general area where Lindsey had worked some ten years arlier. Here he produced some ore, but in the meantime he did xploration along the east side of the ridge about one-half mile o the southeast. There, in the vicinity of what is now known s the main shaft of the Mariscal Mine, he discovered a more aluable deposit along the lower contact of an inclined dike hich was intruded along a thrust plane which dipped northwest ɔout 35 degrees. He followed this ore bed for some 50 feet ıere he found it to turn into a nearly vertical fissure. In laces this fissure widened out to as much as 5 feet. On the ısis of finding this rather rich ore deposit, Mr. Ellis installed ıree small retorts down near the foot of the hill. The retorts ɜre of somewhat unusual design, consisting of special cast ıbes about 16 inches in diameter and 12 feet long set at an ıgle of 45 degrees. Each retort was charged from ore bins .rectly into the top of the retort. The two end retorts he ıarged every eight hours, while the middle retort he charged ' recharged every six hours. About one-half of the charge was ·moved at the bottom before each recharge. The total capacity ' the three retorts was about 4 tons of ore every twenty-four urs. He used about 1 1/2 cords of mesquite wood each day.

The wood cost about $4 per cord. A specially constructed manifo was used to collect the quicksilver vapors from the retorts, and from the manifolds the vapor was conducted by vitrified ceramic pipe to condensers where it was later collected and bottled for shipment. It is reported that Ellis produced 894 flasks of refined quicksilver during the period from 1916 until May of 1919, at which time he sold his interest to the Mariscal Minine Compan By the time Mr. Ellis transferred his quicksilver interests to the Mariscal Mining Company the postwar period was on and the pr of quicksilver had dropped from Government established price of $105.75 to $125 per flask to a low of $46 per flask by 1921.[25]

The Mariscal Mining Company took over the Mariscal Mine during a period of falling prices in the quicksilver market. Nevertheless, they expended a considerable amount of money in constructing an entirely new refining plant, previously describe in this chapter. This expansion was made in the hope of the discovery of new and richer ore bodies and with the expectation of an improvement in the price of quicksilver. While they did find additional ore bodies, none proved to be exceptional, and on top of that, the price of quicksilver continued to decline. Consequently no profit, only losses, came from the undertaking and after some four years of extensive expansion and exploration the mine was closed down in 1923. During the entire period of operation from 1919 to 1923, the Mariscal Mining Company produce

24. Ransome, op. cit., 424; Salisbury, op. cit.

only 400 flasks of refined ore. This low production was due to the fact that much of the four years was devoted to exploration, and to the construction of the new facilities, and the installation of improved equipment at the location.[26]

Following the closing down of the Mariscal Mine by the Mariscal Mining Company in 1923 there was no activity at the mine for a little more than ten years. In 1934 Mr. H. R. Gard, Alpine, Texas, under lease Number 8339 from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company, attempted to secure financial backing for the purpose of reopening the Mariscal Mine.[27] This effort failed, and consequently, for lack of productive activity and other reasons, the lease was cancelled.

In 1942, the newly organized Vivianna Mining Company, after having spent considerable funds on the installation of additional construction of housing for workmen, for storage, and other purposes, reopened the Mariscal Mine. Their program consisted of additional exploration and the production of refined ore from existing ore stocks from previous workings which had never been refined and ore from the north shaft which was opened up and worked. During the two-year period of operation, 1942-43, the mine produced 97 flasks of quicksilver.[28] Declining prices of

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26. Interview, W. D. Burcham, March 2, 1968.

27. Salisbury, op. cit.; J. W. Furness, "Mercury," Minerals Yearbook, 1935, pp. 456-457.

28. Bureau of Mines, op. cit., 348.

quicksilver and financial difficulties within the management an ownership of the company resulted in the building up of heavy debts and a subsequent lawsuit in December of 1944. The case was tried in the Eighty-third Judicial District Court at Alpine, Texas. The Vivianna Mining Company was found insolvent. The company was dissolved and ordered under receivership.

Mr. H. A. Coffield, Marfa, Texas, was appointed receiver wi full authority to sell the assets of the company and to use suc funds as might be received from such sale to satisfy, in so far as possible, all allowed claims. Appraisers for the court estimated the value of the assets of the company to be $70,000. Wiley Blair, Jr., one of the major claimants, entered the highe bid on the mining equipment and machinery in the amount of $7,25 The First National Bank, Dallas, Texas, entered a bid of $3,850, the high bid, for the surface rights to Sections 20 and 34, Bloc G-3.[29]

Soon thereafter, Bob's Mining Company under the management and control of Robert N. Pulliam acquired the mining machinery and equipment. No active work or production was ever carried ou by Bob's Mining Company. For some three or more years a watchma was maintained at the properties. Portions of the equipment wer removed from the properties in 1948 and transferred to the Maggi

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29. District Court Records, Vol. 6, 385.

ine in the Terlingua District. Then in 1953-1955 the remaining ems of machinery and equipment suitable for use in mining were old by Bob's Mining Company and removed from the properties.[30] ius, with the exception of the limited production of some 97 asks of quicksilver during the period of World War II, the Mar- scal Mine has been inactive and nonproducing since 1923, when ie Mariscal Mining Company was forced to close down.

WORKMEN AT THE MARISCAL MINE

During the major period of operation of the Mariscal Mine, 19 to 1923, there were from twenty to forty men employed for rious types of work at the mine. All of the men working at ie mine were Mexican nationals except the manager, the foreman, id a brick-kiln specialist. The Mexican nationals, for the most irt, came into Texas from the mining district of Sierra Majada Coahuila, Mexico. All of these men were well-trained miners, they had worked for many years in the mines of Mexico. The etter and more experienced miners were paid $1.50 per ten-hour ay. The lesser experienced miners, who did the cleanup work id were called "muckers," were paid $1.25 per ten-hour day. The iskilled miners or common laborers were paid $1 per ten-hour day. i addition to the miners and laborers the Mariscal Mining Company

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30. Bureau of Mines, op. cit., 348; Interview, Robert N. illiam, March 4, 1968.

employed two specialists, a storekeeper and a blacksmith. These two were paid $1.50 per day, and often their day was much longer than the miners' ten-hour day.[31]

The storekeeper, Rocindo Rodriguez as he was known in Texa had been a major in the revolutionary army of Pancho Villa under the name of Alvino Marin. According to tradition, Rocindo, or Alvino Marin, had failed to carry out an important mission which had been assigned to him by his superior, Pancho Villa. Being slated for execution for this failure to accomplish an assigned mission, he fled to the Texas side of the Rio Grande. Soon afte his arrival on the Texas side of the river he was employed by the Mariscal Mining Company to operate the company commissary. In addition to serving as storekeeper, Rocindo, who lived near the water wells on Section 20, looked after the water supply for the company. The ruins and foundation of the house may be found abou 200 yards to the south of the water wells and on a small hill to the west of Fresno Creek.[32]

The blacksmith was also an interesting individual. Filberto Marufo had served for many years as a blacksmith in the regular army of the Republic of Mexico. It is not known why he crossed

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31. Interview, Lloyd Wade, December 7, 1967; C. N. Schuette to Clifford B. Casey, February 9, 1967.

32. Interview, Lloyd Wade, February 27, 1968.

.e Rio Grande into Texas. It was reported, however, that he too .s a deserter from the Mexican military service. He was a very ·ll-trained blacksmith and proved himself capable of performing ·ar miracles with the hammer and anvil as he served the mining .mp far from any source of replacement equipment or tools.[33]

Most, if not all, of the other Mexican miners and laborers ·re of the labor-peon type. Many of them had walked all the way ·om the Sierra Majada Mining District bringing their families and few household possessions. A few of them had burros or donkeys · help with the burden on the long journey, but many made the ·ip on foot without benefit of any beast of burden. News had ›read rapidly in the Sierra Majada area of the proposed opening : the Mariscal Mine. Consequently many more Mexican miners made ıe trek north of the Rio Grande than were actually needed. As result of the surplus labor supply the Mariscal Mining Company ıs able, according to C. N. Schuette, foreman of the mine during ›19-1920, to build roads, dig shafts, and to construct needed ıildings at a record low cost. For example, the road from the .at up the main shaft which was over 3000 feet in length was ›nstructed for a price of only 12 cents per running foot. This :ice included the blasting excavation of 1159 cubic yards of ›cks. Much of this work was done on a contract or "terea" basis.

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33. Ibid.

These were verbal contracts or agreements by which the Mexican workers accepted a "terea" or task for a definite amount of pay When he had completed his "terea" he was free to devote his tim to work at his home, or he could accept an additional "terea." This system went a long way to reduce the need for supervision and at the same time to speed up the work on any project.[34]

It appears there was no effort made to provide public schc facilities for the children of the miners. This was due to twc factors: first, it was considered that there were not a suffici number of children of school age to justify the expense of an additional school. Second, the period of time from 1919 to 192 was too short for the need of a school to take the form of a fc mal demand or request to the county judge and the trustees of the Common School District of Brewster County. In addition, these Mexican families had not been accustomed to public school in the Sierra Majada area of Mexico at this early date.[35]

The Mexican miners and laborers were paid cash in United States money. Most of this money, however, was returned to the company through the commissary. The commissary carried a good supply of all items needed by the workmen including food, cloth ing, kitchen and household items, tools, and other types of equ

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34. Schuette, op. cit.

35. Interview, Mrs. W. D. Burcham, May 11, 1968.

ıe Mexican workmen and their families rarely left the mining illage except for a trip to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande › visit friends or relatives. The miners and other laborers, ccept for those who tended the furnace, worked six days a week. ı their off day, Sunday, they did chores about their homes, worked ı their gardens, did work on the building of their homes, and sited with their neighbors. On special fiesta days they held ›cal celebrations or else went over the river to Santa Helena, ıihuahua, Mexico, for the celebrations. Many of the workmen ·ver visited either Marathon or Alpine during their entire res- ence in the mining district. After the closing of the Mariscal ne in 1923 most of these Mexican families found work in Ter- ngua, Study Butte, or on some of the adjoining ranches in the uthern part of Brewster County. Eventually many of these people plied for naturalization papers and became citizens of the ited States.[36]

The management of the Mariscal Mining Company made little no effort to regulate or control the private lives of the rkmen. For example, there was no regulation relative to the inking of liquor except during the working hours. Peace officers, nigration officials, border patrolmen, Texas Rangers, and other ›resentatives of the state or the United States made very in- equent visits into the Mariscal area. In spite of this, however,

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36. Wade, op. cit.

there was only one case of serious crime during the period from 1919-1923, and in this case the offender fled across the Rio Grande into Mexico.[37]

After the installation of the Scott Furnace, which had to be tended around the clock for seven days a week, the company used six men each day on three eight-hour shifts. In order that these men need not work seven days a week they maintained a backlog of trained firemen, thus making it possible for each man to work only six days a week unless he elected to do otherwise. Mesquite wood was used to fire the furnace. This wood was supplied by Mexican laborers who hauled it to the mine on burros, often as much as fifty miles. The wood was then sold to the company for $5 per cord. In case a Scott Furnace had to be cooled off, it required a period of a full month, and then another month to get it hot again after a lay off.[38]

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37. Ibid.

38. Ibid.; interview, W. D. Burcham, January 8, 1967.

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CHAPTER IV

THE MARISCAL MINE AND BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK POLICY RELATIVE TO MINERAL RIGHTS

It has long been the policy of the National Park Service to prohibit private enterprise, other than legally contracted National, Park concessioners, to function and otherwise operate within the limits of National Parks. The following statement from a recent publication of the National Park Service makes clear the policy of the Department of Interior relative to mining and prospecting:

> Mining and Prospecting--These uses will not be permitted in national park wildernesses. Where these activities are expressly authorized by statute, the area in question will be recommended for wilderness only with the provisos that such activities be discontinued and the authorization be revoked. Actively operated claims, based on valid existing rights, will be excluded from the proposed wilderness. It will be the policy to phase out existing active mining claims and acquire the lands involved. When this is accomplished, such lands will be proposed for designation as wilderness if they otherwise meet the oriteria for such areas.[1]

It being general knowledge that this was the policy of the Department of the Interior relative to prospecting and mining of

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1. Bulletin, Department of the Interior, Policies for Wilderness Areas, 45.

minerals, considerable apprehension was expressed by Mr. E. E. Townsend, who had been active in promoting the creation of the Big Bend Park, when all of the early bills introduced in the Texas Legislature during the 1930s and early 1940s proposed to reserve all mineral rights for the Permanent School Fund. Both House Bill Number 771 and Senate Bill Number 138, which were introduced in the year 1937 before the Texas Legislature, had provisions for reserving all mineral rights. Texans, in general, feared a heavy loss to the Permanent School Fund in case such provisions were not included in the bills seeking to set aside land for the Big Bend Park. Again, in 1941, when the final and successful measure was before the Texas Legislature, similar provisions were in the bills from each house. By skillful maneuvering, however, on the part of Mr. Townsend and Senator Winfield, the provision was removed in a conference committee between the two houses. And on June 17, 1941, Mr. Townsend wired saying that the bill had passed and that the mineral reservations had been removed.[2]

REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS RELATIVE TO MINING AND PROSPECTING

For mining and prospecting of minerals in the state of Texas, lands are divided into nine classifications, namely, (1) state owned lands, (2) land sold by the state with a reservation of

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2. Telegram, E. E. Townsend to Herbert Maier, June 17, 1941.

all mineral rights, (3) land sold by the state with a royalty reservation only, (4) river beds and submerged areas, (5) university land, (6) land owned by other state departments, (7) county school land, (8) Federal Government-owned land, and (9) privately owned land with no reservations.

Of these nine classifications, for the most part, this paper is interested in only four of those listed: state-owned lands, public school lands, privately owned lands with no reservations, and those lands owned by the Federal Government.

State-owned land, on which the state of Texas owns both the surface and minerals, is subject to prospect permits and leases to mine and remove the minerals in case under the prospecting permit a person, persons, or corporations locate minerals. Applications for permits to prospect must be made to the commissioner of the General Land Office. A permit covers only one section or tract of land and gives the applicant exclusive right to prospect that tract for one year. A fee of 10 cents per acre is charged for this exclusive privilege. If the permittee locates m nerals he may under the provisions of the permit apply for a five-year mineral lease. Under this lease, he must pay an annual rental of 50 cents per acre and a royalty of 1/16th of all minerals taken from the land to the state of Texas.[3]

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3. J. Earl Rudder, "Texas Lands," Bureau of Economic Geology, Minerals Resources Circular, No. 37, pp. 7-10; Vernon's Revised Statutes, Article 5421c.

Public school lands, on which all mineral rights are reserve to the Permanent School Fund, are handled by the commissioner of the General Land Office and the Commissioner's Court of the count in which the lands are located. Lands of this type are not subject to permits for prospecting but may be developed for minerals by establishing mining claims. The applicant must post notice on the ground, describing his claim in such a manner that it may be located by the county surveyor or any licensed land surveyor the application and the field notes prepared by the surveyor must be forwarded to the Land Office, accompanied by a $1 filing fee for each set of field notes. If the application with the field notes are approved the applicant will be notified and will be requested to send in an amount of 50 cents per acre as payment of the first rental under the mining claim. Each mining claim is limited to 20.6 acres. However, any person may file on as many claims as he can obtain. Mining claims may be renewed annually be payment of the rental fee of 50 cents per acre.[5]

At any time after five years from the date of the award, the owner of a claim may pay the balance due on the purchase and obtain a patent to the minerals. After the issuance of a patent, no additional assessment work is required. However, the royalty of 6 1/4 per cent (1/16) payable to the state is a

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5. Rudder, op. cit., pp. 8-9; Vernon's, op. cit.

›erpetual royalty. The purchase price is $10 per acre and the ınnual rental payments which have been paid will be credited against :his amount.[6]

Most of the land in Texas is privately owned and the state ıas reserved no mineral rights. On these lands, the state has o authority. Thus to secure a mining claim on such land, one ıust deal directly with the owner of the land. In the Big Bend ountry most of the alternate sections of land were, at an early late, set aside for the benefit of the Permanent School Fund with ll mineral rights reserved at the time of sale to private in- ividuals. The other alternate or odd-numbered sections in the rea of the Mariscal Mine were assigned to the Dallas and Wichita ailway Company. Thus the area is listed and marked on all land aps as D. & W. Ry. Co., Block G-3. However, on October 22, 1884, he Dallas and Wichita Falls Railway Company, by warranty deed, ransferred seventy-eight sections in Block G-3 to the Texas and acific Railway Company.[7] This transfer included Section 33 on hich Mariscal Mine is located. The adjoining sections to the orth and east, Sections 20, and 34, were sections which had een assigned to the Permanent School Fund, and were subject o sale to private individuals with all minerals reserved. From

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6. Rudder, op. cit., 9; Vernon's, op. cit.

7. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 3, 89.

time to time various individuals and corporations have held title to the surface rights on Sections 20 and 34 and have filed for mining claims on these sections. However, in no case have valuab deposits been located on either of the sections.

MINERALS RIGHTS ON LANDS BELONGING TO INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS

All rights to prospect and to mine for minerals on privately owned lands in which the state has made no reservation are subject to negotiation and contractual relationships between the prospector and the owner of the land. Since Section 33, Block G-3, belongs to a corporation with no reservations relative to minerals, prospectors had the right to enter into direct lease agreement with the owner, the Texas and Pacific Railway Company, relative to surface and mineral rights. It should be mentioned, however, that the rules of discovery, posting and establishing mining claims, applied to public lands as a means of maintaining free competition, were applicable to privately owned lands.

In the early years of the development of the Mariscal Minin district a considerable amount of controversy arose due to error in surveys relative to the boundaries of the railway and public school sections in the area. It appears that the early operator Martin Solis, D. E. Lindsey, Ventura Bustos, and others did not bother to enter into contractual agreements with the Texas and Pacific Railway Company as they believed their claims were on public school land, Section 34, Block G-3. In the meantime, the

Sanger Brothers of Dallas, Texas, entered into a lease contract with the Texas and Pacific Railway Company for the surface and mineral rights on Section 33, Block G-3. T. P. Barry and H. M. Nesmith were sent into the area to post mining claims on Section 33 in the name of the Almaden Mining Company, which was owned and controlled by the Sanger Brothers.[8] There soon arose a controversy over the location of the boundary between Section 33 and Section 34. E. D. Lindsey had posted some seven or more claims in the area, presumably on Section 34, and the Almaden Mining Company, which had posted claims on Section 33, claimed that a number of the Lindsey claims were actually on this section. Each side had licensed surveyors, and in addition, the Brewster County judge on orders of the court designated J. C. Bird to make a survey and report to the court. There was never a unanimous marking made by the various surveyors; however, the court, on the basis of the Bird survey, rendered judgment in favor of the Almaden Mining Company.[9] On the basis of this decision Lindsey lost five of his more valuable claims. Thereafter, all operators of the major mining activities in the Mariscal Mountain area were careful to secure proper lease contracts with the Texas and Pacific Railway Company as well as to acquire title to the

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8. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 9, 632.

9. Brewster County Court, Minutes, Vol. J 2, pp. 194, 258.

existing mining claims which had previously been awarded on Section 33 of Block G-3.[10] All such mineral rights and mining clai had to be removed before the area could be embraced within and become a National Park. There was considerable apprehension on the part of National Park officials relative to the problem of mineral rights as is indicated by the following memorandum date January 16, 1942:

> Section 33, Block G-3 contains a quicksilver mine owned by the Texas and Pacific Railway Company. The mine has been leased to the Vivianna Mining Company, which is at present installing new equipment preparatory to reopening mining operations. The water for the mine is located on section 20, and a house and garage used in connection with the mine are on section 34. The possibility of acquiring the mineral rights of section 33 might jeopardize the entire park program, because of the large block of sections owned by the Texas and Pacific Railway Company, which is willing to deal at fair prices except on this section. Therefore it is recommended that the mineral rights on section 33 be excluded for the present, but that we restrict the use of the section to the production of minerals, and that sections 20 and 34 be acquired, with the provision that operators of the mine be allowed to continue use of the water on section 20, and the house and garage on section 34.[11]

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10. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 76, p. 56; Vol. 9 p. 254.

11. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 96,254; Paul V. Brown, Associate Regional Director, Region Two, National Park Service, "Memorandum," To Regional Director, Region Three, January 16, 1942.

DISPOSITION OF MINERAL RIGHTS AND
MINING CLAIMS IN THE MARISCAL AREA

The last of the effective leases to Section 33 and the mining :laims on the section was based on a lease granted to Albert P. leyer, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, August 1, 1940. This lease ras transferred to the Vivianna Mining Company, of which Mr. Meyer ras the major stockholder. The lease to the Vivianna Mining Com- ›any was to endure for a period of ten years and as long thereafter .s the company might be extracting ore according to the terms of he contract. On May 16, 1942, however, the Texas and Pacific ailway Company gave a warranty deed to the state of Texas to a umber of sections in Block G-3, including Section 33. The deed rovided, however, that the state of Texas would continue to per- it the mining of quicksilver from the claims on Section 33 so ong as the owners and operators of the existing lease continued o operate and were producing ore of economic value. In the mean- ime, a district court judgment dated January 24, 1944, declared he Vivianna Mining Company in bankruptcy, dissolved the company nd placed it under receivership with H. A. Coffield as receiver. hus the outstanding lease on Section 33 was void, and on April 5, 949, the Texas and Pacific Railway Company issued a corrected arranty deed to the state of Texas in which all mineral rights o Section 33 were deeded to the state. Subsequently, on Jan- ary 11, 1950, the state of Texas issued a corrected deed to the

Government of the United States to correct a prior deed which had reserved limited mineral rights to Section 33, Block G-3.[12] By this series of deeds all lands which had been previously own within the bounds of the Big Bend Park by private individuals w delivered to the Government of the United States unencumbered. Long prior to this, on August 26, 1943, the state of Texas had delivered to the Government of the United States a deed of stat owned and controlled lands to the Government of the United Stat

The Vivianna Mining Company, the last of the productive mining operations at the Mariscal Mine, on being dissolved by action of a judgment of the District Court of the Eighty-third Judicial District, was thereby automatically relieved of its mineral rights and mining claims. In the process by which the receiver, H. A. Coffield, disposed of the assets of the Vivian Mining Company, it was provided that Bob's Mining Company, whi acquired machinery and mining equipment of the defunct Viviann Mining Company, should be allowed a reasonable time in which t dispose of the properties and to remove them from the premises As previously mentioned in Chapter III of this paper, Mr. Pull of Bob's Mining Company had by 1955 removed all items of value

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12. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 99, p. 509; Vol. p. 183, Vol. 115, p. 216; Vol. 116, p. 314.

13. Brewster County Deed Records, Vol. 103, 608.

n the mining industry from the Mariscal properties.[14] It is vident, therefore, that by 1955 all privately owned properties f economic value were removed from the Mariscal Mine area nd that which remains on the properties are of historic value nly. As such, the evidence of mining operations should be of alue in interpreting the area to park visitors.

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14. Interview, Robert N. Pulliam, March 4, 1968; Bureau f Mines, "Information Circular" No. 8252, op. cit., 348.

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CHAPTER V

PRESENT STATUS OF MARISCAL MINE AND SUMMARY

STATUS OF THE MARISCAL MINE AT THE PRESENT TIME

The Mariscal Mine area as we find it today gives every ev dence of the traditional "ghost" mining camp. In the valley t the east of the northern tip of Mariscal Mountain and along th foothills adjacent to the main shaft of the Mariscal Mine are be found the ruins of the vacant housing facilities which were used by the foreman of the mine and the Mexican workmen and th families. There are five major types of buildings or houses. First, there is the rather rapidly deteriorating five-room fra stucco residence which was occupied by the foreman of the mine Second, there are the remains of something over twenty stone c rock houses, which were built and used by the Mexican workmen during the period of the operation of the Mariscal Mining Com· pany from 1919 to 1923. These buildings vary in size from one to three rooms. They are in varying states of decay dependin upon the skill of the builder and the choice and type of rock used in the construction of the house. Those that were const by a good craftman with choice materials still stand in good condition. On the other hand, those that were constructed in

haste by poor workmen and with poorly selected materials are in a bad state of repair. Many were of such poor construction that nothing but a heap of rubble is left to show where there was once a house. Third, there were five or more three-room concrete buildings which were constructed in the 1940s by the Vivianna Mining Company, which were likely never used or occupied. Nothing remains of these except the concrete walls, floors, and patios with the exception of one which still has most of the roof remaining. Fourth, about one-half mile to the north of the foreman's house and the group of concrete structures there is another group of small one-room frame stucco buildings. Each of these had a dirt roof much of which has caved into the building. These likewise were constructed by the Vivianna Mining Company, likely to house possible unmarried workmen. Fifth, just to the rear of the foreman's house there is the outline of what must have been intended as a large storage warehouse. This building had a good concrete foundation and concrete walls up to about four feet. It appears that the building was never completed. All of these buildings were on Section 34, Block G-3.

The Mariscal Mine consists of a main shaft located on a leveled-off ledge along the east side of Mariscal Mountain. Practically all timbers which had held the hoist equipment for the shaft have been destroyed by fire. There is evidence that there is considerable equipment such as baskets, ore buckets, and

guides for the hoisting equipment down in the shaft. Close by to the left of the main shaft, looking up the hill, is an inclined shaft or tunnel which was used by the miners to enter the working area of the mine. This tunnel, as well as the air vent tunnel to the north of the main shaft, is pretty well filled wit rubble. None of the shafts or tunnels have effective barriers to prevent over-anxious visitors from entering.

Down the hill, and on various levels of the incline of the hill, are to be found the ruins of the processing plant for the quicksilver ore. Most all of the structures are stone, brick, or concrete and thus remain in a fair state of repair in so far as the walls are concerned. Any portion of the structures which were of wood, however, have, for the most part, been destroyed by fire or vandalism. Doubtless, however, such of the wooden portions of all of the structures have been removed for use else where. The old Scott Furnace, which is about half way down the hill from the main shaft, is in the poorest state of repair of all the structures. The ore dumps, for the most part, are regul with the exception of one place where a considerable portion of one dump has been removed, doubtless to improve the roadbed goir up the hill. The roads going up the hill are in very bad condition and will require a heavy outlay of money to place in usable condition. Most all of the structures of the processing plant are located on the western edge of Section 34, Block G-3.

SUMMARY

Quicksilver was first found in the Mariscal Mine area about)O. In the years immediately following the discovery many ɔspectors came into the area and posted and filed many mining aims all the way from the Rio Grande to the northern tip of riscal Mountain. Among the early prospectors are to be found ɔh names as Martin Solis, Ventura Bustos, D. E. (Ed) Lindsey, arles H. Nearing, Amos Townsend, H. J. Failing, Ray Miller, K. Ellis, T. P. Barry, and H. N. Nesmith. Most of the early aims were soon consolidated in the names of D. E. (Ed) Lindsey, d the Texas Almaden Mining Company which was represented by rry and Nesmith in the Mariscal area. Competition between ndsey and the Texas Almaden Company soon resulted in a lawsuit d five or six difficult surveys of the area to determine the undary line between Sections 33 and 34. Sections 33 of Block 3 was under lease from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company by e Texas Almaden Mining Company and Lindsey had a number of ning claims which he believed to be on Section 34. The Brewster unty Court accepted the survey of J. C. Bird as the official sur- y and rendered a decision which gave the more important of the ndsey claims to the Texas Almaden Mining Company, as by the sur- y they were located on Section 33. Soon thereafter, Lindsey, cause of lack of funds to purchase needed lumber to protect

his workings, was forced to discontinue mining activities.[1] The Texas Almaden Mining Company continued to engage in exploration. Seemingly, however, they never produced any refined ore from the area, and by 1909 they allowed their lease to revert because of lack of operations.

The next activity of consequence came during the period of World War I when W. K. Ellis acquired a lease to Section 33, and during the period from 1916-1919 he produced 894 flasks of refined ore from the Mariscal area.[2] In 1919, Ellis sold his interest in the area to the Mariscal Mining Company, which was under the direction of W. D. Burcham. The Mariscal Mining Company expended a considerable amount of money for new mining equi ment, including a 45-ton Scott Furnace. They deepened the main shaft and installed an improved hoist with necessary equipment for bringing ore from the workings, most of which were at the 250-foot level. In addition, about one-half mile down the flat they constructed a new five-room home for the foreman. The Mariscal Mining Company operated for about four years during which time they produced about 400 flasks of refined quicksilve:

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1. Alpine Avalanche, August 5, 1904.
2. Ransome, op. cit., 424.
3. Interview, W. D. Burcham, March 2, 1968.

Lack of funds forced the Mariscal Mining Company to close down in 1923. Some ten years later, in 1934, Mr. H. R. Card secured a lease to Section 33 and made an effort to finance operations and reopen the mine. He failed in this effort and was forced to relinquish his lease.[4] In 1942, Mr. W. D. Burcham. in association with Albert P. Meyer of Pennsylvania, organized the Vivianna Mining Company. This group made extensive improvements in housing and mining equipment and renewed operations for a short period during which they produced 97 flasks of quicksilver.[5]

The Vivianna Company was declared bankrupt by the courts and placed in receivership, with H. A. Coffield as receiver, in December of 1944. Some time thereafter the assets of the Vivianna Mining Company were acquired by Bob's Mining Company under the management of Robert N. Pulliam. Bob's Mining Company never did any development or production in the area, because, in the meantime, Big Bend National Park had been officially established and mining activity was prohibited within the territories belonging to the Park. By agreement, however, Bob's Mining Company was given a reasonable time within which to remove the mining equipment from the premises, and by 1955, all materials, machinery, and equipment of value in the mining industry were removed from

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4. Salisbury, op. cit.

5. Bureau of Mines, op. cit., 348.

the area. Gradually, since that time the buildings and other items left in the area of the Mariscal Mine have deteriorated to where they are in the condition now found at the location of the old mining activity.

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