

"HISTORY OF DAINGERFIELD"

by

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SPRING 1966

PREFACE

This paper was written by my mother, Jo Ann Littlejohn McKellar, in the spring of 1966. At that time she was attending East Texas State University working on a Masters of Library Science. (She already had a Masters of Education from Baylor University.) The paper was not a masters thesis. It was only a paper prepared for one of her classes.

I do not know what happen to the original paper. I typed the original when I was a senior in Daingerfield High School in 1966. The interview was April 15, 1966 so I assume Mother turned this in by the end of the spring term. I know it was completed by then. Mother gave Irene Parker a copy of the paper for the Daingerfield High School Library. In the late 1970's, I acquired a copy of that paper from Mrs. Parker. The copy that I acquired was a memograph copy. I do not know if this was copied from the original transcript I typed, or if it had been retyped on stencil for memographing. The copy I have is very faded and hard to read in many places.

Steve Cowan contacted my father, Oliver McKellar, in the fall of 1985 looking for a copy of this. Since this was the only one available and it could not be xeroxed (it would not pick up), I

would not let my copy out of my hands. I was too busy then to type a new copy but it has been my top priority this new year 1986, the year of Texas' 150th birthday.

As I have retyped this, it has brought back many memories and raised many questions. It has also made me realize how drastically things change in 20 years. So many things I remember as a small child of the 50's are not there for the future generations that read this. I remember the old school site, Connor Brothers, Mr. John Key's store, and many of the old houses and some of the old timers that were ancient when I was a child. I considered adding comments as to where some of the old places were but in the end decided to leave the manuscript as it was with as many typographical errors corrected as I could catch and a few grammar errors corrected.

I hope this sheds some light on the history of Daingerfield for all those who are interested. I am sure my mother would wish the same.

Bocca Sue McKellar Rambo

January 8, 1986

"HISTORY OF DAINGERFIELD"

In the early 1830's white settlers began to migrate into and settle in the Texas territory that by 1875 was to be called Morris County. During the arrival of these settlers, seven villages were founded. Today only four are still in existence - Cason, Naples, Omaha, and Daingerfield.

Daingerfield is the oldest town in the county and one of the oldest in Northeast Texas. It is also believed to be the fourth oldest town in Texas. The writer has been unable to ascertain the exact date of founding and exactly for whom Daingerfield was named.

"What seems to be the most plausible account and from a source nearest the scene in point of time says that an Indian battle was fought near the present sight of the town in 1830. The white troops numbering about one hundred were led by Captain London Daingerfield, a native of Nova Scotia, who was killed in the battle."

In all probability to commemorate the battle in which the Indians were defeated and driven from the area, and to pay tribute to the captain who had lost his life, the village established near the battle scene was named Daingerfield.

Another account as to the naming of Daingerfield is that it was named for William Henry Daingerfield. Mr Minter's research showed that W. H. Daingerfield was a purchaser for the commissary of the Texas army in 1839. Yet there is no record of W. H. Daingerfield participating in any fighting in East Texas.

According to the Minutes of Commissioners Court, A.S.C. the name of the town was spelled "Dangerfield" for seventy years. Even early maps show the spelling to be as above. The writer feels that this spelling change may have occurred because some of the later arrivals assumed its name was derived from W. H. Daingerfield, a Bexar County Attorney and cabinet member during Houston's second administration.

It is not known what type troops Captain London Daingerfield was leading. The writer could not ascertain if they were settlers from Anglo-American settlements in the state of Coahuila and Texas or regular American troops. Captian Daingerfield, probably, entered Texas by crossing the Red River. After crossing the Red River, he went to Lanes Port, a town near Jefferson. Captain Daingerfield felt that it would be safer to encounter the Indians farther north. With scarcely a hundred men, Captain London Daingerfield came and camped at the foot of the mountains near the spring, which had been used by the Acadians. The Indians who still lived here at that time were greatly displeased with this; so, they gathered forces and a bloody battle was fought. Although Daingerfield was killed, his goal was realized in that the Indians were driven from this area.

It is believed that this unnamed settlement, that existed before 1840 was probably founded either by a group of Acadians who left their homeland bound for French Territory via the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, Red and Sulphur Rivers or Big Cypress bayou; or by this Captain London Daingerfield who died fighting the Indians at the "Daingerfield Spring" in the 1830's.

From traditions about Daingerfield, Mr. Minter found a legend about the settlement of Daingerfield. This legend says that the first settlers were Indians. Then in 1740 a group of Acadians were supposed to have come and camped near the old school site, or near the old Captain Zachary home. They camped near the spring called the "Big Ditch." Here they obtained water and made plans to settle. The Indians became hostile and a battle was fought just south of the B. I. Curry homeplace. The Indians were defeated at this time.

In the book, The Raven, a biography of Sam Houston, an early map of Texas shows Daingerfield at the forks of a road from Nacogdoches leading north, the left prong led to Jonesboro, Red River County and the right prong to Fulton, Arkansas. It is believed that this road from Jonesboro to Nacogdoches through Daingerfield is probably the route followed by Houston on his first trip to Texas from the territory of Oklahoma.

By order of the 1841 Congress of the Republic of Texas - Stephen Peters, O. H. King, John H. Broadnax, Ebenezer Frazier, Robert Hughes, Sr., the town of Daingerfield was to be auctioned

at the block on the town square. Purchasers of these lots were entitled to all the privileges of the street and water places of said town as citizens or what is customary in towns. They also received the right to use and to obtain water from the Daingerfield Spring.

Daingerfield became the county seat of the ephemeral county of Paschal (present counties of Hopkins, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Cass, and part of Marion) during 1841 and 1842. This county was created for judicial purposes only. It was abolished by the Texas Supreme Court decision "Stockton vs. Montgomery" in 1842. Until Titus and Cass counties were created, the court in Daingerfield has been a part of the counties of Red River, Bowie, Paschal, Titus, Morris in Texas and Miller County, Arkansas. In 1875 Daingerfield became the county seat of Morris County.

Records show that Daingerfield was on the regular Republic of Texas mail route. The records state that as early as November 7, 1841, a postal route ran from Nacogdoches to Marshall, then to Smithfield, on to Daingerfield continuing on to Bowie County.

By the law of January 5, 1843, twenty+-one postal routes were created for the Republic of Texas. Number eleven on this list reads "St. Augustine to Daingerfield, via Shelbyville, and Marshall," and "Daingerfield to Fort English, via Boston, DeKalb, Savannah and Clarksville." The 1845 list of Texas postal routes listed, "Marshall to Boston, via Daingerfield and Weaver's."

When Texas became a state, in 1846 the Republic of Texas Postal System was taken over by the United States Postal System.

At this time Daingerfield received its first appointed United States Postmaster, John Green Chambers. He was appointed May 22, 1846. This same Mr. Chambers represented this area at the Texas Secession Convention in 1861.

The earliest or original townsite (Allen Urquhart Headright Survey) consisted of forty-nine blocks. These streets were named for heroes or officials of the Republic (Bowie, Crockett, Houston, Fannin, Lamar, etc.) and for members of the commission named by the Congress of the Republic of Texas to lay out the site of the seat of justice of Paschal County (Hughes, Peters, Broadnax, Frazier, and King).

Even in 1846 Daingerfield was still a very small village as observed by a traveler who gives a description of the town and his experiences while passing through this area. This quotation is taken from his diary dated September 7 and 8, 1846. The diary entries were as follows:

"7th Had 2 joints of spoiled pork for supper last night--the other fare to match--so that my first experience of Texas fare was not the most agreeable. This morning the plate of pork (which was sent from the table at supper) was supplied by a dish of beef so tough, that it might have defied the masticators of an alligator or hyena. Crossed the Sulphur fork early this morning, a deep narrow stream, the bottom 4 miles wide and very swampy, all overflowed during the spring months. Today we found a cabin on the road, Lt. Brown of Clays co. with two other Kentuckians and three Tennesseans, one of the latter had died only a few hours before--the balance all recovering--it was showery this morning about noon the clouds seemed to gather from all quarters, and it rained throughout the evening and into the greater part of the night a perfect tornado, about sunset the wind arose and blew tremendously from the west, many trees were blown down before, behind and on either side

of us--the top of a pine fell on Rothrock crushing his umbrella, nearly breaking his arm and head and knocking his horse down. We reached the town of Hungerfield (Daingerfield) after dark, but could not get a place to stay and were compelled to go a mile further to one Finby's; our clothes, indeed everything was drenched with water. The house when we reached it was almost litterly afloat and no fire. The family consisted of the master (a doubtful character), one dissipated son, an old negro man, who was our hostler, cook, and chambermaid.

Mrs. Finby chose last spring to retreat to her father's roof--certainly without leave but not I suspect without cause. 40 miles today, through rain and 3 of our men sick I found the driest puncheons I could--wrapped in my wet blankets, and lay on the floor, not to sleep, for the wind blew the rain, every few minutes through the chinked walls in my face. Add to this an old sow and litter of half drowned pigs, were immediately under me and kept up a grunting and squeaking throughout the night. I thought of Burns' night in the highlands.

8th Arose at light this morning and found all our horses gone except two--found them all but three by 9 o'clock--although the rain had obliterated all traces of them for two miles. I struck their trail in the tall grass at last, and followed on until I overtook them. The other three we found in the evening and rode ten miles. This town of Daingerfield consists of three or four cabins scarce fit for pigsties. We staid at Ellison's and there learned that the ferry boat on Big Cypress had sunk and we must swim. We succeeded in raising the boat and dragging her ashore by swimming in and fastening a grape vine to the bow, which was only 4 or 5 feet wide and 15 or 20 feet deep. We bailed the water out of the boat and cut up some rope halter to cork her. Got over safely by 11 A.M. I pushed on for Little Cyprus. These streams, the bottoms and bayous on them, abound with alligators, besides many other reptiles common to Texas."¹

Settlers began arriving in greater number after 1840. Among these early settlers were W. B. Willis, the Connor family, Dr. J. G. Chambers, the Wynn family, Dr. A. S. Gray, Sam Pouns, the Rogers family, and Col. Tom Beaver. "In 1847 there was only the dry goods store in the village, that of Musgrove and Pouns."³

"When Orange C. Connor came to Daingerfield from Tennessee in 1849, a man by the name of Lovin lived on what is now the Tom Connor's farm. Burrell Moore lived at what is now the Vivian Cramer home. Dick Moore lived south of town about one mile on the adjoining place. Bob Hughes lived adjoining Burrell Moore's land on the west side. The Truitt and Peacock families lived south of Daingerfield in what later became the Jenkins community. East of Daingerfield a family by the name of Hines had a home.

East of Boggy Creek on the Daingerfield-Mt. Pleasant road is the old Darby place, settled about 1852. Darby was one of the biggest slave holders in the country. At the same time Norman Reynolds settled just across the creek west of Darby. Reynolds operated a toll bridge on Boggy Creek for several years."⁴

Near the present home of Mr. Put Camp was the original setting of the earliest town of Daingerfield. This house was the original Terrell Connor home. It was in this location that Daingerfield was first incorporated for municipal purposes. At this time, 1851, the city government consisted of a mayor, five alderman, a treasurer, recorder, and constable. The town's limits were to extend from the public square six hundred yards east and four hundred yards west. "At this time Daingerfield was in precinct No. 9, Titus County."⁵

In August, 1877, the East Line and Red River Railroad completed its line through Daingerfield. Yet no train passed through the town. In August, 1878, the first steam engine in East Texas passed near Daingerfield connecting Pittsburg and Jefferson.

The location of these old tracks are about the same as the present tracks. Because of the inconvenience in hauling their products from the depot the merchants in "Old Town" began a gradual move toward the railroad and "New Town."

In 1881 all the buildings of "Old Town" were destroyed by fire. When the merchants replaced these buildings they rebuilt them in the new location. In 1891 these new wooden buildings were destroyed by fire and more frame buildings were erected. The first brick building built at the new town site was in 1886. Mr. N. G. Mars and Dr. J. Y. Bradfield built the buildings between O'Dell's Shoe Shop and the building now occupied by the Junior Fashion Shop. The next brick building was built across the railroad track by T. C. and W. T. Connor, (father and son). This building still carries the name and was occupied at one time by the United States Post Office. In 1907 a livery stable fire again destroyed the frame buildings. This time these buildings were replaced by a brick structures.

The first merchant to move his business to the new town was B. C. Hinnant, operator of a saloon. W. B. Womack (name still shows through top of John Key's Store) soon followed and in a short time all places of business were in the new location of the town. Some of Daingerfield's first merchants were Sam Pouns, Dr. J. Y. Bradfield, Lee Allen, and J. H. Smith. At this time the Parr Hotel was moved and placed on the corner where Connor Motor stood. Today this block is occupied by McKellar's Department Store and Warehouse.

These examples of the advertising done by Daingerfield merchants and businesses appeared in this manner on July 7, 1880. This paper was published weekly by J. F. Mitchell. It was known as the Morris County Banner. Advertising rates were \$1.00 for each square inch and \$.50 for each subsequent insertion. Liberal reductions were made on standing or yearly advertisements. The following excerpts are as they appeared in this newspaper.

"Dr. J. H. Williamson, Dentist, Daingerfield, Texas. Has been located here for 10 years, and refers confidently to his record. Has a fine Dental Chair and a full set of Improved Instruments, and warrants all of his work. Plate work a specialty. Office North Side of Square.

W. S. Leake, M. D.; Physician, Accoucheur and Surgeon, has moved 1 1/2 miles west of Daingerfield, near Donaldson Place, and will be found there at night and at his office in Daingerfield during the day.

J. A. Peacock--J. L. Shephard: Peacock and Shephard, Attorneys at Law and Land agents. Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas. Will perfect land titles; pay back taxes, and keep our clients promptly posted as to the status of their claims. Business solicited. Office next door to Dr. Bradfield's Drug Store.

John L. Patterson, Attorney at Law, Wheatville, Morris County, Texas. Will practice in the courts of Morris and surrounding counties.

Saddlery. St. Louis Bills duplicated. Get the best. N. G. Mars, Daingerfield, Texas. He now has on hand and is constantly manufacturing all kinds of Saddles, Harness, Bridles, etc. The leather used is very superior, being tanned in Daingerfield, with much care, and by the best processes: while all the material used is of the very best. The goods are the best and the prices are the lowest ever known in this market. Bills from St. Louis or anywhere else duplicated. Orders, wholesale or retail, solicited.

Hussey and Logan, Daingerfield, Texas.

Manufacturers of the dealers in Cotton Gins and Corn Mills. Are still at the same old stand where they have been for 25 years. Can supply their customers with the Dorris Improved Feeder.

N. Reynolds--Gen. M. O'neal. Reynolds & O'neal Bankers, Daingerfield, Texas, Correspondence: S. M. Swenson, Son & Co., New York; Bank of Commerce, St. Louis; John Phelps & Co., New Orleans; Grannan and Duvall, Galveston; Citizens Savings Bank, Jefferson. Do a general banking and collecting business, Buy and Sell Exchange, and make advances on cotton.

W. C. Trotter, Daingerfield, Texas, Dealer in drugs and medicines, paints, oil, stationery, tobacco, snuff, fancy and toilet articles, perfumes, parasols, and umbrellas, & C. & C. Stock all new, fresh, and cheap. Give me a call.

O'neal, at the depot, sells Standard's Green 1 Flour at \$7.00.

Dr. J. M. Van Zandt's Ten Horse Power Liniment a sure cure for rheumatism, neuralgia, sick and nervous headache, cramps, cholera, croup, diphtheria, sprains, bruises, tetters, ringworm."

Another description of the business in Daingerfield appeared in the Western Trade Journal in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1887. This paper described the town of and business of Daingerfield from 1867 to date of publication.

Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas
(On Jeff. Branch Mo. Pacific R'Y)

"Daingerfield is the county seat and has a population of 600 both whites and blacks. A kinder more generous class, free from suspicion is not often met and your correspondent commends them and their clemency to all home seekers. The site of this town is well chosen it being on an upper plat, slightly sloping and sandy, hence there is no mud after the hardest rains. There is a good, new brick courthouse here, having excellent apartments for county officers, etc., and a splendid large hall for court sessions. The lots for building

are very desirable and are sold at almost give away prices. The buildings are both one and two-story, frames and brick. The various lines of business are dry good stores, drugs, provisions, hardware, furniture, saloons, barber, saddlery, tin shop, shoe shop, milliner, livery, lumber yard, hotel, boarding house, restaurant, meat market, chair manufactory, blacksmith, machine shop, jewelers, dentist, attorneys, physicians, undertaker, express (Pacific office), telegraph office, two daily mails, and a local board of immigration, Hon. J. F. Jones, chairman, and Hon. H. E. Henderson, secretary, will give prompt information to all seeking homes.

J. Y. Bradfield--Druggist, was the genial and courteous gentleman called to the chair to preside over the mass meeting of the citizens, he being recognized leader in all public enterprizes. Mr. B. was born before suspicion and mistrust became a part of the ingredients of man, he is also one of the wealthy citizens of the town yet the plainest and most practical of men. His education and natural ability are both above medium, yet he can bring them on a plain with the masses and he is one of them. He is a general practitioner of medicine, has a splendid drug store and owns hundreds of acres of land which he will sell cheap. The Dr. is a Tennessee boy, but has been 36 years in Texas. He invites correspondence.

W. B. Womack and Son, Bankers and Merchants--have one of the best stores in variety and size in Daingerfield, being here obtained. Their motto is small profits and quick sales, hence this house is the headquarters of traffic here. The son who usually attends to the store, is prompt and attentive to all. In connections with the store there is a large line of lumber for sale cheap. As bankers they have the full confidence of the business public, make collections, issue exchange and discount notes. Their Boatmens Saving Bank, St. Louis: State National Bank, New Orleans: National Bank, Jefferson, Texas: First National Bank, Galveston, Texas.

B. Z. Littlefield who owns and operates a first class livery stable, is of Alabama parentage, and has been 14 years on Texas soil. His horses and rigs are No.1, his charges moderate and he is very public spirited.

J. C. Conly deals in fine liquors, wines, cigars, and tobacco and his sample room is the resort of all who

delight in obtaining strictly choice beverages. He is but 27 years old and a Texan by birth.

B. A. Lamar keeps the leading hotel in Daingerfield and everybody states that his house, rooms, beds, linens, and table are first class while his charges are just. He is of Georgia, 46 years in Texas.

Frank M. Sewell, insurance agent, is another Georgian by birth a gentleman by tuition and a reliable business man. Farm and machinery risks are his specialty and all losses are promptly paid.

A. R. Brashear is the gentlemanly railroad agent and a former resident of Virginia.

G. W. Ragland is the efficient district and county clerk, and a son of Texas parents.

The three Williams Brothers, are the reliable blacksmiths and wagon and buggy repairers, also the leading undertakers. They are Virginia boys 10 years on Texas soil and three of the most energetic and wide-awake men here.

J. F. Jones, one of the most skilled and proficient lawyers in Texas, practices at all courts and is chairman of the Immigration Society. His record is high and above reproach and his public spirit knows no bounds. Georgia was his birthplace.

Smith and James handle one of the largest and finest assortments of hardware, stoves, and implements in this section and sell all goods at bed-rock values. The former is of Alabama parentage, the latter of Georgia and both reliable, energetic wide awake and shrewd, yet courteous merchants. Call and see their goods before purchasing elsewhere.

Jenkins Brothers are extensive dealers in general merchandise and carry a large and varied assortment of goods. They sell at close margins, are of Georgia descent and 16 years in Texas.

Ragland & Traylor are handlers of a fine line of general merchandise and this at live and let live prices. They buy right, sell right, and are born and bred Texans.

W. B. Willis, the efficient county treasurer, is the right man in the right place. He is of Tennessee

parents, 40 years in Texas.

W. H. Knight, carpenter and builder, is also a general contractor and perfectly reliable.

Mrs. M. Patten is a skilled and accomplished music teacher and a former resident of Georgia.

Dr. C. O. Matthews is one of the most successful physicians and a regular graduate. Dr. M. is a fully fledged Texan and a gentleman in every sense of the word.

L. Y. Turner & Co., deal in pure drugs and chemicals, fine perfumery, toilet articles, books, etc. They too are Texans and their goods nothing if not first class, while prices are very low.

Dr. W. E. Connor is "the dentist" of all dentist in this section, his scientific work the troublesome molars bearing us out in the assertion that he is unexcelled. The Dr. is a Texas boy, 29 years of age."

It took Daingerfield about six years to overcome the fire of 1907. For it was not until 1913 that the new town was again incorporated with Frank L. McGee as the first mayor. Daingerfield grew slowly through the years.

According to the census figures of 1870, the town had a population of 272. A population of 1000 was shown in 1900. This population stayed about the same until the Lone Star Steel plant was built in 1942.

Industry around Daingerfield has been varied dating from 1842. At this time there was a plant known as Ellison's Mill. This mill house, seats, and ferry belonged to one of the earliest settlers here; a Mr. E. B. Smith and wife Jane. Mr. Smith was able to acquire much of his property because he was a resident of this area before March 2, 1836. He received his land by a Land

Certificate issued by the Board of Land Commissioners of Red River County. In 1842 the Republic of Texas' House of Representatives validated this Land Certificate at the request of Senator Robert Potter. In August 1850, Smith sold Four thousand acres of land to a John Spearman from Alabama. All of this is located on the Lone Star plant site.

Through the years there were other plants in and around Daingerfield. Some of these were Black's Tanyard 1855; R. H. Green and Nathaniel King's Tanyard in 1859; L. M. Jones Tanyard in 1864; Black and Bridges, Builders; Logan and Hussey Gin Shops, Blacksmith Shop 1854; 1869--Johnson and Coleman Blacksmith and Wood Shop; and Hughes and Connor Mill, Gin and Cotton Compress; 1867--gin houses of Richard Moore and James Cargile; in 1860 steam mill and grist mill of John F. Houston and J. F. Beasley; later in 1864, a steam saw mill with a distillery attachment. Of course this is not all of the plants but these are the ones that a record has been found.

During the Civil War an incompleated blast furnace owned by Reese Hughes was seized by the State of Texas and operated for the benefit of the Confederate States of America. Today there is a reconstructed replica with remains of the Reese Hughes blast furnace at the Lone Star Steel company.

It was in 1880 a company was formed to mine and smelt iron ore. Then in 1900 another company was formed to explore for lead and minerals other than iron ore. Due to financial reverses these companies failed to operate. Therefore, it was not only with the

building of Lone Star Steel that iron ore was first produced commercially. To date there has been no production of lead.

Since Daingerfield has no oil or gas minerals, most of her mineral resources have been from the large deposits of iron ore. As stated before these mineral developments have been very slow due to the lack of nearby limestone, coking coal, and adequate transportation, as well as the reluctance of "Big Steel" to see competition established in the Southwest.

It was in 1942 that a huge blast furnace was established near Daingerfield. Before the plant could begin operation, the war ended causing an end of the steel crises. Although, for a time it looked as though there would be not much need for a steel plant, Congressman Wright Patman and many citizens of Daingerfield finally realized the dream with the opening of Lone Star Steel Company.

With many early set backs, today there is a seventy-five million dollar plant in operation. The plant has continued to work at diversifying its products so it can continue to be in full operation at all times.

Another plant that has contributed much to the development of Daingerfield is the Naval Bureau of Ordnance--General Dynamics Plant. This plant has continued to operate under government contracts. In the security area there is a wind tunnel used in testing air craft for the guided missiles program. Because of the availability of compressed air, electric power, and steam this plant site was chosen. The air heating unit used at this plant is

the most powerful single unit of this type in the world. For a time it looked as though Daingerfield might lose this installation. With a visit to Washington D. C. by several Daingerfield citizens and business men, the plant was left. The rumor is that the plant will be working to full capacity by 1967.

By 1967, a tracking station is to be built just north of Daingerfield. This tracking station is to be built by the government in connection with SAC at Barksdale Field in Shreveport. Near this station an air field is to be built.

The first newspaper published in Morris County was published in Daingerfield. The paper was called The Lamplighter. Ward Taylor, who owned and published the Jefferson Jimplecute, established The Lamplighter sometime before the Civil War. Because of Ward's outspoken editorials and the controversies created by his paper, it became the topic of conversation of that day.

A school paper edited by W. T. Danforts and H. A. Mathews succeeded the The Lamplighter. This school paper was called The Classmate. This carried all the news about the schools as well as the town news.

During the seventeen years between 1872 and 1889, the Daingerfield paper changed ownership and names very often. It was known as The Morris County Banner in 1877. Mr. J. F. Mitchell published this weekly until 1881. At this time The Morris County Banner moved to Greenville where it took over the Greenville Independent. In time this paper became The Greenville Banner. By

1882, it became known as The Morris County Herald. In the next four years its name changed to The Tidings. From the name of The Tidings in 1886, it changed to The Weekly Record in 1889. Soon after this the paper became known as The Morris County News and continued to be published under this title until April 8, 1966. On that date it became known as The Bee and is published by Mr. Carl Wren.

As the writer has searched through records, she found that Daingerfield has always been a school and church town. Just as all our forefathers had realized the importance of education as a means of training our youth, the Daingerfield pioneers were no exception. In most places usually the first public building served as the place for educational training. In Daingerfield where the Presbyterian and Methodist were in control this order was reversed.

We realize that before the year 1870 there were no public schools. Pupils were required to pay tuition if they attended school. Two dollars per month was the usual tuition fee for elementary grades. Students in the higher grades usually had to pay a monthly tuition of four dollars. The school terms were usually only about six months, three months in the summer and three months during the winter. By dividing the school term in this manner, students were allowed to help with the farm planting and crop gathering. Usually the teacher was a transient who would have as many as seventy-five students.

In these early schools pupils were not classified by grades.

Instead their advancement came with the completion of textbooks. The parents did not receive report cards. The examinations were usually oral and given the last day of school. The subject most stressed at this time was spelling. There was usually an elaborate program prepared and given for parents the evening of the last day. This program consisted of recitations in declamation, presentations of plays, the reading of formal papers written by the older students, and the usual spelling bee for the younger students.

The earliest formal education in Daingerfield began between 1841 and 1842. At this time a Reverend James Graham, circuit rider for the Sulphur Fork Circuit, Arkansas Conference, Methodist Church and his mother-in-law conducted a shcool here. The Reverend Graham, his wife, and mother-in-law, who came from Tennessee, opened this school for girls. This girl's school was well-organized and staffed. It was very successful and at different times there were as many as seventy-five boarding students from different states throughout the south.

Sometime before 1850 an academy was opened in Daingerfield. This academy was housed in a log building somewhere near the cliff back of Daingerfield Cemetery. We do not know the exact date of this establishment, but we know it was a school for boys established by a Mr. S. R. Chaddick.

In 1849, Allen Urquhart, pioneer surveyor for the Republic of Texas, entered into an agreement with the Marshall Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the establishment of a

college in Daingerfield. Urquhart gave forty acres of land (the College Plat) and pledged one half of the proceeds from the sale of his remaining lots in the original Town Plat for the erection of the college buildings.

In 1852, there was a boarding school for girls known as Sylvia Academy operating in Daingerfield. This school was unknown until the Historical Society found a letter postmarked "Brownstown, Arkansas, January 16, 1852." It was addressed by a loving father to his daughter at "Sylvia Academy, Daingerfield, Texas."

This is a quote from the father's letter. "Should you misimprove the time you spend at school it would be highly criminal. After so much friendship and liberality on the part of your teachers should you not reflect credit upon them it would be quite ungratefull (I cannot use another word) dear child, had you a multitude of teachers, application on your part is still absolutely necessary."⁸

In 1852, a Presbyterian College was built near where the present Presbyterian Church stands. This college known as Chapel Hill College was one of the finest schools in its day. Its main curriculum was designed for the purpose of training young men for the Presbyterian ministry. The college was housed in a two-story brick building. This building stood at the intersectin of Taylor and Broadnax Streets. As well as courses in theology it offered also courses in law, medicine, and liberal arts. This college operated from 1852 until 1869 and was closed due to the lack of

finances and students.

In the late 1850's a Mr. W. A. Beason, a graduate of Lebanon, came to Daingerfield. Here in connection with Mr. Chaddick's academy he established a college for men. Beason College, as it is known was conducted in a large log building. Later it combined with Chapel Hill College and moved to the brick building located where the Presbyterian Church and A. T. Hooten home now stand. This school was considered a marvel. The Cumberland Presbyterians gave Beason College its large support, and many students went forth as ministers, even governors, teachers in universities and lawyers.

After the Civil War the brick building of the college was condemned due to a crack in the wall. Beason College was torn down, dismantled and the bricks were shipped to Tehuacana. Thus, the college was rebuilt as the second Presbyterian College where it flourished for many years. Due to lack of good railroad facilities, location and other causes, the Presbyterians thought a more adequate location would be Waxahachie; therefore, the college was moved there in 1902. At this time it was known as Trinity University. Finally in 1942, the Presbyterians moved this college to San Antonio; so today, the original Chapel Hill and Beason College is still known as Trinity University.

Just before the beginning of the Civil War, or in all probability between 1858 and 1862, a Methodist minister by the name H. A. Mathews came to Daingerfield. His purpose and plan was to establish a Methodist College in Daingerfield. It was believed

that the Reverend Mathews was the leader in having the Chapel Hill College building condemned.

Nevertheless, it was in 1859 that a Methodist College was located near where the old high school gymnasium now stands. This college was built by capital raised in the sale of stock. Due to the fact that much opposition was aroused, the school was never successful. Soon the Methodist moved the college faculty to Gilmer. Those left in Daingerfield united with Beason College, thus making it co-educational until after the Civil War.

About five years after the Civil War, the first public school of Daingerfield was built of lumber on the old school campus just north of the old academy building which had already been torn down. This frame building contained four classrooms and a large auditorium. Mathis and Miss Mollie Beaver were the first teachers. Miss Beaver gave the best part of her life teaching in both the public and private schools of Daingerfield. Those students, who studied under her, remember her as the first and last woman wearing hoops throughout her lifetime.

It was in 1880 this school, known as Daingerfield High School, was operating under the name of the Jefferson District High School. In 1902 the Daingerfield Independent School District was incorporated. Then in 1906 the Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South transferred their Daingerfield school properties to the Independent School District.

According to Gamel's Laws of Texas Daingerfield had been issued the right to operate a high school as early as 1873. The

Following quotation is called "Special Laws of the State of Texas passed at the Session of the Thirteenth Legislature, begun and held at the city of Austin, Jan. 14, 1873." This is the chapter that was issued for Daingerfield High School.

Chapter CCCIV Laws of Texas

An act granting H. M. Mathis, Principal and Col. L. D. De Lyon, Miss Mollie E. Beaver, Miss Fannie Bradffield, Miss Anne Peacock, and Miss Nannie Hughes, assistant teachers of the Daingerfield High School, located in Daingerfield, Titus County, Texas, and their successors, be and are hereby authorized to issue and grant certificates of graduation to the students of the institution who complete the collegiate course of study adopted by the faculty; and that they be and are hereby authorized to have and use a seal of the institution in issuing certificattes.

Sec. 2 That the teachers are hereby invested with authority to grant certificates with use of seal, of qualifiacon of students who do complete all the branches in the course of study.

Sec. 3 That Dr. E. B. Hawkins, Dr. W. S. Leake, W. B. Womack, Dr. A. S. Huey, E. J. C. Nitmer, Dr. J. Y. Bradfield, Dr. H. A. Avinger and their successors be and are hereby constituted a board of trustees, whose duty it shall be to have exclusive control and full management of the grants of land, donations of money, and all other benefits bestowed upon the institution, except the private and personal, interest owned and held by individuals in their own right, and all manage and control the same for the exclusive benefit of the institution. A majority of the board shall be sufficient to transact all business pertaining to the finances under their control.

Sec. 4 The board shall elect from their number a president, and shall fill all vacancies occurring in said board, and that this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved June 2nd, 1873⁹

Another add concerning the Daingerfield Schools appeared as

follows:

Daingerfield High School

(Under auspices of the Jefferson District Conference)
will open on Monday, January 6.

J. M. Greene, Principal
Departments of Ancient Languages, Higher Mathematics,
and Physical Science

Mrs. M. L. Green-----Primary Department
Miss Mary Green-----Music and Fine arts
Mr. J. T. Green-----Practical Arithmetic &
Penmanship

The school will be organized with five departments
as follows: Primary, Academic, Collegiate, Fine Arts
and Music. Accomplished teachers in each department.

Manners and morals as well as intellectual culture,
a specialty.

Course of Study

Primary Department:

Spelling-book--Holmes
Primary Geography--Maury
Elementary Arithmetic--Venable
Map Drawing--Apgar
Writing on Slates and Blackboard

Academic Department:

English Grammar--Holmes
Arithmetic--Venable
Political & Physical Geography--Maury
History of the United States--Holmes
Composition & Rhetoric--Quackenbos
Algebra--Venable
Penmanship--Spencer

Collegiate Department:

English Language, Literature, & Normal
Grammar--Clarke
Handbook of the English Language--Latham
Elements of Criticism--Kaimes
Elocution and Practical Composition

Mathematics:

Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry,
Surveying--Robinson

Natural Science:

Natural Philosophy, Chemistry--Well
Geology and Botany--Gray
Astronomy--Maury
Physiology--Jarvis

Philosophy:

Mental--Abercrombie
Logic--Hodge
Ethics--Bailey
Christian Evidence--Alexander

Ancient Languages:

Latin
Elements
Caesar
Virgil
Cicero's Orations
Sallust
Livy
Horace
Tacitus

Greek

Modern Languages:

French, Reading and Composition
German, Reading and Composition

Music:

Instruction on Piano and Organ
Vocal Culture
Class Singing

Art:

Pencilling
India Ink
Water Colors
Monocromatic
Colored Crayon
Oil Painting
Colored Embroidery

Rates of Tuition

| | |
|--|--------|
| Primary Department Per month..... | \$2.00 |
| Academic Department Per month..... | 3.00 |
| Collegiate Department Per month..... | 4.00 |
| Music, including use of Instruments..... | 4.00 |
| Art, Pencilling, India Ink Colored Crayon & Oil Painting..... | 3.00 |
| Embroidery in the various styles..... | 2.00 |
| Vocal music taught daily free of charge. | |

Note the reduction of one dollar per month on former rates of tuition.

Pupils within scholastic age will receive benefit of the Public Fund.

Tuition payable one-half in advance, remainder at end of session, unless otherwise arranges.

Deductions made only in case of protracted sickness.

It is a fact worthy of mention that while the School has enjoyed a good patronage during Sixteen Terms, which comprehend its entire existence, no student has died. More need not be said of the health of location.

Board can be found in good families at reasonable rates.

The Institution being charter by the State Legislature is empowered to grant Diplomas.

J. M. Greene
Daingerfield, Texas
August 17, 1878¹⁰

In 1880, this school that operated as Jefferson District High School had received the property known as Daingerfield High School building, together with the bell, desks, seats and all other furniture. This property was deeded to the Jefferson District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. A complete list of teachers in this school has not been located. These are some of the professors that were not listed in the add. Professor B. C.

Chrisman, Rev. E. M. Sweet, Rev. P. L. Smith, Mrs. C. A. Smith, and a Major John M. Richardson were some of the known teachers in 1880.

Professor J. M. Green later became Superintendent of the school at Linden. Professor B. C. Chrisman became the Superintendent of the school at Baird, Texas in 1891. Rev. E. M. Sweet had formerly been principal of the Beaumont District School. This same Rev. E. M. Sweet later became a professor at Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas. Major Richardson was co-founder of Bowdon College, Bowdon, Georgia. Records show that Bowdon College presented him an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy. It was mailed to him in Daingerfield in 1888.

The Daingerfield School District has continued to grow. This school has absorbed all the smaller schools in the southern end of the county. Cason is the only school district left. The Cason District has only a Negro elementary school in operation.

In 1950, the Daingerfield School began an expansion program. At this time South Elementary School was constructed one mile south of the city on U. S. highway 259 South. Since 1950 three modern school plants have been erected. At Lone Star six miles south of Daingerfield is Lone Star Elementary School. Just southeast of South Elementary, a new modern high school and junior high has been constructed. Just west of town on the Pittsburg highway, West Elementary has been constructed.

As was the custom in all early settlements the schools and churches occupied the same buildings. In nearly all cases the

buildings were used both for education and religion. In some instances the minister served also as the instructor or teacher.

On March 11, 1849, the Presbyterians organized the first church in Daingerfield. S. R. Chaddick served as the pastor and there were twenty-three charter members. Services were held in the homes of members until the Chapel Hill College was built in 1852. The present Presbyterian Church was built in 1906.

Even though the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches were organized early, there were no church buildings as such constructed in Daingerfield until about 1856. At this time the Methodist erected a church building in "Old Town." At this time all denominations held their services here. All church services before this had been conducted by all the different denominations in the many available school buildings.

After "Old Town" was destroyed by fire in the late 1870's, the Methodist moved their building one-fourth mile south. It should be noted here that since 1846, the Methodist had owned a forty acre tract adjoining the townsite. This had been known as "the campground of the Methodist." After moving their building, the new church was dedicated in November 1893. The modern Methodist Church was built and dedicated in 1936. In 1950 or 1951 this building was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt at once.

It is believed as early as 1843 the Primitive Baptist Church of Christ of Bethlehem was given a lot in the town of Daingerfield but did not build until 1848. At this time they built near the Concord settlement.

There were other Baptist Churches through out Morris County. But the first Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1882. The Reverend R. C. Ponder served as the pastor. For ten years the Baptist held their services in the Presbyterian Church. In 1892 the First Baptist Church of Daingerfield was erected.

In excerpts from The Record, a newspaper published by Mr. Frank M. Sewell, on April 25, 1889, the following church announcement appeared.

"THE CHURCHES"

Baptist: At Union Church, Rev. R. F. Jenkins, Pastor, Preaching 2nd Sunday at 11 A.M. and at night.

Presbyterian: At Union Church, Rev. S. R. Chaddick, Pastor, Preaching 3rd Sunday at 11 A.M. and at night.

Sabbath School at Union Church every Sunday at 9 A.M., W. B. Willis, Superintendent. Prayer meetings, Wed. night.

Methodist: Rev. J. D. Whitehead, Pastor, Preaching 4th Sunday at 11 A.M. and at night.

Sabbath School 3 P.M., J. T. Robinson, Superintendent. Prayer meetings, Tuesday night."

On May 6, 1923, the Church of Christ of Daingerfield was established by J. E. Wainwright and twelve charter members. Some of these charter members, S. A. Morthan, W. D. Russell, and J. T. Weaver were elected to serve as Elders. The following were elected to serve as Deacons, R. S. Wise, W. H. Ragland, and J. M. Partin. For several years this church met in the Presbyterian

Church. In the spring of 1939 the present Church of Christ was erected.

With the opening of the Lone Star Steel Plant, many of its earliest employees came from the steel sections of the eastern and northern parts of the United States. This lead to the organization of the first Catholic Church in this area. Later the Catholics build their church building about one mile south of town and just east of the South Elementary School. They have also built their own cemetery just behind their church.

In the Community Center the Chirstian Science and Lutherans have held occassional services at various and different times. To date each of these have not organized an active church.

Since the town of Daingerfield is located in one of the most scenic spots of Northeast Texas some of the leading citizens decided to ask federal aid to build a park. Mr. W. O. Irvin and Mr. J. Y. Bradfield submitted this proposed park project to the Federal Park Authorities. This plan was approved under the conservation program and went into effect on April 1, 1935.

This proposed park site was chosen to be located three miles southeast of Daingerfield. This site was chosen because it was in a setting of natural beauty amid the forest covered hills. After the choice was made a citizen's committee helped raise the money to buy the desired property.

After the project was approved on April 7, 1935, preparations were made for a C.C.C. Camp. When the camp was completed two hundred boys moved in on August 25, 1935. When a year's work was

completed the local people held a dinner and dance in honor of the C.C.C. boys.

For two years these boys worked cleaning land, building roads, building the dam, clearing and building trails, filling and stocking the lake with fish, building picnic units, and erecting permanent park buildings. At the time the C.C.C. work was almost completed. The park officials tabulated 1,178 visitors.

The white C.C.C. boys vacated the camp in August 1938. The finishing up work was completed by the one hundred eighty Negro C.C.C. boys. At this time they removed all the temporary buildings. When the Negro C.C.C. boys left, the park was left as it is today. The Texas State Park Board received control of the playground from the Federal Natinal Park Service in December 1939.

The Daingerfield State Park, a game and wild life preserve, covers six hundred sixty acres, eighty of which are under water. There is a playground for children, overnight lodges for fishermen, a swimming beach, camping grounds for campers and a concession stand where guests may dance. Every summer thousands of pleasure seekers utilize the facilities of this park for fun and relaxation.

As early as 1856 the Masonic Lodge of Daingerfield held title to a lot here. In 1871, the Odd Fellows Lodge had a building in Daingerfield. The first floor of this building served as the first courthouse for Morris County in 1875.

Then, by 1889, there were three lodges holding meetings in Daingerfield. In an add appearing in The Record these lodge

announcements were made.

LODGES

K. of P. Daingerfield Lodge No. 2993 meets 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursday nights.
Jack F. Lilly, Reporter
D. M. Rhodes, Dictator

I.O.O.F. Olive Branch Lodge No. 40 meets 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday nights.
Frank Sewell, Secretary
W. Y. Littlefield, N. G.

A.F. & A.M. Oasis Lodge No. 79 meets Saturday on or before full moon in each month.
D. M. Rhodes, Secretary
J. L. Truitt, W. M.¹²

Today the Odd Fellows Lodge has the sister lodge called the Rebecca Lodge. The Masonic Lodge has the sister lodge known as the order of Eastern Stars. I could not find what became of the first lodge mentioned in the announcement.

On Friday, April 19, 1889, the Daingerfield National Bank was organized. The original stock holders were W. B. Womack, J. Y. Bradfield, J. C. Jenkins, G. D. Hart, J. M. Moore, J. F. Jones, A. Ragland, and A. R. Lamprecht. After the bank was organized the following officers were elected: W. B. Womack, President; J. Y. Bradfield, Vice-President; J. C. Jenkins, Cashier. At this time the bank planned to begin business on or before the twentieth of May.

During the Civil War most of the muster rolls were by counties rather than by towns. The writer did find three different companies that were formed in Daingerfield.

In the Morris County Historical Survey Committee's Bulletin number sixteen, the writer found where an active company of infantry was organized in Daingerfield in July, 1861. The company was organized under the act of February 15, 1858. This company was known as Company #1 "Daingerfield Grays." The officers were Jesse M. Cook, Captain; W. E. Beason, 1st Lieutenant; W. W. Loggins, 2nd Lieutenant; Robert Hughs, 3rd Lieutenant. The four sergeants were, A. J. Hines, James A. Currey, Jacob S. Black, and O. S. Nabors. The fifer and two drummers were Harris Ryan, John S. Flute and William H. Beavers. The balance of the company was made up of fifty-one privates.

On December 31, 1861, the muster roll of Captain Edwin R. Hawkins' Company shows these men were recruited at Daingerfield, Texas, August 13, 1861. It was at Wilson's Creek, Missouri that this company was mustered into service. They were to serve twelve months attached to Colonel McIntosh's Regiment 2nd Arkansas Mounted Riflemen. Later they were transferred to Whitfield's Battalion. The company was armed with percussion lock muskets and bayonets. Men from Titus and Red River counties composed this company.

This company was composed of Edwin R. Hawkins, Captain; John W. Bayzer, 1st Lt.; J. N. Zachary, 2nd Lt.; R. J. Lee 2nd Lt.; four sergeants, W. F. T. Wynne, James T. Russey, Joshua H. Carr, and John J. Thigpen; four corporals, William Monkhouse, William Caswell, William Sorrells, and John W. Stephens; and seventy-four privates.

From the report of Lt. J. N. Zachary, who listed himself as commanding the company, it appeared that there had been many deaths or prisoners taken during a battle. He spoke of "recapitulation" as exhibiting the true state of the condition of the company.

The other group was called Company I of Whitfield's Legion Army of the Confederate States. Most of the men in this company enlisted at Daingerfield in March 1862. The company commander was J. M. Calk, Captain; Thomas Morris, 1st Lt.; Thadius W. Reynolds, 2nd Lt.; B. B. Coffey, 3rd Lt. serving as the other officers. The five sergeants listed were R. E. C. McDowell, T. T. Iuin, William Bridges, A. E. Richardson, and Solin A. Loring. The four corporals were Jas. A. Currey, W. A. S. Smith, G. A. Hinnant, and B. R. Williford. The remainder of the company was composed of sixty privates. This muster roll was taken about the time Whitfield's Legion was mounted and became the 27th Texas Cavalry Regiment.

It would be well to note here that one-eleventh of the 1860 population of Titus (Morris, Titus, and Franklin) County had enrolled in the Confederate army before the end of the first year of the war. Today only one-half of these men are listed on muster rolls filed in the Texas State Archives. Therefore, the writer feels in all probability there were more than three companies formed in Daingerfield.

According to deeds of 1838, the east and west trail or road of the Caddo Indians passed through Daingerfield. This trail or

road became known as the Caddo Trace. Other early roads passed through Daingerfield. Some of these roads have been listed as Daingerfield and Stephenson's Ferry; Daingerfield to Jefferson; Daingerfield and Coffeyville; Daingerfield and Wheatfield; and Daingerfield and Mr. Pleasant. Some of these roads served as stage coach routes. The Daingerfield to Stephenson's Ferry passed through the Providence community as early as 1848.

When the Morris County Court met for the first time May 31, 1875, they listed the first and second class roads of the county. Daingerfield was on six first class roads and two second class roads. To be a first class road, it had to be sixty feet wide.

Daingerfield's first class roads were as follows: Daingerfield and Jefferson; Daingerfield and Mt. Pleasant; Daingerfield and Pittsburg Road by Tanton's Bridge; Daingerfield and Stephenson's Ferry; Daingerfield and Coffeyville; and the Daingerfield and Mt. Pleasant Road by William Cason's and Snodgrasses. The two second class roads were the Daingerfield to Linden and Daingerfield to Wheatville.

In 1921 a new highway to Cason was constructed. The present highway 49 between Daingerfield and Mt. Pleasant was built in 1924. But, a good highway to Longview was not constructed until 1942.

The Morris County Courthouse was built in 1881 and has been added to and remodeled several times. The land on which the Courthouse stands was given by Mr. B. C. Hinnant. This land was to return to his heirs if the courthouse was ever moved. There

have been several attempts to move this seat of justice but each has failed. There has not been any other attempts since the failure in 1915.

The wooden jail in "Old Town" was used until 1896. At this time a brick jail was built in "New Town." This was a two-story structure with one large room upstairs for the prisoners. In the middle of this upstairs room was a ball and chain in the floor to be used for the unruly prisoners.

Politically, Morris County citizens have always been Democratic in party affiliation. Only one time has the Democratic Party's control been threatened. This occurred in the 1890's when the Populist Party developed a strong following in this area. This became a serious matter to the Democratic Party machine. The following incident was related as to the tactics used by the Democrats in their effort to retain power.

"At that time, elections were held at the courthouse in a room adjoining the vault, an airtight, fire proof compartment for the safekeeping of records. It was customary to close the polls during the noon hour, placing the ballot boxes in the vault for the recess. A trusted member of the party machine was secreted in the vault before the opening of the polls with the instructions to alter a sufficient number of ballots to assure the election of the Democratic Party nominees. When it was finally safe to open the vault to release the man, he was found near death of suffocation. A physician of similar political views was called to revive him. Rumors indicated that similar measures were employed to defeat the

Populist in other boxes in the county." ¹³

As may well be guessed, to date, there has been no winning Republican candidates in Daingerfield or Morris County. At times there has been such a scarcity of Republicans that at the time when postmasters were changed each time the administration changed, it was so difficult to find a Republican in Daingerfield, that the woman who was appointed had said her grandfather had been a Republican. Even today, there are few Republicans registered in this area.

Today, Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas is a small town of thirty-one hundred inhabitants. It is centrally located in the county. Dallas is located just one hundred twenty-five miles west; while Shreveport is eighty-five miles east. About two hundred forty miles south is the city of Houston. These three are easily accessible by major United States highways and Interstates 20 and 30.

Today the city government is a combination of a mayor and five councilmen. There are three men on the police force and one police car is equipped with a two-way radio. The fire department is made up of twenty-eight volunteers and they have five pieces of modern fire fighting and emergency equipment. This fire department is a member of the Northeast Texas Mutual Aid Association. The city has a state approved water supply and offers garbage and trash disposal service.

Daingerfield has an altitude of three hundred seventy feet with a rolling topography. The annual rainfall is 45.36 inches

with an average annual temperature of 64.1 degrees.

The one National Bank of Daingerfield has deposits of \$5,000,000; capital funds of \$400,000; and a loan capacity of \$1,500,000. There are four elementary schools, one junior high and two high school. Today there are ten churches serving ten denominations.

Daingerfield has a modern thirty unit motel. Each room has a telephone and television. Each guest has access to the motel's new modern swimming pool.

In 1959, Daingerfield received from Lone Star Steel a gift of a thirty-two bed accredited hospital. There are two medical clinics staffed by four medical doctors. There is one dentist and one optometrist.

Today Daingerfield has many thriving industries that have not already been mentioned. One modern industry is the Grand Prairie Construction Slag Processors. Daingerfield's most recent industry is Texas Materials Company, Inc. This factory turns out asphalt roofing. In an old C.C.C. building the Pittman Industry is housed. This factory makes ladies carpetbags. On the Longview highway south of town is the Kirby Welding and Manufacturing company. This company makes and sets aluminum screens and awnings. They also do skilled welding.

Daingerfield has added more recreational facilities since the building of Daingerfield State Park. Five miles south of Daingerfield is Lone Star Lake. Twenty miles east is the new Lake O'Pines, which has become one of the most popular recreational

areas of the United States. Lake O'Pines has adequate camping and picnic grounds as well as several fishing camps and motels. Both of these lakes have good fishing, available boats and other fresh water sports. In Daingerfield proper, there has been built a country club. Beaver Brook Country Club has a modern club house, a nine hole golf course, and a new modern swimming pool.

Daingerfield also has a modern youth center. Along with this center, well-planned youth activities are provided. The activity for boys is Boy Scouting and for the girls is Camp Fire. Both girls and boys are active in 4-H work. Then each summer, there is an official Little League Baseball Program, consisting of these three divisions--Pee-Wee, Little League, and Pony League. Each summer Lone Star Steel holds a four week baseball clinic for these boys. Lone Star Steel also provides a four week Baton Twirling School for girls in this area.

The people of Daingerfield are serviced by many utility companies. The Southwestern Electric Power provides electrical power for this area. There is a large modern electric plant just south of town. A new and larger electric plant has been completed on Lake O'Pines. This plant will provide more power for industrial purposes.

The Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company provides gas fuel for this area. Some of this heating is used not only for domestic heating but also for many industries.

The General Telephone Company of the Southwest provides telephone service for our area. Recently, this company erected a

large dial system plant in Daingerfield. This new plant is used by some of the surrounding towns.

Daingerfield has a state approved water supply. Since Daingerfield is a member of the Northeast Texas Water District, the water comes from the Lake O'Pines. Like all other cities in this water district, Daingerfield has its own filtering plant for its water. Today the city has 60% sewage capacity and plans for extension are in progress.

In the transportation division, Daingerfield is served by the main line of the Louisiana Arkansas Railroad. Only freight is now carried on this class railroad connecting Daingerfield with Shreveport and Dallas. This railway maintains a team track with a store-door delivery and pickkup.

Daingerfield has motor freight service provided by these three major motor freight lines - Land A Motor Lines, Red Ball Motor Freight, and East Texas Motor Freight. Only Land A Motor Lines has a local agent and terminal facilities. All three freight lines are allowed to service Daingerfield with no restrictions.

The nearest airport having regularly scheduled flights is forty miles south at Longview. The Trans-Texas Airways serves this area by providing connectins between Dallas, Houston, and Shreveport. Daingerfield is still a thriving little town in the heart of the steel mill section of Northeast Texas. Much is being done to revive the historical significance of this early Texas settlement. This work is being done by a very active

Historical Survey Committee.

The task of this committee may prove to be very difficult in that many of the town's historical landmarks have been destroyed by fires in the late 1870's, 1890's, 1907, 1928, and again in 1954.

Among some of the old buildings remaining in Daingerfield are the Allen Urquhart home, the Peacock or Colquitt house, and W. T. Connor home. The W. T. Connor home is now the J. L. Miller home. Just north of town is the original Orange C. Connor or Monroe Connor or Connor Plantation Home. This home is known by these three names and was constructed by Orange C. and Judity Connor when they came to Texass in 1849. It was this home that Sam Houston used as a floor plan for the home he built after coming to Texas. The Monroe Connor home has been remodeled since it was originally constructed. In town between the courthouse and the W. T. & T. C. Connor building is the old "Law Office" of U. S. Representative John L. Shepherd (fater of Senator Morris Shepherd), State Senator John M. Henderson and State Land Commissioner J. T. Robinson.

In the Daingerfield Cemetery, markers are found to record burials as early as 1844, and included are markers for veterans of the American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil, Spanish American, and two World Wars. In some of the outlying cemeteries at least two veterans of the Texas War of Independence are buried.

In 1965 a historical marker "Daingerfield C. S. A." was erected on the site of the "Old Town" square by the State

Building Commission. The Morris County Historical Survey Committee has erected a marker at the site of Chapel Hill College. This committee plans to erect other markers at historical sites as money is available.

Although this writer still has not found the exact date of the settlement of Daingerfield, she did find some dates that will ascertain the existence of this settlement at the same time of other historical towns in this area.

The writer found that Nacogdoches was settled first in 1716 but was abandoned only to be resettled in 1779. Boston, Bowie County was established before Texas declared its independence from Mexico, yet was not recognized until it became a county seat in 1841. Mt. Vernon had its first settler, Joshua T. Johnson, in 1830 but did not become a settlement until 1849. Galveston was settled about 1830 and Houston in 1840. Longview as named in 1870 but has records of land grants prior to 1836. Hughes Springs is named for Reese Hughes who arrived in 1839. A post office was granted them in 1847. But the name Hughes Springs was not taken until 1876. Mt. Pleasant was settled about 1846 by the acceptance of land given by John Binion, Sr., Richard Moore, and L. Gilbert. Linden was laid out and planned by a Major Wood in 1852. Pittsburg was established by Major W. H. Pitts who came from Georgia about 1850.

After much study and research the writer decided to compare the age of Daingerfield to that of Jefferson, Marion County, Texas. The writer found that as early as 1832 to 1836 people were

settling around the present city of Jefferson. The present site of Jefferson was furnished by Allen Urquhart in 1842. Since this man also furnished the original town site of Daingerfield, and the fact that Daingerfield was on the Republic of Texas postal route as well as possessed a post office in 1841; the writer feels Daingerfield must be as old or older than Jefferson. After talking with Mrs. Curtis Connor at which time she verified the belief that since there were inhabitants here as early as 1741 and the fact that Captain London Daingerfield arrived in 1820, Daingerfield is considered to be the fourth oldest town in Texas. After this interview the writer drew the conclusion that Daingerfield must be one of Texas' oldest towns.

FOOTNOTES

¹T. C. Minter, "A History of Morris County" (unpublished Master's thesis, East Texas State University, 1952), p. 71.

²William A. McClintock, "Journal of a Trip Through Texas and Northern Mexico in 1846-47," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXXIV (July, 1930), pp. 23-24.

³Minter, op. cit., p. 76.

⁴Ibid., pp. 76-77.

⁵H. P. N. Gammel, The Law of Texas; 1822-1897 (1898), vol. III, pp. 1056-1057.

⁶Morris County Banner (Daingerfield, Texas), July 7, 1880.

⁷Western Trade Journal (St. Louis, Mo.), March 19, 1887, p. 3.

⁸Morris County Historical Survey Committee, Bulletin Number 32 (Daingerfield: Texas, 1966).

⁹Gammel, op. cit., p. 787.

¹⁰Morris County Banner (Daingerfield, Texas), February 5, 1879, p. 3.

¹¹The Record (Daingerfield, Texas), April 25, 1889.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Minter, op. cit., pp. 40-42.

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INTERVIEW

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