

## Kleberg—Corpus Christi

SCC—p. 61—Electric lights reached here about 1890-92—they were a boon. The kerosene lamp was good in winter but very poor in summer because you opened the window to catch the breeze and they blew out.

SL—p. 2—“Calling” was one of the most strictly observed rules of social intercourse. The visits were formal affairs. The caller presented a card to the servant or slave who took it to the mistress of the house before admitting the guest. As the pioneer always stopped at any ranch home he might meet in his travels his cards were kept in his pocket ready for presentation on such a visit. Visits were obligatory for the newborn, newcomer, grief stricken. No greater offense can be offered than the neglect to pay a party call. Pioneer Texans had home-talent dramatic clubs, dancing classes, home concerts and musicals and horse racing. Dancing, balls were popular with the quadrilles, the minuet, the polka, the waltz and schottische as first choice. The ladies costumes were elegant and costly. Hunting seasons provided thrilling experiences for men and women on neighboring ranches. Horseback riding was another pleasure.

p. 3—Buggies came into fashion and “Let’s go driving was a popular pastime. Walks were popular and on a Sunday afternoon friend met friend to exchange pleasant conversation. The Tri-Weekly State Gazette on Nov. 27, 1872 said the ladies and gentlemen promenading together of afternoons this fall are commanded by fashion to walk arm in arm.

In 1872 Billiards were the fashionable amusement of young ladies. In their social gatherings the early settlers kept alive the songs, customs and folklore of their homeland. Spanish and Mexican folk songs influenced the ballads of the vaqueros, one of which “La Paloma” (The Dove) is still very popular.

Typical of the modern Mexican folk songs is "Alla en el Rancho Grande." Irish settlers regaled family and friends with the singing of "Mother Machree", "My Wild Irish Rose," Kathleen Mavourneen", and "The Wearing of the Green". Local ballads such as "The Cowboy's Dream", "the Dying Cowboy, provided a local color touch.

\*\*\*\*p. 4—German settlers favorites were Deutschland, Deutschland, uber alles" "Die Lorelei" and Heil Dierin Siegerkranz" to the melody of "America. The Colored Folk sang about everything and Stephen Foster's songs were popular among all groups. Boys amused themselves with hunting rabbits and doves, riding burros and horses. Later they trapped raccoon, opossum and skunks. They attended concerts at Artesian Park and moon-light rides and in the early 1800's played baseball.

p.5—one of the unique shows was staged in 1877 when the troupe sponsored an entertainment and wore costumes representing various animals and had a long parade followed by a grand ball at Market Hall and crowned the Queen of the Carnival which was the first Mardi Gras held in Corpus Christi.

p.6—One day in the early eighties a lightning rod salesman came to town and held an open-air concert of good music and singing a good speaker who told about the danger from the clouds and convinced the people so almost all of them bought a rod for their home.

CCS—p. 69—In the 80's the lightning rod man arrived and put on a show and sold many rods sometimes five or six on a small roof. Next came the medicine show—The Wizard Oil Company and also the Diamond King the first with an oil that cured all. They were a break in the monotony. Horse races were always in order. In the early 80's a couple of herdic coaches were put into commission on the streets, a stable built and the first

pavilion ever erected in CC was opened on the beach near the bayou. A skating rink was opened and semi-weekly dances were held there. Major J. H. C. White owned them. Before the railroad a livery stable kept a line of road wagons, vehicles suitable for travel across the country.

CCS—p.48—In 1876 Corpus was reached by a weekly steamer from New Orleans and a mailboat from Indianola or a stage from San Antonio. There was a beautiful wood covered bluff with two church spires the Congregational (colored) and Presbyterian. The Chaparral Street was filled with ox carts and wagons. Everyone spoke Spanish. The town was full of considerable wealthy stockman. It also carried a notice by John Timon of San Patricio that is someone was poor they could take one of his cattle but use the meat for food but save the hide. The sheep industry was at its apex. District Court ran overtime settling ownership of cattle and it was a golden era for the lawyers of the day.

CCS—p. 74—1880-1883—John Baptist Murphy lawyer was Mayor. He drained our streets by cutting ditches to the bay. He worked city prisoners on the streets and gave them three good meals a day and if they were idle they had bread and water. Aman was arrested for going barefooted because that was like a vagrant. During this time a company of Regulars were camped here. The scrip was worth one hundred cents on the collar during his time and not one cent of debt and had \$12,000 in cash.

p. 75-1884-85—George Evans served out the unexpired term of Judge Murphy when he died.

1886-87—Captain C. C. Heath a local merchant was Mayor for two years. During his term the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was built into Corpus Christi.