



The Kodak Chap –Starr Bryden was a familiar sight on his bicycle in early Kerrville days. When this photo was made, he had just returned from a two-wheeler trip to visit relatives in Tennessee. Bryden’s collection of early day photos includes many made by the late Col. J. E. Grinstead, and are a treasure lore for historians.

(This was caption from a newspaper photo of this picture from the Mountain Sun, dated September 9, 1970)

(-Photo Courtesy Geraldine Meeker)

STARR BRYDEN

These photographs are from a collection of photographer Starr Bryden who lived in Kerr County from 1913-1959 and took photographs of the area for more than 40 years.

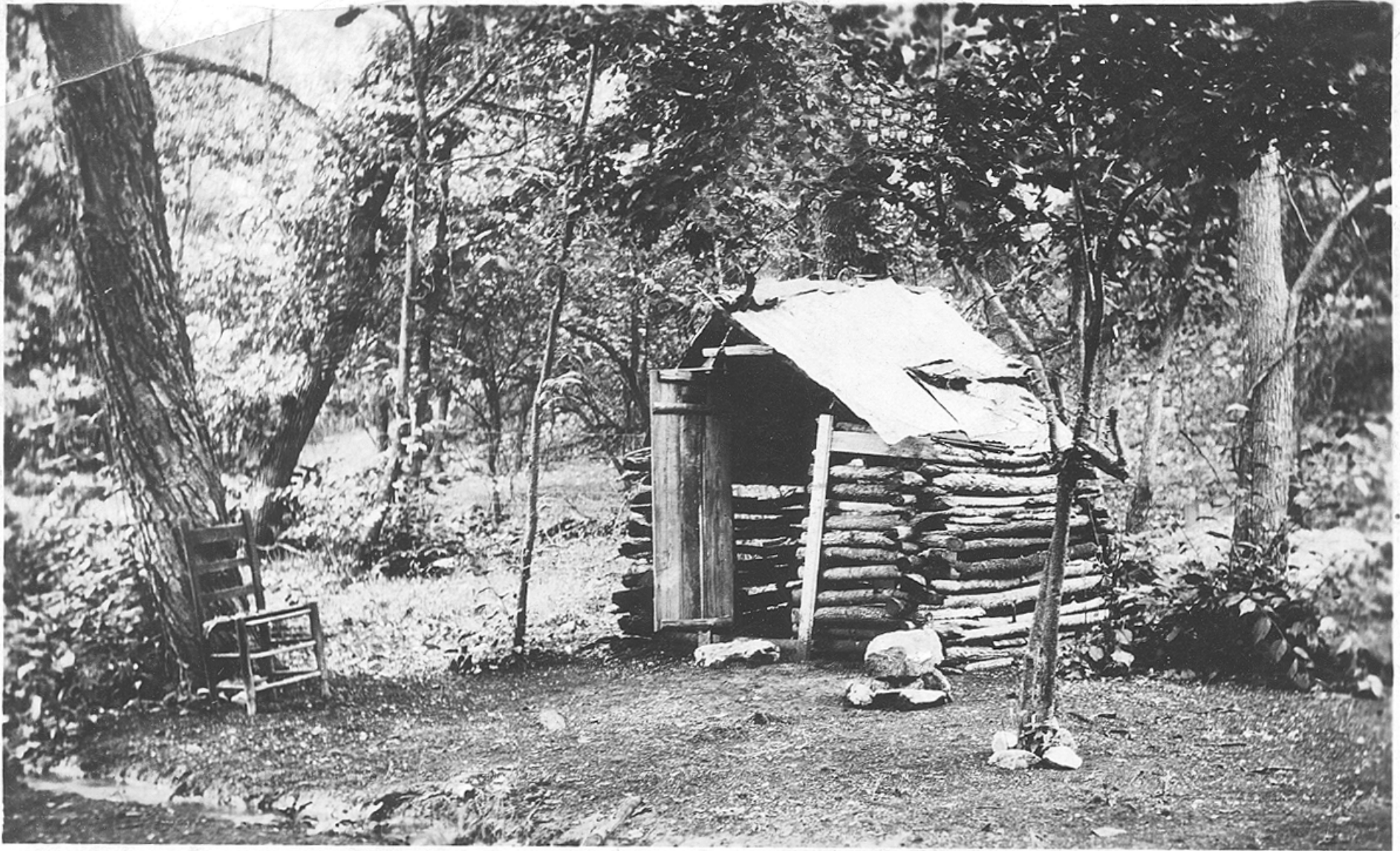
Starr was born March 2, 1892 in Rockford, Illinois. He came down with tuberculosis as a young man and his father brought him to Texas Hill Country for its reputed healthy climate. During his illness, he lived with Ella Leona Denton Williams, grandmother of Geraldine Goss Meeker, to whom these photographs belong. She has donated the major body of Bryden's work, which includes many of J.M. Grinstead's original photographs, to the Kerrville Public Library. These pictures are from her personal family collection.



1922 – Geraldine Goss (infant) shown here being held by her mother, Daphne Goss, while Charles Cappock holds up the bicycle Starr Bryden rode from Kerrville to Tennessee after his recovery from tuberculosis. Bryden came to Kerrville in 1913, was nursed back to health by Jerrie's grandmother, Ella Leona Denton Williams, and became a part of her family. Later, Bryden became known for his photographs of the Hill Country which he took over a period of 43 years. He was widely known as "The Kodak Chap."



1931 – Geraldine Goss (Meeker), age 9, poses for photographer Starr Bryden in a field of Hill Country bluebonnets. Starr, who lived with Jerrie’s grandmother’s family when he was a young man, later became a photographer. He often mounted such photographs on wood and sold the cut-outs to the public. This particular photograph was later made into a postcard for tourists to the Kerr County area.



This little cabin on was on the Tom Myers Ranch on Medina Mountain and is believed to be the cabin where Starr Bryden lived when his father first brought him to Kerrville from Tennessee. Starr was suffering from tuberculosis and came to Kerrville because of its reputed healthy climate.

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File: Bryden, Starr - Cloud Panels



This series of small pictures was made into a folding panel which Starr Bryden sold to earn money.



CYCLE CHAP – Bicycle riders were familiar sights in early Kerrville Days. This cyclist Starr Bryden, just returned from a wheeled visit to Tennessee.

(From a postcard – Courtesy of Geraldine Goss Meeker)



Elisha Poter Bryden, father of Starr Bryden - He brought the young Starr Bryden to Kerrville from Tennessee in 1913, seeking a healthier climate for Starr who was suffering from tuberculosis. His father returned to Tennessee but Starr remained in Kerrville and became a well known photographer.



This is believed to be Starr Bryden's father, shown here as a young man in his Civil War Uniform. -(Photo courtesy of Geraldine Goss Meeker)

STARR BRYDEN ARRIVES SAFELY ON BIKE AT CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

The following telegram was received Wednesday morning from Starr Bryden, at Chattanooga, Tenn., where he arrived safely, having made the trip from Kerrville to that place on his bicycle:

"Mountain Sun, Kerrville, Texas.

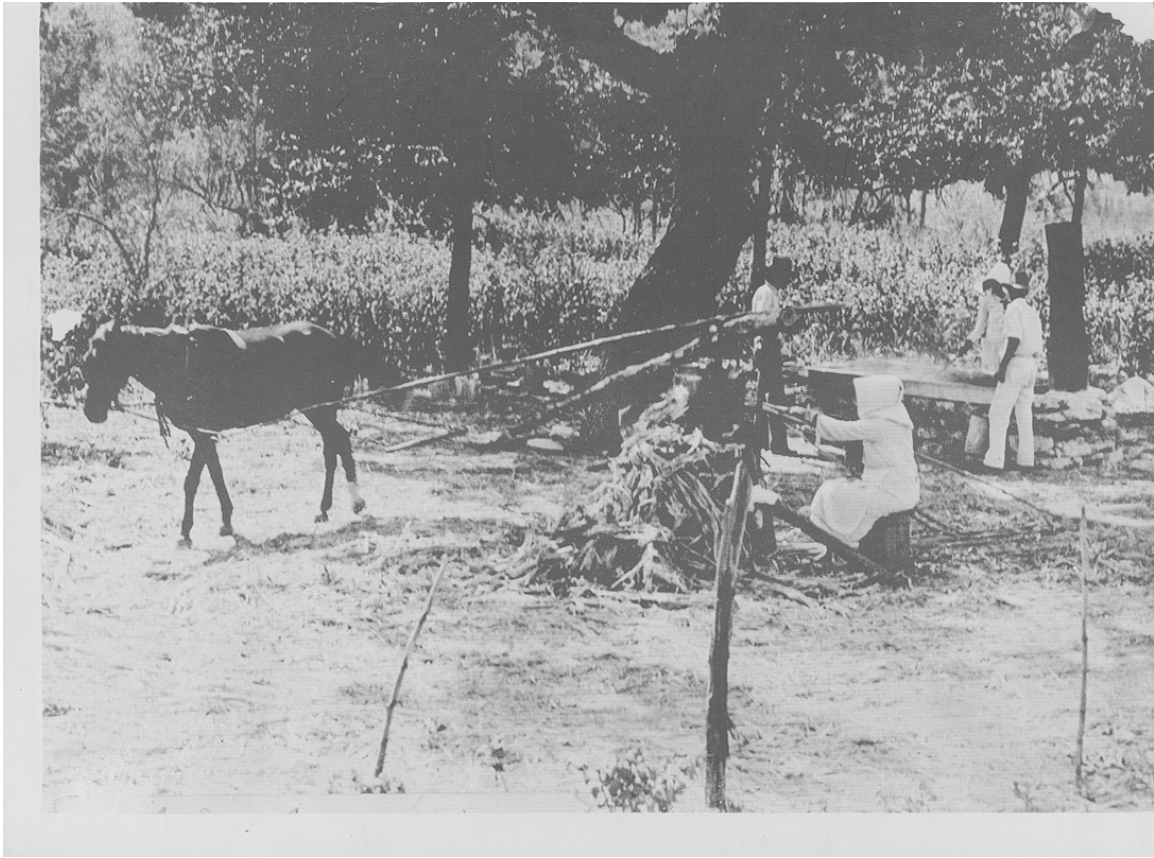
"Arrived at Chattanooga September 29th. Traveled over fifteen hundred miles and was in six different states. It was a great trip.

"Paid out ten cents for repairs on wheel. This trip was made via bicycle and truck.

"I say it was going some for a lunger. Will be back some time this month.
STARR BRYDEN."

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This article appeared in the Kerrville Mountain Sun newspaper after Starr Bryden sent a telegram notifying the newspaper that he had completed his bicycle trip from Kerrville to Chattanooga, Tennessee. (Exact date of article unknown)



From Postcard: SORGHUM MILLS like the one shown once were a common sight in Kerr County. The mill was located on Fall Branch, and was a community project. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. F. W. Meeker, Bryden Collection)



Starr Bryden shown here with his father Elisha Poter Bryden, who brought the young Star to Texas in 1913 hoping to find a healthier climate for his son who had tuberculosis. Starr was taken in by Geraldine Goss' grandmother, Ella Leona Denton Williams, who nursed him back to health. He later became well known for his photography of Hill Country scenes and remained close to the family until his death in 1959.



Starr Bryden shown here with his camera, ca 1950.

-(Photo courtesy Geraldine Goss Meeker)

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File: Bryden, Starr – Starr with Camera, ca. 1950.



Starr Bryden shown here performing an umbrella trick. Starr lived with Jerrie Goss Meeker's grandmother as a young man and Jerrie says she remembers that throughout the years, Starr would entertain children with a large repertoire of tricks such as this one.

from Starr
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THE PASSING PARADE

1856 Kerrville Centennial 1956

By Starr Bryden

A Photo History of the past fifty eight years.

Forty three years of these pictures are from my own personal negation and seventeen years of original negative by the late J. E. Grinstead and Dale Huntington, and a few copies from a friend of mine. The pick of these photos will be on display at Petersons' Goodyear Store about the 10th of April, and I do hope you will drop by to see them. You will see among this collection some very large framed pictures of The Guadalupe River as it looked in the late Twenties. The prize picture of all is the one of the late Dr. Palmer, this picture alone is worth going by too see. Now here is a list of the pictures you will see on display: The first Photo Studio in Kerrville Back in 1903, now the site of The Peterson's Bus Station. The St. Charles Hotel 1897. Water Street scenes of the late Nineties. Other pictures such as the First Presbyterian Church, The Old Tivy High, Episcopal Church, the Old Mill Dam, Ruffs Cafe and the Old Blacksmith Shop now the site of the Blue Bonnet Hotel. Pampells Lunch room about 1896, now the site of Lehmann 5 and 10¢ store, and Old Camp Verde. Now these prints are 8 X 10 inches in size and printed on Double Weight paper, and unmounted, at \$1.00 each.

I hope you will like these pictures, and I'm sure you will.

By the way Bob Bennett asked me how long I had been in Kerrville.

Well folks I got in Kerr County back in 1913, just a jump and a half ahead of father time with the Scythe. He made quite a few passes at me but I jumped and the Scythe went under my feet, of course, he had me down for the count of nine a few times, but I managed to get up before the bell Thanks to the Good Lord, even went into service too, during the first world war. (The Big War) went in when the Cap busted and came out before the gun fired, so to speak. You know this Hill Country is a great place, especially for health. As I said before I came here in 1913, well I took a sudden notion to go back home too Chattanooga, Tennessee. All the money I had was a \$10.00 bill and My Bike, and the distance to go was about fifteen hundred miles. The late Dr. Jackson said "Starr it will kill you". Maybe so I replied, but I want to go home. I made the ride in Twenty One days and when I got home I had exactly twenty-five cents, and paid for every thing I ate on the way.

Where I got back to Kerrville, I saw Dr. Jackson and said, "Well Doctor it didn't kill me".

H ___ no but it should of.

Yes folks my hat is off to the Hill Country, and especially My friends, and the great out-doors, and beautifull hills. Truly the Good Lord has been mighty good to this community.

This document was written by Star Bryden in preparation for an exhibit of his photographs to celebrate the Kerr County Centennial in 1956.



1918 – 26-year-old Starr Bryden shown here in his World War I uniform. Starr applied for and was later granted an exemption from service because of his prior tuberculosis.

Reference,
Raymond Starr Bryden.
Claim, 428-876

I came to Texas, in Jan. 1912, suffering with what was termed by the doctors as Galloping Consumption. I spent a year and a half in San. Antonio, Texas, and then came to Kerrville, Texas. Incidentally the Doctors told me that if I was lucky I would last three or four years. I fought to hold my own and get well, which any of the citizens of Kerr County and Bandera, Co. will testify, that know me and most all of the old timers know me.

When the World War come up and the Draft was put into operation it caught all of us up that were of the registering age.

When I registered in the Draft, I asked for Exemption, on the account of T.B.

(a) The question plainly stated that if for any reason you should be exempt to please state the reason.

(b) At the bottom of the card it also stated that if it was falsely sworn too it would result in a heavy penalty.

(c) I gave the Gov. the benefit of the doubt, at the start.

I was called for service June 25th, 1918.

(a) Instead of being discharged on the 13th of July, I was not released from service until , or on about the 26th, of July. (the following proof)

(b) I took the first shot for Typhoid on or about the 20th of June and then ever seven or eight days until completed.

(c) When I checked in part of my equipment the War Records will show that I did this on or about the 25th or 20th, of July.

If I am not mistaken in the law, it is not the length of service, but the results of said service.

If the heavy lifting that was required, in this School of Auto Mechanics, such as lifting on those truck wheels which will weigh in the vicinity of Three Hundred Pounds, and quite often I had to do the lifting by myself, will not Aggravate any case of so called Arrested T.B. nothing else will. The strain will weaken the Lung Tissues, and then it is just a question of a few days or a few weeks until those Tissues will give away altogether. I was not examined when I was finally turned loose.

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If I had wilfully failed to have reported for duty, on the 25th of June as ordered, I would of been termed as a DESERTER, and that reward of \$50.00 would of been offered for my capture, and desertion in the time of WAR is a COURT Martial OFFENSE, punishable by DEATH, of a term in Leavenworth, of some other pen and a DISHONORABLE Discharge from the Army, and I had not of served a second,. The Government did not give us any NINETY DAYS to think it over it was thirty days or less.

In regards to this above statement I can back it up with proof, for I know of such a case.

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The above statements are true, and to which I will swear on oath.



REMEMBER WHEN? We won't embarrass you by citing the date, but this old sorgum mill was located on Fall Branch, and was a community project. Clate Smith ran the mill on shares.

and it possibly belonged to the late Dr. Fowler. Youngsters used to delight in riding the horse while he made the circle and many a tummy ache resulted from eating the cane.

Photo from the Bryden Collection, courtesy of Mrs. F.W. Meeker

This newspaper clipping uses a photograph made by photographer Starr Bryden. Bryden lived with the Meeker family as a young man and was well known for his photography of Kerrville and Kerr County scenes.