

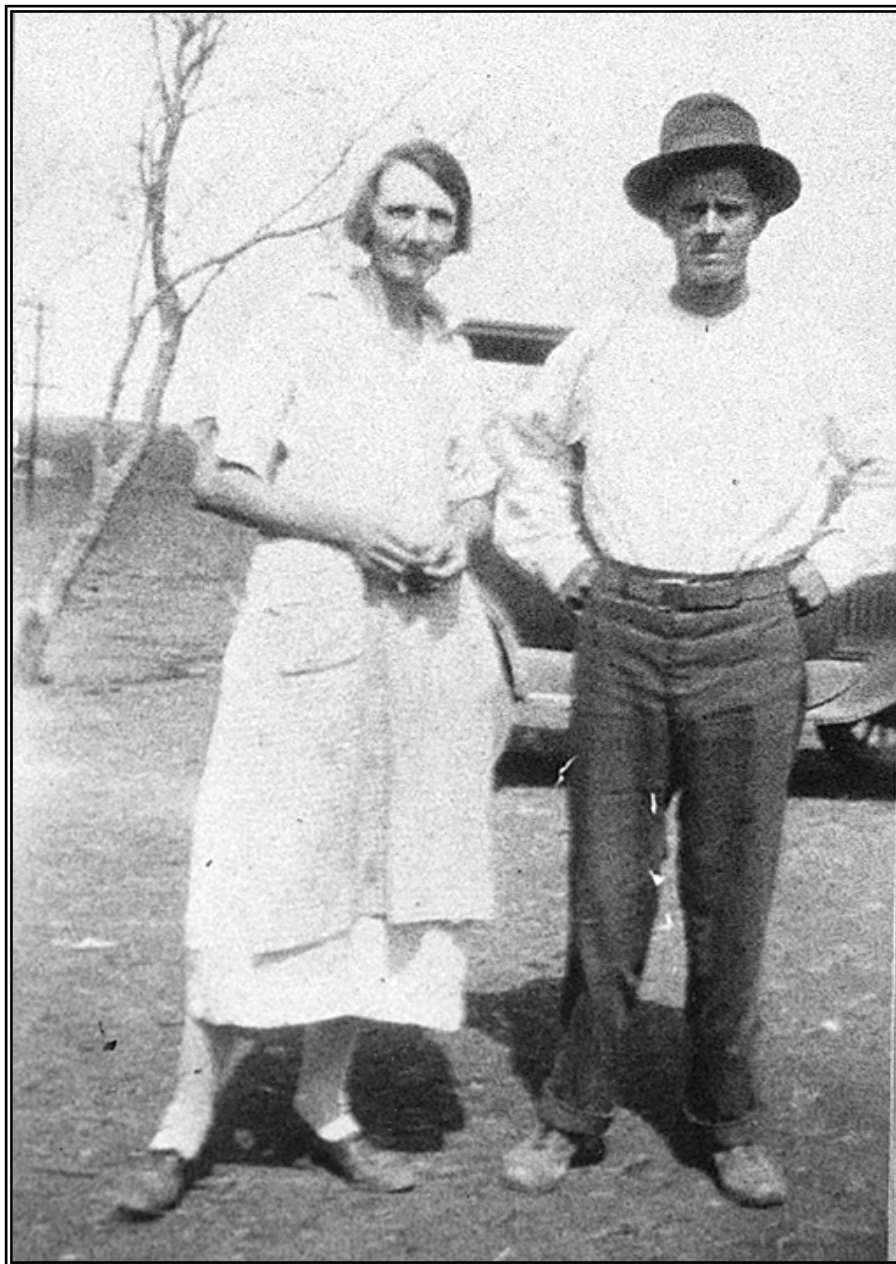


Levi & Evelyn Taylor

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <u>Name:</u> | Levi Taylor | Evelyn Margaret Taylor |
| <u>Date of Birth:</u> | December 17, 1930 | August 8, 1923 |
| <u>Place of Birth:</u> | Hunt, Texas | San Antonio, Texas |
| <u>Education:</u> | Grammar School – Hunt High School – Tivy Schreiner Institute Certificate - Architectural Engineering | Grammar & High School – San Antonio |
| <u>Occupations:</u> | Paper Boy, Restaurant Owner Architect, Contractor | Restaurant Owner McKesson Drugs in Corpus Christi – Bookkeeper – 30 yrs. |



1927 - Estella Sherman Kotula, mother of Evelyn M. Kotula Taylor.



*Parents of Evelyn M. Kotula Taylor:
Joseph F. Kotula and Estella M. Sherman Kotula in San Antonio, ca., 1924.*

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File: Taylor, Levi & Evelyn - Evelyn's Parents



Back: Virgil, Verney and (sitting) Aubry (father of Levi Taylor); Front: Presley B. Taylor (grandfather of Levi) Rudolph (sitting in chair), Nancy Caddell Taylor (grandmother of Levi) and Alma.

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File: Taylor, Levi & Evelyn – Grandfather & Family

IN LOVING MEMORY



ALVA CURTIS JOY
1875-1959



LIZZIE LOCK JOY
1877-1966

The Founders of Hunt, Texas

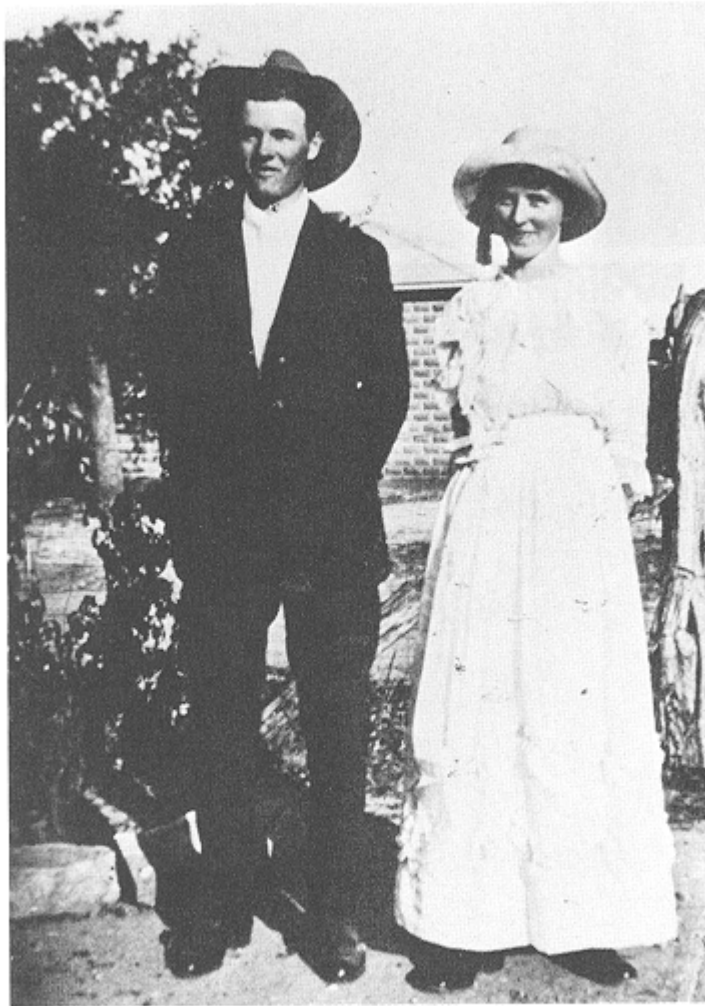
Contributed by Grandchildren: Josephine Wallace, Sie Taylor, Lucille Bass, Ilene Merritt, Presley Taylor, Jim Taylor, Laura Adams, and A. R. "Babe" Taylor.

Photo from Kerr County Album

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File: Taylor, Levi & Evelyn - Levi's Mother's Family

Grandparents of Levi (Sie) Taylor

IN MEMORY



AUBRY and URA JOY TAYLOR
1897-1982 1898-1978

Contributed by Their Children

(Photo from Kerr County Album)

Parents of Levi Taylor

For Notice of the ...

SOCIETY AND GENERAL NEWS

San Antonio



Uncle
and
Grand

UNCLE DICK
Joy

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File Hogg Hunt Store Poster Pg. 1/4

Express.

SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 3, 1918

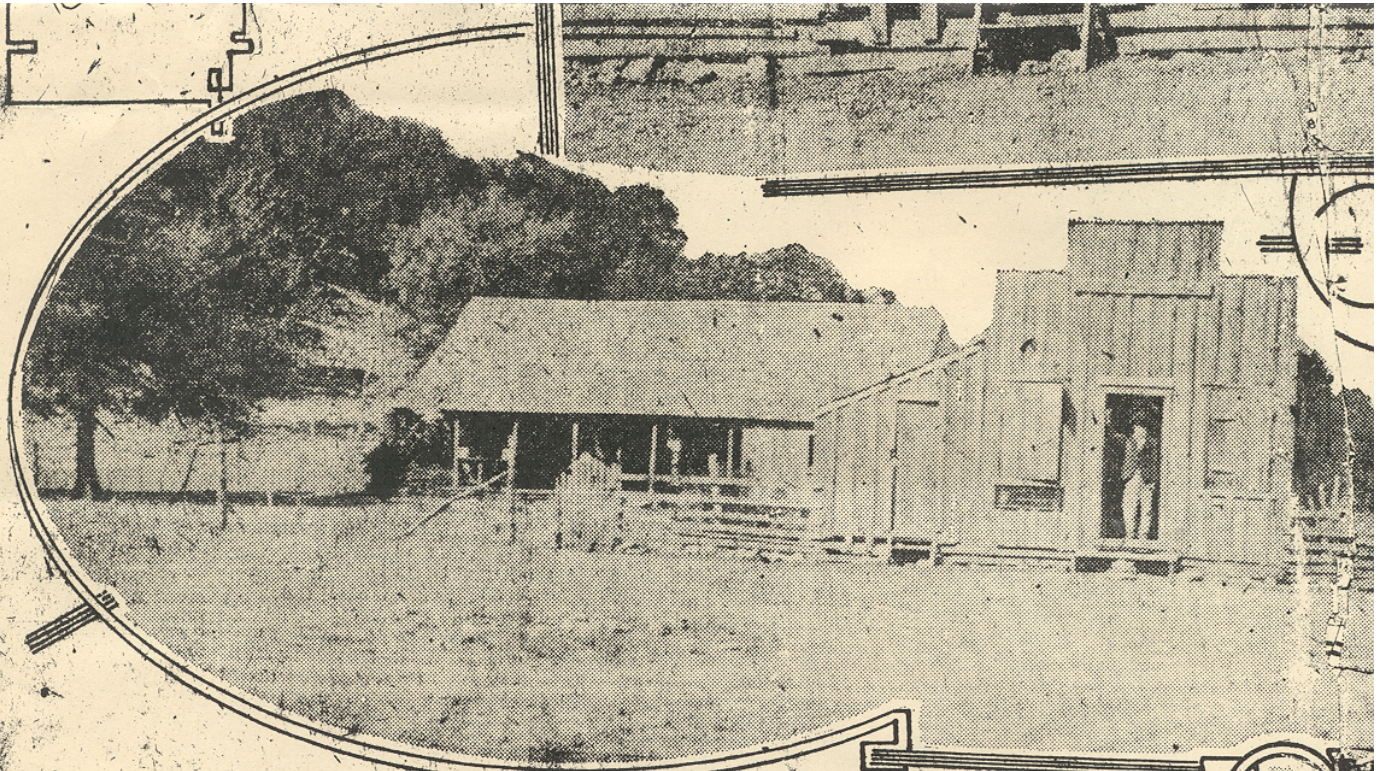
Dick

and
Joy...



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File Hogg Hunt Store Poster 24

GRANDMA



The Entire City of Japonica

Kerr County Octogenarians Still Ride the Frisky Broncho Over the Mountains and Across Roaring Fords of the Upper Guadalupe—Victims of Indian Raids.

By J. E. GRINSTEAD

IT MAY safely be laid down as an incontrovertible fact that of all the States in the great busy teeming West, that has so lately reversed the political records of this Nation by electing a President without the aid of New York, Indiana and Illinois, Texas has drawn within her borders the greatest share of the true American frontiersmen of the old school than, perhaps, any other. This is probably due in a large measure to the immense size of the Lone Star State and the remarkably romantic history of the State. After the great struggle, when Texas came knocking at the door for admission into the Union, with her arms full of golden sheaves from the harvest, with a domain that exceeded that of some of the larger kingdoms of the Old World the blood of the frontiersman was stirred.

When the story was told at the fireside of the Alamo from whose sacred ruins the changeless rays of undying glory would scintillate throughout the ages, and when the pioneers of Texas freedom said to the world: "Come, and welcome. Help us to build cities on the plains of this wonderful heritage the God of Liberty has given us," the true pioneers came from all parts of the older States, even as bidden guests to a wedding feast.

While the ranks of those who came first are fast thinning, still there are scattered about over the State many aged men and women whose lives have been made up of many a thrill of romance, much of which, if told, would exceed in interest the wildest flights of mere fiction.

It is of one of these aged couples who came to Texas on their honeymoon in an ox wagon that this story has to tell. At the time when the present great common-

wealth of Missouri was a sparsely settled territory, without form of government, there lay between its southern boundary and the Republic of Texas a strip of land

that was called Arkansaw Territory. It was so called from a tribe of Indians who paddled their canoes in the bayous of the Mississippi bottoms in the winter and spring and foraged out to the western plains for buffalo in the summer and fall. So far as this writer is able to learn there was never a map showing the western boundary of Arkansaw Territory. It was a kind of hunting ground for the Arkansaw Indians, whose precarious title had hitherto been held as well as could be against the fierce tribes of the plains country to the westward. Among the first white men to settle in that territory was a man from the mountains of Tennessee by the name of Joy.

THE INDIANS STOLE HIM.

On a day when peace seemed to hover over the world, when game was plentiful in the woods, and the frontiersman's cabin home was happy because there was plenty in the land, Seminole Indians came as if from the clouds and stole the 4-year-old son of the house of Joy, turning him in a moment into a house of grief. Efforts to recapture the child were in vain, and for twelve long, weary years he went from place to place with his captors. At last, when he was 16 years of age, he escaped from the red men and found his way back to the old home. The little boy's name was Riley Joy.

It is not how long we live, but how much, that makes us old. A few years after his return Riley Joy married. Even the eastern part of Arkansaw, still a territory without definite western bounds, was too crowded for Riley Joy, and taking his bride and his household goods, he pitched his "tent to the westward," in what is now Crawford County, Arkansas. To Riley Joy and his wife was born a son, and they christened him Richard and called him Dick. Years passed. Dick grew to manhood near the little village of Oldtown, which has long since disappeared from the map, if ever it graced one. Riley Joy had ever been restless, and filled with the wanderlust since his years of captivity with the Indians. Many white settlers were comb to that part of Arkansas.

In 1837, two years after little Richard was born, the United States Government

*The Little Old Store
At Japonica*

had traded a lot of land to what was known as the five civilized tribes of Indians, and the line of their reservation camp almost within a stone's throw of Riley Joy's home. In 1836 Arkansas had been admitted to the Union as a State. From that time on it was not the same free country to this true frontiersman. It irked him to conform to come of the seemingly ridiculous canons of the new order of things. He battled along with progress until Richard was 21.

In the spring of 1856 Riley Joy decided there was not room enough in Arkansas for him any more. Accordingly he arranged his affairs to make the overland trip to California with his family, going the Southern route, across North Texas.

The "hog mark" in the woods, the little bunch of spare cattle, the cabin and claim and such other possessions as he had were traded for wagons, work oxen, ponies, saddles and camping paraphernalia. The goodbyes were said, and the first day's journey of a very few miles was made, and camp was pitched near the home of an old friend, by name Compton.

THE FAREWELL DANCE.

The Comptons had come out from Tennessee a few years before that time and settled in Crawford County. They had a daughter, Miss Ann Elizabeth Compton, who was born in 1838, and at the time we write of was 18 years old. When it became known in the neighborhood that Old Man Riley Joy and his family and several other neighbors who were to travel with him to the land of the Golden West, were going to camp near Compton's that night, "warnin'" was sent out for miles around that a big dance was to be had at Compton's in honor of the departing adventure. Immediately upon arriving at the camp the travelers were ap-

prised of the "big doin's" that had been arranged for their entertainment. On a hill a short distance from the creek stood the "double log house" where Compton lived. Everything had been moved out of the main room, rich pine knots in the wide fireplace furnished light, willing fiddlers furnished music, and the young people went in and out in the merry dance.

Riley Joy, his hair iron gray, but his body erect as that of the Indians with whom he spent his youth, stood with his friend Compton in the "entry" and watched the young people dance. Riley was looking at Richard, a little more than six feet in his moccasins, with coal black hair and fearless eyes; the lythe grace of born woodsman, ready to join a frisk at any time, or to go alone into a cave full of bears and wildcats. Miss Ann Compton was looking at Dick, too.

Old man Compton was looking at Ann Elizabeth, easily the belle of the big crowd of pretty girls. Dick was looking at Ann Elizabeth also.

After a time the old folks ate, smoked a



The Guadalupe Near Japonica



Levi (Sie) Taylor – 1920. Levi was born in Hunt, Texas

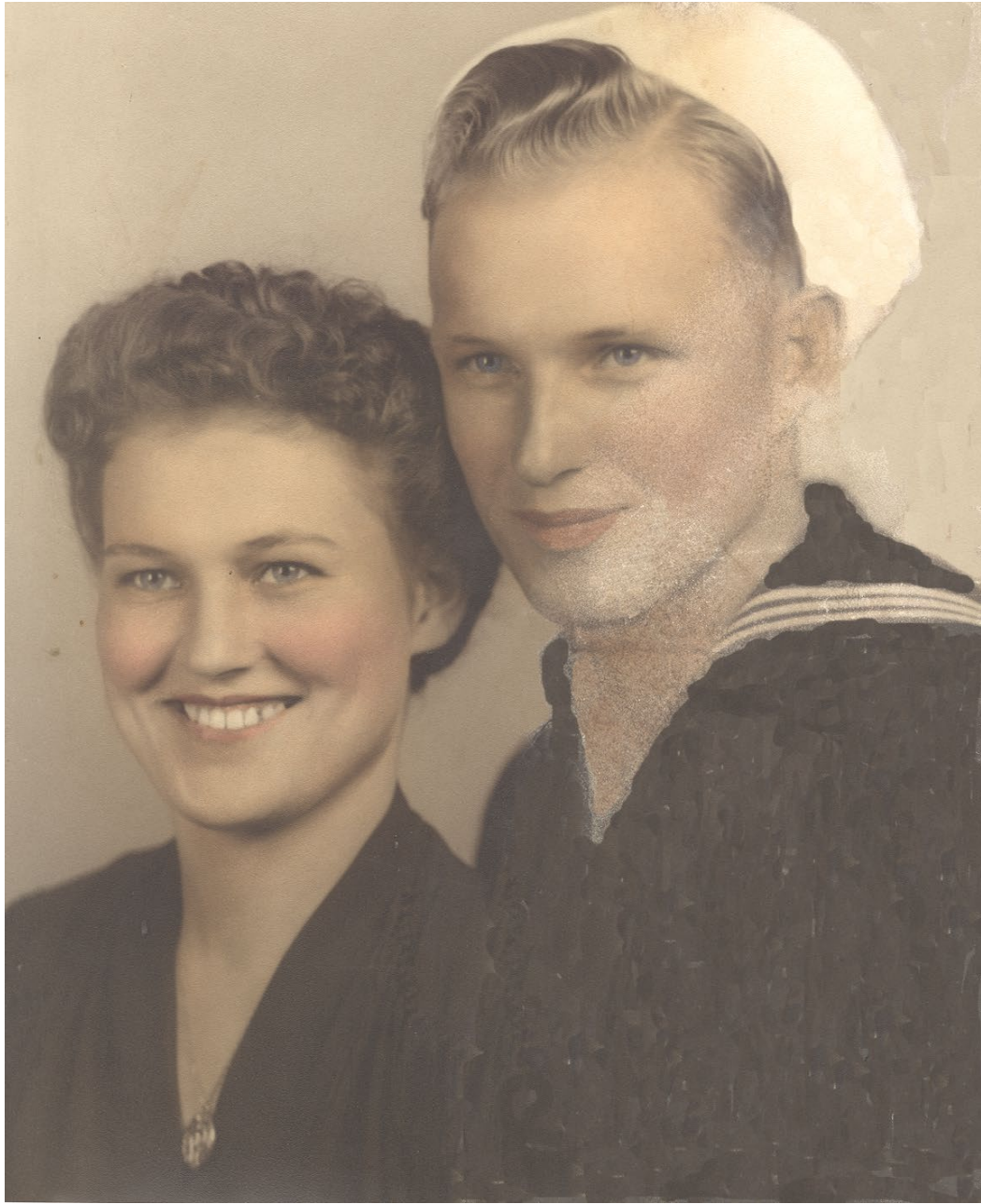
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File:Taylor, Levi & Evelyn – Infant Levi - 1920



*1941 – Levi Taylor's father and mother: Aubry & Ura (Joy) Taylor
at the Frederick Ranch in Hunt, Texas.*



*Levi & Evelyn Taylor – Summer of 1940 when they were dating.
This picture was made at the Oki Lodge in Hunt Texas.*

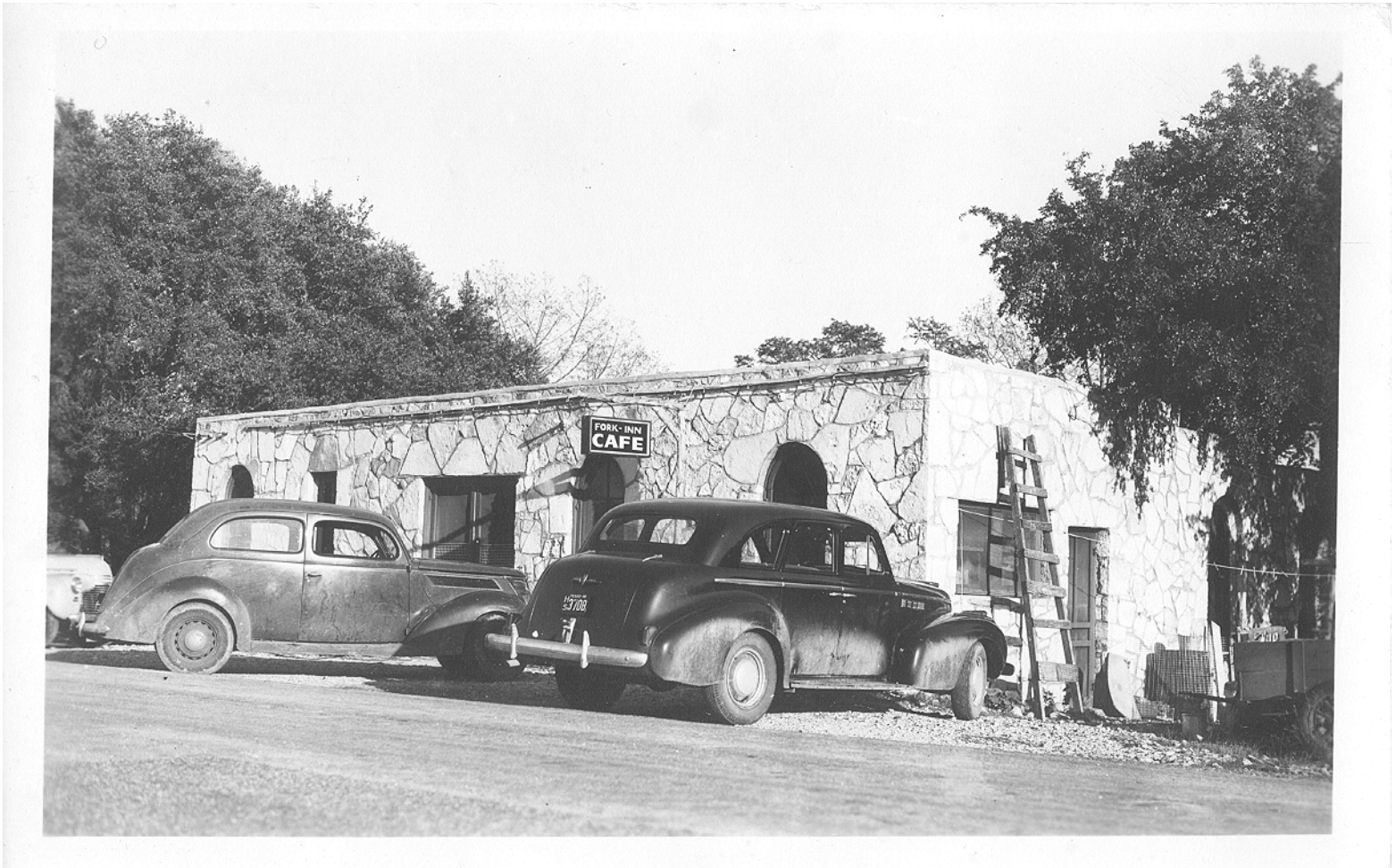


Levi & Evelyn Taylor – San Diego, CA 1944



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File: Taylor, Levi & Evelyn - 1945


May 19, 1945 - Levi and Evelyn Taylor with first child, Levi, Jr.



The Fork Inn Restaurant in Hunt in 1946--this restaurant was operated by Levi and Evelyn prior to their opening The Grove in Kerrville. The Fork Inn building is still there in Hunt, just before the Hunt Store on the opposite side of the road.



1950 – Levi and Evelyn Taylor in the Townsend home in Hunt, Texas, the evening when the formation of the first Lion's Club in Hunt took place.

The
International Association of

LIONS CLUBS
GREETINGS

Be it known to all men that

L.W. Taylor

is a duly elected
LIONS CLUB MEMBER
in accordance with the Consti-
tution and By-Laws of The
International Association
of Lions Clubs
in witness whereof this
CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP
has been issued
this 12 day of Jan. 1950


Walter C. Fisher
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Melvin Jones
SECRETARY GENERAL

Levi Taylor was a charter member of the Lions Club in Hunt, Texas. The chapter was formed in January, 1950.



Evelyn Taylor shown here in front of "The Grove," a favorite restaurant in Kerrville in the 50s.

GUESTS



J.P. Hunt Mar. 22-51

Mr. + Mrs. Sig Taylor

Guest Book from Opening Night of The Grove, March 22, 1951

GUESTS

| DATE | NAME | RESIDENCE |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Employee's | |
| 3/22/51 | Mr. Jack Pickett | Kerrville Tex |
| 3/22/51 | Jack Pickett | Kerrville Tex |
| | Freddie Smith | Kerrville Texas |
| | LEVI | HUNT TEXAS |
| | Donnelly M. Reno | Kerrville Texas |
| 3/22/51 | John Adams | Kerrville Texas |

Employees of the Grove on opening night, March 22, 1951.

Guests of the Grove on opening night, March 22, 1951

| GUESTS | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| DATE | NAME | RESIDENCE |
| 3/27/51 | Mr. & Mrs. Clay Wilson | 1401 - Park |
| | Mr. & Mrs. C.B. Kaiser & Margy | R.R. 2 - West Alexandria - Ohio |
| | Mr. & Mrs. A.H. Wandelt | Daggett, Mich. |
| | Mr. & Mrs. Lew Hartelman | Plato, Saskatchewan, Canada |
| | Mr. & Mrs. T.L. Barto | Alexandria Minn. |
| | R.H. Kelso | Brady Texas |
| | Ray LeMilleur | Kerrville |
| | Mr. & Mrs. F. Ravenhorst | Sully Iowa |
| | Mrs. J.B. Petri Jr. | Ingram Texas |
| | Mary Richards | Kerrville, Texas |
| | Edith Kelsey | Kerrville, Texas |
| | Wanda Richards | Kerrville, Texas |
| | Carl Peterson | ✓ |
| | Alvin Gerloff | ✓ |
| 3/51 | Mrs. Ellen Taylor | " " |

Guests of the Grove on opening night, March 22, 1951.

| GUESTS | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| DATE | NAME | RESIDENCE |
| 3/22/51 | Josephine Griesbach | Kerrville, Texas. |
| 3/ | Mr + Mrs A H Southern | Haynesville Louisiana |
| | Mrs. Chester Cram | Sanford, Maine |
| | Mr + Mrs | Kerrville, Texas |
| | Dave S. Ward | Fort Worth Texas |
| | Mr + Mrs. E. J. Schmidt + Beverly | Del Norte Grill Kerrville, Tex |
| | Mr + Mrs | Dale's Easy Trailer Park |
| | <i>Circle Stewart</i> | <i>Kerrville, Texas</i> |
| | Helen Nipper | Kerrville, Texas |
| | Mr + Mrs. J. C. Wilson | Kerrville Texas |
| | Mr + Mrs | Kerrville Tex; |
| | Mr. + Mrs. E. L. Mahon | Kerrville, Texas. |
| | Mrs. W. L. Rutherford | Kerrville Texas |
| | Mr + Mrs S. L. Gibson | Kerrville Texas. |

Guests of the Grove on opening night, March 22, 1951.

| GUESTS | | |
|--------|----------------------------|---|
| DATE | NAME | RESIDENCE |
| | B. B. Shipman | |
| | Skip Lackey | |
| | Mr + Mrs. E. L. Montgomery | Jake St Easy Trailers Park |
| | Jim Nugent | Kerrville Texas |
| | Esther G. Castillo | |
| | Herman C. Kees | Kerrville Texas |
| | Mr + Mrs. James Giddis | Kingsley Mich. |
| | Dr + Mrs. E. Babcock | Alden Iowa |
| | Mrs. Ozil Bingham | Del Norte Court Levelland ^{Tex} |
| | F. P. Bingham | Del Norte Court, Levelland ^{Tex} |
| | Mrs. E. P. Smith | Warsaw Wis |
| | Mr. Garth Middleton | |
| | Mr. Harry Powell | Kerrville |
| | Hennifer Lee | Ingram |
| | Velma Page | Ingram, Texas |

GUESTS

| DATE | NAME | RESIDENCE |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 3/22 | Jack Peterson | Kerrville, Texas |
| 3-22 | R. H. Tinnermeier | Kerrville, Texas |
| 3/22 | Mrs. Monroe Kensing | Kerrville, Texas |
| 3/22 | many Smyre | Kerrville, Texas |
| 4/22 | Mr J B Childs | Kerrville, Texas |
| | Mr & Mrs Walds Woeffler | Kerrville Texas ^{Tinler Park} Take it Easy |
| | Minnie Mullett | " " |
| | Nellie Smith | Del "North Courts" |
| | Mr John M. Middleton | |
| | Sam M. Jensen | Port Shop - Kerrville |
| 3/22 | Guile M. Huber | Forest Hills Long Island, N.Y. |
| 3/22 | Mrs. Ada Phipps | 505 West Water St. Kerrville, Tex. |
| | Alfred Baker | Kerrville, Texas |
| | Mrs. Howard Wilson | |
| | Tommye Spanglers | Kerrville, Texas. |

Guests of the Grove on opening night, March 22, 1951.

QUINTUPLICATE

TEXAS LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD



THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE. POST IN CONSPICUOUS PLACE ON THE LICENSED PREMISES. CAN BE USED ONLY BY PERSON WHOSE NAME IS GIVEN HEREON AND ONLY AT ADDRESS HEREON SPECIFIED. REVOKABLE FOR VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF TEXAS LIQUOR CONTROL ACT OR OF ANY RULE, AND REGULATION OF THE BOARD. THIS IS NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF PERMIT.

Renewal Application Must Be Filed With COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR NOT LESS THAN FIVE DAYS BEFORE
 Expiration Date of This Permit.

EXPIRATION
 NOTICE

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| ISSUE DATE | | |
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| MO. | DAY | YR. |
| 8 | 16 | 53 |

EXPIRES ONE
 YEAR FROM
 ISSUE DATE

NET DLRS ON PREMISE LICENSE BE 131039
 FEE PAID \$ 2500
 THE GROVE
 LEVI W TAYLOR
 805 JUNCTION ROAD
 KERRVILLE KERR

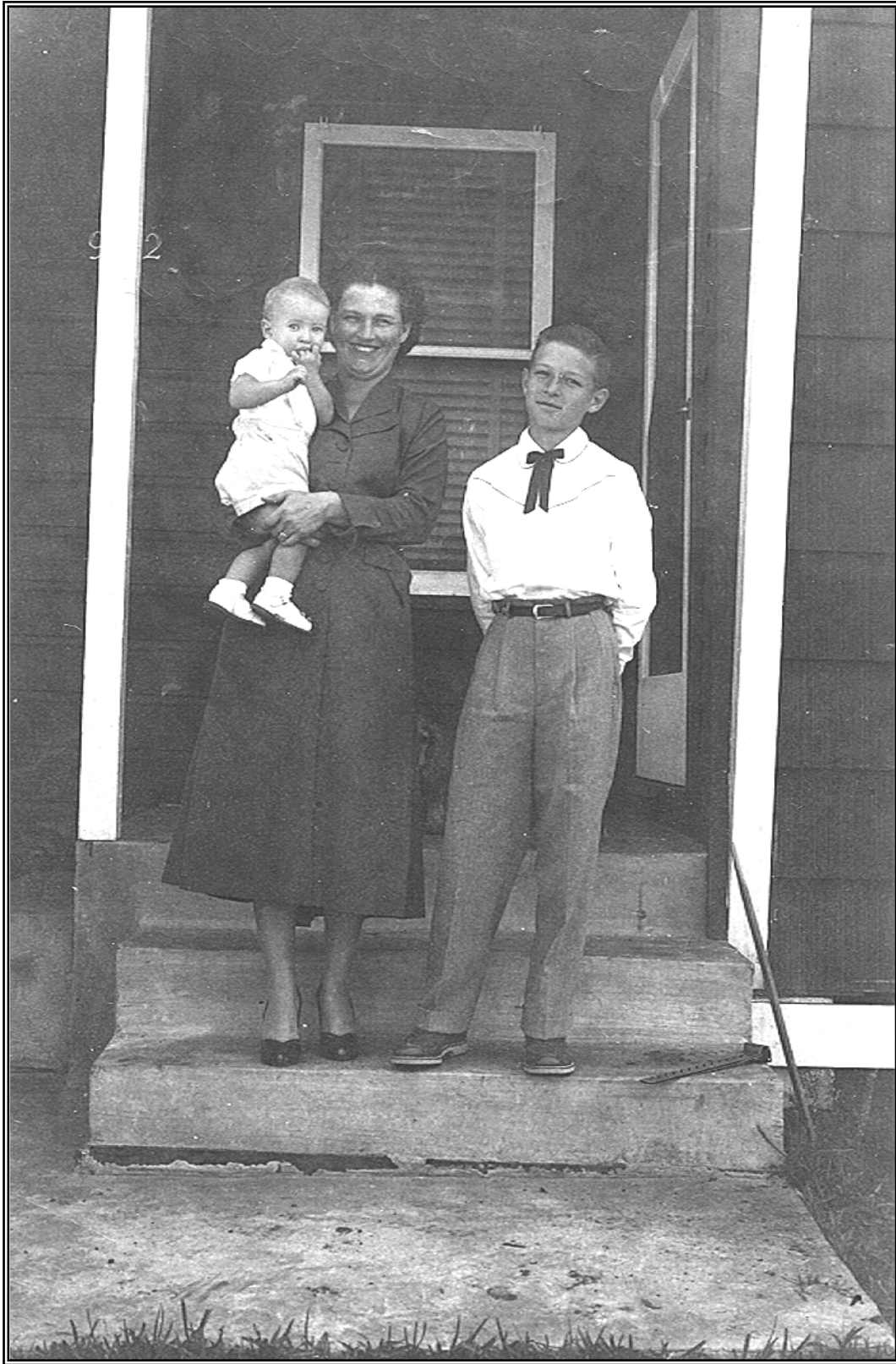
RE-ISSUED
 ORIGINAL PRINTERS
 #234218

HAVING COMPLIED WITH THE PROVISIONS OF LAW IS AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE IN THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BUSINESS AS SHOWN BY THE ABOVE CLASSIFICATION. THE ACCEPTANCE HEREOF CONSTITUTES AN EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO PERMIT ANY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOARD OR ANY PEACE OFFICER TO FREELY ENTER UPON LICENSEE'S PREMISES TO PERFORM ANY DUTY IMPOSED UPON HIM. THE LICENSEE BY THE ACCEPTANCE HEREOF AGREES THAT THE DUPLICATE ORIGINAL OF THIS LICENSE OR PERMIT ON FILE IN OFFICE OF TAX COLLECTOR OF THE COUNTY ABOVE SET OUT IS A TRUE, CORRECT AND EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE ORIGINAL AS ISSUED TO HIM BY THE BOARD.

TAKE THIS NOTICE TO YOUR COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR,
 AND THERE FILE YOUR APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL.

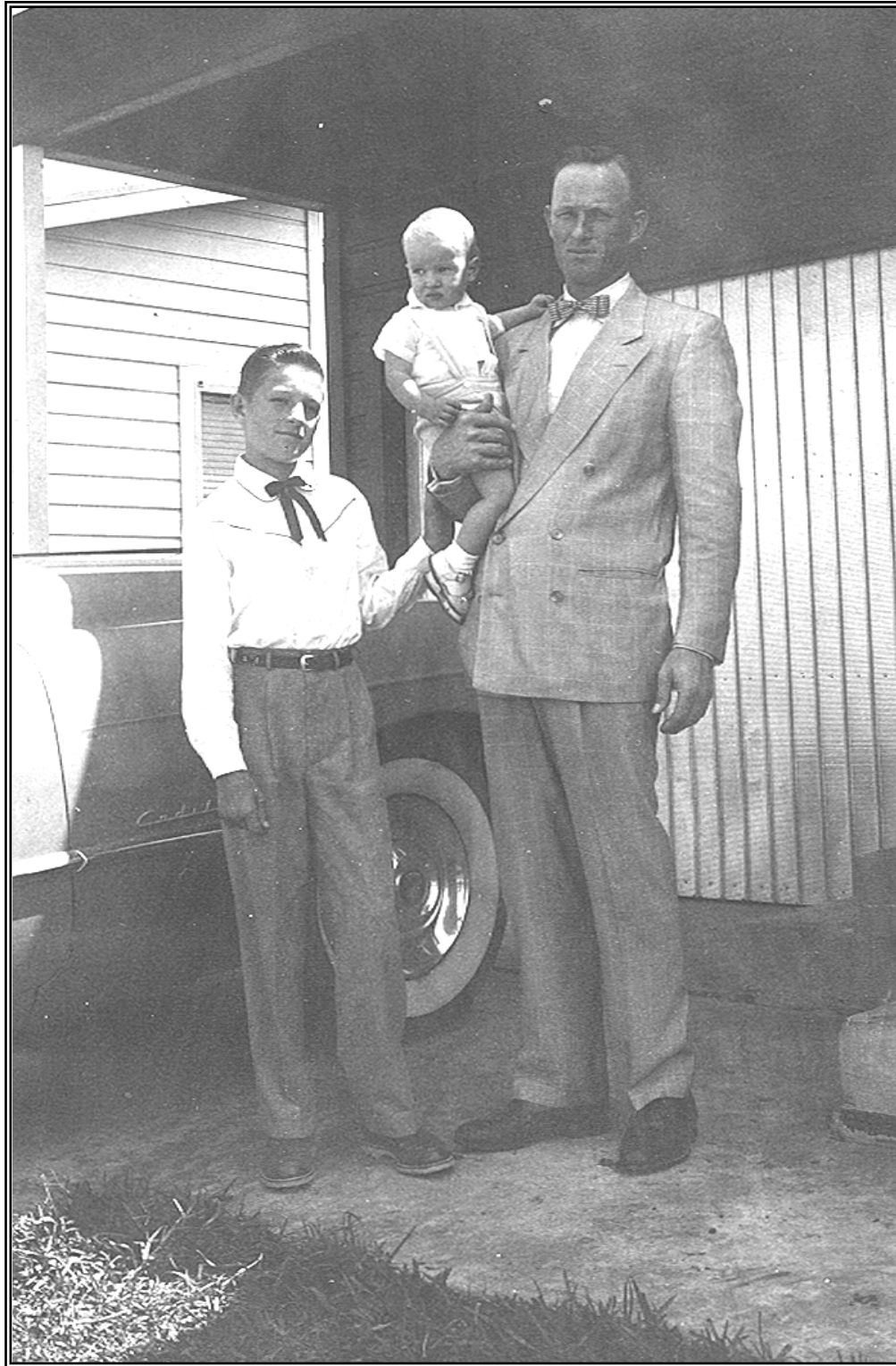


John B. Stevenson Jr.
 ADMINISTRATOR

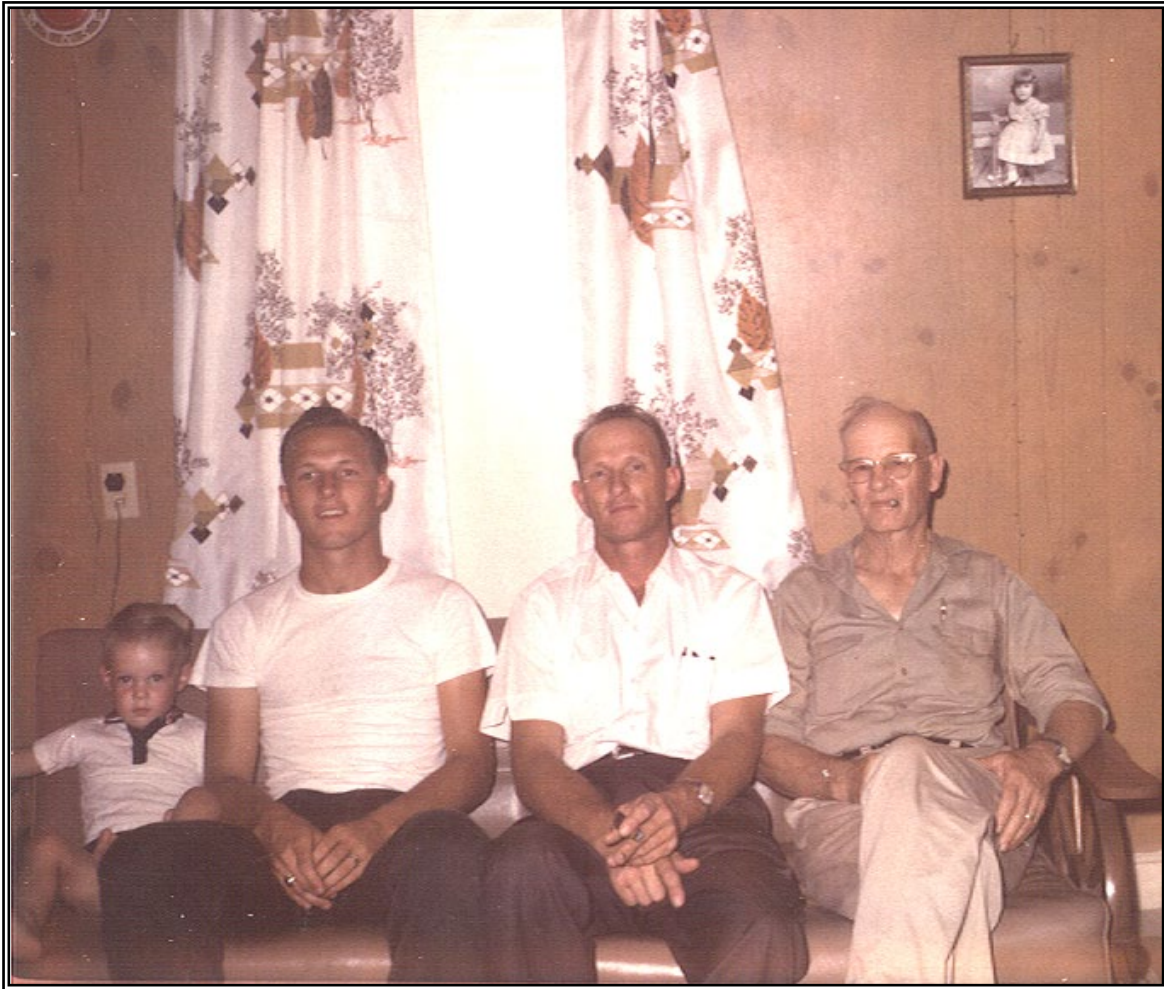


1955 - Evelyn, Levi, Jr., and Marc Taylor after church in Corpus Christi, TX.

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File: Taylor, Levi & Evelyn - Evelyn with Children 1955



*1955 – Levi with his sons Levi, Jr. and infant Marc after church
in Corpus Christi, Texas, where the couple moved after operating
The Grove restaurant in Kerrville.*



1966 – Four Generations of Taylors: (from left) Levi III, Levi Jr., Levi Sr., and Pappy (Aubry Taylor).

THE TEXAS MOHAIR WEEKLY

Rocksprings, Texas, Friday, March 4th, 1966

MOUNTAIN HOME POST OFFICE OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY

Dub Haney, Postmaster of Mountain Home Post Office, announces that open house will be held at the post office building Saturday, March 5th from 4 to 6 p. m.

The building was recently completed and is located at the intersection of Highways 27 and 41. The new facility is part of the Post Office Department's lease construction program, Mr. Haney explained. Under this program, investment financing is used to obtain needed facilities which remain under private ownership, pay local taxes to the community, and are leased to the Federal Government. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Ellebracht are the owners of the building.

Mr. Haney stated "Our patrons will derive more enjoyment from doing business here, their mail will be handled more efficiently in this building and its up-to-date equipment will enable us to work under the best of conditions.

Mrs. Charlie (Ruby) Young assists Postmaster Haney as postal clerk.

Early history of the post office at Mountain Home is unknown at this point, but can be traced back to the year 1882 by Ingram, Texas Resident, Tom Moore, who lived in that area at that time. The postmaster was a Mr. Harbison, who maintained the position until about 1900 when Henry McNealy became postmaster until 1908. At that time the location was near the present location, except on the banks of the Johnson Creek River near the present Fritz Basse home. Jim Stone, father of Mrs. Arthur Hyde of Mountain Home, and Charlie Stone of Kerrville, served as the postmaster from 1908 until about 1919, according to Mrs. Hyde. Joe Denton then served from that time until 1921 when Awbry Taylor took charge. In 1921 the Taylors changed the name from Mountain Home to Eura after Mrs. Taylor, the former Eura Joy of Hunt, Texas. Mrs. Ned B. (Olive) Estes, Sr. became postmaster in 1924 and changed the name back to Mountain Home. She along with her husband who operated a store in connection with the post office, held the office until 1944 when Mrs. Freddie (Yvonne) Duderstadt held the office for one year, with Mrs. Estes resuming the duties until 1947, when their son, Loy S. Estes, became postmaster for the next three years. G. W. (Dub) Haney became postmaster in early 1950.

During the history of the office it has been moved up and down the river area from the Basse location to the Estes Cottages, the former Mack Henderson place, the W. M. Talbert building across the highway from the Sunset Baptist Church, to the present location in the new building.



1970, ca., Levi Taylor's mother, (seated center) Ura Elizabeth Joy Taylor, with her children: (Standing L to R) Levi, John Presley, James Darrell, Aubry Raymond; (Sitting L to R) Laura Belle Adams, Josephine Elizabeth Wallace, Ura Joy Taylor, Lucille T. Bass, Lydia Ilene Merritt.

The Polish Texans Settlers Victims of Cruel Jokes

This is the fourth in a series of six articles taken from "The Polish Texans," one of seven booklets published so far by the Institute of Texan Cultures on "The Texans and the Poles." It is the third of the series to be reprinted exclusively in *The Light*.

The different language, dress, and customs of the early Polish settlers frequently made them victims of prejudice, cruel jokes, and unscrupulous business dealings.

Frederick L. Olmstead, a traveler through Texas in 1857, points out that Panna Maria Poles were charged an exorbitant \$5 to \$10 per acre for land in 1854.

Even the \$2.00 paid at Saint Hedwig three years later was considered high. Unsettled conditions after the Civil War, and the absence of effective government, made it possible for lawless elements to abuse the Polish colonists with little fear of reprisal.

In his memoirs Father Adolf Bakanowski of Panna Maria recalled what happened:

"The Texan Americans, particularly the cowboys with little training and less education, knew only how to ride horseback.

"The higher class of Americans, used to the services of the negro slave, were very slow in mastering the art of earning one's own bread. The lower class, misunderstanding the new freedom which the looseness of the government permitted, killed and murdered for any provoking reason. In a word, we hit very hard times.

"The Polish people became an object of frequent attacks. Seeing that the Polander could not speak English, it seemed to them that he should be subject to the same treatment as the negro. Whether traveling or at home, we had no peace; not even the church was free of their antics.

"These cowboys entered the church smoking cigarettes. One of them wanted to ride into the church on horseback and see how many targets he could score on the walls."

A climax was reached when a band of cowboys swooped in to Panna Maria and promptly shot up the town. The Poles retaliated by riding en masse to the county seat at Helena in a show of force.

A few weeks later the invad-



THE ED KOTULAS
Courtesy of Mrs. A. B. Stephens



JOSEPH COTULLA
Courtesy of Mrs. Bruce Tiller

JOSEPH COTULLA—1868

The cattle boom which swept the country after the Civil War caught the imagination of the Poles, too.

In 1865 the Panna Maria post office recorded 49 Polish-owned brands in that county alone.

To the west, Cotulla, a ranching and trade center for a wide area of South Texas, was named for a pioneer who carved a ranching empire from Nueces Valley brush country.

This county seat town was laid out by Joe Cotulla in 1881-1882, when the International and Great Northern Railroad built through his ranch.

When Joe Cotulla was born in 1844, his birthplace, Wielkie Strzelce, was occupied by the Kingdom of Prussia.

ED KOTULA—1869

After the Civil War two young Polish immigrants met at San Antonio's historic Menger Hotel to flip a coin.

The agreed that the loser would change the spelling of his name.

Both men were the same age and from the same part of Poland.

Both had settled in the first Polish colony at Panna Maria, but neither had remained there.

Both had been compelled to support their families at an early age.

Through hard work, saving, and investing, both became prosperous.

But a problem arose because both had the same name—Kotula. Joe Cotulla lost the coin toss, and Ed Kotula kept the original spelling.

Joe always claimed victory, however, because "C" was easier to write than "K."

In the 1890's Ed Kotula—San Antonio-based merchant capitalist, and rancher—was known as the "Wool King of Texas."

Born in Prussian-occupied Poland in 1844, he was only ten when he came with his parents to Panna Maria.

A year later his father died, and the family moved to San Antonio, where Ed briefly attended St. Mary's College, then went to work hauling building stone.

During the Civil War he carried the Confederate mail to Boerne and Victoria. When hostilities ended he began clerking for the D and A Oppenheimer mercantile firm.

retaliated by riding en masse to the county seat at Helena in a show of force.

A few weeks later the invaders came again to Panna Maria, and there was another exchange of shots before they were chased away.

The next confrontation was far more serious. After Sunday morning services the Polish congregation stepped from their church to view a large group of armed horsemen, and—nearby—ten wagons filled with onlooking wives and daughters.

Father Bakanowski met the challenge by threatening to fire upon the wagons. Caught by surprise, the aggressors quickly cleared the erstwhile battlefield.

A lasting truce was achieved when soldiers from San Antonio arrived to maintain order, in 1869.

THE REVEREND FELIX ZWIARDOWSKI

Said to have been a Russian general before entering the priesthood, the Reverend Felix Zwiardowski was one of the best-known Resurrectionist missionaries among the Polish Texans.

He came to Texas as a seminarian in 1866, and was ordained in Galveston the following year. He celebrated his first mass at Panna Maria in the course of a five-day Polish festival.

In the early days he was said to own a repeating rifle with which he fought off Indian attacks during his missionary travels on the frontier.

A staunch believer in education, and wholeheartedly devoted to the interests of his people, he was Superior of Polish missions in Texas from 1870 until 1875.

At Panna Maria in 1873 he organized the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception to teach in parish schools.

Four years later he pushed construction of the second church building in that community. When the project was finished, exactly 70 cents remained in the treasury.

Later Zwiardowski was stationed at St. Hedwig, San Antonio, and Cestohowa. Crusty and independent, he refused to leave the Texas mission field when so ordered by his superiors.

However, he did spend the greater part of a year in Chicago recovering his health. In November 1880 Father Leopold Moczygomba wrote that Zwiardowski had come there a very sick man, but "now his appetite is Lithuanian and he eats the measure of three."

On his return to Texas Father Felix continued to serve as a missionary priest until his death in 1895.

JOSEPH COTULLA

Courtesy of Mrs. Bruce Tiller

THE REVEREND VINCENT BARZYNSKI

In 1863 the Poles launched another disastrous uprising against the Russians, and again thousands of people were uprooted.

One of these was the Reverend Vincent Barzynski, born at Sulislawice, Poland, in 1838, ordained in 1861.

Upon leaving Poland, he stayed briefly in Austria and France before joining the Resurrectionist Order and coming to Texas in 1866.

He became the first resident Polish priest in San Antonio, where he instigated the construction of St. Michael's Church.

In 1873-1874 Barzynski served at St. Hedwig, then transferred to Chicago, where he worked among Polish immigrants for the next 25 years.

One of his first acts in his new surroundings was to help organize the Polish Roman Catholic Union.

He became Superior of the Chicago Resurrectionists, and the first Provincial of that Order in America.

He was a commanding figure in Polish American history until his death on May 2, 1899.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL AT PANNA MARIA

America's oldest Polish school was organized by the priests at Panna Maria in 1866.

At first some of the classes were held in a shed room adjoining the church, but within two years parishioners had constructed a two-story stone building to serve as a rectory and school.

The parents insisted that their children learn Polish as well as English; so, when the teaching Sisters of the Order of Divine Providence arrived from Castroville, their first

task was learning to speak Polish!

In time, the Sisters of the Order of Divine Providence were replaced by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception—Panna Maria girls who devoted themselves to teaching in Polish.

Although their Order soon disappeared, parochial education became a feature of every Polish parish in Texas, a situation which helped perpetuate the language and traditions of these people.

Today St. Joseph's School houses the Panna Maria Historical Association and Museum—the nucleus of Polish ethnic historical preservation in Texas.

NEW WAVERLY—1867

The first Polish foothold in East Texas was at New Waverly, an early lumbering and farming community in the Huntsville area.

Landing at Galveston about 1867, the settlers at New Waverly worked in sawmills, or as tenant farmers, until they could become landowners. Some of them came under contract to work for two years in order to pay their passage.

In 1870 St. Joseph's parish was organized under the Reverend Felix Orzechowski, a Resurrectionist missionary.

The original parish included 42 families. A church was built in 1876, a second in the 1890's, and a third in 1906.

In 1908 a parish school was established to teach the three R's, homemaking, and vocational agriculture.

The farmers of New Waverly soon spread over the face of Walker County and spilled into Grimes, Washington, and Robertson Counties.

Like the Poles of Bandera, those at New Waverly retain little of their native language and traditions.

Boerne and Victoria. When hostilities ended he began clerking for the D and A Oppenheimer merchantile firm.

In 1869 Kotula opened his own store in an adobe building at Alamo and Commerce Streets.

Later he moved to a larger building on the west side of Military Plaza, where he remained until 1893, when he became a wool buyer.

Kotula also acquired ranch lands in Webb and Dimmit Counties, on which he raised Durham and Hereford cattle.

He was a faithful member of St. Michael's Polish Catholic Church, and St. Albert's Polish Society until his death at San Antonio in 1893.

POLES AT MARLIN AND BREMOND—1870

Polish farmers arrived in eastern Falls County by 1870. Usually they were share-croppers until they could save enough money to buy their own land.

Under the tenant system they commonly paid \$3.00 per acre rent, or gave the landlord one-third of their crop. Peter Gorski, who settled at Marlin in 1880, was typical of those who struggled to become landowners.

He worked rented land for 22 yrs. before saving enough money to buy 100 acres for \$4500.

About 60 Polish families lived in the vicinity of Marlin between 1870 and 1880, when their numbers declined as the result of malaria conditions.

Many drifted southward into Robertson County, where they helped make Bremond the largest Polish town in Texas. Bremond was a railroad boomtown when the first Polish settler arrived in 1875.

This was Joseph Bartula, a farm laborer, who had sailed to Texas with his wife and five sons two years before.

In the course of that trip he lost three sons and all his money. Bartula was soon joined at Bremond by 50 more families of his nationality.

By 1900 most of them owned their own farms, or their own businesses in the community. As in all Polish colonies, the church played a vital role. At first, services were conducted in private homes by visiting priests.

A church was completed in 1879, with heavy financial contributions from some non-Polish residents.

It has been rebuilt twice since. A parish school has been maintained since the first decade of the 20th century. St. Joseph's Society—Texas' first chapter of the Polish National Alliance—was formed at Bremond in 1889, followed three years later by a chapter of the Polish Roman Catholic Union.

They're for Sale

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IN LOVING MEMORY



Levi W. Taylor, Jr.
1945-1978

In loving memory of Levi W. Taylor, Jr., our beloved son, brother and father. Levi was born in Houston, Texas, at Saint Joseph's Hospital on February 13, 1945 to Levi W. Taylor and Evelyn Kotula Taylor.

Moving to Kerr County, Hunt, Texas, at the age of nine months, where his father went to work in the Hunt, Texas Post Office, at the end of World War II.

As a young boy Levi learned the story of how his Great Grandparents were among some of the early settlers of Kerr County. His great Grandfather Alvie C. Joy and Great Grandmother Elizabeth Lock Joy settled Hunt, Texas, starting the first Post Office there; also the mercantile store and barber shop in the year 1912.

While his great grandfather Presley Beal Taylor and great grandmother Nancy Caddell Taylor settled Honey Creek about five miles up the north fork of the Guadalupe river.

Also at the time of Levi's moving to Hunt, Texas, his beloved grandparents Aubry R. Taylor and Ura Elizabeth Joy Taylor, (the children of the above), lived on the Richard R. Friederich Ranch, approximately six miles from Hunt up the north fork of the Guadalupe river. Levi visited with them as often as he could growing up, loving the hill country and all of nature God gives us to enjoy. Never losing that love for the outdoors, especially the animals, the grass and the trees. He saw some good in everything. Perhaps Levi saw in nature the footsteps of God more clearly than anywhere else.

Levi attended Holy Cross Lutheran School in Kerrville in 1952 and one year at Starkey Elementary, moving to Corpus Christi, Texas with his parents in 1955. Went to Frasier Elementary School where he earned Award of Merit for School Patrol. Was a boy scout in the Mount Olive Lutheran Church Troop, earning many medals. Levi at-

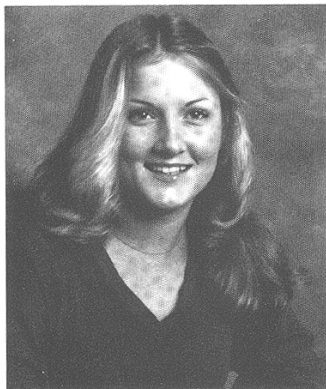
tended Sunday School and Church and was confirmed at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in 1959. Played Little League Ball, making the All Star Team. Went to Cullen Jr. High School, playing on their football team. Was picked most handsome the year 1959-60. Attended Mary Carroll High, playing football there, graduating in 1961-62 class. He worked with his father in the building business. Married Anne Margaret Williams in May 1962. They had a son, Levi W. Taylor III born February 28, 1963. Their daughter, Kimberly Ann Taylor, was born March 3, 1964.

Started his own business for Modular Homes, supplies and service in 1972, managing the operations until 1977, when he became Construction Coordinator for the Whataburger Corporation.

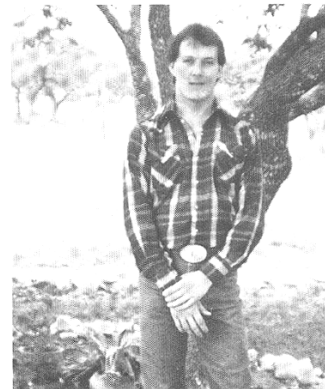
Levi built and drove his own race cars from 1962; first in Drag Racing, then went to Round Track Hobby and then Super Stock. Raced at Corpus Christi Speedway, Victoria, Texas, the San Antonio Texas Track, and at Bryan, Texas, at the Race of Champions; winning many trophies in that field.

Levi learned of having Cancer January 1978, driving his last race March 1978. He passed away September 5, 1978 at M. D. Anderson Lutheran Pavilion, Houston, Texas. Levi's racing #30 was retired at the Memorial Races dedicated to him that November 1978 at Corpus Christi Speedway, a trophy was given to his family in his honor. The Texas Race of Champions at Bryan set up a permanent Memorial "The Levi Taylor Award" given each year to the "Rookie Driver" winning the race.

Levi's beloved Grandmother (Mammy) Taylor passed away July, 1978. After her services he asked to be buried at her feet if he did not survive the cancer. Not doing so he joined her there September 9, 1978.



Kimberly Ann Taylor



Levi W. Taylor III



Follies 1986 – Tivy Cheer Leaders

L to R: Evelyn Taylor, Levi Taylor, Marquette Kothman Durrin, Charlie Durrin, Mary McCoun Menzies,, Manly Cooper, Edna Real Priour, Ebb Lilly, and Margaret Aquier Lilly.



*Marc, Jr., grandson of Levi & Evelyn Taylor sitting in the
"famous" old oak tree at Crider's in Hunt in 1986.*

A Levi Taylor Interview Dockside To Ranch

By Elizabeth Cary Mungall

INGRAM - Levi Taylor ("Sie" Taylor unless looking him up in the phone book) was born August 26, 1920, in Ingram, Texas. "I didn't know I was watching history," says Taylor of his most unique experience while growing up near Hunt, Texas. His dad was working for Richard Friedrich on Bear Creek Ranch back then, part of which EWA member Louis Stumberg holds today as the Patio Ranch. Fun for Taylor and his brother and sister, usually meant playing with the neighbor children who were around, but this occasion was different; because Taylor who was maybe 12 or 13, was riding beside his dad on the way to the BIG CITY; and he was excited.

The round trip to Houston must have meant an overnight

stay. Destination was the Houston ship channel where they filled two large trucks with covered crates. Inside the crates were the first axis, blackbuck, sika, fallow, red deer, sambar, hog deer and eland that folks in Taylor's parts had ever seen. The single eland was large and reddish and impressive. The smaller exotics were destined to become more common in Texas than anyone could have dreamed.

Sie Taylor rode in the front truck, a Rio flatbed with boards built up three or four feet high on the sides. The driver following behind, Mr. Getz German, was from Friedrich's refrigeration company in San Antonio and took his load to the San Antonio Zoo. Friedrich worked closely with the zoo, as did

Continued on page 3

Article from: The Exotic News: International Hoofstock News - Publication of the Exotic Wildlife Association, Pg. 1, July 1990

Levi Taylor contd.

other rancher business men on the zoo board. The animals that Taylor remembers went straight to Bear Creek.

Their new home was a 100 acre piece of the ranch specially put under high fence. This separated them from the few sheep. The ranch had goats too; however, trotters were the big breeding operation. "Uncle Dick" Friedrich raised them on the ranch and raced them in Louisiana and other far away places. Taylor's real uncle, Virney Help, trained them.

Native whitetails were hunted. Friedrich hunted and Sie Taylor's dad, Aubry, hunted, but the newcomers were just for looking. Only an occasional friend of Friedrich's was offered a shot, and there used to be a steady supply of visiting celebrities. John Wayne came and Big Crosby and even Arthor Godfrey.

By the time Taylor left the ranch at 17, exotic hunting still did not exist, and the new animals were making themselves very much at home. They were spreading too. When the rivers went up, water gaps went out, and so did the exo-

tics, which is how various neighbors got exotics. The first exotics given away were four axis that went to Peterson's stock farm; this was sometime after 1940. The second ones were another four axis that went to Mrs. Walter Schreiner at the Y.O. Ranch. In fact, no exotics were sold or regularly hunted until Captain Eddie Rickenbacker bought the ranch in 1951.

Few ranch events after that really stand out for Taylor. Unlike his brother, he had never helped around the place much. He had the house chores and when he was old enough for high school, the bus left at 6:30 for the 20 miles or so to Tivy in Kerrville. His goal was to become a city boy; but first, he was in the military in 1942. In 1954, Taylor realized his ambition by moving to Corpus Christi where he lived until 1982.

Taylor moved back to the "Hill Country" in 1982. If his dad's log were still around, it would be simple to look up the origin of the animals in those crates that got loaded onto the Rio truck so long ago. Aubry Taylor kept careful notations of any animals arriving on the place, when they had come and from

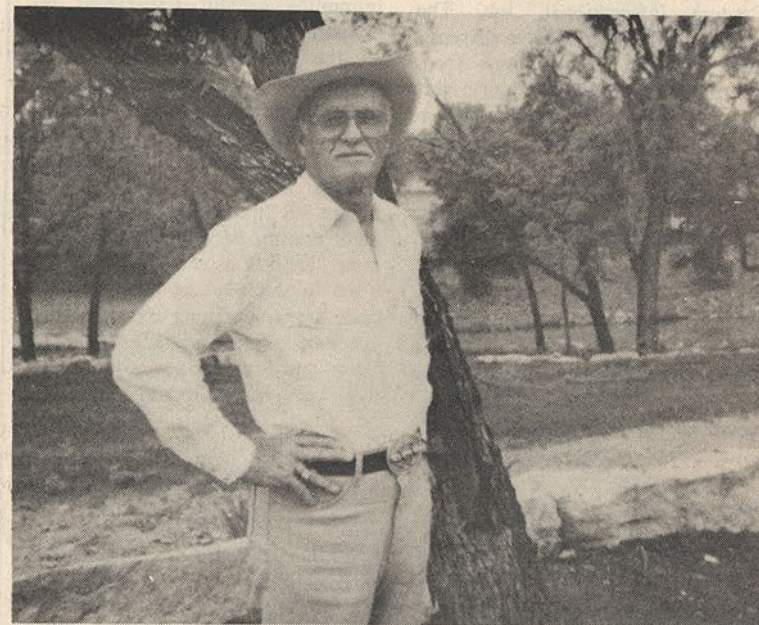
where. Since the special exotics came by ship, the presumption was that they came from their native countries. Axis, black-buck, sambar and hog deer can all be found in India, but the sika were labeled Japanese, eland are African, and the red deer as well as the fallow deer were European. Perhaps all the animals came from some of America's big zoos along the eastern seaboard.

Dr. William M. Mann of Washington's national zoo had visited Bear creek, and hunting writer Hart Stilwell credits him as having suggested to Friedrich that he stock exotics. Mann had access to all the species that Taylor saw come off the ship. Washington had always had a thriving herd of axis deer, and European fallow deer have also been prolific there. Sambar was a long-time exhibit. An English sportsman started Washington's herd of European red deer with the gift of a pair, after noticing their absence during a visit to the U.S. capital. The first Washington black-buck came in 1987 from the Philadelphia zoo exchange for four beavers. The herd of Indian hog deer originated with specimens raised in New York's Bronx Zoo. Japanese

sika had been in the collection since 1905 and had done so well that Mann once wrote, "there is no herd of Sikas in America that does not have the blood of our herd in it." Eland had a poor record in Washington, but Mann knew of other zoos and large private estates that had better success.

Regardless of where the Bear

Creek animals originated, they were firsts when they reached Kerr County. Sie Taylor's experience sheds important light on the beginnings of exotics in Texas. Other versions and dates may vary, but Sie Taylor says, "I know what I saw. If I had known it was history, I might just have watched a little closer".



Levi "Sie" Taylor today at the age of 70. Taylor stated to Elizabeth Mungall in her interview, "I know what I saw. If I had known it was history, I might just have watched a little closer." Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.



Levi Taylor sings a tune with the Texas Travelers in Wichita Falls, Texas, in June 22, 2000. Since retiring, Levi has been active with this group—playing, singing and song writing

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