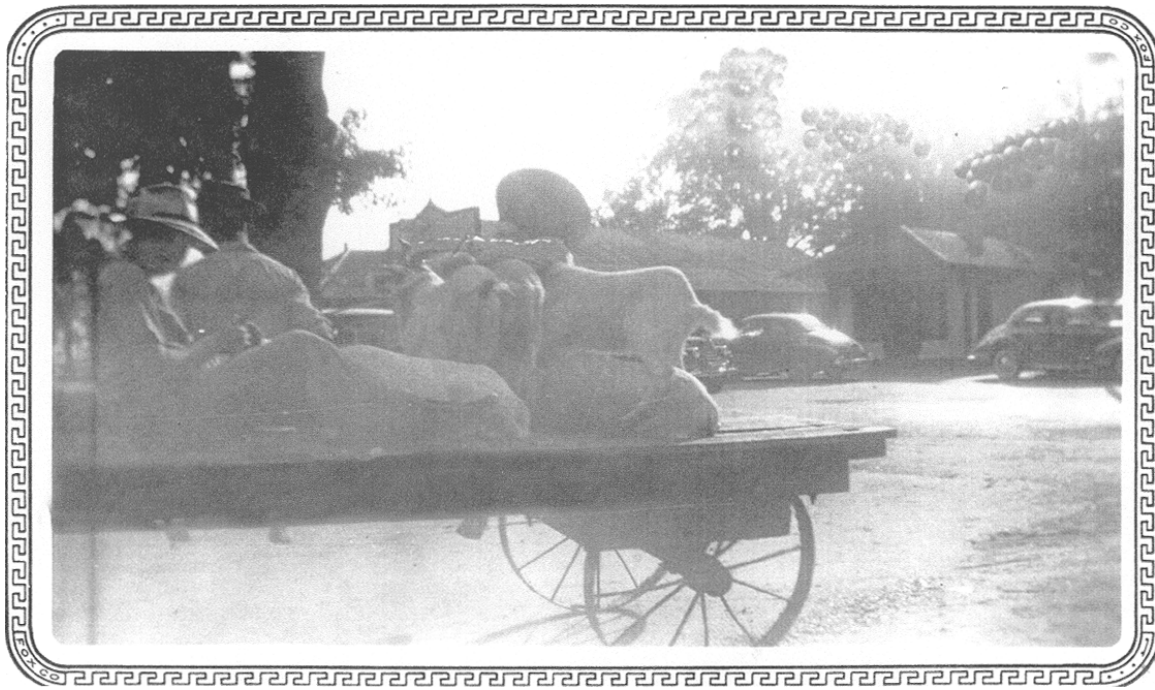




Boneyard Watering Hole on the Divide on the Klein Ranch



This cabin is typical of the kind lived in by Kerrville's early ranchers. This one sits on the Warren Klein Ranch out on the Divide and was restored by his niece.



*Warren Klein captured this picture of the wagon scene that was the first place
Winner in the Kerr County Centennial Parade in 1956.*



The Divide School - 1999

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File: Klein, Warren - Divide School 1999



Class picture at the Divide School in the '50s

DIVIDE SCHOOL HISTORY

Perched atop the watershed from which The Divide Community derives its name sits The Divide School built from native rock in 1936. The school's history goes back to the 1880s.

As soon as water-well drilling equipment could dig 200-300 feet through solid rock, settlers moved to this upland ranch land where "that Divide grass fattened cattle like corn would," according to an old German butcher in Kerrville. At first ranchers provided a school for heir children in the home of the teacher, her salary being paid by the only two pioneer families with school-age children at the time. In 1893 a small wooden building was built not far from the present-day location of Garven's Store at the west end of the school's territory. That was later moved to the east end of the community not far from Boneyard – the headwaters of the Guadalupe River. Finally, in 1908, the Divide Common School District was formed. It comprised then, as the independent school district does not, of many thousand of acres of ranch land with no commercial property of population centers. A wooden building was built on the dirt road going from Kerrville to Rocksprings, within sight of the Dee Hughes Ranch headquarters. The amount of money available determined the length of the school term. The longest term lasted six months; the shortest period was six weeks in 1907. Such sporadic employment made it impossible to keep the same teacher all the time: each year a different teacher boarded with an area family for the school term and rode a horse and buggy to school.

In 1936, State Highway 41 was built, forever freeing travelers between Kerrville and points west from having to cross the Guadalupe River seventeen times. The F.B.

Klein family furnished the land at a centrally accessible location for The Divide School. Donations built the structure, which is still in use, located on the Warren Klein Ranch within sight of his home. In all of its long history, the Divide school district has paid for buildings and expenses without ever going into debt; donations of time and money have supplemented tax income whenever the need has arisen.

As times changed, so did the school's operations and utilities. Originally, a wood stove heated the school and water was hauled there from a nearby windmill. Restrooms were small wooden buildings located at some distance from the main building. The students brought from home lunch in syrup buckets and flour sacks tied behind their saddles. Every first and third Sunday, a minister came out from Kerrville to hold church there – one time a Methodist, the next time a Presbyterian. A large group attended every time without regard to denomination.

With the coming of electricity to the Divide in 1949, the Divide School was lit for the first time by more than sunlight through its seven large windows. Running water and indoor bathrooms soon followed. Improved transportation allowed the delivery of butane and the trustees and parents no longer had to chop wood for the school as they had faithfully done for sixty years.

In 1987, the community decided to take on the added responsibility and expense of making the Divide district an independent district, thus guaranteeing the maximum community control possible over the Divide School's destiny and ultimate survival.

(The above information was copied from an undated document supplied by Mr. Warren Klein in 2000.)

(First School)

The first school on the Divide was located at the Emil Leinweber house. It was financed by people who had school age children. The longest term was for a period of six months. The patrons boarded the teacher free of charge. A lady by the name of May Childs stayed with the Klein family. Those attending school were Antonette + Margyella ~~deets~~, Tom + Bent Zumwalt, Tom + Henry Priour, Ray + Ralph Leinweber and Barney Klein. This school lasted for a few years until the population of the community grew west.

In 1911 a school house was built on the Lee Hughes Ranch by a

Mr. Hendricks. Laura Hatch from Corpus Christi was the first teacher.

Horse & buggy was the way many students got to school.

This school had as many as 46 students at one time. The children attending were from the Emil Lineweber family.

Martin, Willis & Dave Barton, Thomas & Gilbert Morris, John & Annie Neal, Barney Felix & Enola Klein, Otto, Wilbur, Portia Hughes, Burnett, Eric, Otto Carson - Morrow, Otto, Bessie & Herman Carson and other children.

In a period of six or seven years the following teachers taught there. A Mrs. Smith, Mary K., Mary McKay, Blanche Moore, & Cordelia Moore (Klein)

When Highway 41 was completed Gus

Schreiner came to Warren Klein and said another school had to be located on the Klein land. A well was already there and Mr. Klein^{w.} furnished the school water. As we were driving along I told Mr. Schreiner that the highway separated the land from the Llano and Guadalupe Rivers. Water on one side goes to the Llano and on the other side to the Guadalupe River Mr. Schreiner suggested the name of the school be called "The Divide School".

After a location was decided upon the contract was let for the building. It was built by W.P.A. workers. The building was 30 x 50 and contracted for \$125,000. I am
Key job.

4.

After having one school term it was necessary to add another room. The same size and same material being used. This room cost \$1800.00. Maiden Garner and Helen Hall were the teachers in 1932. Rest rooms were added about 3 yrs later. At that time my late wife Cordelia Klein started teaching there. She taught at "The Divide" about 7 years.

Ronnie Gray, the grandson of two of the students that went to the Leinweber School. (Antonette + Marjelle Secreto) now teachers at "The Divide". Logan Gray, a great-grandson of the Secreto also goes to The Divide.

The history of "The Divide" that I have told you are not "hear say"

5.

but things that I know and have
experienced.

Warren E. Klein

2-22-1999

INDIAN DEPREDATIONS

The following was copied from a typewritten article entitled "Indian Depredations" supplied by Warren Klein. It also appears in a book by Bob Bennett in a chapter by the same name in his book entitled, Kerr County, Texas 1856-1956, pp. 193-194.

Doc Steel told many amusing yarns of pioneer days in Kerr County, among which was the story of "Old Man" Klein frightening the Indians and causing them to trample and destroy his crop of corn.

The Steel version, told about fifty years ago, was substantially as follows:

"About the close of the Civil War, the Comanche Indians made frequent raids in this section. Along about that time, Fred Klein, a worthy German pioneer who had been a bugler in the army at Camp Verde, settled on Verde Creek, only a short distance from the old fort.

"Klein built a cabin of pickets, covered with boards, put up a martin box and began to keep house. He broke a small field near the house and planted it in corn. One day about the first of June, when the corn was in 'silk and tassel' the farmer was sitting in his cabin, smoking his pipe in peace, when his children, who had been playing near the house, ran in and told him a band of Indians was coming. The family entered the cabin and barricaded the door.

"Klein had no weapon except an old rusty rifle, and he knew he could never stand a hundred savages off with that. About the time the painted Comanches drew up between the cabin and the cornfield it occurred to the frontiersman that Indians had a holy dread of the cavalry. He pulled down the old army bugle that he still had hanging on the wall, and, filling his lungs with good, pure Hill Country air, he blew with the might of desperation the rousing notes of 'Boots and Saddles' of the U.S. Army

"The effect was magical. The Indians instantly imagined they heard a troop of regulars coming to put them to saber and sought safety in flight. They knew that they were between the little cornfield and the fort, and in their fright took the nearest course away from trouble. The pole fence around the field was scattered like chaff. The now thoroughly scared Indians, in their haste, broke down the tender, crisp stalks of corn and totally wrecked the growing corn crop. That probably was the first destruction of a corn crop that ever occurred in the country.

"When the neighbors asked Klein what the Indians did when he blew his bugle, he smilingly replied: "Vat did they do? Be sure, than ran'."

(Warren noted that story is about his grandfather, Fred Klein)



Above: A huge live oak marks the entrance to the Warren Klein Ranch

Below: The Warren Klein home on the Klein Ranch – 1999.





1999 – Warren Klein and Marj Nicholson discuss the “good ole days” on the Divide.

EDITORIALS

Klein family committed to education

For decades the Klein family has been associated with educating children in the ranching community of Mountain Home. Since 1936, the Divide School Independent School District has been housed on Klein family property and it was appropriate when the community honored Warren Klein recently by dedicating the schoolhouse in his name.

Warren Klein is the son of F.B. Klein who donated the land and helped build the school.

Warren Klein has served as a trustee and on a number of occasions is a regular guest speaker and diner on the campus. During the years Klein has made numerous presentations on wildlife and domesticated animals that also call the Klein ranch home.

He is known to students and alumni as “Uncle Warren” and holds an affectionate place in the hearts of those who benefited from his time and compassion.

“He never misses an opportunity to pay attention to the little ones who are always ready to hug him or hold his hand or sit in his lap,” said student Logan Gray during the ceremony.

We applaud the Klein family for its commitment to education and hope that tradition will continue well into the future.

A Divide legacy

School district dedicates school to Klein

By Bonnie Arnold
Staff Reporter

The Divide School building was dedicated last week to 92-year-old Warren Klein, a lifelong West Kerr resident who has continually supported the school on his family's land bordering State Highway 41.

The students of Divide School planned and presented the dedication program March 9. It was attended by about 50 present and former Divide residents and students.

Student Logan Gray read a history of the school, written by Klein, that ends with, "The history of 'The Divide' that I have told you is not hearsay but things that I know and have experienced."

Portia Williams, current Divide school board president and longtime Divide resident, said her grandfather and father served on the Divide school board with Klein, and called him "the one constant out here."

"That's mighty nice, but somebody else could've done it better," Klein said when the marker was unveiled.

Five students volunteered to give personal comments. Gray said "Uncle Warren" was always welcome at the school, and he told the audience about the time the students caught a mouse in a trap in the building and Klein killed it for them by stepping on its head outside on the pavilion.

Vanessa Retiz said Klein keeps them company, and once he took them on a field trip to the Boneyard Watering Hole on the North Fork of the Guadalupe.

Cole Brown said Klein was very active and fun to be with; and Matt Jeffers noted he comes to the school to eat with the students. Madison Crider said he once brought a baby lamb to show them.

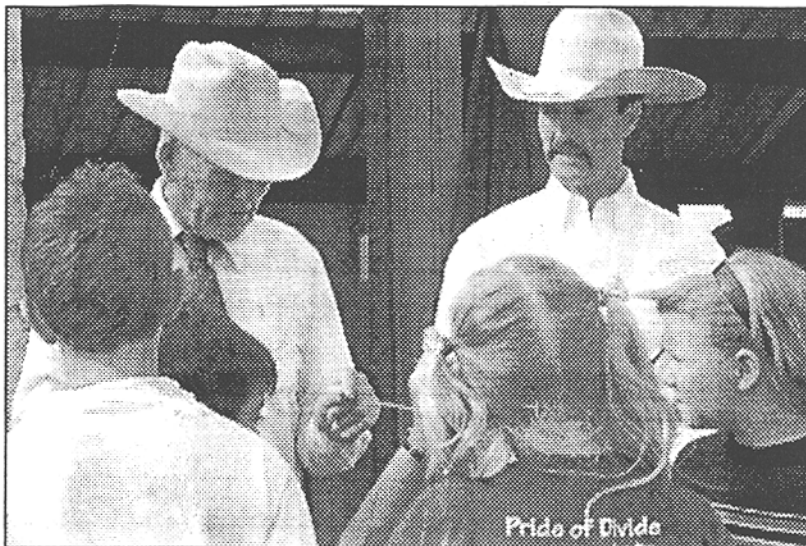


Photo by Bonnie Arnold

THE DIVIDE COMMUNITY and former Divide School students honored Warren Klein (standing left) recently by dedicating the school building in far West Kerr County in his name. After the ceremony, Klein explained to some of the students and Principal Bill Bacon (right) why the area and the school are called "The Divide."

Audience members also were invited to share their stories. One lady remembered being with him for rattlesnake shooting, chasing goats and sheep, and riding with him while he's driving across the pastures.

Another rancher said Klein once asked him for help without explaining exactly what the job was, and when he arrived at the school, he discovered Klein wanted him to get a dead squirrel out of the water tank, and not tell Klein's wife about it.

Several members of Klein's family were at the ceremony, including sister-in-law Neva Klein (Mrs. Felix Klein); nephew Billie Fred Klein; two nieces, Carolyn Klein Wenzel and Janice Klein Wahrmond; and cousins from the Snodgrass family and others.

School dates to 1911

The school history says the first school was at the Emil Leinweber house before 1911, financed by parents of the children who attended; and the

teacher boarded free with one of the patrons.

In 1911, a schoolhouse was built on the Dee Hughes Ranch and served as many as 46 students at a time. Most came to school in horse-drawn buggies.

"When State Highway 41 was completed, Gus Schreiner came to Warren Klein and said another school had to be located on Klein land. A well was already there, and Mr. Klein furnished the school with water. As we were driving along, I told Mr. Schreiner that the highway separated the watersheds of the Llano and Guadalupe Rivers. Water on one side of the highway goes to the Llano River and on the other side drains into the Guadalupe.

"Mr. Schreiner suggested the name of the school be 'The Divide School,'" Klein's history says.

The 30- by 50-foot one-room building was built by WPA workers in 1936, and a second room was added after one school term.

Divide School to be renamed Tuesday

By **Bonnie Arnold**
Staff Reporter

All Kerr County and Divide area residents are invited to a dedication ceremony at the Divide School on March 9, naming the longtime West Kerr school for Warren Klein.

The dedication will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, at the school building with the students conducting the ceremony. Refreshments also will be served.

The school was established in 1882 with classes held at various locations in West Kerr County until the school was built where it now stands in 1936 on land that's part of the Klein Ranch.

"I'm delighted but the school should just be called the Divide School, not named after anybody," Klein said.

Klein, 92, is a former school board member at Divide, a very informal post in the 1950s, when it was a "common school district" before the state made them organize into an "independent school district," recalls current trustee Portia Williams.

"They sort of took turns and

paid for some things out their own pockets as needed," she said.

A lifelong resident on the Divide, Klein was a student at the Dee Hughes School, a predecessor of the current Divide School. He said as a five-or six-year-old, he helped build that schoolhouse on the Hughes' ranch.

He is at least a third-generation rancher, according to the Kerr County Historical Commission history book, and his late wife Cordelia also taught at the school for several years, Klein said.

"My father homesteaded here in 1896 and bought land after that. He had as much as 8,000 acres," Klein said.

"Uncle Warren"

Williams said Klein "probably rode a horse to school. I know my mother did. Uncle Warren - everybody calls him that - used to bring animals to school (live and dead) for the

kids to see, and tell stories about them. And he never misses a play or school supper."

Klein said he usually rode to school in a buggy with his brothers and sisters. He recalled there were as many as 46 students there in those years. Just 19 enrolled last August.

He also remembers chasing deer off the school playground, as an adult, so the children could play; and he still lives in his ranch house not quite within sight of the Divide schoolhouse, but within sound of the children playing outside at recess.

The school is located on State Highway 41, 16 miles west of the blinking light at the Mountain Home intersection of State Highways 41 and 27; and less than half a mile west of the YO Ranch gate on Highway 41.

A Divide school board meeting also is planned at the school after the dedication ceremony, and the public is invited to stay for that.

Warren Klein Family Featured In Story

The following story, written by James E. Vance, Ranch and Farm Editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, appeared in that paper last week. Hill Country friends will find it interesting.

By James E. Vance

The Warren Kleins are ranchers who find it hard to say no to neighbors needing a helping hand.

They raise cattle, sheep and goats on 3,450 acres 17 miles west of Mountain Home.

The Kleins—Warren, Cordelia and Jack—are the Star-Telegram's Ranch and Farm Family for October.

* * *

Community co-operation stands tall in their minds. The Hill Country is home to the Kleins, and they don't believe they could find a better place to live.

Klein's father, the late Fred Klein, settled in the area in 1886. Warren was born less than two miles from where his ranch house is located. Mrs. Klein was Cordelia Moore of Austin.

The ranch land is hilly, rugged and rocky, but produces an abundance of good native grasses. Klein said it's the highest elevation between San Antonio and Del Rio, making it "high, dry and healthy."

Windmills furnish domestic and stock water.

Klein's ranching operation includes about 450 Rambouillet ewes for commercial production of wool and lambs. There are about 850 Angora goats that produce mohair and 50 registered and commercial Hereford cattle.

"Once in a while we keep an outstanding registered bull calf to raise for use as a herd sire," Klein remarked. "Most calves are sold on the commercial market."

* * *

Klein admits he depends on other ranchers much of the time, in addition to his own experience, in running his ranch.

"I watch what others are doing those who produce top livestock," he said. "Those kind of ranchers are always free with their information.

Klein has applied experience and judgment in selecting breeding stock to improve his herds and flocks. He says he picks and keeps his best for replacements.

Jack, 16, has a good start in practical ranching. He has a foundation of Angus-Hereford cross-bred cattle, 120 sheep and 50 registered goats. He sells registered billies for breeding stock.

"They are going to help pay my way through college," he said.

Jack is a senior at Tivy High School in Kerrville. He has an apartment and does his own cooking and keeping house. He plans to enroll in Texas Technological College and study agriculture, putting emphasis on financing and management.

He has won many honors in 4-H Club work, including a trip to the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago last year. He won the state range management contest sponsored by the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association.

* * *

"We have had some good years and we have had some mighty dry ones, but I believe our local area this past summer has been as bad as I have ever seen it," Klein said.

"We had 5.43 inches of rain through late May and then it quit. Another 2.43 inches fell at our house in August."

Rainfall in Klein's area had averaged 25 inches a year for the last 10 years.

Klein's outside activities include being a director of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association and Texas Angora Goat Raisers Association, a member of the Kerr Soil Conservation District supervisors and Kerr County School Board and chairman of the Miss Mohair Pageant.

"I guess I'm most proud of being president of the Mountain Home Community Club," he remarked. "It's the most rewarding."

Klein furnished the land on which the Divide Elementary

School and Mountain Home Presbyterian Church are located.

The desire for good will already is evidenced in Jack. He spent most of Rural Youth Day at the current State Fair of Texas helping his friends such as Chris Berger of Sonora groom and show Berger's champion sheep.

Klein holds a commercial radio operators license, but admits if he has a real hobby it's helping people.

"Living 17 miles from a post-office and 42 miles from a railroad may sound like we are a long way from town, but we like it out here," Cordelia Klein added. "We go a lot, but what difference does distance make?"

They admitted that even though the grass gets dry and scarce some years they don't believe they could "find it any greener in other pastures."

Boneyard Waterhole massacre site

EDITOR'S NOTE — The following is one of a series of stories on historical site in Kerr County, written in cooperation with the Kerr County Historical Commission.

By MICHAEL BOWLIN
Times Staff Writer

HUNT — Boneyard Waterhole near Hunt was the last permanent Indian campground in Kerr County. It also was where one of this area's bloodiest Indian battles was fought.

The waterhole's long use is documented by the discovery of Indian artifacts. Arrowheads and pottery, dating back 10,000 years, have been found near the site located in far west Kerr County off F.M. Road 1340.

Boneyard was so named after an early settler found hundreds of bleached animal bones near the water's edge.

Theories differ as to how the bones got there. One story holds that the bones were those of cattle trying to get a final drink before they died during the great drought of the 1880s. Another story suggests the waterhole was a dumping ground for the carcasses of thousands of buffalo killed by the Indians in the area during the mid to late 1800s.

Before settlers reached the Guadalupe River Valley in the late 1840s, Indians had a free run of the area. As settlers encroached on the land, the Indians became desperate and formed raiding parties to intimidate the settlers.

When the scare tactics didn't work, the Indians resorted to violence.

One such bloody incident occurred shortly after Kerr County was formed in 1856.

Comanche raids

A band of Comanches had raided several farm houses in West Kerr County, stealing numerous horses and burning at ~~rest~~ ^{rest} ~~burning~~ ^{burning}.

A posse formed. Its members included county residents William Kelso, a former Texas Ranger, Spence Goss, Jack Herridge, Tom Wherry, Dan Murphy, Tom McAdams and Newt Price.

The posse, most of which were inexperienced at Indian warfare, trailed the Comanches to Boneyard Waterhole, about 25 miles west of Kerrville, where the men stopped to cut a bee tree late in the afternoon.

Tired from their journey, the men

Signs of Old Times

decided to make camp at the site, unaware that the Indians had also made camp — directly on a bluff above them.

The Comanches waited until morning to attack the posse. They crept into camp at dawn and took the men's guns, which were stacked neatly against a tree.

With the men's weapons out of the way, the Indians pounced.

Goss, who was sitting by the campfire with his feet drawn up to his body, was immediately wounded when a bullet from a small-caliber gun fired by a warrior struck his right leg below the knee. The charge shattered the bone and lodged in his thigh. Despite his injury, Goss dragged himself to the brush, therefore escaping a sure death.

Kelso was hit crosswise through the small of the back with an arrow, but managed to also escape into the woods, while an arrow hit McAdams in the windpipe, yet he too found his way into the thicket.

Herridge, who was also at the campsite escaped without a scratch.

Meanwhile, Murphy and Wherry, who had left the camp before dawn to hunt deer, returned when they heard the gunfire and the Indians' warhoop.

Murphy was immediately killed by an Indian brave when he entered the camp. Wherry managed to get off two shots with his rifle before he was wounded in the chest by a razor-sharp arrow.

He managed to join the others in the brush.

The aftermath

The rampaging Indians eventually left the waterhole, but the wounded men stayed in the thicket for several hours.

About dusk, Kelso, Wherry and McAdams got together and set out afoot for Kerrville.

Kelso could barely walk because of his back wound and McAdams continuously vomited from having swallowed so much blood as a result of the arrow through his neck. Wherry was in just as bad a shape. His chest wound was so deep that when he breathed a whistling noise came from the jagged hole.

Finally, after a week of tortuous travel over rocks, cactus and shrub, the men made it back to Kerrville

Kerrville Daily Times
Sunday, September 15, 1991

On Kelly's Klein's Place

15, 1991

and told of the attack.

Price and Goss, meanwhile, who had also escaped into thicket but weren't aware of each other because they had both passed out from their wounds, eventually met and attempted to walk back to Kerrville.

They had only walked about a mile when they found a cave, where, still exhausted from the day's events, they decided to spend the night.

As the sun broke over the horizon the next morning, Price persuaded Goss to stay in the cave while he attempted to go for help. He left at sunrise, but the severely wounded man dropped dead about 10 miles from the cave.

Almost three weeks after the battle, Judge S.B. Patton of Kerrville, who was in the area on a bear hunt, found Goss passed out against a tree. The judge took the man to the camp of a man named Miller.

Meanwhile, while looking for Goss and Price, the search party found the body of Murphy at the waterhole. They buried him on a hill

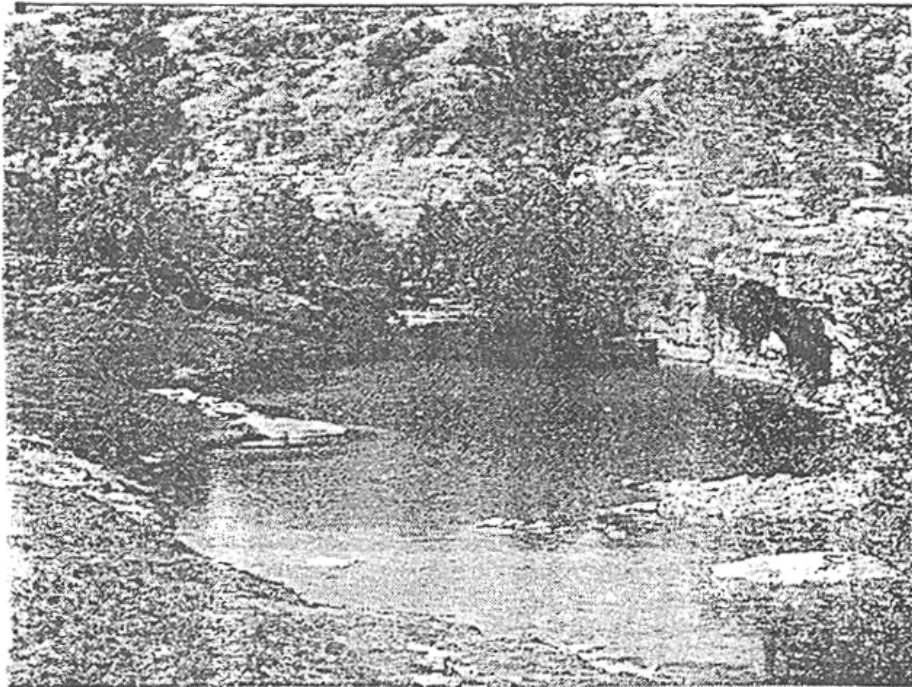
near the site and placed a large stone at the head of the grave.

The handcarved inscription reads: "D. Murphy, killed by the Indians 1856." The stone still stands on land now owned by E.T. Standley, even though Murphy's body was disinterred and later reburied in the city cemetery in Kerrville.

It was two years before the sun-bleached bones of Price were found by a hunting party.

In the 135 years since the Boneyard Massacre, the waterhole, which became private property in the late 1880s, has served as a stage and wagon stop and a roundup area for cattle. In 1925, the Klein family, owners of the land, built a small general store at the site. The store prospered for five years, but closed after Texas 41 was built, bypassing the business.

At present there is no marker signifying the waterhole as a historical site in the county. But members of the Kerr County Historical Society say that will soon be rectified.



Times File Photo

WATERHOLE IS 25 MILES WEST OF KERRVILLE
...Last permanent Indian campground in Kerr County



MISS MOHAIR TAKES TO THE AIR

The current Miss Mohair likes to fly—and she's planning on doing a lot of it. The pretty brunette, Miss Sunda Callan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Callen of Menard, is shown here alighting from a Cessna in which she flew to Kerrville for her coronation. Greeting her is Mayor Manley Cooper, Jr., of Kerrville; livestock leader Warren Klein and Miss Virginia Moore, who was in general charge of the coronation ceremonies at Kerrville. Miss Callan, who is in the San Angelo Junior College, is studying also the art of flying under E. Y. Murphy of the Southwest Aircraft Sales in San Angelo.



It Happened Here



We join with hundreds of other friends in appreciation of the honor given to Warren Klein by the Hill Country Junior Livestock Shows Association. The catalogue and show this year were dedicated to Klein, and no one could have deserved the honor more. During the years of the show's existence, and we have been to all of them, Warren has been one of the work horses of the organization. When his boy, Jack, was old enough to enter animals in the competition, Warren saw that the boy entered well-groomed and well cared for animals. Many fathers lose interest when their boy is grown, but Warren's interest has never flagged, nor has his assistance lessened.



WARREN KLEIN



LIVING RELICS OF YESTERYEAR

Divide, Doss face low enrollment, high costs

ZEKE MACCORMACK
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

DIVIDE — There wasn't any pushing or shoving when the entire fourth and fifth grades in the Divide School District assembled recently in one classroom.

"This is just a jewel of a group," Principal Bill Bacon said. "There's not a bad one among the three."

That's right, three students in two grades.

Only 19 pupils are in the entire Divide School District, which covers 340 square miles of ranchland west of Kerrville.

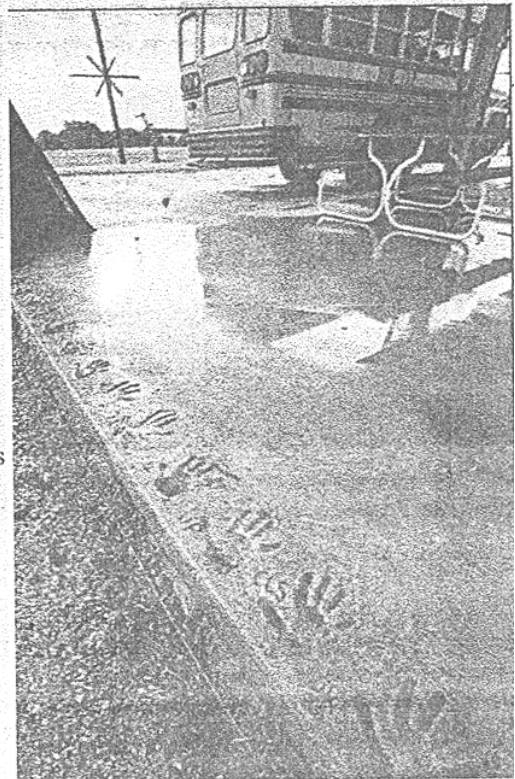
The rock schoolhouse off Texas

41 is a remnant of a bygone era, when hundreds of community schools dotted the Texas frontier.

Fewer than a dozen of these tiny school districts survive today, scratching for students and dollars to preserve their legacy of personalized instruction.

"You can talk to anyone out there and they'll tell you they love this school," said James Engelmann, Divide's part-time superintendent. "They're fierce about keeping it open."

At the Doss School, another one-school district in the Hill Country, the community's resolve to fight



■ See 1-SCHOOL/3B

1-school districts fighting to survive

Continued from 1B

consolidation is waning for residents.

"It is still a wonderful school, but I just feel it's time to face reality," Doss resident Vernell Arhelger said.

But the Divide students like the small classes, and worry about attending secondary school in Ingram School District, which has about 1,300 kids.

"You don't get to answer very much when you're in a big class," said Cole Brown, 9.

He's been in the same class with Logan Gray and Vanessa Retiz since kindergarten.

Divide School, founded in 1882, also has flirted with extinction as enrollment dropped into the single digits in recent years.

But each time, new students were found and residents banded together to keep afloat the school for kids in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.

Consolidating with Hunt School District had been discussed "as sort of a last resort," school board President Portia Williams said.

But, she said, "Our feeling is that's an awfully long way for little children to travel every day. My son goes to Ingram now and he leaves at 6 a.m. and gets home at 5 p.m."

Divide enrollment peaked at about 45 students in the 1960s, officials say.

At least 15 pupils are needed to maintain the district's financial viability.

Steve Brown, 41, said he's happy his two kids attend the Divide School.

"It's like having kind of private personalized care for your children," he said, while picking them up after school last week.

"I feel for some of the schools where classes are so big you get lost in the crowd. Up here, they don't," he said.

Complicating the financial pictures for Doss and Divide are their designation as "wealthy districts" by the state, and tuition payments made to educate local kids at secondary schools in other districts.

In Divide, that meant sending the state \$138,046 of the district's \$311,419 budget this year.

The four-room school dates back to 1936, but it's hardly outdated.

It has satellite dish out front, 20 computers with a T-1 connection to the Internet, and a digital camera used to capture class trips.

"Our students are definitely at an advantage technologically over most school districts," said Bacon, one of two full-time teachers on the six-person district staff.

Only 11 of more than 1,000 school districts in the state have an average daily attendance of 50 or fewer students, according to the Texas Education Agency.

Among them is Doss School District, the last of 40 community school districts that once existed in Gillespie County.

"We have 21 students right now," said Erbel DeBusk, Doss school board president.

Doss got a break this fall when Fredericksburg officials reduced the annual tuition for transfer students from nearly \$4,000 a student to \$1,000. Ingram School District provides similar tuition breaks for Divide.

"It's still tough going," said DeBusk. "The general consensus is that we'll keep this school district operating as long as we can, because we provide something special to the students."

Not everyone favors continuing the struggle.

"We just feel like it's high time that it does consolidate," said Arhelger, who knows first-hand the advantages to attending a small school.

"I went to the Onion Creek School and in about 1943 we were down to eight students and we consolidated with Doss," said Arhelger, 65. "At that time, Doss had about 50 students."

It's again time for consolidation, she said, since only six local children attend Doss School and paved roads have made bearable the once-daunting commute to Fredericksburg, 23 miles south.

The small districts are also fighting for survival on a statewide basis.

The Texas Association of Rural School Districts plans to ask legislators to approve special funding for capital improvements, and to provide credits for secondary school tuition for small districts.

"The smaller the school is, the more expensive it is on per-student basis," said Bill Grunsdorf, spokesman for the

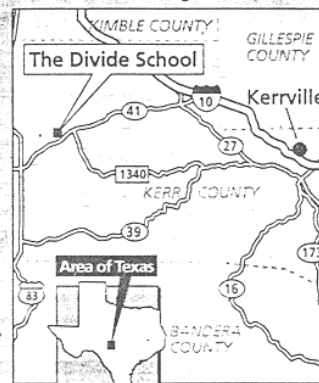
South Texas

Different directions for Hill Country districts

The Divide and Doss school districts are among 11 districts in the state with fewer than 50 students. Boerne and Kerrville districts, however, have too many students for existing facilities.

School district	Students enrolled	1998-99 budget	Cost per student
Boerne	4,736	\$23.3 mil.	\$4,919
Divide	19	\$311,419*	\$16,390
Doss	21	\$160,000	\$7,619
Kerrville	4,788	\$21.8 mil.	\$4,553

*\$138,046 of this amount is paid to the state because Divide has been designated as a wealthy school district, officials said.



Source: School districts

EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

association of 600 districts with enrollments of 1,600 or fewer students.

"People will say, 'Why should we subsidize small schools?' Well, these smaller schools are doing an exemplary job in education," he said. "It's widely recognized that smaller classes help with academic performance."

Only 12 local students are enrolled in the Divide School. The other seven were recruited from surrounding communities, tuition-free.

"We begged them to come," said Engelmann, also superintendent in Hunt.

The opposite problem exists in several other area districts; too many students for existing facilities.

"We have more than 2,000 students, or more than 20 percent of our students in portable classrooms," said Don Clark, spokesman for the Comal School District.

The district is a member of the Fast Growth School Coalition, which wants special funding provided for capital improvements in districts facing

heavy enrollment increases.

Officials in Boerne, adding 300 new students a year, also support the initiative.

Boerne Superintendent John Kelly said, "Fast growth districts represent only 12 percent of districts statewide, but 50 percent of the students in Texas live in those 12 percent of the districts."

"Yet there is special funding consideration given by the state," he said.

It's much the same story in Kerrville, where voters last May rejected a \$39.8 million bond proposal for new schools.

That's nearly twice the entire tax base of Divide School District. "We are a relatively large school district, but we have no real housing development, no public stores and we have no community," Bacon said.

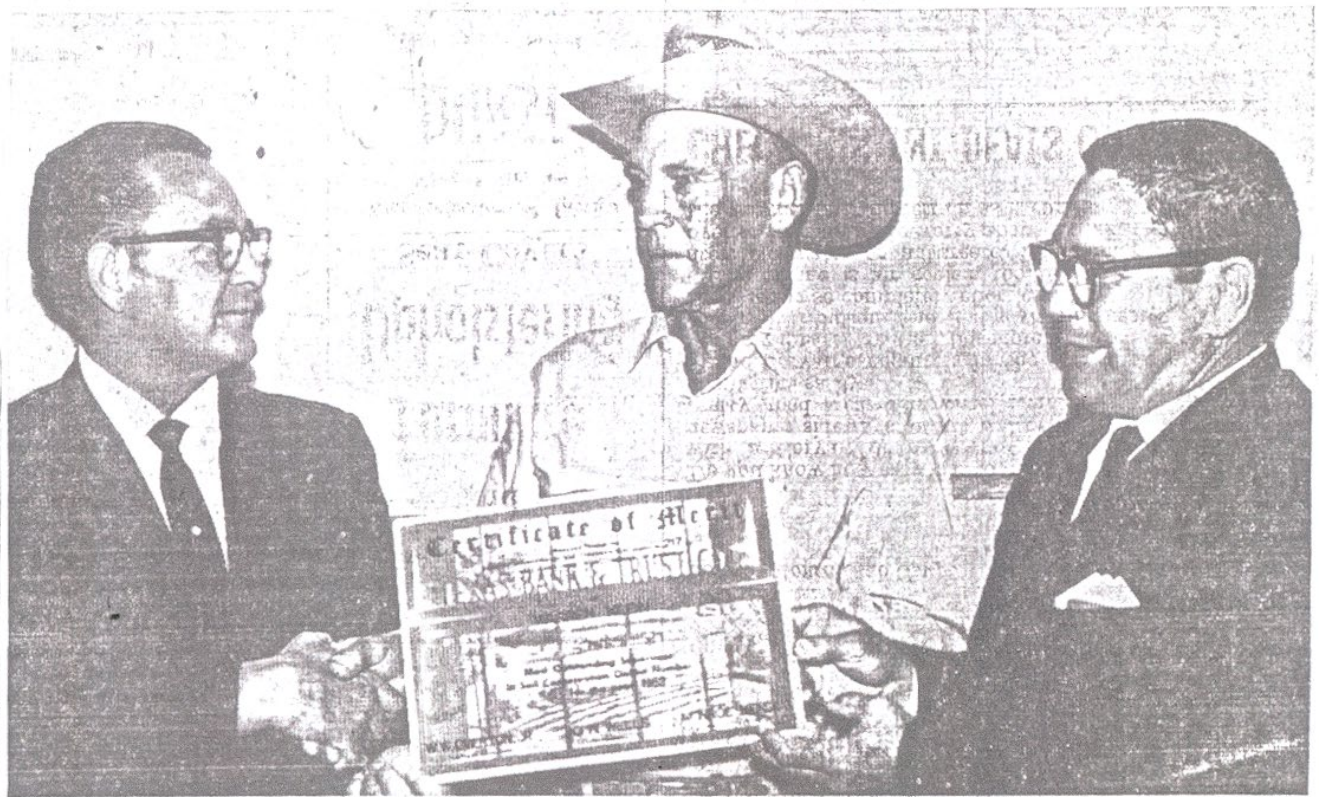
He became principal here in 1997 after teaching in Hunt School District, which has 165 kids.

"I thought Hunt was little bitty, but I found out it was just little," said Bacon, 38. "This is teeny weeny."

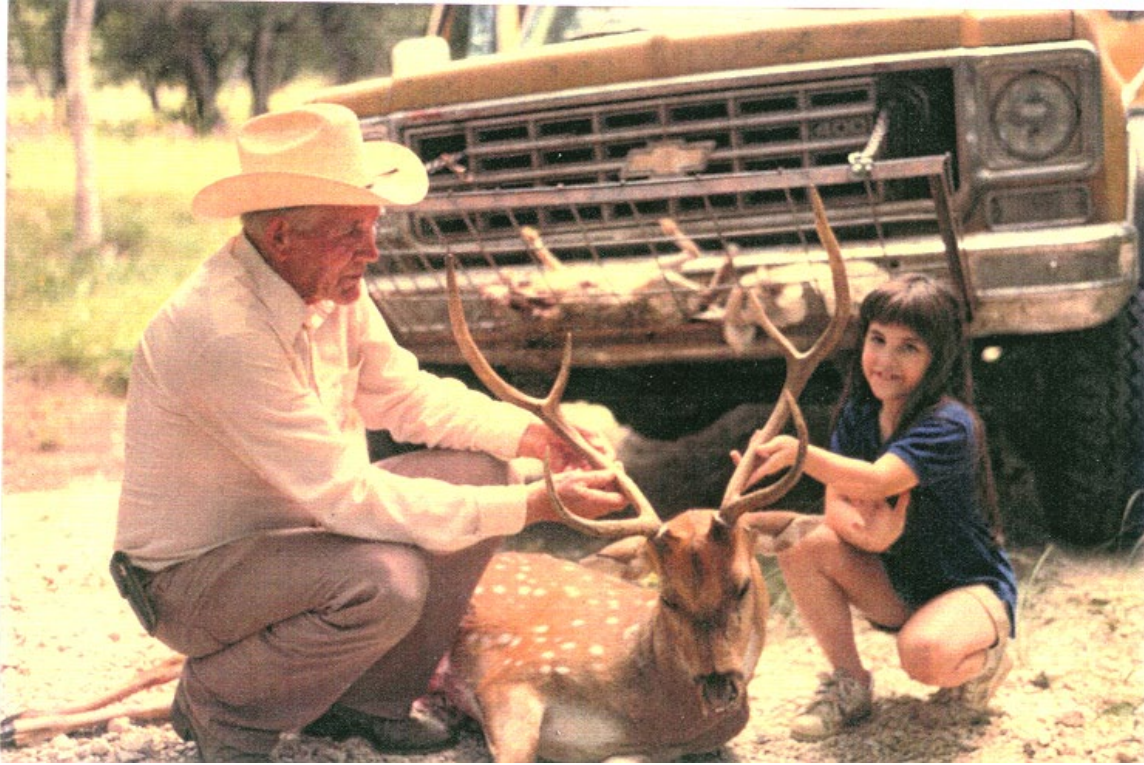
Cole Brown agreed, saying: "Hunt is huge to us."

Klein Honored

Kerrville Mountain Sun, Kerrville, Texas, MAY 8, 1963



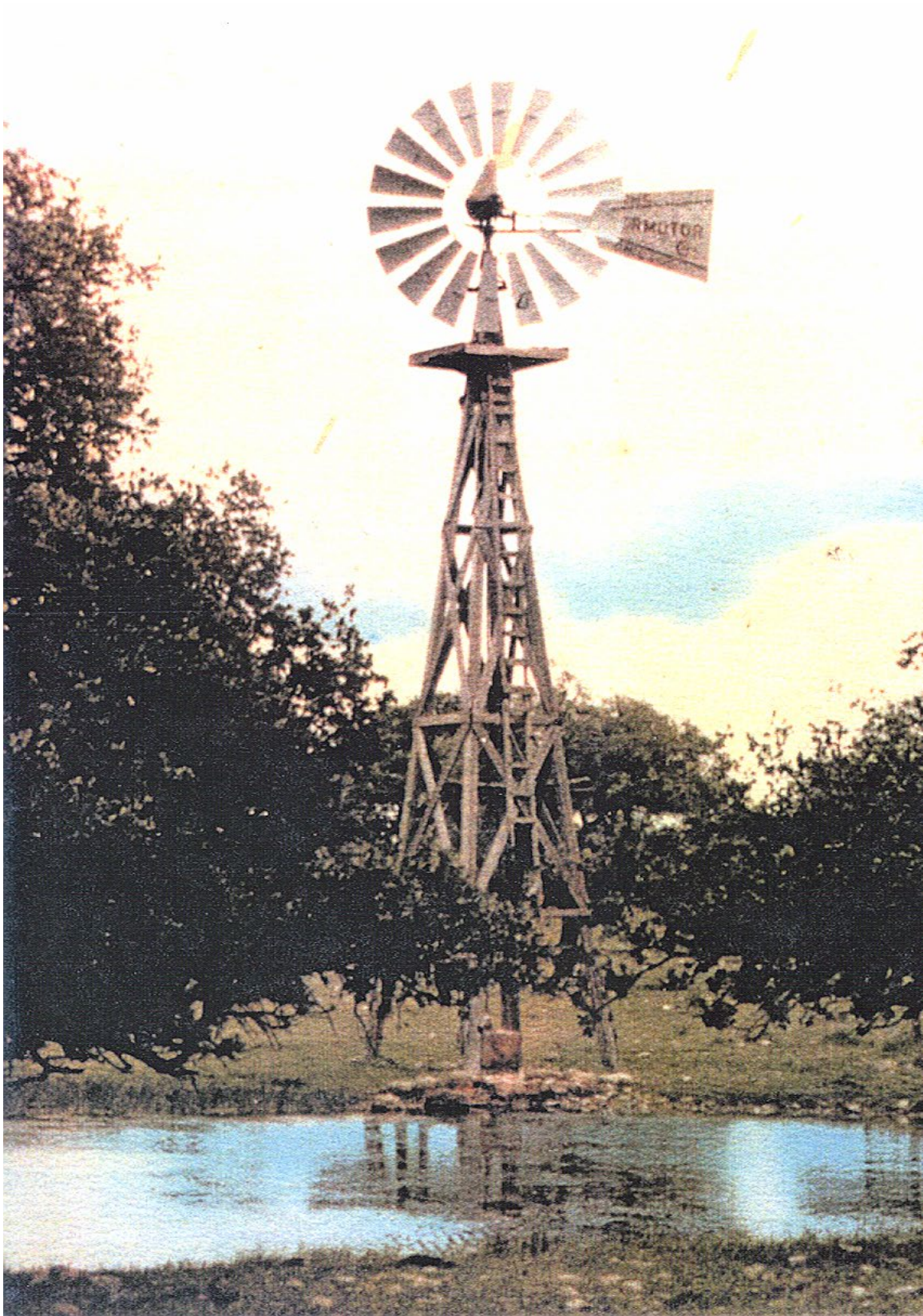
HONORED as the outstanding supervisor in the Soil Conservation District during 1962 was Warren Klein of Mountain Home. The Certificate of Merit was presented by Henry Wied and Monroe Kensing, representatives of the Bankers Committee. Klein has been on the district board for the past 10 years, and is a past president of the Hill Country District Boys Livestock Show. —Jorns photo



This young hunter, one of many who hunt on his ranch each year, shows Warren Klein the trophy buck she shot on the Klein Ranch.



Jack Klein, son of Warren Klein, gets some help rounding up sheep on his father's ranch on the Divide. (Photo Ca. 1950)



This windmill, built in 1892, sits over one of three wells on the Warren Klein Ranch on The Divide



September 2000 - Warren Klein (l) with grandson, Neal, and Lindsey Klein, daughter of Neal and great-granddaughter of Warren.

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