



## List #23, TEXAS

### AN UNPUBLISHED TEXAS RANCH FAIRYTALE

**1. Browder, H. Franklin.** *[Typescript, with Manuscript Corrections, of a Novella Describing Ranch Life in Early-20th Century Texas. Together with Additional Correspondence and Family Materials from the Author].* Denton, Tx. 1920-1938. [131]pp. Typescript on rectos only. Folio sheets, loose. Light wear and soiling, primarily at edges. Manuscript corrections and notations throughout. Very good.

An apparently unpublished typescript of a story about ranch life in Texas at the turn of the century. There is substantial detail about ranch life, farming practices, and other daily activities on a ranch in Texas. The author clearly had intimate knowledge of these activities and conveys it through his fiction. Our hero, Tom Hunter, is orphaned by the Galveston Hurricane of 1900 and raised by his grandmother. He attends Texas A&M where he receives a first-class education and meets the Dalton family, spending holiday break at their beautiful ranch. Tom meets a young girl while there and relates to her his dreams of cultivating the perfect ranch -- well irrigated, productive, and worked by the honest labor of his own hands. He returns home after college to his family farm, which he has inherited. While working one day, he is suddenly and inexplicably approached by Mr. Cephas Powers, who questions him thoroughly and observes his strong work ethic. Powers proposes to "buy him":

"...I infer that you are ambitious to make a reputation as a farmer and ranchman. You realize that you cannot for many years make that reputation on this ranch with your limited means and limited boundaries. ... When I say that I want to buy you, I mean just what I say. I want your whole time and all your thought and energy. ... I want you to take a tract of land and make the best ranch and farm out of it to be found any where in the Southwest. I have heard your history and know enough about you to be able to make you the offer without any conditions except that you agree to stay single and that you employ only single men in all positions of responsibility and trust."

The offer is bold and pays extremely well -- and Tom will be able to realize his dream. Not only that, the ranch he is to improve is the Dalton ranch, as well as the land around it (all the Daltons having apparently, and conveniently, died). First on his list of orders is connecting a telephone line to the nearest railroad station and purchasing some neighboring land. He sets about these tasks, and also hires a good friend from college, Wat Durbin, to work with him on the ranch. Wat brings his Black servants with him, all of whom speak in a heavily stylized dialogue: "I ahm monstrous glad somebody kum sides dese heathen Mexicans what kain't talk folks' talk at all but jes jabbers like a passel o wile annimules."

Train car loads of supplies and machinery and animals begin to arrive, all described in loving detail and all sent by the mysterious Cephas Powers. Tom hires an Irishman and a German fellow, and describes everyone at the ranch as "a jolly crowd." Everyone agrees to forego women while working at the ranch, and improvement on a grand scale begins -- Mexicans clear acreage, the

men start on telegraph poles and a road, the ranch is furnished and appointed well, and the German makes "twenty five of the best [bee] hives I ever saw and was anxious to make more." Tom buys the neighbor's property and adds it to the fold. The ranch is thriving and producing loads of cattle, crops, and timber. "The cattle were all sleek and fat and the colts and calves gambolled on the prairie where flowers of every conceivable hue strove to lend color to the scene. Any man who could not feel happy in Texas in May is sadly in need of reform."

Tom receives a note from Cephas Powers directing him to pick the owner of the ranch up at the train station. Lo and behold, the owner is none other than the young Dalton girl that he had befriended and related his dreams to these many years past, all grown up and with several maids and a niece in tow. The women settle into the house and proceed to furnish and outfit it to their style. The owner, Kate, also tours the ranch extensively, delighting in improvements and all the progress made on her behalf. The work ends, we suspect, prematurely, with the relocation of a family of skunks. There is no doubt in this cataloguer's mind that the intention is for Tom to marry Kate and become the owner of the ranch, completing the dream and the happily ever after ending. Whether the rest of the story was written and lost or never completed, we cannot say.

H.F. Browder served as Farm Agent for Denton County and in the city's Chamber of Commerce. Additional correspondence present here deals mostly with family genealogy, though one letter from 1920 is from T.O. Walton of the Cooperative Extension of the Department of Agriculture in College Station, discussing the Farm Bureaus and farming practices. An interesting story, full of rich characters and rife with detail about daily life in early 20th-century Texas.  
(McBRB1705) \$950

#### MID-CENTURY TEXAS COOK BOOK

**2. [Cook Books]. [Texas].** *Cook Book Published by the Business & Professional Women's Club of George West, Texas [cover title].* George West, Tx: Business and Professional Women's Club, 1948. 96pp. Original blue and silver wrappers, printed in black and red, stapled. Minor wear and soiling to covers, text clean. Very good.

Mid-century cook book published to raise funds for the "improvement and beautification of the city parks of George West." The front-matter includes a list of the women of the club, as well as the local Rotary, Lion's Club, and Junior Chamber of Commerce. A sure sign of the times, there is an entire section for casseroles, as well as a section for Mexican Foods. Interspersed throughout with local ads. We locate four copies in OCLC, at Harvard, Baylor, Texas A&M, and Texas Tech University.  
(McBRB1646) \$125

#### RARE MID-CENTURY TEXAS COOK BOOK

**3. [Cook Books]. [Texas].** *Recipes Tested, Tasted and Approved by the Members and Friends of St. Anne's Circle, with That "Little Something" Added.* Eagle Pass, Tx. 1948. 135,[1]pp. plus frontispiece. Original green stiff paper wrappers, printed in silver. Light wear to covers. Contemporary ownership inscription on front flyleaf. Minor wear and toning to text. Very good.

A scarce mid-century Texas cook book assembled by the Church of the Redeemer in Eagle Pass, Texas. The text includes a table of contents with the usual suspects, as well as a section of "Mexican Dishes," "Food for Sick and Convalescent," and "Recipes to Serve Fifty." With local ads scattered throughout the text. We locate a single copy in OCLC, at the University of Michigan.  
(McBRB1645) \$125

## HORSES FOR SALE AT THE SAN ANTONIO FAIR

**4. [Horses]. [Livestock].** *Catalogue of High Class Speed, Road & Saddle Horses...Shipped by Express to San Antonio Fair. All for Sale [cover title].* [Sedalia, Mo. ca.1907]. [36]pp. Oblong 12mo. Original yellow printed wrappers, stapled. Light wear and soiling, contemporary pencil notation on front cover. Slight biopredation to upper corner, continuing through text. Contents clean. About very good.

A catalogue of nineteen horses for sale at the San Antonio fair, each with a half tone illustration and a description. "Individually the horses are the kind the people want, the kind the people ought to buy, and the kind that give satisfaction." The first item in the catalogue is a pair of bay geldings, Scotty and The Bard, described as "breedy looking with extreme high style and high all around action". Horse number six is identified as "Happy Jack," a chestnut gelding foaled in 1902. His lineage is given, as is his height and gait. He is noted as "absolutely fearless with some speed," well mannered, and "a thorough broke horse for ladies or children." Most of the animals are pictured in profile harnessed to a carriage or other equipage. The final horse, Royal Sphinx No. 38851, is a stallion and is not pictured, though his pedigree is outlined in detail. Unsurprisingly, not located in OCLC.

(McBRB1671)

\$350

## INVEST IN EAST TEXAS

**5. [Kirby Lumber Company].** *Timber Resources of East Texas: Their Recognition and Development by John H. Kirby, Through the Inception and Organization of the Kirby Lumber Company of Houston, Texas...* Chicago: American Lumberman, 1902. [2],196pp. Quarto. Original red limp cloth, cover gilt. Light soiling and wear to binding. Contemporary ownership pencil markings throughout, text dampstained around the edges, light scattered soiling. Good.

Extensively illustrated work on the operations of the Kirby Lumber Company, a division of the Houston Oil Company, originally published in the Chicago-based periodical *The American Lumberman*. A map included herein shows "the land owned by these companies embraces the major part of the longleaf pine lands of Texas," spanning from Nacogdoches to the Gulf of Mexico. The Houston Oil Company was chartered in 1901, and this work was clearly produced to showcase its potential for investment, including "a discussion of related oil interests, financial plan, manufacturing economies, market advantages, etc. etc." The company's operations are explored in detail, with illustrations and text on the local mills and their related camps and facilities, including the hospital system and commissary. With numerous images of workers, many of them African-American and some of them identified by name, such as "Black Mac" a planer in Beaumont. The final chapter covers the oil company itself, with views of Spindletop and the fields at Corsicana. An early work on both the Texas oil and timber industries. A handful of copies in OCLC, almost all in Texas institutions.

(McBRB1436)

\$800

## EXCELLENT PHOTO RECORD OF BOOMTOWN HOUSTON

**6. [Texas Photographica].** *Bess and Jess! [manuscript title].* [Houston. 1912]. 149 original photographs, measuring 1.5 x 1.5 to 3.5 x 4.5 inches. Oblong octavo. Original leatherette album, photos mounted directly on thick black paper stock, most captioned in pencil on mounts. Light soiling and wear to covers. Blind embossed private library stamp at lower edge of first leaf. Several photos lightly creased at edges or trimmed to fit available space. Five loose photographs in a laid-in envelope. Very good.

A sentimental, but extensive and well-composed photograph album containing nearly 150 original images that document the life of a newlywed couple in the Montrose neighborhood of Houston during the early 1910s. The principal subjects of the album, Jesse Lyon Myers and Elizabeth "Bessie" Hammond, were married in early 1912 and built a new home on Hyde Park Boulevard, which is still standing today. This house and another new home down the street (no longer extant) belonging Myers' uncle, Chosen Houston Myers, are prominently featured in the album. The initial images depict the home sites, foundations, construction, and several views of the completed Arts & Crafts structures. A series of photographs showing the house interiors highlights the stenciled wallpapers, quarter-sawn oak furniture, elaborate textiles, and architectural details of the two homes. The couple also maintained a cabin at Sylvan Beach, just south of La Porte on Trinity Bay, to which they travelled in their automobile, visible in one of the shots of the small house. They spent some of their leisure time boating and fishing in Galveston as well, of which there are several images.

One series of particular interest documents the historic Stowers Fire, which occurred on May 19, 1912, and destroyed four buildings on Houston's Main Street. The destroyed buildings, congregation of fire engines, the busy firemen, smoke billowing through downtown, gathered spectators, and the remnants of the Stowers building and the neighboring Bennett's Drug Store are all depicted. The Myers family owned and operated C.H. Myers Co. & Dallas Book Co., and became one of the largest distributors of school supplies, textbooks, desks and school furniture, and other school equipment in Texas, often touting in advertisements of the period that they supplied over 1000 churches and many more schools. Several images of their offices also appear in the present album.

The neighborhood of Montrose was established in 1910, only two years before the images in the present album, by real estate developer J.W. Link as one of the first residential additions to the city, and quickly became an important example of the Houston's prosperous expansion. This charming and detailed album therefore provides excellent photographic documentation of the city, its new neighborhoods, and the surrounding area during a period of rapid and substantial growth in the early-20th century, and furnishes a fascinating representation of life for one of Houston's thriving families.

(McBRB1366)

\$1,350

#### LOVELY PROMOTIONAL FOR EL PASO

7. [Texas]. *El Paso, Texas. Metropolis of the Great Southwest and Main Gateway to Mexico* [cover title]. Brooklyn: The Albertype Company, [1925]. [16] leaves, printed recto only. Oblong quarto. Original grey illustrated wrappers, string-tied. Minor wear and soiling. Internally clean. Near fine.

A handsome promotional work depicting the city of El Paso, produced by the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. The first leaf gives a brief synopsis of the location, industry, and climate of the region. The remaining fifteen leaves contain views of the city and the surrounding area. These include San Jacinto Plaza, the high school, county court house, Mesa Avenue, Washington Park, Loretto College, the El Paso Smelter Works, and the College of Mines and Metallurgy, among others. The front cover shows the railway station and the rear cover depicts Elephant Butte Dam. We locate four copies of this work in OCLC, all in Texas libraries.

(McBRB1684)

\$600

## FIERCE LADY BOWLING IN TEXAS

**8. [Texas]. [Bowling].** *St. Joseph's Ladies Bowling Club. Organized April 3, 1919 [manuscript title].* [Corpus Christi, Tx.]. 1930-1937. Approximately [150]pp. 12mo. Original black cloth. Light wear and soiling to covers. Contents lightly toned, some light wear and soiling. Generally written in a legible hand. About very good.

Fabulous manuscript record of a ladies' bowling league club in Corpus Christi, kept over the better part of the 1930s. The book outlines the rules of the club, records lists of members, and documents meetings, as well as expenses and other information. It is a very thorough look at ladies' bowling in Depression-era Texas, and seems to have been rather a serious organization and must have been comprised of wealthier women. In order to join, one had to be a member of "St. Elizabeth Society, Young Ladies Sodality, or a daughter of the mothers belonging to the club." Meetings happened every four months, while bowling took place every Thursday -- Rule 2 of the Rules of Bowling states that "The losing side has to pay 5 cents a person," and members that aren't present are fined 10 cents. Guests were allowed but only once a month. The four-monthly meeting coincided with a "prize bowl," for which every member contributed 25 cents each month. Rules for prize bowling are outlined (no guests allowed), as are rules for general bowling. "Anyone missing weekly bowling three successive times will be barred from our regular four months prize bowl. Anyone out of town, sick, or working should report to one of the officers and will be excused." The rules further outline the hierarchical structure of the club. Example entries from the minutes include:

"Motion was made by our President Mrs. Ring, that the club rent a lock box at Frost Bank to keep the club funds and papers in. We feel like it is too much responsibility to put on our Treasurer to keep our funds at her home. Mrs. Hirt is willing to pay half of the cost which is \$3.00 for the right to keep her private papers in the box. The motion was voted on and passed."

Because these years were during the Great Depression, on "August 26, 1932, We had a short meeting with the minutes being read. Mrs. Hirt made a suggestion that since times are so hard at the present, that we should cut the prices on our weekly prizes. The first one to speak on this suggestion was Mrs. Thopla Mayer. She said don't make any change in prices but just go by one's purse, anyway so it was said. So it was understood not to make any change in the prices but to go by one's own purse, or let your conscience be your guide. Mrs. Streich wanted to know why we didn't invite our husbands more to bowl with us? But sorry to say we found out it is cheaper to our club to leave husbands at home. Mrs. Miller called a short meeting and told us that the bowling alley had been reduced to \$2.00. We also noted that we should spend 5 cents a week for ice to make ice water for all of our members, this will be taken out of the treasury."

An engaging look into the world of amateur -- but serious -- women's bowling, and a particularly nice record given the length of time covered.

(McBRB1506)

\$500

## LETTER ON FARMING IN EAST TEXAS

**9. [Texas]. [Farming].** *[Autograph Letter, Signed, Discussing Different Types of Agricultural Production in Texas].* Freestone County, Tx. August 2, 1866. [3]pp. on a folded folio sheet. Old folds, lightly tanned. Slight biopredation affecting a few letters. Good.

Letter written by a gentleman in Texas to his friend, discussing the land and farming in Freestone County and the surrounding area. Freestone County is located about sixty miles south of Dallas on the route to Houston, and was established in 1850. In the mid 1860s, the county had a population of about 7,000 residents scattered across the countryside. He writes, in part:

"Dear friend according to promise I write you a few lines relative to this and other portions of Texas that I have seen, I have visited about 25 counties. This is a medium county mostly timbered and sandy, but from here west or north it is soiled prairie, and from here east is a timbered country. ... Texas as a general thing is level, in some places water is scarce, but this season there is an abundant supply. This and adjoining counties is mostly cotton country, but wheat, oats & C grow very well. Wheat will make from 10 to 20 bs. per acre and in some rare cases 30 bs. has been made. The up land will produce about 1200 lbs per acre, the cotton land will make one bale and upwards. Most of the land that we are cultivating is bottom, and I think that it will make one bale."

He goes on to discuss corn output, hogs, and the possibilities for cattle, as well as the disposition of several other counties for various agricultural products. An interesting look at rural eastern Texas just after the Civil War.

(McBRB1688)

\$300

#### UNRECORDED PROMOTIONAL FOR NORTH TEXAS

**10. [Texas]. Gunn, Walter E.** *The Texas Panhandle Magazine*. [Chicago]. 1911. 56pp. Large octavo. Original printed wrappers. Light wear and soiling, heavier to rear cover, a few chips and tears. Minor soiling to contents, printed on two different paper stocks. About very good.

Promotional work in the guise of a periodical, featuring articles and numerous illustrations about northern Texas. One such article is entitled "A People Who Are Making Good," and features two pages of text and four photographs highlighting development in Memphis, Texas, in Hall County. Another article is titled "Progressive Amarillo," while another is simply called "Pictorial Panhandle" and features several pages of images depicting the region. It includes numerous ads for local businesses throughout, the back cover being devoted to G.A. Vawter of Dalhart, Texas, hawking real estate information: "Your future in Moore County is my future. ... We grow all the products that are grown in the north. The air is a cure for the sick and an inspiration for the healthy. ... Why stay on a high-priced, run-down farm, when you can buy Moore County land, which is low-priced and bursting with fertility?" Not in OCLC.

(McBRB1683)

\$650

#### ONE TOWN'S DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES

**11. [Texas]. [Law].** *Corporation Court Docket & Fee Book. City of San Marcos [spine title]*. San Marcos, Tx. 1902-1908. [12],374pp. Large folio. Original half calf and cloth, spine gilt. Light wear and soiling to boards, spine and corners a bit scuffed. Contemporary typescript sheet pasted to front flyleaf. Minor soiling and wear to contents. Very good.

Extensive, early 20th-century court docket recording book for the city of San Marcos, Texas, the seat of Hays County, located about half way between Austin and San Antonio. The nearly four hundred entries, one on each page, cover the seven years from 1902 to 1908, and note the name of the defendant, the offense, and any convictions and punishments accorded. As one might expect, many of the cases are for public drunkenness or disturbing the peace, and there are also a number of defendants charged with "gaming" and the occasional assault or charge of fighting in the streets. On May 25, 1904, Charlie Matts was tried for "Cruely and unmercifully beating and abusing a certain horse then in his possession," for which he was fined \$5 plus court costs amounting to \$12.25. In a case against Juan Garcia on April 20, 1905, he was charged with "unlawfully keeping and permitting his place of business to be open for purpose of barter and sale, and unlawfully selling certain goods, etc. on Sunday, April 9th, 1905, after 9 o'clock A.M. on

said day." Garcia was fined \$20. Other interesting charges include "unlawfully carrying a pistol," "fast driving," "riding train" (presumably without a ticket), "using abusive language," and "placing filth in the public streets." The typescript sheet in the front of the volume outlines fees for the court, including the cost of the clerk and the city attorney (who makes double on a "not guilty" plea conviction). A useful record of legal activities in a small, central Texas town that had a population of just over 2000 inhabitants at the turn of the 20th century.

(McBRB1484)

\$1,250

## DRUNK LAWYERING IN WHEELOCK, TEXAS

**12. [Texas]. [Law].** [*Autograph Letter, Signed, by a Drunk Texas Attorney in Rural Robertson County*]. Wheelock, Tx. June 19, 1855. [4]pp., on a bifolium. Previously folded. Light even tanning. Very good plus.

An unusual but fascinating 1855 letter by an travelling attorney in central Texas, describing some of his experiences there and extolling the virtues of the state to his addressee. Remarkably, the author, who signs his missive only as "Feeney," seems to become progressively more drunk as he writes, and the quality of penmanship and cohesiveness of thought diminish in subsequent paragraphs. Feeney writes from Wheelock, a small town north of modern-day College Station, founded in 1830 by the grandson of Eleazar Wheelock (the scion of Dartmouth) and the seat of Robertson County from 1850 to 1856. After a lengthy round of pleasantries, he begins to describe his recent experiences practicing law in the state:

"Your letter reached me about a week before the District Court (the same as your Circuit Court) and at that time I was busy as a recruiting sergeant on a fourth of July - for filing suits and engaging counsel are the orders of the week ... and of course I had to be as busy writing - talking, electioning, and advising as it behoved a law yerling upon his first legs - cases and clients should be \_\_\_ Since that time I have been on the 'circuit' transversing for six or eight weeks a territory as large as Alabama - since then making examination speeches - and playing - generally for the past two weeks - I did not get drunk, Sir - after my first speech, but somehow 'the gentlemen of the jury' 'duly impanelled' &c. and myself happened to come to the grocery at the same time, and the records of the grocery show that I stand charged thereto with thirteen drinks - thus I recompenced their intelligence & uprightness in deciding on my side."

Thence, Feeney's legibility and cohesion descend somewhat, as he becomes apparently inebriated, though the letter remains quite readable. In the remainder of his text, just over half, he gives his impressions and opinions of Texas in the hopes of persuading his acquaintance to try it for himself:

"The wealth of the state at its present status consists principally in cattle, sheep, horses & hogs and the profit derived from them is compared with farming, immense. Cattle double in numbers a profit every three years - horses in less, and sheep in less still. Land is a secondary consideration - men that passed as poor and are considered as hardly responsible men ... and yet they have a patent for a league of 44411 acres, or a half, or a thrice any how - for recovering or defending a law suit, with difficulty can a fee in money be procured, but they will divide the land. I am retained in a case to annul a will - the gentleman told me he would not pay in money - but I might make my own arrangements for the fee, in land - yet that same land is the richest I ever saw, and worth as much hard cash as any for agricultural purposes can be - I think I never made a better move or performed a wiser trick, than when I came to Texas. If my Lucie will only continue. This is in each and every respect the freest country in the world - There is no censorous standard of depredation on the one hand nor puritanism on the other - Yet the law is supreme and the morals

are not the worst - Yet it is so, in the absence of the restraints generally imposed by ordinance and church discipline."

Only the final paragraph, in which he lauds his ability to "ride over the country in his shirt sleeves" and to "sleep upon the prairies," becomes a bit difficult to decipher. An engaging letter on itinerant Texas life in the mid-1850s, with evidence of extraneous inspiration.

(McBRB1719)

\$1,250

#### OIL DEVELOPMENT IN CORSICANA

**13. [Texas]. [Maps].** *Navarro Oil & Refining Co. 10,000 Acres of Leases in 18 Tracts [caption title].* [Corsicana, Tx. ca. 1920]. Folding map, approximately 14 x 20 inches. Printed in red and black on thin paper. A couple of small chips at edges and very short separations along folds. Light tanning and dust soiling; occasional faint foxing. Good plus.

An attractive and scarce promotional map that advertises oil leases available from the Navarro Oil & Refining Company, showing eighteen tracts shaded in red and their acreage across Navarro County, northeast of Waco. It centers on Corsicana, the county seat, and is bounded by the Trinity River to the east and the Hill, Freestone, and Ellis county lines. The map is also marked with red icons of oil derricks to delineate test well locations throughout. Additionally, all the major tracts in the region are labeled with names of owners, and property controlled by larger companies such as Magnolia, El Dorado, Deep Sand, and Sinclair are outlined in bold. The area around Corsicana was the first in Texas to be developed for commercial oil production, after deposits were discovered there in 1894. This map, produced circa 1920, well delineates the development undertaken in the county during the intervening years. An appealing example of cartographic advertisement for Texas oil; not in OCLC.

(McBRB1430)

\$750

#### PROMOTIONAL MAP FOR A FORT WORTH OIL SWINDLER

**14. [Texas]. [Maps].** *Oil Map of Texas, Louisiana and Southern Arkansas.* Fort Worth: Oil City Map Co., 1924. Sheet map, 16 x 20 inches. Previous folded, with one short separation at horizontal fold from right edge. Very minor wear and dust soiling along old folds, otherwise a clean copy. Very good.

A scarce oil map of Texas issued during the state's second major oil boom, printed in 1924 as a promotional for H.J. McMullen, a noted Fort Worth royalty swindler of the 1920s and 1930s. The present work shows the locations of drilling, oil and gas wells, oil and gas fields, and pipelines with detail extending into Louisiana and Arkansas, with an index listing all oil and gas fields in the region and their corresponding location on the map. The map legend states that it was published with "Compliments of H.J. McMullen, Oil Royalty Properties," and seems designed as a general guide to potential locations for investors in mineral rights to consider. This work was compiled and produced by the Oil City Map Company, a Fort Worth firm that produced a total of only a small handful of maps during the 1920s. H.J. McMullen was a significant player in the business of Texas mineral rights during this period, but became known, particularly in South Texas, as a disreputable. His principal swindle was to present purchase contracts as leases to immigrant and uneducated land owners, and his deals led to a string of lawsuits for the remainder of the 20th century following his premature death in 1934. A small collection of McMullen's correspondence is located at the Beinecke, but we locate no copies of this map or other publications associated with his business.

(McBRB1626)

\$875

## EPHEMERAL TEXAS MUSIC PROGRAM

**15. [Texas]. [Music].** *John W. Beardslee. A Lyste of Sacred Hymns and Tunes, and Likewise Worldlye Songs Certain of Wh. Were Sung in ye Yere of Our Lord 1775... [caption title].* Dallas: Herald Printing Company, 1875. [4]pp. Small quarto bifolium. Minor wear and toning. Light foxing at top edge. About very good.

An unrecorded, humorous program and announcement of a choral performance for "folks of ye Presbyterian persuasion." Hodijah Owenson's Singing School is advertised to perform at the Dallas Courthouse on July 20, 1875. The interior pages provide a list of members of the vocal group and a program of songs. Vaguely nonsensical instructions such as, "Undue levity and sparkinge will be mentioned from ye pulpits on ye next Lord's Day," are sprinkled throughout, with the whole piece composed in the same old-timey language. The name of the group leader, John W. Beardslee, heads the first page and is highlighted with delightfully illustrated woodcut initials. We were able to discover little about this company of light entertainers, but OCLC locates single copies of programs for performances by them in Brattleboro, Vermont (1874), and in New Orleans (1875), so they were clearly cohesive and popular enough to tour the country.

(McBRB1603)

\$375

## SPINDLETOP ARCHIVE

**16. [Texas]. [Oil].** *[Archive of Correspondence and Records Related to Speculative Claims on the Spindletop Estate].* [Various places, mostly Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. 1931-1932]. Eighty-five typed and manuscript letters, including thirty mimeographed copies of a form response. Moderate chipping and wear to a few letters, most previously folded but otherwise in strong condition. Overall, good plus.

A fascinating collection of correspondence relating to spurious Depression-era claims on the famed Beaumont estate of Pelham Humphries (1810?-1835?). In 1834, Humphries, a colonist in the disputed lands along the US border with Mexico, filed a claim for a league (some 4,428 acres) of land to the west of the Neches River, a few miles south of what is now Beaumont in Jefferson County, Texas. The land, a patchwork of swamp and grassland good only for grazing, was deemed valueless until oil was discovered there in 1901, by which time it had become known as Spindletop, and the area became the epicenter of the Texas oil boom.

No one made more money than William Perry Herring McFadden (1856-1935), a rancher who had bought Spindletop in 1883, but ownership of the land was in dispute when he made the purchase. Humphries had died in obscurity, possibly killed in a gunfight or perhaps hanged for stealing horses, and there was no clear transfer of title. The first suit over the Humphries Land Grant was filed in 1880. McFadden purchased the rights of both parties in the suit, but later claimants argued that neither had had a legitimate interest. When geologists struck oil, hundreds of people discovered their fortunate genealogy, as a story swiftly spread that the heirs to the Humphries estate were due a share in the profits from the great companies that extracted oil from Spindletop. Numerous lawsuits followed, beginning shortly after the discovery and continuing through the 2010s, some extending over decades and involving thousands of claimants.

After one such suit entitled *Anderson v. Lucas* was settled in 1906, the Humphries story appears to have been forgotten for several decades, before it emerged again during the depths of the Great Depression. Humphries reportedly hailed originally from Tennessee, and in October 1931 the Knoxville Journal reported that members of the Humphreys family were gathering in Madisonville, Tennessee to discuss their options. In November, another meeting was held in Knoxville, drawing over 200 attendees. Responding to the growing number of inquiries sent to his office, W. T. Blackmon, the Jefferson County Clerk wrote to the Knoxville Journal to set the

record straight – “the Humphreys have absolutely no chance of getting \$40,000,000 worth of oil land,” the Journal summarized. “And so far as he is concerned, he had rather hear no more about it. ... He informed the Journal that he had quit opening letters from the Tennessee Humphreys.” But Blackmon’s letter had no effect. The next day the paper ran a piece in which Oscar Humphrey, a stringer for the Associated Press, voiced his suspicion at the clerk’s response and urged people to fight for their millions.

The documents present here constitute Blackmon’s file of inquiries from various Humphries claimants and their representatives, all dated 1931 to 1932. A defiant letter here from Oscar Humphrey encloses clippings from the Knoxville Journal and informs Blackmon that, “You may rest assured that I am going to have these stories reproduced in other papers in several cities in Tennessee and Georgia.” The bulk of the archive consists of over fifty letters containing requests and claims from eleven states, including Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas, as well as the District of Columbia, suggest that Humphrey’s threat was not an idle one. Some of the letters are a few typed lines and comprise simple requests for information, while others are handwritten and run on for pages, with elaborate descriptions of the supplicant's claims and genealogy. Also present are carbon copies of general Blackmon’s response, which he adapted as a mimeographed form letter, as well as copies of two more personalized . To dissuade inquirers from further correspondence, his form letter notes that a full abstract of the survey of claims to Spindletop would cost “about \$2500.00.” Additional material here suggests that this may have been side scam Blackmon had with Earl Singleton, the proprietor of the Jefferson County Abstract Company. At any rate, the fresh rounds of claims on Spindletop delineated here came to nothing, and Blackmon gave up his duties as County Clerk, and accepted a new position as tax assessor and collector for Jefferson County, the pursuit of tax delinquents perhaps seeming a restful occupation by comparison.

An excellent collection of documents detailing one episode in the long saga concerning the rights to the Spindletop fortune.  
(MBRB1450) \$1,450

"IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR QUICK ACTION... READ THIS NOW"

**17. [Texas]. [Oil].** [*Small Group of Promotional Ephemera from the Standard Royalty Syndicate and the National Oil Association of Texas*]. Dallas. [1922]. Two bifolia and one broadsheet. A few separations along folds; two areas of loss along central fold of larger bifolium. Light toning. Good.

Three interesting pieces of promotional ephemera from the Texas oil boom of the early 1920s. Two items, a bifolium and a broadsheet, advertise the Standard Royalty Syndicate, which promised small shares in a venture to acquire oil and mineral royalty rights from Texas land owners and the distribution of seventy-five percent of profits directly to shareholders. The broadsheet sheet trumpets the Syndicate's enormous profits from its investment in the Coyle-Carter gusher near Mexia, east of Waco, which erupted in 1921. The author of these items, C.C. Cannan, was arrested for mail fraud related to the promotion of his oil schemes in 1924.

The third item present here advertises stock in the White Point Production Company, which controlled "the largest gas well in the world" on Nueces Bay near Corpus Christi, in exchange for the purchase of a "lifetime membership" in the National Oil Association of Texas. This group seems to have been a clearinghouse in Dallas for dubious Texas oil investments, but details of its actual *raison d'être* in this pamphlet are thin, with the majority of the text describing the supposed profits being delivered by White Point.  
(McBRB1710) \$250

## DEDICATING THE LOCAL STEEL PLANT

**18. [Texas]. [Photography].** [*Photo Album of the Dedication of the Lone Star Steel Company Furnaces in Daingerfield, Texas*]. [Daingerfield, Tx. 1943]. Forty images, including fifteen duplicates, most measuring 4.75 x 7 inches, plus [4]pp. pamphlet in original printed wrappers tipped in. Oblong folio album, textured green cloth, string-tied. Cloth beginning to separate from front board at fore-edge. Photos in corner mounts, with extensive typed caption labels. Minor yellowing at edges of a few images. Good plus.

A brief album of attractive, well-composed photographs documenting the completion and dedication of blast furnaces at the Lone Star Steel Company, south of the East Texas town of Daingerfield, on September 4, 1943. Long-serving U.S. Senator Sam Rayburn laid the final brick and spoke at the dedication, as did Texas Congressman Wright Patman of Texarkana. The plant, fully completed in 1953, made steel pipes and casings for the oil and gas industry.

"In 1943 the Lone Star Steel Company used government defense-plant money and private capital to build a blast furnace, coke ovens, and a beneficiation plant near Daingerfield. The project was designed to produce pig iron by the orthodox method, using limestone from nearby sources and coke made from Oklahoma coal. While the company sought a federal loan to build a cast-iron plant and steel mill at the site, the Daingerfield plant began shipping beneficiated ore to Houston, St. Louis, and Birmingham. By the war's end the steel mill had not been completed, but the company leased the facility and certain Oklahoma coal mines with an option to buy the properties within two years. Production of pig iron began in the fall of 1947, and in 1948 the firm purchased the \$35 million plant from the War Assets Administration. In July 1949 the Reconstruction Finance Corporation granted Lone Star Steel a loan of \$34 million to complete a steel mill, contingent on its investment of \$22 million of its own. The company's plans called for four open-hearth steel furnaces and a mill for making electric-weld steel line pipe and oil-well casing. Ores were mined in the immediate vicinity of the plant in Morris County in the 1950s. In 1953 the completed plant was finally put into operation producing steel ingots and steel pipe, and in 1954 and 1956 expanded its steel-making capacity" - Handbook of Texas Online.

The company was acquired by U.S. Steel in 2007, but the plant itself was shuttered indefinitely in June 2020, a casualty of the coronavirus pandemic.

(McBRB1641)

\$350

## GROUP OF TEXAS PHOTO POSTCARDS

**19. [Texas]. [Photography].** [*Real Photo Postcards of Texas Oil Fields*]. [Various places in Texas. 1918-1920]. Twenty-seven real photo postcards, of which fifteen filled out in manuscript and mailed. Minor wear, light dust soiling and staining. About very good.

A neat collection of just under thirty real photo postcards of Texas scenes, most showing military or oil business scenes. Approximately half are filled out by a man named George and addressed to a female acquaintance or relative in Woodbine, Iowa, from 1918 to 1920. George seems to have been in the military, as several of the completed postcards are written from Ft. Ringgold in Rio Grande City, Ft. Sam Houston, and Wichita Falls. The locales depicted in the cards correspond to the regions surrounding these base points, and include images of Burkburnett, Ranger, Breckenridge, Mission, McAllen, Brownsville, and several other towns. The cards showing the oil fields of North Texas, and related operations and infrastructure are quite striking.

(McBRB1677)

\$200

## "THE METROPOLIS OF THE PANHANDLE"

**20. [Texas]. [Real Estate].** *Street Guide City of Amarillo.* Amarillo: Sears Map & Blue Print Co., [1928]. Folding map, 22 x 34 inches. Original printed wrappers. Minor wear to wrapper edges and spine. A few small separations at folds; occasional, minor worming, slightly affecting map area. A few contemporary pencil annotations; additional typescript and manuscript map pasted to inside front wrapper. Good plus.

A rare folding map of Amarillo, Texas, that delineates real estate development and planning there during the late 1920s. The publisher, C.D. Sears, also ran a title abstract company in the city, and this map was no doubt used as a promotional and reference for his services. The map labels all subdivisions and block numbers, and also prints a street index and small inset map of highways and railroads through the city. The 1920s saw sustained growth in Amarillo as oil and natural gas business in the region prospered, and already thriving cattle businesses also benefitted from the improved transportation connections of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. In 1927, the year prior to the production of this map, the city also became the only commercial producer of helium in the country. During the decade the population of Amarillo nearly tripled, from 15,000 to just under 45,000, before the Depression and Dust Bowl hit in the 1930s.

One block shaded in pencil in the northwestern San Jacinto subdivision corresponds to a magnified block view of individual plots accomplished in manuscript and typescript, and pasted onto the front wrapper, providing evidence of how the map was used as an advertising tool. A very useful map of Amarillo at the height of one of its boom periods during the early 20th century, and scarce. We locate only one copy, at the University of Chicago.

(McBRB1640)

\$850

## ADVERTISING COMPETING UNDERTAKERS -- CALL NOW!

**21. [Texas].** *Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company. The Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company. September, 1915. Telephone Directory of Arlington, Texas.* [Arlington. 1915]. 20pp. Original tan printed wrappers, printed in blue and red, stapled. Text block detached, some leaves loose. Slight fire and water damage to wrappers, persisting faintly through text in gutter margin. Good.

Rare and early telephone directory for Arlington, Texas, listing both residents and business in a single alphabetical series. It denotes only phone numbers -- no addresses -- but does indicate if the resident is in the country (rather than town). Arlington boasted a garage, a newspaper office, several banks, dry good and grocery services, and at least one dentist. Notably, this directory's most prominent advertising is for competing undertakers, one having taken out a full-page ad in the directory (Arlington Undertaking Co.) and another having claimed the rear cover for advertising space (Hugh M. Moore, Undertaker). A third is also listed in the directory, Milton Furniture Company. We locate a single copy of this issue in OCLC, at UT Arlington, which holds the only issues of this publication.

(McBRB1681)

\$850

## WOMEN'S GROUP EPHEMERA

**22. [Texas]. [Women].** *[Group of Four Programs from the Woman's Forum of Gilmer, Texas].* Gilmer. 1944-1947. Four pamphlets. Original printed and manuscript wrappers, ribbon tied. Wraps of one pamphlet with some chipping, otherwise minor wear. Contemporary manuscript annotations. Even toning internally. About very good.

A group of four pamphlets relating to women's groups in the small East Texas town of Gilmer, northwest of Longview, during the mid-1940s. Three of the works publish the by-laws, constitution, membership, and meeting programs for the Gilmer Woman's Forum from 1944 to 1947. Semi-weekly meetings were assigned themes upon which members apparently presented and discussed. The themes range from literary and cultural topics ("A Present Day Composer," "Biography"), to political and historical subjects ("The Jew and His Desire for a National State," "What to Do with Japan"), and also include several more unusual considerations ("Achievements of Dogs in Combat"). The fourth pamphlet is the 1946-1947 yearbook for the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, a women's fraternal organization of which the Woman's Forum seems to have been an offshoot. Also present is a manuscript poem concerning the five biblical heroines of the order.

(McBRB1704)

\$250

### DRIVING FROM DALLAS TO THE COAST

**23. [Western Travell]. [Texas].** [*Annotated Scrapbook and Photograph Album of a Road Trip from Dallas to Galveston*]. [Various locations in Texas]. 1922. Twenty leaves containing forty-four original photographs (most .75 x 1 inch, several 1.75 x 2.5 inches), postcards, maps, and photographic souvenir views. Small oblong album. Original black card covers; front cover lacking. First few leaves loose and heavily chipped, several other leaves loose. Moderate wear to edges of leaves, though contents clean. About good.

Charming scrapbook documenting a trip from Greenville, Texas, located northeast of Dallas, to Galveston, with stops along the way at Austin, San Antonio, and Houston. The whole of the album is annotated, including several hand-drawn maps illustrated with small photos of the locations noted, and printed maps on which the route has been marked. On the first day of the trip, the opening page, the author depicts the trip from Greenville to Waco, where they spent the night. There are eight small photos of Dallas, Hillsboro, and the car. This is followed by views of the Capitol grounds in Austin, and views in San Antonio. There are five larger photos captioned "Scenes at and Near River Dam at Austin." On a page logging the fourth day of the trip, the author has mapped the route from San Antonio to the Colorado River, where it is indicated "X a muddy spot in the road (a night here). Cars stuck to the rear of us, cars stuck ahead of us. Nothing to do but sit in car until daylight." The following page has the continuance of the map and two larger photos of a young man standing near a car captioned "Two views of me and our muddy car near Richmond." In addition to postcards, the author has included a pasted-in pocket map of San Antonio ("San Antonio's Classified Buyer's Guide Directory and Tourist Location Map") and an accordion-fold souvenir viewbook of Galveston, noting sights seen on the trip. There are numerous small souvenir views of Galveston, both photographic and printed. All told, it is a lovely vernacular album documenting a road trip from central Texas to the beach, undertaken by friends in 1922. A bit rough for wear, but with interesting content and original photographs.

(McBRB1518)

\$500

### DECORATING THE BANK

**24. White, Owen. Holslag, Edward.** *Southwestern Milestones as Represented in the Mural Paintings on the Walls of Banking Room of the First National Bank, El Paso, Texas.* [El Paso. 1928]. 24pp. Oblong octavo. Original pictorial wrappers, stapled. Minor wear and soiling to wraps. Light dust soiling and tanning internally. Good plus.

A scarce and fairly intricate promotional for the First National Bank of El Paso. The pamphlet reproduces eight paintings of El Paso scenes by noted Western painter Edward Holslag that hung

in the lobby of the bank, each accompanied by verses penned by local Texas poet Owen Payne White on the facing page. With a statement of the bank's finances for 1927 and a rousing introduction from the bank president, Joshua Reynolds, who also inscribed this copy, concerning the stern business morality of the Southwest. Six copies in OCLC.

*(McBRB1543)*

\$200