

ROMANCE WEAVED IN CATTLE BRANDS

Cause of Many Battles Between Rival Ranchers and With Outlaws.

MORE THAN 8,000 IN TEXAS

"Cow" Thieves Use Ingenious Methods to Change Marks on Stolen Animals—Many Strange Devices Are Used.

Austin, Tex.—Romance, not unlinked with tragedy, might be written about the cattle brands of Texas and the Southwest. Around them have centered many thrilling deeds. They have been the means of bringing swift retribution to a host of outlaws; they have served as the basis for transactions involving the sale of many millions of head of cattle.

The records of the Texas Cattle Ranchers' association show that there are more than 8,000 registered brands in this state. No two brands are alike. Usually each brand represents a separate ranch. It is often the case that a ranch is much better known by the brand of its cattle than by the name of the owner. Owners may change but the brand never.

When Hernando Cortez conquered Mexico in the early part of the sixteenth century he established a ranch upon the isthmus of Tehuantepec. The cattle bore his brand. Although that was nearly 400 years ago the cattle upon that ranch today bear the original Cortez brand.

Origin Lost in History. The origin of the cattle brand dates back to the dim dawn of history. In the days of free grass and open range the brand was an absolute necessity in order that the owners might identify their cattle in the annual round-ups. With the coming of wire fences this necessity was largely obliterated, but the brand served still to place guilt upon cattle thieves. This purpose is still served and this fact accounts largely for the retention of the brands by all of the ranchmen.

Ingenious methods are sometimes used by cattle thieves to change existing brands upon stolen stocks. Most of the members of the Texas Ranchers' association are experts in the matter of detecting the disguising or changing of brands.

The cattle brands of some ranches are an intangible asset of great value. These brands have come to stand for honesty in breeding, honesty in weight and honesty in dealing. Just as the heraldry of knighthood stood for honor or for bravery and for noble deeds and accomplishment. Announcement that cattle of a certain brand are offered for sale is often sufficient guarantee that no precautions against fraud of any kind are taken.

Every Letter Is Used. In the record of brands, every letter of the alphabet is represented, and most letters are found in three or four positions. An exception is "O," which has but one shape, in any position, and therefore can be used only once. True, there is the "O" flattened at the sides, but it is then called a "mashed" "O," a link or goose egg.

"N" is another letter that is not susceptible of many positions, for horizontally it is "Z," "I" is another letter with a limited use. It is seldom seen except in combination with other characters, and is usually called a bar. "C" and "K" are examples of letters that are used in four positions. For example, an ordinary "K" makes one position. Turn it to an angle of 45 degrees and you have the "tumbling K"; on its back, horizontally, the "lazy K," and reversed, a fourth position. There are lazy and tumbling brands in all letters except "O" and "I."

But when the cattle business becomes general and instead of 100 ranches there are thousands, new brands must be devised. The seeker for a brand naturally gets an insignia different from that of other ranchmen else the brand would fall of its purpose. So in the latter days the letters were finally all taken up and the necessity for individual and unique brands has led to many a strange device.

Many Novel Designs. For example, there is the "Spur" ranch, the "Turk Track" ranch, the "Tumbling K" of the "Lazy X." Every ranch has its principal brand, and some have many others. Ranch owners, who trade extensively, and are constantly acquiring cattle with different brands, have a number of insignias on record. Often the ranchmen's sons and daughters have their special brands and the dedication of a new brand is not an unusual form of celebrating a birth on the range.

Among the peculiar brands is a pigpen, which means a square with its sides extending to form the exterior angles. Crescents are common. Only one ranchman has a hatchet for a brand.

A bow and arrow gives a name to one big Texas ranch. L. J. Kimberlin's ranch had a crutch on the hip and a coffee pot on the side. The coffee pot design is not so intricate as one might imagine, consisting of only eight lines.

Wine glasses are not uncommon as a brand and the J. W. Friend Cattle company in Crockett county had a sword. A rocking chair is the brand

of the H. B. Opp ranch in Sutton and Menard counties. Lee Brothers had for their brand the graceful four-toed hoofs. Another is contained in only the J. A. Frank ranch in the Deagle reservation, south of the Sanikita.

A hatch knife, a hat, the Masonic square, a key, a turkey track, a bell-crossed walking stick, an hour glass, a tree, a boot, a slipper, a flag, an apple, a flower, ladder, scales, spades, a fence, a doll baby, a cotton rock, a fishhook, a bottle, bottle lips, a frying pan, a pitchfork and even a comb may be seen among the long list of brands.

A "sculpt" indicates that the ranch owner was a druggist before becoming a cattleman. Hearts, diamonds and clubs are found among the records of brands, but the spades are those of agricultural designs.

This tendency is toward smaller brands. Branding causes cattle to lose in weight, and the larger the brand the greater the suffering of the cattle and the greater the loss of weight, so the old-time custom of great brands covering the whole side of a cow, is passing away. Hides are more valuable today, also, and the big brands injure the leather.

The easiest brands to read are those made with the stamp iron, that is, an iron forged into the figure or character desired. Sometimes the cowboys encounter a maverick far from head quarters, and in the exigency of the occasion an iron rod is heated and a "running" brand is executed.

NATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPION



"Children first, tennis afterward" is the motto of Mrs. George W. Wightman, national tennis champion. She devotes to tennis only the time she can spare after caring for her family. She is here shown with her three youngsters: George, aged six; Virginia, aged five, and Hazel, aged three.

LONGS FOR 30 BELOW ERA

Yankee Soldier in Archangel Writes About Life at Top of World—Money Carried in Baskets.

Washington.—"Every now and then we are told we will be getting out of here in a day or two. But the days are six months long up here."

This comment from a letter written by a doughboy in Archangel has expressed to Red Cross workers what they assert is the American soldiers' tempered objection to service in north Russia.

"There are 200,000 inhabitants in Archangel," the letter cites, "of which 200,000 are dogs. Every Russian has five or six dogs. It is so far north here that we hope soon the weather will moderate to 30 degrees below, and be tropical for a while. We are so deep in ice and snow that the natives have to build fires on both sides of the cows before they can milk them.

"A kopek is worth one-tenth of a cent. There are 100 kopeks in a ruble. That makes a ruble worth a dime. All the money is paper, coins having gone out of circulation. A kopek is the size of a postage stamp. A ruble is like a cigar coupon or a 25-ruble note resembles a porous plaster and a 100-ruble note is about like the Declaration of Independence. A street car ride costs 60 kopeks, but most of us would rather walk than carry the money in a market basket."

This Animal Ticked Like Dynamite Bomb

New York.—A letter carrier left for John T. McPartland of 517 Forty-seventh street, Brooklyn, a special delivery package about a foot square last evening.

Hearing a ticking inside the package McPartland became convinced he had received a bomb. He flung the package out of a window and promptly routed out of the house his own and the family on the floor above. No explosion followed.

McPartland summoned Detective Joseph Mahon from the Fourth avenue station. He dropped the package into a pail of water and cautiously opened it. Inside was a turtle.

HOW SCIENTISTS KNOW WHAT ELEMENTS MAKE UP SUN AND STARS

—When you read in a scientific book that the sun is made of certain substances, that the stars Aldebaran, Sirius, Capella, etc., are made of other substances, you wonder how this can be known with such certainty; for nobody has ever been there to see. Nevertheless our knowledge of the composition of the sun and stars is almost as certain as that of the elements that go to make up our own earth. And it is all due to the spectroscopic.

Isabel M. Lewis of the United States naval observatory tells in Electrical Experimenter just how it is done. When a ray of sunlight passes through a spectroscopic (which consists essentially of a glass prism or chain of prisms), it is broken up into its component parts, which arrange themselves like a rainbow, violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red, and these colors are crossed by many fine dark lines called Fraunhofer or absorption lines. The shortest wave lengths are in the violet and the longest in the red; below the red are the infra-red rays, invisible to the naked eye but capable of being photographed on specially sensitized plates.

An incandescent body under high pressure gives up a band of pure color unbroken by cross lines. If, however, cooler gases are between us and the source of the continuous spectrum they absorb from the light beyond just those rays of which they themselves consist, and as a result the band of color is crossed by dark lines. Every chemical element has its own lines in the spectrum, always in the same place. So it is easy to identify the element merely by observing the position of the Fraunhofer or absorption line in the spectrum.

If the intervening gases be hotter than the source of light, the lines they make on the spectrum will be bright instead of dark, but their position will be unchanged.

SENSATIONS IN LOST LIMBS

Why Persons Who Have Suffered Amputation Should Experience These Is Hard to Reason.

It is a fact, perhaps unfamiliar to the average reader, that the illusion of "phantom limbs"—to borrow a felicitous expression from Dr. Welf Mitchell—far from being rare or exceptional, is almost universal among persons who have undergone an amputation. Among ninety cases, including a great variety of amputations, Mitchell found only four in which there had never been an illusion of this kind.

One of the best discussions of this topic is that given by Welf Mitchell in his book, "Injuries of Nerves," published in 1872. The literature, however, goes back to the sixteenth century, when the phenomenon was well described by Ambrose Pare. In recent times Doctor Charcot has given some prominence to the subject.

The fact that a great deal has been written on this subject does not, by any means, imply that it is widely familiar. We confess, says the Scientific American, to being consumed with curiosity to know why the great war has not brought forth a flood of stories concerning pains and other sensations in missing limbs.

Why Nerve Will Be Hung. By merely hanging the picture of a dog the Scottish national galleries may acquire a very substantial portion of a fortune estimated at \$250,000.

Callum, the dog, belonged to James Cowan Smith of Rothmansall hall, near Bedford, who died recently. Mr. Smith was very fond of dogs and kept a number of them. Mr. Smith had a picture of Callum with a dead rat painted in oils. Under Mr. Smith's will the trustees of the Scottish national galleries will receive part of his estate if they will agree to hang this picture "in a conspicuous place" in one of the galleries under their control.

To a servant Mr. Smith bequeathed his dog, with an allowance of \$125 a week for the keep of each of them and an annuity of \$350.

Why He Quit the Phone. Cholly—Rotten phone service we're having now, eh, old top? Reggie—Right! But, I've quit using the infernal old thing. Cholly—Quit using them! How can you do that?

Reggie—Can't help it, old dear. Rum memory, you know—can't remember a number long enough to suit the operator.—New York Post.

How to Freshen Gilt Frames. Gilt frames may be revived by carefully dusting them, and then washing them with one ounce of soda bentonite with the whites of eggs. Castile soap and water, with proper care, may be used to clean oil paintings. Other methods could not be employed without some skill.

Why They Are Immune. Brown—Stout people, they say, are rarely guilty of meanness or crime. Robinson—Well, you see, it's so difficult for them to stoop to anything so low.

WHY Statistics Are Unsafe Guide to Conclusions

Statistics, though often interesting, are sometimes most misleading and futile. For example, it is interesting to know from the census bureau the number of prison commitments among the foreign-born population of the United States, but it would be most unsafe to base any generalizations upon them, for the number of commitments to prison is no indication of the number of crimes committed, and there are many more criminals at large than behind the bars.

Those in prison were not clever enough to escape. They got caught. Those at large were able to commit their crimes and elude detection.

British statistics show that in only 15 per cent of the indictable offenses that are committed is the perpetrator convicted.

The figures for America are probably not very different. Therefore 85 per cent of the criminals are at large. It is fair to assume that this 85 per cent is more intelligent than the 15 per cent that got caught. Therefore the 15 per cent for which the statistics are given is a highly selected group, and any conclusions based upon such statistics are untrustworthy, as applied to criminals in general, however valuable they may be as to the comparatively small number that are in jail.

CALL INSANITY FIXED ERROR

How Physicians Determine Absence of Normal Mentality Revealed as a Simple Matter.

The sole difference between a sane and an insane man is that the former retains the power of adapting himself to his circumstances, while the latter has lost it.

This is the definition of an English authority who says that as long as a man is able to alter his actions to suit any change in himself or his environment, so long is he mentally normal. A man can effect such alteration either by changing his circumstances, or by changing his own actions.

The madman fails to make the proper adjustments and he does not recognize such failure as an error, but persists in it. Thus, insanity might be defined as permanent error.

Here lies the boundary between mistake and madness: If a man's circumstances change in such a manner as to affect his welfare, this writer goes on to explain, he will, as long as he is sane, alter his action so as to adapt himself to the change.

If the weather becomes cold, he will light a fire, or put on more clothing, or both; and vice versa if the weather turns hot. If his income increases or diminishes, he will increase or diminish his expenditures accordingly. If a new law that affects him is passed, he will alter his conduct so as to conform to it. As his children arrive at an educable age, he will take measures for their education.

Normal action is such as to adjust the relation between the self and the circumstances, either by altering the circumstances, as when we put on more clothes in cold weather; or by altering ourselves, as when we learn a new language on going to a new country; or by altering our action, as when we stop at home and go to bed instead of going to business when we find ourselves suffering from fever.

How Science Aids Warfare. Wireless telegraphy and wireless telephony, now commonplace, suggest the possibility of transmitting energy by wireless waves. A Roumanian engineer, M. Constantinesco, has been experimenting in England with a method that seems novel.

Nature says he uses a tube filled with water or some such liquid, in which vibrations of the nature of sound waves are produced at one end and the energy is reconstructed at the other end in a mechanical form. The details of the apparatus are kept secret, but Constantinesco's researches have been financed by the British government and it has already been applied in mechanism that stops the discharge of bullets from the rapid-firing gun of an airplane, each time that the blade of the propeller passes before the muzzle. This is what makes it easy to fire 2,000 shots a minute through a propeller making between 1,000 and 2,000 revolutions a minute.

How Not to Take Vacation. Mere abstinence from work does not constitute a real vacation. A vacation has the idea of benefit in it. Sometimes it develops into a loafing match that is more harmful than good. That's the way it goes with Peter Jones. Pete will vacate at home.

That is he will vacate his bed when he gets tired lying in it. He will also vacate all jobs and responsibility until necessity drives him back to a job. The front porch will be his lounging place until the sun drives him elsewhere. The rest of the day will find him on the shady side of anything that isn't too hard to reach. He'll go back to his job, lazy-limbed, stomach-stalled, and brain-fogged, less fit for work than when he took to vacating. There's sense and nonsense in it.—Penny-vanilla Grit.

Why He Felt Safe. The Professor—A man should have a solid foundation for his career and that means he should have a good head on his shoulders. The Freshman—I'm all right there. The track coach says I've got the solid set done on the team.

BLONDES DYING OUT IN AMERICA

Big Wars Gradually Eliminate Northern Types, Says Ethnologist.

DAY OF BRUNETTE AT HAND

American Women Are Tending to Neutral Type, With Brown Rather Than Golden Hair and Brown Eyes Instead of Blue.

New York.—The blondes are doomed as a result of the world war! They will be swallowed up—naturally—by the brunettes.

Real blonde Americans are becoming fewer. American women are tending to a neutral type, with brown rather than golden hair and brown eyes instead of blue. This foreshadows the triumph of the still darker brunette type in America, where the old strains of northern European blood are being swallowed by the later immigration to this country. Soon a blonde beauty will be an exception, and "American beauty" will mean the Spanish, French or Italian type.

Such is the prediction, expressed in scientific language, of course, of Madison Grant, trustee of the American Museum of Natural History and co-founder of the American Geographical society, who has made a study of the effect of the war, superimposed on centuries of slow progression on the part of the brunette, in his book, "The Passing of the Great Race," published by Scribner's.

Makes Matters Worse. The world war, he says, has made matters worse for the blonde because it is the blonde Nordic element in all peoples that invariably makes the greatest sacrifices in war, while the less energetic brunette element emerges from each world struggle stronger in number than before.

Up to the middle of the nineteenth century the native American, Mr. Grant points out, was the almost purely Nordic. The Civil war destroyed a large part of the breeding stock of the blonde races, and the immigration since then has been largely from the Mediterranean basin and the Balkans. Mr. Grant believes that the destruction of life of the blondes in the present war has been so immensely greater than that of the brunettes that a great step has been taken in wiping out the blonde type.

"The world war will leave Europe much poorer in Nordic blood," he says. He points out how the blonde race has been absorbed by the brunettes all over the world, and cites the Aryan conquerors of northern India, who imposed their language and customs on the natives, but were swallowed up in the darker stream of blood.

He thinks that the same thing will happen in the United States, and that the only hope of a relatively pure type of blonde community is in northwest Canada, which because of its climate is suitable for the blonde types and unsuitable for the brunettes.

BRIDES' PASSPORT RUSH ON

Officers at the American Embassy in French Capital Are Working Overtime.

Paris.—Passport officers at the American embassy are working night and day providing papers for the French brides of American soldiers who are about to leave for the United States.

Many of the brides are accompanied by their khaki-clad husbands, some bring their mothers with them, and many are alone. In the daily queue at the embassy are French girls from nearly all the provinces. There are large girls and small girls, beautiful girls and plain girls, simple country girls unassumingly gowned and girls in the rakish hats and short skirts of the Paris boulevards.

Nearly all the brides speak some English, far more English usually than the French their husbands have acquired.

REPORT NEW HUNGER DISEASE

Workers Find Bodies of Children to Have Excess of Water From Starvation.

Prague.—A new hunger disease is reported among the children of some of the remote districts of Czechoslovakia.

It is a form of "hunger edema," and appears to be due primarily to the presence of too much water in the body, owing to starvation.

Great care must be taken that the food gets to the children themselves and not to their parents. It seems almost unbelievable, but the parents are frequently accused of being the worst enemies of their own children in respect to food.

"Most of the children are suffering from this strange 'hunger-edema' and there is also a tremendous increase in tuberculosis."

Turned Brewery into Cheese Factory. Carnarvon, - Wales. — Tanqueray's Llangoollen brewery, the oldest and most famous brewery in north Wales, has been bought by a temperance reformer and will be turned into a cheese factory.

MISS ELIZABETH DUBOIS



Miss Elizabeth Dubois, eldest daughter of former Senator and Mrs. Fred T. Dubois, has just graduated from college and is to be a debutante in Washington society next season. She is also an active member of the Big Sister movement at Walter Reed Military hospital in the national capital.

AIR PHOTOS OF LABRADOR

Forty Men Go There to Make Pictures of 1,000,000 Acres of Country's Forests.

New York.—A commercial aerial expedition that will revolutionize the work of forestry survey and land photography, according to its managers, is announced by Capt. Daniel Owen, until recently of the royal air force.

He said a fleet of four airplanes would leave Battle Harbor, Labrador, under his command and would survey 1,000,000 acres of forest and timber land along the coast of Labrador. The work is being done for a syndicate of Boston bankers, the land belonging to this organization.

A steamship has left Annapolis, Nova Scotia, carrying forty men, who will comprise the airplane expedition. The four airplanes are awaiting the force there, and the forty men will make air photographs of timber lands.

"This has never been attempted before," Capt. Owen said. "We will do as much in this way in six days as we could do in the regular way in four or five years. All of the pilots excepting myself will be Americans, recently discharged from the United States army. The planes will be Canadian training machines."

A staff of physicians, headed by Dr. Irwin Ties of Ashland, Mass., will accompany the crew, with a full commissariat.

Capt. Owen is 29 years old, and was in the British air service three years. He lost one eye in combat with German aviators over the enemy's lines.

NINE OF FAMILY DIE IN WAR

British Private Soldier Is Most Lonesome Survivor of World Conflict.

London.—The loneliest boy soldier in the world, probably, is Private Thomas William Smith, who lost his father, mother, four brothers and three sisters in the war and is the sole surviving member of this family.

His father and four brothers were killed on the same day—July 15, 1916—in the first advance at the battle of the Somme.

His three sisters were killed in air raids—one at Addiscombe, Croydon, in 1915, and the others in the East end of London in 1918. His mother was killed in an air raid on the East end of London in 1917.

Here's a Little Primer for Aviation Dopsters

New York.—The meaning of the word "blimp," which has puzzled the brains of two continents for the last three months, was explained by Major G. H. Scott, commander of the R-34.

"Is the R-34 a blimp?" he was asked.

"Well," responded the intrepid commander with a smile, after a moment's reflection, "she is an overgrown blimp."

"What is a blimp, then, major?" was the next question. Without a moment's hesitation he replied:

"A blimp is a flayed rigid."

Has "Rat Bite" Fever. Morgantown, W. Va.—The first case of "rat bite" fever ever recorded in West Virginia has come to light here. The case is the nine-year-old son of a printer, who was bitten by a rat while playing in his father's shop. The rat that bit the boy had to be killed to force it to release its hold.