

TOWNSITE OF
BOLIVAR

NAMED INDIRECTLY FOR SIMON BOLIVAR, SOUTH AMERICAN STATESMAN, GENERAL AND PATRIOT. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CALLED "NEW PROSPECT", BUT FOR A MUG OF RUM. WHEN TOWN WAS FOUNDED IN 1852, A MAN WHO HAD SETTLED HERE FROM BOLIVAR, TENN., WANTED TO NAME THE COMMUNITY IN HONOR OF HIS HOMETOWN. BUT A PREACHER-DOCTOR INSISTED THAT IT BE NAMED NEW PROSPECT. AN ELECTION WAS CALLED TO SETTLE THE MATTER AND THE TENNESSEAN EXCHANGED MUGS OF RUM FOR VOTES, BOLIVAR WON.

DURING THE 1800s, BOLIVAR WAS THE WESTERNMOST FORT IN DENTON COUNTY AND THE FIRST SETTLEMENT WEST OF COLLIN COUNTY. TWO STAGECOACH LINES CHANGED HORSES HERE. THE TOWN THRIVED AND COULD COUNT THREE HOTELS, SEVERAL STORES, A GIN, A FLOUR MILL, A SAWMILL, A BLACKSMITH SHOP, A SALOON, A CHURCH AND A SCHOOL.

IT WAS HERE THAT THE TEXAS CATTLE TRAIL JOINED THE JESSE CHISHOLM TRAIL, BUT IT WAS JOHN CHISUM, TEXAS CATTLE BARON, WHO HAD HERDS HERE AND FURNISHED BEEF TO THE CONFEDERACY DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

BOLIVAR AND THE SURROUNDING AREA WERE HAVENS FOR SAM BASS AND HIS MEN. TWO BOLIVAR MEN WERE JAILED IN 1890 FOR HARBORING NOTORIOUS MARAUDERS.

MANY EARLY SETTLERS (WHOSE DESCENDANTS STILL LIVE HERE) PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLES IN DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY. (1970)



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(1970)

ELICSON PHOTOGRAPHY
401 3A LIFE BLDG.

MAY 5 - 1970

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

BOLIVAR, the AXIS, 100 years ago.

One hundred years ago, Bolivar, Denton County, Texas was the AXIS for trails and roads of north Texas.

Directions for cattle drivers is given in North of 36, by Emerson Hough, as follows: " Above Fort Worth village head due north to BOLIVAR, swing northwest to Spanish Fort or other crossings on Red River" There the trail joined the Chisholm Trail blazed by the Indian scout, Jesse Chisholm, at the direction of Joseph McCoy and other cattle buyers, at the rail-head of Abilene, Kansas.

The Texas-Kansas Eastern Cattle Trail originating from the first cattle ranges on the Gulf Prairie came in various directions first to San Antonio and then to Fort Worth and on to Red River.

The cattle had to subsist as they travelled. There must be grass and water. The trail might be six miles wide as they slowly travelled through thinly populated prairies that were watered.

Bolivar was in the center of this corridor to Red River. ~~Was~~ West of the Cross Timbers, and east of the dry, Indian raided western counties, it was a perfect landmark for the cattle drivers with their herds of perhaps a thousand head. There was Clear Creek, Duck Creek and further up the road was Buck Creek, and an open clear path to the Red river.

Before the cattle drives started up this long trail, John Chisum of near Bolivar had originated a trail east-west to Shreveport, La and Vicksburg, Miss, known as the "Vicksburg Trail". John Chisum blazed this trail (Marked on map of Centennial year of 1936) as originating at his ranch, north of Bolivar, to supply

2. Bolivar Trails

fulfil his contract with the Confederacy to supply beef for the soldiers.

On Sept. 16, 1858, the first overland mail to San Francisco from St Louis and Memphis under contract with the BUTTERFIELD Stage Lines, started its journey. 100 Concord coaches, and 1500 horses and mules , 5 or 600 pounds of mail, 4 passengers, at first later raised to 10, this journey ^{took} of 25 days , fare \$200.00

This Butterfield Trail crossed Denton County, at the northwest corner, nearest mail station in the county was Bolivar. At about the same time, a stage-coach line was established from Gainesville to Denton, ~~Through~~ Bolivar. This line connected with the Butterfield for mail and passengers.

In order to establish communication for the troops in 1860, a telegraph line was run from Sherman west to Fort Belknap. This was called the "Wire Road". It ran through Bolivar and the stage coach line that followed made a stop at Bolivar. There were many who stopped there for the night, since Bolivar had three hotels, at that time.

The first grave in the Bolivar cemetery is that of a stage driver, Garshwilder, who drove into the Sartin Hotel at Bolivar, one night in the 1850s, and lay down and died. Despite efforts to find a family, none was found. Some time later Parson Allen on his rounds of his assigned "parish" said a prayer at his grave.

Thus, Bolivar is the axis for ~~two~~ ^{four} famous trails.

North-South: Texas Eastern*Chisholm Trail
Butterfield Stage Line Connection-
East West-Wire Road Stage Line
John Chisum Trail from his ranch to Vicksburg Trail

References: Texas-Kansas Eastern Trail: The Cattleman and others
Butterfield: Butterfield Centennial 1958, pictures
taken at Era, Texas and Centennial copy
of Press Argo, Van Buren, Ark.
Gainesville
to Denton: Glenn Waide, whose father received
mail from Butterfield Stage via
Bolivar.
Reminiscences, the late
Ben Bentley, Bolivar
Wire Road: Texas histories (Emily Fowler Library)

also

"Details behind the Texas Route of the Butterfield Trail"
by R. N. Richardson, J. W. Williams and Ben F. Dixon.
(article in above paper bought at the Centennial 1958)

*Anna Lou Chambers Historian,
Denton Co Survey
Com*

Sat. August 3, 1968, a plaque was dedicated by the Venezuelan Government through the Texas Consul of Houston to the town of Bolivar, Texas, because it was named for the famous liberator Simon Bolivar.

The ground for this plaque was given at the crossing of the roads in Bolivar by Dallas Curtsinger, who included enough space for another marker designating Bolivar as the crossing of "famous trails." This trail marker has long been the aim of Boy Scouts and other historical organizations in the county.

Signed J. W. Jagoe III, Pres. Denton County
Hist. Survey Committee

Bolivar To Receive 'Namesake' Plaque

By VENITA LUKENS

BOLIVAR — This tiny community will host dignitaries from all over the state Saturday as a huge bronze plaque is placed near the town's main street.

The plaque will be presented by the Venezuelan government as a tribute to the man for whom the town was indirectly named—Simon Bolivar, the Venezuelan liberator.

The marker, one of several that have been erected in cities, towns and ports named for the liberator, is intended to be a reminder of the origin of the town and the long history of

friendship and mutual respect existing between the United States and Venezuela."

The inscription reads: "Named in honor of Simon Bolivar, liberator of Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama and founder of Bolivia. He was born in Caracas, Venezuela, July 24, 1783 and died in Santa Marta, Columbia, Dec. 17, 1860. Presented to Bolivar (Denton County), State of Texas by the Representative of Venezuela."

Since Bolivar no longer maintains a post office, and since most official business is transacted in Sanger, Sanger offi-

cial will preside during the erection of the marker.

Mayor Carl Johnson and Councilmen E. M. Acker, W. K. Pate, H. D. Cooper, R. B. Gentles and R. E. Ready will be on hand. City Secretary Ross Anderson and the assistant secretary, Winnie Seal, will help as will members of the Chamber of Commerce.

One or more Venezuelan dignitaries from Houston are expected at Saturday's activity, Anderson said, and it is possible that others will be present, also.

O. W. Hampton, commissioner of Precinct 4, will assist with the dedication and erection of the marker, which is to be placed in native rock at the town's entrance.

Bolivar — but for a mug of rum—might just have been called New Prospect.

Records, according to Mrs. W. B. Chambers of Sanger, show the town was founded in 1852 by a man who settled there from Bolivar, Tenn. He wanted to name the community in honor of his hometown, but a preacher-doctor in the community, a Dr. Daley, insisted that it be named New prospect.

An election was called. The Tennessean exchanged mugs of rum for votes. Thus the settlement became known as Bolivar.

During the 1890's Bolivar was the fort farthest west in Denton County and the first settlement west of Collin County. Three hotels sprang up, two stagecoach lines changed horses there, and several stores, a gin, a flour mill, a saw mill, a blacksmith shop, a saloon, a church and a school soon were built.

It was at Bolivar that the Texas Cattle Trail joined the Jesse Chisholm Trail. But it was John Chisum who drove cattle in the area and furnished beef for the Confederacy.

Bolivar and the surrounding area were havens for Sam Bass and his men and two Bolivar men were jailed in 1890 for harboring the notorious marauders.

Many early settlers' names are still families to Denton Countians today although they never knew any of the townspeople. Names long remembered are B. F. Gamble, the first postmaster; the Gregorys; the Pollards; the Wright brothers, Crow and Bob; John Gober, W. E. Forrester; Dr. J. P. Knox; Dr. Howard and Dr. G. D. Lain, father of Mrs. Chambers.

Others remember the names of E. W. Bentley; Sam McAdams, the first store owner; Tom Cook, a colored Methodist preacher; Crate (Socrates) Stimpson; Jesse Sartain and James Waide, whose son, Joe, recently moved from Bolivar to Sanger to live with his daughter.

James Waide is perhaps, the best remembered of Bolivar residents. He spoke out against secession in a community overwhelmingly Southern in sympathy. He also spoke freely for his neighbors, wrote their letters, made their wills and fought their battles.

WEST COAST

(Continued From Page 1)

throughout the movie "Dynamic Denton."

The movie followed the revue and Appleton presented other statistics about Denton before and after the revue and movie.

J. Bryan Sullivan Jr., who represented California Gov. Ronald Reagan, said he has seen many industrial presentations in his position as commissioner of the Economic Development Agency of the State of California. "I can truthfully say I've never seen any presentation such as this," he said. "The commentary, the film and the show were exciting and very well - coordinated."

Sullivan went on to praise the balance of the show. "You've got your economic facts across and your city's enthusiasm both extremely well," he said. "I must congratulate you on the very professional portrayal of your city. The objective you set has been fully met."

Referring to his position with the State, Sullivan said he was risking political suicide by wishing the City of Denton well in its endeavor.

When Appleton introduced Sullivan, it was as the "representative of Gov. Ronald Reagan of the State of Texas." The audience roared and Appleton admitted he had a correction to make.

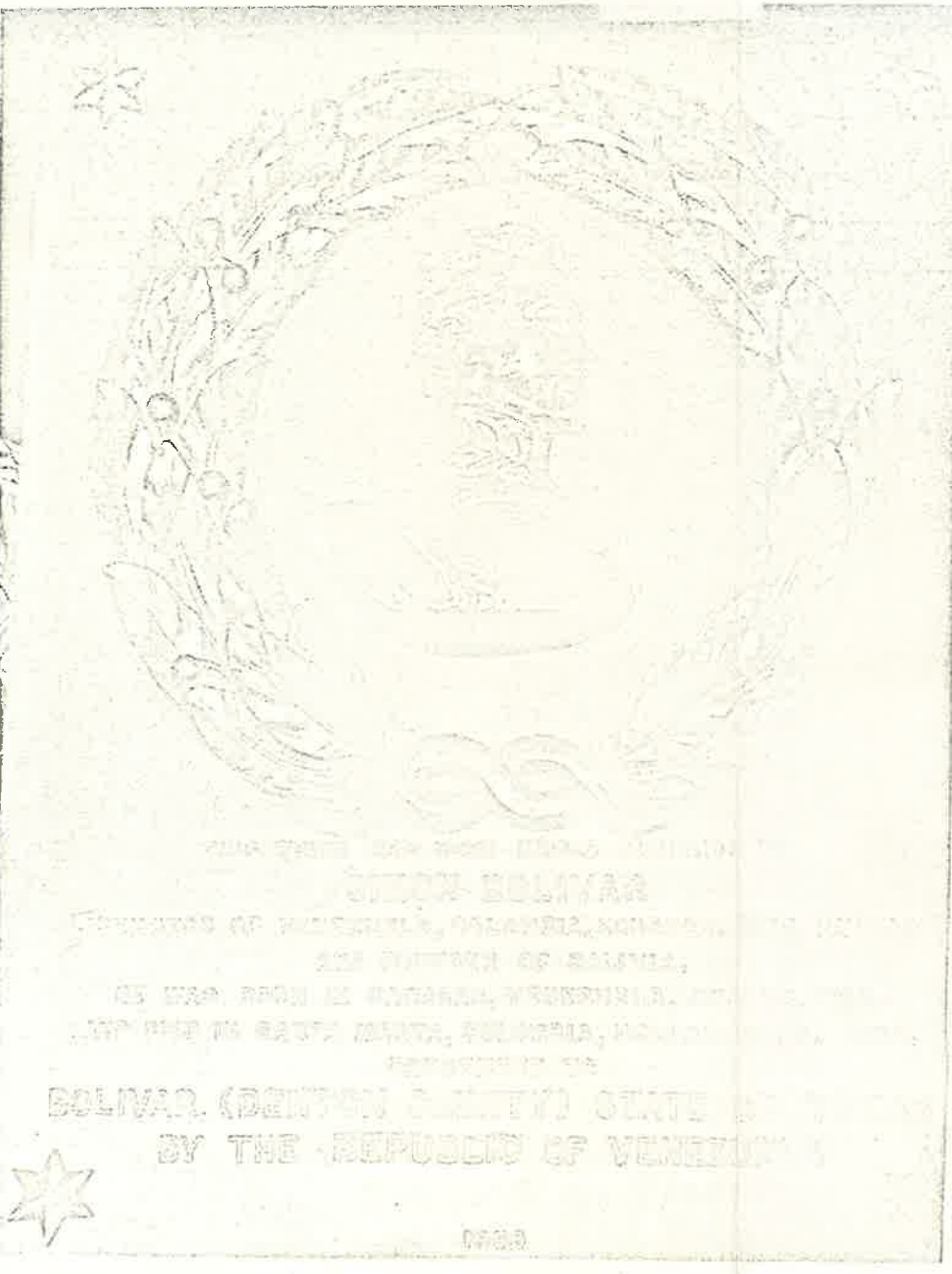
A representative of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce had nothing but praise for Denton's presentation. "Let me commend you for not only having a city on the go but also for your novel presentation," he said.

He commented San Francisco is a city of beautiful women. "But you can leave these three with us anytime you want."

He was referring to Phyllis George, Cathy Muirhead and Chere Mauldin, who are three members of the musical revue cast. The other members are Harland Wright, Frank DeBenedetto and Mike Moon.

The cast was asked to autograph copies of the original sound track of the Denton movie by the industrialists.

Purpose of the trip was to acquaint the industrialists with Denton and consider it in future plant expansion plans. The trip followed an intensive advertising campaign in West Coast editions of several magazines and newspapers.



BRONZE PLAQUE WILL BE ERECTED AT BOLIVAR
Ceremonies Will Begin At 11 A.M. Saturday

—Staff Photo By VENITA LUKENS

JAGOE ABSTRACT COMPANY

FOUNDED IN 1856 BY JUDGE JOSEPH A. CARROLL
OPERATED SINCE 1874 AS JAGOE ABSTRACT COMPANY

DENTON, TEXAS

August 11, 1969

Mrs. D.M. Parmelee
Director of Research
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
P.O. Box 12276
Capital Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mrs. Parmelee:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the wording on the plaque presented by the Venezuelan government for the town of Bolivar. Although the inscription reads that it was named for Simon Bolivar, it was only in an indirect way as is indicated by the copy of the news story which is also enclosed.

The placement of the marker will be arranged through the cooperation of the commissioners court as the location will be on property of Dallas Curtsinger who donated a location for the Venezuelan plaque.

Should you need more information, please feel free to call on us.

Very truly yours,



J.W. Jagoe III

jm

This Town has been named in honor
of Simon Bolivar
Liberator of Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama
and founder of Bolivia.

He was born in Caracas, Venezuela
July 24, 1783 and died in Santa
Marta, Columbia, December 17, 1830.

presented to

BOLIVAR (DENTON COUNTY) STATE OF TEXAS
BY THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
1968

JAGOE ABSTRACT COMPANY

FOUNDED IN 1856 BY JUDGE JOSEPH A. CARROLL
OPERATED SINCE 1874 AS JAGOE ABSTRACT COMPANY

DENTON, TEXAS

August 4, 1969

Mr. Truett Latimer
Texas State Historical
Survey Committee
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

As requested in your letter of July 24, 1969, you will find enclosed a brief history of Bolivar. This is probably the best information available as Mrs. Chambers has devoted many days in gathering this material.

The exact location will be in the town of Bolivar at the intersection of F.M. 2450, and F.M. 455, but not in the Highway right of way.

We will furnish any further information which you request and we are indeed indebted to you for this marker and the one at Lewisville,

Very truly yours,



J. W. Jagoe, III

County Chairman

bh

RECEIVED
AUG 5 1969
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
COMMITTEE



1716 SAN ANTONIO ST. AUSTIN TEX. 78701 PHONE 477-875

Sanger Courier
Sanger, Texas

FEB - 4 1971

Historical Marker Placed

A state historical marker designating the site of Bolivar, four miles west of Sanger, has been placed in position.

The special marker was set on land owned by Dallas Curtsinger by County Commissioner Bill Switzer last week.

Mrs. Alma Chambers, a member of the Denton County Historical Commission, said the marker was part of the state historical marker program originated several years ago by Joe Waide and his Boy Scout troop.

No special ceremonies were held when the marker was placed in position.

Curtsinger designated a spot for the marker when the Bolivian government placed

for Simon Bolivar more than a year ago.

Joe Jagoe of Denton, chairman of the county commission,

delivered the marker for Mrs. Chambers.

The inscription reads:

"Named indirectly for Simon Bolivar, South American Statesman, General and Patriot, it might have been called 'New Prospect', but for a mug of rum, when the town was founded in 1852. A man who had settled here from Bolivar, Tenn., wanted to name the community in honor of his home town, but a preacher-doctor insisted that it be called New Prospect. An election was called to settle the matter and the Tennessean exchanged mugs of rum for votes. Bolivar won.

"During the 1800's, Bolivar was the westernmost point in Denton County and the first settlement west of Collin County. Two stage-coach lines changed horses here. The town thrived and could count three hotels, several stores, a gin, a flour mill, a sawmill, a blacksmith shop, a saloon, a church and a school.

"It was here that the Texas Cattle Trail joined the Jesse Chisholm Trail, but it was John Chisum, Texas Cattle Baron, who had herds here and furnished beef to the Confederacy during the Civil War.

"Bolivar and the surrounding area were havens for Sam Bass and his men. Two Bolivar men were jailed in 1890 for harboring notorious marauders.

"Many early settlers (whose descendants still live here) played important roles in the development of the county. (1970)"