

JULY 4th, 1889

Contributed by Sylvia Smith - ~~#####~~

WAXAHACHIE, TEX, JULY 4, - County court adjourned and the banks and post-office closed on account of Independence Day. There was no celebration of the glorious fourth, but a carload of people left Waxahachie on the 5 a.m. train to celebrate the day in Corsicana. Salamander fire company No. 1 went in a special coach, which was decorated with flags and bunting. On a piece of cloth reaching the entire length of the coach were the words: "Waxahachie Greeting Corsicana." They were accompanied by the Milford cornet band, by the Cyclone Club, composed of young ladies of this city, and about thirty citizens.

ENNIS, TEX, JULY 4, - This glorious fourth is no exception to the rainy days that have been for a week or more. The Ennis fire company left this morning for Corsicana to participate in the celebration of the fourth. The Waxahachie fire company passed through in a special car with floating banners and big capital letters, which seemed to say: "We are the Waxahachie fire company." This is the way Waxahachie does everything. Ellis County is proud of Waxahachie as well as Ennis.

CORSICANA, TEX, JULY 4, - The 4th of July was gloriously celebrated by the firemen of this city to-day. The skies were propitious and the temperature cool and enjoyable. The Waco, Ennis and Waxahachie fire companies arrived on the morning trains and were met by the firemen at the depot with the cornet band of Corsicana to welcome the arriving guests with martial music.

The visitors were as follows: The fire companies of Waco, Waxahachie and Ennis, together with the Hillsboro and Milford bands and the Cyclone Club of young ladies from Waxahachie. The procession was formed at the depot and the grand march was made to the city hall, which had been beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens, and where the tired guests were refreshed by a wholesome lunch and the usual accompaniments. Lunch being over the line of procession was re-formed and wended its way to the city park, where the ladies of the city had made suitable decorations and arrangements for the entertainment of the visitors and all who desired to partake of the hospitalities of the national occasion.

The march to the grounds was through the prominent streets of the city, and when the multitude assembled in the grand pavilion and the three bands had united and played a national air, Mayor Charles F. Allyn was introduced by J.J. Strupper, chief of the fire department, and delivered the address of welcome, which was received with loud applause.

When Mayor Allyn concluded his address he introduced Richard Mayes, Esq., city attorney, who made an appropriate address and said the hearts of the people and the gates of the city were open to the visitors.

T.P. Whipple of Waxahachie then responded on behalf of the firemen and the young ladies' club of his city assuring the people of the enjoyment of the pleasures extended. He also paid a compliment to the distinguished son of Navarro, Hon. R.Q. Mills, whose name sounded Navarro's praise throughout the union.

D. Floyd Singleton of Ennis then responded in behalf of the Ennis firemen in a neat and pleasant address, which was appropriate to the occasion.

R.H. Kingsbury of Waco was next introduced, and made a glorious spread-eagle Fourth of July speech, which was enjoyed by all.

The Corsicana band then played "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and the mayor announced dinner, which was amply provided in old-fashioned barbecue style, with liquid refreshment as an accompaniment to substantial food.

The remainder of the evening was spent in social enjoyment, singing, dancing, ball playing and riding around the city, occupying the time until the assembly at the union depot was ordered, and all prepared for "home, sweet home."

While waiting at the depot the Corsicana boys gave a small exhibition of their professional experience as workmen at a fire. The hose were adjusted to the water plugs at a given signal and the streams were promptly turned loose upon imaginary burning buildings.

The memory of this celebration of our natal day will be cherished by the thousands who were present to witness the festivities, and no one will go away with any but pleasant feelings.