

Teddy's Five Minute Spe

Texas Gave President Warm Welcome

Editor's Note—John L. McGrew, author of the following story, is one of the few survivors of Teddy Roosevelt's historic trip to Texas in 1905. McGrew, who lives in Washington, was Teddy's personal secretary at the time. His memories of the Texas tour are especially timely, since 1958 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Teddy Roosevelt.

By JOHN L. MCGREW

WASHINGTON — Perhaps there are not many people around who remember when President Theodore Roosevelt arrived in Wichita Falls shortly after noon on Saturday, April 9, 1905, scheduled to make a 5-minute speech and spoke for 3½ minutes and then had to be stopped by his secretary, William Loeb.

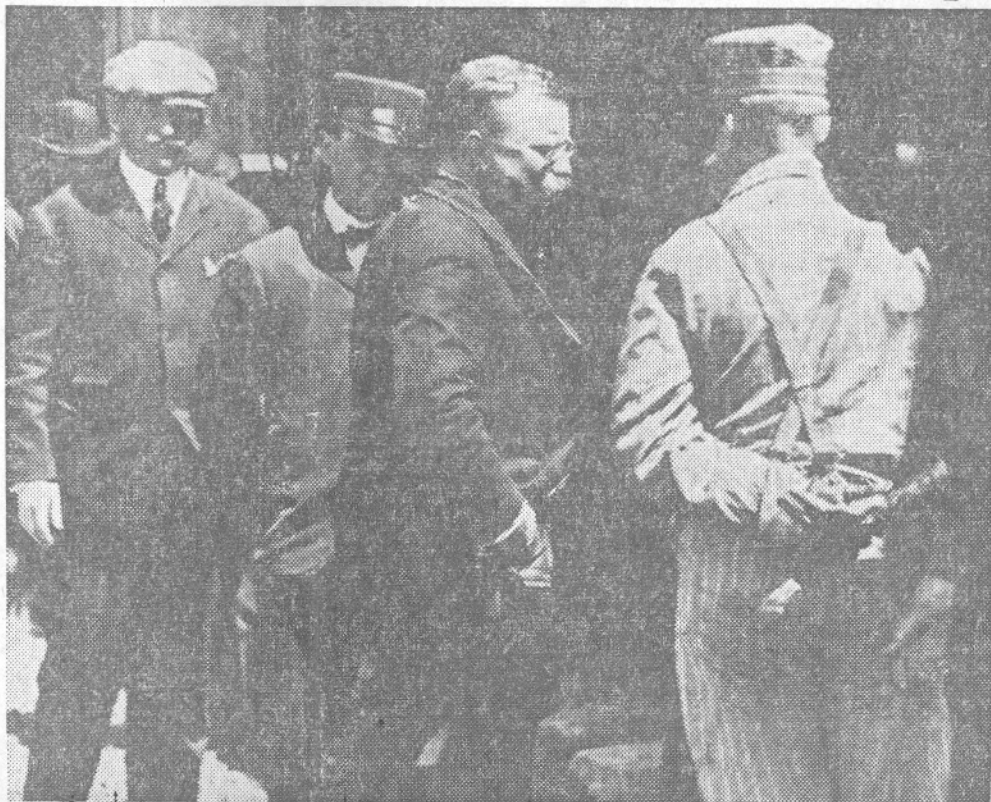
The story behind that is that T. R. had become so interested in stories of West Texas told to him by Capt. Burk Burnett, D. B. Keeler, vice president of the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad, and Sam H. Cowan, attorney for the Texas Cattle Raisers Association, that he wanted to talk at length to the men who were making the country.

Theodore Roosevelt, from the first time I met him often expressed his love for Texas and admiration for its people. He had gone to San Antonio in 1898 and raised the Rough Riders for the Cuban campaign. So, when shortly after his inauguration on March 4, 1905, he told me he was going to the Lone Star State, I knew, to use an expression of the President's, that we were in for a "bully" time.

Personal Secretary

I had gone to the White House shortly after T. R. succeeded President McKinley and toward the end of the term he was serving out for the martyred President I became his personal secretary.

We left Washington April 3. In his private car with him were Secretary of the Navy Paul Morton; his chief secretary, William Loeb, Dr. Alexander Lambert, a personal friend and his physician, from New York, and his old commanding officer, Gen. S. M. B. Young, of Civil and Spanish-American war fame, among others. At St. Louis, Cecil Lyons of Sherman, Texas Republican, national com



THANKS FROM A PRESIDENT—Teddy Roosevelt stepped down from the train to thank the engine crew which carried him on the last lap of his Texas trip. The Fort Worth and Denver crew is shown in a picture taken at Texline. Roosevelt had been to San Antonio in 1898 to raise the Rough Riders for the Cuban campaign, so, shortly after his inauguration, March 4, 1905, he again decided to go to the Lone Star State. He termed his second trip as "thrilling."



PROPOSED CHURCH PLAN—Hollis, Okla. (Special) — Above is an architect's drawing of the proposed expansion plan for the First Baptist Church at Hollis. Plans call for a new auditorium and educational building. The project will cost around \$155,000.

...tire population of the town greeted the President at the station shortly after daybreak.

At Joint Session

In Austin he addressed a joint session of the Texas legislature which was attended by Governor

Fourth Infantry, Decatur, and on his right, Company L., Fourth Infantry, Cleburne.

Teddy Aphorism

The West Texans yelled when he gave this Teddy aphorism: "Never draw unless you intend

In Waco, Mayor Baker introduced him as "the greatest man in the world." T. R. denied that but said: "I hold the greatest office in the world." At Vernon, the last stop in Texas, before he crossed into Oklahoma for himself hunt a young lawyer. P

mitteeman, and Sloan Simpson of Dallas, Texas Republican state chairman, joined the party.

If Teddy ever had any misgivings as to the nature of the reception a Northern, Republican president would receive from the western-most state of what was then the Solid South, it began to be dispelled on the afternoon of April 5 when he entered the state and made his first stop at Denison.

At Denison

Many more persons than the population of Denison, which was the birthplace of Dwight D. Eisenhower, a later President, greeted him with tremendous enthusiasm.

Miss Pauline Everett, a pretty school teacher, handed the President a gift of flowers, telling him that her school had been the first public school in Texas. When speaking from the rear platform of his train the President would shake hands with those near him at the close of his remarks. I don't think he ever shook so many hands in so short a time as he did on his tour of Texas which began at Denison and ended several days later at Texline, far out in the Texas Panhandle.

Only a few miles further on at Sherman, where Cecil Lyons lived, 18,000 or 20,000 people heard him speak at the Grayson County court house. Although President McKinley had been assassinated only four years before President Roosevelt was not heavily guarded, only two Secret Service men, Frank H. Tyree and James Sloan, were on the trip and they had a rough time getting the President to his carriage for the trip from the station to the courthouse.

Dramatic Incident

At Dallas the President spoke to an outdoor audience and then attended a banquet at the Oriental Hotel that night. A dramatic incident occurred at the banquet. Former Governor James S. Hogg attended. He had not been expected and no place had been provided for him at the head table. There were calls for him and he arose and said:

"Mr. Roosevelt is the greatest President this country has had since the days of Andrew Jackson. The nation admires a president who does things. I am here tonight to applaud the President's action in the Panama Canal."

Senators Charles A. Culberson and Joseph Weldon Bailey, Texas giants in the United States Senate, had opposed Roosevelt on Panama, and here was Hogg, one of the most popular men who ever served as Governor of Texas, leaving a sick bed to take Roosevelt's side against the Texas senators.

At Hillsboro more than the en-

S. W. T. Lanham, who had been a Congressman from Texas, and was a friend of Roosevelt.

We left the next day for San Antonio. Following the usual pattern brief stops were made at many places. One of these I remember well was New Braunfels. This was a very attractive little city, with neat homes, well kept lawns and a general air of well-being. The surrounding farms were likewise neat looking and well-tilled.

Thrilling as had been our progress through Texas thus far, San Antonio climaxed everything that had gone before. First on the agenda was the President's review of troops at nearby Fort Sam Houston. This was an inspiring sight.

Then followed T. R.'s address in front of the historic Alamo, wherein he recalled that it had been said that "Thermoplae had its messengers of death, but the Alamo had none." He also asked what is the building in San Antonio of which you are proudest? then answered the question by saying the Alamo. "It is not exactly up to date," he said; "other buildings are more useful; but you are proud of it because it commemorates forever the spirit of those who made its fame immortal."

Fort Worth Welcome

Surely we thought nothing could compare with what we had been seeing inside the borders of Texas and that the President must be a weary man. Then on Saturday, April 9, Fort Worth shouted its welcome and T. R. responded with a buoyancy that amazed us. It was here that the public part of his trip was scheduled to end.

As the President walked from the station into Main Street he saw Union Veterans forming on the west side of Main Street, Confederate Veterans on the east side, each with the flags they had followed in the War between the States. The one-time foes marched to the center of the street and touched colors and were greeted by deafening applause in which the President joined.

Then the President was told that something which had not happened anywhere else in the United States during his term was to happen. The veterans of the War with Mexico, many of them very feeble, had turned out to ride in the parade.

Also in the eight company National Guard turnout for the President were Company H, Fourth Infantry, Wichita Falls, which marched in front of the President. On his left side marching single file was Company K,

to shoot. When you draw don't let it be an empty gun. Don't needlessly get into trouble but once you are in see it through."

He then told of his cow country experience.

People drove by horse and buggy from Clay, Montague, Jack, Young, Throckmorton, Baylor and other counties to hear T. R. at Wichita Falls. They also came from adjoining Oklahoma Territory.

T. R. began by congratulating Wichita Falls on having been a pioneer in irrigation in West Texas, and in praising the pioneers who had developed the country.

"Men like Burk Burnett and others who came out here when this was a frontier, into these lands of the Indian and the buffalo, and then made ready the way of civilization that we now see before us, great is our debt of obligation," the President said. Then he made this prediction:

"How much you prophesy about the future greatness of Texas you cannot go wrong, for its greatness will exceed prophecy."

Some of the other things Teddy said in his Wichita Falls speech were:

"When I was in Texas in '98 I was engaged with certain others in raising a volunteer regiment and as I think I know a good thing when I see it, I got as many Texans as possible into that regiment (Rough Riders).

Half and Half

"Your whole history from the days of Austin and Houston and Davy Crockett right down to the present day shows the splendid fighting material the average Texan makes. My mother was a native of Georgia and my father came from the North, so I am half Southerner, half Northerner. Think what it means to me as a President of the United States having both Northern and Southern blood in my veins to come to Texas, and have at so many places as a guard of honor, veterans of the Union on one side of me and veterans of the Confederacy on the other.

"I think I am a middling good Texan myself. I was brought up in some of the tradition of Texas. The one thing in the studies of my youth I most remember is the picture of Crockett's death in the Alamo.

"I want every man and every section to get a square deal. If the cards don't come to a man or he has not the power to play them that is his affair. It is not possible to give every man the best hand. All I mean is that there shall not be any crookedness in the dealing."

The President received many laudatory introductions in Texas.

Walker, later a distinguished jurist at Amarillo, introduced him humorously, yet in good taste.

T. R. was the first President that Walker had ever seen. He said in his introduction:

"It is a great pleasure to introduce the greatest President I have ever seen, or probably ever will see."

Shows His Teeth

The President showed his teeth in his famous smile at Walker's sally.

The man with whom Teddy hunted wolves in Oklahoma was Jack Abernathy. He was the man who chased coyotes on horseback, then at the proper moment jumped from his saddle, thrust his hand into the wolf's mouth in such a way as he could not bite, and captured the animal alive. In a letter to his son, Kermit, the President said his party got 17 wolves, three coons and any number of rattlesnakes.

The President's wolf hunt party in Oklahoma included Capt. S. B. (Burk) Burnett, who had been an officer in the Confederate army; Guy Waggoner; R. L. More, manager of the Waggoner ranch; Capt. W. J. (Bill) McDonald of the Texas Rangers. Maj. Gen. S. M. B. Young; Lee Bivins of Amarillo and Cecil Lyons, and many others.

He returned to Vernon at the end of the hunt and left on a special train for Colorado. He slept from shortly after he left Vernon until just before his arrival at Texline. Ordinarily the President spent only a few days in a state; quite often two or three states were visited in a day. He had spent much time in Texas. At Texline, the President said:

"I shall go away a better and stronger American for having been in this great state of strong and good Americans, this mighty commonwealth of Texas."

Gorman Family Holds

HOLLIDAY, Texas (Special)—The wife and children of the late C. Y. Gorman, pioneer resident of Kiowa County recently met at Quartz Park at Lake Altus for their annual reunion.

Arrangements were by Mr. and Mrs. Gorman Sewell of Willow. Catering was by Mrs. J. R. Dudeck and Mrs. Foracher of Mangum.

Attending were Mrs. C. Y. Gorman Sr., Wichita Falls; Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Ellis of Okla. City and their children; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ellis Jr., Cary and Dana, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Anderson, Terry, Patty Jo, and John Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. James Ward Gorman Sr. of San Antonio and their children; Mr. and Mrs. James Ward Jr., and Trippy, and Jack Gorman; C. Y. Gorman Jr. of Fort Worth and his children; Mr. and Mrs. David Wright, Judy, Mike, Kenny, and Cathy; Mrs. Leon Mitchell and Jeanine; Mr. and Mrs. Yale Gor-

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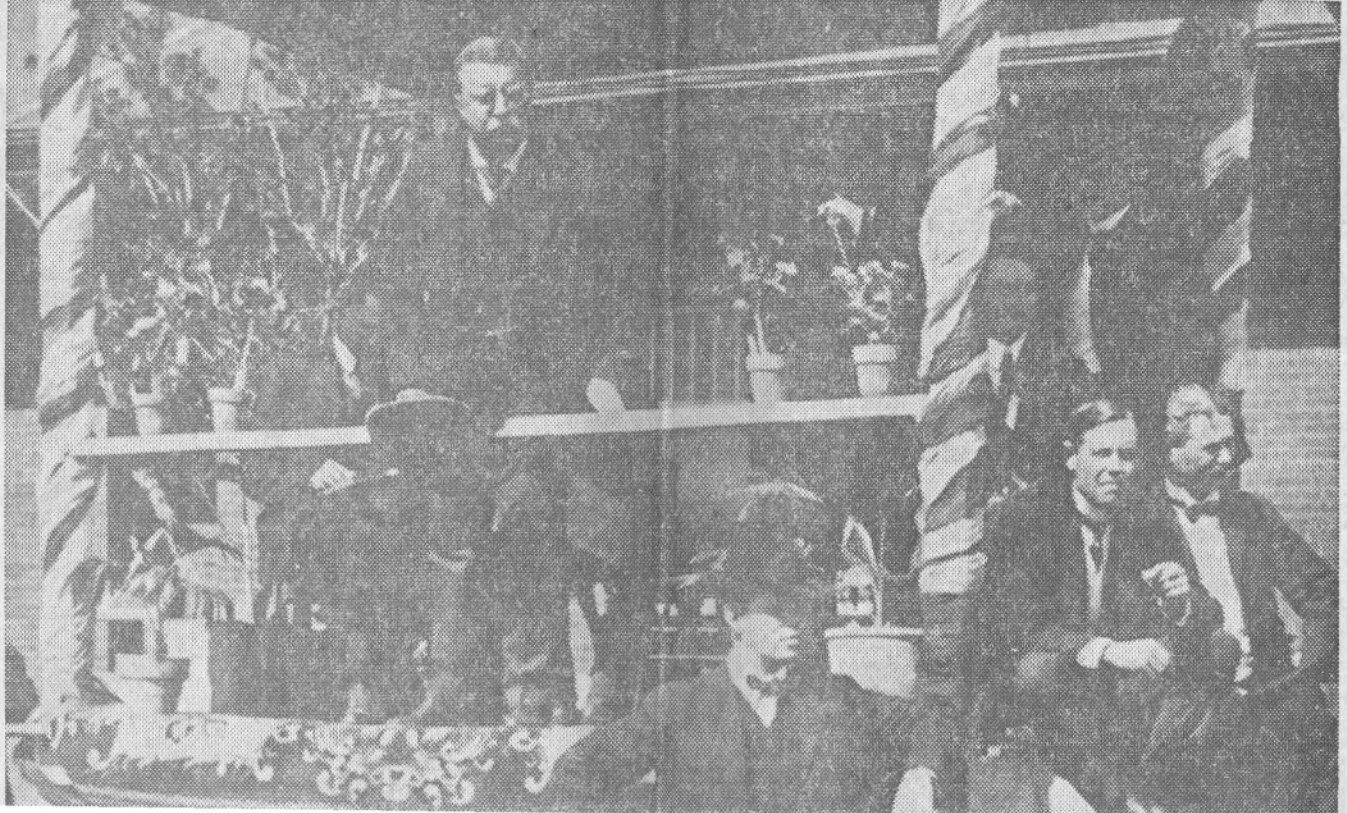
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Each Lasted Thirty



OKLAHOMA WOLF HUNT—After leaving Texas in 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt went on a wolf hunt in Oklahoma. In a letter to his son, Kermit, he said his party got 17 wolves, three coons and any number of rattlesnakes. Standing, left to right, are Lee Bivins of Amarillo; Capt. W. J. (Bill) McDonald of the Texas

Rangers; Jack Abernathy; Maj. Gen. S. M. B. Young; Capt. S. B. (Burk) Burnett, and Col. Roosevelt, L. M. Gillis; sitting, R. L. More, manager of the Waggoner Ranch; Guy Waggoner; Chief Quanah Parker (kneeling); Cecil Lyons; Dr. Lambert, Roosevelt's physician, and D. P. (Phy) Taylor.



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LAST STOP IN TEXAS—President Roosevelt's last stop in Texas was made at Vernon just before he crossed into Oklahoma for his wolf hunt. A young lawyer, R. W. Walker, later a distinguished jurist at Amarillo, introduced the President at Vernon as "the best and only President I have ever seen." The President showed his teeth in his famous smile at Walker's humor. Teddy is shown addressing a crowd at Vernon. Standing in front of the stand is James Sloan of the Secret Service; seated at the top of the steps is Sloan Simpson, Texas Republican state chairman.



LONG FIVE MINUTE SPEECH—Teddy Roosevelt began his five-minute speech in Wichita Falls by congratulating Wichita Falls on having been a pioneer in irrigation in West Texas, and in praising the pioneers who had developed the country. The short speech continued for 30 minutes.

Hospital Awards Altus Scholarship

ALTUS, Okla. (Special)—Miss Linda Freeman, who received her high school diploma in Altus this spring, is the first person honored with a scholarship from the Jackson County Memorial Hospital. The award was announced by John J. Ramsey, manager of the hospital, following Miss Freeman's acceptance by the Northwest Texas School of Nursing at Amarillo.

Seventeen-year-old Linda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Freeman of Altus.

Working as a Girl Scout hospital aide during her high school days, Linda was following her ambition since childhood.

The constant need for registered nurses at the hospital in Altus prompted the board of this organization to establish the scholarship and to encourage them to return here to accept employment.

In receiving the award for the full course of training it was necessary for Linda to agree to return for at least two years work on the local hospital staff following her graduation.

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Wichita Falls Reunion

man and Ralph, all of Wichita Falls; Mr. and Mrs. James H. (Pete) Barton of Holliday and their children; Mr. and Mrs. Donald McDonald and Steve of Wichita Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Sewell of Willow and their children; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cowley, Ruth and Jackie, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sewell Jr., Hector, Sandra, and Richard; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Sewell, David and Susan, all of Willow; James Graves and children, Jimmy, Tommy, and Jane of Hooks; Mr. and Mrs. Warner Hines and Jerr yof San Antonio; Mrs. E. F. Barton of Snyder, Texas and her daughter, Mrs. Sandy Boone and Belinda of Austin; Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Gorman, Betty and Vernon of Wichita Falls and Mrs. Cecil Glover, Susan, Kathy, and Robbi of Odessa, Texas.

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