

# Old time dere not be forgotten

By Bob Mattox

It's been years since I have paid the bills around this house and quite a while since I even paid attention to the heading on the things. So when I happened to pick up the mail from the floor the other day I noticed some of them.

Now the cable certainly I recognized, because we have had it a long time. The satellite made me think; until I figured it was for the satellite system that was given to us years ago by a niece who wanted us to be sure and watch her kids

play golf.

The gas company, now that threw me. What made them change the name of United Gas & Entex to the new one? What could be more centered and to the point than the United Gas Co. run by the old reliable crew of Dale Leediker, John Shaver, David Sepmoree, and others whom we relied on to take care of us and are sorely missed.

Then came Reliant energy. When I inquired, I was told that it was our electricity supplier and that I had just signed a new contract that saved us three cents a kilowatt hour. What is a kilowatt-hour for God's sake and what happened to Texas Power & Light Co?

Old reliable TP&L back when they were the leader in community affairs and when every inquiry was greeted by a cheerful voice. Where every problem big or small got the attention of either Claude Brown, who was the manager when I first came here, or later Wilse Hail, George McKinney, and Tom Milford. All gentlemen of the old school.

If the problem was outside, Hershel Boles, Ben Erwin, and

others would take care of it. If it was inside, Dewitt Rains, with his cheerful attitude, would be at your door almost before you hung up the phone. This is unheard of today.

The telephone company name took some explaining. Telephones take me way back to the time I first set foot in Crockett over 60 years ago. The founder of the Crockett Telephone Co. was John Cook, Louis Cook's grandfather, who was still living but the company was run by Loch Cook, Louis Cook's father.

The ones who really kept it going was chief operator, Mrs. Beaty, and operators Edith Pitts, later Conway, the Halmark sisters, and others working on the inside and Garland Ellis and later Clem Copus on the outside.

Later the company was sold to J.B. McDuff with the promise of a countywide dial telephone system that was supposed to speed up the service. We really didn't appreciate how fast our old service was. Back then you could pick up the phone, don't worry about a number, just tell one of the girls who you

wanted and if the person was at home they would connect you, if not they would tell you where the person had gone.

It really came in handy if you wanted a doctor. They would run him down for you. It was really better than CNN news in finding out what was going on in Crockett because it had a personal touch that is unknown to day.

Now I mentioned that Loch Cook ran the company. Now he could decide if you got a telephone but Garland Ellis and later Clem Copus decided when you got it. They enjoyed an independence of action that would be unheard of today. If you needed a telephone in a hurry it was wise to cultivate their friendship.

Now I know young people get tired of hearing old people talking about the past but you must remember that most of our life has passed and since that is where the memories lie that's where we live.

I want to share these cherished memories with you because that kind of life is truly gone with the wind and has settled into the dust we walk on.