

Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - December 23, 2018

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Kingsbury Texas

News & Information Newsletter



Dear Kingsbury,

Here's the latest on what's going on in Kingsbury!

Merry Christmas

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Kingsbury Newsletter!
We hope your holidays are **festive** and bright
as we celebrate and head into the new year.



There's A Day For Everything

In case you didn't already know ... there's something every day to **celebrate**!
Here are some of the fun, unusual, or forgotten holidays this week:

December 23rd - National Pfeffernusse Day, National Roots Day, Festivus

December 24th - National Eggnog Day, Christmas Eve

December 25th - National Pumpkin Pie Day, A'Phabet Day or No "L" Day, Christmas

December 26th - National Candy Cane Day, National Thank-you Note Day, National Whiner's Day, Boxing Day (Canada)

December 27th - National Fruitcake Day

December 28th - National Chocolate Candy Day, National Card Playing Day, Holy Innocents Day, Pledge of Allegiance Day

December 29th - National Pepper Pot Day, Tick Tock Day



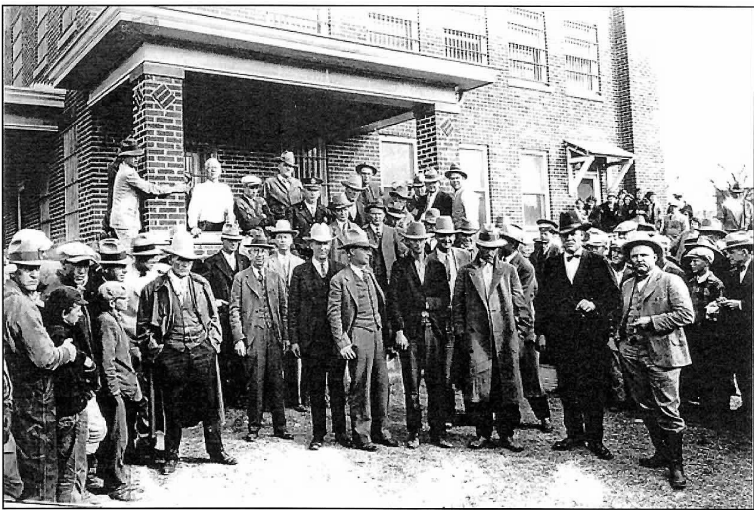
Santa Robs A Bank!

This week in Texas history, on December 23, 1927, the Santa Claus Bank Robbery occurred in Cisco, Texas. At noon Marshall Ratliff, Henry Helms, Robert Hill, and Louis Davis entered the First National Bank of Cisco with guns drawn. Ratliff, dressed in a borrowed Santa Claus costume, entered the bank vault. Some of the bank customers escaped and alerted the police and town citizens. Gunfire ensued when the costume-wearing Ratliff came out of the vault with a sack containing money. Police Chief G.E. "Bit" Bedford and Deputy George Carmichael were mortally wounded, and Ratliff and Davis were also wounded, Davis severely.

As their escape car was almost out of gas and one of the tires had been shot out, the robbers commandeered another car, but the driver took the keys with him. They then left the wounded Davis in the car, forgetting the **moneybag**. The fugitives escaped on foot, stole a series of cars, and had more gunfights over the next several days. They were finally captured in Graham, Texas, days after the abandoned Davis died in a Fort Worth hospital.

Helms, Hill, and Ratliff had several wounds apiece and had not eaten for days. All survived however, and soon faced trials. Hill pleaded guilty to armed robbery, took the stand on his own behalf, and in March was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He escaped from prison three times but was recaptured each time. After settling down, he was paroled in the mid-1940s, changed his name, and became a productive citizen. Helms was identified as the one who had gunned down both lawmen and was given the death sentence in late February. After an unsuccessful insanity plea, he was executed by electric chair on September 6, 1929. Ratliff was eventually sentenced to execution for his role in the deaths of Bedford and Carmichael, although no one could testify to having seen him fire a gun in the bank. Ratliff appealed his case and, when that failed, went for an insanity plea. He had begun acting insane the day that Helms was executed, and thoroughly convinced his jailers that he was. His mother, Rilla Carter, filed for a lunacy hearing in Huntsville. On November 18 Ratliff attempted to escape, mortally wounding one of his jailers in the attempt. A crowd began to gather the next morning and by nightfall had grown to over 1,000. They began demanding Ratliff. The mob overpowered the jailers and rushed in and found Ratliff. Dragging him out, they tied his hands and feet and headed for a nearby power pole. The first attempt to hang him failed when the knot came loose and he fell to the ground. The second time, however, the knot did not come undone. So ended the bank robbing Santa.

The infamous Santa Claus Bank Robbery led to the largest manhunt ever seen in the state of Texas at that time. The pictures below are of Cisco in 1927 and some of the posse in front of the bank in Cisco.



Stopping Forced Annexation

Texas is one of the few states that allows forced annexation, which means a municipality can annex a property against an owner's will. There is a petition drive underway in Guadalupe County to stop that. The purpose of the petition is to add a proposition to the next election ballot that would, if passed, allow cities in Guadalupe County to annex areas into their city limits only if voted for by the citizens in that area.

During the last legislative session, counties in Texas were designated as Tier 1 (less than 500,000 in population) and Tier 2 (greater than 500,000 in population) and the cities in a Tier 2 county can no longer force annex people's property into their city limits - the people get a chance to vote on being annexed or not. If a county is a Tier 1 (like Guadalupe), the cities in it can still forcibly annex properties, giving the annexed property owners no choice but to pay that city's property taxes and abide by their laws, and restrictions.

But there is a way to have a Tier 1 county designated as a Tier 2 and stop forced annexations. When 10% of the registered voters in the county sign a petition, the county must add a **proposition** to the next election that gives the citizens the chance to vote on changing the county to a Tier 2. Several counties in Texas have already had a petition drive to get the Tier 2 designation on the ballot and have voted with a resounding "Yes" - Parker, Wise, Johnson, Freestone, Palo Pinto, Ellis, and Atascosa. Many others, like

Guadalupe, are now working to get that proposition on their next ballot.

Marie Levy was a petition organizer in Atascosa county that just recently approved becoming a Tier 2 county with the election in November. She said in the Pleasanton Express: "Words cannot explain the relief we feel that in four short months we, the residents of Atascosa County, were able to make Texas history and end the century-old practice of unfair taking of our lands into municipalities' boundaries without our consent. The ripple effect of this big splash will be felt throughout the county for many years to come, noticeably, saving our agricultural heritage and holding governing bodies more accountable to their constituents."

Now residents in Guadalupe county are also working to get that Tier 2 designation on the next ballot. The petitions are out and available for signing by registered voters in the county. It makes no difference if you live in the Kingsbury area or at the other end of the county in New Berlin or Cibolo, as long as you reside somewhere in Guadalupe County and are registered to vote, you can sign the petition. To get the proposition on the next ballot in May, they have to have 10% of the registered voters sign a petition by February 8, 2019

The City of Kingsbury, by law and by conscience, only annexes when requested by the landowner. The city leaders do not believe in forced annexation and were some of the first to sign the petition to change Guadalupe county to a Tier 2. If you would also like to join the effort and sign a petition, you can contact Kingsbury City Commissioner Frank Ignasiak at (830) 433-1668 or Mayor Shirley Nolen at (830) 491-8863 or at 323-KINGSBURY. They can drop off and pick up petition sheets anywhere in the Kingsbury area. Curbside service!

You can also check out the effort on the web at www.stopforcedannexation-gc.com and on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/StopForcedAnnexationinGuadalupeCounty/




Kingsbury News Past

All the **news** that's fit to print about what *was* happening in Kingsbury . . .

The August 3, 1902 edition of the *Houston Post* had some articles from it's "Happy Hammers" section from new "Hammers" including little Eugenia Carolan from Kingsbury. The Happy Hammers section of the *Post* was for the young readers and little Eugenia, who was born on June 17, 1898, would have just turned 4 years old. She wrote a wonderful little letter talking about eating watermelons and peaches and about her pets. She talks about staying with her aunt, but does not say exactly who that is. Eugenia grew up and married Edwin Walter Dibrell and had several children.

NEW HAPPYHAMMERS.		
Mattie Heard	Refugio	
George McClelland	Stuebner	
Jewel Baugh	Millisap	
Charles Baugh	Millisap	
Bruce Center	Sulphur Springs	
Agnes Lutenbacher	Goliad	
Henry Bailey	Azie	
Trixie Bailey	Azie	
Eugenia Carolan	Kingsbury	
Ernest E. Spens	Alto	
Ruby E. Salter	Water Valley	
Lawrence Taylor	Yarboro	
Addie Taylor	Yarboro	
Iola Taylor	Yarboro	
Irene Goodman	Macy	
Ettie Maury	Moscow	
Corinne Maury	Moscow	
Hiram Larue	Crockett	
Hester Wood	Crockett	
Flossie Abercrombie	Howth	
Johnnie Henderson	Howth	
Owen Henderson	Howth	



Kingsbury, Texas.—Dear Happyhammers: I have been reading the Haps' page for over a year, but have not had enough courage to write. I have been with my aunt for a month. I surely have a good time eating watermelons, peaches and grapes. How many of you Haps like to ride horseback? I do, for one. I go to school and like it. I have two pets—a dog and a cat. My aunt has two white cats and a brown dog. I like to read story books. Well, good-bye. A new Hap,

Eugenia Carolan.

In other news, there was a lot of flooding reported in the paper, including severe creek flooding in Caldwell county where the assistant blacksmith was killed in the "ill-fated village of Uhland" and a donkey was rescued from a "tree top". In better news, Alvin is seeing good demand for pears and figs, and in Beaumont, something called the "Tenderloin Shakedown" involved some "fining of the women in reservation" and was occasionally held up when one of the women would spout off to the court "what she thought of them". What was that all about?! And poor Mr. Holik was killed by "foul air" while digging a well near Shiner.

CALDWELL COUNTY DISASTER.

Destruction Wrought Is Even Greater Than First Reported.

Lockhart, Texas, August 2.—New and additional accounts continue to come in from the great flood of last Tuesday in the districts bordering on Plum, Elm, Brushy and Dry creeks and on Clear fork, and the destruction wrought by the unprecedented overflow is daily becoming more evident.

From the ill-fated village of Uhland down the scenes of destruction are harrowing indeed. A number of farms in the valley are swept bare of vegetation and crops are entirely ruined.

The man drowned at Uhland was not the blacksmith Telrichner, as at first reported to The Post, but was his assistant in the shop, Hubert Mimler, whose body was found in a wire fence three-quarters of a mile below, and was buried by friends on Wednesday.

Crowds of Mexicans are running up and

down the creeks gathering up the flotsam and jetsam, which is a rich harvest for them, as it consists of household goods, wagons, farm implements, stock, cord wood and various articles of clothing that are unidentified by former owners. In one place a donkey was found alive in a tree top and was rescued from its perch and saved.

There is scarcely a farm along the creeks that has not been materially damaged by the flood, but the farmers have gone to work with remarkable resignation and determination to recoup their losses.

While the flood has been the cause of great individual losses, the aggregate result will prove a blessing to the public at large and hopes are yet entertained for a fairly good cotton crop on the uplands.

ALVIN.—The demand for pears and figs is very good this year and all that are offered are readily taken.

The Tenderloin Shakedown.

Beaumont, Texas, August 2.—The fining of the women in reservation has been the chief business today with Mayor Thomas H. Langham and his men. This morning fifty were fined \$10 each and an adjournment taken to this afternoon. This evening the work ground along slowly. They were all pleading guilty and the work at times would move rapidly, but now and then one of the women would tell the court and the officers what she thought of them and the way it was going in most cases, claiming that partiality was being shown. So far as can be learned they have all been treated alike and no partiality has been shown. There is another big lot of them to be brought up Monday.

Killed by Well Damp.

Shiner, Texas, August 1.—Albert Holik, living four miles east of Shiner, while engaged in digging a well on Zikora's place, five miles from here, was overcome by foul air and died before he could be rescued. He leaves a wife and several children.

Elsewhere, county roads near Beaumont will be "much improved" with all the shells being used, Caldwell is cracking down on cattle "running at large" and taxing for dogs, and "more whisky was sold yesterday than ever before" just before prohibition took effect in Hunt county. There was also an ad for suits (also available in alpaca) of a very dapper-looking fellow, and more reports of flooding, this time the Trinity had washed out railroad bridges and shut Forney off from "mails and travel and the outside world."


Contract for Shell.

Beaumont, Texas, August 2.—The contracts for shell for the county have been let for the most part to Myrick Brothers of this city at the rate of \$2.35 per cubic yard. The total amount for all the shell to be used will run up to perhaps \$60,000 and the county roads will be much improved thereby. It is the result of a recent issue of \$150,000 bonds. The amounts have been pro rated among the various commissioners and Commissioners Best and Kent have entered into their contracts already.

CALDWELL.—New ordinances are now in effect to prevent the running at large of all sorts of cattle and requiring the payment of a tax on dogs.

Prohibition Effective in Hunt County.

Greenville, Texas, August 2.—County prohibition became operative at midnight and all saloons closed. More whisky was sold yesterday than ever before in Greenville on a single day.



Linen, Serge and Alpaca

THE TRINITY FLOOD.

It Is Falling at Forney After Doing Great Damage.


Forney, Texas, August 1.—The rains have subsided these three days and the trains are running again. Washouts to the east and west have had the town shut off from mails and travel and the outside world, but business has resumed. The damage to the Texas and Pacific has been immense and thousands of acres of corn and cotton have been from four to six feet under water. There has also been great loss in live stock, mostly cattle. No loss of human life, though a great many made narrow escapes. Rescuing parties in skiffs or small row boats did a good day's work getting people out of the river bottom, the east fork of the Trinity. The homes of these people were partly under water and they themselves were on the housetops or wading in two feet of water in their homes. The river is slowly falling and will perhaps be in its banks in another day. We wanted rain and have had plenty for a few days.

Kingsbury Weather

Kingsbury weather for this week. You can always get the latest **weather** in Kingsbury on the Kingsbury website under [Calendar](#).

Kingsbury, Texas

Sun, Dec 23, 2018



51°F

Sunny

Wind: N 15.0 mph

Humidity: 60%

Visibility: 10.0 miles

Mon


Tue


Wed


Thu


Fri


Sat














64°

74°

73°

69°

67°

52°

55°

62°


53°

44°

45°

38°

For current temperature, rainfall totals, wind speed, etc. just click on the bar at the bottom to go directly to the Baker Ranch weather station in Kingsbury. You can view local conditions and all the other weather stations in the TexMesonet network.



Click here to check out the Texas Water Development Board "Baker Ranch" weather

Kingsbury Rush Hour

A street scene in Kingsbury around 1900. The railroad tracks are running in front of a large pile of bricks and a part of the lumber company that has the remnants of an old Barnum & Bailey advertisement on the side. I wonder if the Barnum & Bailey circus ever came through Kingsbury? There is a **windmill** turning above the general store that is advertising shoes on the sign hanging from the awning. There is a traffic gridlock as men and carts stop to discuss the day's events. The gentleman in the two-horse cart is Kingsbury resident John H. Schmidt (father of "Doc" Schmidt) - you can even see his signature mustache from this distance.



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Send them this email! All they need to do is go to the [Kingsbury website](#), click on the weird little **dog** at the bottom of any page, and fill out their name and email address. It's so easy! Let's get everybody to be "in the know" about what's going on in their community.



Thanks!

Kingsbury News & Information

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