

people that it was not good for a man to live alone and talked them out of this young lady.

THE FIRST CHURCH WEDDING

By Mrs. Mary V. Dye

The first church wedding in Hale County was that of Miss Eugenia Welter and Mr. William H. Beyette. Miss Welter was a teacher in the Plainview School and Mr. Beyette was a young preacher. The ceremonies took place in the little Methodist Church in Plainview on October 31, 1894, and the Methodist pastor, Rev. J. T. Bloodworth, officiated. The entire town was greatly excited over the event and everybody wanted to have a part in the preparation for it. But what to do with the church was a question. It was not painted, had bare walls and floors of rough lumber, and home-made pews. We all put our heads together and decided what could be done to beautify it and make it suitable for a wedding. We bought cheese cloth and made curtains for the windows. Mrs. R. C. Ware had been to St. Louis and had learned how to make paper flowers and she showed us how. We made a bell of white morning-glories, which we suspended from a large coaloil lamp which hung from the ceiling in front of the pulpit. I had a rag carpet that I had brought with me from Tennessee, and we took that up off the floor, ripped the strips apart and carpeted the aisles with it. The church was lighted with coaloil lamps. The bride wore a white satin wedding dress with a long train. She was a beautiful girl and the groom was tall and dark and they made a handsome couple. Ione Burch was bridesmaid. The wedding went off beautifully, after which all repaired to the parsonage next door and cut the wedding cake. Mrs. Beyette is now living in Downey, California.

STARTING THE TOWN OF PETERSBURG

By Ed M. White

The starting of the town of Petersburg was not an accident, but it grew out of an accident in which I was crippled and paralyzed from the fall from a horse. Old Captain Peters, who was a captain in the Union Army during the Civil War, got a

post office which was kept in his home in Floyd County, four miles north and one east of Petersburg. He was moving away and wanted someone to take the Post Office off his hands. The settlers wanted me to take it. I didn't want to but my wife told me I had better take it, as I couldn't do anything else and it would take my mind off of other things. So I took it and moved it to Hale County. My first quarterly payment was \$5.00 for keeping the Post Office. Afterward it ran up until we got about \$200 per quarter. My wife persuaded me to get a stock of goods and keep a store in connection with the Post Office. We did pretty well with it, though Jesse Boyd said he could have carried my stock of goods on his shoulder. It wasn't long until I was keeping two or three wagons on the road hauling goods from Amarillo for my store. People had to go to Plainview, Floydada or Lubbock to trade, so my store was at a location best situated to supply those in the community. I added a stock of hardware to my general store, but later I went into the hardware business. In spite of the serious accident that changed the course of my life, I regained my health and have passed my ninetieth birthday. Petersburg is still my home, though the antelopes and the wild horses that once raced about the prairies near my home have vanished and the motor cars race past my door in their stead.

EARLY GRAIN BUSINESS

By L. F. Cobb

I got started in the grain business in Odessa, Missouri. I was working for an elevator man at one dollar per day, and when business got slack, he put me to hoeing sweet potatoes. I told him I thought I was too smart to hoe sweet potatoes, and so I fired myself and went into the grain business for myself. I moved to Happy in 1906—my two daughters and I—and built a grain business there. At that time there was nothing but the prairie. In those days we had to go fifteen or twenty miles to find a little crop to load in with another shipment to make out a car load. I often had some grain to ship and in order to make out a car load I would take my horse and buggy and drive all over the prairie to find a little bit of grain to complete a carload shipment. I was at Happy when the first