

Diary of T. J. Hampson(son)

From Salida, CO, Sept. 9, 1894, to Velasco, Texas, Dec. 21, 1894

Sunday, Sept. 9, 1894 - Left Salida at 5:45 a.m. ("ouch" that was early for us, & only happened once) (author's mental note). Reached Poncha Jct. at 7:15. Arrived at Mear's Jct. at 11 O'clock. Arrived at summit of Poncha Pass at 1:15. Met there, our old friend Titus P. Lewis who had arrived there on a train to have a last talk with us & to bid us goodbye. Bless the old man's heart; it warmed us toward our friend(a real one) a lot. Rained all afternoon & we went into camp at Round Hill at 3 p.m. ( 17 miles).

Monday, Sept. 10 - Broke camp at 9 a.m. Reached Villa Grove at 1:30, ate dinner. Afternoon killed 3 rabbits. Did not stop for night camp until 8 p.m. on account of lack of good water. Went into camp at an artesian well on a big San Loui Valley ranch. Was nice today after the big rain of the day and night before.(25 miles)

Tuesday, Sept. 11 - Broke camp at Artesian Well Ranch at 9 a.m. Arrived at Moffat at 1:30. Ate dinner at the old abandoned ranch with an artesian well on it. In the afternoon killed 5 rabbits. Went into camp 3 miles south of Dunne(San Loui Valley) at 7 o'clock. Roads swampy and bad.(20 miles)

Wednesday, Sept. 12 - Broke camp south of Dunne at 8:45, arrived at Garrison 10 a.m. Reached Mosca, a milling town, at 12:40 and ate dinner here. Killed 2 rabbits. Met our friend, Doc Monahan, an old timer, who was also leaving the country. He rode all afternoon with us, went into camp on banks of the Rio Grande River at Alamosa 7 p.m. Delayed in the morning by having to hunt for our horses and also heavy roads.(23 miles)

Thursday, Sept. 13 - Doc Monahan still with us. He wants to go to Tres Piedras, N.M., with us. Broke camp on Rio Grande, crossed bridge into city of Alamosa, Colo., Metropolis of the San Loui Valley. 9 p.m., delayed two hours getting gun repaired. Wrote card to McK & K., Salida, ate dinner at the Empire Farm. Crossed the Alamosa River, also the La Jara River and arrived at town of La Jara at 6 p.m. Went into camp here. Weather very windy. Distance traveled during the day, 15 miles. This makes a total of 100 miles traveled so far since leaving Salida.

Friday, Sept. 14 - Broke camp at La Jara at 9:15. Ate dinner two miles north of Conejos at 5 p.m. Tried to find a place to do some fishing and spend the night, but failed after wasting much time. Arrived at Antonito at 6:30. Went into camp on the north bank San Antonio Creek. Here was our fishing. (16 miles)



Saturday, Sept. 15 - Stayed in camp all day to learn the route to Santa Fe, and to have Winchester rifle, which we left at campground at La Jara, forwarded to us at Antonito. Cost us \$1.90 to have gun recovered and sent on to us. Caught over 50 mountain trout near camp in San Antonio Creek. Went to Antonito 2 miles from camp in the afternoon and got our gun from Ry. Ex. Co. Wind blew all afternoon.

Sunday, Sept. 16 - Broke camp at 8 a.m., filled up the water barrel at the bridge over San Antonio Creek, to last us for the whole day. Went half mile, and lost the road. Found road after half hour's hunt. Crossed the state line from Colorado into New Mexico at 10:30. Ate dinner at Round Mountain at 12:30. Killed two rabbits. Reached water at 6:30 and went into camp. Roads fair, weather nice. (25 miles)

Monday, Sept. 17 -(Chrs. birthday) Broke camp at 9:20 in the head of Comanche Canon. Reached Tres Piedras, N.M., at noon. Bought some Mdse. and ate dinner on the outskirts of town. Mr. Sherlock took dinner with us. Dr. Monahan left us at this place. We started out after dinner expecting to reach water, 15 miles out as directed, but failed. We kept traveling until 10 p.m. hoping to get water but got onto wrong road and concluded to make a dry camp without water. Roads very rough. Wild country. (33 miles)

Tuesday, Sept. 18 - Bought some watermelons and they were green. Broke camp at 9. Prepared to make a ten mile drive to water. On the way we broke the tongue of the light spring wagon. Fixed it up temporarily. Lasted until we were coming down a steep hill to water when it broke again. Ate dinner at some Mexican ranches. After dinner with help of a Mexican fixed it up again. Crossed Collienthe Creek. Went about a mile when it began to rain. Went into camp near the creek. We went to the creek to get water to cook supper but creek was so high and muddy had to go without water again. Roads wet and rough. Kept watch over our horses all night. (12 miles)

Wednesday, Sept. 19 - Broke camp on Collienthe(hot) Creek at 9:15. Ate dinner at Lone Rock on the Creek. Arrived at mouth of Chama River 3:30. Went into camp at the Mexican town of Chamita at 6:30. Bought hay, wood, produce from the Mexicans who seemed to be clever and friendly. Roads very sandy and rough. Kept close watch on camp and horses. (13 miles)

Thursday, Sept. 20 - Broke camp at 10 at Chamita. Crossed the old Rio Grande River and entered the old Indian village of San Juan at 10:30. Recrossed the Rio Grande into Espanola at noon. Bought some mdse. and again crossed the Rio Grande to get on the right road to Santa Fe. Ate dinner at Mexican ranch one mile from Espanola. Went into camp at dark on Powhacken Creek near town of the same name. (18 miles)

Friday, Sept. 21 - Struck camp on Powhacken Creek at 8:30. Had to work on broken wagon tongue. Ate dinner on Santa Fe Creek. Passed some very nice fruit tree orchards and farms on the way and arrived



at Santa Fe, capital and largest city of New Mexico, at 5:15. Passed the rifle range of Fort March here. Went into camp at Santa Fe on the outskirts of the city near the new reservoir for the city. Roads sandy and hilly. (18 miles)

Saturday, Sept. 22 - Laid over here at Santa Fe to rest up while having the blacksmith make us a new wagon tongue, and to view the sights. Also to try and locate our route to the Gulf Coast, and lay in a supply of groceries to last us on the long stretch to next town, Roswell. Among the sights we saw were the following: U.S. Barracks and the Fort where two companies of the U.S. Tenth Infantry were stationed, Officers' Quarters, Capitol building, Public Plaza, Old Spanish Ruins. Third oldest town in U.S., settled in 1682. Went to bed early to prepare for an early start in the morning.

Sunday, Sept. 23 - Broke camp at 8:30 at Santa Fe. Got on the wrong road and had to turn back. In passing under a R.R. trestle, we damaged our wagon top, broke some bows and tore canvas some. Concluded the bridge was too low or wagon top too high? Ate dinner 12 miles from Santa Fe. Killed one rattlesnake, 5 rattles and a button. Arrived at the Plaza of Gallistaeons at 6:15. Went into camp in the barnyard of Mr. Davis, owner of the Big Rancho there in Gallisteons. (24 miles)

Monday, Sept. 24 - Broke camp at the Davis Rancho at 9. We left our axe at Davis's, Ouch! Ate dinner on the big sheep range 12 miles from our morning camp. During the afternoon saw 7 antelope. Too far off to shoot at. Traveled until 8 to get to water, but went into a dry camp without water, our 2nd waterless camp on the trip, with one camp water too muddy to use. Fine roads all day, and weather was fine. (25 miles)

Tuesday, Sept. 25 - Broke camp at 8:30, 3 miles from Stinking (bad smelling) Springs. Watered the horses at a lake one mile from camp. Arrived at B.S. Springs at 9:45, ate dinner 12 miles from Antelope Springs. Saw plenty of ducks, and eight more antelope. Killed 2 rabbits and 2 pigeons. Pigeons were tame and we had permission to get them. Arrived at Antelope Springs at 5:50/ Went into camp here. Nice country, but no good drinking water. Roads fine. (23 miles)

Wednesday, Sept. 26 - Broke camp at Antelope Springs at 9:30. Ate dinner at the Salt Lakes. John Sheeley and John Lovely joined our force here for a few days of joint travel, possibly to Roswell. Saw more antelope and killed 6 rabbits. Traveled until 8 to find water for horses, but failed as usual. Another dry camp. Oh, for some good old Colorado water! Weather good, roads good. (22 miles)

Thursday, Sept. 27 - Saw the watering place in the morning right near our camp. Watered all the stock. Broke camp at 8:30. Ate dinner 8 miles from Pinos Wells. Arrived at Pinos Wells at 5:30 and got the 1st water since leaving camp in the morning. Bought some mdse which was very high. Went into camp, roads and weather fine. (20 miles)



Friday, Sept. 28 - Broke camp at 9. Ate dinner 11 miles from the Wells. Arrived at the Guyena water hole at 6 and went into camp. Roads good but up grade mostly. Weather cool and windy. Killed 2 rabbits. Charlie had a near accident here. After we made camp he decided to ride one of the boys' horses. A nervous animal. As Charlie got one foot in the stirrup, the horse made several jumps before Charlie could get the other leg over the horse. John Lovely saw the situation at a glance and with lightning movement he caught Charlie's horse before he made 40 feet. (22 miles)

Saturday, Sept. 29 - Broke camp at the Guyenas at 8:50. Ate dinner 12 miles from the water holes. Arrived at the Chipadaro Ranch at 6:30 and went into camp. Got some antelope meat from the proprietor of the ranch. Had to pay(1st time) for the water we used for the stock. Weather very cool, roads fair. Killed 2 rabbits.(22 miles)

Sunday, Sept. 30 - Broke camp at 9:15. Charlie, Jack and myself went ahead on the saddle horses to a big lake to hunt ducks, only got one. Ate dinner 10 miles from the famous Block Ranch, supposed to be the largest cattle ranch in New Mexico. In the afternoon Leander lost his purse with all his wealth in it(.90 cents). Arrived at an old vacant house on the Block Ranch at 5:30 in a cold rain storm and went into camp for the night.(20 miles)

Monday, Oct. 1 - Laid over at the Block Ranch to rest up the horses and get some groceries. Ranch rather quiet as they had just sent a big trail herd of cattle to Amarillo, Texas, nearest R.R. shipping point for them. Weather clear and cool. Killed 2 rabbits. J. Sheeley went to hunt up a cousin employed by the ranch. He was gone all day. J. Lovely and self went to ranch store to buy groceries. Store manager gave us a check for the change. Had to go back and get check exchanged for the mazuma(money). Had one of the saddle horses shod.

Tuesday, Oct. 2 - Broke camp at the Block Ranch in the El Capitan Mountains at 8:45. Ate dinner in Salt Creek Canon. Traveled until 7 in the evening to get water for stock. Went into camp by a big pool of water in the creek bed. Weather fine, roads very rough. (25 miles)

Wednesday, Oct.3 -Broke camp at 8:45. Saw two deer. Killed 3 rabbits, 2 ducks, and 4 quail. Real hunting country this! Ate dinner on Salt Creek. Went into camp at Cedar Hill for the night at 5:15. Had an early supper. Plenty of company, it being an old camping ground. Weather fine, roads sandy and rough. (18 miles)

Thursday, Oct.4 - Broke camp at Cedar Hill at 8:40. Got enough wood gathered to last us 3 day's use as the valley we are heading into, they tell us, has no wood, and they have to haul it from 40 to 50 miles. Arrived at some Texas ranches on Salt Creek at 12:30 and ate dinner. Not too much to eat either for our horses or ourselves. Lovely and Sheeley ate dinner with Mr. Muskra and they stayed all night for a dance. We continued on toward Roswell and left the boys here. Went into camp near a water hole at 6. (18 miles)



Friday, Oct. 5 - Weather cloudy. Broke camp at 9:15. Traveled right on through to Roswell without stop for dinner for we had nothing to eat, so it was useless to stop, but hard on the horses. Arrived at Roswell in the Pecos Valley at 3 and went into camp on Spring River on the outskirts of town. Went into town at once to get some grub before we could cook supper. We got plenty and watermelons too. Wrote card to McKenna and K. Roads fine. (17 miles)

Saturday, Oct. 6 - Went up town, father and self, and everyone seemed to be armed, a tough, wild town as Pecos Valley Railroad was just building into Roswell and first train got in today. Contractor's name was Joe Hampson K.C. Broke camp on Spring River 9a.m. Passed through Roswell and laid in another supply of grub to last us to Eddy. Ate dinner at some alkali wells. Could not drink the water so we drank some whiskey. Arrived at the Salise 6:30 and went into camp. Water everywhere but all very bad. We were directed to a good drinking spring but could not find it. Roads and weather fine. (25 miles)

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Broke camp on the Salise at 9:30. Kept close watch as this was a "hoss thief section". Saw hundreds of antelope during the day's travel. Tried to get in gunshot of one and chanced one shot, but it wasn't close enough to get him. Ate dinner below Tar Lake on Mr. Brown's Ranch. We were directed to a spring on Cottonwood Creek for our night campsite, but went too far and had to turn back about 3 miles. Roads fair and weather good. Went into camp at the spring at 6. (20 miles)

Monday, Oct. 8 - Broke camp at Cottonwood Creek at 9. Saw lots of antelope. Arrived at Rio Penasco at 2 and ate dinner here. Went into camp for the night at a water hole 6 miles from Rio Penasco at 6. Weather cool. Roads fine. Expect to reach Eddy (now Carlsbad) tomorrow. We are near the town of Seven Rivers where a recent murder had just taken place. (22 miles)

Tuesday, Oct. 9 - Broke camp at 8:30. Arrived at Seven Rivers at noon. Went one mile south of town and ate dinner. Traveled all afternoon but did not reach Eddy. Went into camp 4 miles this side of Eddy at Limestone Hill near the Pecos River. Killed one duck and 3 rabbits. Weather clear and warm. Roads fine. (20 miles)

Wednesday, Oct. 10 - Broke camp at 10. Before we started I shaved Dad and wanted to cut his hair but he would have none of it (I don't blame him). This caused the late start. Arrived at Eddy at 11:30. Bought some mdse. and went one mile south of town and went into camp. Water scarce and much alkali. We intend to lay over here until we can find out the best route and get some clothes washed. Water hard. Weather good, roads rough. (5 miles)

Thursday, Oct. 11 - Laid over here at Eddy. Weather hot in forenoon and rain in afternoon. We can see from our camp the temporary scaffold built to hang the two Seven Rivers murderers on. It looks awesome to we kids. Went up town in forenoon and laid in a supply of mdse. and feed to last us through the Staked Plains. Got one



horse shod. Washed up the dirty clothes. Found out the best route to Velasco via Midland, Texas. Prepared to get early start next morning.

Friday, Oct. 12 - Broke camp at Eddy at 8:30. Crossed the Pecos River and entered the hills So. East of Eddy and headed for Midland, an estimated two week's trek, for heavily loaded vehicles as ours, through the sand. This part of our trip across the Staked Plains is the worst and most dreaded part of our trip through sand nearly all the way and infested with rattlesnakes. Saw no life today, just a windmill or two and one herder's abode. Roads not much, terrible. Had water with us. Ate dinner in sand dunes near a waterhole. Made camp in evening at 5:30 for the night. (17 miles)

Saturday, Oct. 13 - Broke camp at 8. Roads sandy and rough. Very heavy pull and hard on our poor animals. SAND! SAND! Ate dinner near a waterhole 12:30. Killed 2 rattlers and 2 rabbits. Saw some quail. Went into camp for the night near a salt lake. The great Llanno Estacada, UGH! Water no good. We have the whiskey handy for this part of the trip. It will suffer. With all the snakes and alkali and saline water. Weather nice, roads awful or trails, I call 'em. Can't see any road sometimes. (17 miles)

Sunday, Oct. 14 - Wild country this. Heard some coyotes last night. Laid over one half day to rest horses. We all felt sorry for our animals. Looks like we may have to double up our teams. Make two trips on some of route through the sand. Got some more directions as how to reach Midland from sheep man. As we proceed further, it looks worse, these Saline "Wastes." Struck camp after dinner. Went on around the lake and struck in through the sand hills again. Hills covered with sheep brush or chapparal. Finally got through this bunch of sand hills and went into camp at another salt lake at 5. Weather nice, roads awful. (8 miles)

Monday, Oct. 15 - Broke camp at 7:15. Got on the wrong road and had to pull through an old salt lake 3 miles out of our way. Had to double up to pull out of the lake. Arrived at 2nd salt lake today at 11:30. Ate dinner 2 miles further on. Arrived at some more sand hills at about 2:30. Went one half mile in the sand and had to double up again. Left Chester with the spring wagon while we went on with rest of the outfit. Heavy sand for 6 miles. Arrived at the Hillburn Wells at the foot of the plains at about 6:30 and went into camp intending to go back after the spring wagon in the morning and see if Chet was still there. Some heck of a day. Mother and grandma worrying about Chet. Killed 3 rattlers, one rabbit. Weather cloudy, roads very heavy and very sandy. Nothing but sand for another week or more is the outlook. (14 miles)

Tuesday, Oct. 16 - Charlie and myself left camp with all 5 horses to go back after Ches and the spring wagon. Ches had staid out in the sand hills all night and slept in the wagon. Got to him about 11:30 and found him all OK. Said he heard coyotes that night. Started back at once and arrived at our camp at 2:45. Made good time with the lighter load. Laid over the rest of the day and



prepared camp for the night at the wells. Killed 2 rattlers and 6 rabbits. Lee did some shooting. Weather cloudy, roads sandy. Nothing gained in distance.

Wednesday, Oct. 17 - Broke camp at the wells at 9:45. Accompanied by Mr. Hillburn and Mr. Faulkner who are going to pilot us as far as their eastern sheep ranch 60 miles from Midland (West). Watered the horses at a large lake 7 miles from Hillburn's wells. Went two miles further and ate dinner. Arrived at Monument Springs at 4:30. Went 3 miles and went into camp for the night. Roads good today, for a change. Some rocks too! (18 miles)

Thursday, Oct. 18 - Broke camp at 8. Passed one sheep ranch and arrived at the Cowdon Ranch at 12. Ate dinner. Arrived at the Fox Ranch at 4 and watered the stock. Went 5 miles further and went into camp. 3 miles of the 5 being deep sand. Crossed the New Mex.-Texas state line during the aft. So now we are Texans! Well we finally got into Texas. Weather good, roads (with the exception of the 3 miles of sand) good. No rattlers lately. Mr. Hillburn stated that the sheep killed all the rattlers. (20 miles)

Friday, Oct. 19 - Broke camp at 8 in the midst of heavy sands. Sand continued for two miles or until we reached the head of Seminole Draw. Shot at 2 antelope but missed. Arrived at the J. M. Wind Mills #1 at 10:30. Ate dinner at the J.M. Wind Mills #2. Mr. Faulkner left us at this place. Mr. Hillburn went on ahead. We went into camp at some windmills 8 miles further on. Roads good, except the sand, and weather nicer. (20 miles)

Saturday, Oct. 20 - Broke camp at 8:30. Went to Teal Wells and from there to Hillburn's sheep ranch. Arrived here at 11 and staid until 2:30 to find out route to Midland and get some provisions which we were badly in need of. Went on to the Eclipse Wind Mills and went into camp 2 miles below the mill. Killed 1 curlew and 1 crane. Weather windy and cloudy and wet! Roads fair. (12 miles)

Sunday, Oct. 21 - Laid over to rest up the horses and keep the Sabbath. Killed 2 rabbits and one curlew. Weather clear and warm. Charlie doing a lot of hunting today. Total distance traveled up to date since leaving Salida figures up to even 710 miles. Went to bed feeling much better as worst of the plains is over.

Monday, Oct. 22 - Broke camp at 8:15. Ate dinner in Sulphur Draw opposite some wind mills 10 miles from camp. Had to cross the wide open spaces to get water, two miles from the road. Went into camp for the night one mile from an alkali wind mill in order to get grass for horses. Killed 4 quail and 3 rabbits. Weather good, roads sandy. (20 miles)

Tuesday, Oct. 23 - Broke camp at 8:30. Watered the stock at the alkali well. Water very bad. Arrived at the Five Wells Wind Mills. Filled up our water barrel at Mill no. 1, awfully poor water, lots of gyp in it. An awful drain on the fire water. Bought some grub at 5 Wells Ranch and went one mile further and went into camp for our



noonday meal. Concluded to stay here the rest of the day and rest up the horses, so we made camp for the night. Lots of sand and more ahead of us. Killed 4 curlew. Roads sandy. (8 miles)

Wednesday, Oct. 24 - Broke camp at 8:30. Had an hour's hunt for the horses. Arrived at the 5 Wells Wind Mill east of the sand at 11:30. Went 2 miles more and ate dinner. Relieved to get through the sand OK. Traveled until 7 to find some water and grass but without much success. Went into camp 3 miles from the U.L. Ranch. Killed 4 curlew yesterday and got 5 rabbits today. Weather clear and roads sandy, sandy. (18 miles)

Thursday, Oct. 25 - Grandma's birthday today, 83 years old. A seven day wonder is our grandma to stand, so well, such a hard trip. Hats off, congratulations to her on this her birthday. Broke camp at 9. Arrived at the U.L. Ranch at 10:30 and filled barrel and watered horses. The first real good water since leaving the Block Ranch. Went 4 miles and ate dinner. Went into camp for the night in a large pasture. Killed 3 rabbits. Weather warm and windy. Roads good. ( 13 miles)

Friday, Oct.26 - Broke camp at 8:30. We untrailed the wagons which we had trailed the past 4 days on acct such heavy, sandy roads. Ate dinner at a waterhole 17 miles from Midland, Texas. Reached Midland(the city of the wind mills) at 4. Bought some groceries and went into camp one mile east of town in a pasture near the ToPac. Railroad. 1st r.Road we have seen since leaving Eddy, New Mex. Weather cool and windy, acct of the wind mills. Roads hard and sandy. (13 miles)

Saturday, Oct.27 - Lay'ed over 1/2 day at Midland to get a supply of grub. Broke camp at 12:30. Went into camp for the night seven miles from Stanton. Weather is clear and much wind(for the wind mills). Roads good. No rabbits today. Distance traveled for the half day,12 miles. All are thankful that we are across the Staked Plains.

Sunday, Oct.28 - Celebrated Dad's birthday today, 52 years old. It was the Sabbath so we lay'ed over and rested up. Dad got his birthday haircut in Midland and 2 big segars. Mother had an extra nice meal for him with real beefsteak. The one thing to marr the day was a hard,cold wind and it lasted all day and night too. Will certainly be glad when we get away from those pesky wind mills. Everything inc. our craws is full of sand. Killed two rabbits.

Monday, Oct.29 - Broke camp at 9:15. Went 2 miles further and ate dinner. Reached a wind mill in the afternoon and loaded up with water. Traveled six miles farther on and went into camp for the evening. Killed 4 rabbits. Weather cold, roads heavy. (17 miles)

Tuesday, Oct.30 - Very cold night, heavy frost. Had a hunt for old Charlie who had wandered away the evening before. Found him about 4 miles from our camp. Broke camp at 9:45. Reached an alkali wind mill about 2 miles from camp. Water too bad to drink(drunk



whiskey). Had to go 7 miles further to get water we could drink. Arrived at Big Springs at 3. Made camp. Went uptown and got grub enough to get to San Angelo. (11 miles)

Wednesday, Oct.31 - Very cold night, heavy frost. Broke camp at Big Springs on Tex Pacific RR at 9:15. Water'd the stock at the same wind mill we did yesterday. Ate dinner 6 miles from Burns place. Reached Burns place at 4:45. Traveled 2 miles further and went into camp. Weather good, roads fine. (17 miles)

Thursday, Nov.1 -Broke camp at 9:30. Watered part of the stock at a waterhole, short distance from camp. Old Charlie got stuck in the mud and fell down. Had to pull him out. Killed 3 rabbits. Ate dinner near a wind mill. Went into camp on the Concho Creek 8 miles from Sterling. Weather very windy. (20 miles)

Friday, Nov.2 - Broke camp at 10. Delayed in hunting for pecans. Papa, mamma, and grandmother all sick. Left Old Charlie to rustle for himself. Was too old to travel further. Arrived at Sterling at 1. Ate dinner below town. Went into camp for the night on Concho Creek, 8 miles from Sterling. Weather cool and clear. Killed 2 rabbits. (16 miles)

Saturday, Nov.3 - Leander's 13th birthday. Broke camp at 9:30. Ate dinner 9 miles from camp. Arrived at a small Texas settlement at 4. Traveled 4 miles farther and went into camp for the night on Concho Creek. Weather fair, roads fair. We are 18 miles from San Angelo.(16 miles)

Sunday, Nov.4 - Spent most of the afternoon gathering pecans. Broke camp at 11. Did not make any stop for dinner. Went into camp for the night on Concho Creek in Mr. Shields' pasture about 2 miles from city of San Angelo. Weather cool and clear. Roads good. Killed 2 rabbits. Mr Shields, sheriff of Tom Greene Co., asked Dad to work for him for re-election in Tuesday's election. Dad did and Shields was elected. (16 miles)

Monday, Nov.5 - Laid over in camp to rest up. Went up town; staid all day in San Angelo and got feed and groceries. Wrote cards to MeKenna and Kerndt and Mr. H.J.Faulk of Salida. Found out the best route via the Capitol City of Austin, Texas. Caught 2 catfish in the Concho. Weather good.

Tuesday, Nov.6 - Election day. Very lively up town. Broke camp at 9:45 for the purpose of getting better camping place to wash up all the dirty clothes(Plenty of them). Went about 2 miles from town and went into camp on the South Concho. Dad in San Angelo electioneering. Weather is fine. (4 miles)

Wednesday, Nov.7 - Broke camp at San Angelo at 9:30. Ate dinner near a Dist. schoolhouse about 9 miles from S.A. Went into camp in a large mesquite pasture at 5:30. Weather cool and windy.Roads good. (18 miles)



Thursday, Nov.8 - Broke camp at 9:30 Crossed Kickapoo Creek at 11. Got on the wrong road and had to take an old road. Lost one mile in distance by the mistake. Went into camp near an old sheep ranch with a spring on it. Weather clear, roads rocky in places. (18 miles)

Friday, Nov.9 - Broke camp at 9:45. Arrived at Eden at 1. Got some groceries and found the route to travel. Went the other side of town and ate dinner. Went into camp near a small creek at 7:30. Weather fair, roads pretty rocky. (20 miles- total of miles traveled to date-967)

Saturday, Nov.10 - Broke camp at 9. Pretty good time for us (Thots of author). Ate dinner 10 miles from Brady. Arrived at the town of Brady at 6 and went into camp on the north bank of Brady Creek. Went uptown to get some feed. Weather cold and cloudy. Roads rocky. (25 miles)

Sunday, Nov.11 - Broke camp at 10. Stopped in town to get some groceries and find out the route via Llano. Ate dinner on banks of San Saba River at 3. Passed thru the small settlement of Voca at 5. Traveled 2 miles farther and went into camp. Weather cool and cloudy. Roads rough and sandy. (15 miles)

Monday, Nov.12 - Kept close watch of the horses all of last night. Broke camp on Tiger Creek at 10. Ate dinner 8 miles from camp. Went into camp for the night 4 miles from Pontoloc. Weather clear and warm. Roads rough and sandy. Reputation of this section bad for horse thieves. (15 miles)

Tuesday, Nov.11 - Broke camp at 9:30. Arrived at Pontoloc at 11:30. Ate dinner 3 miles from the town on Mr. Graham's farm. Went into camp at 5. Weather warm. Roads rough and sandy. Getting into pecan country now. (12 miles)

Wednesday, Nov.14 - Broke camp at 8. Early for us. Ate dinner 6 miles from Llano. Arrived at Llano at 4. Bought some groceries and feed. Found out the route to Austin via Birdtown. Went into camp one mile southeast of the city. Roads sandy and rough. (16 miles)

Thursday, Nov.15 - Broke camp in Llano at 8:30. Ate dinner 8 miles from camp. Went into camp 6 miles farther on, east of Honey Creek at 6. Killed one rabbit and one squirrel. Weather fair, roads rough and hilly. The worst roads we have had on the trip. (14 miles)

Friday, Nov.16 - Broke camp at 8:45. Chester and Leander got lost? in hunting for the right road. Waited one hour for them without success. Went on into Big Sandy and ate dinner. The boys found us at this place. Went into camp at the Joe Smith Ranch. Weather stormy. (13 miles)

Saturday, Nov.17 - On arising this morning to prepare breakfast in camp at Smith Ranch, we were unable to locate the horses. Went out to main road and located their tracks heading back way we had come.



Charlie and I went after them and found all, 11 miles from camp. Got them back by noon. Broke camp at 2. Arrived Birdtown at 4:30. Went into camp. Weather fair, roads rough. (8 miles)

Sunday, Nov.18 - Broke camp at Birdtown at 9. Crossed Cypress Creek in the forenoon. Ate dinner 11 miles from camp. Crossed Pertenallis Creek at 5. Went into camp 1/2 mile from the creek. Weather fair. (17 miles)

Monday, Nov.19 - Broke camp at 9. Ate dinner 11 miles from camp. Went 4 miles farther and made camp for the night on a farm 8 miles from Oatmanville. Weather fair, roads rough. (15 miles)

Tuesday, Nov.20 - Broke camp at 9. Arrived at Oatmanville at 11:30. Ate dinner one mile from the town. Arrived at Austin, the state's capital, at 5. Went into camp on the banks of the Colorado River. Went uptown and got the mail, including Dad's pension check. Weather fair, roads rough. (15 miles)

Wednesday, Nov.21 - Layed over in Austin to rest up the horses and get some blacksmithing done. Went up to the Capitol Building and went all thru it. It is the 7th largest building in the world, measuring 314 feet from the base to the dome and cost \$5,000,000 to construct. By far the largest state capitol building in the U.S. Weather was warm. Estimated population of Austin today, 25,000. A large wagon bridge located here across Colo. River.

Thursday, Nov.22 - Still in camp at Austin. Will start early tomorrow morning for Lockhart. Weather warm and clear. Have had a nice rest up here and enjoyed the scenes in and around the Texas State Capitol. Our total mileage up to date figures us 1,132 miles.

Friday, Nov.23 - Broke camp at Austin at 9. Passed thru the towns of St. Elmo, Carl and Creadmore. Ate dinner 10 miles from Austin. Went into camp for the night one mile from Creadmore. Weather cool and cloudy. Roads fine. (19 miles)

Saturday, Nov.24 - Broke camp at 9. Arrived at Mendoza at 10:30. Ate dinner 9 miles from camp. Arrived at Lockhart at 5 and went into camp on the creek(no name). Weather fair, roads rough in places. (15 miles)

Sunday, Nov.25 - Broke camp at Lockhart at 9:45. Ate dinner on Mr. Callahan's farm on Plum Creek before noon. Concluded to stay here the rest of the day and all of tomorrow and get the washing out. Weather warm, roads good. (7 miles)

Monday, Nov.26 - Resting in camp today to do the family wash. Nicely located our camp is on Plum Creek. Plenty of good water and feed. Weather warm and cloudy. Total distance traveled to date , 1173 miles.

Tuesday, Nov.27 - Broke camp on Plum Creek at 9. Ate dinner 8 miles from camp. Arrived at the Public Tank at 5:30 and went into camp.



Weather warm, Roads very sandy. Hard going and make slow time. (12 miles)

Wednesday, Nov.28 - Broke camp at 9:45. Arrived in Harwood at 11:30. Ate dinner 3 miles from Harwood. Went into camp on Smith's Creek on Mr. Johnson's farm. Spent a very enjoyable evening at their home. Weather fine, roads sandy. (10 miles)

Thursday, Nov.29 - Thanksgiving Day, but no pumpkin pies? Broke camp on Johnson's farm at 9:15. Arrived at Gonzales at 11. Had two of our horses shod. Went into camp for the night on the banks of the Guadalupe River, one mile from Gonzales. Expect to stop here for awhile and make future arrangements for the trip. Weather warm, roads good. (6 miles)

Friday, Nov.30 - Broke camp at 9 and went up to Mr. Pullen's place to pick cotton and rest up the horses. They have had about 10 days now of tough and sandy roads which took some flesh off them. Picked cotton in the afternoon until rain stopped us. Picked(all of us) 161 lbs cotton. Chester fell out of a pecan tree near the camp and hurt his back. Weather cloudy and rainy damp.

Saturday, Dec.1 -Picked 260 lb. cotton. Weather warm and rainy.

Sunday, Dec.2 - Seems queer not to be breaking camp as we have for so many weeks. Weather today, no change. Warm and some rain. No work today(Sunday). Rested up.

Monday, Dec.3 - Picked 203 lbs. cotton. Weather cloudy and wet.

Tuesday, Dec.4 - Picked 308 lbs. cotton. Weather very cold and bad.

Wednesday, Dec.5 - Went uptown and got some supplies. Our Dear Mother's Birthday today, 43 years old. Picked 326 lbs. cotton.

Thursday, Dec.6 - Picked 460 lbs. cotton. Weather cool and cloudy. Went on a big coon hunt, but no coons. Killed 3 opossum and 2 civet cats.

Friday, Dec.7 - Picked 336 lbs. cotton. Weather warm and cloudy. Our pile of cotton caught fire, but we put it out before any damage was done. Moved the cotton away from the house that night.

Saturday, Dec.8 - We had all of our cotton hauled uptown, amounting in all to about 2,000 lbs. Concluded not to pick any more cotton, but to start for Velasco via Hallettsville after another day's rest here at Pullen's on the Guadalupe River in Gonzales.

Sunday, Dec.9 - Mother and Dad's 25th Wedding Anniversary. Rested up today and gathered Pecans. Went to bed early, prepared to start early tomorrow morning. Weather cool and clear.

Monday, Dec.10 - Broke camp at 10:30(late start) at Pullen's farm(our home since Nov. 29th,'94). Arrived in Gonzales at noon and



settled up for the cotton picking. Ate dinner 6 miles from town. Reached Peach Creek at 5. Went 1/2 mile and went into camp for the night. Weather clear, roads sandy. (11 miles)

Tuesday, Dec.11 - Broke camp at 9. Arrived at Shiner at 1. Ate dinner on Rock Creek below town. Went into camp in Mrs. McGraw's pasture. Weather cold and clear. Roads good (19 miles)

Wednesday, Dec.12 - Broke camp at 9:15. Crossed Rock Creek, Pantaras Creek and Lavacca Creek. Arrived at Hallettsville 12 o'clock, noon. Ate dinner one mile south of town. Went into camp in a sandy post oak country. Roads sandy and hard. Deep ruts in road. (14 miles)

Thursday, Dec.13 - Broke camp So. of Hallettsville at 8:15. Arrived at Vienna on the Navidad Creek at noon. Went two miles from there and ate dinner. Arrived at the town of Seclusion at 5 and went into camp. Weather fair, roads very sandy. (13 miles)

Friday, Dec.14 - Broke camp at Seclusion at 9. Arrived at Boxville at 11. Crossed the Navidad Creek before reaching Boxville. Arrived at the Golden Rod Prairie"s before noon. Ate dinner 3 miles from the town. Went into camp on the Golden Rod Creek. Weather clear. (15 miles)

Saturday, Dec.15 - Broke camp on Golden Rod Creek at 9:15. Crossed Sandy Creek at 10. Crossed West Mustang Creek at noon. Ate dinner 2 miles from the creek. Crossed Palmetto Creek and East Mustang Creek in the afternoon(plenty water in this country). Went into camp in a lane one mile from El Campo. Roads fine, weather clear. (24 miles)

Sunday, Dec.16 - Broke camp near El Campo at 9:30 Passed through El Campo at 9:50. Ate dinner near a railway station on I.& G. N. Ry. Arrived at the Colorado River one half mile from Wharton and went into camp. Weather fine, roads good. (13 miles)

Monday, Dec.17 - Layed over half day at Wharton. Broke camp at 2. Went into camp at a waterhole near Caney Creek. Weather fine, roads good. Arrived on the Gulf prairies today. (11 miles)

Tuesday, Dec. 18 - Broke camp at Caney Creek. Ate dinner near an old slough. Went into camp 4 miles from Mathews store. Weather fair, roads good. Killed one wild goose and one prairie chicken on the trip. (15 miles)

Wednesday, Dec.19 - Broke camp at 9:30. Arrived at Mr. Mathews place at 11. Got stuck in the mud, delayed about one hour. Ate dinner on the west bank of Caney Creek. Went into camp on Buckhorn Prairie or Buckner, near a windmill. Weather fair, roads hard and rough. (11 miles)

Thursday, Dec.20 - Broke camp at 8:30. Arrived at Hawkins plantation at noon. Crossed Caney Creek, which was tide water,



salty. Ate dinner one mile from Caney Creek. Arrived at Cedar Lake at 4:30. Went into camp 3 miles from the lake on an old bayou. Weather fair, roads rough. (18 miles)

Friday, Dec.21, 1984 - Broke camp at 9:15. Arrived at the San Bernard River at 10:30. Ate dinner in a large pasture 7 miles from camp. Arrived at VELASCO, TEXAS on the banks of the Brazos River at 5. Weather good, roads muddy and rough. (15 miles) Thus completing our long and memorable journey of 1,380 miles.