



Volume 1.

DODGE CITY, KANSAS, JUNE 28, 1884.

Number 43.

FROM NEW COUNTY.

To The Cowboy.
 DODGE, June 26, 1884.
 F. P. Newcomer's mother has arrived and is now living on her homestead which she died upon last winter.
 Mr. Jas. A. Hazlett and lady have been visiting their sweet home ranch lately purchased of Elkie Newby.
 Will some of your correspondents tell why some cattle will not eat bones and old rotish foreign to good wholesome food?
 Grass good and water plenty and mosquitoes numerous, which drive the stock from dark to daylight, causing much trouble to herders.
 Messrs. Hazlett and Newby, have developed partnership in the stock business and have divided the cattle and horses and both have nice herds.
 Calvin Henshew, who lives near the Prairie Valley post office, Hodgson county, had a valuable mare killed by lightning last Thursday morning. The animal was injured.
 Messrs. Spratt and Newby are visiting the city here around through this country looking after their stock interests. They belong to the banking firm of Spratt, Newby and Henshew, of Hamilton, Mo.

several precautions to prevent the appearance of this scourge. Now is the time, when young cattle are growing and fattening so rapidly, for this disease to manifest itself.
 Mrs. W. E. Collins, who lived one mile west of this place, died suddenly on Saturday morning, 25th inst. On the day previous she felt her stomach and was apparently in good health. Some were present when she died excepting her four small children. Her husband was absent shearing sheep, about twelve miles distant.
 John Hall has erected a Woodman's whedmill for J. P. Johnson, on the Walnut, and also one for E. K. Johnson, on the Bluff creek. He will also put up one for Mr. Allen, and another for Mr. Nelson, on Flinn creek. Windmills are becoming popular on stock ranches and it has been found that it pays to furnish stock with well water there.
 A disease of the eye prevails among the cattle of Fay & Evans, which is doing considerable damage. One stockman will be a kind of a pickpocket. A thin green over the eye, and the eye then swells, affecting the sight. Occasionally an eye is lost. About twenty cattle have thus far been affected. The best remedy

machinery. Hope there will be found a demand for them each succeeding year.
 Mr. Star, from Illinois, is visiting Mr. Bell's. They are going to sell out their outfit, as they have no more. There is plenty of grass near, but they cannot get to it. So it will not be wasted, and the county and neighborhood be deprived of so much productive capital. This is one illustration of the benefits of the herd law.
 J. C. Laska got up one morning last week and found some hoof marks round near the ruidage and he and started out on the way path at once with all his war paint on. After riding twenty miles he found a herd of ponies 15 or 20 miles west which he thought by the looks of their hoofs were what he sought after. Jack demanded \$25, as pay for his "golden saw," and he looked so dangerous that they acceded to his demands and gave him a mare and colt. There is probably no truth in the rumor that they intended to trap the old mare out of the herd. Who says now that a prospector can't pay? Harvest will begin next week. Prospects for an excellent crop of feed, but we have seen several so good prospects come to naught. As soon as it rains, we hear the about "thin in judge

Chester Thomas, son of Topoka, has been appointed receiver of the government land office at Prescott, Arizona.
 Miss Lizzie Bradley, of White Cloud, has occasioned much by falling. She lived over fifty-three days without eating.
 A man in Topoka has gone raving mad from drinking ice water. One of the dangerous elements to temper with is water.
 Ft. Over, St. John kicks against the nomination of Blain and Logan, and recommends the nomination of a national prohibition ticket.
 The board of commissioners of McPherson county have subpoenaed every merchant of the city to appear before them and testify as to the privatization given the assessor.
 D. B. Burnett, an old time resident of Kansas, but late years of Albuquerque, died of inflammation of the lungs in the latter city, on the 19th inst. He was one of our state's noblemen.
 The Standard Journal visiting old man Jordan, who kept a hotel at White Rock, years ago, and who recently left the city, is accused by his daughter, Kate, of having

stated that Jonathan had 2,500 acres on horseback, and therefore, instead of taking the two horses loaned granted him to stay in town, departed in a fraction less than sixty minutes. General Harner was sent with 1,000 dragoons, and in a fight with 1,000 militia, to protect Missouri and arrest Jonathan, but he was never arrested.
 FORTY-NINE AND FORTY-NINE.
 At another time he only has Fort Scott, on a charge quick with forty-nine men, captured the town, defended by 200 troops, followed a friend level to destroy the and thereby rode out of the place. His battles, always victorious, were won by his shrewd and sagacity of movement. He was recommended for the appointment of brigadier general by General Blunt, by Governor Charles Robinson and a host of other leaders in the military and civil service. Except for his lack of confidence in General Harner, which induced his resignation, the world grows dimly at the mere prospect of the height to which he might have risen had he remained in the military service.
 As a politician he was a wonderful success, having served two terms in the legislature and once in the senate, former mayor of the city of Lawrence, and as a people's officer he had in a word, as a stock grower he had a success. He gave quite as much to charity as any man in the city. He could not be recommended, however, as a strictly nation-

One-of-a-Kind Newspaper Kansas Cowboy

By Aileen Mallory
 Topeka, Kansas

Cowboys in Kansas once had their own newspaper. It came out every Saturday in the late 1800s.

The *Kansas Cowboy* was started by the Western Central Kansas Stock assn. in the fall of 1883. It was published in Sidney, Kan., where it remained for 10 months. Col. S.S. Prouty was the editor.

"We claim to be the only paper in Kansas printed exclusively for the livestock industry," he wrote. "We will have nothing to do with politics or with social, moral, or religious topics."

On September 1, 1883, he wrote, "Beef cattle are beginning to pour into Dodge City by the thousands."

So the *Cowboy* was moved to Dodge because "it was the livestock center of the Kansas range." (That year—1884—a half-million cattle were shipped out of Dodge City alone.)

The subscription price was \$2 per year. The specialized circulation numbered 400 and it covered the range between the Arkansas and Smoky Hill Rivers.

Ads were for saddles, windmills, and similar equipment. But one advertiser proclaimed: "Wines! Liquors! Cigars! All orders from the country promptly filled!" The ladies weren't forgotten, either. Millinery goods and ladies' novelties were also advertised.

The Smoky Hill Cattle Pool section gave the names of owners, descriptions and pictures of their livestock, and showed the brands. Directions for reporting strays were also given. The Association offered \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone stealing or killing livestock.

Prairie Queen was the biggest cow in Kansas, according to the June 28 issue. She is a grade roan Shorthorn four years

old and weighs 2,700 pounds. The present owner is John T. Pratt, Cottonwood Falls, Kan."

Not all times pertained to cattle. Col. Prouty reported that "Dodge City is today the best place to purchase horses in the Western states. There are upwards of a 3,000 herd now on the market. They can be bought cheaper than in Texas where they were raised. The prices range from \$15 to \$75."

Then there was the cure for snakebite.

"A young boy was bitten by a rattlesnake 40 miles southeast of Dodge City last week. Newly-killed chickens were applied to the wound and were taken off green, covered with poison. Plasters of egg the entire length of the leg drew the poison to the surface and were covered with the green tinge, each application being less so than the preceding one until there seemed to be no

more poison in the limb.”

It wasn't all local news, however.

For example: Two nieces of President Cleveland are teaching in the public schools in Peoria, Ill.

Mention was made of the death of a man in Albuquerque—"one of nature's noblemen." B.E. Emmert, a former Kansan, died of "inflammation of the bowels." Closer to home, "Col. Suggs of the Indian territory has sold to M.L. Allstot of Lawrence, Kan., 1,000 yearling heifers at \$16 a head," and "The Boyces sold 200 horses last week in small lots to different parties."

Dry cows around Medicine Lodge, according to Col. Prouty, were bringing \$28. Cows with calves sold for \$35 to \$38 and yearlings were worth \$20.

Obviously Col. Prouty kept his readers informed about prices and general gossip about the cattle business. All was not business, though. Sprinkled throughout the paper was homespun humor and a tall tale or two. There is an occasional attempt to set a record straight.

For example, "A story has been going around to the effect that a cloudburst occurred recently on Frenchman Creek in Colorado, drowning 11 cowboys engaged in the roundup. The *Las Vegas Stock Owner* says there is not a word of truth in the story."

When what was claimed to be the first bull fight in the United States came to Dodge City, the *Kansas Cowboy* had an article about it. And a fight with Bat Masterson was duly reported.

The paper had correspondents from various counties. Each of their columns had a descriptive name such as "From Cowland", "Kansas Lassoing", the "Wide World", and so on.

One writer asked, "Will some of your correspondents tell me why some cattle will eat old bones and old rubbish foreign to good wholesome food?"

Then there was also a warning: "A man in Topeka has gone raving mad from drinking ice water. One of the dangerous elements to tamper with is water."

These items were also included, in spite of Col. Prouty's assurance that politics would not appear in the *Cowboy*:

"Ex-Gov. St. John kicks against the nomination of Blain (sic) and Logan, and recommends the nomination of a national prohibition ticket." That was in June, 1884. And, "The board of commissioners of McPherson County have subpoenaed every merchant in the city to appear before them and testify as to the prevarication given the assessor."

Fire destroyed the *Cowboy* plant twice in one year. The first time it happened, Col. Prouty kept on publishing the paper. After the second fire, he gave up.

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Here is how the *Kinsley Mercury* editor felt about it. On January 2, 1886, he wrote:

"We regret to learn the recent burn-out of the *Kansas Cowboy* office will cause the permanent suspension of the paper. We had hoped that notwithstanding Col. Prouty's ill luck in having had his office burned twice in such a short time, he would again refit his office and continue publication of the *Cowboy* as it has been one of the best newspapers published in Western Kansas."

Chances are that many of those early day ranchers felt the same way about that unique, informative and entertaining newspaper—the *Kansas Cowboy*.

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—Kanhistique

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