

Chapter XXXX

THE FORMER HAYWOOD RANCH

One of Llano County's most scenic ranches is now owned by ex-president Lyndon B. Johnson and his partner, A. W. Moursund. It is the former Haywood ranch located on the south bank of the Llano River arm of Lake Lyndon B. Johnson, formerly the Granite Shoals Lake, near Kingsland community.

For years this large ranch was operated by the Haywood sisters, Misses Pearl, Edna, and Lula Haywood, who took over the ranch management in 1924. Their father James Madison Haywood, died in 1928, and their mother, in 1930.

Following the death of Miss Pearl in 1945, and Miss Edna in 1947, Miss Lula operated the ranch, assisted by her able foreman, Isaac Davis, and his wife. Mr. Davis still looks after the ranch home and cattle for the new owners. The ex-president's family uses the home as a vacation place, and his boat is at the nearby dock.

When Mr. Haywood brought his family from Blanco County to Llano County in 1895, there was only a one-room picket house with dirt floor on the place, and only 30 acres in cultivation. He paid three dollars an acre. Miss Lula paid \$65 per acre for land unimproved, as she added to her holdings.

The family rented a house across the river until their home was completed. It was an outstanding home for that day and section of the country.

The present house was built in 1941. The living room is a part of the original home, and in one of the bedrooms the flooring is of the original sturdy, broad boards, polished and shining.

The ranch is located in some of the most rugged and beautiful scenery in Llano County. From some elevations neighboring Burnet and Blanco counties can be seen toward the east and southeast, and the town of Llano toward the west.

On this ranch is a very old landmark, the Sam W. Tate ranch home. It is not known just when this home was built but it was there at the time of the Civil War. At one time a room of the house was the Sandy Creek postoffice. The old home was considered very modern in 1887. The house is still standing and is used by deer hunters for a hunting camp.

The Haywood Christian Camp is also on the Llano River arm of Lake Lyndon B. Johnson, on land given by Miss Lula to her church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), for an encampment for the youth of this denomination.



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