

LONGVIEW

B. A. SKIPPER: GALLANT PIONEER OF THE OIL INDUSTRY IN GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS.

MARKER LOCATION: 200 yds. E. of Brent Rd. and .2 mile N. of FM 2605 (Tenneryville Road) - Longview.

Dedicated to the memory of B. A. Skipper, Sr. who assembled an 8,300-acre block under lease and drilled this discovery well. The Lathrop A-1 Well linked with the Daisy Bradford No. 3 at Turnertown and the Bateman No. 1 - Lou Della Crim at Kilgore extended to form the great East Texas Field, the world's largest at the time. (no date)

UNISEX SIZED.

OPEN TO TILL 6 DAILY

OUTHOUSE

WESTERN & CASUAL WEAR

1436 McCann Rd.
Brookwood Village

Spur 63
Longview

... East zone team standings.

Kilgore's troop finished the overcast day with a 311 total; Henderson, 11 strokes behind, carded a 322 and Pine Tree followed with a composite of 324. Center placed with a 331 and the Pine Tree second team was next with a 338.

Milton Smith of Carthage had the day's best round of 74. He was followed by Henderson's Ricky Skelton and Kilgore's

mammoth margin over the rest of the field with a composite zone figure of 1563, far ahead of the Bucs' 1623.

Also scoring for Pine Tree were Jim Zerkel with an 83, Curt Stanley 83, Mark Kurkindoll 92, Joe Koesel 82, Cris Peterson 87, Gary Rhodes 84 and Stansvad 80.

The next zone tournament scheduled is for Longview's Alpine Country Club, April 11, hosted by Hallsville.

... yard hurdles.

In the eighth grade division, Pine Tree again took second place, again with 95 total points. This time, however, it was Palestine who took first with 125; Jacksonville was third with 65.

The Wildcats hit firsts in the shot put, long jump, 660-yard run, 80-yard hurdles, 253-yard hurdles and 220-yard dash.

Pine Tree ran first in the 1320-yard run, Cundieff with a

6 Percent 1 Year
6½ Percent 2½ Year
7¼ Percent 4 Year—\$1,000 minimum
7½ Percent 6 Year to 10 Year—\$1,000 minimum

"People make the difference"



White Oak State Bank

One Hundred and Seven in a series . . . saluting past and present

"great leaders in Longview's growth and prosperity"

MRS. B. A. SKIPPER

Behind Every Great Man There Is A Great Woman

Longview wasn't much more than a couple of buildings and some dirt roads when Mrs. B.A. Skipper came here from San Antonio to visit her husband's parents for Thanksgiving. Her husband, Barney A. Skipper, followed her, proclaiming that he had been born in Gregg County and he supposed he'd die here.

That was in 1910.

Today Longview is one of the fastest growing cities in the state and a great asset to the East Texas area. This growth is in a large part due to the foresight, determination and courage of B.A. and Mary Skipper.

The two met in San Antonio, where B.A. Skipper had gone to work in a clothing store. They were married in 1908 and left Mrs. Skipper's hometown two years later.

When they came to Longview, the Skippers had hopes and dreams, but very little money. That spring, Mrs. Skipper's husband surprised her with the news that he was going into the real estate business. She wondered how they would live, but supported him loyally in his decision.

Mrs. Skipper remembers that as they would drive from Longview to Kilgore, her husband would look over the fields and say to her, "Mary, I know there is oil in East Texas."

He believed strongly that there was oil here and so when he sold a piece of land for someone, he would retain the mineral rights whenever he could; no one else wanted them.

During this time, the Skippers bought a farm near Longview and Mary Skipper became a farm wife. They raised and sold hogs, selling the hams and keeping the rest for themselves. As a city girl, Mrs. Skipper had plenty to learn about chores like

making butter and preserving meat and learn she did.

Finally, in January of 1930, the dreaming and waiting were over for the Skippers. After 750 letters to oil people everywhere, Arkansas Fuel Oil Co. of Shreveport consented to drill B.A. Skipper's well; on January 26 they found oil.

The Skippers had another dream fulfilled in 1947, when construction began on Mrs. Skipper's present home in Longview. Mary Skipper put aside her farm duties and picked up a yard stick to hurry the dream along. The beautiful house was two years in the making, but the Skippers had been collecting furniture, statues and ideas from around the world for many years.

Mrs. Skipper worked tirelessly to make her house the warm, beautiful home it is today. She designed the home herself and did all her own interior decorating. Certain rooms, the grounds and the gazebo were visualized by her and then brought to life by artists, craftsmen and her own endless effort.

The house was built around the Rothrock crystal chandelier and marble mantel from the Electoral Castle in Bonn, Germany, where Beethoven wrote nine symphonies and other long-lived music. There are tiles in the breakfast room which were designed by Mrs. Skipper, made in Mexico and laid by Mexican craftsmen. The dining table was made from lumber imported from South Africa and an Italian mirror hangs beside it. Furniture from many other countries is displayed throughout the house.

In 1949 the Skippers moved into their new home, and from that day to this, people have come from all over the United States and even from other countries to tour it.

After her husband's death in 1957, Mrs. Skipper maintained the house and still holds teas for various groups such as the Woman's Forum and the Longview Symphony Guild. She has willed her priceless home and approximately 23 acres of surrounding land to Kilgore College. At her request, the house will become a museum and educational center.

Her many gifts to the community include the donation of three acres to the Red Cross where their new building is located, furnishing several rooms at Good Shepherd Hospital and Gregg Home for the Aged, donating monies for a scanning room at M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Hospital and establishing scholarships at East Texas Baptist College and at Texas Christian University.

Mrs. Skipper showed further interest in college by donating the money for the B.A. Skipper cafeteria at LeTourneau College and a large portion of the funds for the new Baylor Library in Waco, Tex., was donated in her husband's name.

She also furnished a room at the YMCA and contributes regularly to the Salvation Army, the Heart and United Funds, Buckner's Orphans Home and the Cancer Fund. The Scottish Rite Children's Hospital also benefits from Mrs. Skipper's generosity, as does the Longview Symphony, the new Catholic School and many other civic organizations and clubs.

Mrs. Skipper's many memorials to her late husband, B.A. Skipper, and late son, B.A. Skipper Jr., are a source of great meaning and benefit to the people of Longview and East Texas. But more than that, her charming presence and gracious manner make her a joy to know.

Longview truly has a friend in Mrs. B.A. Skipper.

Sponsored by **Southern Gas Co. and Western Gas Corp.**



Mrs. B. A. Skipper

FROM Community News, April 7, 1977 (formerly The Greentown)