BUFFALO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
"Leon County — The Dearest Place In Texas"
POST OFFICE BOX 207 BUFFALO, TEXAS 75831

BUFFALO

Buffalo, named, it is supposed, because of the buffalo in the vicinity in early days. General Stephen F. Austin's map of Texas, a rare copy of which is in the possession of Mrs. H.H. Brown of Centerville, shows that buffalo and wild horses were present in this area in early days.

The original townsite for Buffalo had been laid out by the Texas Land Office in 1871. A street in the original townsite bears the name of Dr. Hagard, the town's first physician. Another street, Houck, was named for the town's first school teacher. The first railway station was built along the main line on the east side of Center Street. This building stood until about 1880, when a passenger and freight station was built and stood until recent years. It was then built on the west side of Center Street. The westernmost part of the station was a passenger waiting room, with a big coal burning stove. The office was located in the easternmost part of the station. This office was the nerve center of the local railroad operation.

In 1912 the Buffalo Land Company office was in the Farmers State Bank. James White was manager and F.E. Stevens was Sec. Treas. The local newspaper at the time was the Buffalo News. This paper was published every Friday with A.R. Crawford the Proprietor. On Friday February 12, 1912 the Buffalo News published a special edition for Buffalo Land Company. The four page special edition praised the Buffalo country in every way possible. We have extracted some of this praise and can tell you things have not changed much except for prices.

The Buffalo Country offers you a home where lands are cheap, terms easy, where crop failures are unknown, where you can raise anything you want, where wood and water are abundant, where schools and churches, railroad facilities, rural free mail delivery, are already at hand.

Buffalo is in Leon County, Texas, on the main line of the I & G N... There is no section of Texas today that offers the homeseeker inducements to compare with the Buffalo country...Where else in Texas will you find lands that
will produce half a bale, to a bale and a quarter of cotton to the acre, will make prize corn fields, will produce abundantly the finest truck garden, from tomatoes and peppers to melons...enormous yields of pumpkin yams, genuine ribbon cand...where hogs thrive...where blackberries grow wild...Elberta peaches and plums from staple crops, and yet improved farms with all these possibilities can be had at from $10.00 to $20.00 per acre.

Buffalo is thus placed in very close touch with the world's markets. By regular schedule its distance by express from the great centers in hours is as follows:

- Houston, 8 hours 30 minutes
- Fort Worth, 10 hours
- San Antonio, 9 hours
- Chicago, 33 hours
- Little Rock, 13 hours
- Dallas, 9 hours
- Galveston, 9 hours 30 min.
- St Louis, 13 hours
- Cincinnati, 33 hours

There is no pine in the Buffalo Country, but is only a short distance to the pine woods and saw mill section...Hardwood is sawed in various parts of Leon county and for all out houses, barns, shed, etc. is just as good as pine. The cost of building...will be only about one half as much as in the west.

The following description of Buffalo is found in the paper. Buffalo is a thriving little town...It has some 30 business houses, two banks, two cotton gins, several brick businesses houses, and others under contract...local and long distance telephone, two hotels, good high school with eleven grades, and full faculty, three churches...Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian, each with well built church edifices, commercial club, fruit and truck growers association, a wide awake newspaper. Several fraternal orders have live lodges. The masons have a membership of about 50, the K of P's about 60, the Woodmen over 100, while several other orders have smaller numbers, but all are active and growing...A small corner in the paper states, subscribe for the Buffalo News and keep posted on the best country in the United States.

This information was taken from Leon County Historical Collection Volume Two.

About the turn of the Century there was in operation on the outskirts of the town of Buffalo a place of refreshment known as the "Klondike". This establishment obviously took its name from the great gold discovery, in 1896, in the gravel of the Klondike River, in the Yukon Territory of North Western Canada, near the south frontier of Alaska. The menfolk of the Buffalo Community likened the product sold at the Klondike to Gold = "Liquid Gold". This product was Whiskey, as the Klondike was a Saloon. The saloon was located on the east side of the Buffalo = Jewett road, across from Sand Hill Cementary, about
two and one half or three miles west of the town. The owner and proprietor of the saloon was T.S. "Peachtree" Wilson of Buffalo.

The first school building was built in 1870. It was known as the Old Bowling School. This building was also used as a Church and Masonic Lodge. In Leon County there were seven schools. Jewett and Buffalo had the most students in attendance and required three teachers each. The other schools only required two teachers each. In 1918 Buffalo built a two story structure which is still in use today.

In our waiting room today was one of Buffalo's older citizens. He told me that during the early years, Jessie James stayed in the Lyons Hotel. Today the Hotel is an antique shop. Bonnie and Clyde also traveled through the Buffalo and Kechi areas.