

Joe Bean Family History Heritage Park 2019

Joe Bean always loved ranching. It was his life. It was all he ever wanted to do and he had a great start due to the fact that his parents were ranchers. In 1908 at the age of 17, Joe's father George Bean came over alone from a large family in Scotland to Crockett County. He was the nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Massie who had no children. They brought George over, and he decided to stay and help them and through that he learned the ranching business. George learned everything he knew from Robert Massie and eventually purchased the Pike's Peak Ranch, and also ranches in Edwards and Terrell County. George Bean instilled this same knowledge in his children and Joe Bean paid attention.

Joe Bean's wife Marolyn also loved the ranching business and felt connected, because she too was from a ranching family. Ranching was all that Joe and Marolyn had known growing up so they were very dedicated to it and Marolyn carries this dedication on today. Ranching was all that either of them ever wanted to do so they set out to do just that.

Joe was usually pretty serious. He was very dedicated to what he did. He actually started working for other people when he was only a youngster. One job he had was in Mr. Keaton's dairy, and he sacked sand for the lumber yard, and he also finished ropes for the saddle shop. So as a child he was already becoming a businessman.

Joe loved his cattle. They were very dear to him. When he was younger, he could identify each cow by some marking or something that he saw in them. The cattle were very important but the sheep paid their way and they were the most productive.

There were many challenges along the way such as the weather and the markets and especially the drought of the 1950's. Some years yielded beautiful calves but the market did not yield what the Beans hoped. Labor was often a challenge also.

Successes happened also in that Joe received many championship awards for his calves at special sales including numerous championship and reserve championship ribbons.

The Lazy B was the brand and the original animals were Hereford cattle, Rambouillet sheep, Spanish goats and work horses. Hereford cattle developed eye problems so the Beans then changed to Black Angus cattle. Today Joe's son Douglas raises hair sheep, Spanish goats and Black angus. Grandsons Wesley and Ryan raise the same, and in addition Boar goats and Black Angus Cross cattle.

Joe is also remembered as a very positive person, always for progress and very forward thinking and this is reflected in his time as an Ozona school board member, director of the Ozona bank and also President of the Board of Directors at Ozona Bank. One example of this was when as an Ozona bank board member, he felt like the ranching business was so specialized that maybe the

banks had gone as far as they could go in Crockett County and needed to expand to other areas. So, in wanting to expand he went to Wimberley, and that was the first bank out of Crockett County that the bank bought. It is also said of Joe that he had no trouble telling someone no if he thought their business proposal was risky but if he said yes, he would be wholeheartedly supportive.

Marolyn asked her grandchildren how they felt about the future of ranching and they assured her that as each generation retires and the ranches get smaller, the pastures get smaller, and the livestock becomes more specialized; they feel like in the future consumers will go in to a restaurant or into a shop and order meat by the breed. The breeds may be a little different from what they are now. Some of them will be unfamiliar to us. That's just something that will have to be learned by experience and trial and error. Marolyn feels that in the future there will always be a demand for meat as a good source of protein and this will help the stability of ranching.

In view of the fact that the ranches get smaller as they go from one generation to the next, the children have to expand their operations in order to make a living. In some ways this has made a difference in the work ethics of many families. If something needed to be done away from the ranch and there was a project that needed attention at the ranch, the ranch was the most important to Joe. He made sure everything was in order at the ranch before enjoying the pleasures of life.

The Bean business began before all the technological advancements and everything was done face-to-face. They would sometime seal a deal by a handshake, and that was binding. A man's word was good and stood for him.

Much of Joe Bean's success in the ranching business can be attributed to his knowledge of the country where he was ranching including the availability of water and grass there, trees present for shade and the average climate. He started slow and methodically and very successfully expanded using that philosophy. Joe Bean died in Ozona on Father's Day June 18, 2017.