

ing for a Border War. The troops from Fort Clark, who were near the Rio Grande, were recalled, and all the families at San Felipe (Del Rio), and all ranchers in outlying districts were ordered into Fort Clark for protection.

There was a force of three warriors and two hundred Mexicans in the vicinity of Resurrection or New Town who avowed their intentions of crossing the Rio Grande and burning all ranch houses and plundering the strip of country between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers. The citizens of Uvalde requested Pat Dolan, because he spoke Spanish fluently, to go to Fort Clark to investigate conditions. We will use a copy of a letter written by him to Mr. Adams of Uvalde:

Fort Clark, Texas.
October 18, 1872.

Mr. W. C. Adams,
Uvalde, Texas.

Dear Sir,

"I came up here and have been making inquiries about the New Town affair. Felipe Luna told me that he was there and saw the beginning of it. The Alcalde fired out of his window on the Americans the very first thing, and from that the firing became general. It appears that the boys found two of your horses and two of the Strickland's in New Town, and demanded them.

"Mr. Strickland tells me that three days ago the Mexicans fired on two of his cowboys, who were gathering cattle along the Rio Grande, and that four Mexicans crossed to this side of the river and chased them for some distance. He also tells me that the Mexicans have gathered one hundred head of cattle and crossed them to Mexico the day before yesterday. It is reported that a band of outlaws from the other side came over and burned Strickland's ranch house at the mouth of Sycamore.

"See all the men you can from the Atascosa country, and try and get a lot of them to meet in Uvalde to go west. Use every exertion. Find out the names of some good men so I can let them know what time to start. There is no time set yet. Let me know how many men you think you can get."

Yours truly,

PAT DOLAN

Uncle Sam took a hand and sent additional forces to Fort Clark; a bloody battle was averted.

VARIED EXPERIENCES OF PAT DOLAN

1872 was election year in Uvalde County. Pat Dolan ran for the office of sheriff and was elected. Duties were plentiful and of a very hazardous nature. Indians were numerous. Mexican bandits made raids all over the country, but the really great menaces were the white outlaws, who were over-running the whole western frontier.

On April 23, 1873, Pat Dolan married Margaret Jane Cook. Finding the income from the sheriff's office inadequate to support a wife, he made applica-

tion to friends in Austin for an appointment in the Ranger Service. This was granted. He was given a Lieutenant's Commission in Captain Caldwell's Company, May 5, 1874.

June, that same year, Congress appropriated \$100,000.00 for the construction of a Military Telegraph Line. The idea was to connect the frontier posts with telegraph lines in order to give prompt notice to the citizens that Indians were in the country. The act designated the line and named the posts to be connected:

"Beginning at, or near, the city of Denison, to Fort Sill, to Fort Richardson, on along the northern frontier line of settlements to Forts Griffin and Concho, and then to the Pecos River, at, or near, the mouth of Toyah Creek. From there to Fort Clark, down the Rio Grande to Fort Duncan, connecting that post with Ringgold Barracks, via Brownsville and McIntosh."

Until the telegraph line was completed the fastest mode of communication along the frontier was a man on a fast horse. As the Indians never had any regard for horses, they were willing to ride a horse until he fell dead. They could usually out travel the white men.

State Funds were low by December, 1874, and it was necessary to reduce the Ranger forces. Dolan's Lieutenant's Commission was temporarily suspended. Being without employment, Dolan sought, and obtained, a position with the Leona Ranch Company officially known as the "Texas Stock Raising, Agricultural and Irrigating Company." This was a stock company of eastern capitalists living in Philadelphia who had purchased a large tract of land along the Leona River. They planned to farm on an extensive scale, raise graded cattle, fine horses, and improved hogs. This company brought the first high grade cattle to that part of Texas. In the first shipment there were twenty-three Durham bulls, and ten Durham heifers. In addition to the graded stock, they put three thousand native Longhorn heifers on the ranch, and many horses and hogs. This choice selection of animals proved a great temptation to those careless with a running iron. In order to better protect their stock the Leona Ranch people built the first barbed wire fences in the Uvalde section.

R. G. Tilston was the first superintendent of this big outfit, and Dolan worked under his orders when he first went to the ranch. Tilston gave up his position with the Company January, 1875.

Just one year after Tilston had gone from the ranch, January 3, 1876, Dolan was appointed superintendent, with authority over every one on the ranch. This did not please Lewis, who was in charge of the store on the ranch, and he constantly tried to create ill feeling among the seventy-five Mexican employees against Dolan.

The Ranch Office and store of Leona Ranch was surrounded by a ten foot log fence. The superintendent's houses was a couple of hundred yards from the big enclosure.

Lewis, by insidious means, finally aroused the Mexicans to a state of rebellion. One day when Dolan