

had called them into the inclosure to give them instructions for their daily work, they refused to function. When they did, Dolan charged the group of Mexicans. He had his pistol and could have fired into them, but he knew they were simply being influenced by a mean white man and he did not want to kill any of them. He fought with the Mexicans until they had stripped him of all clothing. He had retained his pistol and managed to fire it until all cartridges were exploded, which caused the Mexicans to fall back. He knew Lewis was going to give the Mexicans a gun to finish him with. Dolan climbed the high fence. His wife had not been idle. When she heard the shots, she took her baby in one arm and a shotgun under the other arm, and started for the scene of battle. When she had covered half the distance, she saw her husband top the high fence, and, as he jumped to the ground, a Mexican came around the corner of the stockade and leveled a gun at Dolan. Mrs. Dolan dropped her baby and raised her shotgun and fired, hitting the Mexican's arm and his shot went skyward.

Strange to say Lewis and all the Mexicans departed from the ranch that night. It was necessary to get entirely new employees. This experience caused Mrs. Dolan to have a long illness, and her husband resigned his position on the Ranch.

Dolan encountered many trying things during his service on the Leona Ranch. The Indians were not so bad during 1875; but early in 1876 they were again raiding west of Uvalde, and in the Nueces Canyon. And the bandits were literally over-running the country from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande.

The Indians and outlaws made ranching so difficult for the eastern men that they sold what was left of the graded herd to Billy Cox of Uvalde. When Captain Dolan resigned from the Ranger service in 1879, he bought this H-Four Herd from Cox. For five years Captain Dolan ranged in Zavalla County. Then he moved to the Davis Mountains, locating in Limpia Canyon.

Dolan's famous high bred Shorthorns were the first aristocrats of the Tourine world to enter the Highlands of Texas. He sold the Limpia Canyon ranch in 1892 to G. C. Locke of Concord, New Hampshire. Captain Dolan moved to a ranch south of Paisano Pass, where he had cattle and sheep. He did not remain on this ranch long, but purchased the "Point of Rock Ranch," and moved his sheep and cattle to that place. The panthers developed a taste for sheep and occasioned a great deal of trouble and material loss.

The Captain always liked to speculate in land, so he sold "Point of Rock Ranch" and purchased a ranch nearer Fort Davis, known for many years as the Grierson place, now owned by Joe Espy. Having an opportunity to sell this ranch at a profit which he could not resist, Captain Dolan bought the Twin Mountains Ranch, owned today by the Pete Kennedy heirs.

The Twin Mountains Ranch was joined on the east by the Walbridge Ranch. The Walbridges were famous all over West Texas for their hospitality. It

is safe to say that they served more free meals during the "Nineties" than any other family. Each Sunday, weather permitting, strings of buggies, hacks and wagons filled with happy crowds could be seen driving from Fort Davis, Marfa, and Alpine to the Walbridge Ranch. They had a big spring house filled with home cured meats, home-made preserves, butter, milk, eggs, and a large fruit orchard, garden, plenty of chickens, pigs, and turkeys. Their fame for dispensing hospitality spread to such an extent they must have spent a fortune just feeding people. They finally decided to sell out and move to California. A. J. Tippet now owns this famous ranch.

Captain Dolan sold the Twin Mountains Ranch in 1898 and moved to Marfa, and opened a saddle shop on the site now occupied by the Central Power and Light Company Office. But town life soon grew tiresome and the Captain took his family and part of his fine herd of cattle to the ranch on the Nueces River. He sold part of the H-Four Herd to W. T. Jones.

The Captain returned to Uvalde a wealthy man, but sorrow and financial reverses awaited him there. Taking cattle from the Highlands to the low altitude below the fever line caused many of them to have "Texas Fever," caused from the ticks. Many of them died of the fever. Wishing to add good stock to his herd, Captain Dolan bought some fine Shorthorn cows, paying \$50.00 per head for them, a high price at that time. He also purchased more fine Hereford bulls, ranging in prices from \$250 to \$500.

There was much to be said for the natural resources of the ranch. Pecan groves were plentiful and deer, wild turkeys, squirrels, and wild hogs swarmed over the south. Fish in great numbers were in the Nueces River. It was a sportsman's paradise. Bob cats, coyotes, coons and possums had to be trapped and killed so that chickens and young pigs could live.

In 1900 the Captain put in an elaborate irrigation system. He installed a gasoline engine to pump water from the Nueces River over the fields. Rather an expensive proposition and not altogether profitable. Then came the dry farmers and they planted great fields of cotton on the lowlands. A three year drought prevailed in that section of the state—a drought that blistered and baked the face of the earth, turned people's hopes to dust, and cattle to bone heaps. Cattle died in droves and the prices of cattle dropped to nothing.

Deciding he had best sell at any price Captain Dolan sold his cattle at \$15.00 a head; \$50.00 cows and \$500 bulls all for the pitiful \$15.00 per head. By late fall, 1904, he had disposed of all interest in Uvalde County, and that ended his ranching days.

W. T. Jones is carrying on the tradition of the first graded herd brought to Southwest Texas and then to West Texas. From that modest start he has built up one of the finest ranch properties and herds in the County. Among other achievements, he has developed a herd of cattle some of whose individuals won the grand championships for nine consecutive years at the American Royal Livestock Show.