

CONCLUSION

We find a man and his two sons coming to America from a feudal society in Germany that lasted until Napoleon defeated the Prussians in 1805. These men did not know what their future might be, but they and untold thousands of other people from all parts of the world came to America to get away from conditions of oppression. We also find coming with them a number of people with the same ideas and motives as the Lords and Barons of the countries from which they came. The serfs came for freedom and these other people came with the idea of enslaving more people for their own gain. They did some of this by importing slaves from Africa.

The Eikers and their forefathers were farmers, working with livestock and tilling the soil for a living. They continued this practice in America. Many of their offspring have stayed with the business of agriculture until the present time.

Most of our people went to the southern part of the United States, as has been mentioned. Later many of them had slaves, as was customary in the south. We find a situation somewhat different from the general custom of mis-treating slaves. They treated these people as if they were human beings and gave them the opportunity to live a decent life. They did not mis-treat them. It has been stated that Dr. M. Ikard gave his people his name when they were freed. On one occasion, I visited with a colored man in Wichita, Kansas. His grandfather came from Weatherford, Texas. Evidently he was one of these people. The story of Bose Ikard has been mentioned.

My wife's grandfather, Colonel Champ Traylor, a school teacher in Hutchinson County, Texas, a County Superintendent of Schools, and later a County Judge,

was born in Alabama. His mother was not able to take care of him. A colored lady nursed him and cared for him along with a child of her own. Colonel Traylor returned with gifts to visit this lady, as long as she lived.

My father worked with negro cowboys and other cowboys of Spanish ancestry. No difference was ever noted, as these men were in many cases some of the best hands. The situation boils down to this -- there is only one race, the human race.

Sometimes we forget what our forefathers did for us so that we are able to enjoy the society in which we live. Many of them gave their honor, their lives, and all their possessions as rebels in the American Revolution. I am told that the signers of the Declaration of Independence gave their time and property until almost all were the same as paupers.

We yet have the situation of oppression, people trying to use others for their own gain. We have corporations that are not as individuals, but are organizations that use humans to their own advantage. A part of the time, they use individuals without regard for their well-being. These corporations are not the same as the Lords and Barons, but it has become necessary to regulate them in our society. There are, at times, great problems coming from this regulation or lack of regulation.

At one time in the 1880's, the cowboys seemingly struck against the corporations that were trying to enter the cattle business in the west. This situation was not prevalent when the cowboys worked for an individual. In some cases these organizations would set up rules and regulations for the cowboys to follow -- no gambling, no drinking, and other things were listed in a set of rules. Then these people that made the rules would, in their own way, practice the things that were forbidden for cowboys. My father never worked for a company. An individual was

always his boss.

Mr. Thatcher often remarked that someone was "a book-of-rules man". Generally this term was applied to someone that would not vary from certain regulations regardless of the conditions. He defined this term as a man long on law and order, but short on honesty and decency.

We find these men saying things and doing things to fit the occasion. Another thing these men did was to criticize and make fun of others for the things they were doing or the things they believed in. But remember this, people that tease and make fun of you are insecure themselves. They try to degrade you and drag you down to their level. They know you and your ideas are better than theirs. So, pay no attention to the "book-of-rules" people.

We find Charlie Goodnight, W. S. Ikard, and C. E. Mitchell laying the foundation for most of the white-faced stock cattle in the southwest. We find R. C. Thatcher, Bob Ikard, and Sully Ikard trying to maintain the quality in the cattle business that these men before them had established. They did not pay any attention to people that were trying to change their minds about the kind of cattle that they knew were superior.

