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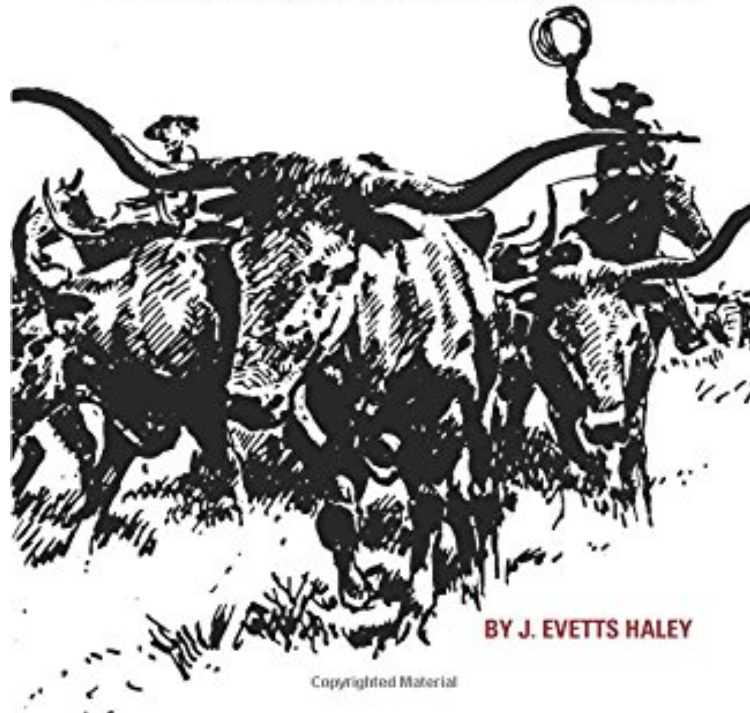
J. Evetts Haley

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The XIT RANCH OF TEXAS

AND THE EARLY DAYS OF THE LLANO ESTACADO



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#764434 in Books J Evetts Haley 1977-09-15 1953-11-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.50 x .64 x 5.001, .63 #File Name: 0806114282308 pagesThe XIT Ranch of Texas and the Early Days of the Llano Estacado | File size: 56.Mb

J. Evetts Haley : The XIT Ranch of Texas and the Early Days of the Llano Estacado (The Western Frontier Library Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The XIT Ranch of Texas and the Early Days of the Llano Estacado (The Western Frontier Library Series):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Everything's Bigger In Texas! By Michael E. Fitzgerald I am not sure who made up that sentence but for once it is right. The XIT was an enormous economic undertaking for its time. Consider the following:- The name, XIT, supposedly stands for 10 counties in Texas. It just might. Spanning 10 counties along the northwestern most boundary with New Mexico, this single ranch totaled 3 million acres, an area 25 miles wide by 200 miles long.- This land was set aside in one parcel by the Texas legislature and, in a piece of snappy 1885 financing, was swapped for the construction of the beautiful Texas capital building that graces Austin, Texas today! XIT's establishment was largely responsible for settlement of an ongoing boundary dispute between Texas and New Mexico.- The carrying capacity of the ranch was 300,000 head. Formed on the arid Llano Estacado, water needed to be pumped from underground aquifers. By 1900, 335 windmills and 100 dams watered the herd.- 1,500 miles of fence was built, dividing the ranch into 94 pastures. The barbed wire employed would have stretched 6,000 miles. Over 100,000 posts, five railcar loads of staves and one boxcar of staples were required. So many gates were necessary the first foreman simply ordered a boxcar of hinges.- Prairie fires were a horrific scourge. One fire alone burned an area 20 x 60 miles. The cowboys were the first organized firefighters in the neighborhood. This is an enormously good read full of amazing facts and statistics regarding what was, at the time, the largest ranch in the State of Texas. J. Evetts Haley interviewed many of the ranch's early participants and delivers a variety of eyewitness accounts about the growth and evolution of this massive enterprise. Filled with a myriad of colorful anecdotes about men, animals, rustling, cowboys, trail drives, intense winter storms and early Spanish and Native American influence, this is a wonderfully insightful look at early ranching as the initial settlement of Texas' final frontier occurred over 125 years ago. You will not be disappointed. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good academic read for those interested in this aspect of ... By Marshall F. Crawford This is a read that covers the difficulties and details of establishing a mega cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle in the post Comanche period. A fact that I have not realized before, is how dependent the West Texas cattle business, including Charles Goodnight, was on wealthy British investors. No US investors were willing to take the risk of raising cattle in an arid land with a wild history. The difficulties of water, prairie fires, and land management were a constant challenge but solutions found. A good academic read for those interested in this aspect of Texas history. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Trials and Tribulations of the XIT Ranch By The Quick Pen This is a well written description of problems facing humanity trying to live and settle an unforgiving land. The loneliness open tremendous distances fraught with innumerable dangers that faced those who dared to live and survive a hard country. In spite of these dangers there was woven a romance in the harden character that drove native Americans, business men, cattlemen and later families to endure the hardships to tame this uncivilized state.

Among the famous ranch brands of Texas are the T Anchor, JA, Diamond Tail, 777, Bar C, and XIT. And the greatest of these was XIT The XIT Ranch of Texas. It was not the first ranch in West Texas, but after its formation in the eighteen-eighties it became the largest single operation in the cow country of the Old West and covered more than three million acres, all fenced. The state of Texas patented this huge rectangle of land, at the time considered by many to be part of "the great American desert," to the Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Company of Chicago, in exchange for funds to erect the state capitol building in Austin. This "desert" became a legend in the cattle business, and it remains today a memory to thousands who recall the era when mustangs and longhorns grazed beneath the brand of the XIT. The development and operation of this pastoral enterprise and its relation to the history of Texas is the subject of this great and widely discussed book by J. Evetts Haley, now made available to readers every where. It is the story of a wild prairie, roamed by Indians, buffalo, mustangs, and antelope, that became a country of railroads, oil fields, prosperous farms, and carefully bred herds of cattle. The XIT Ranch of Texas is the epic account of a ranching operation about which many know a little but only a few very much. It is the one volume that, more than any other, portrays the early-day cattle business of the West.

About the Author J. Evetts Haley is a historian and a cowman and the author of three other books published by the University of Oklahoma Press: Jeff Milton: A Good Man With a Gun; Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman; and George W. Littlefield, Texan.