

Wiesers Were Interested in Many Enterprises Early Days of County

V. F. Wieser, a miller by profession, and a resident of the state of Iowa, purchased a grist mill and cotton gin at Hico in 1893.

Through the ensuing years, he took his three sons, Joe F., Henry M., and Frank A., into partnership with himself, which lasted until his death in 1916.

During the following years the four Wieser men entered upon a period of expansion, giving of their time, talents and means to bring modern facilities, as well as prosperity, to the area in which they lived.

The Hico Flour Mill was enlarged and modernized, as well as all others in turn, and from this beginning they branched out into ownership of flour mills and grain elevators at Dublin, Stamford and Hamilton, with additional grain elevators at Munday, Ireland, Iredell and other locations.

During the years they installed the first telephone system at Hico, the office being located in the old Fisher building, with Mrs. Mimms as operator. Later still, telephone service was extended to Hamilton by the purchase of the telegraph lines then in use between Hico and Hamilton, with Sid Ross as manager of the Hamilton plant. Service was also furnished the neighboring towns of Carlton, Iredell and others.

The Wiesers organized and operated the first electric light system at Hico, power being furnished by the flour mill. Later, with the enlargement of the Hico electric light system, they furnished other towns and this developed into the Texas Power and Transmission Co., with H. Gleason as manager.

During this period the Wiesers became interested and served in

an official capacity in various banking concerns in the area, which included the Hico National Bank.

All the business concerns owned by the Wiesers were incorporated, records of which are in Austin.

Other enterprises which they helped to secure for Hico and in which they also served in an official capacity were the Hico Ice & Cold Storage Co. and the Hico Cotton Compress.

After the death of V. F. Wieser, his sons became interested in various outside interests, especially oil and ranching. J. F. Wieser moved to Waco; H. M. Wieser moved to Hamilton, and F. A. Wieser is in Fort Worth at the present time.

The only member of the third generation of the family who carried on in the traditional milling and grain business is Sidney Wieser, now located at Lampasas.

In 1903, V. F. Wieser and sons purchased the milling business of S. D. Felt in Hamilton, which they improved and operated until 1910, when it was purchased by H. M. Wieser. Early manager of the mill was Robt. Moore, a Mr. Rankin and last, Leo Wieser.

Although he had purchased the mill, Henry Wieser continued to live in Dublin until 1917. Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wieser's, Henry Alec and Virginia, were born in Dublin, and the twins, Sidney and Vincent were born in Hamilton. The three sons were associated with their father in the milling business until the outbreak of World War II.

Henry Wieser bought the electric system in Hamilton in 1915 and operated it until 1925, securing the power from the mill. He sold to Charles Eck. He also op-

erated the city water works for a time.

Henry Alec Wieser went into the service and became a captain. He was a bombardier. He was captured in Germany and remained a prisoner for 17 months.

Vincent Wieser was also a captain in the Air Force and served as instructor in the States throughout the war. Sidney Wieser remained with the mill during the war, as he was in an essential business and his services were needed here more than in the service.

After the war, the brothers branched off into different businesses. Henry Alec went into the contracting and building business in Lovington, New Mexico; Vincent went into the automobile business. Sidney remained in the milling business, and following the fire of 1952 which destroyed the mill, he moved to Lampasas afterwards and erected a mill there.

Henry M. Wieser died June 7, 1951.

The Hamilton Mill and Elevator property was purchased last year by Weatherby, Craig and Morgan. The Hico Mill & Elevator was sold to Woodard Save-Way Produce.

The first tall elevator was built in 1914 and the taller one was built in 1917, and at that time was probably the largest elevators in this section of the state. People came for miles around to watch the construction.