



the West. They are the following: 1, Bible or book; 2, church; 3, cross; 4, Maltese cross; 5, Swastika; 6, square and compass; 7, 1. O. O. F. emblem; 8, question; 9, dollar mark; 10, etc.; 11, house; 12, rocking chair; 13, jug; 14, pitcher; 15, boot; 16, dumb-bells; 17, door key; 18, frying pan; 19, crutch; 20, wineglass; 21, kite; 22, hat; 23, necktie; 24, bell; 25, dagger; 26, horseshoe; 27, bow and arrow; 28, anchor; 29, flower pot; 30, umbrella; 31, tree; 32, hog eye; 33, pigpen; 34, barbecue; 35, kite; 36, fishhook; 37, fish; 38, snake; 39, turtle; 40, rabbit; 41, rising sun; 42, moon; 43, star; 44, two hearts; 45, liver; 46, goose egg; 47, pitchfork; 48, rake; 49, stepladder; 50, currycomb; 51, bridle bit; 52, spur; 53, paddle; 54, anvil; 55, plow; 56, tomahawk; 57, hayhook; 58, ace of clubs; 59, four sixes; 60, ten of diamonds; 61, ace of diamonds; 62, diamond deuce; 63, diamond trey; 64, diamond five; 65, I owe you; 66, seven up; 67, lazy T; 68, tumbling T; 69, flying V; 70, rocking H; 71, swinging H; 72, mashed O; 73, bar X L; 74, H rake four.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

NOTHER institution of the old West seems to be on its way into oblivion. At least that is the logical interpretation of a recent news dispatch from Texas which said: "A few years more and there will be "HOT IRON!"

owners must place it on their stock in distinctive positions.

According to the laws of North Dakota, each brand was good for ten positions. They were the jaw, neck, shoulder, ribs and hip-five positions on each side of the animal. It was not uncommon for a North Dakota stockman to buy all positions so that he could brand his stock as he pleased. Otherwise, nine other men could use the same brand in other positions, thus causing endless confusion.

The number and variety of brands in the cattle country is almost inconceivable. For instance, a total of more than 8,500 brands have been recorded in Montana since 1878 and it is said that 6,000 were in active use within recent years. Records of the Texas Cattle Raisers' association showed more than 8,000 registered brands in use in that state a few years ago and in Colorado there were more than 4,200.

But despite this multiplicity of markings the old-time cattleman and the brand inspectors stationed at the stockyards in the leading cattle markets could read the various brands and interpret them as easily as a stenographer can read and interpret the pothooks and other symbols in the shorthand system. More than that, they spoke a language, a phonetic tongue, albelt, which was all but unintelligible to the uninitiated. Philip Ashton Rollins in his classic of western life, "The Cowboy," writes of this as follows:

"He would know that 4-28 meant Four Bar Twenty-eight since a hyphen always was called a 'bar'; that, because a capital letter of size was commonly termed 'big.' the brand 'A2' was translatable into Big A Two; that because a letter or figure lying on its side was termed 'lazy.' a prone letter 'm' underscored was the Lazy M Bar. This person would know also that, because a ring was dubbed a 'circle,' a letter 'g' enclosed within a ring was the Circle G; that because a circle's arc was, according to its length, designated as a 'quarter,' "half' or 'three-quarter' circle, a scant bit of curve followed by a letter 'r' was the Quarter Circle R, and that, because anything looking like a diamond or even its cousin was called 'diamond.' a figure '5' within a lozenge should be interpreted as Diamond Five. This person would know also that any parallelogram. regardless of the ration between its length and height, was a 'block' or 'box' or a 'square,' whichever its owner cared to term it; that the faintest resemblance to a pair of wings gave the prefix 'flying' so that the numeral '9' between two misshapen bulges was the Flying Nine, and that other designs were attempted pictures and should be entitled Broken Pipe, Sombrero, Spur, Bit, Elk Horn, Two Star, Wheel and whatever, Finally this person would know that still further designs had arbitrary, slangy designations such as 'wallop' (a wide letter U atop another letter U equally wide but inverted); 'whangdoodle' (a group of interlocking wings with no 'flying' central design), and 'hog pen' (two parallel lines crossing two other parallel lines at a right angle)." In the record of brands every letter of the alphabet is represented, and most letters are found in three or four positions. An exception is "O," which has but one shape in any position, and therefore can be used only once. True there Is the "O" flattened at the sides, but it is called a mashed O, a link or goose egg. "N" is another letter that is not susceptible of many positions, for horizontally it is "Z." "I" is another letter with a limited use. It is seldom seen except in combination with other characters, and is usually called a bar. "C" and "K" are examples of letters that are used in four positions. For example, an ordinary "K" makes one position. Turn it to an angle of 45 degrees and you have the Tumbling K, on its back horizontally the Lazy K and reversed a fourth position. There are lazy and tumbling brands in all letters except "O" and "I." After the letters of the alphabet and the variations thereon were all taken up it became necessary to devise individual and unique brands. So every conceivable device made its appearance, ranging from Bible references through poker hands to farm implements, household utensils and lodge insignia. In the Colorado brand book may be found a skull and crossbones, a rake, shovel, shoe, boot, cup, coffee-pot, glasses, flag, keys, apple, star, moon, ladder, tree, anchor, pitchfork, glove, muleshoe, rocking chair, hatchet, axe, spear, rolling pin, gate, spectacles, pipe, fish, gun, compass, umbrella, hands and dozens of other queer characters for which it is difficult to find an adequately descriptive name. In the illustrations at the head of this article is included a chart of 74 out-of-the-ordinary brands.



On little James' first day at school he was given a card on which his mother was to write the date of his birth. The following day he arrived late, and without the card.

"James," said the teacher, "you must bring an excuse for being late, and don't forget the card about when you were born."

All out of breath the next day, James rushed in holding a note from his mother. "Teacher," he gasped. "I brought the one about being late but I forgot the excuse for being born."

About Right

Business Man-1 don't think an efficiency man would do my business any good.

Efficiency Expert-Well, I haven't worked in a place yet that didn't run more efficiently after I left.-Border Cities Star.

His Destination

Spectator—I shall be very surprised if that referee doesn't get into hot water after the match. Ardent Supporter—Then you'll be surprised. 'E's goin' in the 'orsetrough.—London Answers.

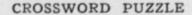
Hubby's Luck Mrs. Heck—I wonder, Mrs. Peck, if I could borrow your rug-beater. Mrs. Peck—I'm sorry, Mrs. Heck.

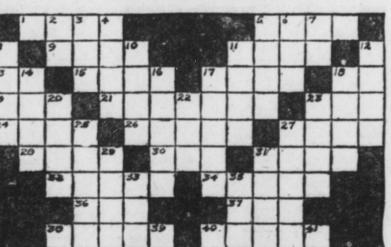
but he doesn't get home till five o'clock.

42

Unsoothing Word Female Castaway—Good heavens? Cannibals!

Male Ditto (soothingly)-Now, now, don't get in a stew.





WRONG SURGERY

The doctor shook his head doubtfully.

"Tell me, what exactly is wrong with you?" he asked his patient. "I can't explain it," said the pa-

tient wearly. "I only know I suffer." The doctor nodded. "What kind of life do you lead?"

he asked.

"I work like an ox, I eat like a wolf, I'm as tired as a dog at the end of the day, and I sleep like a horse," replied the other.

"H'm," said the doctor, "in that case I should advise you to go and see a veterinary surgeon."

STRING ATTACHED



run rder "I can't afford to marry for five years. Will you wait for me?" "Certainly. If no one else marries me before then."

t into Proof Positive "So you think you must have a for-'orse- giving nature."

"I must have. I always go back to the same dentist."

no plaintive bawling as a sizzling redhot iron is pressed against a young steer's hide. Instead, there will be a cold iron, dipped into a chemical and applied to the yearling. A few days after this application the chemical, without pain to the animal, will have eaten away the hair, turned the red skin to white and produced permanently the owner's mark. This new method, introduced by a doctor in Amarillo, Texas, has been tried successfully."

If this method proves successful and is generally adopted, it will not only mark the passing of an instrument which, along with the rifle, the axe, and the prairie plow were symbols of various phases in American ploneer life, but it will also satisfy the main objections to a custom which was very necessary to the development of the cattle industry to the proportions which it attained during the three decades after the Civil war.

One of those objections was an economic onethe fact that the deep burn inflicted by the branding iron damaged the hide of the steer and decreased the value of this by-product of the cattle business. This objection was largely done away with when it was learned that all Eastern buyers classed all Western hides as branded stuff, even if they were not, and made a certain reduction in their value. So the new branding method may lead to a revaluation of hides from Western cattle, since the chemical will not damage the hide as the red-hot iron did.

The necessity for cattle branding in the United States goes back to the days of free grass and open range when the brand was an absolute necessity in order that owners might identify their property in the annual round-ups. With the coming of fenced range this necessity was largely obviated, but the brand still served to place guilt upon cattle thieves and made it possible to stamp out cattle rustling. Then followed a period when cattle branding fell somewhat into disuse. But recent years have seen a revival of cattle rustling and the "motorized cattle thief," who uses a truck in which to carry away three to ten prime beef steers, began cutting into the Western stockman's meager profits. Only a short time ago the board of brand inspectors of one Western state declared that a return to the branding of live stock was the omy solution of the new-or rather the revived-menace to their business. Indications are that similar action will be taken in other states and if the Texas doctor's method of marking with chemicals proves feasible the ranges and shipping pens of the West may be filled once more with branded cattle-branded by a modern scientific method and branded because modern mechanical methods of rustling have made it necessary.

In the early days of the cattle industry, branding was haphazard. There was much duplication of brands and consequently frequent quarrels over ownership.

Texas, the fountainhead of the cattle industry, was the first state to regulate branding and other states soon followed suit until most of them have very definite branding laws. These differ in some respects but the underlying principles are the same, the main one being required registration of brands. Some allow a certain brand to a rancher and he may put it on any place on the animal. Others permit different men to have the same brand, but the different

So important was the branding iron to the cattle industry that a few years ago the state whose prosperity was built upon the cattle busithe brands which were used at one time or another in that state and from this number selected the 32 which were to be engraved on the white stone walls of the new classroom building as representative of some step in the progress of Texas history.

ness hit upon the unique idea of "branding" a

new half-million-dollar classroom building at its

state university with the symbols of its greatest

industry. Accordingly Garrison hall at the Uni-

versity of Texas now bears on its walls 32 cat-

tle brands which helped make Texas history. As

a preliminary to this idea, E. W. Winkler, uni-

versity librarian, examined more than 20,000 cat-

A. Maverick

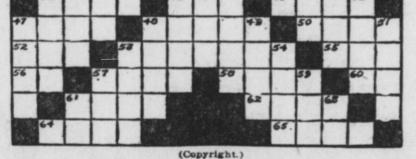
There is a good story connected with every one of them but outstanding among them are: the "Austin Spanish" brand of Stephen F. Austin, "the Father of Texas"; the Four Sixes of S. B. Burnett which resulted from his winning a large ranch in a poker game in which he held "four of a kind"; the D brand of A. H. (Shanghai) Pierce, who drove cattle from Matagora county on the gulf and whose steers were known from the Rio Grande to the Canadian line as "Shanghal Pierce's sea lions": the XIT brand, generally known as "Ten in Texas," of the Capitol Land Syndicate whose holdings covered ten counties and included three million acres, given in payment for the state capitol building at Austin, the Lazy S of C. C. Slaughter which adorned more than 12,000 cattle a year in the trail-driving period after the Civil war; the JA brand of Charles Goodnight, owner of the famous Goodnight ranch, home of the Goodnight herd of buffalo, and experimenter in crossing cattle and buffalo to produce the "catalo" and last but not least the MK brand of S. A. Maverick, the cattleman who paradoxically became famous not because of a brand but because of lack of one and whose name became a common noun in the American language. For "maverick" is a word found in all dictionaries, defined by the eminent Dictionaire Webster as "an unbranded animal, esp. a motherless calf, formerly customarily claimed by the first one branding it," and "mavericking" is a recognized legal term for illegal appropriation of unbranded cattle.

Samuel A. Maverick, a graduate of Yale college in the class of 1825, was one of the founders of Texas independence and a member of the congress of the Republic of Texas in 1845. The exact details of how his name came to be perpetuated in a common Western word are somewhat disputed. One account states that a neighbor who owed Maverick a debt of \$400 paid it off by giving him 1,200 head of longhorn cattle, whereupon Maverick turned them over to a family of negro slaves with the understanding they have the natural increase of the herd. But these negroes were a shiftless set and

allowed the cattle that thus came to them to roam at will in the long grass along Matagorda bay. In a few years there were hundreds of these unbranded cattle and people often asked "Whose cattle are these?" to which the usual reply was, "They're Maverick's." As time went on the term "mavericks" came to be applied to all unbranded cattle—they were not Samuel A. Maverick's cattle, they were just mavericks, nobody's cattle.

Another account says that during the Civil war nearly all of Colonel Maverick's employees entered the Confederate army, so that his cattle ran wild and remained unbranded. So they were "Maverick's cattle" until some one else clapped his brand on them to make them his own and gradually all stray cattle became "mavericks." Whatever the true story may have been, the fact remains that among all cattlemen who might be famous because thousands of cattle bore their brands, the most enduring, fame came to one whose cattle went unbranded.

(@ by Western Newspaper Union.)



Horizontal. -Tamult -Part of harness -Thin metal strip -Seldom 13-Preposition 15-Small drink 17—Expression 18—Behold -Salt (chem.) 21-Proposition te 23-Fabulous bird te be proved 24-Sustain 20-Not of the city 27-Spanish dry wine 28-Burlesque 30-Work with thin steel instrument 81-Engrave 32-Old-womanish 34-Miner's hand-cart -Birth 87-Gone 28-Song 40-Organ pipes 42-Small hollow 43-Organ of sight 45-The other 47-Recent 48-Drudge 50-Pertaining to the Celts 52-Time 53-Pertaining to earth dicturbances 55-Parent 6-Pronoum 57-A luminary 58-Dull 60-Concerning 61-Ire 62-Insue 64-Large book

64—Large book 65—Indivisible particle of matter Vertical.

2-Part of "to be" 3-Long practiced 4-Keen 5-Injury 0-Bodily member 7-Pronoun 5-File 10-Wild gonf 11-Dance 12-Counterfeit

14-Sailors 10-World war battle 17-Net 18-Body of water (Scotch) 20-Division of Hindu philosophy 22-Metal as mined 23-Piquant -Feather-shaped 27-First of two stanga Rows 31-Fungus 33-Constellation 35-Cereal 38-Quote 39-American ploneer 40-Sears 41-Carnellar 42-Sheet, usually paper 44-Opposed to "n 46-Sovereign 47-Oll-burning vessel 48-Slave 49-Door of Masonic lodge 51-Paradise ----Sound 54—Insensibility 87—Silent 59-Humor 61-Stop 63-Preposition

Solution

