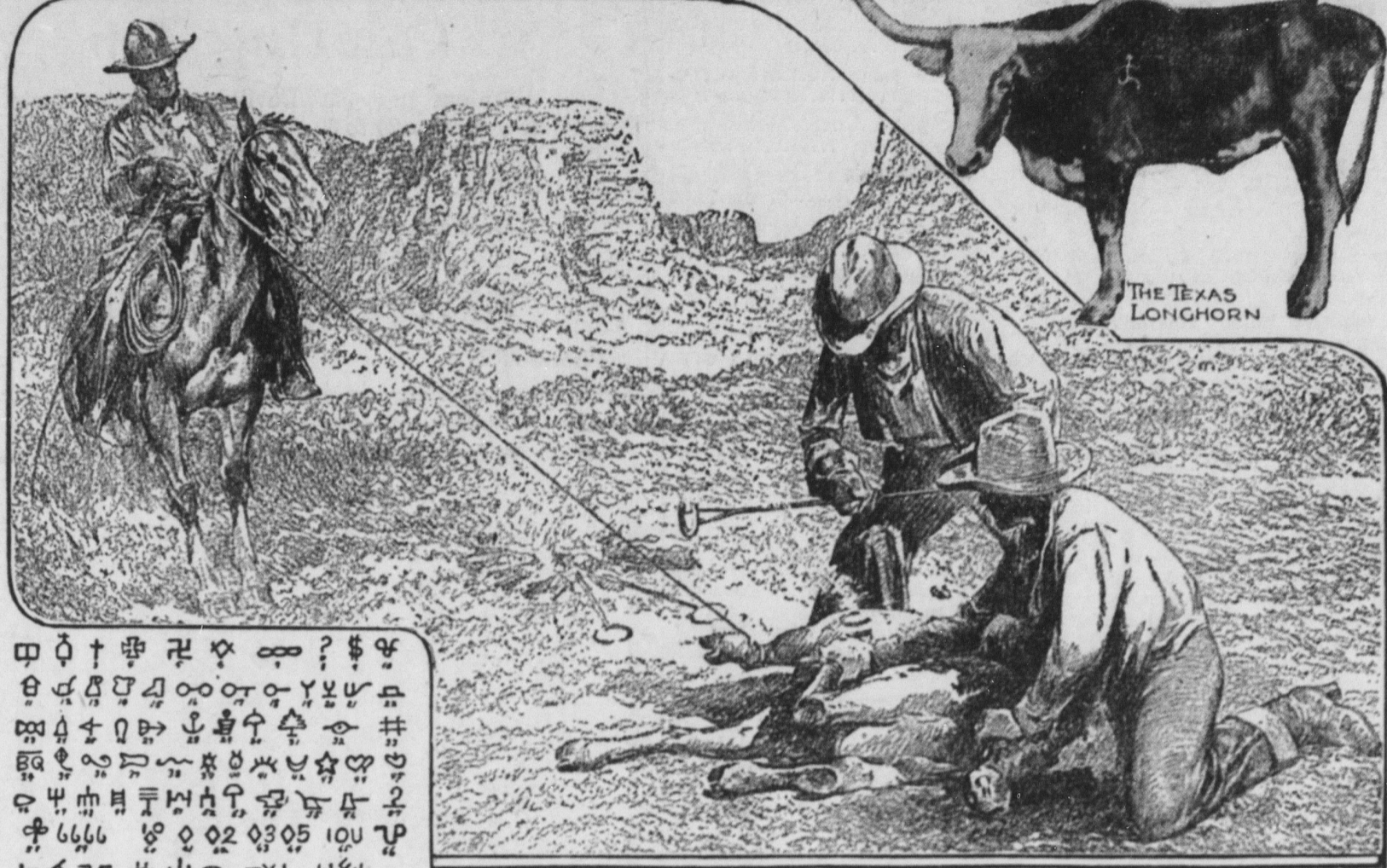
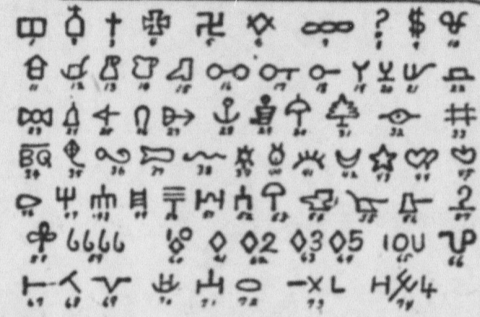


# The Branding Iron Passes



THE TEXAS LONGHORN

"HOT IRON!"



A group of brands which illustrate the multiplicity of symbols used on the cattle ranges of the West. They are the following: 1, Bible or book; 2, church; 3, cross; 4, Maltese cross; 5, Swastika; 6, square and compass; 7, I. 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, step-ladder; 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.

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, albeit, which was all but unintelligible to the uninitiated. Phillip Ashton Rollins in his classic of western life, "The Cowboy," writes of this as follows:

"He would know that 4-2-3 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 'c' enclosed within a ring was the Circle C; 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 ratio 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); 'whang-doodle' (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.

So important was the branding iron to the cattle industry that a few years ago the state whose prosperity was built upon the cattle bus-



S. A. Maverick

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 University of Texas now bears on its walls 32 cattle brands which helped make Texas history. As a preliminary to this idea, E. W. Winkler, university librarian, examined more than 29,000 cattle 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.

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 "Shanghai 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 Matagora 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 cattle who might be famous because thousands of cattle bore their brands, the most enduring fame came to one whose cattle went unbranded.

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## Current Wit and Humor



FORGOT THE EXCUSE

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—I 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 'orse-trough.—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.

## 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 patient wearily. "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



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

### Proof Positive

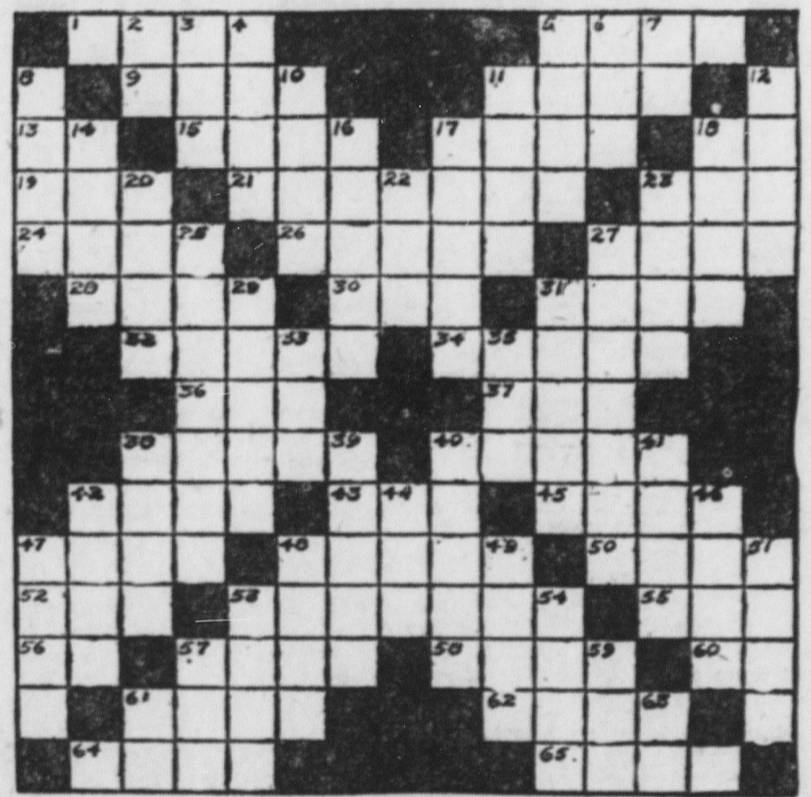
"So you think you must have a forgiving nature."

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

### Unsoothing Word

Female Castaway—Good heavens! Cannibals! Male Ditto (soothingly)—Now, now, don't get in a stew.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

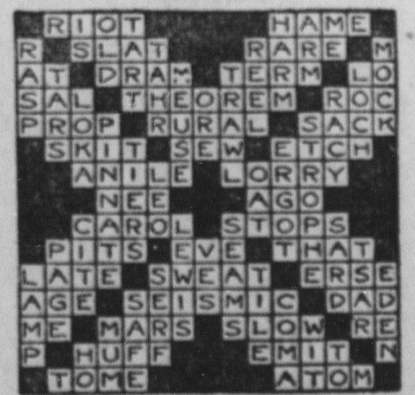


(Copyright.)

- Horizontal.**
- 1—Tumult
  - 2—Part of harness
  - 3—Thin metal strip
  - 11—Seldom
  - 12—Preposition
  - 13—Small drink
  - 17—Expression
  - 18—Behold
  - 19—Salt (chem.)
  - 21—Proposition to be proved
  - 22—Fabulous bird
  - 24—Sustains
  - 26—Not of the city
  - 27—Spanish dry wine
  - 28—Burlesque
  - 30—Work with thin steel instrument
  - 31—Engrave
  - 32—Old-womanish
  - 34—Miner's hand-cart
  - 36—Birth
  - 37—Gene
  - 38—Song
  - 40—Organ pipes
  - 42—Small hollows
  - 43—Organ of sight
  - 45—The other
  - 47—Recent
  - 48—Drudge
  - 50—Pertaining to the Celts
  - 52—Time
  - 53—Pertaining to earth disturbances
  - 55—Parent
  - 57—Pronoun
  - 57—A luminary
  - 58—Dull
  - 59—Concerning
  - 61—Tre
  - 62—Issue
  - 64—Large book
  - 65—Indivisible particle of matter

- 14—Sailors
- 15—World war battle
- 17—Net
- 18—Body of water (Scotch)
- 20—Division of Hindu philosophy
- 22—Metal as mined
- 23—Piquant
- 25—Feather-shaped
- 27—First of two stanzas
- 28—Rows
- 31—Fungus
- 32—Constellation
- 35—Cereal
- 35—Quote
- 38—American pioneer
- 40—Scars
- 41—Carnelian
- 42—Sheet, usually paper
- 44—Opposed to "no"
- 46—Sovereign
- 47—Oil-burning vessel
- 48—Slaves
- 49—Door of Masonic lodge
- 51—Paradise
- 52—Sound
- 54—Insensibility
- 57—Silent
- 59—Humor
- 61—Stop
- 62—Preposition

### Solution



Wrigley's SPEARMINT THE PERFECT GUM

LET'S PULL TOGETHER!

N-182