

Ranching Heritage of Wolf Creek Ranch

In the late 1880's, Texas Ranger Oscar Chestnut claimed and settled on a piece of frontier property on the banks of the Colorado River in Burnet County, Texas. This event marks the genesis of the ranching heritage on Wolf Creek Ranch. In the words of his nephew Bud Green, "Uncle Chestnut was a rugged individual who lived his life on horseback by day and slept on a wet saddle blanket by night". We see Uncle Chestnut's grave marker just inside our ranch fence along RR 2341 east of the Main Gate.

Bud Green and his sister grew up on the "Green Ranch" as it was then known, in the same ranch house now owned by Roby Mize just north of Nelda's office in the barn. Roby has carefully preserved the charm and history of that original ranch house which was tastefully enlarged and remodeled by the developer to function as the Wolf Creek Ranch Sales Office.

Bud and his wife Nelda, continued the family ranching heritage together as third generation ranchers until 1999. With no children interested in ranching, Bud and his sister sold their property to Buchanan Investments, which developed the property as Wolf Creek Ranch beginning in year 2000. Buchanan Investments chose to perpetuate/preserve the agricultural ranching heritage they inherited from the Green Ranch. From the time Bud and his family sold the property until his death in 2015, Bud continued doing what he loved: raising cattle on the land he loved and worked all his life.

Those who knew Bud Green remember him as a storyteller. One of his favorites described a cowboy he hired in the 1930's to watch over cattle on the remote eastern half of the Green Ranch. In those days, there was no road other than a horse trail accessing the eastern half of the ranch so Bud built the Hampton House along Barkers Creek to house an itinerant cowboy during the work week. Bud recalled the time when one of the resident cowboys rode to Burnet on a Friday afternoon for a weekend in town. On the next Sunday, this same cowboy rode home with his new bride to honeymoon at his

Hampton House “estate”. Seems she took one look at her new husband’s estate home, turned her horse back to Burnet, never to be seen again. Bud loved to tell that story. The Hampton House remains in place today on Wolf Creek Ranch Road at Barker Creek as a historic remnant of the ranch’s colorful past.

This 130 year long ranching history continues in Wolf Creek today with a new grazing lessee further perpetuating the land’s ranching heritage and enabling current owners to enjoy Agriculture Use property tax savings available to qualified ownerships in Texas. Our Grazing Lessee since January 2017 is a locally born and raised rancher named David Russell. David and his wife Jennifer and two daughters have a home on the Goodrich Ranch where he has managed and overseen ranching operations for many years. In addition to Wolf Creek, David leases 8-10 other pastures in Burnet County. He keeps 28 mother cows and two bulls in Wolf Creek which is the ranch’s optimum carrying capacity without overgrazing the forage. David’s weekend passion is partnering with his twin brother to compete in steer roping events at rodeos around the state.

Of particular interest to the Owners Association when considering grazing lease candidates was the contribution Jennifer and their two daughters added to David’s resume. David committed to place the mother cows and calves Jennifer and their girls raised from pups onto Wolf Creek along with their hand-raised pet bull named Biscuit. David periodically can be seen feeding his herd animals bags of corn along our ranch roads, just like Bud did for years before. David always welcomes a friendly visit when you see him. Like Bud before him and our beloved Ranch Manager Nelda Duff and Ranch Foreman Tommy Jones, David Russell has become an integral and welcome addition to our Wolf Creek community.

The Owners Association is committed to continuing the historic and colorful ranching heritage we inherited with ownership in Wolf Creek Ranch.

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