

A BIT OF HISTORY

Sheriff Leonides Blaylock served with distinction

Leonides Blaylock was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, but at an early age he moved to Moffett in Bell County, Texas. During his school age years he moved to the community of Branchville in eastern Milam County. It was in this community he received all of his education in county schools. He married Miss Jo Payne of the Branchville area and to this union were born a fam-

ily of five girls and one boy. The Blaylocks farmed until he became a Branchville Deputy Sheriff serving under Sheriff Hooks.

The Blaylock family moved to Cameron by 1915. Blaylock was a rugged, red headed veteran who was able and eager to meet danger as his job required of him with the sheriffs office. It is said that he was fair, impartial,

but firm and resolute when he had to be. In his position as county sheriff, he made many friends and gained the respect of the citizens of the county.

Deputy Blaylock served out the unexpired term of his predecessor, Sheriff Hooks when he became ill. Blaylock was elected sheriff in 1918 and reelected for the next nine terms, leaving office on Jan. 1, 1935.

Blaylock served at a time in history when Texas and the United States were struggling during the Great Depression.

Not everyone leaves the legacy as does this county sheriff. The chili at the Astros' Baseball Complex in Houston, Texas is



JOY GRAHAM
Local Historian

named for him - "Sheriff Blaylock's Chili" Sheriff Blaylock is the grandfather of a well known graduate of Yoe High in Cameron, Drayton McLane, owner of the Astros Baseball Team.

Research: "Sheriffs of Milam County" by Chief Deputy Greg Kouba.