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A. L. HARRIS

SURVEYING, BLUEPRINTING, PHOTOCOPYING AND MAPS

PHONES: OFFICE 1303, RESIDENCE 130

COURT HOUSE, LUBBOCK, TEXAS

REFERRED TO MAP

December 21st, 1938.

Honorable Wm. H. McDonald, Commissioner,  
Austin, Texas.

Attention; Mr. Atlee.

Dear Sir:-

Due to having more work than I can handle promptly, just got into the matter of answering your letter of the 13th, relative to field notes prepared some time back on sections in Blocks P, G, L and Z, Cochran County.

Your paragraph 2: While it is probable that the south lines of leagues 53, 54 and 89 were not actually marked on the ground by the original surveyor, it appears that both Twichell and Ragsdale claims to have recovered original corners marked in the same system north of these lines and corners and from such recovered corners projected lines southerly observing distances called for in the original field notes and thereby established the south lines of said leagues as called for in their recorded field notes. So many years have gone by since the original field notes were written, the type of markings they noted and the nature of the soil, the absence of any natural objects to tie for bearings, makes the task of recovering such corners practically impossible as to the Moore league corners; the other surveyors writing later yet many years ago, must have had evidence of such older corners, as the following facts indicate:

As your records show, a few years past I surveyed and marked many of the County lines in the territory, including the Hockley-Terry and the Cochran-Yoakum county lines and as these lines are practically all laid down on work done by Ragsdale, I had much data already compiled, and when I began this work I used that and attempted to retract the Ragsdale work as his was the holding notes on the School Blocks.

I began at the Rhodes Fisher corner and tied into definitely marked points by Ragsdale and then followed the south line of said blocks to the SW corner of section 1 Block G, then North to the NW corner of same, then West to the SW corner Lg. 54, then North to the SE corner 89, thence west to the SW corner 89, then south to the SE corner 1 H & B, then West to the NW corner 1 Block L, then North to the NE corner 5 Block Z, thence west to the NW corner 2 in Z, I then returned to the NWC 1 G, and ran East to the NW corner 1 Block X, then continueing to the NEC 18 X, returned to the NWC 1 X, and then south to the North line

12-21-38



Wm.H.McD, #2

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of Block K, checking Ragsdales Field notes for the corners passed, and marking points with 2x2 pine stakes for future identification.

My well trained chainmen with 100 vara Chicago Steel tape, measured the West line of section 1 Block G 3060 Ragsdale gave 3056.7, as I had found the original north common corner of sections 2 and 3 G, set the NWC 1 Ragsdales distance west thereof, I found Ragsdales North NEC 7 P and using his angles set the SWC Lg 54, 2.3 varas west of the Sucker rod set by Twichell for the said SWC 54: when I returned to set the bronze cap markers, in digging out the lines of the Ragsdale original NEC 7, found Twichells iron pipe marker buried in the sand .4 varas south and 1.3 vara east of my marker as set in the judged center of Ragsdales triangle for corner, one of Ragsdales long distance wind mill bearings fits to the minute read on Buff and Buff University Precise No.1 E, transit, the other bearing was only 2 minutes out, and as this mill is in a low place and the top of the wheel is visible, the wind run would probably change it slightly. Observe that both Ragsdale and Twichell claim to have set these points from others to the North, and that as to their measurements they check to .4 of a vara in a probable several miles of chaining (mighty good). This gives you a positive agreed location for the SEC 89 to within .4 of a varas north-south alinement.

From the above location I ran west observing the original distance for the south line of 89, and found as the field notes indicate. Both Ragsdale and Twichell claim to have placed markers for the SWC of 89 observing distances brought down from points on North.

By reading Twichells field notes- I understand written by W.J.Williams,- they try to positionize Ragsdales points, and I want to leave the thought in mind that professional jealousy might have been a factor; kindly observe that I show that the Twichell corner is just  $1\frac{1}{2}$  vara north of my line and that Ragsdale is only 4.7 varas south of my line, Twichells measurement is short the distance called for by him and the original field notes, while Ragsdales is long in measurement; these tie lines were run by Walter Royalty with compass for Ragsdales location and the compass varies so greatly up here on the Plains that in all probability that causes the Ragsdale point to be set to the west of distance.

Counter 19546

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Wm.H.McD #3

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As I see it, the crux of the whole construction involved, is whether we take all evidence before us or just take what Twichell had to say about Ragsdale, and even Twichell fails to make a clear case of "smearing" Ragsdale.

I notice that in Twichell (Williams) notes for the SWC 89, a cedar post is called for as (Ragsdales bearing corner) and then gives the position of Ragsdales pipe;

There are several "cedar post" down that what appears as an old fence line, but just ONE IRON PIPE, that brings on the question as to the location of that iron pipe and just what it was set to represent? In my run on west to the NWC 1 L, I found a number of cedar post exactly in transit line as I laid down the west part of the north line of section 3 shown by my field notes of same.

Now kindly take Ragsdales field notes describing this iron pipe in question - I have the recorded notes in Ragsdales own hand, as well as a photostatic copy from the Land Office, before me as I write, and lets stand over that iron pipe and look to the south out across Sulphur Draw and note that this is the South fartherest sand hill in a vast sand sea extending to the north while it is some 50 feet lower and smoothe prairie to the south.

I am turning to Ragsdales field notes and quote " Beginning at the S.W. cor. of school Lg. No. 89 on E, line of No. 1 H & B Sur. for a NW cor. this tract, and an Earth Md. 2' high on S. slope of sand ridge, Iron pipe in Md." He then follows with "triang trench 2 vs on a side placed 100 varas North of cor, and gives other ground markings, which would fall up on sand hills where he could observe distance bearings. Observe that the iron pipe is in a MD. abbreviation for mound, then he sets out further description of a trangular trench, then you can conclude as I do that Mr. Ragsdale did set the iron pipe for the corner that he placed it on the south slope of a sand hill, where it is at present, and that he was and did in fact and in law set an iron pipe for corner of the section he was marking, on the south slope of a sand hill and that sand hill might be construed by the courts to be a Natural Object, visible enough to be reasonably adopted as such.

I have a letter in my files from Mr. W.J.Williams, dated March 13, 1923, in which he was trying to get me to sign notes moving the south line of section 1 H&B 100 varas south of its true location, but I did not fall for the racket then or since.



12-21-38

Hon. Wm.H.McD #4.

**A. L. HARRIS**

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COURT HOUSE, LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Mr. P.M. (Pat) Williams, for whom I sent in notes of some of the sections, told me that he found Mr. Williams and Sanders out there in his pasture surveying around about the time those strip files were showing up.

I also have noticed that other surveyors have attempted to use the same axis, as the the Ragsdale iron pipe, set to mark the north NW corner of said section 3 Block P, and have built up, in view of the construction, and I think just one, I place on the said iron pipe, a very doubtful construction, which is to say the least, only a suggestion that the lines were not in substance, IDENTICAL, as laid down by Twichell and Ragsdale for the south lines of Leagues 53 and 54, and the south line of league 89, same being the north line of Blocks G and P Public School lands.

I believe that I can prove in any court that Mr. Ragsdale marked the SW corner of league 89, under his construction, with a 2 inch galvanized iron pipe set on the south slope of sand hill, still standing in position, that it was observed by Twichell in its true location, and if such is the case then any or all, cedar post are of secondary importance to a corner so near in agreement, as to north-south location, marked with iron pipe and having the legal prestige of a natural object for its identification, plainly visible to put all on notice of its calls for tie, or positive location.

In view of the above facts, I trust that you will conclude that my corrected field notes are in all things legal and correct, and they you will immediately approve same and file them in your department.

I am correcting the call in field notes of section 4 Block P to read 245.8 instead of the 545.8 as given in error, and ask that you change your copy in accordance.

With the Seasons Greetings, I am,  
Yours very truly,

*A. L. Harris*

Counter 18549

*Wm. H. McDonald*



With the seasons greetings I am,  
Yours very truly,

I am correcting the call in field notes of section 4 Block P  
to read S45.8 instead of the S45.8 as given in error, and ask that  
you change your copy in accordance.

They you will immediately approve same and file them in your  
department.

In view of the above facts, I trust that you will concede that  
my corrected field notes are in all things legal and correct, and  
that you will immediately approve same and file them in your  
department.

No. 6.  
Cochran Co.  
A.L. Harris' Explanation  
of Rolled Sketch No.1.  
Filed June 10, 1938  
W<sup>m</sup> H. M<sup>c</sup>Donald, Comm.

Atlee,  
file clerk

Mr. P.M. (Pat) Williams, for whom I sent to notes of some of the  
times were showing up.  
figure in his practice surveying around about the time those scrip  
times were showing up.  
the north line of Blocks G and P being  
of lines 63 and 64, and the south line of  
as laid down by Walchell and Hagedale  
a suggestion that the lines were not  
a very doubtful construction, which is  
the Hagedale iron pipe, set to mark the  
that other surveyors have attempted to use  
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COURT HOUSE, LUBBOCK, TEXAS

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PHONE: PLUMB 1303, HEROLDENBERG 1310

A. L. HARRIS

IS-31-36

Hon. Wm. H. McDonald



COUNTY SURVEYOR STATE LICENSED SURVEYOR DISTRICT SURVEYOR