Powell
Continued From Page 15)

heir muttons for the wool."

That's not the case today, owever. Synthetics have all st displaced the domestic ool industry, and finewool oducers are being forced to mpete abroad. Powell isn't ady to change his game plan, owever, other than to find ays to become more com-titive. He says he's more apt stay with his sheep than with is Angora goats, though, gain, he isn't ready to give up mohair either.

"I have five clips of adult air in storage," Powell says. Foreign demand for mohair as been severely depressed e last several years because e Iron Curtain countries ven't learned how to partici-ate in the free market system. hey're still trading on a bar-r system because they don't have the currency to buy the mohair in the western markets," Powell explains.

"If in the next two or three years these markets develop and their currencies become tradable, I can see where mohair will be a good product again with a viable market."

A combination of good management practices along with years of proven genetics has enabled Powell to capitalize on his lamb business by reaching lambing rates that average 110 percent or better year in and year out. The ovulation rate of his ewes averages 147 percent, Powell says.

He attributes his repeated success to the fact that he begins creep feeding his lambs at one month of age and continues up until about the first of May or June, when they're sorted off.

"We're able to get our lambs to a marketable weight in four to five months. That takes a lot of the burden off the mother," Powell explains. "And when lambs are bringing the price they are now, it's sure worth it."

The market dictates whether his lambs are sold at weaning or carried on through the feedlot. He's had good success feeding his lambs, and for the last several years he's fed at Moores' Ranch at Eldorado.

The Ranchers' Lamb packing plant in San Angelo, Powell believes, has helped the lamb business immensely.

"They've helped lift the whole market by taking a large number of lambs out of the market that the packers would have bought at a lower price," he insists.

That's not to say that Ranchers' is the only packer Powell sells to.

"Our sales are dependent upon the highest bid," Powell says. "I would prefer to go to the lamb plant here, but if they don't need them at the price we can sell them elsewhere, we'll go elsewhere."

When selecting ewes for replacements, Powell wants an animal that has good length, a good sized quarter, depth and width across the loin. Finally, he wants a uniform fleece that is fine with a staple length of at least two and three-quarter inches.

The sheep business has faced tough times, and some question the future of the industry. But as with his mohair, Powell isn't ready to give up on an industry that in large part got his family to where they are today. Powell believes both the lamb and wool industries are becoming — and to some extent already are — a niche market. But, in his mind, that's not all bad.

"I think there will continue to be fewer and fewer sheep producers in the U.S. But if this market does what I expect it to do, that is get more expensive, then I'll be one of those few producers who will keep on producing sheep," Powell says.

Powell's cattle operation consists of a registered herd of Herefords and a commercial herd of Angus cows crossed with Hereford bulls.

The registered operation began in 1954. Herefords had long been the breed of choice for both sides of Powell's ranching family. His uncle, Sam McKnight, who raised his mother, was a Hereford breeder; Powell's father also raised Herefords.

His registered herd is made up of both fall and spring calving cows for the simple reason that doing so allows him to accommodate more bull buyers. His bulls are offered through an annual special sale at the ranch. He also sells about 30 percent of his yearling heifers private treaty.

He doesn't pamper his registered herd because he wants them to have the same "doability" as his commercial herd. He does, however, grow his yearling heifers and bulls out on irrigated wheat.

For 40 years now, Powell has selected for scale and composition, muscling and milking ability. "Stacking" those genetics, he explains, allows him to produce cattle that are not only phenotypically similar but also the kind that perform time and time again in the feedlot and hanging on the rail. "I like to see good length in my cattle," Powell says. "I want them to stand up off the ground. I want width in the back and length in the hook to pin bone," he comments. "I want as much length there as I can get, because that determines the amount of loin, which is the highest priced part of the carcass. If you draw a line from top of the shoulder down to the hock on the rear leg, from there up makes up about 80 percent of the value of that carcass.

"I also look for a fine shoulder — a slim shoulder that is not bulky — which allows for easy calving. They need to have a good udder, basically a square udder and not large teats. I also don't like to see too much skin under her brisket."

His commercial cows begin calving in February. In May they're all carried to his Nebraska ranch in the sandhills. Powell runs a year-round commercial cow-calf operation there as well, and doubles up with his yearlings from May through October. At that point, depending on the market, they're either sold or retained through the feedyard. He's been selling them weighing on average right at 850 pounds, but Powell says he may have to change his management practices because the weaned calves are almost getting too big to go to grass and many are heavy enough to go to the feedlot.

Powell has fed at several different yards in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

"It depends on what the source of the feed is and what the value of that source is as to where I feed," Powell explains.

He likes the black baldy because his records indicate that animal has the ability to finish in the feedlot at a more acceptable rate in a shorter feeding time than either the pure Angus or pure Hereford.

Powell has been operating in Cherry County, Nebraska going on 15 years. During the 1980s, when all of agriculture was suffering through a financial crisis, Powell deemed land in the Nebraska sandhills to be a sound investment.

There is a cost in being so spread out, Powell admits, but at the same time there are benefits. For instance, if it doesn't rain soon in West Texas, rather than liquidate, he'll be able to ship some of his commercial cows north.

Part of Powell's success has to do with his ability to stay abreast of the many issues and challenges facing all of agriculture. Taxes are just one such challenge, and Powell has made it his business to understand and become involved in tax policy. He has served on numerous tax committees for national and state organizations. Of particular concern to landowners are the ad valorem tax and estate tax.

"As counties in rural areas continue to grow the ad valorem tax, a tax on the land paid solely by landowners continues to bear more and more responsibilities," Powell explains.

"Schools, hospitals, water districts, weed control districts in some counties — all these entities are supported by an ad valorem tax. As the non-agriculturally oriented population continues to grow, so grows the ad valorem taxes which they vote in and the landowner is forced to pay."

Powell says three or four tax proposals now pending before the Ways and Means Committee that could and would eliminate ad valorem tax, estate and gift tax, income tax and FICA, and transfer all that responsibility to a production tax. A production tax, he explains, is a combination of sales and value-added tax. Every product is taxed except for food, medical care, interest and salary.

"You can finance all these demands with this production tax," Powell insists. "It's a low tax, something like 14 percent, and it's a fair tax because everyone bears a portion of it."

Next to taxes, Powell believes cost containment is the greatest challenge facing those in production agriculture. Production costs continue to rise, he notes, in part due to new policies and laws enacted by our own government.

To survive in the future, Powell says, those in agriculture will have to become better lobbyists.

Overall, Powell is positive and upbeat about the future. For him, ranching is a way of life, and he's committed to carrying on with that way of life with the gifts that have been passed on to him so that one day he can pass those gifts on to his own children and grandchildren.

"Ranching is freedom personified," he concluded. "It's the greatest way for me to express my desire and my wishes."

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

THE OUTDOOR MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

Through the lens of WYMAN MEINZER

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Exhibit B

Exhibit C

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, BUT WELL WORTH THE VISIT, FORT McKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE IS ONE OF THE BEST PRESERVED AND MOST INTACT EXAMPLES OF A TEXAS INDIAN WARS MILITARY POST. THE FORT WAS BUILT IN 1852 AS PART OF A CHAIN OF MILITARY POSTS DESIGNED TO CONTROL THE NATIVE POPULATION AND PROTECT IMMIGRANTS AND SETTLERS TRAVELING THE ROAD BETWEEN SAN ANTONIO AND EL PASO.

CONNECTING WITH THE PAST

The physical survival of Fort McKavett is due in large part to the continued use and maintenance of the structures. With the final withdrawal of the military in June of 1883, nearby settlers moved in and occupied the buildings. Retaining the name Fort McKavett, the community sustained a rural way of life with few alterations to the buildings until 1968 when it was designated a state historic site. Today, the Texas Historical Commission continues to preserve the site and maintain the character of the fort. As you walk the parade grounds, imagine the call of the bugle for daily muster, the creaking of leather horse tack and equipment, the sounds of cavalrymen preparing to go out on patrol. Walk to the spring-fed creek and listen to the quiet sounds of nature, feeling the pleasure this oasis must have given to the fort's community in the heat of summer. Connect to the men and women who settled West Texas.

FURTHER READING

Jerry M. Sullivan, *Fort McKavett, A Texas Frontier Post.*

B.W. Aston and Donathan Taylor, *Along the Texas Forts Trail.*

John E. Cobb, compiler, *Fort McKavett, United States Army Post, 1852-1859, 1868-1883, Buildings and Structures.*

Wayne Lease, *Texas Forts, Lone Star Guide.*

Laurence Parent, *Official Guide to Texas State Parks.*

NEARBY FORTS OF INTEREST

Fort Lancaster State Historic Site, near Sheffield

Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, near San Angelo

Fort Chadbourne, near Bronte

Fort Mason, near Mason

Presidio de San Saba, near Menard

Fort McKavett State Historic Site
P.O. Box 68, Fort McKavett, TX 76841
325/396-2358
www.thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Agency for Historic Preservation
www.thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

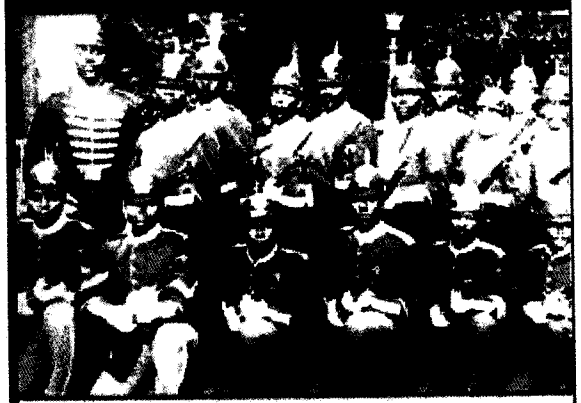
Independence Guide

FORT McKAVETT
STATE HISTORIC SITE

Exhibit D

00103

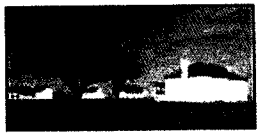
THE BUFFALO SOLDIER LEGACY



All of four African American regiments in the U.S. Army were stationed at Fort McKavett during the Indian Wars. Over the years men of the 24th and 25th Infantry and troopers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry called McKavett home. African American troopers in Texas, many of them from McKavett, distinguished themselves in more than 60 engagements with native peoples. The first Medal of Honor awarded to an African American soldier after the Civil War was earned by Sergeant Emanuel Stance of the 9th Cavalry while stationed at Fort McKavett. Stance led a patrol of nine troopers in pursuit of native peoples who had stolen the children and horses of a local family. In a series of running gun battles lasting six days in May 1870, Sergeant Stance defeated the native peoples, eventually driving them from the area.

There are several versions of how the Buffalo Soldiers received their name. The most popular is that the curly hair of the African Americans resembled the sacred mane of the buffalo. Another version is that the soldiers were seen by the native peoples as having the tenacity of the buffalo, refusing to back down if cornered. In either case, the term was one of honor, even though the Buffalo Soldiers were adversaries.

A NATURAL SITE



The site is a natural setting for a frontier post meant to guard the upper San Antonio-El Paso road. The limestone hilltop commanded distant views in all directions – the better to watch for "hostiles." The nearby spring fed creek provided a dependable source of drinking water for men and animals alike. Under the direction of their officers, enlisted men of the 8th Infantry quarried stone on site and cut the pecan and oaks used for some of the construction. By 1856, they had completed 21 permanent buildings. Wild game was abundant and supplemented army rations, but isolated forts were not self-sufficient. Materials and supplies including tobacco, whiskey and livestock forage were hauled from San Antonio. The 160-mile wagon trip took seven hard days of travel over rough terrain.

A SOLDIER'S LIFE

The peacetime American army in the 1800s was small and consisted mainly of infantry, organized in companies of 30 to 40 men, each led by one or two officers. Not until after the Civil War were cavalry units routinely assigned to western forts. Infantry units at the forts were issued horses for patrol and escort duty. The bugle call of reveille began each day at Fort McKavett. Breakfast was often bacon, coffee, beans, and dried apples or dried prunes. Onions, potatoes and other fresh vegetables were available in season. On patrol, each soldier carried a mess kit with coffee, dried beef, hardtack (think of a week-old dried biscuit) and a variety of canned foods. Everyday life at the fort followed a routine of daily drills on the parade grounds, area patrols, and escort duties. Although the fort was established as a deterrent, hostile engagements were sporadic. More often, soldiers engaged in mundane actives: hauling water from the creek, tending the sizable garden, caring for the horses, making lime in the limekiln for construction of the stone buildings and whitewashing exteriors.

Boredom was a common problem, but the soldiers found ways to entertain themselves. McKavett, like most forts, had a regimental band that performed from the bandstand. Most companies had at least one or two musicians in their ranks. Often the day would close with a lone harmonica or fiddle serenade from the front porch of the barracks. Cards and dominoes were favorite pastimes. Unfortunately, the lonely isolation of garrison life sometimes led to alcoholism and desertion, although both were rare among the Buffalo Soldiers.

Women played a major supporting role. Like their husbands, they found a rank and order as officers' or enlisted men's wives. Married enlisted soldiers lived in huts or canvas tents. The accommodations for married officers were not much better at McKavett. Heating was inadequate. Officers' wives took part in the daily chores of household duties while assisting in the education of the children. Wives of enlisted men supplemented their husband's pay by working as laundresses using the creek waters to wash soldiers' clothing. It was a harsh environment, lacking the comforts found back home in the east.

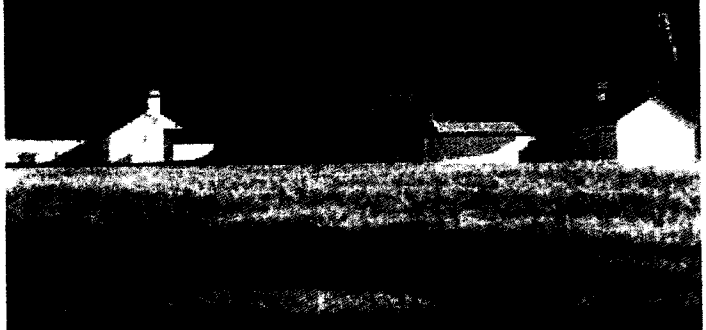
With the final withdrawal of the military in June of 1883, nearby settlers moved in and occupied the buildings.

00104

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FORT MCKAVETT

STATE HISTORIC SITE



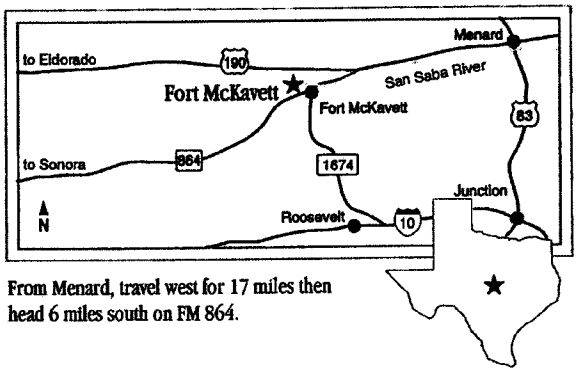
TEXAS FORTS TRAIL REGION

STATE HISTORIC SITE

FORT MCKAVETT

Standing atop a windswept remote hill, the weathered remains of an old frontier fort beckon curious visitors to the site General Sherman once described as the prettiest post in Texas. Established in 1852, Fort McKavett housed various infantry and cavalry units, including companies from the four regiments of Buffalo Soldiers — African American troops who played an important role in the settlement of the Texas frontier. Today, 19 surviving historic structures remind visitors what it took for travelers to pass through safely. Walk the parade grounds that once echoed with bugle calls and barked commands while viewing spectacular Hill Country vistas.

FM 864, Fort McKavett, TX 76841
325/396-2358



From Menard, travel west for 17 miles then head 6 miles south on FM 864.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Agency for Historic Preservation
P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276
PHONE: 512/463-6100 • FAX: 512/463-6374

TEXAS FORTS TRAIL
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

www.thc.state.tx.us

Fort McKavett State Historic Site

Originally called Camp San Saba because it overlooks the headwaters of the San Saba River Valley, Fort McKavett State Historic Site was established by five companies of the Eighth Infantry in March 1852 to protect frontier settlers and travelers on Upper El Paso Road.

The camp was later renamed for Capt. Henry McKavett, killed at the battle of Monterey on Sept. 21, 1846. The fort was abandoned in March 1859 and reoccupied in April 1868. By 1880, the fort was no longer needed and it was again abandoned on June 30, 1883. Gen. William T. Sherman once called Fort McKavett "the prettiest post in Texas."

Want to Know More About Fort McKavett?

Fort McKavett Interpretive Guide (pdf)

Fort McKavett Rack Card (pdf)

Upcoming Events

Star Party (pdf), March 21

West Texas Heritage Days (pdf), March 27–28

Open

Daily, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Fees

Adults: $3

Seniors (65+): $2

12 and under: free

School tour rates vary; contact the site for more information.

Volunteers

For more information on volunteer opportunities at Fort McKavett contact the site or visit The Friends of Fort McKavett State Historical Site.

Contact Us:

Email

FM 864

Fort McKavett, TX 76841

325/396-2358

Directions and Map

From Menard, travel US Hwy 190 west for 17 miles, then turn south on FM 864 for six miles to the park.

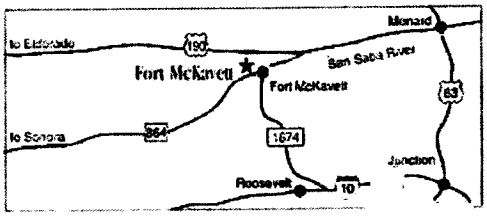

Menard
to Eldorado
190
San Saba River
Fort McKavett
Fort McKavett
83
to Sonora
864
1674
Junction
Roosevelt
10

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EXHIBIT E

00110

Exhibit E

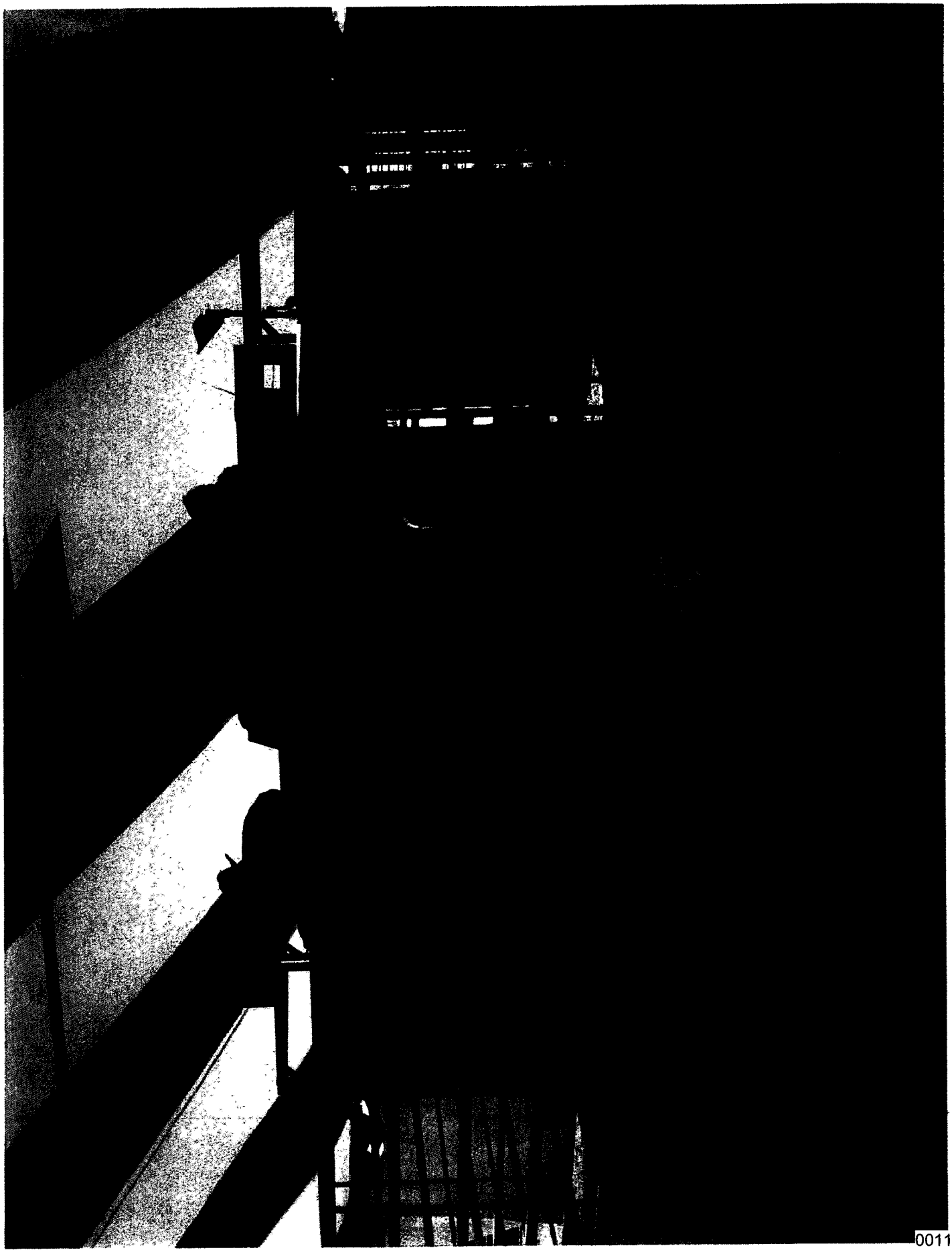
00111

Exhibit G

TEXAS CATTLEMEN'S

Essays by Elmer Kelton • Photography by Kathleen Jo Ryan

Exhibit H



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POWELL RANCHES

FORT MCKAVETT, TEXAS
JAMES L. "JIMMIE" AND NANCY POWELL

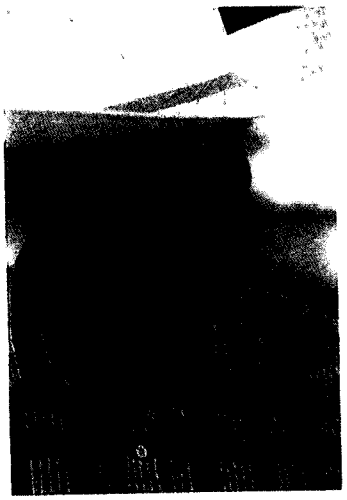
When Jimmie Powell returned home from military service in 1954, he ranched in partnership with his twin sisters awhile before the family properties were divided. He and Nancy, daughter of Sonora ranchman Bryan Hunt, were married in 1960 and began ranching in Schleicher and Sutton counties. Since then they have increased their operation tenfold through leasing and purchasing land in West Texas and Nebraska.

Powell family ranching dates back to about 1895 and Jimmie's grandfather, L. P., who homesteaded land in West Texas and eastern New Mexico. Jimmie's father, Virgil, improved the ranches and added more land.

A hallmark of the Powell operation is diversification. Using the ranchland as their basic asset, Jimmie and Nancy have diversified through investments in energy as well as banking and high-tech operations that started small and have grown.

opposite: **Powell Ranch bull sale**

MID-HEIGHT TO TALL GRASSES, BY CONTRAST, REQUIRE JUST 750 POUNDS, SHORT GRASSES EVEN LESS.



Jimmie Powell

Hereford heifers

Jimmie says, "The operation has become successful as a result of segmented management practices. These involve range management, which is control of noxious plants and non-beneficial trees and bushes; management of livestock through genetic selection and production records; management of the range with a high-intensity, low-frequency grazing system, patterned after one I saw in South Africa in the 1960s and management of nutrition, a very important factor."

Range specialists say mesquite utilizes 2,800 pounds of water in producing one pound of non-beneficial forage. Mid-height to tall grasses, by contrast, require just 750 pounds, short grasses even less. Brush and weed control, in combination with HILF grazing, have enhanced grass growth, roughly doubling livestock production without detriment to the

Awards

Hereford bull

range. Weathering periodic droughts has become easier, and at lower cost. Old grass and a healthy root system respond quickly to even a modest amount of rain.

The Powells provide waterings on each quarter section so animals do not have to walk far to water or forage. A result is heavier lambs and calves.

For more than a dozen years the Powells have analyzed the content of their forbs and grasses, then formulated specific mineral supplements to keep livestock at peak performance.

Jimmie maintains that a ranch must be treated as a business and attention given to marketing as well as production. A producer should know his markets to determine the best time to sell. He should know what genetics produce best in his area and what practices will result in heavier weights and better quality, including flavor and tenderness of beef and lamb.

"A plan will work only so well as the personnel who are operating it," Jimmie says. "We have good people working for us."

The Powells raise registered Herefords and commercial Angus-Hereford crosses. English breeds perform well on the Edwards Plateau, whereas different environments may favor other kinds of cattle. They have conducted their own bull sales for more than a dozen years as well as consigning bulls to regional registered auctions.

Jimmie is highly conscious of consumer demand and the need for close attention to genetic selection. "The consumer today is becoming a more selective beef buyer,

00118

A FINE LIVING AND WAY OF LIFE

Nancy Powell and
andson, Leon Johnson
Jimmie Powell with
anddaughter, Elisabeth Uhl

one reason branded beef is succeeding and is likely to increase. We want to be on the upper end of the price and quality scale."

He regards ranching as a way of life and a way to make a living. "It's not going to make you immensely wealthy like a high-tech business, but it can provide a fine living and way of life your children can come home to if they choose."

The Powells saw to it that their two daughters, Lorrie Uhl and Victoria Jackson, acquired a good education. They now have a partnership ranching operation of their own.

Jimmie sees government as a major and growing problem. "Government regulation, taxes and government practices do not encourage young people to stay in agriculture. That's the reason we have less than two percent of our population in agriculture today, and we're going to have fewer in the future unless government changes."

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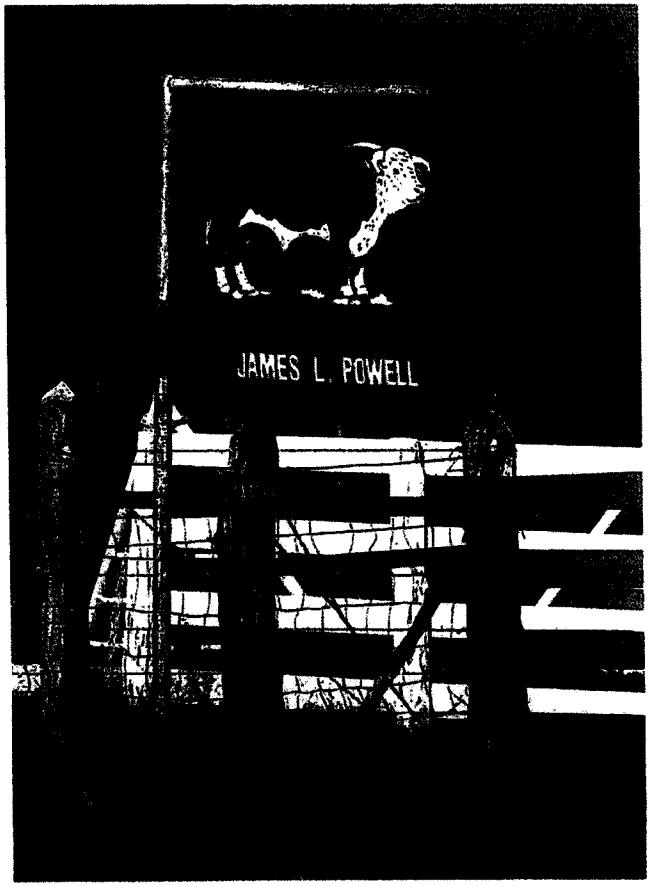
00120

Nancy Powell with
aughters Victoria Johnson and
orrie Uhl and granddaughters
lisabeth Uhl and Carmen Johnson



Ranch sign

Ranch gate

Therefore the Powells have been heavily involved in livestock associations. "Not every cowman is of a nature to organize," he comments. "He's always been independent and wants to take care of his own in the way he sees fit. But there's always going to be somebody slipping up on the other side."

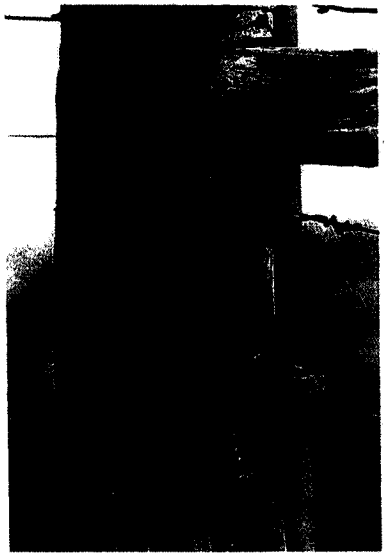
Other growing problems he and Nancy see: ineffective corporate structures in agriculture and massive urban-based bank mergers, which threaten the availability of agricultural financing.

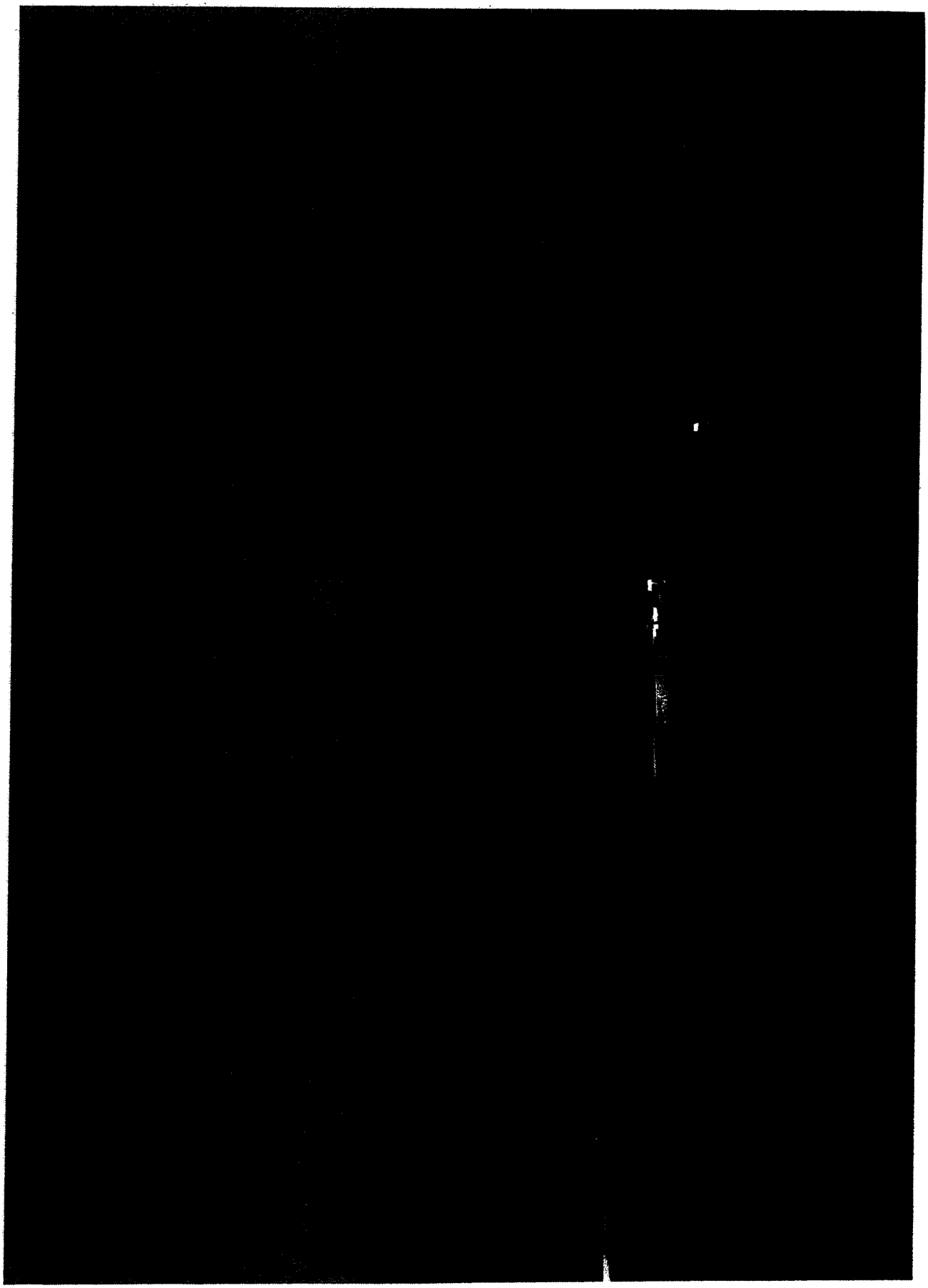
"Entities that historically have been agricultural lenders are changing, becoming more corporate lenders to reduce losses," he says. "Because of weather, agriculture is not consistent in production. It has great risk. You're not seeing many young people coming into the business simply because lenders don't lend to them."

Outside income contributes about half to the total Powell operation. However, the ranch is self-sustaining, and its income has been invested in other enterprises as well as back into the ranch.

Recreation provides a return, mostly from deer, turkey, quail and dove, plus some fishing.

"We have been open for any who desire information from us, and if we find someone else doing something beneficial we adopt that, or try to," Jimmie notes. The ranch annually hosts Texas Christian University range students, detailing for them the ranch plan and operation.





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"NOT EVERY COWMAN IS OF A NATURE TO ORGANIZE," HE COMMENTS. "HE'S ALWAYS BEEN INDEPENDENT AND WANTS TO TAKE CARE OF HIS OWN IN THE WAY HE SEES FIT."

Looking ahead, Nancy foresees the livestock industry moving toward a closer fit with consumer demands and providing greater recreational use of land by the public. The rancher may have to maintain ownership of his product all the way to the final marketing stage to take advantage of the middle ground.

She says, "We've always attempted to improve the property to make it more productive and attractive each year than it was the year before, so there's a constant conservation program. We need to preserve it for future generations and be good stewards of the land the Lord has given us for the people of this country."

They see agriculture surviving because it must. Mankind has always needed three basics: food, clothing and shelter.

Says Jimmie: "There'll never be an end to it."

Powell Ranch


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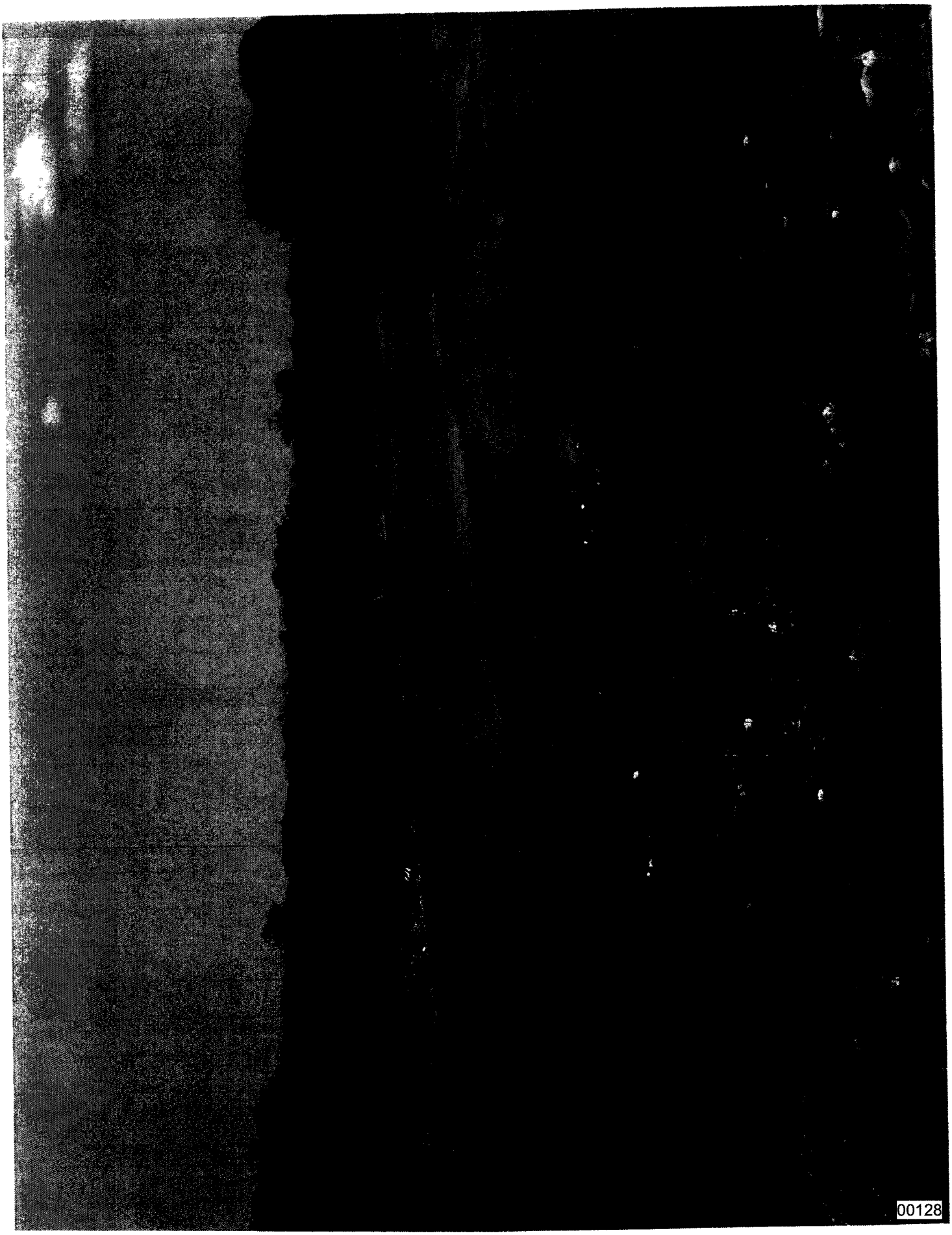
Exhibit I

00127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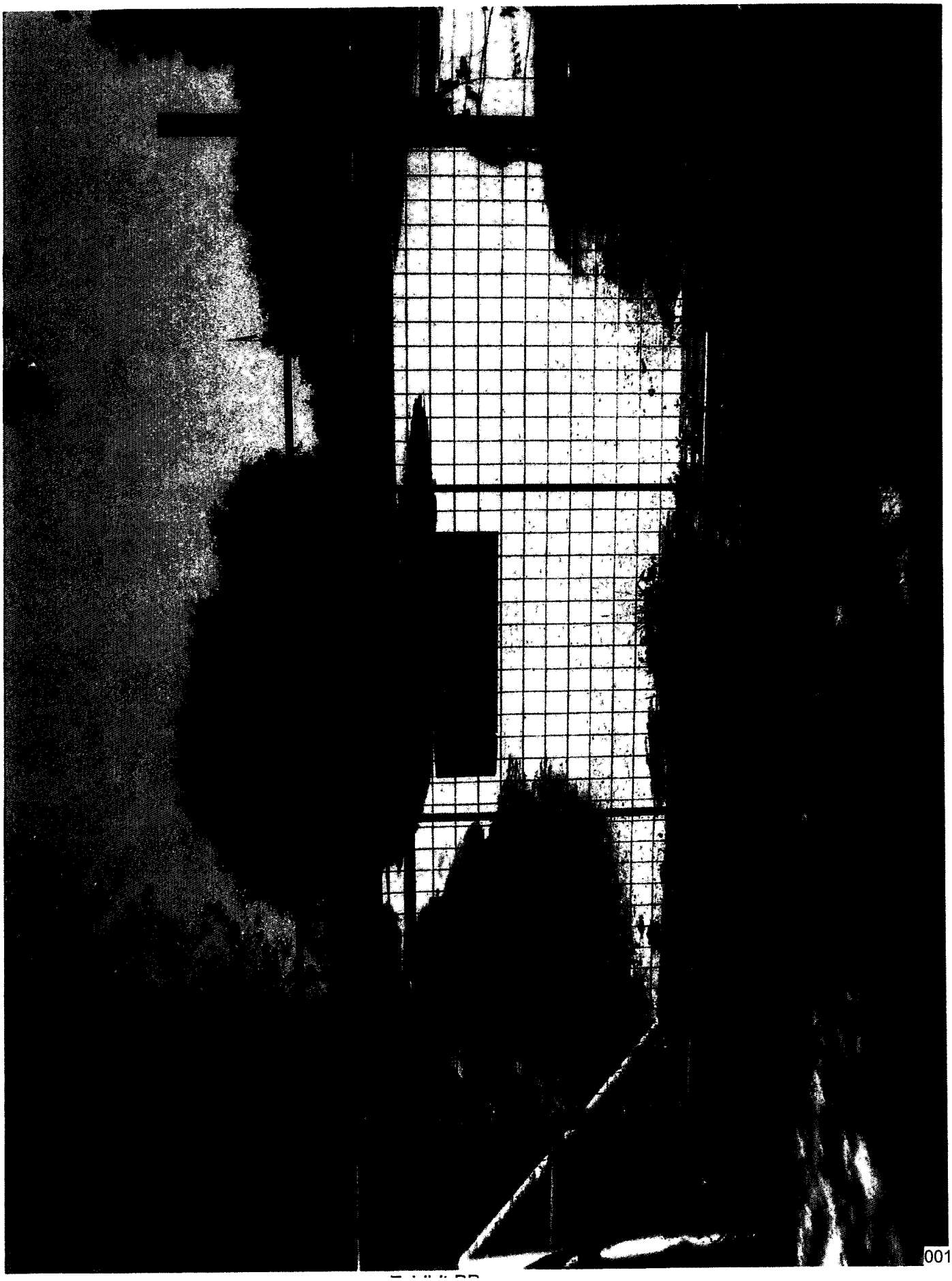

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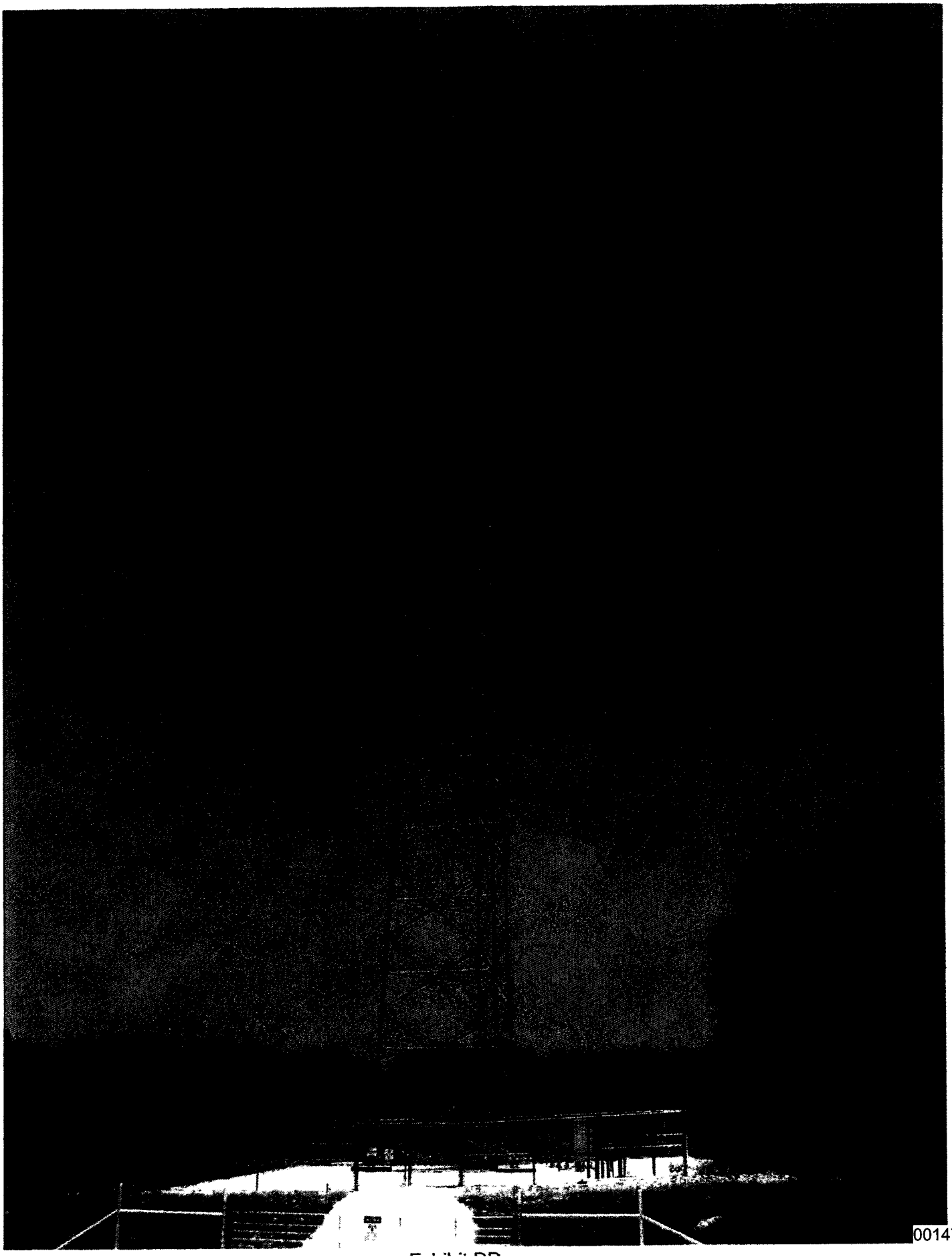

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00148

POWELL – SIX MILE RANCH

FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO
LAND USE CONSTRAINTS AND FEATURES
LCRA SEGMENT B-16
(McCamey D to Westwind)
June 16, 2009

The following Land Use Constraints and Features should be added to the original List of Land Use Constraints and Features for the Powell – Six Mile Ranch presented to LCRA on May 28, 2009:

1. **Historical and Archeological Sites on Six Mile Ranch.** As mentioned in the original List, many arrowheads and other prehistoric artifacts have been found in and around the Six Mile Draw area. Several Indian mounds have also been located on the ranch (though the ones located are grown over with vegetation), and in the close vicinity of segment b16 there is an area on the 6 Mile Ranch with petroglyphs on them. In addition, there are two sets of caves on the Six Mile Ranch. For the protection of these sites, the family would prefer not to specifically identify their location on the Six Mile Ranch. Please see the attached photograph of prehistoric artifacts found just on the afternoon of Sunday, June 14, 2009.

2. **Additional Habitable Structure (Hunting House) on Six Mile Ranch.** As mentioned in the original List, one of the hunting houses is a wooden cabin-type housing structure. Not mentioned, but shown in the photograph of the wooden cabin-type house (Exhibit S to the original List), is a smaller nearby house and storage shed, which is also used to sleep hunters when the cabin house is full.

3. **Additional Caliche/Gravel Pit on Six Mile Ranch.** In addition to the two caliche/gravel pit areas discussed in the original List, a third active caliche/gravel pit area lies within approximately 3,300 feet of segment b16. The third pit area is in the southwestern corner of the Black Pasture, which is in the southeastern corner of the Six Mile Ranch, the same pasture through which segment b16 cuts through and exits the ranch to the southeast.

4. **Nearby Private Cemetery.** There is a private cemetery called the "Col. Black Cemetery" which lies within approximately 3,600 feet of segment b16 (see attached image), which is not on Six Mile Ranch but is nearby on an adjoining ranch. The cemetery was named after Col. Black, the founder of the ranching operations in the area who at one time operated a mutton canning facility (see image of canning labels) in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery. For location purposes, see the attached labeled aerial photograph.

5. **Bolin Ranch.** The JP Family Limited Partnership also leases the nearby Bolin Ranch to the southeast of the Six Mile Ranch, which would be bisected by segment b16. The JP Family Limited Partnership leases the land from Mr. Perry Bolin for livestock, farming, and hunting purposes. An irrigated crop field would be directly crossed by a segment b16 transmission line, and a segment b16 line would come within approximately 475 feet from the home of the foreman and his family, as well as the adjoining barns, pens and other habitable structures. A labeled aerial photograph is attached. Like the other ranch employees, the foreman relies heavily on the family's ranch radio communications, which was mentioned in the original List.