

Guymon Daily Herald

Mary Long and Stanley Thomas Tyler were honored this week with the announcement that they will be the royalty of the Pioneer Days Celebration in May.

Long was named as the Pioneer Queen and Tyler will be the Parade Marshal of the Pioneers Day Parade, a tradition in the Tyler family. Tyler is the fifth person in his family to be so honored.

The Tylers were one of the most prominent of Pioneer families, and Stanley Gushing Tyler, Stanley Thomas Tyler's grandfather, was one of only ten white men in Hansford County Texas in 1890.

The royalty honor all began when Mary Tyler Latham was named Pioneer Day Queen in 1944, followed by Ethel Tyler Henderson in 1945.

In 1970 Ollie Tyler was named Marshal followed by Mary Lou Peppers, daughter of Mary Latham, serving as Queen in 1996. Now Stanley Tyler will preside as Marshal in the year 2000.

Marshal Stanley Tyler was born on the Tyler ranch, established by his grandfather, S. C. Tyler in 1879, some fifteen miles south of Gruver, Texas, on October 29, 1912. He was the first born to parents Ollie Tyler and Rose Cook Tyler, and the first grandchild of the S. C. Tylers.

Ollie was, of course, born on the same ranch while mother Rose was an import from Oklahoma City where her folks were the socially prominent TA. Cook family.

Mr. Cook owned the famous Buck Horn Saloon long before statehood in Oklahoma. The Tyler legacy on the Western Plains began over 120 years ago. Among the very first to settle on the Palo Duro Creek in Hansford County was Stanley Cushing Tyler, Parade Marshal Tyler's grandfather, from Lowell Massachusetts, who was destined to write an outstanding and colorful pioneer experience.

The son of a wealthy banking family and a student at Harvard

University, he was found to be in poor health and was advised to come to the Western Plains, which he did in 1879, a youth of twenty years.

Upon his arrival, he bought four sections of land from the state for \$1 an acre and another four sections from an individual for an undisclosed sum. He also leased some 100,000 acres from the state. This ranch took the name of the V - Z Bar Ranch, and he called the V - Z Bar his cattle brand.

The first improvements Tyler built were a small two-room sod house, a pole barn, and corrals. Because rock was easier to find than wood, a major portion of the corrals was made of rock. After five years of learning the business of cattle ranching, Tyler returned to Massachusetts to claim his boyhood sweetheart, Mary Elizabeth Ayers, daughter of a prominent Charlestown, Massachusetts family.

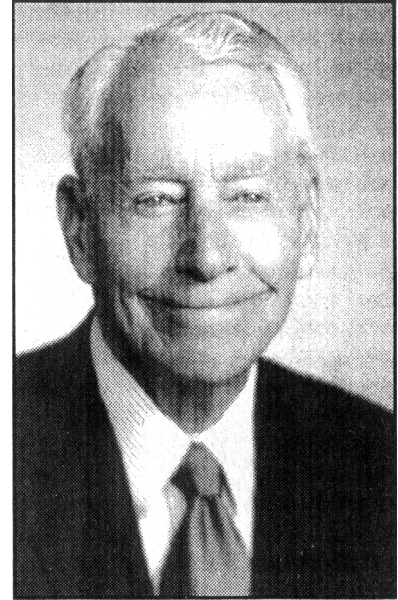
Following the marriage, the long trip from the East to the Panhandle of Texas began. The couple took the train as far as it would take them, that being Dodge City, Kansas, some 185 miles from their destination.

The rest of the trip was made in a buckboard followed by wagons carrying belongings. The Tylers assembled in that sod house rich antique furniture and drapes, creating an oasis-like atmosphere in the midst of the stark plains country.

Keeping up her traditions from the East, Mrs. Tyler even served "high teas" to her neighbors in that soddy!

In 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Tyler were blessed with their first born child, a girl. They christened her Mary Elizabeth.

For this blessed event Mrs. Tyler went back to her family in New England where she might receive the best of medical attention. When baby Mary was a few weeks old, the young mother accompanied by a nurse, boarded the train back to Dodge City where they were met by the



Parade Marshal Stanley Thomas Tyler

new father and buckboard for the overland trip to the ranch.

For the birth of the second child, Ethel, the trip was repeated. The last three children, Stanley Cushing, a son who passed away at the age of five months. Oliver Stanley "Ollie", a second son, and a daughter, Fanny Stanley, were born on the ranch with the attendance of community physicians and nurses from Kansas City.

Following the birth of the children, Judge Tyler, as the rancher became known through serving Hansford County in that capacity for some time, built for himself and family a spacious new home. Located in a vast grassland on the Palo Duro Creek near the old sod house, the Tyler home was one of the area's first stone buildings. The Victorian mansion was built in 1891.

With solid rock walls and high gabled roof, the two storied mansion was an impressive sight to early-day cowboys and

settlers. Built in a land and time when reinforcing iron was difficult to acquire, gothic arches were of necessity used above each window and door.

The house had a floor plan that is impressive 100 years later. It had seven bedrooms, a parlor, a dining room, kitchen and full basement. Tyler imported a stone mason and carpenter from Dodge City. It took the craftsmen and eight cowboys a full year to complete the job.

The stone was cut with a large cross-cut saw and hauled about three miles from the quarry to the building site. The nails, window glass, hardware, and lumber were hauled from Dodge City by freight wagons.

Large cottonwood logs, brought from the Canadian River by teams, were placed in the basement for support. The furnishings also brought from Dodge City, had originally come from the East.

Life was stern and full of hardships during those early years, but it was for the most part, an enjoyable life. The Tylers had many parties and dances in their home.

The neighbors would come from miles around bringing extra food and blankets for their children to sleep in the buggies. In 1907, after 28 years of the austere life on the high plains cattle ranch, Judge and Mrs. Tyler decided to move to Guymon in order to enjoy the comforts of city life. Here they build a new home and furnished it with many of the New England antiques and pieces that had been brought to the ranch by way of Dodge City and freight wagons.

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But Judge Tyler was not ready to retire and immediately plunged into the activities of building a new town. He instigated the construction of Guymon's light and water plant and organized and owned the telephone company in Guymon.

He was a diligent and devoted worker in the Masonic Lodge. He served as President of the First National Bank and was involved in the dry goods business with his son-in-law.

Judge and Mrs. Tyler were confirmed in the Episcopal Church as young people and were ever firm believers in the teachings of that church. But as there was no organization of that church here, they united with the Presbyterian Church and were active in the work of this church.

The Tylers resided in Guymon the remainder of their lives. Judge Tyler passed away in 1927 and Mrs. Tyler in 1936.

Parade Marshal Stanley Tyler's residence on the Tyler ranch was short lived for his father, O. S. Tyler, moved the family, now consisting of another son., Oliver, to another ranch home in Colorado, where they lived for a short period of time until it became necessary to move to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the sake of the health of Mother Rose.

She passed away in 1918, where upon Ollie farmed out the two boys to great aunts in Oklahoma City. Stanley attended public schools in Oklahoma City, graduating from Classen High. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1935 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He was Vice-Commander of Sigma Nu Fraternity, was Vice-President of the senior class, was awarded the Letzeiser medal for outstanding student, and was a letterman for three years on the OU varsity basketball team playing the position of guard. He earned a 2nd Lt. commission after four years of ROTC. Upon

graduation from OU, he was employed by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co, of Akron, Ohio, as a management trainee. After working in the factory for a year, he returned to Oklahoma City and entered sales work for the company in western Oklahoma.

He was ordered to active duty in World War II as a first lieutenant and served five years with the Army Ground Forces with stations at Camp Wallace, Texas, Ft. Bliss, Texas, Ft. Ord, California, and the Command and General Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Tyler was separated from active duty in the Army in the grade of Lieutenant Colonel and now holds this commission in retirement.

Early in his Army career, Tyler married his first and only love, Miss Margaret Catherine Brydia, of Ada, Oklahoma. To this marriage was born their only child, now Mrs. Lynda Ann Gibson, wife of Dr. J. Gayle Gibson. Tyler's only grandson is Austin Tyler Stewart, son of Lynda and Don (Doodie) Stewart, who passed away in 1983. Austin is now married and lives in Norman, Oklahoma, where he graduated from the University of Oklahoma. He has presented the Tylers with his daughter, Zoe, their only great-granddaughter. Step grandchildren are of the Gibson family who are: Cyndy Hallford, Lynda Gullett, Steve Gibson, Tim Gibson and Robert Gibson and thirteen other great-grandchildren.

Many, many years following Stanley's mother's death in 1918, his father, Ollie, married Thyra Owen and this marriage produced two sons, Owen Tyler of Odessa, Texas, and Byron Tyler of Tyler, Texas. Thyra still lives and resides in Odessa.

At the end of the war, Stanley and his brother Oliver, moved to Guymon with their families to build their homes. It had long been their ambition to own and operate the Tyler ranch, but that was not to be, as the family sold the ranch to H. B. Hart in 1943. In the meantime, Tyler was employed by the Guymon Chamber of Commerce as full time Secretary-Manager.

He served in this capacity until H. C. Hitch, Jr. and Gerald Dixon prevailed on him to become part owner and manager on the International Harvester dealership

formerly owned by Otis Gross. This operation lasted until 1952 when Tyler bought out the feed dealership owned by Tot and Earl Smith.

He revamped the business, installed custom grinding and mixing facilities and took on the Purina Feed franchise. His biggest success, however, was in the introduction of hybrid grain sorghum and hybrid seed corn to this area.

He began with the DeKalk franchise but later turned to the Pioneer brands of hybrid corn and sorghum. With the advent of deep well irrigation in Texas County, this turned into a bonanza with Tyler introducing these new products to irrigators.

He was told that he was the largest dealer in the sale of Pioneer brands of corn and grain sorghum. Stanley has served as President of the Chamber of Commerce and was a director for some fifteen years. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas County Development Co.,

builder of the Panhandle Livestock Commission Co. and later served as its president.

He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church and served as ruling elder for many years. He was also a member of the Guymon Masonic Lodge, Guthrie Consistory, India Temple, The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Texas County Irrigation Association, Guymon Elks Lodge, and was chairman of the Guymon Park Board for many years. He was also a member of the Texas County and Panhandle District Free Fair Board, Guymon Chamber of Commerce and Texas County Farm Bureau.

In 1975, Tyler, now 63 years old, was prevailed on to sell out his dealership in the feed store business, which he did and has lived the remaining portion of his life to this date in Guymon. But retirement didn't slow Stanley down.

He stayed very active in his church work, politics, and Chamber of Commerce committees, serving as

chairman of many of them. For ten years Stanley served on the Board of Directors of the No Man's Land Historical Society. Stanley and Margaret bought property in Angel Fire, NM, which they enjoyed for many years. And, of course, he remains an avid supporter of the University of Oklahoma, and particularly, the OU basketball team.

Stanley wishes to thank the Chamber of Commerce for affording him the honor of being Pioneer Marshal 2000. He feels it is a great honor to be selected to represent all of the pioneers of this area. He is especially proud to be a product of the great Tyler legacy, one of the most outstanding pioneer families that so shaped and changed this part of the country and developed it into the wonderful place that it is today.

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