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6666: Portrait Of A Texas Ranch



Synopsis

The Four Sixes is not a relic, showpiece, or preserve. It's a working cattle ranch, some 290,000 acres of West Texas prairie carefully used. Here, men still earn their livelihoods on horseback, not out of blind adherence to tradition, but out of necessity. Since Samuel "Burk" Burnett began buying rangeland in King County in the 1890s, his cowhands have relied on methods developed by early vaqueros and refined on the great trail drives. In managing cattle, these methods are still the most efficient and humane. Spurs, broad-brimmed hats, and scuffed and patched boots are not fashion statements but essentials as are loyalty, toughness, and resourcefulness, traits still common to those doing dangerous work in remote country. Perhaps, though, the Four Sixes' greatest legacy is the land itself. Across four generations, foremen have striven to nurture and restore, to leave a healthy range. That stewardship has produced some of the richest, most ecologically diverse grassland found on the Southern Plains today. Meinzer and Chappell's defining study of the Sixes' heart, soul, and heritage illuminates and spellbinds, teasing out a continuum that reaches out to and claims us all with rich lessons in give and take, need and nurture, enterprise and farsightedness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A sumptuous, beautifully written and illustrated volume." -- Roundup Magazine "[A] handsome, oversized book featuring lavish photographs. . . . 150 pages of stunning pictures" -- Glen Dromgoole, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Henry Chappell has written two novels, *The Callings* and *Blood Kin*, and an essay collection, *At Home on the Range with a Texas Hunter*. His work has appeared in *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Texas Highways*, and *Texas Parks & Wildlife*. He lives with his family in Plano, Texas. Wyman Meinzer, official photographer of the State of Texas, has published more than fifteen books, including *Windmill Tales*, *Great Lonely Places of the Texas Plains*, *Desert Sanctuaries: The Chinatis of the Big Bend*, and *Canyons of the Texas High Plains*.

I had seen this book for sale when it first came out & would not have paid the initial price of \$50 or more. When found on at approx. \$35, I did decide to purchase & add it to my library of Texas Ranch albums. I found it to mostly be well done & a fair portrayal of the subject. I did find many of the photos, taken at sunrise or sunset, to be way too much of a reddish tint, in a land of already red grass on red dirt with a red sky. Most of the pasture shots seemed to show a lot of sagebrush & weeds instead of pristine Texas prairie. The Sixes is a famous & historic old Texas Ranch and this book is worth adding to a collection of similar volumes but could have been portrayed better than it was. "An Old Texas Cattleman"

Having been raised in a ranch owning family but raised in the City, I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the people that came to Texas and started ranching. It wasn't the people you'd expect, but they took on the life and excelled with it. The problems and people involved, back in the early days of Texas, are amazing. A very interesting and informative book. I highly recommend it.

Beautiful pictures! I had read a lot about the Burnett family over the years. I remember when they bought the high selling bulls in John Wayne's 26 Bar ranch for many years.

makes me wish I was born 100 years ago, and worked on that ranch.

A gift for my dad and he loves it.

It was a gift and he loved it!!!

Nice book.

Wyman Meinzer captures the soul of one of our few remaining great treasures in this book of 'The Sixes'. I grew up in this land and I recommend this book to anyone who needs to escape the fast pace we live in and return to real American roots.

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