

The Giddings News

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REMOVED HISTORICAL LANDMARK

Otto Hoffman, former thrifty farmer of Grassyville, who moved to Fredericksburg several years ago on account of Mrs. Hoffman's health was a caller on the editor Monday. Otto was accompanied by his son-in-law C. D. G. Johnson, a member of the ground crew of an aviation field. Otto's many former friends here are always glad to see him and to know that he is doing well and that Mrs. Hoffman's health is much improved.

Otto helped tear down the former Nimitz hotel in Fredericksburg and replace it with its present modern structure. The original building was a three-story structure of logs, some of which were 2 ft. in diameter. It required four men to carry them out. The sills were all hand-cut and the cedar rafters were in their natural state, not squared. That building was in the shape of the prow of a ship, built by the grandfather of the present Admiral Chester W. Nimitz who is in charge of the U. S. A. fleet which made such a telling attack on the Japs recently.

Otto says he saw the Admiral many times when a younger man on his visits to relatives in Fredericksburg and that he was a handsome, genteel character, loved by all who knew him.

The elder Nimitz was a retired sea captain who spent his last years far from the sea and built the original hotel in memory of his days at sea. He would tell his grandson to study the makeup of a ship and possibly one day he would command one of his own. The young man followed the advice of his grandfather and rose to distinction. It might also be stated that the hill country of Texas is furnishing many recruits for the navy.

The original hotel building was chinked with mud and stood for more than seventy years. It was headquarters for Robert E. Lee who was stationed there as an officer of the U. S. army before he became a general in the Civil War. One of the hotel rooms was kept with its furniture as he occupied it.