

Letter from Mrs. Fletcher at Palacios

We left Giddings the morning of July 3 and traveled by auto. The following composed the party, the Dowdy family George Martin and Louise Hester of Lexington and the Fletcher family of Giddings. All went well until a big rain overtook us at Weimar; we proceeded after it was over and made time until another rain poured on us at Bay City, where the roads were considered impassible and we spent the night. The next morning about 11 o'clock (July 4th) we reached Palacios after pulling through mud and water.

The whole country was assembled under the auditorium celebrating the holiday and a fine band was playing, also much speaking took place.

After establishing our camp on the grounds, we attended the opening of the 32nd. encampment of the B. Y. P. U. Convention that evening in the beautiful new auditorium. Rev. Robt. Coleman delivered the opening address. Greetings from Germany were received by C. M. Caldwell of Breckenridge who had so large a part in the new building. The leaders of the classes were then introduced; among whom were Gardner, Lee, Flake, Phillips, Dr. Scarborough, Mrs. Beddoe, and others. Dr. S. P. Brooks delivered a lecture on education and the orchestra from the San Marcos furnished the music.

Dr. George Truitt preached a number of times and a dedication service for the new auditorium was held in the nature of a memorial service for those who lost their lives in the Gulf last summer. A number of young people from Breckenridge attended last summer and they and friends chartered a boat and went to the Gulf the last day of the encampment. They went to a dangerous place where there was an undertow and eight of the party were drowned. Mr. Caldwell and the town of Palacios have built the fine auditorium as a memorial and a bronze tablet will contain the names of those who lost their lives. Dr. Scarborough and Dr. Gates are holding services daily and the singing is led by Bob Coleman and some one said that it gives us an idea of the singing in heaven. There are stunt parties and evening sails for the young people. There were almost one thousand in Sunday School Sunday and the collection for the Orphans Home was \$200. The states are represented. The sea breeze is delightful and the bathing is fine. The grounds have good artesian water piped about and electric lights with all day current. There is something to interest old and young and we are having a fine time.