

BROTHERS REUNITED

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Early- Day Texans Remember Past

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By Mike Quinn

An early day Texan who came to the Lone Star State in 1874 from Tulsa, Okla., in a covered wagon, returned this weekend on a jet from the West Coast for a family reunion.

Charles Edward Black, 88, flew from Los Angeles, Calif., in three hours to meet with his brothers, the Rev. S.M. Black, 80, of Dallas, and Richard H. Black, 79, of Los Angeles.

Sunday they will go to Krum, Denton County, for the Old Settlers Reunion.

The elder Black was only 2 years old when he made the wagon trip from Tulsa to Krum, so he doesn't remember it.

But the jet trip was vivid in his memory Saturday.

"I thought it was wonderful. It's the biggest plane I ever put my feet on."

The brothers spent Friday night and Saturday reminiscing at the Mayfair Hotel where the Rev. Black has his permanent residence.

Richard drove in from Los Angeles with his wife-it took them 3 ½ days.

Actually, Charles is from Pisom Beach, Calif. He's a retired oil worker and now spends all his time fishing.

A sister, Mrs. Willie Black Mitchell, 74, had planned to fly in with Charles. She lives in Lakewood City, Calif. However, she suffered a heart attack Friday and was unable to come.

Saturday, the three brothers pooled their memories of Krum in the late 1800's and came up with these stories:

All three played on a baseball team that beat the Denton Athletic Club-"we called it the DAC."

"They'd been playing ball a long time," Charles recalled. "They whipped us the first time, but we practiced and the next time they never did score on us."

The brothers were also "roadside" foremen on the construction of the Santa Fe Railroad (in 1886) into the area. They were a little young to work.

Buffalo hunters from St. Louis used to spend the night at the Black home on their way to Wise County.

"I remember the wagonloads of hides coming back through, Richard, a retired real estate man, said.

All three recalled crossing a prairie about two miles to school and having the great Longhorn cattle coming up for a closer look.

How about today's westerns on television?

“I get the greatest pleasure out of turning them off, the Rev. Black said. “They never run out of ammunition-even with six shooters.”

Note from Kathryn Dodd: In looking at the census records for 1880 the brothers Charles and Samuel were living with their parents William and Mary Black in Denton County Texas. Also in the home was another son James and daughter Mary E. Black. Their father William M. Black died in 1893 and is buried at Jackson Cemetery in Krum. All the 1890 census records were destroyed by fire. On the 1900 census Mary Black is head of the household with children Charles E. age 26, Samuel M. age 20, Richard H. age 19, Edna age 14 and Willie M. Black age 12. Mary died in 1905 and is also buried at Jackson Cemetery Krum.



—Dallas News Staff Photo by John Mazzotta.

The Blacks: Charles, S. M., and Richard.