

# LIFE ON THE RANGE and ON THE TRAIL

*As told by*

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THE NAYLOR COMPANY

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

1936

## LIFE ON THE RANGE



Some time previous to 1884 Mr. Franks had been out in the Pecos country and thought it would be a good ranch country. He noted, especially, the abundant grass and *sotol* which was around the Indian Creek country. (This creek had its head just south of Dryden and flowed into the Rio Grande). He had gone back to Pleasanton, in '84, to move his cattle up to Indian Creek. While he was there, Mr. John Camp decided to send his cattle up there, too. So they had shipped the Camp cattle (the KL brand); Mr. Franks' cattle (the J, cross,<sup>15</sup> brand); and Mrs. Franks' cattle (the ZJ brand). They had unloaded their cattle at Thurston. There were no chutes to unload them on, so they piled up some railroad ties and put the cattle out of the cars on the ties.

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## LIFE ON THE RANGE

When they got to the Indian Creek range they found there had been a forest fire. All the grass and sotol was burned off, so they took the cattle on to the Shafter Crossing, on the Rio Grande, and left them there.

Looking around the surrounding country for a place to locate his home, Mr. Franks decided on Cedar Springs. As soon as possible he moved his family to that place. In February, 1885, hardly a year after moving to Cedar Springs, Mrs. Franks died, and was buried there. Her grave remained the lone grave on Cedar Creek, always. Then the Franks children were sent to Floresville, Texas, to live with their grandmother and go to school.

Mr. Franks, about that time, went over to C. P. Diaz, Mexico (now Piedras Negras), and bought some Mexican cattle in which he and Mr. Camp were both interested. They branded these cattle with a<sup>16</sup> on each shoulder—their partnership brand. They turned these cattle on the range with their individual herds, and worked them all together.

Not long after Mr. Franks' wife had died, and his children had been moved to Floresville, he went to work for the Pecos Land and Cattle Company—that was in the spring of '85.

The year before, two northern companies had come to that part of the country—The King Spring Cattle Company, which had located around King Springs, was managed by W. W. Simonds; The Pecos Land and Cattle Company had located around Myers' Spring, and was managed by a Mr. Lugee. The latter part of '84 the Pecos Land and Cattle