GUIDE

to the

JODIE P. HARRIS COLLECTION 1916-1965 & n.d.

Manuscript Collection H314

ARCHIVES OF THE BIG BEND
The Harris Collection was donated by Jodie P. Harris to the West Texas Historical and Scientific Society in 1954, and the Society transferred the material to Sui Ross State University in 1968. Harris's sister, Dr. Calhoun Monroe, of El Paso, Texas, donated additional materials in 1977.

Joseph (Jodie) Pickens Harris, III was born in Anderson County, North Carolina in 1876. The Harris family moved to Texas, and Jodie Harris later became a druggist in Mineral Wells, Texas. While there, he joined Company I, 4th Texas Infantry, Texas National Guard, and was sent with that Company for duty on the U.S./Mexico border in 1916, during the height of revolutionary activity by Pancho Villa and other participants in the Mexican Revolution of 1910. While stationed in the Big Bend area from 1916 to 1917, Harris drew cartoons depicting his life on the border on the postcards he sent home. He also, with his brother John A., edited hand-lettered company newspapers, the Lanoria [sic] and Big Bend News, which were printed on a hand press in Marathon, Texas. Both in the newspapers and in his cartoons, Harris advocated the establishment of a national park in the Big Bend country. He even created a park at the camp site, outlining it with white-painted rocks, and predicted that a great park would some day occupy much of the Big Bend. Many years later, in 1944, he was one of the honored guests at the dedication of Big Bend National Park.

After Company I was demobilized early in 1917, Harris went to San Francisco, California and joined an ambulance corps, consisting entirely of Masons formed by that city. The corps, known subsequently as the 364th Ambulance Company in the 91st Division, served in France in the St. Michael and Muese-Argonne campaigns. Harris received an award of merit for his service, which he also described in cartoons he sent to his family.

Returning to Mineral Wells after the war, Harris became associated with the Breckenridge Oil and Gas Company as secretary-treasurer. During World War II, he worked for the federal government in the Office of Censorship in El Paso and in the Department of the Navy in New York City. In ill health after the war, Harris spent the last few months of his life in the Big Spring [Texas] Veterans Hospital. He died on May 6, 1960.

The bulk of the Harris Collection consists of hand-printed postcards (1916-1917) and hand-printed newspapers (1916) that deal with Jodie Harris's service in the National Guard in the Big Bend region of Texas during the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Also included are a biographical sketch of Harris and newspaper clippings dealing with Harris and his work.

By: Beverly G. Case
Archivist

December 1, 1983
SEE ALSO:

Border Fury
A Picture Postcard Record of
Mexico's Revolution and
U.S. War Preparedness, 1910-1917

by
Paul J. Vanderwood and
Frank N. Samponaro

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In June 1992, the Jodie P. Harris Collection and the Jodie P. Harris Collection Appendix I, which had been transferred from the Museum of the Big Bend to the Archives separately, were combined and arranged as follows:

**Big Bend Tour of Duty 1916-1917 1916-1965** (101 leaves)
**World War I** 1917-1919 & 1942 (9 leaves)
**Harris cards: Depression Years** 1934-1936 and n.d. (5 leaves)
**Possum Kingdom Passport** (drawn by Harris?) n.d. (1 leaf)
**Biographical** 1960 & n.d. (8 leaves)

**TOTAL LEAF COUNT:** 124 leaves

Appendix I: Copy negatives of Harris postcards

**ONE BOX**

At this time, for the preservation of the material, the materials were rehoused in one archival oversize box, the newspapers encapsulated, postcards which had not previously been laminated sleeved in mylar, and copy negatives made of all postcards.

In addition, a xerox copy of the entire collection was made for circulation to researchers: Circulation folder A contains copies of the contents of folders 1-10 of the collection (Big Bend Tour of Duty); circulation folder B contains copies of the contents of folders 11-15 of the collection (World War I, Depression Years, Possum Kingdom Passport, and Biographical).
Big Bend Tour of Duty 1916-1917  1916-1965 (101 leaves)

Jodie Harris recorded life on the border with Company I, 4th Texas Infantry, Texas National Guard in hand drawn postcards to "the folks at home" and in two issues of a hand lettered Company newspaper published with his brother John Harris (folders 1-8). In later years, Harris attended reunions of Company I (folder 10) and created a memorial to Company I. (folder 9)

Folder 1  Jodie Harris postcards  May-June, 1916  (5 leaves)

15 May 1916    "The mind VS The Stanach"
27 June 1916    "Our Newly Married Friends"  
                 (War Dance on the Border)
28 June 1916    "Off To The Border"
29 June 1916    "Invading The Big Bend"
30 June 1916    "Down To The Rio Grande-Big Bend"

Folder 2  Jodie Harris postcards  July 1916  (13 leaves)

03 July 1916    "A Call From The Wild"
04 July 1916    "in Good Spirits But Sore"
06 July 1916    "School Boys Appetite"
07 July 1916    "The War Dance; Who Pays The Fiddler?"
07 July 1916    "Spell Of The Big Bend"
14 July 1916    "Pennsylvania Militia On The Border"
17 July 1916    "Pennsylvania Boys On The Way To Border"
19 July 1916    "On The Way Back Fran The Border"
20 July 1916    "Mrs. Cameron Delivered You Nice Packages"
23 July 1916    "Moonlight Picnic On The Border"
23 July 1916    "Down At Fort Mercer"
26 July 1916    "The Good People - Marathon"
30 July 1916    "A Dog-Gone Good Company"

Folder 3  Jodie Harris postcards  August 1916  (13 leaves)

01 August 1916  "Big News Is Easy Made Down Here"
03 August 1916  "on The Inside Looking Out"
06 August 1916  "Glenn Springs - What Are They Guarding?"
08 August 1916  "Guard The Hay Stack"
12 August 1916  "Why Does He Keep The Militia Boys Here?"
12 August 1916  "Two Wise Men Find A New Big Bend"
20 August 1916  "My Mexican Lady Friends"
22 August 1916  "Old Faces - On The Border"
23 August 1916  "I'm Guarding A Hay Stack Fran A Jackass"
27 August 1916  "Boys, I See A Truck Caning"
28 August 1916  "Floating Willow Poles Down Rio Grande"
29 August 1916  "I'm A Sticker On The Border"
31 August 1916  "I Took My Eye To El Paso"
Big Bend Tour of Duty 1916-1917, cont.

Folder 4  Jodie Harris postcards September 1916 (17 leaves)

01 September 1916 "My First Night In El Paso"
01 September 1916 "I Was Sent To Ward 13 For Treatment"
02 September 1916 "Discovered In My Eye A Piece Of Steel"
04 September 1916 "My Treatment, a Little Medicine"
05 September 1916 "I Like To Be Doctored When ..."
08 September 1916 "Three Times A Day"
12 September 1916 "Back In Camp Again"
14 September 1916 "in Suspense on the Border"
16 September 1916 "May The Lord Have Mercy On Us - Lanoria"
19 September 1916 "From The Commissioners of Mexico"
20 September 1916 "Big Bend's First Telephone Line"
21 September 1916 "Leaving Marathon for Lanoria"
24 September 1916 "Peace Has Little To Do With The Militia"
26 September 1916 "We Have Captured The Big Bend Country"
28 September 1916 "Water And Wood At Lanoria Is Scarce"
29 September 1916 "Looking Us Over On The Border"
30 September 1916 "Down In The Bad Mans Country"

Folder 5  Jodie Harris postcards October 1916 (19 leaves)

01 October 1916  "Ball Team, Stillwell Crossing"
02 October 1915  "Another Mexican Question"
03 October 1916  "Nothing To Do But Wait On CO 'I'"
04 October 1916  "The Man Who Wants War Is Last To Enlist"
07 October 1916  "All Is quiet On The Border"
09 October 1916  "As You See E'm"
10 October 1916  "I Can't See Why They Keep Us Here"
                no date  "A Mysterious Bug"
13 October 1916  "Well We Are Still Here"
13 October 1916  "Life Is Just One D. Thing After Another"
14 October 1916  "Unconscious For The Past Week"
15 October 1916  "Typical Border Howler"
17 October 1916  "Leaving Marathon For The Rio Grande"
18 October 1916  "Doing Fine On The Border"
19 October 1916  "Beautiful Scenes Around Lanoria"
23 October 1916  "There Is Always A Form Of Redress"
24 October 1916  "When His Hands Are Tied"
26 October 1916  "Who Will Draw The First Line?"
26 October 1916  "We Should Fight Mexico Not Germany"

* card dated 9-4-16 but postmarked Oct 4, 1916
Big Bend Tour of Duty 1916-1917, cont.

Folder 6

Jodie Harris postcards November-December 1916 (11 leaves)

03 November 1916 "I'm Standing Pat On 3 Year and No More"
06 November 1916 "Listen! Do I Hear Something?"
11 November 1916 "Hiking Over To Stillwell"
13 November 1916 "Just Hiking Along The Border"
15 November 1916 "Yes, I'm Great - A Great Big Fool"
16 November 1916 "SUD's Good Cooking"
22 November 1915 "How Do You See Me Now?"
24 November 1916 "Jingo Bandits"
01 December 1916 "Day After Thanksgiving On The Rio Grande"
(two) Christmas 1916 "Christmas On The Border"

Folder 7

Harris Hand-printed Newspapers (4 leaves)

[OS] Lanoria [sic] October 25, 1916 (2 leaves)
[OS] The Big Bend November 30, 1916 (2 copies) (2 leaves)

Folder 8

Jodie Harris postcards February-March 1917 (2 leaves)

25 February 1917 "The Burden Of Guard Duty On The Border"
03 March 1917 "Texas - First To Answer The Call"

Folder 9

Company Memorial c.1953 (2 leaves)

Folder 10

Company News clippings 1941-1965 & n.d. (15 leaves)

"An Account of the Founding of the 'Big Bend'--Soldier Publication in '16," Sul Ross Skyline, April 21, 1941 (3 leaves)

"Jodie P. Harris Immortalize [sic] Company I, With Texas Infantry," June 4, 1953 (3 leaves)


[OS] "Soldiers Serving in Big Bend in 1916 Saw Area's National Park Potential," Fort Worth Star-Telegram, April 5, 1958 (2 leaves)

"Reunion," Mineral Wells Index, March 19, 1963 (1 leaf)

"Remember When" n.d. (1 leaf)

"Index Story Brings Residents Together," Mineral Wells Index, April 11, 1965 (2 leaves)
World War I 1917-1919 & 1942 (9 leaves)

Folder 11 364th Ambulance Company 1917-1918 (6 leaves)

Harris postcard 02 August 1917 "I Haven't Received Letter"
Harris postcard 01 November 1917 "Another Reminder"
Ambulance Co. postcard "Greetings of the Season" 1917-18
Harris postcard "War-time Seasons Greetings" 1917-18

"When Huns Threaten Field Hospital, Private Harris of
Mineral Wells Conducts Evacuation "Fort Worth Star-
Telegram August 3, 1919. (1 leaf)

"Leaves from Jodie's Diary" 1919 (1 leaf)

Folder 12 Associated Materials c.1917 & 1942 (3 leaves)

American Red Cross picture postcard [WWI] (1 leaf)
"Say Goodbye to the Boys" flyer c.1917 (1 leaf)
"Mountain Peeks,"Alpine Avalanche, January 2, 1942 (1 leaf)

Harris cards: Depression Years 1934-1936 & n.d. (5 leaves)

Folder 13

13 March 1934  "Happy Birth Day To You"
21 December 1935  "Me And My Dogs Are Hunting Santa"
23 December 1936  "Santa, You Know We Just Po'r Folks"
Christmas, n.d.  "Yule-Tide Wish"
Christmas, n.d.  New Deal Oil Lease Christmas card

Possum Kingdom Passport (drawn by Harris?) n.d. (1 leaf) in Folder 14

Biographic 1960 & n.d. (8 leaves)

Folder 15

Biography of Jodie P. Harris for exhibit of postcards n.d. (1 leaf)

"Well-Known West Texan Dies Friday," El Paso Times, May 7, 1960 (4 leaves)

"Joseph Harris Rites Pending" [1960] (1 leaf)

"Jodie P. Harris" [1960] (1 leaf)

"Jodie P. Harris dies in Big Spring" [1960] (1 leaf)
Appendix I

Folder 16    Copy Negatives of Collection postcards

Inventoried by: Teresa Weedin, January, 1978
               Cindy Marquez, November 1986