

Jerrod Citizen

"Where cotton is king"

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Cotton Carnival No More

Holden County commissioners will not assume responsibility for organizing the annual Cotton Carnival. The decision sounds the death knell for the 101-year tradition. The commissioners decided last Monday after considering a petition with 2000 names on it was organized by Nancy Jerrod Hackler.

"The end of the Cotton Carnival is a blow to the county's morale no doubt about it," Holden County Judge Jimmy Akers told the *Citizen*. "The Lions Club created the carnival in 1918 to celebrate the end of World War I, but when the club disbanded last year, nobody stepped forward to take over. I guess it was one of those things where everybody in the community decided that somebody else would take it over. When August rolled around and nobody had stepped up, the petition was circulated.

"I'm afraid it was too late. The commissioners didn't want the job on short notice. Frankly, all the commissioners, me included, were a little nervous about the county

being in charge of an event of this size. It think our town's population shrinkage over the last twenty years has a lot to do with it." Since its creation, the event has been held on the last weekend in October.

Several of the petition's organizers had approached the school district, but were turned down after the school board consulted with their legal council.

Akers pointed out that he, his father and grandfather had been involved with the Lions Club effort over the last century. That is true of several of the commissioners.

In its first seventy-five years the carnival



The Jerrod Community Band was the first to lead a Cotton Carnival Parade. Most of these men were World War I veterans. (c. 1919, private collection.)

lasted a week with programs about cotton put on by Jerrod ISD students. There was a small midway and rides on the square, crowning of the cotton queen, a parade and community dance. Over the last decade, it had been pared back to the parade and the queen's crowning.

The Lions Club disbanded in 2018

Phones are not being answered at the Cotton Belt and Texas Western Rail Line's, Ft. Worth offices, adding to growing community concern about the future of the spur that has served the Holmen County area more than eighty years.

An unnamed source told railwayage.com, the industry's leading trade publication, that the CB&TWR will file for bankruptcy in New Hampshire soon.

A recorded message on the company number gave the name of an attorney to contact. The attorney's office had not returned the *Citizen's* call as of Sept. 3. A CB&TW train derailed at Fulton Switch Oct. 17 last year, closed the line to Sweetwater for two weeks. Company spokesman C.W. Lafferty would not comment on long-range plans.

The National Transportation Safety Board issued a report on the incident, citing poor maintenance and outdated control devices as the cause of the accident. Re-



End of the line for the CB&TW?

sponding to the report, the railroad cited high costs, declining revenues and shortages of manpower as reasons for the state of the Fulton Switch siding. The NTSB fined the railroad \$20,000 for the offense.

A TWCB news release after the NTSB finding said "the company regrets the state of the equipment and right-of-way in the Fulton Switch spur and will be "undertaking major improvements after the wreckage and assorted debris is cleared from the site."

In Memoriam



Jerry Dale McTague
1943—2019

Graveside services will be held Monday, October 10, 2:00 PM at the Jerrod Memorial Cemetery, Father Wyman Costley presiding. Mr. McTague is survived by his wife Mille, son Scott, his wife Jenny and two grandchildren.

Jerrod
CITY LIMIT
POP. 3434

MONDAY MORNING, I SAW ALICE GARIN, nephew MARSH HATCHER and NANCY JERROD HACKLER on their way to the county commissioner's meeting . . . JESUS MORALES spooning up his famous *chilies verde* scrambled eggs for a customer . . . ACE SPALDING trying to talk TOM MARSH out of his favorite deer rifle . . . MARY LEDBETTER demonstrating her Dolly Parton imitation for SUSIE GARRET . . . and ME, wiping away a tear in memory of my old friend and fishing buddy, JERRY MCTAGUE.