

A LOOK BACK IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY

Ace Borger

Asa Phillip Borger, known as Ace, was an energetic leader, doer, townbuilder, public spirited business man, farmer, banker, family man, and dreamer.

Borger was born in Jasper County Missouri in 1888, the son of a farmer. He was a product of a rural school and a business college. He married his school mate, Elizabeth Willoughby.

In 1916 they moved to Oklahoma, home of the largest lead and zinc field of the world. Here Borger made the money that set him on the road to fame, fortune and ultimately his end. He founded four Oklahoma towns, Picher, Slick, Bristow and Cromwell. Ace once said, "the secret of success to town-building is being ahead of the crowd a few hours or a few days". He knew what he was doing - he did it seven times.

Ace and business partner, John R. Miller bought 240 acres from rancher James Weatherly for \$50 an acre in 1926. Before the sun set that day, the company grossed as much as \$100,000. In six months, his company grossed over \$1 million on its \$12,000 investment. 25 X 120 foot lots were sold at \$1500.00 each. Later, similar lots sold for as much as \$3000.00

Borger also built the nearby towns of Stinnet and Gruver. He started the Borger State Bank in 1930, naming himself as president. The bank failed, causing a panic among depositors and a lot of hard feelings. In a particularly bitter argument over the bank's failure, Hutchinson county tax collector Arthur Huey, shot and killed Ace Borger on August 31, 1934.

Borger's business-like approach in 1926 established a stable foundation that has allowed the town to develop into a permanent, thriving, industrial city. ■



618 North Main Street
Borger, Texas 79007
806-272-0130

Open Tue-Fri
9am-5pm
Sat-11am-4:30pm



Hutchinson County
Historical Museum

Free admission

Handicapped
accessible

Kid-friendly

www.hutchinsoncntymuseum.org