

A LOOK BACK IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY



Dance Hall Girls

Dance Hall girls provided entertainment, socialization, and a needed distraction from the difficult life of oil field workers in Boomtown. The dance hall owners charged 25 cents per dance and the girls received a 10 cents. When a dancer encouraged the patron to order drinks, she received a commission from the sale.

Mattie Castelberry was the proprietress of such a place in early Borger. Mattie had followed boomtowns throughout Oklahoma and Texas bringing in girls and setting up businesses. Mattie's Dance Hall was a popular meeting place for many years.

The girls were not prostitutes but were considered to be of a higher social strata and could make more money with less effort than having any of the few jobs then available to women. Some of the dance hall girls were married and worked to make a little extra spending money for themselves. A popular girl would receive tips and gifts from patrons.

The proprietor of most dance halls demanded that the girls be shown respect and patrons crossing the line would be quickly shown the door. ■

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

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



HCHM

Hutchinson County
Historical Museum

Free admission

Handicapped
accessible

Kid-friendly

www.hutchinsoncntymuseum.org