

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Alternate parking is available around the Courthouse if you would rather park and explore from there.

Picnicking is allowed in the Johnson City Park.

Restroom facilities are available at the Post Office Building, the Boyhood Home, the Johnson Settlement and the Courthouse.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interpreters at the Park Visitor Center will gladly assist you.

You may also wish to see the movie and slides at the Visitor Center before beginning your tour of the town.

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site
P.O. Box 329, Johnson City, Texas 78636

Golden Opportunities
are plentiful in beautiful
Blanco county, Come on!

From the *Blanco County Record* April 4, 1924, Johnson City, Texas

Summer Time is Near

Summer time at our door and we all need more or less Summer Clothing. We are here to serve you with a large stock of Dry Goods and can save you money on all your purchases. Note the low prices on staple goods:

Nice 36-inch Percale18c
Nice Fancy Gingham.....18c
6 Spools Best Thread.....25c
One Lot 8-oz. Duck Pants.....\$2.00
Men's Summer Suits \$10 to \$22.50
All Leather Work Shoes..... \$2.00

Nice lot Silk Dresses.
Big lot Summer Dress Goods.
Nice lot Stetson Hats just arrived.
Beautiful line Ladies Dress Shoes.
Silk Hose in all colors.

If you are in need of anything in the Dry Goods line it will pay you to call and see us and get prices.

SCHROEDER BROS.

Main headings and borders are copies from the *Blanco County Record*.

AROUND THE CORNER OF 8th AND H STREETS ON U.S. 290



PRESS CENTER
During the Presidential years (1963-1968) this 1930s building housed a local press office established for the White House press corps and all correspondents who came to LBJ Ranch and Johnson City. Telephone, teletype and photo services gave access to the nation's news wires. From his early experience at the *Record-Courier* Lyndon Johnson knew the importance of such facilities to the working newsman.

OLD BANK
Johnson City's first bank was housed in this building, moving to the south end of the present bank building in the 1920s. That bank failed in the Great Depression of 1929. Watching farmers, including his father, struggle through the "little depression" of the 1920s and the 1925 drought convinced Lyndon Johnson of the need for a better agricultural credit system.

WOOL & MOHAIR WAREHOUSE
In the 1920s, Johnson City was one of the largest markets for wool and mohair in the entire region. Production in the county was at its peak. Wool and mohair purchased here were sent direct to Boston and the eastern U.S. mills. Cattlemen lived peaceably with sheep men and goat men. Synthetic fibers brought a decline in wool and mohair markets that may now be reversed by the rising price of oil.

Lyndon Johnson's hinterland experience convinced him early of the need for ready access to news and market information, the need for stable, long-term agricultural and rural development credit in a sound banking system, and the need for stable agricultural markets. The effects of these early convictions can be found throughout his long career.

"Lyndon Johnson was the last of our Frontier Presidents."---Joe Alsop.

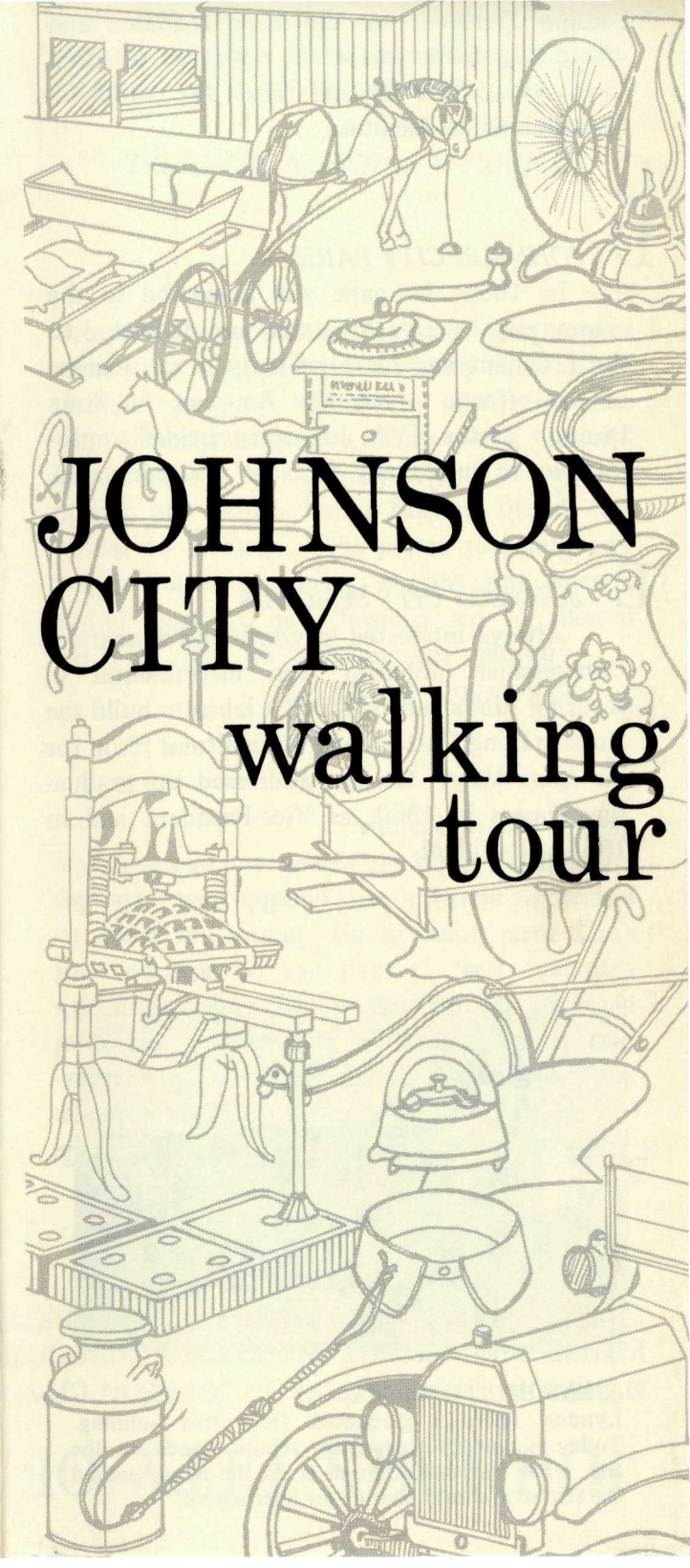
How far was he from real frontier events?

To answer the question we have only to look at a few dates and do a simple subtraction.

Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908.

- 1908 was
18 yrs. from the last Great Trail Drive out of the Hill Country in _____ 1890
- 29 yrs. from the founding of Johnson City in _____ 1879
- 36 yrs. from the last Indian battle in Blanco County at Deer Creek near Johnson City in _____ 1872
- 40 yrs. from the first Great Trail Drives to Abilene, Kansas, in _____ 1868
- 43 yrs. from the end of the American Civil War in _____ 1865
- 50 yrs. from the founding of Blanco County on the outer Texas frontier in _____ 1858
- 63 yrs. from the Texas Annexation to the United States in _____ 1845
- 76 yrs. from the establishment of the Republic of Texas in _____ 1836

Lyndon Johnson's Hill Country was populated by participants in and eyewitnesses to all these events.



JOHNSON CITY walking tour

AN INVITATION

Many factors influence a man's development, attitudes, beliefs, concerns, and future actions.

You have begun to explore Lyndon Johnson's history at the Johnson Settlement and his Boyhood Home.

Before you leave Johnson City we invite you to explore the influences that this small rural town had on the future President of the United States.

SETTING THE STAGE

Although Johnson City has changed since Lyndon Johnson was a boy, it is still possible to walk through the town and imagine it as the scene of his childhood. Stella Gliddon, long-time editor of the local paper, recalls her impressions of the town upon her arrival in March, 1919:

"I was somewhat dismayed to find Johnson City the small town that it was. When I went to the printing offices that morning, I was used to a much larger shop and I was wondering how we would ever get a paper out on the old George Washington Press. But just like the printing shop was one of about the 1880s, so it seemed to me Johnson City was very remote. There was no electricity, no running water in most houses. Both of the stores were general merchandise, like work clothes or material, in the front. You could not buy a loaf of bread; you could not buy fresh meat."

"At that time I wondered why people would like a town like Johnson City, but it wasn't long before I, too, liked it, because I found the people so warm and so friendly. It seemed, after a period of about three months, as if I had lived in this little town all my life."

A TRIP BACK IN TIME

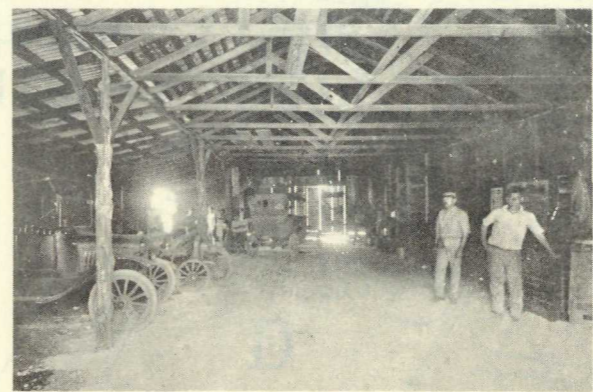
Perhaps the easiest way to view Johnson City of the early 1920s is to put yourself in it. Imagine yourself as part of a ranch family moving to the Johnson City area. You might have had this experience. . .

As you drive your wagon into town for the first time one evening, you are a bit discouraged. The town is smaller and rougher than you expected. It seems to be years behind the area you have come from. You had supposed, since it was the county seat, that it would be more up-to-date. However, a closer scrutiny reveals signs of growth. It looks like wool and mohair have had a good year and the cotton gin is busy.

The town boasts two general stores, a hardware store, and a drug store. Upon talking with a local resident you discover that the town also offers an outstanding school, the only hospital in the county, an established bank, a newspaper, and two barber shops. So, you begin to feel better about your choice.

On your way to the hotel and livery stable you notice Crider's Garage and you wonder if you could afford a Model "T" after a good year on the ranch.

But you decide that with only six miles of paved roads, wagons are still more practical. After a dinner of Texas chili you talk to the real estate agent, Sam Johnson, about your plans to purchase a ranch. The next day, after looking over your choices you find some land that satisfies you, and you have Attorney Goar draw up your deed and file it in the Courthouse while you prepare to move to your new home.



WALTER CRIDER'S GARAGE
Here the Crider boys and Lyndon Johnson fixed up an old Model T to take them off to California in 1924.

As the days pass you recognize the value of good neighbors and you are glad that you moved to a friendly community. Life is not easy at the ranch--you lack most of the conveniences you had before and you especially miss electricity. Your first small garden is going to run out soon, so you accept your neighbors' offer to share their surplus. You are thankful that you joined the meat club (a club where members take turns butchering to supply the meat needs of the group) for fresh meat is impossible to buy in the stores and difficult to keep without refrigeration. Money is scarce, but most stores sell on credit or accept barter goods, especially butter and eggs.

Through the week each member of your family works hard to complete the weekly chores, the children working before and after they ride their horses to school. With chores completed, your whole family looks forward to the Saturday afternoon shopping trip and the opportunity to visit friends, for practically everyone goes to town on Saturday.

Once you get to town the general family shopping comes first, then the family scatters, each to his own business or pleasure. Your younger children take the nickel you give them and run to the Drug Store to decide what to buy. Then they meet the other kids by the jail house to decide whether today's game will be marbles, kick-the-can, cob-fights, or a ride on the town donkey.

Your teenage son joins the older boys on the steps to Doc Barnwell's office. A game of sandlot baseball or a trip to the swimming hole often follows, with plans also made to watch the hand-crank movie at Wither's Opera House or to get up a carload to go to a dance in a nearby town.

Your wife takes care of her shopping, then visits her Eastern Star friends and sees that the church is ready for use on Sunday.



FAWCETT'S CITY DRUG
Young and old enjoyed Mr. Fawcett's home made ice cream. Zeke McNatt spent a lifetime trading and driving livestock all over this country.

After taking care of your shopping needs, you head for the Barber Shop to talk politics with the other men, and end by joining in a game of dominoes. This Saturday, one of the old timers tells stories of his trail driving days. Thinking of your ranch, you feel that those days are not too far gone.

On Sunday, you all go to church. Since only one church has a minister this Sunday, everyone goes to that church. This Sunday everyone is talking about the Brush Arbor revival meetings which start next week.

At home again, sitting quietly for a few moments before going to bed, you think about your new life. You think about the energy it takes to make a living. Then you think about the special things that happen--picnics on the Pedernales, school plays and programs, ice cream parties when the ice wagon comes to town, Fourth of July parades, speeches and Bar-B-Ques, Chautauquas, the Blanco County Fair, even an occasional circus. You think how much you enjoy your neighbors and the closeness of your family. At this moment, looking out over the hill country in the evening, you decide that, all things considered, you made a good move. And you decide to talk to Walter Crider next Saturday about buying that Model "T".
