

[Oct. 1, 1958]

**Brief Synopsis of the life of Minnie Fisher Cunningham
of Fisher Farms, New Waverly, Texas
Cattle Brand FF for Fisher Farms.**

Born March 1882, 7th child of Capt. and Mrs. H.W. Fisher on Fisher Farms. Lives there now, a widow, in a little white farm house about 500 feet from the Mo-Pac RR and US Hi-way 75 (both rights of way given by the Fishers) near a grand old oak under which the engineers camped while building the RR in the 70's. They ate at the Fisher table.

Rides the pasture fence and carries feed to the cattle in her car. No horse on the place though she boasts that once she could sit any horse the men could buckle a saddle on.

Educated chiefly at her mother's knee. At 16 she went to the county seat and secured a teacher's certificate but confronted by real live school children in the Gourd Creek community school she decided that she needed elements not included in the certificate. Leaving Gourd Creek behind she went to the University of Texas medical school in Galveston and entered (again by examination) the school of Pharmacy from which she graduated in 1901, the second woman in Texas to secure a degree in pharmacy.

Married at 20 to the "handsomest man I ever saw" who generously said, "Honey, I married you for your brains, I don't mind if you are red headed!" Mrs Cunningham felt in honor bound to demonstrate brains at every turn of the road. This may account for some of the activity of the next 50 years of her life.

Chronology of a Chromatic half century.....

Huntsville-1901-05. Learned to type to write up papers for young lawyer husband; belonged to social clubs, acted as receiver for drug store she worked in before marriage. Kept house.

Houston 1905-07 Belonged to musical clubs, kept house, persuaded husband to take country place at Dickinson Bayou where she gardened, drove a fast horse to meet commuting members of the family, boated, fished, and hunted. Killed a 6 foot alligator with a rifle.

Galveston 1907-16 Belonged to civic, literary, musical and suffrage clubs. Kept house and cared for two adopted children. Began to do some public speaking. Sang in vested Trinity Church choir.

Austin-1916-22 Lobbied for suffrage, opened headquarters for State Suffrage Assn. Was State Chairman of Liberty Loan campaign in World War I. Covered the Western States for ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendments.

Washington D.C. 1922-43 War Work, Suffrage Work, League of Women Voters work, Pan American work. Agricultural Work. Nation wide travel for USDA

cont.

1942-52 Fight for free speech

TEXAS

- Nursed sick sister
- Candidate for Governor
- Cut lumber to build house on farm
- Building house on farm
- Farming on played out East Texas Cotton farm,
Hay, pasture, cutting timber, livestock.

1922-32

Texas

- Washington--Pan American Conf. League of W. Voters
- Executive Secretary Democratic Women's Club (organized)
- Husband's death
- Candidate for Senate
- Mother's death
- A & M College

1932-42-- A. & M College Associate Editor Texas Food Standard, Reporters Schools, Editor Publications, Radio Work

Washington USDA--AAA--Urban Rural Women's Conference
World War 11

CO-Founder Texas Democratic Women's State Committee
Active Campaigner for Ralph Yarborough and Adlai Stevenson.

Brief Synopsis of the life of
Minnie Fisher Cunningham,
address Fisher Farms, New Waverly, Texas
Cattle brand FF (for Fisher Farms)

1882

Born: March, ~~1882~~, 7th child of
Capt. and Mrs. H W Fisher, on Fisher
Farms.

lives there now ^{a widow!} ~~alone~~ in a little white
farm house about 500 feet from the
Mo Pac RR and US Highway 75 (both
rights of way given by the Fishers).

Operates the farm herself with such
help as is available when needed.

Rides the pasture fences and carries
feed to the cattle in ^{rugged, looking} a Lymanth
Car she has put 70,000 miles on.
(No horse on the place tho she
boasts that once she could sit
any horse the men could buckle
a side saddle on.)

the engineers camped
while building the RR
in the 90s (they ate at the Fisher table).

Educated chiefly at her Mother's knee; at 16 she went ^{to} the County seat and by examination secured a Teachers Certificate; but confronted by real live school children in the Gourd Creek Community school she decided that she needed elements not included in the certificate. Leaving Gourd Creek behind she went to the University of Texas Medical school in Galveston and entered (again by examination) the School of Pharmacy from which she graduated in 1901, the second woman in Texas to secure a degree in Pharmacy. married at 20 to "the handsomest man I ever saw", who generously said "Honey, I don't mind if you are red headed, I married you for your brains" Mrs. Cunningham felt in honor bound to demonstrate brains at every turn of the road. This may account for some of the activity of the next 50 years of her life.

Huntsville Cronology of a Chromatic half century -

Huntsville
1901 to '05

learned to type to write up papers for young lawyer husband; belonged to social clubs; acted as receiver for the drug store she had worked in before marriage; kept house

Houston

1905 to '07
from here to
now there was
much travel
and going
and coming to
and from Texas

Belonged to musical club, kept house persuaded husband to take country place on Dickinson Bayou where she gardened, drove a fast horse to meet ^{boats} commuting members of the family of ^{fishes} and ~~shot~~ ^{hunted} (killed a 6 ft alligator with a rifle)

Galveston

1907 to 1916

Belonged to civic, ~~and~~ musical, clubs literary and suffrage clubs; kept house; sewed and cared for two adopted children; began to do some public speaking, sang in vestal choir Trinity Church labored for suffrage; opened headquarters for State Suffrage Assn., was State Chairman of Liberty Loan Campaigns in World War I; Covered the western states for ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment.

Austin

1916 to '22

Washington DC
1922 to 1943

war work, suffrage work Pan League of women voters work; Pan American work; Agricultural work - nation wide travel to USA