

Western Range Feud Recounted

Range feuds such as those portrayed in Western movies actually occurred at times during territorial days. One such battle is described in J.B. Thoburn's "History of Oklahoma." It took place during a range cattle round-up at Erin Springs, near the present town of Lindsay in Garvin County in 1886.

There were two rival forces of cattlemen who operated in a large way with herds on the open range in the area. The trouble developed when A.M. March, who earlier had settled at the historic Spanish Fort, just south of the Red River, accused Curg Williams, Frank Murry and a man named Wyatt of taking unlawful possession of 300 or 400 head of his



cattle.

Men on both sides were armed, as were all frontiersmen, and 20 to 30 were involved in the battle that ensued. The result was that four or

five of them were killed, which might not be much of a compliment to the marksmanship of either side.

Thoburn wrote that the aftereffects of the

shooting reflected "the spirit of the time." There was a peaceful division of the herd and March secured all of the cattle that he claimed.

March's son, George S. March, became a judge and in 1901, while a resident of Lawton, joined a party headed by Robert Goree that became aroused by the number of men murdered in that city. The Goree party, claiming to be 5,000 strong, marched down the notorious Goo Goo Avenue and cleared the city of crooks and gamblers.