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William H. von Streeruwitz (1833-1916), Geologist on the Dumble Survey of Texas

S. W. Geiser

Forty-one years ago, there died in abject poverty in the city of Houston, a Bohemian man of science, former Geologist for West Texas on the Dumble geological survey. Tucked away in the probate records of Harris County is the pitiful story of the administration of his estate: appraised assets of \$398.00, and claims against the estate of \$1,313.31. Among the assets were \$24.79 which was on his person at the time of his decease, and a bank account of \$3.80. This was WILHELM H., RITTER VON STREERUWITZ. He had been a resident of Houston intermittently for forty years, having first come to that city in 1876, when its population numbered about 40,000 persons. An erect old Bohemian noble of more than six feet, well-built in proportion, and wearing an "imperial," he was a striking figure in any company. Born in July of 1833 at Mies [present Stríbo], in the Pilsener *Kreis* of Bohemia, he later attended mining-courses at the University of Prague, did his "turn" in the Austrian army in the Second Sardinian War, and was in the Battle of Solferino (his brother being Chief-of-staff of the Emperor Franz Josef, who led the army in person in that disastrous engagement). After that battle, which terminated the war and led to the Peace of Zurich, von Streeruwitz returned to his native town, bore with hardly-restrained impatience the chaos of the 'fifties and 'sixties in the Dual Monarchy, and finally came to America in 1863. He settled at or near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, then well-

populated with Germanic peoples,¹ and was for a time assistant city engineer, and for a year Assistant-professor of Civil and Mechanical Engineering in the university there. For 13 years (1863-76) he followed the profession of civil and mechanical engineering in Pittsburgh.

He came to Houston in 1876; and as a civil, mining, and metallurgical engineer investigated coal-, mineral-, and topographic conditions on lands granted to several railroad companies in Texas, and coal along the Santa Fe Railroad in the Indian Territory. For this reason, probably, his name does not occur in the Houston directories before 1880, when his "office" (but not his residence) is given in the drug store of Erich F. Schmidt at 88 Travis Street. He seems to have made this drug store his headquarters while a resident of Houston (the street number was later changed to 508 Travis)—that is, from 1880 to 1905 or '6.² Von Streeruwitz found many Germanic compatriots and friends in Houston, many of whom were also interested in natural history; and he became a member of the Houston Natural History Society and the Texas Geological and Scientific Association.³

In connection with these societies, von Streeruwitz became intimately associated with Edwin Theodore Dumble; and when Dumble was appointed (21 September, 1888) State Geologist of the newly-established Survey of the State, Dumble made him one of the geologists of the survey, in charge of the trans-Pecos region.⁴ Von Streeruwitz reported for duty, at Austin, on 29 September, and was sent out to that region with directions to make a careful investigation of its mineral and agricultural resources. His title was "Geologist of West Texas." Since but a short time was to elapse between the organization of the Survey (at the end of September, 1888) and the convening of the 21st Legislature (8 January, 1889), the geologists of the Survey made

¹The German-born population of Pittsburgh (1870) consisted of 8,703 souls, of whom 2,152 came from Prussia, 1,515 from Württemberg, 1,091 from Bavaria, and 1,057 from Hesse. The remaining persons (2,888) came from Austria-Hungary (mostly German-Austria) and from other parts of a still-united Germany. (Schem. *Deutsch-amerikanisches Conversations-Lexicon*, s.v. "Pittsburgh.")

²No addresses are given in Houston city directories for von Streeruwitz before 1880. 1880-81: "William H. Streeruwitz, civil & mining engr, off 88 Travis" [drug store of E. F. Schmidt at 88 Travis, between Prairie and Texas]. 1882-3: "consulting mining engr & metallurgist, rms 215 Preston cor Milam, bds Tremont House." No office listed. 1884-5: not listed. 1886-7: "off 88 Travis." 1887-8: "off 88 Travis, rms Mrs. Kate E. T. Burke (wid James), 308 Preston bt San Jacinto & Caroline." During all this time E. F. Schmidt's drug store is listed at 88 Travis. (*Miss Louise Franklin, Reference Librarian, Houston Public Library*.)

³See S. W. Geiser, *THIS JOURNAL*, 24:125-6, 1956.

⁴See, in re, George P. Merrill, *Bull. 109, U.S. Nat. Mus.*, 1920, pp. 480-96, *passim*, which will be found extremely useful on the history of the Dumble Survey.

rapid reconnaissances of their areas, and presented a preliminary Report of Progress, of some 78 printed pages. Before the 21st Legislature rose (6 April, 1889), it had made a 2-year appropriation to cover the expenses of the Survey from 1 March, 1889 to 1 March, 1891. Dumble, chief geologist, planned (since appropriations were to be made for 2-year periods) to devote the first year of each period to the broader features of areal and stratigraphic geology, and the second year to more detailed studies of strata and deposits of those areas.

In 1889, von Streeruwitz was continued in the trans-Pecos area, where he first completed his reconnaissance and then began to survey the western part of the *then* El Paso County, and to construct a topographic map of the region. In this topographic work he was aided by R. Wyschetzki. The First Annual Report of the Survey (published 1890) has a preliminary statement on the geology of the trans-Pecos country by von Streeruwitz.

In 1890, he continued his mapping of the area, and as far as possible examined its mineral resources. Joseph Alexander Taff was in von Streeruwitz's party, and was assigned the study of the Cretaceous deposits of the region. In the Second Annual Report (1891), von Streeruwitz published another paper on the geology and mineral resources of trans-Pecos Texas.

In May or June of 1891 he returned to work in the region, especially in the Diablo and Carrizo Mountains of present Hudspeth and Culberson counties, with a resultant paper in the Third Annual Report (1892). In 1892 he was again in trans-Pecos Texas, being accompanied by the capable Dr. Carl Alfred Osann of Heidelberg (who from 1903 to the time of his death, twenty years later, was professor of mineralogy, crystallography, and petrography at the University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau). Osann published a report on the rocks of trans-Pecos Texas, and von Streeruwitz a further report on the geology of the region (1893).

The 23d Legislature (10 Jan.—9 May, 1893) reduced the appropriation for the Survey, with the result that nearly all the force were "let out" on 1 September, 1893; a few being continued until their reports were completed. The work in the trans-Pecos country was confined to a trip by Dr. Osann and von Streeruwitz to investigate the more important erup-

tive and igneous rocks, of which Osann had found specimens in the collections.

It will be seen from the above that von Streeruwitz's connection with the Dumble Survey lasted from 29 September, 1888 to 1 September, 1893—a period of approximately five years.

While connected with the Survey (and for some time afterwards) von Streeruwitz had his residence in Austin.⁵ His name appears first in the Austin directory in the issue of 1891, and last in that of 1895/6. He was, however, a resident of Austin until at least 1900. He appears in the Houston directory, again, in 1903/4, and intermittently in the directory through 1910. The last date at which a *residence* appears is 1908/9, when his room was located at 2307 Washington Avenue. On slender grounds I surmise that this was his residence during the last years of his life, and that a physician at that address, Dr. Ashley P. Vaughan, furnished him from time to time means of subsistence. His "office" continued to be, from *ca.* 1908 to 1910, at "506½ Travis Street," over Isidore Lewyn's drug store.⁶

The first issue of *Who's Who in America, 1899-1900* (1899) states his occupation as that of a civil and mining engineer; born at Mies, Bohemia, in July, 1833; graduated B.Sc., University of Prague; came to the United States in 1863; assistant city engineer, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1863-72; professor of civil & mechanical engineering, Western University of Pennsylvania [University of Pittsburgh], 1863-73; civil and mechanical engineer, Pittsburgh, 1873-76; Houston, Texas, 1876-88; since then State geologist for Western Texas. Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and many scientific societies; has written many reports on mineral resources of Texas, as well as essays in English, German, and French on many technical subjects. (His biography occurs in no other issue of this publication.)

⁵Directories for Austin for 1887-8 and 1888-9 give no addresses for von Streeruwitz. 1891-2: "William H. Streeruwitz, civil & mining engr, Geologist for West Texas, off Capitol bldg, bds 1104 San Antonio" [Mrs. Ernestine Goldman (Adolph)]. 1893-4 and 1895-6: same addresses. His name does not appear in later directories (checked through 1906). (Mrs. Helen S. Swanson, *Austin-Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library.*)

⁶Houston directory-addresses for von Streeruwitz, after his return from Austin (about 1900), as follows. 1902-3: not given. 1903-4: "William H., R. von Streeruwitz, consult mining engr & analyt chemist, 508 Travis, res 506 McKinney." [E. F. Schmidt's drug store at 508 Travis]. 1905-6: same addresses. 1907: not listed. 1908-9: "off 506½ Travis, rms 2307 Washington" [rooming house of Mrs. Lucretia S. Anderson; Dr. Ashley P. Vaughan was at same address]. 1910-11: "W. H., R. von Streeruwitz, civil engr, off 506½ Travis." Not in subsequent directories, through 1915. (*Miss Louise Franklin, Reference Librarian, Houston Public Library.*)

This sketch, written when von Streeruwitz was 66 years old, exhibits the errors of date and fact that commonly appear in accounts given by persons of advanced years, when queried concerning the earlier events of their lives. So general is this tendency that the historian and biographer scrutinizes such recollections, and makes them subject to his critical judgment. With this in mind, one may observe that von Streeruwitz's name first appears in the Pittsburgh directory of 1871/2—not in 1863 or 1864—and last in that for 1876/7—a condition not to surprise one, as he may have lived for his first years in Allegheny City, just across the Allegheny River, which city was not yet annexed to Pittsburgh.⁷ But as to his employment at the Western University of Pennsylvania—on that point there can be no question; he was a member of the faculty there for but one year, that of the academic session of 1872-73.⁸ It is in a degree probable that other data given by von Streeruwitz in his autobiographical account may be in error. Indeed, it may be said that what little we know of his life, except what we have documentation for, is in some degree suspect. Investigation of sources in his native country is out of the question; his colleagues of the Dumble Survey—Comstock, Cragin, Cummins, Dumble, Hill, Kennedy, Ladd, Melville, Osann, Penrose, Taff, and Tarr, as well as those contemporaries who knew him outside of scientific circles—all are long since gone. Even of those younger men who knew him in his last years at Houston, but a handful remains. To most of his contemporaries he was an unknown man. Thus, Robert T. Hill, in 1890 an assistant-professor of geology at the University of Texas, a colleague on the Dumble Survey, and later a member of the United States Geological Survey, wrote me in 1939⁹ that von Streeruwitz was a glorious example of Teutonic arrogance at its worst; but in his manuscript autobiography, in an acidulous appraisal of the majority of his fellow-workers on the Dumble Survey, Hill fails even to mention von Streeruwitz or his work.¹⁰ Conse-

⁷Von Streeruwitz's name does not appear in the Pittsburgh city directories from 1862 to 1870; but does appear as follows: 1871-2, 1872-3, 1873-4: "civil engr, 49 Liberty ave." 1874-5: "16 Fifth ave, house 42, Sandusky ave." 1875-6: "Southern ave nr Neville, 32d ward." 1876-7: "25 Federal ave." 1877-8: not listed. (*Miss Rose Demorest, Librarian of Pennsylvania Room, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.*)

⁸Mrs. Agnes L. Starrett to S.W.G., Jan. 16, 1957. I have also consulted with much profit Mrs. Starrett's fine history of the University of Pittsburgh: *Through One Hundred and Fifty Years, 1937, passim.*

⁹Robert T. Hill to S.W.G., Dec. 30, 1939.

¹⁰Dr. Hill's autobiography, and a collection of personal papers, are preserved in the Rare Book Room, Fondren Library, Southern Methodist University.

quently, it was with great satisfaction that I received recently a letter from Dr. Charles Laurence Baker, in which he related his memories of von Streeruwitz as he knew him in Houston 44 years ago. Keeping in mind this lapse of time, and the uncertainty of undocumented memories, I give his recollections of the man:

. . . It happened that von Streeruwitz was wont to visit William Kennedy and me in Houston in 1912-13. I recall he told me he had to kill a man to prevent himself from being killed in the Battle of Solferino, 2d Sardinian War, 24 June, 1859. His elder brother was Chief of Staff of the Austrian Army; upon his brother's death he became Graf (Count) von Streeruwitz. He returned to Austria-Hungary [after the war] but had to go to Vienna and bow to the Emperor Franz Josef. This so disgusted him that he resolved to [go] to America, after giving his nephew the ancestral estates. Before returning to Bohemia von Streeruwitz had acquired enough holdings in the Cumberland Gap Coal Field to make him financially independent. He never married.

When I first knew him he was still as straight and stiff as a ramrod, tho' 80, and a fine figure of a man, well over 6 feet in height and well proportioned. He found the first overthrust in Texas—Carrizo over Millican between Van Horn and Eagle Flat. He did a good deal of work in the Llano Uplift, and when Sidney Paige's Llano-Burnet Geologic Folio appeared, remarked that it might be *lèse-majesté* to say anything derogatory concerning the United States Geological Survey, but that the man who wrote that folio certainly did not know what he was talking about. This was a judgment amply confirmed by my work there in later years.

Von Streeruwitz was a competent mining engineer and experimental chemist; he worked in the laboratory 25 years on the origin of quartz veins and finally turned over his results with an endowment to continue the work at the University of Vienna.

Among anecdotes concerning his trans-Pecos work, three have persisted. He had a force of engineers who were ex-officers in the Union Army who had fought "mit Siegel." Each of these had hobnails with a distinctive pattern on the soles of his boots. However, one of them strolled out of camp one afternoon, and was never heard of later. This force made better topographic maps than the U.S.G.S. topographers of the same time. On another occasion he was in a saloon where one of the badmen of the time tried to make him take a drink. Von Streeruwitz took his gun away and forced the outlaw to take a drink with *him*, whereupon the two became fast friends. He [von Streeruwitz] once wrote in to E. T. Dumble at Survey headquarters in Austin that the drinking water was bad. Thereupon Dumble sent him a still, and got a return letter from von Streeruwitz saying that he didn't know what he could do with such an encumbrance, since there was neither water nor fuel in the country.

Kennedy told me of bringing in some sulphur crystals blown out of Spindletop well in 1901. Streeruwitz thought they might be amber and proceeded to test with a lighted match, whereupon all speedily deserted his laboratory.

Von Streeruwitz must have lived until 1916, because Kennedy wrote me during the first world war that he had lost his old friend after some bitter arguments about the issues. . . .¹¹

One can make allowances here for unfounded tales and rumors, and faulty memories that trick one over the years (for who can remember details after the lapse of nearly

¹¹Charles Laurence Baker to S.W.G., 17 Dec., 1956

fifty years?); but the fact that such tales were told of von Streeruwitz betrays something of the character of the man. Dr. W. E. Wrather has added to Dr. Baker's account the following; I include it because only he and Baker, of my numerous correspondents in regard to von Streeruwitz, knew the man personally, and because his account, though brief, adds measurably to our knowledge of the man:

. . . I knew von Streeruwitz only slightly. He was an old man living in Houston when I was there about 1910. I hunted him up largely out of curiosity, because geologists were scarce in Texas in those days.

He made his downtown quarters at a drug store operated by a friend on the street north of the Rice Hotel—perhaps the "88 Travis" mentioned in your memorandum. I found him quite ready to talk, though not necessarily garrulous. I was inquisitive about his geological experiences in West Texas, but was not a judge of his geological ability because I was then largely unfamiliar with the regions in which he had worked. He was distinctly Germanic in habits of thought and spoke with a heavy German brogue. The only thing I remember about his personal appearance was that he wore, in addition to a moustache, a "Buffalo Bill" goatee [an "imperial"]. . . .¹²

Von Streeruwitz's early period in Houston saw him active in the scientific interests of the city. Already the leading city of Texas, Houston had long been a center of culture and progress. "The candle of learning has always burned, [if] faintly, in Houston since the days of the Republic, while science was sneered at in the outer districts of this State."¹³ One needs only to read S. G. Reed's *History of Texas Railroads* (1941) to learn between the lines what a high valuation was put on science in the city of Houston. The Germanic element made its weighty contribution to this culture and progress. When the Geological & Scientific Association was organized there, in 1884, von Streeruwitz was a charter member, and one of the "General Committee," and continued thus until he joined the Dumble Survey.¹⁴ He published several papers in the *Geological & Scientific Bulletin*, of which but a single volume was issued.¹⁵ Several of his fellow-Germans in Houston were also, with him, active in the work of the Association. Two of them deserve mention here: Erwin Erlenmeyer and Erich F. Schmidt. Both of them were pharmacists, and both had lively interests in mineralogy and chemistry. Erlenmeyer (who had his shop at 90 Prairie Street) died in 1888, and left his collection of 150 finely-crystallized mineral specimens to the museum of

¹²W. E. Wrather to S.W.G., Dec. 18, 1956.

¹³Robert T. Hill to S.W.G., Dec. 30, 1939.

¹⁴This note comes from my study of the file of the *Geological and Scientific Bulletin*, vol. I, in the library of the U.S.G.S., in the spring of 1940.

¹⁵A list of these papers for the last 11 issues of v. I of this journal is given in S. W. Geiser, *Field & Laboratory*, 24:125-6, 1956.

the Association. Schmidt also was interested, like von Streeruwitz, in geological science. He had moved to Houston from Galveston about 1870 (after having had for four years an apothecary-shop in the latter city), and in 1871 had his place of business at 66 Travis Street. With a later change of location, he continued in business at Houston until his death, in December, 1904.

Von Streeruwitz was named an original Fellow of the Texas Academy of Science (in Austin) in 1892,¹⁶ and was an elected member of the Council for three years—June, 1894 to June, 1897. He read two papers before the Academy, and published four papers in the *Transactions*. He seems to have relinquished membership in the Academy about 1899, for his name does not appear as a member in volume III of the *Transactions*. At a meeting held on 11 June, 1902, although then living in Houston and no longer a member, he read his last paper before the Academy.

He was elected to membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the 40th Meeting (1891) and continued a member through the 45th Meeting (1896). After 1896 he no longer is listed as a member. He was never a member, surprisingly enough, of the American Society of Civil Engineers or the American Institute of Mining Engineers.¹⁷ Old friends in Houston at the time of his death claimed that he had been "a regular attendant on international conventions of Geologists, having been present at those held in Paris, Chicago, Petrograd, and other cities."¹⁸ Of the truth of this, I have no means of knowing.

He often spoke of his association with men connected with the Western University of Pennsylvania, especially the Langleys—Samuel Pierrepont Langley the astronomer, who later was Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and a pioneer worker in aerodynamics; and his brother, John W. Langley, who taught chemistry, mineralogy, and geology there from 1872 to 1875. It has been loosely asserted that he was interested in, and perhaps participated in, S. P. Langley's experiments in aerodynamics while at the university, but this is mistaken. S. P. Langley did not take up aerodynamic investigation until after he had left the Western

¹⁶See S. W. Geiser, *Field & Laboratory* 16:8 ff, 1948, for an account of the founding of the Academy in 1892.

¹⁷Letters from the secretaries of the respective Societies to S.W.G., December 26, December 17, 1956.

¹⁸Houston Daily Post, Apr. 20, 1916, p. 10.

University of Pennsylvania in 1887; in von Streeruwitz's day Langley was interested primarily, and probably solely, in astronomy. The Western University at that time was a small institution which permitted warm friendships. In 1873-4 (the year after von Streeruwitz left) it had but 17 instructors and 252 students (80 of them collegiate, and 172 preparatory).¹⁹ But it had some excellent scholars on its faculty; and the Chancellor, George Woods (a graduate of Bowdoin in the class of 1837) possessed a keen sense of academic values, and was a pioneer in American technological education. The college department had classical, scientific, and engineering courses; the museum (geological, mineralogical, conchological, and zoölogical) held about 10,000 specimens, and the Allegheny Observatory, with S. P. Langley at its head, was one of the most notable in the country.

Von Streeruwitz succeeded Bryant P. Tilden, Jr., in the school of engineering, and was followed in turn by Lieut. Wm. B. McCallum, an 1867 graduate of West Point. Daniel Carhart was at the time head of the school of engineering.

In the obituary notice²⁰ of W. H. von Streeruwitz it is said that "during the later years of his life, he perfected a method of removing copper from its compounds by a process of electrolysis remarkable for its simplicity." What the technique of the operation was, and whether the company formed in Houston for its exploitation found it a practicable one, I have not been able to ascertain.

Regarding von Streeruwitz's family I have been able to learn but little. The *Almanach de Gotha* (1832-55) gives nothing. At the time of his death, an aged sister was believed to still be living; but she did not survive the administration of his estate. An adopted son (perhaps the offspring of a *mésalliance*) lost his life in the Balkan War. How closely related to him were Adolph, Ritter von Streeruwitz,²¹ member of the House of Deputies (*Abgeordnetenhaus*) of the Austrian Diet in 1873 (as a member of the Liberal Constitutional Party); and Ernst Streer, Ritter von Streeruwitz (1874-?), Chancellor of Austria from May to

¹⁹*American Cyclopaedia*, 13, 1883, 556, for these 1873/4 data. Schem (*Deutsch-amerikanisches Conversations-Lexicon*, 8, 1873, 760-64) gives data for late 1871, as 16 teachers and professors, and 217 students.

²⁰*Houston Daily Post*, April 20, 1916, p. 10; another obituary account appears in the *Houston Chronicle* of April 19, 1916, p. 1.

²¹Wurzbach, *Biographisches Lexikon*, 40, 1879, p. 1. I may add that neither of the Czech encyclopaedias, *Ottav Slovník Naučný* and *Masarykův Slovník Naučný*, give any account of members of the von Streeruwitz family. (*Miss Kathleen Blow, Reference Librarian, The University of Texas Library.*)

late September, 1929, I have no means of knowing. Both of them were born at Mies, however, the natal town of Wilhelm von Streeruwitz.

The last years of von Streeruwitz were clouded with grief over the outbreak and progress of the First World War, and the breaches it made in old friendships. He had lived beyond his time—old friends and old ways of life were gone beyond recall. At Christmas of 1915 he became ill, and at his advanced age recovery was doubtful from the outset. Early in the morning of Wednesday, 19 April, 1916, he breathed for the last time; and the next day was buried in the German Society- (now, Washington) Cemetery in Houston, at 2911 Washington Street. The Reverend Paul V. Dyck, pastor of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, read the service.

Historians and biographers have never assessed obituaries highly as critical estimates of their subjects; but this sentence in that of the *Houston Post* occasions one to pause: "With the death of William, Ritter von Streeruwitz, Houston and Texas lost a pioneer in scientific research, one who almost might be termed the father of science in this State."

Appendix

MEMORANDUM ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF W. H. VON STREERUWITZ

(Probate Dossier #7209, Harris County, Texas)

- 19Ap16 Death of vonStreeruwitz
- 2My16 Court appointed Walter Morgan, Sr., Temporary Administrator of estate. \$24.79 in money on person of the deceased, some books, papers, and instruments (*see* 5Jl19)
- 23Ap18 A. J. James, M.D. petitioned Court to appoint him Permanent Administrator of estate.
- 24Ap18 Citation on James' application for Administration issued, & publication ordered.
- 4F19 A. J. James appointed Permanent Administrator of estate. On 14F he took oath & furnished bond.
- 10Ap19 Inventory & appraisal of estate (*see below*). Counting the value of his 10 shares of Houston Mining Co. stock as \$300.00, his estate was appraised at \$398.00.
- 22My19 A. J. James applied for Court order to sell property of estate. Inventory showed 2 mineral cabinets valued at \$5.00 each, \$3.80 cash in bank, two notes of S. H. Jackson (\$100.00, \$1000.00—no value), about 200 books, 10 shares of stock, Houston Mining Co. (here stated, "no value"), and 2 shares of stock of Texas Mica Co. ("no value").

- 24My19 No heirs to estate. Claims against estate: A. P. Vaughan, 2307 Washington Ave., \$485.35; Dr. H. A. Engelhardt, \$920.00; Walter Morgan, Sr., \$7.96. Administrator was ordered to sell personal property at private sale and report back to Court.
- 5J119 Temporary Administrator Walter Morgan, Sr., turned over money, books, papers, and instruments that constituted von Streeruwitz's estate, to Permanent Administrator A. J. James (*See* 2My16).
- 8S19 Final report of Walter Morgan, Sr., Temporary Administrator.
- 22Ap20 The Houston Paper Stock Co. bought of von Streeruwitz's Administrator 1,000 pounds of old books, for \$8.74; the total "take in" from sale by Administrator was \$187.54; by 16Je20 his disbursements were \$171.06.
- 16Je20 Final Account of A. J. James, Administrator, in estate of W. H. von Streeruwitz.
- 23S20 Court ordered sale by A. J. James of all personal property of estate (I suppose this was *post facto* validation of sale).
- 23S20 Administration of estate of von Streeruwitz closed by decree of Court, and Permanent Administrator discharged.

INVENTORY & APPRAISAL OF ESTATE, 10 APRIL, 1919—J. A. BEELER, D. L. WEED (?), & D. L. GLEASON, APPRAISERS

1 Bausch & Lomb microscope, \$50.00; 1 apothecary's scales, \$5.00; 2 apothecary's scales, very old, \$1.00; 2 pistols, \$8.00; 2 small microscopes, broken, \$1.00; 1 case surveyor's drawing instruments, \$15.00; 1 small surveyor's compass, \$3.00; 1 surveyor's chain, \$5.00; 2 mineral cabinets, \$10.00; 1 note of S. H. Jackson, \$100.00 (no value), 1 note of S. H. Jackson, \$1000.00 (no value); about 200 books (no value); 10 shares of stock, Houston Mining Co., \$300.00; 2 shares of stock, Texas Mica Co. (no value); total, \$398.00.

Biological Notes

THE BOBCAT, *LYNX RUFUS TEXENSIS*, IN DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS.—The presence of the bobcat, *Lynx rufus texensis* J. A. Allen, in Dallas County has not been reported previously in the literature, although its known range (in south and east Texas and at least as far north as Montague and Cooke Counties) includes this area, and although I had received reports that the species had been seen here (*Field & Lab.* 24: 96-101, 1956).

During the night of January 20, 1957, two female bobcats (one adult and one young) were killed by Mr. R. F. Land at his residence near the southwest corner of the County. These bobcats (and two others which were seen by Mr. Land) had been attacking a flock of turkeys for a period of several weeks and had killed 14 birds. Apparently, the bobcats had been inhabiting a tract of dense brush (about 15 acres) adjacent to the turkey hatchery.

The two bobcats killed were exceedingly fat. Since records for bobcats in this area are few, I include here the following measurements in millimeters (total length, tail-length, length of hind foot, ear-length): adult female, 772-137-170-72; young female, 690-123-155-73. The skulls of these animals were taken and have been placed in the permanent collections of the Department of Biology at Southern Methodist University. This species may now be added to my list of mammals recorded for Dallas County (*op. cit.*) and brings to 29 the number of species recorded here.—*William B. Stallcup*

ALLIUM acetabulum (Rafinesque) Shinnars, comb. nov.—*Geboscon acetabulum* Raf., *Autikon Botanikon*, p. 61. 1840. "Scapos. fol. longis linearib. plaucis [*sic*: glaucis] vix striatis, scapo longior tereto