

*PROSTITUTES*

*As Texas cowboys reached the end of a trail drive, they found women of easy virtue eager to take their pay. The prostitutes were known by many euphemisms, including soiled doves, nymphs du prairie, Mary Magdalines, girls of the night, calico queens, fancies, and painted cats. Most of these women were young, in their late teens or early twenties. Only rarely did they work in more than one cowntown, and most of them plied their trade for less than a year. Many of them ended up as the wives of their former customers and went on to become respected citizens. Their own pasts, after all, were no more spotted than those of the formerly rowdy cowntowns in which they lived.*

*From Plains Talk*