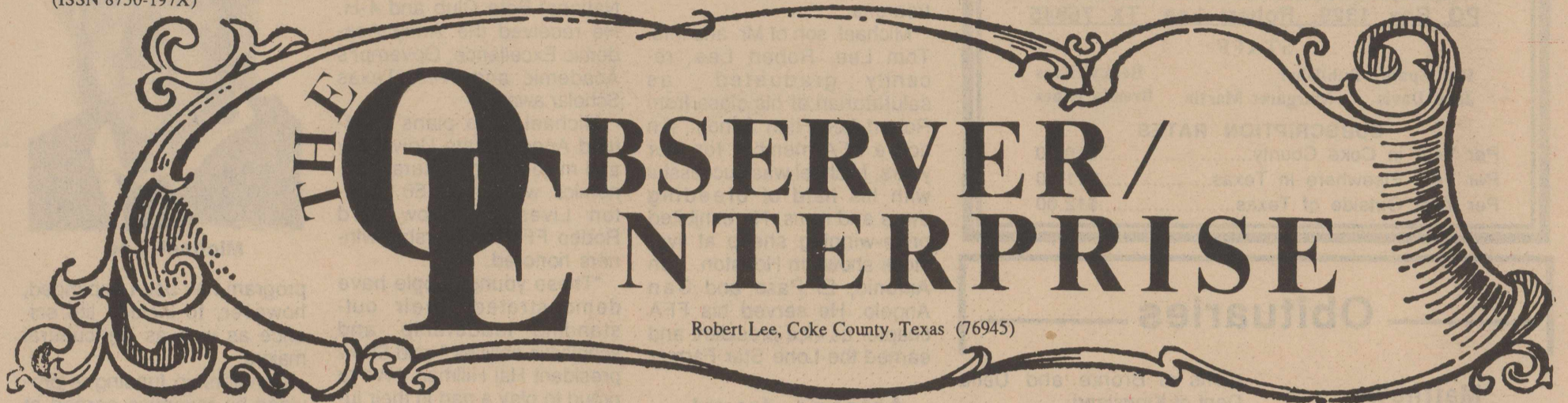


# \* CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION \*

(Special Edition Inside This Issue)

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(ISSN 8750-197X)

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★1889 CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY 1989★  
"100 Years of Continuous Service to Coke County"

Vol. 5, No. 49

Friday, July 21, 1989

## Coke County centennial activities slated

The Coke County Centennial will officially be observed Saturday, July 22. The program, beginning at 2 p.m. in the courtroom of the courthouse, will honor Joyce Lucas, county logo contest winner, and the election of Mr. and Mrs. Coke County will be announced. Representatives of the Tom Green County Historical Commission are planning to attend with a proclamation from the Commissioners' Court of that county.

Following the program, a reception will be held in the commissioners' courtroom, sponsored by the Coke County Historical Commission which will also have the Coke County School displays of early pictures, maps and artifacts of early education. Assisting will be the employees of the Coke County Appraisal District.

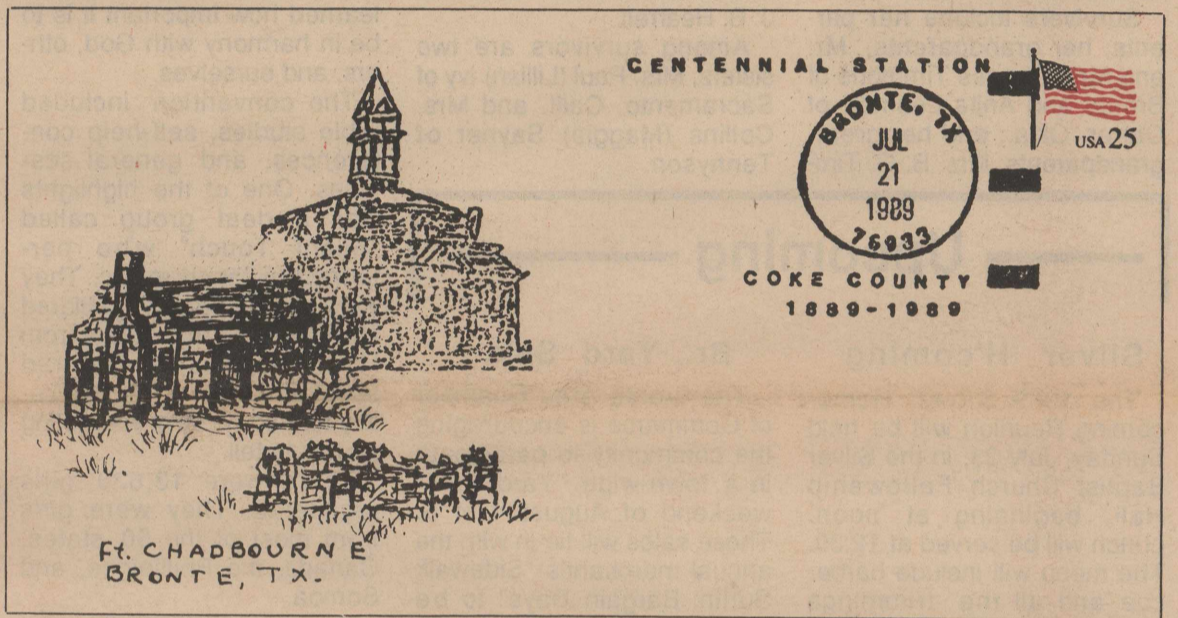
The Coke County Station, sponsored by the Robert Lee Stamp Club and the U. S. Post Office will have first-day cancellations and three cachets available.

The CCHC Gift Shop will have available rabbit lapel pins, postcards and historical posters of Coke County. Mrs. Jessie N. Yarbrough's book, HISTORY OF COKE COUNTY will be available at the Coke County Library booth in the gift shop.

At 3 p.m. a story-telling of early Coke County life will be presented by Pam Millican, sponsored by the Library and will be on the front courthouse lawn.

Early settler exhibits, demonstrations, and hay rides will be at 3 p.m. on the back lawn along with arts, crafts, and food booths.

The Coke County Museum will be open for conducted tours 3 to 5 p.m.



## Coke County Pageant begins tonight

This weekend will be the culmination of weeks and months of hard work by the director, Lucile Bryan, actors, actresses, and those folks who do a hundred other jobs in connection with the production of **Ole Coke County - Home of the Rabbit Twisters**. Friday (tonight) will be the opening night for the 13th edition of the colorful, historically correct pageant. The play is kept fresh each year by changes in scenes, characters, and completely new portrayals. Those who have attended annually find it different each year.

Don Masters of Bronte, narrator of early productions, will return as the "Old Timer" and his mule, Bartholomew II. The pageant itself opens at 8:25 each night (July 21-22 and July 28-29) but it's worth coming at 8 p.m. for the Pre-Time -- the choir, Indian mothers and children, braves riding among tepees on the hill, etc.

Adult tickets (13 & up) are \$5.00, children 5-12 are \$2.50 and those 4 and under are free. Those with adult ticket stubs will be presented free old-fashion paper fans and programs. Those who attend may want to bring cushions and/or lawn chairs as long as room is available between

benches.

County residents are being out-done by pageant-goers from over Texas and even out-of-state visitors. Some of these folks have seen the play more than once while too many local people have never been. It is a joyful family entertainment. The Amphitheatre lends itself to the mood and transports us back in time.

The '64 Study Club serves as hostesses and will operate a souvenir booth and the concession stand. A membership booth will be open to allow those who wish to join in support of continuing success of **Ole Coke County**. All funds go back into the production.

The late Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough's book "History of Coke County, Home of the Rabbit Twisters" will be for sale at the pageant at a reduced price. Surplus books were given to the Coke County Library by her estate for whatever use the board deemed fit. The large number of books will sell for \$7.50 or 2 for \$10.00 to benefit library funds. They would be excellent gift items. The book inspired the writing of the pageant by Lucile Bryan.

This year the pageant will

commemorate, with the county and surrounding areas, the 100th year of existence of Coke County.

### Chamber stamp cancellation set

The Bronte Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a special handstamp cancellation celebrating the County's Centennial. The envelopes will feature a sketch at Ft. Chadbourne and the original County Courthouse, and will be available Friday from 10:00 until 3:00 at the Bronte Post Office. The covers are \$1.00 each.

### WCCCD meeting set for July 24

Regular meeting of the West Coke County Community Development is scheduled for Monday, July 24, 7 pm in the courtroom of the county courthouse in Robert Lee. Annual membership dues are now payable (\$10 for a single person, \$15 for couples, and \$20 for businesses). Both old and new members are urged to attend to show support for the community and take part in plans for upcoming promotional projects.



Waylon Bryant of Green Mountain will ride this 1822 saddle in the Ole Coke County pageant which begins a 4-performance run this weekend. Stamping indicates the saddle was made in Kansas Territory. Waylon portrays Chief Yellow Wolf and will ride in the pre-time and opening scene.

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## Obituaries

### Matthews

Morgan Brittany Matthews, infant daughter of David and Tina Matthews of Fort Worth, died Saturday at Harris Southwest Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth.

Graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, July 17, at Fairview Cemetery directed by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include her parents; her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Timmons of Bronte and Anita Leamon of Carter, Okla.; and her great-grandparents, Mrs. B. G. Tim-

mons of Bronte and Della Dent of Kingsland.

### Giddens

Word was received this week of the death of Mrs. Ruth Giddens of Terrell.

Burial was Wednesday, July 19, in Terrell.

She was born Aug. 7, 1911 in Bronte to the late Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Hearrell.

Among survivors are two sisters, Mrs. Paul (Lillian) Ivy of Sacramento, Calif. and Mrs. Collins (Maggie) Sayner of Tennyson.

## Lee awarded Houston Show scholarship

Michael Craig Lee was awarded an \$8,000, four-year Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo FFA scholarship recently in special ceremonies at the 61st annual Texas FFA Convention, in Houston's Astroarena.

Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lee, Robert Lee, recently graduated as salutatorian of his class from Robert Lee High School. An active FFA member for four years, Michael was successful with his herd of breeding ewes and rams. He exhibited prize-winning sheep at livestock shows in Houston, San Antonio, El Paso and San Angelo. He served his FFA chapter as vice president and earned the Lone Star Farmer

degree. He was a delegate to the state FFA convention and a member of the livestock judging, chapter conducting and farm radio teams.

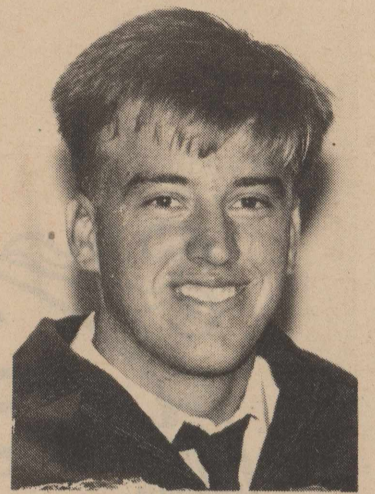
While in high school, Michael was a member of the National Beta Club and 4-H. He received the Army Academic Excellence, Governor's Academic and West Texas Scholar awards.

Michael, who plans to attend Angelo State University and major in agricultural economics, was one of 50 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo FFA scholarship winners honored.

"These young people have demonstrated their outstanding leadership and scholastic abilities," said Show president Hal Hillman. "We're proud to play a part in their futures."

"We're also pleased that the Texas FFA selected the Astroarena as the location of this year's convention," said Hillman. "Although our scholarship winners come from all over the state, we're especially proud to present these scholarships in a facility built and paid for by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo."

In addition to the 50 FFA scholarships, the show awarded 50 four-year, \$8,000 scholarships at the Texas 4-H Roundup on June 6 in College Station. As in past years, all FFA and 4-H recipients must pursue a bachelor's degree at a Texas college or university. This scholarship



Michael Lee

program has been expanded, however, to include life science as well as agricultural majors.

Scholarship funding is provided by revenues earned at the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, a civic and charitable event made possible by the efforts of more than 6,000 volunteers. To date, the Show has committed more than \$1.14 million in educational funds for the upcoming school year.

Included in this commitment are 24 new, \$8,000, four-year metropolitan scholarships, awarded at a special Million Dollar Scholarship Luncheon on June 20 in Houston; the Area Go Texan scholarships, presented at rodeo performances during the 1989 Show; and, school art scholarships, awarded to recipients selected during this year's school art contest.

## Upcoming

### Silver H'coming

The 1989 Silver Homecoming Reunion will be held Sunday, July 23, in the Silver Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, beginning at noon. Lunch will be served at 12:30. The menu will include barbecue and all the trimmings which will be provided by the Homecoming Association. Those who attend are asked to bring either a vegetable or salad plus a dessert.

### Softball Tourney

Register your team now for the men's or women's slow-pitch softball tournament on August 5th and 6th in Robert Lee. It is limited to class "C", "D", and church team players.

Call 453-4671, 453-4729, or 453-2415 for more information.

### WC EMS BBQ

The West Coke County EMS will sponsor a barbecue on Saturday afternoon, July 22; serving will begin at 5 pm and continue until 7 pm. Coke County Park will be the site for the meal.

### Strickland named "sailor of month"

Seaman Tod Strickland was selected as "Sailor of the Month" for his division aboard the soon to be commissioned Abraham Lincoln. The Abraham Lincoln is the newest and largest aircraft carrier for the Navy. Tod is stationed at Newport News, Va.

Tod is the son of Sharon Kennedy of Winters and Bob Strickland of Merkel. Elmer & Janet Hurley and Guy & Marie Strickland of Bronte are Tod's grandparents.

### Br. Yard Sale

The Bronte Area Chamber of Commerce is encouraging the community to participate in a town-wide "Yard Sale" weekend of August 4 or 5. These sales will tie in with the annual merchant's "Sidewalk Surfin' Bargain Days" to be held that same weekend. Anyone wishing to have a yard or garage sale that weekend may contact any Chamber Director or phone 473-2701 for special information.

### Br. Class of '54

Bronte High School, Class of 1954, will hold their reunion at Bronte Senior Center all day Saturday, July 22. A noon meal will be served.

For more information call Eddie Alexander, (915) 473-5101, Bronte.

### Acteens travel to San Antonio

The Acteens of First Baptist Church, Bronte, along with sponsors Ray and Brenda Barnett, left Wednesday, July 12th for the National Acteen Convention in San Antonio. The theme for this years convention was "In Harmony". We learned how important it is to be in harmony with God, others, and ourselves.

The convention included Bible studies, self-help conferences, and general sessions. One of the highlights was a deaf group called "Silent Touch" who performed to taped music. They were very impressive. Mildred McWhorter, a missionary from Houston, was a featured speaker every night. She really had some very interesting stories to tell.

There were 13,620 girls registered. They were girls from most of the 50 states, Canada, the Phillipines, and Somoa.

Everyone had a really great time. The girls attending from Bronte were Kim Blair, Wendy Huckabee, Elaine Moore and Michelle Sanchez.

We want to thank everyone in the community for their support.

### Personal

Mrs. Marie Hester spent last weekend in St. John's Hospital in San Angelo. She is recuperating at her home in Robert Lee.

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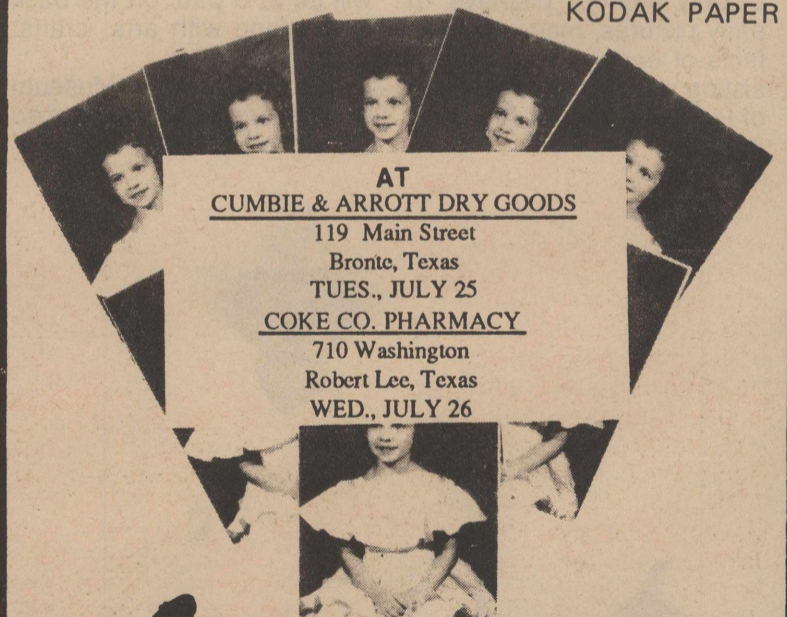
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## Bradshaw, Draper marry at Rockport

The Presbyterian Church of Rockport was the setting for the marriage of Mary Scott Bradshaw, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. John Bradshaw of Rockport, and Troy Dan Draper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Draper of Bronte, on Saturday, June 17. The 7 P.M. ceremony was performed by the Rev. Exell Coon Jr.

The church was decorated with potted ferns placed at each side of the altar and English ivy which cascaded over its railing. A unity candle was used during the ceremony and both mothers used a single taper to unite the families.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a gown of paper-white linen. It was fully hand embroidered and displayed a diagonal collar trimmed with hand crocheted lace and embroidery. The fitted bodice held softly puffed sleeves and the ankle-length skirt featured fine mosaic cut-work.

A petticoat that peeked from beneath the skirt also was made of linen and trimmed in crochet. A fingertip veil of white tulle was held in place by tiny roses of white silk edged with pearls. Her bouquet was fashioned of peach alstroemeria lilies and white freesia and larkspur. Queen Ann's lace and English ivy enhanced the design.

The bride carried a lace handkerchief given to her by a friend of her mother. In her shoe was tucked a six-pence also worn on her mother's wedding day. The diamond pendant that graced her neck was given to her mother by her father on their wedding day.

Jane Bradshaw attended her sister as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Candy Kalal and Rhonda Miller, both of Rockport, Kathy Napier of Haughton, La., and Liesel

### Bronte T-Ball

The Bronte T-Ball Boys Baseball finished their season June 29th with a record of 5 wins and 4 losses. All boys enjoyed the season and ended it with a swimming and hot dog party July 6th at Bronte Park. Those playing on the T-Ball Braves were - John Gallimore, Shaylon Arrott, Ryan McCorkle, Brandon Gibbs, Henry White, Justin Herold, Josh Schoenfield, Jerrod McClure, Jessie McClure, Jake Graves, Anthony Gibbs, Andrew Blair and Kerry Nance.

Coaches were Scotty McCorkle, Kendell Gibbs and Jeff Schoenfield.

Special thanks to Kenny White, Randy Gibbs, and Martin Deleazarza for umpiring the home games.



Mr. & Mrs Troy Draper

Drama of Edinburg.

Attendants wore tea length gowns of peach batiste and featured extended waistlines and cap sleeves. Hemlines were trimmed with cotton lace and peach satin ribbon enhanced the sleeves and bottoms of the gathered skirts. Each attendant carried a nosegay of flowers complementing the bridal bouquet.

The mother of the bride wore a street length dress of champagne-colored linen with heavily laced cap sleeves. The front panel of the bodice was trellised with a delicate pattern of peach colored flowers and set off with a silk-satin cummerbund. A strand of pearls and diamond earrings completed her ensemble.

The groom's mother wore a satin sheath of pale lavender overlaid in crepe. The dress featured a jewel neckline and straight, wrist length sleeves. A drape gathered at the right shoulder and fell to fingertip length. Matching shoes completed her attire.

The groom's father served as best man and one of the groomsmen was his brother Randy Draper of San Angelo. Other groomsmen were Clint

Harmon of Carrollton; Luke Robbins of Bronte and Grady Muldrow of College Station.

Ushers were Todd Chambers of Lubbock, Kurt Fisher and G. Alan Meyer of College Station, and Scott Boyd of Beaumont.

The groom wore a charcoal tailcoat and pin stripe pants with a pearl double-breasted vest. His attendants also wore pin stripe pants with straight coats of matching charcoal.

Mrs. Bobby Jackson, organist, played Trumpet Voluntary for the processional and Hornpipe for the recessional. Other wedding selections included Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring.

The bride is a 1985 graduate of Rockport-Fulton High School and graduated from Texas A & M University in May. The groom is a 1984 graduate of Bronte High School and has received his Bachelor of Science from Texas A & M. he is currently working toward his Master's Degree in Agriculture in graduate school at the university. The couple will reside in College Station.

Grandparents of the groom are Mr. and Mrs. Buel Draper and Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Young of Tahoka.



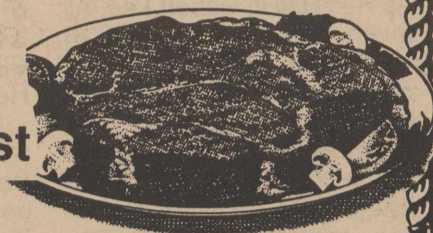
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## McCutchen reunion held

A weekend family reunion was enjoyed last Saturday and Sunday by the descendants of the late W. M. (Bill) and Eva McCutchen. The group met at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee. All seven surviving children of the couple, along with their children and grandchildren were present.

Attending the 2-day get-together were Mrs. J. W. Service, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Service, Jr., Scott, Jeanne, Jennifer, and Jamie Service, Mr. & Mrs. C. R. (Butch) Service and Johnna, Mr. & Mrs. Joy Lynn Service, Nicki and Rory, and Sabrina and Jessica Cowart, all of Robert Lee.

Mrs. Belva McCutchen,

## Ivy to be honored on 100th b'day

Clara Ivy of Robert Lee will be honored on the occasion of her 100th birthday Saturday, July 22. The celebration will be in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church in Robert Lee from 4:30 until 8:30 p.m. Hosting the event will be her two daughters and their husbands Wanda and Lee Dublin of Robert Lee and Yvonne and LeRoy Smith of Monahans.

Mrs. Ivy was born July 26, 1889 in Eastland County. She was married to John Ivy in 1918. Mr. Ivy died in 1957. She has been a Robert Lee resident for 10 years.

She has remained active until recently, taking part in Senior Citizens activities. Mrs. Ivy had previously been an active member of the Methodist Church, American Cancer Society, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Rebekahs.

## Eighty attend Maverick reunion

Eighty persons attended Maverick Community Homecoming at Bronte Community Center last Saturday and Sunday.

Officers are Glen Culp, president, Dorothy Nutter, secretary and Margaret Martin, treasurer.

The oldest person was Sam Underwood of San Angelo. The persons traveling the most miles were Horace and Irene Hutton of Muleshoe and Lorenza and Myrtle Lee of Hart. Russell Carlton has lived in the community the longest number of years.

Ex-teachers present were Mrs. Rosemary Griggs of San Angelo and Mrs. Lorenza (Myrtle) Lee of Hart.

The Sunday noon meal was catered by The Cracker Barrel of Robert Lee.

Next homecoming will be in 1991 in Bronte Senior Center.

(widow of J. D. McCutchen) of San Angelo also attended along with her family members, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fowler, San Angelo, and Mr. & Mrs. David McCutchen, Kerrville, and Glynice McClelland, Shaye, Danielle, and Heide.

Present were Mrs. Maurice Cole, Ruidoso, N.M., Clarice Peek, Dallas, Kire Cole, Ruidoso, and Mr. & Mrs. James Maddox, of Abilene.

Madison and Mary McCutchen of Canyon Lake and W. D. (Bill) McCutchen of Ruidoso, N. M. were present at the reunion.

Hilda Kirchman of San Angelo and her family were in attendance including Mack and Linda Kirchman of Greenville, Sharon Kirchman and Dianna Barge, both of San Angelo, Jerry and Marie Kirchman and Deohen of Greenville.

Yvonne and Lendy Devoll and Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Devoll, Amy, Lacy, and Greg, all of Robert Lee, joined the families.

Other relatives at the reunion were Joyce and Bobby Hood of San Angelo, Mike and Lee Hood, Jonathan and Katy of Carlsbad, N. M. and Jeanna and Joel McWilliams, and Michael of Fort Worth.

## VanZandt reunion on Lake Whitney

The VanZandt reunion was held at Lake Whitney July 14-16, 1989. Those present were Mr. & Mrs. Jack Corley, Mr. & Mrs. James Tidwell, Jordan & Johna, Mary & Jim Morrow from Bronte,; Shelene Usry & Lynn Follis, Becky Morrow, Mrs. Ernestine VanZandt & Mr. & Mrs. O. P. May of San Angelo, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Jones, Brian, Kimberly & Wesley of Eldorado; Ronnie, Rhonda & Amy Buford of Bedford, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Coyle of Huntington Beach, CA, Ricky Jackson of Seattle, Washington, Terry Lee Jackson of Santa Ana, CA, Jacky & Glenda Corley of Mt. Pleasant, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Corley, Shannon, Kenneth, & Scott of Smithfield; Mr. & Mrs. Davis Corley & Kurt of Midland, Kenneth VanZandt of Austin, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hilly, H. G. & Ben of Burleson, Robert VanZandt, Cary & Brad of Talpa.

Jerry & Alisha Lowry of Weatherford, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Richards, Stephanye & Kimberly of Baytown, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Lowry, Jennifer & Jamie of LaPorte, Mr. Melton Lowry, Cole & Misha of Stephenville, Mr. & Mrs. Dale Bishop & Dacy, Mr. Dan Bishop & Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bishop of Bluff Dale, Rose Bishop, Mandy Hudson, Missy Sawyer, of Hewitt, and M. C. & Mary Lowry of Hico.

## RL players selected to all-star team

Seven players from Robert Lee Major League undefeated team were selected to be members of the Winters Area Little League All-Star team this year. They represented the Winters Area Association in the Coleman All-Star Tournament this past week. The local players were Jonathan Torres, Daniel Hayes, Blake Payne, Jerrid Vincent, Aaron Hood, Jeremy Vincent and Eric Hood. The first game was against Merkel All-Stars. Winters Area All-Stars were defeated 15-5. Aaron Hood and Jeremy Vincent had singles in the game. Jonathan Torres was called to relief pitch in the game.

The team defeated Ballinger All-Stars 5-4 in the second game. Jerrid Vincent and Aaron Hood pitched the entire contest. Eric Hood had two doubles and a single. Jerrid Vincent and Blake Payne had a single apiece. Jonathan Torres had two hits, a single, and a booming homerun in the last inning to provide the winning run.

The season was ended by the Jim Ned All-Stars the next night 11-2. Aaron Hood provided two singles and Jeremy Vincent had one. Jonathan Torres and Jeremy Vincent provided relief pitching in the game.

The team was managed by Dwayne Vincent and coached by Paul Payne and Bill Hood.



All-Star members are (back row l to r): Jonathan Torres, Daniel Hayes, Jerrid Vincent, Aaron Hood (front l to r) Blake Payne, Eric Hood, and Jeremy Vincent.

## Select shot winners told

On Thursday, July 13th, Singing Winds Golf Club had an ABC Select Shot with 28 players. Afterwards the Club hosted a hamburger supper, feeding 35.

The winners were:

1st - Kevin Burns, Jerry

England, Cornelia Baker, and Jim Badgett.

2nd - Wade Stautzenberger, David Phillips and Katy Cambell.

3rd - Mack Baker, Bruce Williams, Debra England, and Ealy Baker.

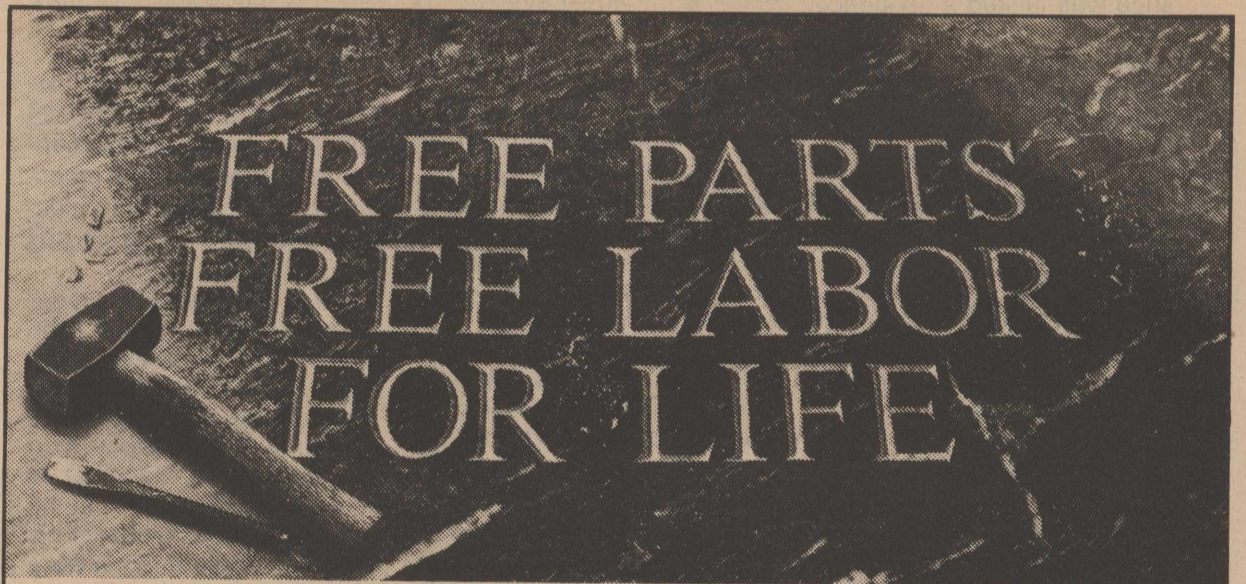
4th - Joe Walker, Corky Collins, Mickey Pierce, and James Badgett.

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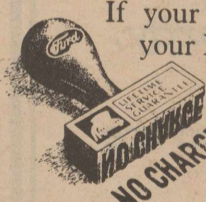
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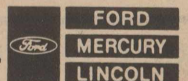
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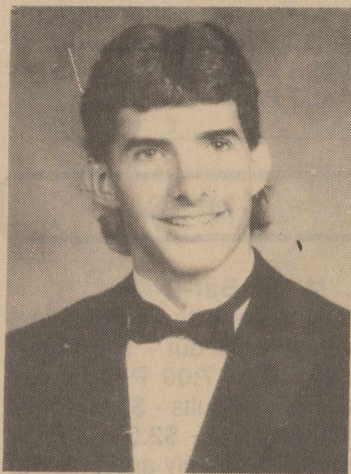
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## Anthony scholarship told

Cody Anthony, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Anthony, and a May 1989 graduate of Robert Lee High School, received a one-thousand dollar scholarship at the State FFA Convention in Houston last week. Cody is planning on attending Texas Tech University this fall with a major in Agricultural Economics. The FFA Scholarship was sponsored by the Seitz Gift Fruit Company and was based upon the applicant's scholastic standing, leadership abilities, and participation in FFA activities during high school.



Cody Anthony

## Water directors meet

The Coke County Underground Water Conservation District Board of Directors met recently to carry out business affairs of the district.

In the last week of June, the district helped sponsor a recognition banquet for some of the Legislators who worked extremely hard during recent Legislative Session to help keep the management of groundwater under local control. Those who were recognized for their very important work are: Senators Bill Sims, Tati Satiesteban, John Monford; Representatives Robert Junell, Terral Smith, and Jerry Yost. The Association of Groundwater Conservation Districts of Texas presented each legislator with a plaque noting the legislation on which each recipient worked during the session.

Water well permit applications received since the last meeting were reviewed and discussed.

A discussion was held on the appointment of a person to replace Royce Stowe as director in Precinct 4 because he has moved out of the county. Bill Thomas of Bronte was appointed by a unanimous vote to serve out the unexpired term of Royce Stowe. The Board is proud to have someone with Bill's experience and interest to serve on the Board of Directors.

Members of the Board would also like to thank Royce

## RL Reds post perfect season

In the minor league boys baseball division this summer the Red's of Robert Lee had a perfect 8-0 season, winning their division. Team members include: Casey Antilley, Rob Smith, Jerrod Copeland, Jerrod Pitcock, Corey Pitcock, Starsky Oleksiuk, Matthew Millican, David Rainwater, Bobby Joe Longoria, Gilbert Torres, Jason Tavarez and Justin Brickey. Tommy Antilley and Randy Smith were the coaches.

Stowe for his dedicated service on the Board and for his interest in protecting the groundwater quality in the district. He was a faithful and dedicated member of the Board during his tenure.

## Br. Blood Drive

In the summertime, blood centers can really feel the heat. When patients need blood, but the supply of blood is low, the pressure mounts quickly. Blood centers can only keep their commitment to patients when the community provides the basic ingredient - blood. Unfortunately, summer donors often are in short supply because they're involved in all the fun summer activities everyone enjoys.

Along with the recreational activities that distract potential donors, Paula Kennemer, Community Relations Director of United Blood Services, stated that there are other reasons she and the staff feel the heat.

"High schools and colleges are important sources of blood donors during the school year," she explained. "Students are fantastic supporters, but we can't hold school blood drives during the summer and the young people become preoccupied with their summer jobs and other activities."

"What's more, businesses may be reluctant to sponsor blood drives during the summer when they might be short-staffed due to employee vacations. We understand their point of view," she said. "However, patients continue to need blood right through the summer, regardless of vacations or school holidays."

To help ensure blood is available when and where it is needed, Bronte City Office is sponsoring a blood drive from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 31st at the Fire Station. Help us through our tough summer months and save another person's life. **DONATE BLOOD!**

## Ivey Motors named outstanding dealer

Ivey Motor Company of Robert Lee has been selected as one of the nation's outstanding Ford dealerships and received Ford Motor Company's Distinguished Achievement Award for Quality. This award was presented "in recognition of progressive management...sound merchandising practices...high quality standards...and continuing interest in rendering superior service to Ford owners." It is the highest award given by Ford Motor Company. Cumbie Ivey, Jr. has been a Ford dealer in Robert Lee since 1963.

Mr. & Mrs. Ivey were in Dallas recently to receive this award. Mr. Ivey was one of the 17 award-winning dealers in the Dallas district attending the ceremony.



Cumbie Ivey, Jr. (center) receives Ford Motor Company's highest award recently in Dallas.

## Personal

Thursday, Nelson Coulter, Randy Stone and Walter Hargrove, all coaches from Haskell, and Bobby Busby, coach from Blackwell, Barbara Chesney, Robert Lee, her

daughter, Pam Hoover and Jarrod, Pipe Creek, all had lunch with Turney & Irma Casey. Nelson and Pam and Jarrod are grandchildren of the Casey's. The men were in Robert Lee putting a new roof on Nelson's house, needed

as a result of a recent hail storm.

Pam and Jarrod Hoover, Pipe Creek, spent last week in the home of her mother, Barbara Chesney and other relatives.

LEGAL TITLE OF BANK		STATE BANK NO.	
Robert Lee State Bank		1684-05	
Box 549		FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT NO.	
Robert Lee, Texas 76945		11 13 21827	
CITY	COUNTY	STATE	ZIP CODE
Robert Lee	Coke	Texas	76945
CLOSE OF BUSINESS DATE			
June 30, 1989			
Dollar Amounts in Thousands			
	Bill	Mill	Thou
<b>ASSETS</b>			
1. Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	a. Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin		1 955
	b. Interest-bearing balances		200
2. Securities			12 923
3. Federal funds sold & securities purchased under agreements to resell in domestic offices of the bank & of its Edge & Agreement subsidiaries, & in IBFs:	a. Federal funds sold		2 100
	b. Securities purchased under agreements to resell		None
4. Loans and lease financing receivables:	a. Loans and leases, net of unearned income		7 867
	b. LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses		60
	c. LESS: Allocated transfer risk reserve		None
	d. Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve (Item 4.a minus 4.b and 4.c)		7 807
5. Assets held in trading accounts			None
6. Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)			114
7. Other real estate owned			None
8. Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies			None
9. Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding			None
10. Intangible assets			None
11. Other assets			424
12. a. Total assets (sum of items 1 through 11)			25 523
	b. Loans deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j)		None
	c. Total assets and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j) (sum of items 12.a and 12.b)		25 523
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
13. Deposits:	a. In domestic offices		22 841
	(1) Noninterest-bearing		2 821
	(2) Interest-bearing		20 020
	b. In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IBFs		None
	(1) Noninterest-bearing		None
	(2) Interest-bearing		None
14. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase in domestic offices of the bank & of its Edge & Agreement subsidiaries, & in IBFs:	a. Federal funds purchased		None
	b. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase		None
15. Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury			None
16. Other borrowed money			None
17. Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases			None
18. Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding			None
19. Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits			216
20. Other liabilities			23 057
21. Total liabilities (sum of items 13 through 20)			None
22. Limited-life preferred stock			None
<b>EQUITY CAPITAL</b>			
23. Perpetual preferred stock (No. of shares outstanding	None		None
24. Common stock (No. of shares a. Authorized	20,000		200
	b. Outstanding	20,000	500
25. Surplus			1 766
26. a. Undivided profits and capital reserves			None
	b. LESS: Net unrealized loss on marketable equity securities		None
27. Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments			2 466
28. a. Total equity capital (sum of items 23 through 27)			None
	b. Losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j)		None
	c. Total equity capital and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j) (sum of items 28.a & 28.b)		2 466
29. Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, equity capital, and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j) (sum of items 21, 22, and 28.c)			25 523
<b>MEMORANDA: Amounts outstanding as of Report Date:</b>			
1. a. Standby letters of credit. Total			None
1. b. Amount of Standby letters of credit in memo 1.a. conveyed to others through participations			None
<b>NOTE: This report must be signed by an authorized officer(s) and attested by not less than three directors other than the officer(s) signing the report.</b>			
We, the undersigned officer(s), do hereby declare that this Report of Condition has been prepared in conformance with official instructions and is true			
SIGNATURE OF OFFICER(S) AUTHORIZED TO SIGN REPORT		DATE SIGNED	
NAME AND TITLE OF OFFICER(S) AUTHORIZED TO SIGN REPORT		AREA CODE/PHONE NO.	
Willis W. Smith, V. P. & Cashier		915-453-2545	
We, the undersigned directors, attest the correctness of this Report of Condition and declare that it has been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with official instructions and is true and correct.			
SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR	
Wm. W. Allen	W. W. Smith	Willis W. Smith	
State of <u>Texas</u>	Sworn to and subscribed before me this <u>17th</u> day of <u>July</u> , 19 <u>89</u>	County of <u>Coke</u>	SS:
and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.		Signature Notary Public	
My commission expires <u>August 26, 1993</u>			

50% -- 75% OFF

Children's Apparel and Selected Giftware

Kelly's Cabbage Patch

725 Austin Robert Lee 453-4626



# CLASSIFIED ADS...

## MISC

**BRONTE I.S.D.** is accepting applications for a part-time Lunchroom Dishwasher and a part-time Lunch Program Aide. Applications are also being accepted for a full-time Secondary School Secretary. Contact Michael Hartman, Supt. Bronte ISD - 915-473-2511 or Box 670, Bronte, Texas 76933.

49b-1tc

**OWN YOUR OWN** apparel or shoe store, choose from: jean/sportwear, ladies, men's, children/maternity, large sizes, petite, dancewear/aerobic, bridal, lingerie or accessories store. Add color analysis. Brand names: Liz Claiborne, Healthtex, Bonnie & Bill, St Michele, Forenza, Bugle Boy, Levi, Camp Beverly Hills, Leslie Faye, Lucia, over 2,000 others. Or \$13.99 one price designer, multi tier pricing discount or family shoe store. Retail prices unbelievable for top quality shoes normally priced from \$19. to \$60. over 250 brands 2,600 styles. \$18,900 to \$29,900; inventory, training fixtures, airfare, grand opening, etc. Can open in 15 days. Mr. Schneider (407) 366-8606.

49-1tp

**HEAVY DUTY ROOF COATINGS** for mobile homes and all metal and flat asphalt roofs. Call James Kendall after 4 PM. Independent Sales Consultant for SOUTHWESTERN PETROLEUM CORPORATION. 915-453-2101.

46-6tp

## GARAGE SALES

**GARAGE SALE** - Friday & Saturday, All day. 1 1/2 miles south of Bronte at Buffalo Ranch.

49b-1tp

**MOVING SALE** - Saturday, July 22, 8 A.M. - until. Jen Anthony's 1302 Childress, Robert Lee. 1st white house by football field. Lots of items, come look.

49-1tp

**GARAGE SALE** - Sunday only, July 23, 305 West 13th. Toys double bed, chest of drawers, toy box, misc.

49-1tp

**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE Sale** - Friday only. Clothing for babies, teens, men, lg. women. Linens, curtains, household items, jewelry, exercise bike, toys, books, and misc. 8 mi. west of Robert Lee, 1 blk off Hwy. 158. Watch for signs.

49-1tc

## CARD OF THANKS

**WE WANT TO** thank everyone in Bronte for all of the love and support they have given us in our time of need. We also want to thank the Central Baptist Church for all of their love, support, and consideration. Also a special thanks to the ladies who held the dinner for our family.

Tina & David Matthews  
Margaret & Charles Timmons  
Anita Leamon  
Leroy & Sherri Matthews  
49b-1tp

**THE FISHER FAMILY** wishes to thank the many friends and neighbors who were so kind, during Jeremy's recent surgery and hospital stay.

The financial support, the many gifts, and especially the prayers, meant so much to us. May the Lord return the blessings you've given.

The Fishers,  
Ray, Vicki,  
Jeremy & Bryan  
49b-1tp

**WE WOULD LIKE** to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, food and calls during our time of sorrow.

The R. J. McKee  
Family  
49b-1tp

## NOTICES

**COKE COUNTY MUSEUM**  
Open Sundays, 3 pm - 5 pm.  
46-9tc

**NOTICE CUSTOM SHREDDING**  
14 ft. Brush Hog. James Miller, 473-7271 or 453-2063.  
37a-tnc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The facilities of the Robert Lee Independent School District are undergoing the removal of Asbestos containing material from July 15, 1989 to approximately August 22, 1989.

Areas where this work is being conducted is clearly marked. Please observe all warning signs and barriers. Any questions regarding this abatement project may be directed to George E. Grim, 453-2612 between the hours of 8 AM to 5 PM.

48a-2tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Beginning July 25 and continuing through September 1, the City of Bronte will pick up trash 1 hour earlier, beginning at 7 AM.

Bronte City Hall  
Pat Martindale, Sec.  
49b-2tc

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
The City of Robert Lee is accepting bids on the following:

1 Used Crawler Loader 1981 or later model Cab - Heater with fan

Sealed and lubricated undercarriage 70% or better Ripper - 3 Shank  
Bucket - 2 yard with teeth  
Transmission - Hydrostable or equivalent

Serviced, painted and delivered to Robert Lee, Texas

Bids will be opened at City Hall, 6 E. 7th St., Robert Lee, Friday, August 4, at 6 P. M.

Sealed bids may be delivered to Robert Lee City Hall, 6 E. 7th St., or mailed to City of Robert Lee, P. O. Box 26, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

49a-2tc

## New members

The East Coke County Ambulance Service has two new members now. Fran Sonnenberg is an ECA and Sheri Coalson is an EMT. Ray Barnett, Steve Couch and Jeff Schoenfield have been upgraded to EMT'S. Marilyn Bivins, Jerry Parker and Bruce Sonnenberg have recertified as EMT's.

## Districts commend reps

The Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts Association commended Senator Bill Sims and Representative Robert Junell for their outstanding work during the 71st session. Sims and Junell were members of the natural resource committees in their respective houses.

During the session, Sims and Junell worked together to pass legislation which expanded the areas of grant availability for water quality testing. The legislation became effective immediately upon the signature of the Governor on April 26th.

Sen. Sims was presented a certificate of appreciation by the President of the Association, Richard Bowers, at a dinner in Austin. Gerry Robertson, the Manager of the Sterling City Underground Water District, presented Representative Junell his certificate. "The issues that were brought before the Legislature this session would not have been carried through as successfully without the assistance of Sen. Sims and Rep. Junell," Mrs.

Robertson said. "Their knowledge and service to water issues contributed greatly to this success." She continued by thanking them for taking the time to listen to the rural water district members.

## Directors meet at Robert Lee

Members of the West Coke County Community Development met Monday afternoon at the Robert Lee city hall in executive session. Officers were elected for the new fiscal year July 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990.

Robert Wink will serve the organization as president; Randy Bessent was returned as vice-president; Edna Havins will remain as secretary and the treasurer's position will be filled by D'Ann Eubanks. Other board members are Joe Brazier, Bob Wrinkle, Richard Johnson, and Joan Davis.

General meeting for WCC-CD will be next Monday night, 7 pm, in the county courtroom.

## REPORT OF CONDITION

Consolidating domestic subsidiaries of the

FIRST NATIONAL BANK of BRONTE  
Name of Bank City  
in the state of TEXAS, at the close of business on JUNE 30, 1989,  
published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under title 12, United States Code, Section 161  
Charter Number 12723 Comptroller of the Currency ELEVENTH District

### Statement of Resources and Liabilities

		Thousands of dollars
ASSETS	Cash and balances due from depository institutions	1,116
	Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	1,700
	Interest-bearing balances	7,516
	Securities	925
	Federal funds sold	0
	Securities purchased under agreements to resell	0
	Loans and lease financing receivables:	
	Loans and leases, net of unearned income	6,154
	LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	128
	LESS: Allocated transfer risk reserve	0
	Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve	6,026
	Assets held in trading accounts	0
	Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	574
	Other real estate owned	0
	Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	0
Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding	0	
Intangible assets	0	
Other assets	276	
Total assets	18,133	
Losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	0	
Total assets and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	18,133	
LIABILITIES	Deposits:	
	In domestic offices:	
	Noninterest-bearing	2,022
	Interest-bearing	14,244
	Federal funds purchased	0
	Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	0
	Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury	0
	Other borrowed money	0
	Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases	0
	Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding	0
Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits	0	
Other liabilities	220	
Total liabilities	16,486	
Limited-life preferred stock	0	
EQUITY CAPITAL	Perpetual preferred stock	0
	Common stock	50
	Surplus	150
	Undivided profits and capital reserves	1,447
	LESS: Net unrealized loss on marketable equity securities	0
	Total equity capital	1,647
	Losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	0
Total equity capital and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	1,647	
Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, equity capital, and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	18,133	

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with the instructions and is true and correct.

*G. B. Mackay*  
*Raymond J. Jordan*  
*T. F. Jimenez*  
Directors

KAY DAULLONG  
Name  
VICE PRESIDENT & CASHIER  
Title

of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Kay Daullong*  
Signature  
7-10-89  
Date

Steven Ballard's

## Crop Dusting Service

(formerly Brooks Flying Service)



-Insecticides & Herbicides-  
State & Federal Licensed & Insured  
Office located at Winters Airport  
P.O. Box 63 754-5076 Winters, Texas



Mrs. James Steven Clark

### Badgett, Clark marry

Karla Kay Badgett and James Steven Clark were united in marriage on July 1, 1989 at six o'clock in the evening at First Baptist Church in Bronte. The Rev. Alan Barbee of Nashti Baptist Church officiated.

Parents of the couple are James and Linda Badgett and Christine Clark and the late Bill Clark, all of Bronte.

The altar was the focal point of the ceremony featuring brass heart-shaped candelabras entwined with greenery. These were lit by the bride's brother, James Badgett, and her sons, Jarrod and Jesse.

The bride was escorted to the altar by her father. She wore a floor length gown featuring a fitted bodice seeded with pearls and sequins. She wore a headpiece of baby's breath and pink sweetheart roses with a double lace bow and streamers flowing down the back. The bride carried a cascading bouquet of pink roses and orchids surrounded by maiden hair fern and cascading pearls.

Attending the bride were her sisters, Camille Denton of Bronte and Connie Tounget of College Station. Matron of honor was Donna Poehls of Bronte. They wore tea-length dresses of a floral print featuring pink roses, lilacs, and shades of mauve. They carried a single pink rose.

Serving the groom as best man was Roger Graves of Bronte. Groomsmen were Charles Kasproicz of Brenham, and Jerry Graves of Bronte. Ushers were James Badgett, brother to the bride, and Mark Rogers, cousin to the groom.

Angella Kasproicz of Brenham attended the register.

Wedding music was provided by pianist, Ida Lee Ellis. Melissa Lee Hoch of Garden City sang "The Lords Prayer". Also featured throughout the service was soloist Denise Kasproicz of Brenham.

The reception following was held in the fellowship hall of the church. White lace with a rose motif over a rose back-

ground covered the brides table. A tiered cake featuring fresh flowers along with amaretto almonds, and a fresh fruit bowl were served from a crystal and silver appointments.

The groom's table focused on a ganache glazed chocolate cake, featuring lace butterflies and leaves, also crafted of chocolate. Spiced pecans and coffee were served from brass accompaniments.

Both cakes were baked and decorated by the bride.

After a wedding trip to New Mexico, the couple will make their home in Bronte where Steve will continue as a fabricator associated with gas plants and Karla will pursue her baking interests.

#### 4-H Recordbooks

Eighteen Coke County 4-H members participated in the District 7 4-H Record Book Judging in San Angelo this week. Again this year, Coke County had more books than any other county in the District.

Results of the district judging were:

**Sheep** - Junior, Heather Millican, Participation; Intermediate, Justin Lampier, Participation; Senior, Lori Wink, third.

**Agriculture** - Junior, Korey Pitcock, second, Senior, Blake Pitcock, first.

**Swine** - Junior, Jerrod Pitcock, third; Intermediate, Judd Pitcock, second; Senior Brent Jameson, third.

**Beef** - Junior, Casey Antilley, third; Intermediate, Dane Smith, third; Senior, Scott Antilley, second.

**Clothing** - Junior, Kannan Millican, participation; Intermediate, Laura Thomas, third;

**Foods and Nutrition** - Senior, Stephanie Tuttle, participation.

**Shooting Sports** - Junior, T. J. Roe, first, Intermediate, John Williams, first, Senior, Jeff Wilkes, first.

Jeff Wilkes and Blake Pitcock will advance to the State Record Book Competition held in August at Texas A & M.



## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!



Boneless Beef - CHOICE		
<b>BRISKETS</b>	LB.	<b>\$1.19</b>
Gooch Franks	12 oz. pkg.	79c
Louis Rich Turkey		
<b>FRANKS</b>	12 oz. pkg.	<b>99c</b>
Gooch Golden Award		
Ham Nuggets 2# to 3# Size	lb.	\$2.69
German or Mesquite Smoked Sausage		
<b>GOOCH</b>	Ring	<b>\$1.19</b>
Diet or Regular		
<b>COCA-COLA</b>	2 Liter bottle	<b>99c</b>
Hills Bros. Coffee	13 oz. can	\$2.19
Van Camps Pork & Beans	15 oz. can 2 for	89c
Parade Corn,		
Cream or Whole Kernel	303 can	49c
Parade Dressing 1000 Island or French	8 oz. bottle	75c
Shortening		
<b>MRS. TUCKER'S</b>	42 oz. can	<b>\$1.19</b>
Puritan 100% Vegetable Oil	32 oz. bottle	\$1.99
Heinz Catsup	44 oz. bottle	\$1.89
Casserole		
<b>PINTO BEANS</b>	2# Bag	<b>\$1.09</b>
Kraft Mustard	25 oz. jar	79c
Betty Crocker Microwave		
Cake Mix	10 oz. box	\$1.39
Keebler Graham Ready Pie Crust	9" Size	99c
Delsey Bathroom Tissue	4 roll pkg.	\$1.29
Towels		
<b>HI-DRI</b>	Big Roll	<b>65c</b>
Better Valu Facial Tissue	175 ct. box	53c
Sta Puff Fabric Softener	1 gal. bottle	\$1.49
Soft Whipped Oleo		
<b>CHIFFON</b>	1# Tub	<b>\$1.19</b>
Hungry Jack Biscuits	10 oz. can	69c
Sara Lee Blueberry or Oat Muffins	10 oz. pkg.	\$1.59
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Head	<b>69c</b>
Onions-Yellow	Med. Size	lb. 33c
Carrots	1# Bag	35c

Prices Good Thur., July 20th thru  
Wed., July 26th

## BAKER'S GRO. & MKT.



Supplement to the Observer/Enterprise

★ CENTENNIAL EDITION ★

1889 COKE COUNTY RUSTLER 1904

Name Changed to

1904 Robert Lee Observer 1984

1907 BRONTE ENTERPRISE 1984

1984

THE OBSERVER/  
ENTERPRISE 1989

Single Copy 35c



Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas (76945)

(USPS 467-180)  
(ISSN 8750-197X)

★ 1889 CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY 1989 ★

"100 Years of Continuous Service to Coke County"

Vol. 101, No. 6

Friday, July 21, 1989

## Colorful history of Coke County detailed

(The Enterprise is indebted to Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough's "History of Coke County" for most of the following information.)

Indians roamed this area and the Southwest long before Columbus discovered America and according to Mary Jourdan Atkinson's "The Texas Indians." Archaeologists set the date of mankind's occupancy of the great Southwest at not less than twenty thousand years preceding the arrival of the Spanish in this country.

The main Indians that lived, hunted and scouted the country of the Colorado and Conchos were Comanches, the Lipan Apaches and the Jumanos.

There are still many Indian springs and petroglyphics in the country. More than 20 Indian Camp sites have been found here.

Some residents believe, and have documents to help substantiate, that in 1540, Coronado, leading his armed columns of Spanish grandees, or some of his scouting parties, crossed through this area in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola.

The first written document to mention present Coke County is a letter dated Feb. 8, 1842, from Henry Francis Fischer, Burchard Miller and Joseph Baker to Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, requesting a grant of land on which to settle one thousand families of German, Swiss, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish emigrants. At the lower left hand corner of the letter appears a note. "Let the contract be made. Feb. 23,

1842, Sam Houston."

Outcome was a contract on June 7, 1842, to introduce 600 families or single men over 17 years of age, within three years of date of contract on land "beginning at the mouth of the Llano to the head of its southern branch, then due south 50 miles and north 45 degrees to the main southwest branch of the Colorado, following it back to the point of beginning."

The contract was renewed in 1843 and transferred in 1845 to the German Emigration Co., John Meusebach, trustee, with all rights and claims except 250,000 acres reserved for Fischer & Miller.

The Emigration Co. ran into financial troubles because of the expense of surveying and transporting and also physical troubles with the Indians. Many immigrants were unable to reach the land for which they had "script" and made their way back to German settlements in Comal and Gillespie counties.

However, during that time an important treaty between Meusebach and the Indians grew out of their efforts to settle the region. Without the consent of Texas authorities, he met with Comanche and Choctaw Indians and made the treaty giving the Germans authority to settle the territory between the Llano and Colorado rivers, including approximately 575,000 acres in Coke County.

White settlers began filtering into the region in the latter half of the 19th century, the names of the first settlers unknown. Conjecture is that

(cont'd. on p. 6)



COKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1891-1956. In the Spring of 1891 the cornerstone was laid for the Courthouse that was to be the home of Coke County Records and Law Officials for Sixty-five years. Built of native stone quarried by hand, most of the stone came from the Kirkland Ranch, and was hauled in wagons.

## Oldest business celebrates centennial

The Observer/Enterprise is the oldest business institution in Coke County, celebrating one hundred years of continuous service to Coke County on June 13, 1989.

The Robert Lee Observer, one of the forerunners of the present publication, had its beginning in Hayrick, the first County seat, exactly three months from the date that Coke County was created by

the Texas Legislature in June of 1889.

The paper changed hands with almost every issue for a while. Perhaps they couldn't get the business deal settled, or couldn't make up their minds as to who was to serve as editor or publisher.

At any rate, the first issue, which was called **The Coke County Democrat**, was a four-column, four-page paper,

"published by Warren and Edgar, at Hayrick, Texas."

The second issue of the Coke County Democrat named Warren and Mathews as editor and publisher, while a short time later Brady and Shores were proclaimed as editor and publisher.

J. S. Brady bought Shores' interest in the paper and be-

(cont'd. on p. 2)

**...Newspaper** (cont'd. from p. 1)

came both editor and publisher.

Mr. Brady moved the plant to Robert Lee early in 1891, when the county seat moved there.

Then the new paper in the new town in the new county was given the name of Coke County Rustler.

The name of the paper was changed to the Robert Lee Observer in 1904, when the editor J. T. Rankin put on a subscription drive. A person could submit a name with each one dollar subscription. The person submitting the winning name was to receive a prize of five dollars cash and five year subscription to the paper.

"The Robert Lee Observer has never missed an issue"; however, there are gaps in the files, some of which were destroyed in a fire some years ago.

Throughout its many years the Robert Lee Observer has carried the story of the changing times, of success, of failure, of sorrows, and of joys--the stories of the weal and the woe, printing from week to week word pictures of Coke County as it changed, always seeking to be entertaining, informative, and of service to all who have read its pages and to all Coke County.

That service was not always easy. During its first eighteen years, the paper was produced on a "George Washington" hand press, under tribulations that lack of adequate machinery brought. In those days the type was set by hand, and in some cases the printer's whole family was pressed into service to get out the paper.

The Robert Lee Observer, including its predecessors, had a long list of colorful editors, some of whom spoke their own minds in no uncertain terms.

George Beeman, editor and publisher of The Rustler in 1902, often broke forth in rhyme.

A while ago 'was awfully dry, "We cannot plow," was all

the cry.

But now the ground is pretty wet

We're goin' to raise a crop, you bet.

His business grew to be a Buster

Through advertising in The Rustler.

George Cowan, who owned and edited the paper for eighteen years, was known over West Texas for his dry wit. Readers watched for the entertaining, good-natured, three-way banter carried on between George Cowan and "Uncle" Bill Kellis of the Sterling City News-Record, and D. M. West of The Bronte Enterprise.

A. W. Puett, who became the publisher in 1925, was one of the most independent in spirit. He called a spade a spade and spared nobody. Once when a group petitioned the Robert Lee City Commissioners to call an election to vote off the incorporation, Puett published a list of petitioners giving the amount of city taxes that each had paid, showing that some of the petitioners had paid no tax. He fairly "roasted" the people who went away from home to trade with "chain stores" in near-by cities.

A list of editors and publishers who at one time or another were connected with the ROBERT LEE OBSERVER includes:

J. S. Brady, Sam Wilkins, Gray Reed, Tom Durham, Irvin and Pritchard, Merchant and Reed, Hubert Pearce, J. C. Newton, G. A. Beeman, M. H. Davis, J. T. Rankin, George Cowan, J. G. Berryman, Berryman and Lamb, A. W. Puett, F. W. Puett, Bob Hall, S. R. Young, Mr. Hunter, A. J. Kirkpatrick, Ulmer Bird, Ben & Pat Oglesby, Rick Styles, and current owner publisher Hal Spain.

The Bronte Enterprise was first published at Bronte in 1907, by C. H. Bentley, who came to Bronte from Tennessee. Bentley owned The Bronte Enterprise from 1907 to 1910, when he sold to D. M. West, who sold to T.

R. Butler in 1912.

The plant which Mr. Bentley installed was fairly modern. Mr. West used the same plant, but he brought in an experienced newspaper man, C. W. Goff, to edit the paper. The Enterprise had done well under Mr. Goff, and he was retained by Mr. Butler and the next owner, A. J. Nelson.

The Bronte Enterprise suspended publication in 1915, and resumed publication in 1918, with J. D. Scott as editor and publisher. Mr. Scott sold to W. C. Redmond, who re-sold to D. M. West.

Mr. West published the paper until November, 1944. He was succeeded by J. H. Mullane, Exton Talley, and Ed Nunnally, Jr.

Ben Oglesby, Jr. bought The Bronte Enterprise on July 1, 1948 and in 1965 added to it the Robert Lee Observer, and for the first time in history both the Observer and the Enterprise were published by the same owner. Mr. Oglesby published both papers until his death in 1982. Thereafter, for over a year, his widow, Pat Oglesby, assisted by Eddie Alexander, kept the presses rolling until August, 1983, when both publications were sold to Rick and Kay Styles.

A year later, another monumental change lay ahead, as both papers were purchased by Hal Spain. On August 17, 1984, the first issue of the Observer/Enterprise was published, and both papers were combined to serve all of Coke County. This change in format, which combined the pa-

pers of the two major communities in the county, received the enthusiastic support of most, and was met with apprehension by others. The combined paper prompted one well-known older businessman to remark, "we take the good news with the bad", referring to the "bad" news as that which originated from the other side of the county.

As a marketing tool, the combined product has definitely made an impact on the local economy. The "Coke

County Hunting & Fishing Guide", published annually by the Observer/Enterprise, is recognized as one of the premier publications of its kind in West Texas.

The Observer/Enterprise has followed this combined format for the past five years (until the present time), with office locations which still serve both communities, and a staff of a half-dozen professionals dedicated to serving the residents of those communities.

**Hall was early publisher**

Robert Lee Observer 1939

Thirty-seven Years Ago by U. B.

R. L. Hall began his first work with the Observer in 1902. Mr. Hall moved from here to establish the Ft. Chadbourne News, in 1907, and published it there for a year and a half. That was a big

town then, growing rapidly and gave promise of becoming a health resort due to mineral water found there. Two townsites were developed as was expected.

Mr. Hall put out the Rustler and Observer many times with an old style George Washington hand press, before a power press was installed.



**RED CANYON GUN CLUB**

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Freedom granted to all law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms for protection, sporting, & hunting.

This freedom is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

We are proud to be a part of Coke County.

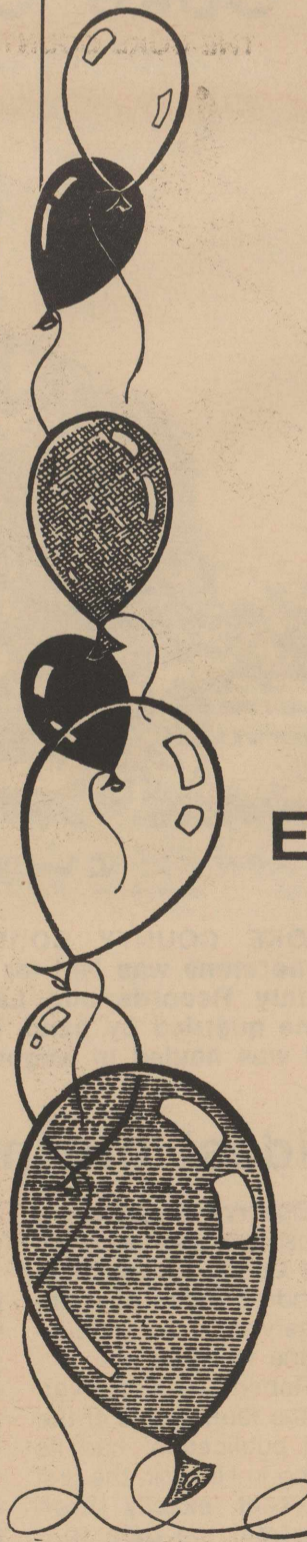
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY COKE COUNTY!**

**Ernest Clendennen 1949-1974**

**Ernest Clendennen, Inc. Since 1974**

**Oilfield Services**

**453-2889 453-4654 Silver, Texas**



**We Pay Tribute To All COKE COUNTIANS On Our 100th ANNIVERSARY**



**Butch Davis Grocery & Gas**

**N. Hwy 277 Bronte, TX 76933**



First State Bank at Bronte was erected in 1906. The institution did not become First National Bank until some 25 years later. Note absence of other buildings nearby. The eagle figure atop the building was shot off by drunken cowboys shortly after the structure was built.

## Confederate reunion held

Coke County Rustler  
July 28, 1899  
The Re-Union

People from adjoining counties began to arrive last Friday noon to attend the big basket dinner and Ex-Confederate Re-union of Richard Coke Camp.

The celebration began Friday at dark with a dance in the Hoon Hall and a wedding soon after the dance.

By 10:00 Saturday about 1500 people were on the ground some having been camped since Friday afternoon.

Judge J. I. Guion of Ballinger the orator of the day, made one of his characteristic fine speeches which was enjoyed by about five hundred of our people then as the arbor would hold no more.

Any compliments the Rustler might pay Judge Guion's address would be superfluous as he is known all over this section as one of the profound thinkers, as well as one of the best (not readable) in West Texas. The Rustler will print his excellent address.

Shortly after the conclusion of Judge Guion's address, dinner was announced, and the Editor felt real bad because he could not accept all the invitations to dinner. Every body had plenty to eat,

and they had the good and wholesome kinds of food that keep editors and professional men fat. Numbers of our people failed to find friends enough to eat one fourth of their good dinners.

There were some interesting recitations in the afternoon by Misses Lottie Hayley and Ella Caraway and by Mrs. D. T. Averitt, and Mrs. W. L. Hayley.

### Wallace came to county in 1889

H. B. Wallace landed in Coke County as a cowboy on the Snyder OB in the fall of 1889. There was a cotton gin in operation then at the Snyder ranch. It was a two stand gin and fired with wood. Bill Teeters was engineer, W. H. McDorman was manager at that time. S. M. Conner had some cattle west of the Snyder Bros. range.

### Longest beard

There was an early day citizen over in Runnels famous for his long beard. J. N. Buchanan relates how this pioneer came into his barber shop and pulled this beard from under his vest. It was wrapped in silk and reached below his knees.

## Pioneers recall cattle ranges in 1889

Robert Lee Observer  
Sept. 22, 1939  
Centennial edit.  
Pioneers Recall Cattle Ranges As They Were in 1889

The Odom cattle ranged on the site of the present city of Bronte, and from there through the Ft. Chadbourne country when "Uncle Joe" McCutchen came to the county in 1889. South of the Colorado was the range of the Wylie Brothers, R. K., Henry, and Tom. South of Wylie's was the Cramer outfit, Mule Creek to Tennyson. South of Cramer, Sam Sayner and Skinner had fenced ranges.

E. C. Rawlings was first a cowboy, then later owner of the HXW ranch north of San-

co. Bill Glass owned the present Whiteside land. It was he who sold out to Will and Rufe Whiteside. The Weathers ranch was north of Hayrick.

The old O. B. line fence went close to Sanco on to Silver Peak. South of that the O. B. or Snyder outfit extended to the river, and the headquarters were near the mouth of Yellow Wolf Creek, not very far from the present Harris Saul headquarters.

The Harris 7F outfit covered its present range south of the river and extended in an L into the mountains north of Robert

Lee. Some of the wire on their line fence is still in a fence on the L. S. Bird pasture, east of Sanco--has been in that fence since 1887, and still scarcely any rust on it--a kind of galvanized wire with large twisted barbs.

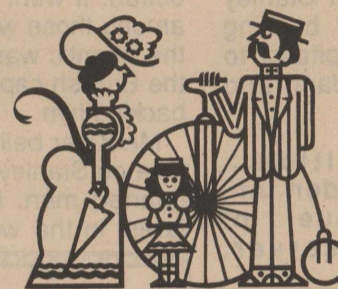
The above named ranges just about covered the county when it was organized, with the exception of land occupied by settlers, and fenced by them.

**If these Mountains  
Could Speak What A  
History They could Give;**

### Charter citizens

Dan and W. H. Campbell missed being charter citizens by a few months. Their father, the late J. H. Campbell, came to Sanco country to locate before the organization of the county, and did buy the place on which he lived until his death a few years ago, but he returned to an eastern county and did not bring his family until after the organization of the county.

Remembering the good 'ol days  
as we salute  
COKE COUNTY'S CENTENNIAL



ASKINS PROPANE

Foy & Estelle

Charlie & Raynelle

MOUNTAIN CREEK AMPHITHEATRE  
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS

1989

THE COKE COUNTY PAGEANT ASSOCIATION  
presents

Ole Coke County  
by Lucile Bryan

A Musical Pageant

Special Edition  
Commemorating  
Coke County's  
100th Birthday

HOME OF  
THE  
RABBIT TWISTERS



A COLORFUL STORY OF COKE COUNTY IN MUSIC AND DRAMA

8:00 Choir Sing-Out

8:30 Fri.-Sat. July 21-22; Fri.-Sat. July 28-29

Tickets Available at Gate. Children 5-12 \$2.50, Adults \$5.00  
Ticket Information (915) 453-2831. Concessions Available.  
20% Discount for Groups of 20 or more.

Congratulations

To

COKE COUNTY

On Your 100th  
Anniversary

Gulf-Chevron  
Service Station

Elroy Butler

Your Chevron Consignee  
Bronte, Texas

## Stanley surveys county

One man spent a fortune on dreams he never saw come true and others have spent much time and money in one of West Texas many struggles for more water and productive soil, that on the upper Colorado in Coke county.

In 1913 C. M. Stanley came up the Colorado valley with a surveying crew. S. A. Kiker of Bronte, now county commissioner of his precinct, was riding his pasture on a day in the winter of that year. He rode onto the camp of Stanley and his men and, learning they had jackrabbit for dinner and their store of provisions were exhausted, invited them to his home for supper and kept them over night, then joined the crew and worked for Stanley four years.

They were more than once short on rations, but Stanley had the promise of backing from an English capitalist to build an irrigation dam, and

**Centennial Edition... taken from Golden Anniversary Issue of Robert Lee Observer, April 21, 1939.**

### Early Records Lost

The early records of the county were destroyed by fire when the courthouse was burned in 1890. Neither the records of Tom Green nor of Coke show the date when the county was formed, but the information is found in the statutes of the State of Texas.

Section 1 of an Act of the Legislature of the State of Texas, approved March 13, 1889 read "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas: That a new county, to be called Coke County, is hereby created out of Tom Green County, to wit:

The act is in six sections. It goes on to define the boundaries and requires the calling of an election of county officers within thirty days. The election was held in the latter part of April, and the county government set up before May 1.

### No Roads at Hayrick

"No, Hayrick wasn't a wide place in the road. There wasn't any road." "Uncle Johnnie" Vestal speaking, and the time he was referring to was in 1889, the year Hayrick was built and he opened a blacksmith shop there.

There was kind of a road or trail that entered the north-eastern part of the county and came by the Jim Byrd place on Indian Creek, where one of the first settlers had a dugout.

Hayrick mountain gave its name to Hayrick, the first county seat, established at the foot of the mountain. Evidently the first white men named this butte from its shape, which resembles a huge haystack. The first trails passed near its foot, and many an eye viewing the untraveled scene of the upper Colorado valley for the first time, sought out the outlines of Hayrick mountain in the distance to get his bearings and to guide his horse or his wagon team on their journey.

they pushed on to survey out the valley and locate the site. They cut out brush to clear trails for their lines across deep creeks and gulches, up mountain sides and across canyons. They finally ran out of food altogether borrowed flour from a ranch house, and kept on the job until hunger actually stopped them.

The story is told by Mr. Kiker, a well known and leading citizen of that country. Up to this time Stanley had never flagged in his determination to go on. But one evening when provisions were running low, a newspaper was brought into the camp. Mr. Stanley picked it up casually, began to read, threw up his hands and exclaimed, "O, my God!"

The headlines told of the sinking of a great liner in mid-ocean. It went on to say that among those who perished in the Atlantic was Dr. Pierson--the English capitalist who was backing him.

Mr. Kiker believes from that time on Stanley was a broken hearted man. He had no interest in the work from then



Tornado in Robert Lee, 1927, wreaked havoc on the A. W. Puett residence as well as destroyed most churches in town. Nine people were in the home and were unhurt. Mr. Puett owned the Observer at the time.

on, and soon folded up his maps and took with him his engineering data away from the upper Colorado valley with some blueprints, all that was left of a fortune spent and a broken dream. He had spent \$20,000 in the undertaking.

### Laziness

When laziness is not laziness is discussed by Sauce in the Brady Standard. "Some folks move more slowly, deliberately and in carefully planned fashion, while others jump about haphazardly,

without due consideration and without plan or direction. Call the first-named lazy, if you will: the chances are he will go further, get more done, and have more to show for his efforts than will the hurly-burly rush-em about."

## Farm Bureau

HAS HELPED

Coke County

BY HELPING

Farmers

and

Ranchmen

CHECK THESE PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR COKE FARM BUREAU

FARM BUREAU IS THE FARMERS' & RANCHERS' ORGANIZATION

ROBERT M. BROWN, President  
ALONZO ROBBINS, Vice President  
JOHN STEPHENS, Sec.-Treas.  
GEORGE DEMERE, Agency Manager  
DARYL COPELAND, Service Agent

### YOUR FARM BUREAU HAS...

1. A Membership of 886 Organized Farmers and Ranchmen.
2. Trained and Developed Agricultural Leaders.
3. Helped Develop Policies of State and National Farm Bureau.

### PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY FARM BUREAU...

1. Farm Safety Week.
2. Student Citizenship Seminar.
3. Queen Contest.
4. "Ag In The Classroom".
5. AGFUND
6. Service Program:  
Insurance - Travelers, Fire, Auto, Liability, Life, Dental,  
Prescription Discounts, IRAs and Estate Planning.

# COKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## Bronte seniors offer historical quilt

Bronte Senior Center is proud to contribute to the celebration of Coke County Heritage.

They have designed, coordinated and quilted a quilt to be displayed at the July 22nd celebration.

County artists contributed their talents through volunteer efforts by painting squares depicting the history of the county.

Artists contributing were Susie Wilson, Grace Ditmore, Phelan Wrinkle, Pat Stephens, Lynn Doris Smith and George T. Weir, all from Robert Lee area.

Bronte area artists were Lora Belle Brown, Mary Belle Hilliard, Lisa Baldwin, Kelly Scott, Virginia Boecking, Effie Corley, Joyce Lucas, Lorene Brown, Ivy Spiller, Ann Ellis and Jackie Corley.

Others assisting were Margaret Martin, Project Director, Zada Denman and Marguerite Sonnenberg, Co-Chairpersons.

Cathy Hendry of Robert Lee contributed all the monogramming.

Grace Ditmore furnished the material for the quilt and volunteered her services in acquiring the Robert Lee area artists.

On the large center block, volunteer Pat Oglesby wrote signatures on each painting and listed all assistants on the project on the back of the quilt.

Cory Thorn was the volunteer photographer. Judge

A.Z. Denman constructed the frame for the display.

The quilters are named with the picture in this issue.

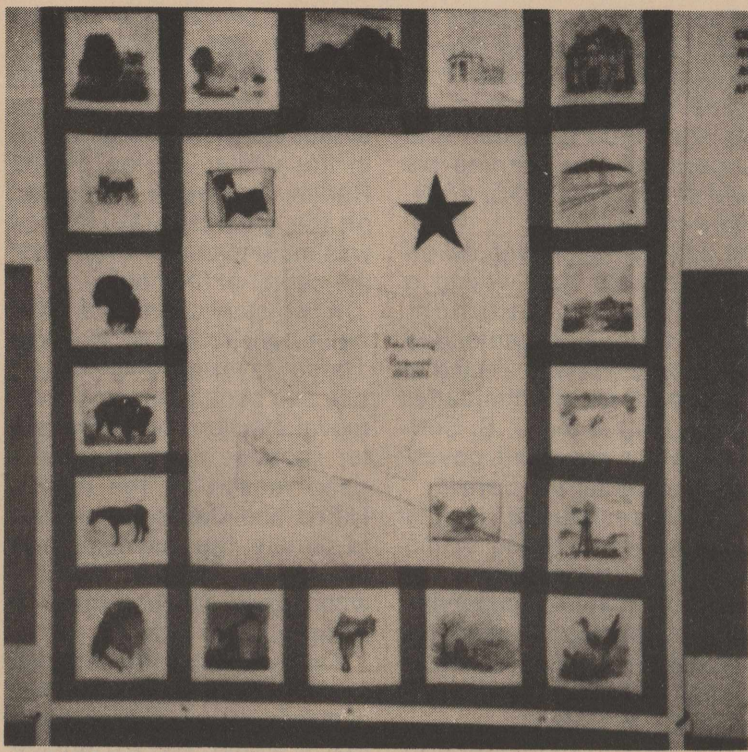
## Walling, Price marry

The following item from the San Angelo Standard of January 12, 1889, will prove of interest to many in this section.

"Married: At the bride's residence, West Grape Creek, at 3:30 o'clock Wednesday the 9th inst., Mr. Pres Walling to Miss Idra Price, J.P. Hanson, J.P. precinct No. 5, officiating. The bride looked exquisitely beautiful in pink nun's veiling with lovely drapery of valenciennes lace. Directly after the ceremony, the party adjourned to the groom's ranch on the Colorado river where a splendid supper awaited their arrival. The joyous affair was then terminated with a dance which continued until almost the break of day when the merry throng departed from whence they came. Among those who attended the Standard noticed: W.P. Walling and bride, J.D. Walling and family, Mrs. Collins and family, J.O. Hansen and daughter, Mr. Childers and family, Mr.

Youngblood and family, Mrs. Stewart and family, Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Glass, Mr. and Mrs. B.C. Mayes, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Barfield, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Brown, Mrs. Ridley, Misses Alice Walling, Mattie Norfleet, Mollie Simpson, Cort Mayes, Rosa Kirkpatrick, Ellen and Nettie Suttin, Carrie Stuart, Ella Williams, Mattie and Gattie Doran, Messrs. William and Bud Price, E. C. Page, J.B. Collins, Tom Burks, Tom Simers, S.H. Ryan, Burt Sheppard, K. M. Maves, Lee Mayes, J.E. Hersey, Harry Patton, Bob Patton, Bob Hinde, I.N. Webb, Albert Sith,

Tom Warren, W. B. Williams, William Short, Cam Brown, Gerome Shield, Joe Coffelt, Hamp Cochran, Sam McGlothen, Tom and Albert Barfield, J.E. and Van Warren and S.M. Conner. The Standard extends congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Walling with best wishes for their future happiness.



Coke County artists painted individual squares for Bronte Senior Center that have been assembled in a quilt to depict the history of the county by the Center Quilters.



Quilters from Bronte Senior Center who quilted on a Coke County Centennial Quilt are: Back row (L to R) Mayme Kutaka, Ruth Hageman, Ella Pruitt, Zada Denman, Dora Gallaway, Marie Arrott, Effie Corley, Geneva Minnick, staff member and Margaret Martin, Project Director.

First Row (L to R) Lorene Phillips, Marguerite Sonnenberg, Helen Kirkland, Virginia Boatrigh, and Pearl Mae Andrews.

**Happy  
Birthday,  
Coke County**



**West Coke County  
Community  
Development**

I. A. Bird and I. S. Bird came up Boozier creek in a wagon with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Bird, in 1887. Their old home place is the old A. J. Adkins farm, a part of which as been in cultivation the 52 years since then.

## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY COKE COUNTY!

We've been serving the people of Coke County for more than

**60 Years**

That's a good long time to serve the people of this county, but every minute of it has been a pleasure to us.

And we very much appreciate the opportunity that the people have given us to serve them.

**Adams Land & Realty Co.**

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Adams

453-2723

Robert Lee

655-9429

## CONGRATULATIONS

**On Our  
First 100 Years To  
All Coke County  
Residents Both  
Past and Present!**

### SINGING WINDS GOLF SHOP

Richard & Peggy Hembree, Owners

REGRIIP  
REPAIR  
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CUSTOM CLUBS  
BALLS-GLOVES-SHOES  
SPECIAL ORDERS

115 W. Main -- P.O. Box 665  
Bronte, TX 76933 -- (915) 473-2013

## ...County (cont'd. from pg. 1)

they were people who had passed through this area and returned to their homes, telling of this vast grazing land; that they were Confederate veterans, who, returning home and finding their living gone, returned west; or that some were fugitives from the law.

The dominion of the cattleman grew as the Indians and buffalo diminished. It was very sparsely settled during the 1860s and 1870s and settlement was slow at first being settled by cattlemen who ran herds on the open range.

Among the earliest cattlemen whose names are known were L. B. Harris, Winfield Scott, the Wylie brothers, T. L. and G. G. Odom, "Uncle" Jimmy Byrd and Wiley Bird; D. H. and J. W. Snyder; J. J. Austin, Bill Glass, Will and Rufus Whiteside.

Most of the range was unfenced and at first few of the cattlemen had any real or legal claim to the land grazed by his cattle but they had a respect for each other's "range rights." The cattle were taken to good northern markets.

When the T&P railroad ran through Abilene and Colorado City, legal owners to the land began coming in, thus followed by many disputes over land titles, boundary lines, etc.

Nesters began to fence their watering places and the cowmen began to fence thousands of acres, leading up to the "fencing war." Pandemonium broke loose with fencing activities. Miles of fence were cut and posts were burned. A Cattleman's Association was formed and Ben Warren of Hylton was hired "to find and prosecute wire cutters."

He was sent to Austin for training, but was "killed from a shot through a window in a Sweetwater hotel, a day before the District Court was to convene to investigate the wire cuttings and he was to testify."

The Texas Rangers were sent into the area. On Jan. 7, 1884, Gov. John Ireland

called a special session of the legislature, making fence cutting a felony. The Warren Killing about put an end to fence cutting in Coke County and things were settled down considerably by the time the homesteaders began to arrive.

The homesteaders came by wagon, by horseback and on foot, driving their animals, bringing all they had with them. Many lived in dugouts or half dugouts at first and others in tents. They had to live on the land for three years according to the Homesteaders Law.

### Organization

The area that is Coke County was originally a part of Department of Bexar, eventually called Bexar County. At that time, Bexar comprised about half of the Republic of Texas. The seat of government and first county seat of the Coke area was San Antonio.

Because of great distances, the people in the far out-reaches found themselves with a legal center, but lacking in benefits to be derived from such a center. A necessary business trip to San Antonio to attend court, record deeds, etc., took weeks.

The people of the Concho country met the legal requirements and on March 13, 1874, the Texas Legislature created Tom Green County with Ben Ficklin as the county

seat, and this was the second county seat for this area. The legislature failed to mention a northern boundary to Tom Green and the entire section of Texas to the north and west was in Tom Green nearly two years. In 1876, 54 counties north were created out of the original Tom Green. Twelve counties to the west had also been created out of Tom Green.

Ben Ficklin was destroyed in a flood on Aug. 25, 1882, and the county government was reestablished at San Angelo, and became the third county seat for these people.

After the railroad extended into this area in the 1880s and the railroad and school lands put on the market and vacant land opened to homesteaders, the population grew rapidly. People began talking about a government closer to home. A business trip to San Angelo took 3-5 days. The move for a county organization took shape.

Early in 1889, about 60 men met in a grove on the Colorado River, had a barbecue and planned the strategy. Ennis Adams rode horseback over the county, carrying the petition which was presented to the Legislature asking for the formation of the county. All legal requirements were met and on March 13, 1889, the legislature created Coke County, described its boundaries and required calling an election of county officials within 30 days. The county comprised 931 square miles.

The county was named for Richard Coke, former Governor of and U. S. Senator from Texas. He was the first governor after reconstruction and carpet bag rule, starting his term of office Jan. 15, 1874, and serving to Dec. 1, 1876. His administration was devoted to reforms and writing a new Texas constitution, though it has been amended many times. He was elected to a second term and thereafter was elected to the U. S. Senate. He resigned the governorship to enter the Senate.

Indian resistance to the white man also ended during the Coke Administration.

The committee to supervise the election was named by the Legislature and was made up of D. T. Fairley, Z. W. Withers and T. A. Collier.

The organization election was held Apr. 23, 1889. Hayrick, near the mountain that bears that name, was the first Coke County seat, being the fourth one for Coke County people.

(The first slate of officers is given elsewhere in this edition, along with all other former officers of this county.)

Soon a battle developed

over the county seat and the election was contested by Eugene Cartledge, son-in-law of L. B. Harris. The present site of Robert Lee was about in the center of the Harris Ranch. Cartledge contested on the grounds that Hayrick was more than nine miles from the center of the county.

A two-story court house had been constructed at Hayrick. Those favoring the Robert Lee site began planning a removal election, citing the water shortage at Hayrick as a good reason for the move. Harris and Cartledge offered to donate the townsite and give every citizen of Hayrick, who owned a house there, a lot on which to move.

Those against the removal said that about 65 citizens had acquired homes in good faith; that it would be expensive and would destroy the value of their property to move; that a good 2-room school was available at Hayrick, which would be a loss; and that a "contract for a \$10,000 brick courthouse had been let, and could not be cancelled."

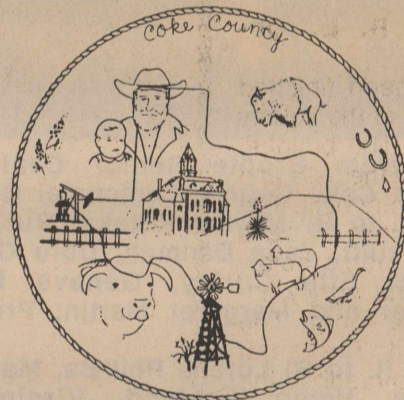
Cartledge got an injunction

(cont'd. on page 7)

## BRONTE'S PIONEER INSURANCE AGENCY

### Congratulates COKE COUNTY

### On Your 100TH BIRTHDAY



L.T. Youngblood went into the insurance business 75 years ago, in 1914, in Blackwell. Soon after coming to Bronte, he formed a partnership with Mrs. Carrie G. Williams under the name of Youngblood & Williams. In 1948, Mary and E.F. (Tuny) Glenn joined the agency. Marilyn and Garry Bivins became partners in 1983, following Mr. Youngblood's death in 1971. The business has a long record of fair dealing with clients and always puts the interests and welfare of customers first. They write all kinds of casualty insurance, bonds, life and health insurance.

We have some old fashioned ideas about fair dealing, honesty with our customers, etc., but the insurance protection we sell is as modern as the latest space capsule.

SEE US FOR COMPLETE

CASUALTY  
INSURANCE  
PROTECTION  
HEALTH & LIFE  
INSURANCE

## GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE

123 W. Main

Bronte

*We're Celebrating*

Come join us as we honor  
**COKE COUNTY**  
during the Centennial Celebration.

Sat., July 22, 1989  
Courthouse Square

**Bell Auto Parts**

453-2911

Robert Lee

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### COKE COUNTY ON YOUR 100TH BIRTHDAY

*We are happy to have served you since 1946.*



## KEY FEED STORE

453-2611

Robert Lee

**...County** (cont'd. from pg. 6)

against building the proposed new courthouse, pending the proposed election. Judge J. W. Timmins, district judge, ruled against him and Carledge appealed. The injunction was dissolved but it had delayed enough time that nothing could be done toward the building until the election.

H. L. Adams was opposing Judge G. W. Perryman for reelection and was pledged, if elected, to call the special election. Perryman was pledged not to call the election.

Adams was elected and his first official act was to call the removal election. Two sites were voted on, Robert Lee and Union City, which was on a flat four miles west of Robert Lee.

Before the election, the courthouse at Hayrick burned, destroying most county records. An investigation was made into the circumstances of the fire but was dismissed because of insufficient evidence.

The election was held Jan. 6, 1891, with Robert Lee becoming the county's fifth, and present county seat. With about 400 votes, the Robert Lee site had a 48-vote majority.

After the election the process of moving began. People did not remove the contents of their houses, but rode to Robert Lee in their houses. There was no

**County builds "pretty" jail**

Nov. 1, 1907 R. L. Observer

The Jail has been finished and turned over to the county commissioners. The building is substantial and the cells and fixtures are the very best. The building contains 7 cells above. It has 4 rooms below for the sheriff and family, including an office room. The building is well furnished throughout and a credit to the contractors. Coke County can now boast of having one of the most substantial as well as pretty jail buildings in the west.

courthouse to be moved and county offices were placed in various rented offices. The county clerk and county attorney moved into a rented small frame building with what records they had managed to salvage from the Hayrick fire, but two weeks later, Jan. 27, 1891, this building burned, destroying the remaining records.

The court house was built in Robert Lee in 1891, and remained the Coke County court house for 65 years. On Oct. 30, 1956, a 10-1 majority of Coke voters approved issuance of \$300,000 in bonds to build the new court house which serves today. It was dedicated, Saturday, Oct. 13, 1956. A \$250,000 bond issued to build a court house was turned down in 1947 by Coke voters, 543-130.

Agriculture has been the backbone of Coke economy, augmented by oil, discovered in 1946. An early industry was found in cedar posts.

First automobiles were reported to have been brought here in 1908.



McCallum, Reed, and Company was open for business in 1903 with customers (l to) Lois Preslar, Ben Tubb, J. N. K. Adams, John Saul, Jr., Sid Vowell, Johnny Menielle, J. A. Clift, and Harve C. Lowrance in attendance. A corporation, J. N. K. Adams was one of the shareholders. A door between the dry goods and hardware portion separated that part from the grocery section; they handled about everything a family needed. The store was located where the present Robert Lee State Bank is.

WE RESPECTFULLY

SALUTE

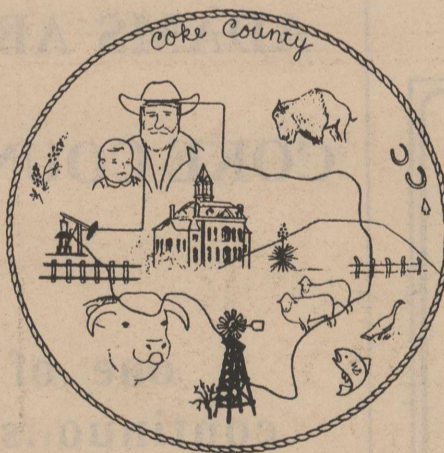
THE

Pioneer



Settlers  
OF  
Coke County

Early settlers in this area were of a hardy stock who were willing to endure the hardships of a harsh country in order to establish their homes and pursue their lives as they wished. Today, that same spirit of independence and freedom has been handed down to our own people as their heritage--something of which all of us can be proud. The good people of Coke County in 1989 are our friends and neighbors and we value your good will as our most prized possession.



WE ARE  
PROUD  
TO SERVE  
AS YOUR  
PUBLIC  
OFFICIALS

Aubrey Denman  
County Judge

Ettie Hubbard  
County Clerk

Coke County Sheriff's Department  
Marshall Millican - Jeff Barnes  
Wayne McCutchen - Wayne Peters

Kristy Roe  
Tax Assessor-Collector

Stover Taylor  
County Auditor

Phelan Wrinkle  
County Treasurer

George Newby  
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Billy Joe Luckett  
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Tim Millican  
Commissioner, Precinct 3

James Tidwell  
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Happy 100th  
Birthday  
Greetings  
Sent To  
Coke County  
and the  
Observer/  
Enterprise

Thanks for letting  
us serve you.  
We look forward  
to the next 100  
years!

Coke County  
Pharmacy

Robert Lee  
453-2400

## RL Observer - 1939

**ROBERT LEE OBSERVER 1939**

**Jess Buchanan**

J. N. Buchanan recalls he ran this ad, "Jess Buchanan is still in the Barber Business," and it ran 15 years without

### City Slicker

**An Explanation**

A few days ago some low-down City Slicker, we do not know his name or whereabouts, came into town and walked off with quite a sum of your money.

Here is how he did it. He came to the school building, while I was in class, and called Mr. Mullins out of his class, telling him that he was working through the superintendent, the school, and the local printshop. He asked for our football schedule and line-up, explaining that he was making some nice posters to advertise our games this year. The poster shown Mr. Mullins was a large colored cardboard to be used as an advertising poster to set in windows, etc. Of course, Mr. Mullins, thinking that I had sent the man to him, gave him the information that he wanted. This slick-tongued falsifier then employed Gail McCutchen to call on merchants and sell them an ad to put on this card to pay for printing same. Gail was told that he was working for the school and through the superintendent and football squad, etc., and of course she passed the word on to you. When the ads were sold, he persuaded the Robert Lee Observer to print them. He paid the Observer \$9 and Gail \$4. He pocketed the rest and left town.

We are sorry that it happened and hope that you will be sure just who is getting you next advertising money.

Feeling that the posters would not benefit the advertisers, the Observer made the schedule into a supplement for this week's issue.

Yours truly,  
Geo. L. Taylor, Supt.  
Robert Lee Schools

changing.

### Fletcher 97 Oldest Person in County

Grandma Fletcher, 97, is the oldest woman now living in the county. Her memory has remained clear, and she still interests her children and neighbors with the stories of an overland trip to California by ox wagon in 1868 and return.

### Keeney in business 33 years

Frank Keeney has been in business at Bronte for 33 years, and has been a reader of the Observer for 38 years. Mrs. Keeney, herself a news writer, has been active in the community life of Bronte and of the county. The Woman's Progressive Club of which she has long been an active member, is one of the oldest organizations of the kind in this section of West Texas.

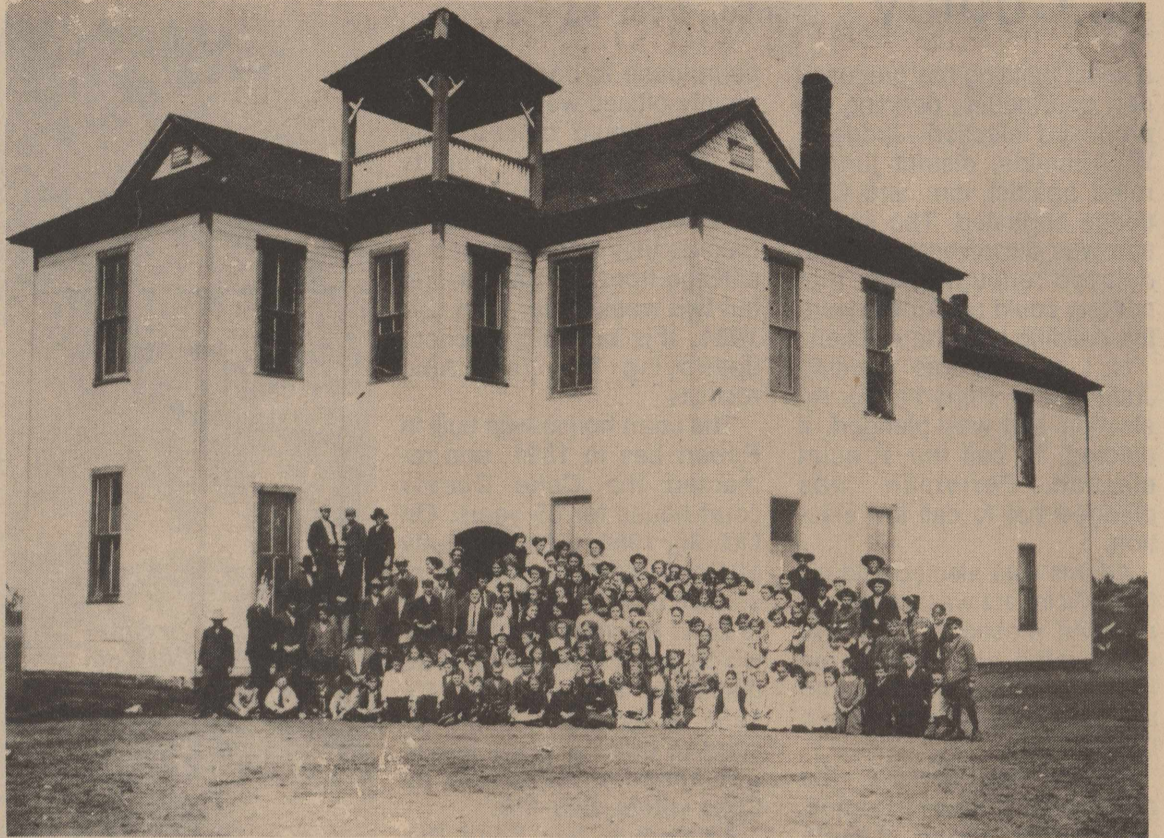
### Foe you can't see

"People can fight a foe whom they can see; nations can guard themselves against physical threats to their safety. But it is immensely more difficult to protect ideals, beliefs and principles against the onslaught of ideas.

"There is always danger, especially in times of economic distress, that great numbers of people will be deceived into believing that the new idea is better than the old one, and that somehow they will fare better by discarding the ancient beliefs in such things as freedom of thought, the rights of individuals as superior to those of the state, the privilege of religious liberty, and the right to speak and speak of one's opinions."

### The Farmer

by Thelma Christine Walker  
The farmer toils and toils never seems to tire.  
Of watching the soil turn up side down,  
Always changing its color and the whole attire.  
He plants the seeds down in the rich soil,  
He covers each kind



Robert Lee School, 1900-1901 - W. T. Savage, A.B, Principal; Miss Alvia Ingram, First Assistant; Miss Annie Nelms, B. S. Primary Dept. Board of Trustees - W. L. Clawson, President; W. B. Green, Secretary; C. L. Hughes, Treasurer; J. A. Green; J. C. Lasswell; W. E. Ingram; R. L. Turner.

just so deep,  
Up one row, down another,  
Until the sun is low.  
Then when the days  
work is all done,  
He turns before he leaves,  
to gaze upon his work  
"he won"  
As would an artist of fame  
when his portrait is done...

### Stewart In County 84 years

Marvin Stewart landed in Coke County Jan. 8, 1889. His mother, Mrs. C. D. Stewart, now of Robert Lee has been in the county 84 years. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart first came from Abilene to the Moro mountain country, then brought sheep to Edith.

### Benningfield

Jim Benningfield came to Coke County in 1838---came in a wagon from Mills County,

bringing his wife with him. Their children were born and reared here. Mr. Benningfield farmed near Sanco many years and ran a gin there several years.

Kissing may raise the blood

pressure and shorten life, but in a case like this, who would want a ripe old age?

One of the dullest sort of homes is that where its members are trying to live within their income.

## PROUD TO BE A PART OF COKE COUNTY...

Although some of the records are unclear, our business has been in Robert Lee since 1904 when Great-Grandfather J.F. Stephens owned the hardware store. W.T. Roach acquired the business in 1946 and operated it as Roach's Dry Goods until 1983 when it was operated as The Wearhouse until 1987 when it sold to Becky Ross and Leigh Ann Stephens.

We would like to thank each and every one of our customers for their support and look forward to serving you in the future.



**The Carousel**  
Fashions & Gifts

711 Austin Robert Lee 453-2415

## ADAMS ABSTRACT COMPANY, INC. and COKE COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY,

one of Coke County's oldest continuously operated businesses, serving Coke County since 1891 with land records from Sovereignty of the Soil (Republic of Texas) to current, congratulates Coke County on its 100th Birthday.

Mike L. Varnadore

Roy Martin, Jr.

We're glad to have survived twenty-seven years in COKE COUNTY.

We congratulate all the citizens of Coke County on the progress made the past 100 years.

Elmer & Janet

**HURLEY PHARMACY**  
Bronte, Texas



## Roe was early polo player

**Fred Roe, a polo player**  
 (Editor's Note: In an article by the San Angelo Standard's Ross McSwain, he wrote of Fred Roe of Robert Lee and his early polo playing.)

Perhaps one of the most colorful West Texas polo players was Fred Roe of Robert Lee. A cowboy, Roe started training polo ponies at 16. He got his start as a polo player when asked to fill in for an ill player during a tournament at El Paso. He quickly scored seven goals.

Roe's career as a poloist was marked by dramatic moments, Mrs. Waring said. During a game in 1923 at the San Angelo Fairgrounds, Roe and teammates Dick Waring, Jose Tweedy and one other took on a team from Brady captained by Ben Strickland. Roe successfully carried the ball the full length of the field and between the goal posts. His horse dropped dead under him in the first period. He played in Paris, France the following year with the U.S. Olympic polo team with 10-goal player Tommy Hitchcock, J. Elmer Boeske of California and Rodney Wanamake of Pennsylvania. The U.S. team placed second to Argentina.

### Good Evidence Spaniards Passed Through 300 Years Ago

When the capitol of West Texas was Santa Fe, when Mendoza traveled across the Big Bend as far as the San Angelo country, and when Father Lopez with a portable organ chanted Gregorian melodies to the Indians around Ballinger--that was back in the early days of our history.

Stranger than fiction run the chronicles of fact as collected by members and contributors to the West Texas Historical Society and others. If the mountains and valleys of old Coke County could speak, what stories they could tell?

It is fairly certain that when Coronado's army returned from their trip through the Panhandle country they passed through a corner of what is now Coke County. That was in 1541. Reliable authorities show that Costello, another Spaniard, came through here in 1650, Guadalajara in 1654.

### 1906 Observer A Rabbit with Horns

Dick Stephens, who lives on the old Hall irrigated farm now owned by his father, R. M. Stephens, was out hunting one day last week and his dog ran a rabbit into the crevices of the rocks at the foot of the mountains on the banks of Cedar Lake. He proceeded to dig Mr. Rabbit out at once and to his surprise found that the rabbit had a full set of horns. The horns were from one-half to two inches in length, there being three horns with three points each, making nine in all. In digging the rabbit out he injured it so that it died, but he brought the head to the Evans Drug Store and had it preserved in alcohol.

Coke county is humorously termed the rabbit county of west Texas.

Roe's international polo career ended abruptly in 1927 when two horses collided and he was knocked unconscious for 21 days and his left side was partly paralyzed.

Even with this physical handicap, Roe continued to play with local teams through the 1930s.

"The Mertz brothers - Joe and Mort - say it was awe-inspiring to see Fred Roe with the reins between his teeth, swinging the mallet with his good arm, and pulling up his horse by rolling the reins in his arms," Mrs. Waring said.

### Coke Co. Rustler, Aug. 25, 1899

#### Information Wanted

Information is wanted by Richard Coke Camp no. 600, U. C. V., Robert Lee, Texas, of all Confederates buried in Coke county, so their history may be placed of record in the records of the camp, so that their graves may be properly cared for and in future decorated as Confederates. Also of all Confederate women who lived during the stirring times of the war and of the days of reconstruction.

Any comrade, relative or friend having knowledge of such deceased persons will please call H. D. Pearce Adjutant of the camp at Post Office building, Robert Lee, Texas.

The following is a list of names who were of age sufficient to have had such experiences of that time. Also it is desired to secure a biographical sketch of every Confederate living in Coke county or anyone who may perchance be temporarily at Robert Lee.

Bronte Cemetery: A. L. Kelly, William Mayfield, W. M. Doshier, Madison McCutchen, Fanny Wheat, William Prewitt, John Lee, and J. L. Hickman.

Robert Lee Cemetery: Cook Walton, William Hardester, I. M. Bennick, Billups, Mobley, J. R. Clements, J. W. Tunnell, A. M. Waldrip, T. Latham, Mrs. H. C. Green, J. H. Burroughs, A. C. Ashley, J. S. Lowry, J. W. Murray, and J. M. Tucker.



A West Texas polo team awaited play at the San Angelo Fairgrounds in 1923. They are (l to r) Charley Waring, San Angelo; Delbert Walling, Robert Lee; Jose Tweedy, London, England; Col. Dick Waring, San Angelo; Dan Roe and brother Fred Roe, both of Robert Lee.

## Greetings to the Pioneers on Your Centennial Year--

We Appreciate Your Years of Patronage,

**WE ARE PIONEERS TOO--**

**Southwest Stockmans Supply**  
 827 Culwell San Angelo  
 Dial 655-6736

Selling Merchandise in Bronte & Coke County

**SINCE 1906**

That was the beginning of our store...



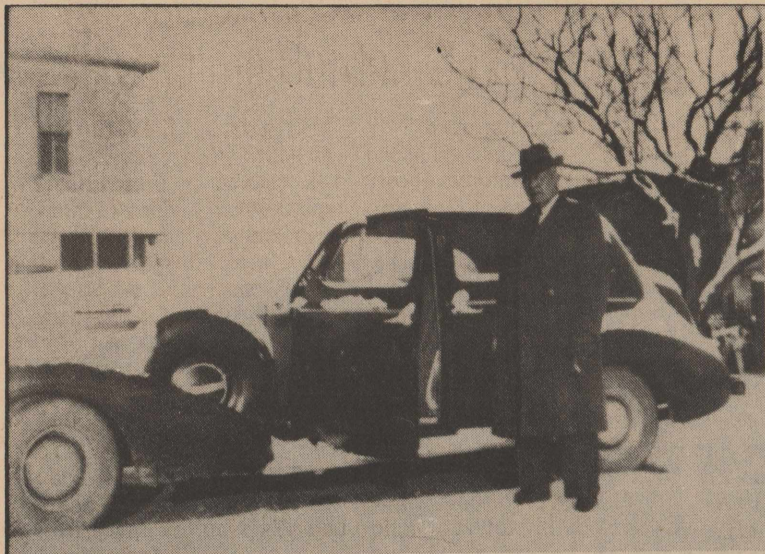
R.E. Cumbie started out in the hardware business in 1906, but then moved into dry goods merchandise. In 1909, just before he moved into the building which still houses our store, he married Emma McQuiston and they were active in the business for many years. They were joined by their daughter and son-in-law, J.B. & Georgia Mae Mackey, who operated the store for 57 years before selling the business to their niece and Cumbie granddaughter, Susan, and her husband, Nick Arrott.

We sincerely hope that during the past 83 years, this firm has made a contribution to the growth and progress of Coke County. Your friendship and confidence are our greatest assets.

**Cumbie & Arrott Mercantile**

119 W. Main

Bronte, Texas



Dr. D. F. K. Turney, Robert Lee's beloved "country" doctor, who delivered untold babies and made house calls day and night.

### Knight worked at gin

J. A. Knight, one of the founders of Coke County, worked at Coke's first gin, on the Snyder ranch, powered by a steam engine, over forty years ago. It was called the Yellow Wolf Gin, burned mesquite wood and turned out eight bales a day. Farmers came, some a day's journey, and if business was good, they camped for the night and got a good chance to visit around the campfire.

Knight was engineer and rode horseback from Valley View, drew \$1.25 a day, wages for skilled work then.

The second gin in the county was operated by the father of Ralph and Frank Harris, at the Harris ranch. The ranch could use the cotton seed for feeding, farmers did not need them. Mr. Harris offered the ginning for the seed, the farmers gladly accepted, and the seed were stacked in great ricks near the gin. From there they were hauled throughout the winter and fed to the cattle on the range.

The first thresher--a "ground-hog" machine was run by two mules and who had to walk in an inclined run-

around.

Mr. Knight was formerly in the hardware business at Robert Lee and was County Relief Administrator under the State Relief Commission.

### Carliles moved to Ft. Chadbourne

The late Allen Carlile, father of Mrs. Vernon Lammers, was living in Coke County during the 1890's with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Carlile. After marrying in 1901, he and Mrs. Carlile lived several years in Oak Creek community in 1912, they returned to Coke County from Oklahoma and settled at the thriving town of Ft. Chadbourne with their four children, Nettie, Tom, Ella, and Louie. They operated the Fort Chadbourne Hotel and Livery Stable, serving the surrounding communities.

Mr. Carlile served on the board of school trustees and as a peace officer while they lived there. The Carliles moved into the Bronte community in 1921, Mr. Carlile died in 1956 and Mrs. Carlile died in 1962.

## Writings from Fort Chadbourne

Robert Lee Observer  
Oct. 19, 1906  
From Ft. Chadbourne

I have been waiting until some one quits writing from this place before I would try to write.

Well, we have but little news, thesedays, for every body is in the field picking cotton. The great rush is on now as cotton seems to be going down. The crop here is very fine. There will be as much or more than last year, even if the boil worm did get his share.

They are still blasting rock on the Orient, I guess they will be here after awhile. There is

some talk of laying off the town of Ft. Chadbourne, in the near future.

There is considerable sickness in our neighborhood at present. Dr. Moore is going nearly all the time. His practice extends 20 or 80 miles around.

W. W. Spoons got his hand cut pretty bad in the gin the other day, but it's doing well, Dr. Moore dressed it for him.

G. W. Webb, our efficient druggist, received a new safe, this week, I suppose he wants a place to keep his money, which he is going to collect this fall.

Mr. Fred McDonald is build-

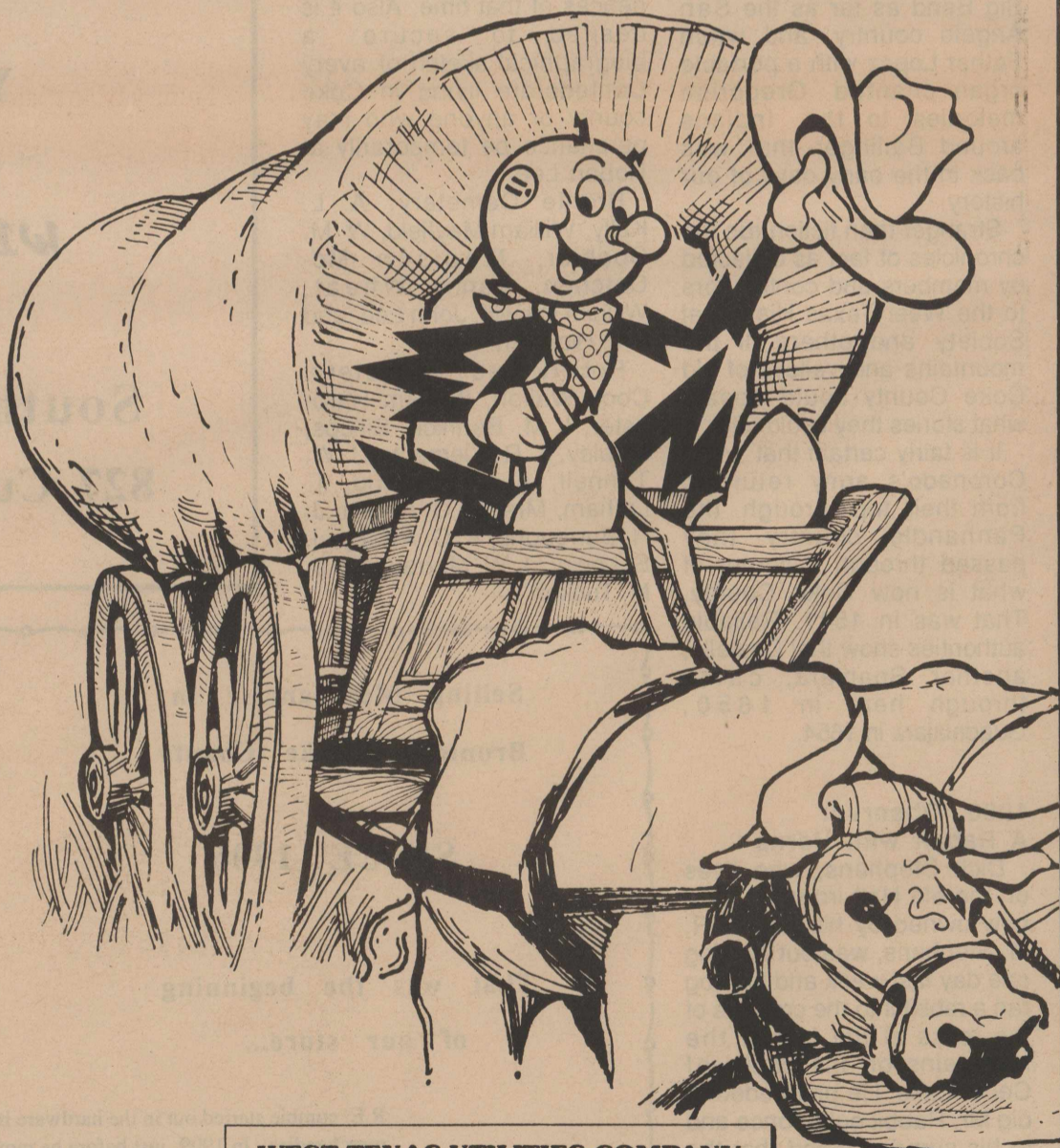
ing a new house, and other improvements are going on.  
ALPHA.

### Rustler - 1895

The Japanese are now getting used to glass. At first the glass in railway car windows had to be smeared with streaks of white paint to keep passengers from poking their heads through it. From Coke County Rustler, 1895.

No man would listen to you talk if he didn't know it was his turn next. --Coke County Rustler, 1895.

Congratulations  
to Coke County  
on its 100th  
Birthday!



WE'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS HERE  
A LONG TIME, BUT WE ARE  
ESPECIALLY PROUD OF OUR

## Sportswear

Manufacturing Business

Which Was Started in Bronte More Than 35 Years Ago

It was in April, 1954, that the blouse factory began production. We always insist on using only the best of materials, put together only by top seamstresses.

We are happy to offer steady work to a dozen Bronte area women.

H.S.L. Taylor & Co.,  
Inc.

Manufacturers of

Joni-Lyn Sportswear

Bronte

Winters

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY

An Equal  
Opportunity  
Employer



WTU

A Member of The Central and South West System

Remember Reddy supplies the energy,  
but only you can use it wisely.

# The Old Wagon Wheels

## Rolled On! Grew Wings

### 1889 Horses

### Horsepower 1989

#### TOMORROW

#### as in Yesterday

#### There Is

#### Much to Do and

#### Far to Go

#### STARTED WITH A WAGON WHEEL

(In Appreciation)

What we sometimes lose sight of perhaps is that the service and dependability of products now obsolete and replaced were the heights of progress in their time. Not only that, but they had the wheels on which we rolled to our own time.

The first automobiles were buggies with motors in them. BUT THEY PROVED IT WAS POSSIBLE. They scared the daylights out of Old Dobbin, but they were here to stay because they worked. Men who would not quit MADE THEM WORK.

We must not lose sight of what determined dedication to the vision of improved travel it took to make those first vehicles work, and how much those who made them work did to make OURS work today.

In 1889 there was pioneering here with wagons, horseback enterprisers, then the more comfortable buggies and hacks. They carried on a lot of business, cleared a lot of land, hauled a lot of freight. THEY USED WHAT THEY HAD WELL, and were anxious to improve. They DID improve.

The Model T engineers and mechanics kept the wheels rolling until the world was ready to the Model A. Then they made the Model A work while a lot of pioneering was done on the V-8.

As you glide along on pavement at speeds only dreamed of then, THESE MEN DESERVE GREAT CREDIT for making possible today's speed and power. For it was pioneering all the way.

No part of the modern automobile just happened. It took the work of thousands and thousands of men--from the country town mechanic to the top engineer in the biggest factory of the land to roll these modern automobiles up to our door.

It began with the first wheel. It has reached high space and has not ended yet. They took what they had, kept it rolling, made it better.

THAT IS OUR JOB TODAY.

Fifty years ago a blacksmith shop had just been turned into automobile sales and service by J.S. Craddock, now deceased, who bought, sold, and repaired the first automobiles in Coke County.

Cumbie Ivey, Sr. bought the Robert Lee business from Mr. Craddock in 1944. For seventy five years sales and service have been continuous here, and for forty five years under the present ownership, with Cumbie Ivey, Jr. assuming ownership of the business in 1963.

The model T in the accompanying picture dates around 1919. The shop had been enlarged after Mr. Craddock moved his shop from the block across the street.

Shown in the picture are the late Orb Craddock, J.S. Craddock, Frank Smith, and Sam Russell.



## IVEY MOTOR COMPANY

### ROBERT LEE, TEXAS

## Women faced hardships

### Many Hardships Endured by Pioneer Women of the Area

Editor's note: The following information was contained in a letter which Mrs. Hayley wrote to Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough, and is a part of her historical collection. Heretofore unpublished, The Enterprise expresses appreciation to Mrs. Yarbrough for allowing us to run it for the first time in this historical edition.)

(Mrs. Yarbrough's note: Mrs. Larkin Hayley (Ethel Pearce Hayley) related the story of her birth. She was born in the isolated Pearce home near the line of Runnels and Coke Counties, not far from Old Fort Chadbourne which is a prominent spot in the History of Coke County, on March 2, 1880, just two weeks after Runnels County was organized and nine years before Coke County was organized. Mrs. Hayley lived most of her life in Coke County.)

Before daybreak on March 1, 1880, Mr. H. D. Pearce bid goodby to his wife and three small children and started in his wagon for Coffees Store at Walthall (then called Picketville) for supplies and on to Paint Rock to bring back a mid-wife, for the Pearces were expecting a visit from the stork in a few weeks.

At sunup the wind began to blow, and soon a notorious sand storm of that day was raging. The wind and sand rocked and beat the little shack all day. Late in the afternoon a wild sow with her litter sought refuge in the human abode. The ten-year-old son shot into the bunch. The sow departed immediately, leaving behind a dead pig.

The pioneer mother, ever on the alert for fresh meat for her family, skinned, salted, and put away this meat.

Soon the lean-to cook room blew away, scattering utensils as far as a half mile away. The living room, more substantially built, withstood the storm, but the ducking roof began to rip away. Mrs. Pearce, overturned a water barrel, climbed upon it to nail the roof. Just as she thought it nailed securely, a harder gust of wind ripped away all of the roof. Sand poured into the house. (This, by-the-way, was when there was no plowed ground.)

As the mother put her sleepy children to bed, she realized that the stork had decided to hasten his visit; and realizing that must depend upon herself for assistance, she made ready as best she could in the dark, for the kerosene lantern would not stay lighted in the storm. About midnight the storm ceased--in answer to her prayer no doubt. A great calm came upon the land. The stars came out in all their glory and lighted up every corner of the roofless room. About 3 a.m. the first white child born in the new county made her arrival. She was myself, Ethel Anna Pearce. Because of her bravery and experience in waiting on her sick neighbors in Paint Rock and Brownwood, my wonderful mother was able to care for herself at this time. She wrapped her new-born

babe and rested until daybreak--then her 10-year-old son was awakened and sent a mile away to where an old German and his son were camped, improving their land. He was told to take his wagon and bring some women from the nearest neighbors five miles distant. Upon his arrival there and telling of his errand, one of the women became hysterical, for she, too, was expecting a visit from the stork soon, and she would not permit the other women to leave her.--Yes, they were forgiven, for three weeks later my mother carried her new baby and watched through the long hours of night at the bedside of the same dying young mother, who was not strong enough to endure these pioneer hardships. Mother helped prepare the bodies for burial.

When the German had returned with no help, my mother said to him, "Mr. Nolan, the storm that nearly blew away my home also blew in a little baby girl." He said in broken English, "My Gott, Mine Gott, I am an old man; my children are all grown; if there is anything I can do for you, command me."

Mother replied, "Please nail the roof over my head and help the children to gather the scattered contents of the kitchen."

An old bachelor, Major G. W. Perryman, from Washington, D. C., had just arrived in the new county. (Later he became the first county judge of Coke County). Hearing of the dilemma, he walked five miles to offer his assistance. Arriving, he walked the dirt floor,

exclaiming, "Well! Well! Well!", apparently as helpless as the new born babe. Finally he said, "I know what I can do, I'll go the the next neighbor and bring her if I have to carry her and her children on my back." This neighbor lived 10 miles away. Away went the major, and late in the afternoon a young mother came horseback while the Major stayed with her children.

Mr. Pearce returned about sundown on March 2, and no doubt was greatly relieved to find that the baby had arrived and all was well, for he had been unable to secure the services of a mid-wife, and was planning to take his family in the wagon to Coleman, where there was a doctor.

N. W. Kiker drives mail hack to Robert Lee in early 1920s.



Mr. Hayley moved to Coke County in 1889. He served as postmaster 24 years and at Norton 15 years. He operated a drug store in Bronte where Margarets Flowers and Gifts is now located. He died in June, 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayley were married at the Pearce Hotel in Ballinger June 28, 1899. The hotel was owned by her father, H. L. Pearce, who helped organize Runnels County. They lived in Robert Lee three months after their marriage, then moved to

Bronte and lived here 27 years.

Mrs. Hayley spent a year setting type by hand for the Coke County Rustler, now Robert Lee Observer, which was edited by her brother, the late Hubert Pearce. She died in October, 1955.

\$200 Reward for the arrest and conviction or information leading to same of party or parties stealing, killing, or unlawfully moving any of my stock. Brand 6X on left side mark, split both ears. W.V. Greenland, Tennyson.

Felic  
Cien  
Años  
COKE  
COUNTY

*El*  
**Vaquero**  
Restaurante  
MEXICAN FOOD

*Mexican Food With  
A Texas Flavor*

LUIS CHARLES  
915-473-2027

224 W. MAIN  
BRONTE, TX.

**To Celebrate  
COKE COUNTY  
HERITAGE**

American  
Printing  
Company

**Mike and Becky White**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
AND HONOR  
to Coke County and  
The Observer/Enterprise  
on Their  
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

*Sincerely,*

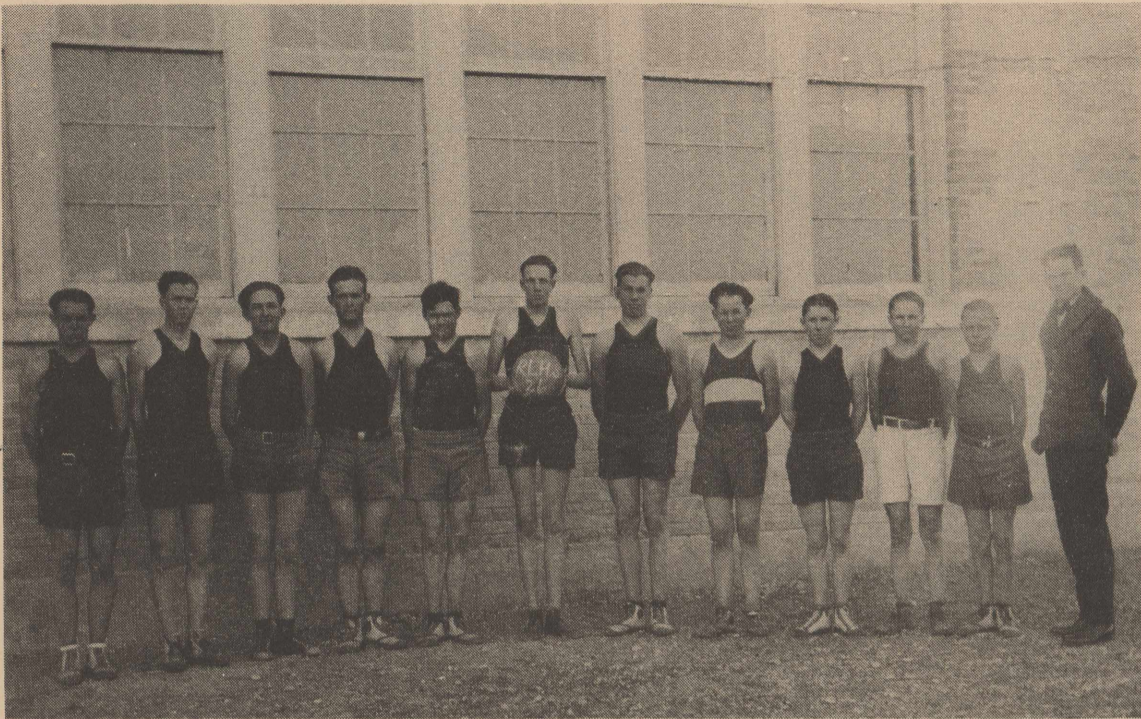
**THE CITY OF BRONTE**

**MAYOR**  
J.T. Henry

**COUNCILMEN**  
Harold Dunn - Edward Hart  
Wesley Gibbs - Shalon Gibbs  
Gary Shaffer

**It's our policy  
to wish  
Coke County  
a Happy 100th  
Birthday!**

**Wink Insurance Agency**  
Robert Wink 453-4551



Robert Lee's 1926 boys basketball team was made up of (l to r) Luther McCutchen, J. W. Swafford, Victor Wojtek, Jody Williams, Thurman Rabb, Captain Skinny Adams with ball, Albert Baze, Telford Cain, Bud Maxwell, player in light shorts unidentified, and Woodrow Gardner. Principal/Coach N. T. Underwood is at right.



Coke County officials for the 1937-38 term pose in front of a side door of the old courthouse in Robert Lee. They are (l to r) Willis Smith - County Clerk; Bill McDonald - County Attorney; Beatrice Taylor Counts - Deputy Clerk; I. H. Brunson - Treasurer; McNeil Wylie - County Judge; Daisy McCutchen - Asst. Treasurer; Frank Percifull - County Sheriff; and Paul Good - Deputy Sheriff.

## Traveling through Sanco in 1906

1906 Observer - Jan. 9  
A Trip To Sanco

A few days since I visited Sanco to see if I could find out anything about the Orient, but found everybody so busy getting ready for another crop that they had forgotten all about the Orient. In fact, they have all the improvements on hand at present that can be handled without taking further contracts.

After leaving Sanco I made a stop at Judge Campbell's hoping to have my store of knowledge increased, which was done, but on a different line from what I was looking for. About the time I entered his front gate I heard his good wife say: "Look out, he is coming." About that time something hit me all over and I landed about twenty feet nearer the front door. I jumped up and ran inside more dead than alive. I asked the good old lady of the house what on earth it was that hit me. She said, "God bless you, it is nothing but the old man's pet mule." I wanted to know what the old man wanted with such a beast, and she told me that he was worth a full pack of blood hounds to keep guard around the place. I looked out of the window and the son-of-a-gun was backed up against the front gate gritting his teeth and shaking all four of his feet at me in such a way that I almost went into a state of collapse. I asked one of the young ladies if there was any chance for me to get out alive. She said if I was a quick stepper I might make it while her sister rang the dinner bell on the other side of the house. When the bell started the mule started and so did I. I got out much faster than I got in and I promised the young ladies that if I ever went that way again I would carry a gatling gun and blow that infernal mule clear out of the county of Coke. I noticed a smile come over her face and I am sure she would be glad to see me coming. I was told that the old judge has the old mule

so well trained that there is not a boy around Sanco that will venture inside of his premises, so I don't blame the girls for wanting the rascal exterminated.

About sundown I pulled up at Bud Ulmer's, one of the most thrifty farmers and ranchmen of Coke county, and by the way, an all around good fellow. I asked him if I could stay all night with him. He said he had never turned a man off, but he did not like my appearance and I would have to see his wife about the matter. About that time old Father Baker came up and gave me such a hearty greeting that Mr. Ulmer told me to drive in, which I did. After supper I told him my experience with the mule, and he said he was sorry he spoke to me as he did and for me to always consider myself welcome at his home from that time on. The next morning when I left him he gave me a five dollar note and bid me God-speed.

At noon I found myself at the home of my old friend,

Ben Bilbo, the jolliest man in all west Texas. I was never treated better in all my life. I found him, like all others, hard at work getting ready for a big crop.

After dinner I moved on to J. F. Cole's. I found him in a terrible state of mind. I made inquiry as to the cause of his trouble, and he told me that Bilbo's pet coon had run off and he was afraid he would come down his way. I told him I was just from there and had heard him say nothing about a coon. He said it made no difference, that he had had one and that it was gone. Everybody was looking for it so I moved on wondering if that coon was as mean as Campbell's mule. All at once I heard someone say, "Hold up, there!" I stopped and a fellow wanted to know where I was going. I told him I was going down to Mr. Tucker's to stay all night. "Well," he says, "do you know anything about Bilbo's negro?" I told him that I did

(cont'd. on page 14)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Coke County on its  
100th Birthday--



We're  
proud to  
be a  
part of  
Coke  
County.

## SUPER "H" GROCERY

We Salute and  
Congratulate  
Coke County  
and  
The Observer/  
Enterprise  
on their  
100th Anniversary



453-2375

## CRACKER BARREL RESTAURANT

Robert Lee

## WE'RE PROUD OF COKE COUNTY



Proud to be a part of this county  
and proud to serve its citizens for  
the past 7 1/2 years - we pledge to  
continue to offer old-fashioned  
service and a fair price.

## J & B LUMBER & HARDWARE

Richard and Suzann Johnson

(915) 453-2711

Robert Lee

## Ft. Chadbourne history

The Enterprise 3-16, 1906

### Historic Old Ft. Chadbourne

A short history of her Past. A bright future predicted for the town.

The beautiful little town of Ft. Chadbourne is now only disturbed by the school bell, the whistling of the plow boy, and the blasting of the Orient R.R. At one time, however, the country was disturbed by the sound of trumpets, the toll of drums, and the yell of captains.

Old Ft. Chadbourne was one of a chain of military posts stretching from Oak Creek to the Rio Grande, established in the early fifties, for the purpose of protecting the Texas frontier against the ravages of the Red man who once made his home in this beautiful country which is now the home of happy and industrious people. The old Fort was once a town of four or five thousand and inhabitants. Col. Robert E. Lee, later the South's greatest General, was stationed there. They had large stone buildings for protection. The Indians came in such numbers they almost devastated the whole coun-

try. On one occasion the mail carrier being met by the savages, without harm. They cut his harnesses, cut the mail pouch, scattered the letters in every direction, laughed at him telling him to take the road. He returned to the fort.

The only means of travel at that time was by stage lines. The Butterfield road ran through the present town.

They had a central telegraph office at Camp Concho with lines connecting all the forts. They made the Indians believe that it was death to pass under the wires, thus making the lines a great protection.

The country was covered with tall grass. There were very few trees. To keep the white man from following him the Indians would burn the grass behind him. At such times the Fort could be seen for many miles for the houses were mostly white.

A few of the old stone buildings still stand but most of them have been torn away. The cells and some of the fortresses remain and attract many people.

The soldier's cemetery in which rests the bodies of Col. Odom, Capt. Yardly, and many others, is located about one-half mile from the fort. No monuments mark their last resting place. The graves are covered with rock.

The new Ft. Chadbourne is beautiful village surrounded by rich farms and neat cottages. What wonderful progress in the short spaces of twenty-five years! Past progress causes us to look for great things in the future. The K. C. M. & Orient RR. will be in



Group at favorite picnic spot, Dripping Springs, near Edith. Top row (l to r) 2nd, Paul Brown, 3rd Effie Walling, (seated, l to r) 1st Press Walling, 3rd Idra Walling, probably before 1900.

### J. J. Vestal was town blacksmith

Robert Lee Observer 1939

**Village Blacksmith** Not "under a spreading chestnut tree," for he left the chestnuts behind a long time ago, but "under a spreading mesquite tree," or near it, is the blacksmith shop built by Uncle Johnnie Vestal, who moved here from Hayrick when the town was built and began shoeing horses and sharpening plows for the settlers.

In the Coke County Rustler of 1892 this ad appears, "J. J. Vestal is prepared to do your blacksmithing for cash." In Robert Lee Observer, Friday, Sept. 27, 1935, this ad appears, "J. J. and Son have wagon timbers in stock and ready to do your wagon work. Trailer hitches and horse-shoeing a specialty."

He has always been ready to do your work and now he is eighty-four years old and still ready.

Uncle Johnny came here before there was a Coke County and settled on a piece of land on Indian Creek. He intended then to quit the trade and go to farming, but had his tools there on the place. Farming wasn't so much on the up, and soon settlers were bringing in blacksmithing and he was doing it.

When Hayrick was built, he moved there and set up a shop, and was in business there when the court house burned.

Vestal and Son have never gone in much for automobile work, but stuck to straight blacksmithing. The work is done to the tune of electric motors, but the old friendly atmosphere of other years still linger around.

operation by October. The talk is that within the next two years the central will cross the Orient at Ft. Chadbourne and be the best in all the west. Some day we hope to have a good college and other things essential to the welfare and happiness of the people.

The Post Office which was once at the fort was moved in 1886 four miles west to the residence of P. E. Douglas.

### ...Sanco (cont'd. from pg. 13)

not know Bilbo had a negro, but I heard his pet coon was gone. I concluded to go on and see Perry Breedlove and get the matter straight. I told him what I had heard and that I wanted the thing straight, as might be a witness some time, and here is just what he told me: He said that a gentleman from down east had made Mr. Bilbo a Christmas present of a little negro boy. As he was the first colored settler in that locality his advent caused considerable excitement. Mr. Bilbo had either sent him back

or the little fellow had strayed off and been caught by the coyotes. Now, if that negro boy has been devoured, Cole did it, for he sure looked guilty when he said he was looking for a coon.

It is very true that after my experience with the mule I might have been a little mixed up but not so much as some of those fellows who I saw hunting for that coon. I hope the little fellow will make landing safe and that Sanco will continue in peace and prosperity.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to every resident of  
**COKE COUNTY**  
on our  
**100th BIRTHDAY**

We are proud to be a part of  
this big event.

See us for all your floral needs.

*Margaret's Flowers & Gifts*

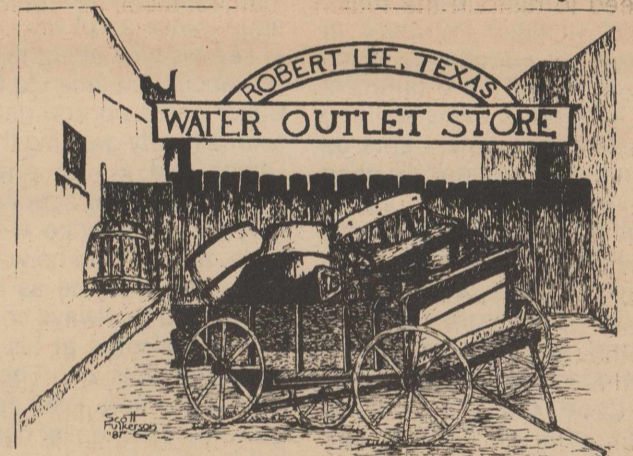


Eddie and Earlene Alexander

Box 344 Phone 473-5101

BRONTE, TEXAS 76933

Proud to Salute  
**COKE COUNTY**  
and  
**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**  
On Their 100th Birthday!



Nola Miller

The City of Robert Lee  
Salutes  
**COKE COUNTY**  
and  
**THE**  
**OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**  
on Their  
**One Hundredth Birthday**  
**1889-1989**

MAYOR  
Wilson Bryan

CITY SECRETARY Edna Havins CITY SUPERINTENDENT James W. Royall

CITY COUNCIL  
A.L. (Speedy) Brasuell  
Joe Barrett - Ruth Luna  
Richard Johnson - C.O. (Joe) Brazier

## Fort established in 1852

### Ft. Chadbourne First Settlement in Coke County

Fort Chadbourne, Tex., was established Oct. 28, 1852, one of ten such forts, for the protection of settlers against hostile Indians. It was abandoned by the U. S. troops March 23, 1861, upon the approach of the Civil War and again occupied May 25, 1867. It was finally abandoned by U. S. Troops between Dec. 1 and 18, 1867. This information is in the files of Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough and came from the office of the Adjutant general in Washington.

The fort was built in the northeast corner of what is now Coke County, on a flat, wooded promontory on the east bank of Oak Creek, 30 miles above its juncture with the Colorado River. It is nine miles north of Bronte and six miles south of Blackwell on the old Butterfield Trail. It was an important station on the Butterfield Overland Stage Route from 1858-1861.

The fort was named in honor of Lt. Theodore Lincoln Chadbourne, killed at Resaca de la Palma, May 9, 1846. Lt. Chadbourne was 24 years of age at the time of his death. A principal street in San Angelo and the town of Fort Chadbourne also bear his name, as does the oil field on the present Conda Wylie Ranch, now called Chadbourne Ranch.

Comanche raids seemed to have been worst in the late 1840's and early 1850's. After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in which the U. S. agreed to restrain the Indian raids, a Captain Whiting, inspecting the frontier in 1850, recommended heavier garrisons and the location of Indian forts "where the Indians live instead of where the citizens live." The ten forts were then constructed with Fort Chadbourne as an extreme outpost. The site was never owned by the government but they held a 99 year lease on the site, the Felix Sosa Survey, No. 302, Coke County. In addition the government agreed to pay sur-

face damages and this agreement was recorded Apr. 15, 1854, Bexar transcript to Runnels County.

The base of supplies was San Antonio, 215 miles away. Before the Butterfield Overland mail, a supply train left Fort Chadbourne once weekly for Fort Mason, 120 miles southeast, to receive the mail.

A Lt. Col. W. A. Freeman reported following an inspection of 1853 that almost "the entire command is living in tents. Two or three officers occupied "jackal" huts. Dr. Ebenezer Swift and his wife spent their entire residence at Fort Chadbourne in a "tent."

Stone buildings, when completed included officers quarters, a hospital barracks for enlisted men and mail station. The buildings had shingle roofs, shingles said to have been cut by the troops on the San Saba River, more than 100 miles away. Other buildings were of hewn logs with canvass roofs and windows. Still others were said to be tents.

The Fort had 18 commanders in less than four years. Among the officers prior to the Civil War (1852-1861) were: Captains John Beardsley, who established the fort; Arthur T. Lee, William R. Montgomery; 1st Lts. James C. Snelling, Thomas G. Pitcher; Second Lts. R. I. Dodge, R. G. Cole; Colonel John Garland; Major Pitcairn Morrison; Lt. Col. W. Seawell; 1st Lts. James Longstreet and Geo. E. Pickett, both of whom became famous as Confederate leaders. Miles W. Koogh was at Fort Chadbourne in 1867. Capt. Henry E. McCulloch and his First Texas Calvary were there at the outbreak of the Civil War, after it was abandoned by federal troops. They remained there only a short time and left the fort in command of a Capt. Davidson, who was killed in a fight with the Indians in 1861. Two years after the Civil War it was again garrisoned by U. S. troops but only for a short time.



George Cowan, publisher of the Robert Lee Observer early in the century, pretends to drink from printers ink remover during work on the paper. At left are Frank Wade Cowan and young Jessie Pearl Newton (later Jessie Yarbrough).

Many famous men, including Robert E. Lee, Earl Van Dorn, Colonel Johnston and others either visited or were there for a short time. Lee, stationed at Camp Cooper, and two companies of men traversed the Valley of the Colorado in what is now Coke County twice in the summer of 1856.

Horse racing was a favorite sport at the Fort, often racing against the Indians.

The Fort was used as an outpost but never used by the military after 1875. In 1876, Colonel Odom moved his family to the site and it has been in that family ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Conda Wylie live in the ranch home adjacent to the ruins of the Fort and Mrs. Wylie, the former Edna Odom was born there.

The Fort Chadbourne cemetery, adjacent to highway 158, is another historic spot, one of three cemeteries in that vicinity before 1877. The one near the highway is still in use. It holds the grave of the first officer to be buried at Fort Chadbourne and citizens buried as early as 1878.

A number of other graves are also scattered around the Wylie Ranch, many unmarked and unknown.

Chadbourne was a ghost fort before the eighties, when most of the early settlers came out here and now the old fort is crumbled. Most of the information on Fort Chadbourne has been handed down as "stories" by the early day residents of the area. There is little first hand and what historians call authentic information.

### Signs of Spring

by Sonny Jim  
 You may talk of signs of weather,  
 Of coming days you may sing,  
 When Pa sets in to dig fish bait,  
 It is a good sign of Spring.  
 And when Ma sez,  
 "Pa, beat the rug;  
 That I hung upon the line."  
 Spring's just around the  
 corner then,  
 For that's another good sign.  
 When I chunk rocks at the bee  
 hives,  
 And one greets me with a sting  
 I know plum well that Winter's  
 passed,  
 That's the surest sign of Spring.

## BRONTE'S OLDEST

### CONTINUOUS BUSINESS

So far as we have been able to determine from records, our funeral home is the oldest continuous business institution in Bronte still in operation.

"Saluting The Pioneer Spirit of Coke County"

"We are proud that we have been able to expand our services to include a full service monument company."

Dignified Personalized Service

Shaffer  
Funeral Home &  
Monument Company

Robert Lee

Bronte

A PENNY SAVED IS  
A PENNY EARNED.

EXTENDED  
THROUGH  
JUNE 30, 1989

0% FINANCING:  
WE JUST CAN'T  
STOP OURSELVES.

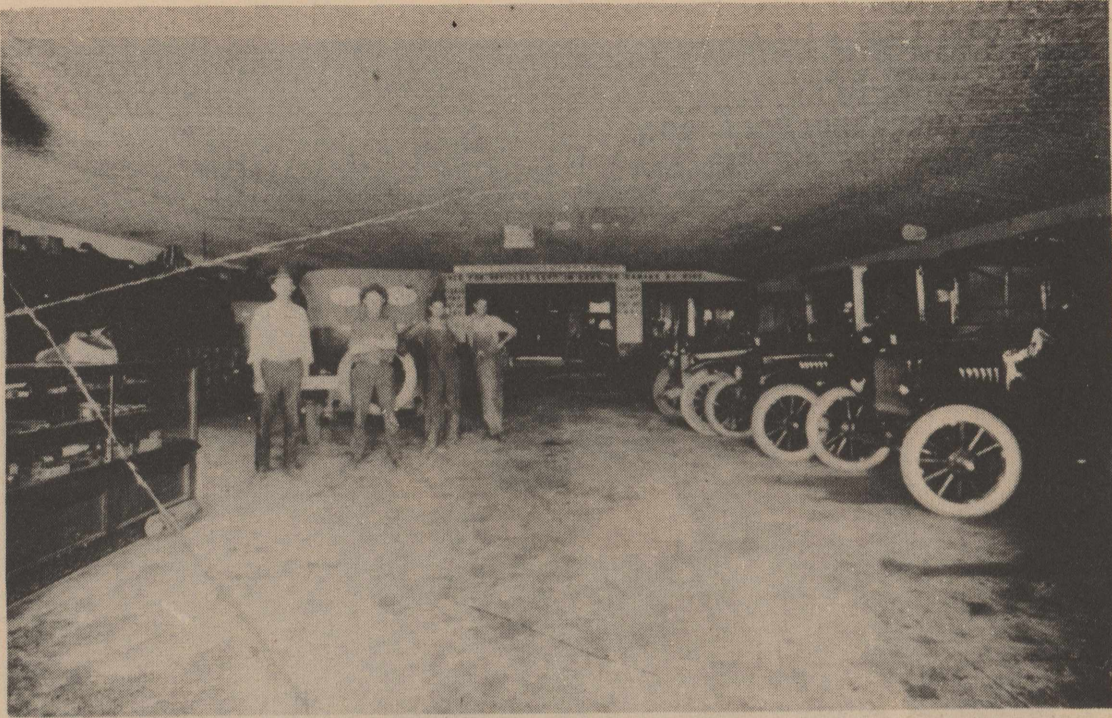
We don't want to stop now. So Ford New Holland has extended 0% A.P.R. financing through June 30, 1989. Buy a Ford tractor, Versatile tractor or New Holland implement, and finance it for 12 months. We'll pay the finance charges. And on New Holland hay and forage implements, we'll pick up the finance charges for up to 18 months.

We also offer terrific rates on longer terms. Or interest waivers. Or great cash\* deals. So if you've been waiting for the right time to buy, the time is now.

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915/653-2121



Available exclusively through Ford Credit for qualified buyers.  
\*Nonsubsidized contracts with Ford Credit are the same as cash.



Sam Russell, Jess Craddock, Frank Smith, and Orb Craddock inside Jess Craddock's Ford dealership showroom and garage.

### Dr. Leonard came to Bronte in 1903

#### Dr. Leonard Still Has Saddle-Bags He Started with at Bronte 36 Years Ago

On May 1, Dr. J. D. Leonard will have been in Bronte 36 years. In that time he has attended 1730 births, an average of 48 per year. In 1932 there were 62. One year there were over 70. In 1933, one per week.

The past twelve months have brought the fewest babies in the 36 years of his practice here.

Coming to Bronte by mail hack May 1, 1903, he faced a blizzard without an overcoat. There was a big frost which bit corn nearly to the ground, he recalls. Despite this cold "reception", he stayed with the new town and has for some years been the only practicing physician at Bronte. **Has Kept Saddlebags**

Dr. Leonard still has the "pill bags" that he carried on his saddle during his first practice. A hundred miles from a hospital, he carried with him lance, forceps, splints, and the most necessary drugs.

When the Orient came in 1906, he helped lay off the new townsite at Bronte. With his practice in the town and

country, he has reared and educated six children. Though his work has taken him often as far as twenty-five miles into the country, Dr. Leonard says he still would not exchange it for any other kind of work.

#### In Step With the Times

Keeping in touch with each forward step in medicine, he has seen during his years at Bronte the greatest changes come over the field. He has not yet had occasion to use the sulfapyridine treatment, though it is kept available for his patients.

"This is a medicine injected into the blood stream which kills foreign bodies in the blood, but does not show any injurious effect on the patient," he said.

#### First Fence From Gobbler To Silver Peak, Drift Fence

There were few fences in 1889, and these had not been built long. Our information is that the first fence, built several years before, was a drift fence across the country running east and west through the mountains near Gobbler Creek to Silver Peak. Later fences divided the

Snyder range, according to J. H. Benningfield who rode the Snyder fence recalls that their south line ran north of the river from Robert Lee several miles west, then crossed the Colorado and ran south of the river through the Shaggy Peak country and nearly to Grubbs Canyon. The north Snyder fence ran just south of the present Joe Arledge pasture, and on past Silver Peak. The HXW lay north of this fence, about a mile strip of Coke County being HXW range and the rest of it in Nolan county.

The Harris ranch north of the Colorado river lay between Mountain Creek and the Yellow Wolf Valley. The north Harris fence ran from the present Mileage Gartman place through the present Jack Adkins farm to the corner of the present McDorman land (the old S.S. Craddock farm), and thence south to the river, and across the river to the mountains.

West of the Harris' was the Winfield Scott range, and southwest the John McCabe outfit.

### Adams termed "father"

Dean Chenoweth, writing for the standard-Times in 1949, proclaimed that Skinny Adams of Robert Lee was the "Father of the oil industry in Coke County". He was credited in having enough faith in drilling and leasing to go forward and work with others to achieve that goal.

Clarence Pope, an oil scout himself, and landman for Sun Oil Company for 36 years, said in his 1972 book "An Oil Scout In The Permian Basin" that Coke County could credit Skinny and Elsie Adams for the development of the oil industry in Coke County by helping him to secure, with leases, the first twenty-thousand acre block Sun Oil Company required for drilling. The first of these wells was finaled on Allen Jameson in December, 1946.



S.E. "Skinny" Adams

Mr. and Mrs. Adams worked long, countless hours on legal paper work for their clients who needed abstract work quickly. The couple remain in business today selling real estate.

### Congratulations To All Residents Of COKE COUNTY On Our 100th Anniversary

This bank has always been an institution of service. The officers and directors have always believed that a bank is an institution of service to its customers. It has always been a policy of this bank to supply every customer with every service possible, which was consistent with good business and banking principles.

It is our hope to continue to serve you and merit your confidence and patronage.

### First National Bank of Bronte

Member FDIC

### We Honor Our Pioneer Heritage



HAPPY BIRTHDAY COKE COUNTY!

### BOB WRINKLE'S ACE HARDWARE

416 Commerce - Robert Lee - 453-2414

### Pioneers In Service To The Area

### INTERNATIONAL TRUCK SALES & SERVICE

R. L. Anderson International, Inc.

FREDDIE BROOKS, Truck Sales  
617 North Bell San Angelo  
Bus. 915-655-7187 Res. 915-655-5283



## County officials from 1889 to 1989

### Coke County officials from Beginning to the Present

(Following the first paragraph complete titles of officers are not given for space reasons.)

#### 1889-1890

Judge and ex-officio supt. of schools, G. W. Perryman; county and district clerk, T. A. Collier; sheriff and tax collector, W. F. Buchanan; tax assessor, D. F. Fairley; treasurer, George Williamson; county surveyor, Captain Patteson; attorney, -- Greenleaf; Commissioners were: Prec. 1, R. E. Douglas; prec. 2, J. R. Farmer; prec.3, P. H. Youngblood; prec. 4, J. P. Henderson.

#### 1891-1892

Judge, H. L. Adams; clerk, R. R. Smith; sheriff, W. F. Buchanan; assessor, D. F. Fairley; treasurer, George Williamson; surveyor, J. R. Patteson; attorney, D. T. Averitt and U. S. Hearrell; Commissioners; 1, R. E. Douglas; 2, John R. Farmer; 3, D. S. Cunningham; 4, Thad T. Angel.

#### 1893-1894

Judge, A. J. Pritchard; clerk, R. R. Smith; sheriff, B. F. Montgomery; assessor, L. H. Brightman; treasurer, George Williamson; surveyor, J. R. Patteson; attorney, A. P. McCarty; commissioners; 1, R. I. Kirkland; 2, Sam Sayner; 3, H. A. Chapman; 4, J. F. Conner.

#### 1895-96

Judge, D. T. Averitt, L. H. Brightman appointed March 1896; clerk, E. M. Mobley; sheriff, L. B. Murray; tax assessor, H. E. Johnston; treasurer, W. C. Hayley, J. A. Gardner appointed April, 1896; surveyor, J. R. Patteson; attorney, W. C. Merchant; commissioners; 1, M. H. Davis; 2, L. H. McDorman; 3, A. C. Gardner; 4, J. H. Campbell.

#### 1897-98

Judge, S. J. Champman; clerk, J. W. Barnett; sheriff, L. B. Murray; assessor, H. E. Johnston; treasurer, C. L. Hughes; surveyor, Gid Graham; attorney; W. C. Merchant; commissioners: 1, E. C. Rawlings; 2, Sam Sayner;

3, J. C. Newton; 4, J. H. Campbell.

#### 1899-1900

Judge, M. H. Davis; clerk J. W. Barnett; sheriff, L. B. Murray; assessor, W. W. McCutchen; treasurer, C. L. Hughes; surveyor, G. C. Berryman; attorney, Gid Graham; commissioners: 1, E. C. Rawlings; 2, M. H. Havins; 3, J. C. Newton; 4, G. W. Payne.

#### 1901-02

Judge, Gid Graham; clerk, J. W. Barnett; sheriff, L. B. Murray; assessor, W. W. McCutchen; treasurer, C. L. Hughes; surveyor, W. T. Savage; attorney, C. C. Merchant; commissioners: 1, T. C. Baldwin; 2, B. A. Taylor; 3, D. S. Cunningham; 4, W. R. Boykin (appointed July 5, 1902).

#### 1903-04

Judge, Gid Gaham (resigned Feb. 10, 1904) G. W. Perryman appointed; clerk J. W. Barnett; sheriff, W. B. Green; assessor, W. W. McCutchen; treasurer, C. L. Hughes; surveyor, W. T. Savage, Wm. Clift appointed June 9, 1903; attorney, C. C. Merchant, G. W. Perryman appointed Nov. 11, 1903 and W. F. Robinson appointed Feb. 11, 1904; commissioners 1, W. R. Pruitt; 2, B. A. Taylor; 3, A. C. Gardner; 4, Jack Adkins.

#### 1905-06

Judge, J. D. Jowers; clerk, J. W. Barnett; sheriff, W. T. Hazelwood; assessor, W. W. McCutchen; treasurer, B. F. Hall Jr.; surveyor, none; attorney, W. F. Robinson; commissioners: 1, E. C. Rawlings; 2, R. L. Weaver, Sam Sayner appointed Feb. 23, 1905; 3, F. S. McCabe; 4, T. J. Goss.

#### 1907-08

Judge, P. D. Coulson; Clerk, John S. Gardner; sheriff, Will Hickman; assessor, W. W. McCutchen; treasurer, B. F. Hall Jr.; surveyor, W. P. Graves; attorney, George E. Critz; commissioners: 1, C. M. Jones; 2, S. W. Gaston; 3, C. M. Barger; 4, T. J. Goss.

#### 1909-10

Judge, P. D. Coulson; clerk John S. Gardner; sheriff, Will Hickman; assessor, T. Johnson; surveyor, W. P. Graves; attorney, V. O. Key; commissioners; 1, J. H. Stephenson;

2, S. W. Gaston; 3, C. M. Barger; 4, T. J. Goss.

#### 1911-12

Judge, G. S. Arnold; clerk, R. W. Douglas Jr.; sheriff, Will Hickman; assessor, Louisa Johnson; treasurer, C. L. Hughes; surveyor, W. P. Graves; attorney, Geo. E. Critz, J. E. Greer appointed April 17, 1912; commissioners: 1, W. L. Clawson; 2, R. B. Hudson; 3, T. E. Cullender; 4, R. I. Kirkland.

#### 1913-14

Judge, G. S. Arnold; clerk, R. E. Douglas Jr.; sheriff, Will Hickman; assessor, Mrs. Louisa Johnson; surveyor, T. E. Puett; attorney, J. E. Greer; commissioners, 1, W. H. Campbell; 2, J. B. McCutchen; 3, J. W. Caudle, D. I. Field appointed Jan. 22, 1913; 4, Sam Sayner.

#### 1915-16

Judge, S. B. Kemp, D. I.: Durham appointed Jan. 21, 1916; clerk J. L. (Roy) Taylor; sheriff, J. H. Burroughs; assessor, W. J. Cumbie; treasurer, Mrs. Annie J. Parker; surveyor, T. E. Puett; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, W. H. Campbell, I. A. Bird appointed Oct. 7, 1915; 2, J. L. Scott; 3, D. I. Fields; 4, W. R. Brock.

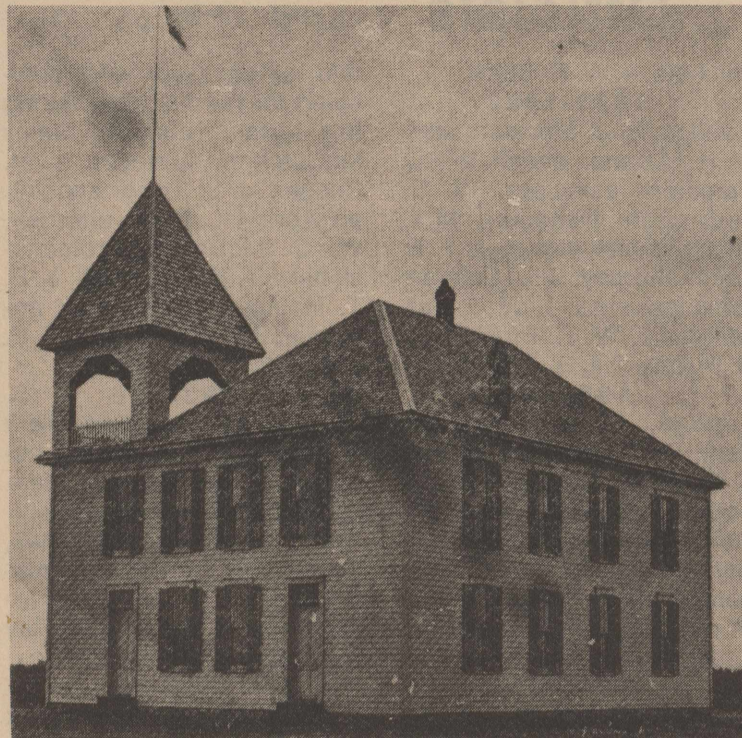
#### 1917-1918

Judge, D. I. Durham; clerk, J. L. Taylor; sheriff, L. J. Cowart; assessor, W. J. Cumbie; treasurer, Annie J. Parker; surveyor, T. E. Puett; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, I. A. Bird; 2, J. L. Scott, H. T. Wilkins appointed Mar. 7, 1917; 3, D. I. Fields; 4, W. R. Brock.

#### 1919-1920

Judge, D. I. Durham; clerk, W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, W. B. Hamilton; assessor, W. J. Cumbie; treasurer, Willie E. Swofford; surveyor, T. E. Puett; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners; 1, I. A. Bird; 2, H. T. Wilkins; 3, F. M.

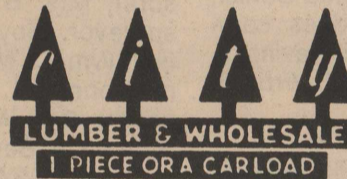
(cont'd. on page 18)



Bronte Public School Building 1898

## Centennial Greetings

Visit Us While In San Angelo



811 W. 14th St. San Angelo, TX  
Call 653-1403

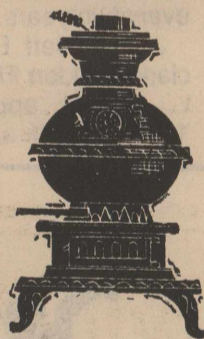
## Salute To COKE COUNTY and THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE On Their 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Olney Savings, a family financial center proud to serve our community the way it deserves to be served. PROUD to be a part of COKE COUNTY.

Olney Savings--a new strength thru change. Come see us soon. Or call and we'll come see you.



ROBERT LEE: 403 West 10th 915-453-2585



YOU CAN BEAT THIS

WITH Butane

The days of the pot bellied stove are over and aren't you glad? They went with kerosene cook stoves and tea kettles, when butane-propane became available to everyone--in city and country--to heat and cool homes and businesses, to cook our meals and to heat water. BUTANE & PROPANE are not only available to everyone, they're the cheapest fuels available for heating, cooling, and supplying power to your tractors and trucks. See us today if you are not taking full advantage of this inexpensive fuel.

THE FUTURE OF COKE COUNTY

We Eagerly Look Forward To It

Notions, Fabric, Yarn, Pipe & Fittings, Water Heaters, Propane Tanks for sale or rent.

# Butane Sales Co.

Grace and Doug Ditmore

**...Officials** (cont'd. from pg. 17)

Pritchard; 4, W. R. Brock.  
**1921-1922**  
 Judge, E. J. Stockton; clerk W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, Will B. Hamilton; assessor, W. B. Yarbrough; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Daniel; surveyor, T. E. Puett; attorney, J. L. Sullivan; commissioners: 1, W. J. Varnadore; 2, W. R. Pruitt; 3, F. M. Pritchard; 4, B. A. Taylor.

**1922-23**  
 Judge, E. J. Stockton; clerk, W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, H. C. Allen; assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Daniel; surveyor, Ed G. Walton; attorney, none; commissioners: 1, W. J. Varnadore; 2, W. R. Pruitt; 3, I. C. Page; 4, J. R. Johnson.

**1925-26**  
 Judge, W. H. Bell; clerk, W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, S. J. Russell; assessor, G. A. Harmon; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Daniel; surveyor, E. G. Walton; attorney, Luther Hamilton; commissioners: 1, W. J. Varnadore; 2, W. R. Pruitt; 3, Ed McKinney; 4, B. A. Taylor.

**1927-28**  
 Judge, W. H. Bell; clerk, W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, S. J. Russell; assessor, G. A. Harmon; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Daniel; surveyor, E. G. Walton; attorney, none; commissioners: 1, J. M. Gartman; 2, E. T. Holman; 3, J. R. Mims; 4, Homer Cornelius.

**1929-30**  
 Judge, W. H. Bell; clerk W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, S. J. Russell; assessor, G. A. Harmon; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Daniel; attorney, C. H. Bridges; commissioners: 1, M. H. Havins; 2, E. T. Holman; 3, J. R. Mims; 4, Homer Cornelius.

**1931-32**  
 Judge, W. H. Bell; clerk, W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, F. S. Higginbotham; assessor, G. A. Harmon; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Daniel; surveyor, C. H. Bridges; attorney, O. E. Geron; commissioners: 1, M. H. Havins; 2, E. T. Holman; 3, J. R. Mims; 4, J. L. Stephenson.

**1933-34**  
 Judge, O. E. Geron, W. H. Bell appointed Sept. 10, 1934; clerk Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull (note: the offices of sheriff

and tax assessor were combined for the first time during this term); treasurer, Daisy McCutchen; surveyor, C. H. Bridges, J. L. Taylor appointed April 11, 1934; attorney, W. C. McDonald; commissioners: 1, E. T. Sparks; 3, E. T. Holman, S. A. Kiker appointed July 13, 1933; 3, J. K. Lofton Jr.; 4, Ben Brooks.

**1935-36**  
 Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer, Daisy McCutchen; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, W. C. McDonald; commissioners: 1, Henry C. Varnadore; 2, S. A. Kiker; 3, Ray Stewart; 4, Sam Gaston.

**1937-38**  
 Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer, I. H. Brunson; surveyor, J. L. Taylor; attorney, Wm. C. McDonald, commissioners: 1, Henry C. Varnadore; 2, S. A. Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Sam Gaston.

**1939-40**  
 Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer, Mrs. B. M. Gramling; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, Wm. C. McDonald; commissioners: 1, Henry C. Varnadore; 2, S. A. Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Sam Gaston.

**1941-42**  
 Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer, Mrs. B. M. Gramling; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, Wm. C. McDonald; commissioners: 1, Henry C. Varnadore; 2, S. A. Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Ben Brooks.

**1943-44**  
 Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer Mrs. B. M. Gramling; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, Henry Varnadore; 2, Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Ben Brooks.

**1945-46**  
 Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; trea-

surer, Ruby L. Pettit; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, Henry Varnadore; 2, S. A. Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Ben Books.

**1947-48**  
 Judge, Bob L. Davis; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; treasurer, Ruby L. Pettit; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, Henry Varnadore; 2, W. J. Eads, Otis Smith appointed Sept. 26, 1947; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Ben Brooks.

**1949-50**  
 Judge, Jeff Dean; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; treasurer, Ruby L. Pettit; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, Frank Dickey Sr.; commissioners, J. W. Service; 2, Otis Smith; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Claude Ditmore.

**1951-52**  
 Judge, Jeff Dean; clerk, Weldon Fikes; sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; treasurer, Ruby L. Pettit; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, Frank Dickey, Sr.; commissioners: 1, J. W. Service, 2, Otis Smith, 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Claude Ditmore.

**1953-54**  
 Judge, Jeff Dean; clerk, Weldon Fikes; sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Gray; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, Frank Dickey Jr.; commissioners: 1, J. W. Service; 2, Howard Brock; 3, Ed Hickman; 4, Claude Ditmore.

**1954-58**  
 (Note: A constitutional amendment passed in 1954 extended terms of county and precinct officials to four years, instead of two. However, only half the official rosters were given 4 year terms at the beginning. Those receiving four year terms in 1954 were judge, clerk, treasurer and commissioners from precincts 2 and 4 and the justices of the peace. The sheriff, county attorney and commissioners in precincts 1 and 3, and constables got only two year terms, thus creating elections every two years.)

Judge, Jeff Dean (4 yrs.); clerk, Weldon Fikes (4 yrs.), J. L. Tinkler appointed Oct. 1955; sheriff and assessor,

Paul Good; treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Gray (4 yrs.); attorney, Frank Dickey Jr.; commissioners: 1, J. W. Service; 2, Howard Brock (4 yrs.); 3, Ed Hickman; 4, Claude Ditmore (4 yrs.).

**1956-60**  
 Sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; clerk, J. L. Tinkler; treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Gray; attorney, Frank Dickey Jr.; commissioners: 1, J. W. Service; 3, Ed Hickman.

**1958-62**  
 Judge, W. W. Thetford; clerk, J. L. Tinkler; treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Gray; commissioners: 2, Howard Brock 4, Claude Ditmore.

**1960-64**  
 (Note: Tax assessor-collector's office was separated from sheriff's office, effective Jan. 1961.)

Tax assessor-collector, O. B. Jacobs; sheriff, Melvin Childress; attorney, Frank Dickey Sr.; commissioners: 1, Fern Havins; 3, Floyd Harmon.

**1962-66**  
 Judge, W. W. Thetford; clerk, J. L. Tinkler; treasurer, Mrs. Inez Burns; commissioners: 2, Howard Brock; 4, Jack Corley.

**1964-Present**  
 Judge, W. W. Thetford served 1959-78; D. W. Sims served 1979-82; Aubrey Denman served 1983-present.

County & District Clerk, Weldon Fikes served 1951-55; J. L. Tinkler 1955-66; Winnie Waldrop 1967-1982; Ettie Hubbard 1982-present.

Tax Assessor-Collector, O. B. Jacobs 1961-1984; Maurine Vosburg 1985-88; Kris-

teen Roe 1988-present. Sheriff, Melvin Childress 1961-1973; Douglas Robertson 1973-74; J. L. Ensor 1974-80; Marshall Millican 1981-present.

Treasurer, Gertrude Gray County Attorney, Frank Dickey, Jr. 1953-58; Frank Dickey Sr. 1958-71; Roy Lee Ford 1971-74; Robert E. Owen 1971-81; Bill J. Helwig 1981-present.

Auditor, Weldon Fikes 1955-81; Stover Taylor 1981-present.

Commissioners, Prec. #1, Fern Havins 1957-72; Albert N. Fields 1973-80; George Newby 1981-present.

Prec. #2, Howard Brock 1953-1970; Jesse Parker 1971-1974; Bobby Joe Vaughn 1975-1982; Billy Joe Luckett 1983-present.

Prec. #3, Floyd Harmon 1961-72; Jett Hood 1973-78; Finis Millican 1979-88; Timothy Millican 1989-present.

Prec. #4, Jack Corley 1963-1973; Jerry M. Parker 1975-1982; James Tidwell 1983-present.

**READ THE AD\$ Along With the News**  
 Breezland Hatchery is the only hatchery in this section meeting the specification of United States Approved Breeding flocks. Buy with assurance from the largest hatchery in West Texas and spend less. 308 N. Magdalene and 9 West Concho, San Angelo.

*Happy Birthday*  
*Coke County!*  
**The Hitchin' Post**  
 Highway 277 - Bronte  
 Pat & Debbie Hamilton, Owners  
 Randy McCall, Manager

**WE'RE PROUD OF COKE COUNTY--**

Proud To Be A Part Of This Community  
 Proud To Serve Its Citizens -- New And Old

Yes, it's really great to be a part of this fine community. We are proud of the glorious history written across the pages of time by the hardy pioneers who came before us; but we don't propose to rest on the laurels of these early settlers. We are looking forward to a great future and an opportunity to serve you.

Come By Our Station For  
**TEXACO PRODUCTS**  
**SKINNER'S GROCERY & STATION**  
 453-2731 Robert Lee

**CENTENNIAL**

1889 \*\*\*\*\* 1989

**GREETINGS**  
 TO  
**Coke County and**  
**The Observer/Enterprise**  
*On Their 100th Year!*



**Concho Valley Electric Co-Op**  
 2530 Pulliam - San Angelo  
 655-6957



Parade in Bronte commemorates the arrival of the Orient Railroad.

## Obituary for Uncle Billie Rodgers

Bronte Enterprise, Nov. 1928  
"Uncle Billie" Rodgers obit

Everybody in and around Bronte was made sad Monday morning as it became known that "Uncle Billie" Rodgers, as he was affectionately called by all who knew him, had died Sunday night, Nov. 10, 1928 - for he was widely known and everybody was his friend.

W. H. Rodgers was born in Nashville, Tennessee, October 22, 1846. His parents died when he was a small boy.

### Missionaries to west Texas

After Santa Fe, the capitol of New Mexico, was founded in 1609, missionaries came into West Texas to work among the Indians, and seemed to get along very well with them. Then after San Antonio was founded in 1718, there were expeditions backward and forth between the two, and some of these expeditions passed through the present Coke County. That is probably the explanation for a kind of Spanish saber being found about 25 years ago in a pasture in the Yellow Wolf Valley.

The head of one of these expeditions reported that there were many pecans along the Concho River. So we know that the river had that name and pecans along it nearly three hundred years ago. No Spanish names survive, however, in Coke County, except that of the Colorado River. Most of the mountains and creeks as well as communities, were given their names either by the first surveyors or the settlers.

He came to Texas in 1868, when he was 22 years old. June 4, 1868 he was married to Miss Martha Jane Doshier, who died March 21, 1912 at the age of 63 years. To this union were born 9 children four of whom survive. The surviving children were all present as follows: W. H. Rodgers, Clarendon; Mesdames C. J. Jackson and M. A. Scott, both of Bronte; and A. E. Rodgers, Lamesa. There are 29 grandchildren and 23 great grand children. Six grandsons and grand sons-in-law were pall bearers.

Deceased confessed Christ and became a member of the Church of Christ early in life, and was a faithful member to the day of his death. Hence it was befitting that his body was taken to the house of worship of the local Church of Christ where religious services were conducted by Elder M. C. Brown of Robert Lee, an old-time friend of deceased. A large concourse of friends of "Uncle Billie," both old and young, were present with the children and grand children to mingle their sorrow with the sorrowing relatives. Elder Brown spoke hopefully of the future state of those who die in Christ and beautifully of his dear old-time departed friend. The church congregation sang the hymns that "Uncle Billie" had loved while he walked this earthly way, and the beautiful, fragrant autumn flowers were piled all about, all of which were suggestive of the fine splendid life of the old pioneer and hero who had spent his long years here in this Western country. The passing of "Uncle Billie" was the going of another of those sturdy old pioneers throughout the West, who left the comforts of civilization in the old states and came to this far Western country and gave

themselves to the task of establishing civilization here, where to that time the buffalo roamed unmolested and the red man reigned. "Uncle Billie" was one of those who participated in the organization of Coke county. And here he chose to make his home and spent the days and years of his strength; where he grew old and it was here that he paid the last debt of mortal kind, and therefore, it is here that his body will sleep in the soil of the land he loved, beneath the Western stars, and the soft south winds will chant a constant requiem over his face of his last sleep, until the graves shall give up their dead.

At the request of the children the writer spoke at the church following Elder Brown, "Uncle Billie" was spoken of in a four-fold way: As an aged man; as a pioneer; as a father; as a friend. Personally the writer feels deeply the passing away of "Uncle Billie" for he quite frequently visited our office and we had delightful conversations with him. But he is gone now and shall come our way no more, but with his children and grand children and hosts of friends we will cherish his memory and at every recollection of his name we will pause and breathe a prayer of thanksgiving that we knew him and that he was our friend.

D. M. West.

## Will Richard obituary

Robert Lee Observer

March 9, 1906

Will Richard Dead

Ft. Chadbourne, March 2nd,

The community was made very sad by the death of one of our best citizens, Mr. Will Richard.

Mr. Richard had been quite ill for some time, and had suffered greatly. On Tuesday morning before he closed his eyes in death he told his children that he did not fear death, for he was prepared to meet his heavenly father and

his dear wife, who a few years ago had gone on before him.

He was buried at the Old Fort Cemetery and was laid away in a most beautiful casket.

He was loved by one and all and has a host of friends to mourn his loss. As we behold his face so sweet in death, so calm and free from trace of pain, he seemed a creature fresh from the hand of God rather than one who had lived and suffered.

We extend our heart's sympathy to the bereaved family. But God alone can smooth and heal the devoted and loving hearts, made inexpressively tender by the touch of a poignant grief in the sad hours of bereavement, but it is sweet in the hours of darkness to feel the touch of sympathetic hands and to realize there are those whose heart-strings vibrate in tender unison with the sad notes awakened in one's own by the stroke of sorrow.

A BEREAVED FRIEND

### What the voters will fall for

The Melvin Enterprise knows a man: "If he dressed to suit his income, the night watchman would run him in for indecent exposure." The same column quotes W. J. Riley as saying, "It isn't so much what a candidate stands for in this country, but what we voters fall for."

We Salute Your  
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY  
Coke County



*Can't Beat  
The Feeling!*

Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

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Coke County!**

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**Centennial  
Greetings**

To

**Coke County**

From

**Mitchell Pontiac-Toyota**

1500 Knickerbocker

San Angelo

653-2302



## Rabbit not so popular

Coke County's longtime "mascot", the rabbit, from whom citizens got the name "Rabbit Twisters", was not always so popular. Populations of the furry animals were a threat to pastures, gardens, fields, and yards, especially early in the century. They also carried lice, ticks, and fleas and were known to spread bubonic plague and rabies.

Rabbit drives were devised to thin their numbers. These were usually held on weekends and were not only necessary; they were great social events.

Neuman Smith told of the events in the Ballinger Ledger a few years ago. We quote his article, *Days Gone By*, below.

The jackrabbits were a big problem for many years in Runnels and surrounding counties.

The jackrabbit and cottontail rabbit diet consisted, of course, of grass and other wild foliage - but they seemed to like commercial crops such as cantaloupe; they would eat the vines as well as the fruit.

Watermelons were destroyed by the eating or gnawing of a hole.

The rabbits would eat only a portion, then go to the next melon.

They also cut down small cotton plants, and would destroy all kinds of garden vegetables. They also would destroy wheat, oats, and some varieties of flowers in yards.

There were thousands of rabbits. In the early years of the Runnels County Commissioners' Court passed a resolution to pay five cents for the two ears of each rabbit.

This was an incentive to kill the rabbits and in turn get paid for it. Many young boys hunted down the jackrabbit.

Many of the rabbits were skinned and hung up about two feet from the ground. Chickens would then devour the meat.

The meat was high in protein. Many rural residents cooked the rabbit meat and fed it to their coon dogs.

The five-cent reward for the

rabbit ears did not solve the rabbit problem, however. Rabbit drives were the most successful method of control.

A group of concerned farmers and ranchers would meet, usually at the local rural school house, and organize the drive.

The first thing was the election of officers and committees. The president had a great responsibility in seeing that everything went smoothly.

The area to be hunted had to be outlined and the noon meal planned; publicity was a must.

A committee had to have plenty of shotgun shells - 12, 16, 20, and 410-gauge. These were all that were allowed for use on the drive.

The drive would start off very early in the morning in the early years. Wagons were used to transport the hunters.

One group would be stationed in an area and another group about a mile across the area.

The outriders, some on horseback and later in cars, would be on each side of the drive.

When the captain of each group shot his gun in the air, it was time to start.

The group formed a long line and tried to keep it straight as they went along. The rabbits would jump up, and hunters had to be quick on the trigger to get a shot.

The two groups would come together and many rabbits would run together - this was called the roundup.

The men would come closer together and help hold the rabbits together. The captain of each group would holler, "Let him out! as the rabbits ran and the men shot them.

Hunters had to be very careful, as someone could get shot by mistake as the shots fell all around. However, I don't remember any serious injuries.

Sometimes an injured person would have to go to a doctor to get the shots removed.

The drives usually lasted



J. N. K. Adams, part-owner of J. W. Reed and Company, stands in the street fanning himself, with snow on the ground, 1901. Business was located on west side of Austin Avenue. South side of the building was blown out a short time later when Jim Clift accidentally dropped his cigarette in a barrel of gunpowder. Luckily no one was injured. Tall building near middle of the block was the Woodmen of the World Lodge.

two days. Thousands of rabbits would be killed.

The merchants would always give a discount on the shells. The ammunition committee's responsibility was to order plenty of shells and keep a big inventory on hand.

The sportsmen from a wide area would come to the drives and help the citizens shoot the rabbits.

Ballinger had a number of expert marksmen over the years. Alex "Bill" McGregor, Forrest McMillian, L. C. Daughtery, W. A. Holt, Arthur Giersecke, Roy Holstead, Sam Dunlap, C. T. Parker, Dick Holstead, and many others hunted over the years.

The highlight of the rabbit drive was the noon meal. Many times the men of the community would butcher a beef and barbecue it. The women would bring dessert. It was a time of good food and fellowship.

The last rabbit drive in the Hatchel Community was in 1959. The rabbit population seemed to dwindle down to a very few in later years.

Those who remembered

and took part in the rabbit drives can say with pride, "I was there to help 'let him out'."

## Dugout housed post office

A dugout housed the Fort Chadbourne Post Office for many years following the appointment of Mrs. R. E. Douglas as postmaster in 1889 when the post office at the old fort was terminated. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson took the

place in 1925. An opening on the dugout held a letter drop used when the post office wasn't open. A liveoak thicket

nearby served cowboys and frontier people as a place to tie up horses and buggies.

## Centennial Greetings!

SIDNEY W. BURNS

PRESIDENT



SAN ANGELO, TEXAS  
BRYAN, TEXAS

DENVER CITY, TEXAS  
ODESSA, TEXAS

## BEST WISHES TO COKE COUNTY ON YOUR CENTENNIAL

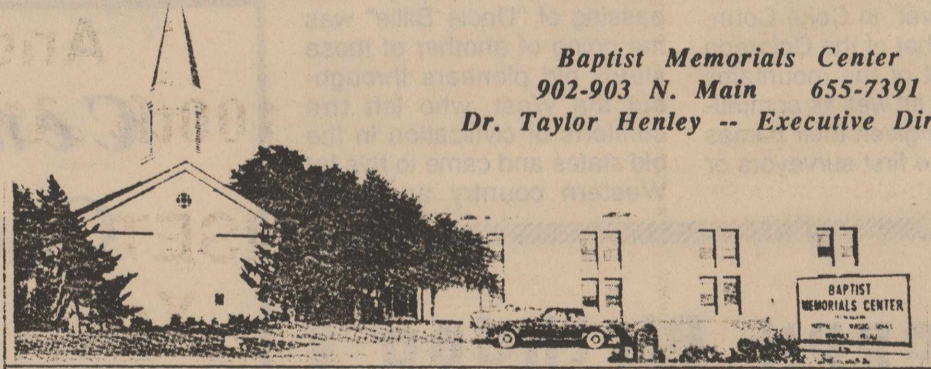
Since we opened our store in 1977, we have done our utmost to supply this area with high quality merchandise. We handle a large line of hardware items, auto supplies, housewares, electrical supplies, pipe fittings, livestock supplies, toys and hundreds of other items. It has been our pleasure to serve this community the past 12 years, and we are proud to be a part of Bronte and Coke County.

## HOMETOWN HARDWARE

Bronte, Texas

Jeanna and Wendell Lee, Owners

## Greetings To COKE COUNTY On The CENTENNIAL



Baptist Memorials Center  
902-903 N. Main 655-7391  
Dr. Taylor Henley -- Executive Director

### San Angelo's Only Complete Retirement Center

- |                                |                              |
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| *Medical Facilities            | *Retirement Facilities       |
| Long Term Hospital             | 80 Individual Houses         |
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\*Complete Therapy Program including swimming & Exercise Classes. Registered Therapist in charge.  
\*Spiritual needs met by a full time chaplain with a Beautiful Chapel located in the Medical Complex.  
\*Our 75 Acre Development also includes a clubhouse, entertainment & activities room, library and music center.

"Retirement At It's Best"



Juan Carrasco and son, Teddy Carrasco, in front of Robert Lee Post Office, 1938, corner of 7th and Austin St.



Two big loads of cotton bales wait to be hauled from Robert Lee (about 1920) in front of the W. K. Simpson store.

**April 6, 1906  
Bronte Enterprise  
Maverick News**

Mr. Carl Boatright of Nolan county, visited relatives here Saturday and Sunday. Our literary was largely attended Friday night and a nice program was rendered.

Miss Ola Boatright and Mr. Dudley Carlton visited Bronte Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Caperton of Clyde are visiting relatives at this place. Mr. Oscar Torbett of Coryell county came back to this part of the country Saturday.

Mr. Torbett taught the Maverick school last year and his many friends were glad to see him.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Keesee, of Miles, visited Maverick relatives Saturday and Sunday.

Misses Josie Glenn and Maude McAulay went to

**Bargains in Real Estate  
That will Interest You**

No. 26. 160 acres, 75 in cultivation, brand new house, stable and cistern. Timber on balance of land will pay for clearing. This place is close to town and every foot of it good land. Price \$24 per acre fifth cash remainder on easy terms. This place is a jim dandy.

No. 27. 160 acres about four miles out, 60 acres in cultivation, small orchard and house, well on place, two thirds of land tillable, price \$12 per acre, half cash, balance on easy terms.

Write us for complete list.  
**The Orient Realty Co.**  
W. F. Key, Gen. Mgr.  
Bronte, Texas.

Ballinger Saturday. They returned home Sunday.

Mr. Jobe Hearrell of Ballinger was seen on the street of Maverick Monday.

A party at the home of Mr. Arch Horne Saturday night was very much enjoyed by the young folks.

R. L. Castleberry of Ballinger visited Maverick friends Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Norton visited the family of Mr. Tom Boatright Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Caperton passed through Maverick Tuesday enroute to San Angelo their future home.

**Paper solicits FC subscriptions**

**Ft. Chadbourne Items**

Well the good Enterprise lady was among us Saturday obtaining subscribers for our paper. We think she had a grand success, as she received the names of most all of Chadbourne citizens for a year's subscription. We had a light sprinkle of rain last week which put our oats into fine condition and corn is coming up.

Roy Hamilton of Lee was in town Saturday.

Railroad news is fine now, as the contractor in our place have but a day or two's work to finish his mile, then he will take the 42 mile. It won't be long until we can hear the whistle of the Orient.

Chadbourne is going to be one of the best towns of the west.

E. D. Spoons and T. F. Crerar have gone to Ballinger on business.

Mr. McCraw of Lee the Christian preacher delivered some excellent sermons Saturday night and Sunday.

Our Sunday School went into election Sunday, E. W. Smith was elected Supt. We think he will make us a splendid Supt.

A nice little entertainment was given at Mrs. Hamilton's Friday night.

Mr. Dick Pilgrim's brother of

Norton was a visitor of Chadbourne Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Chas. Copeland of New Hope was shopping in town today.

We will give room for some of our other little cities.

With best wishes for the success of the Enterprise and its readers.

**Congratulations To  
COKE COUNTY  
and the  
OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE  
on their  
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY**

We're proud to be a part of this community and look forward to serving it in the future.

**Ken Green Insurance**  
P.O. Box 955 - Robert Lee - 453-2215  
Major Medical - Supplements - Life

**TEXAS★TRUST**  
Texas Trust Savings Bank, FSB

**SAVE WITH US!**

**"COKE COUNTY...100 YEARS OF WEST TEXAS HERITAGE."**

**San Angelo**  
**915/653-4158**

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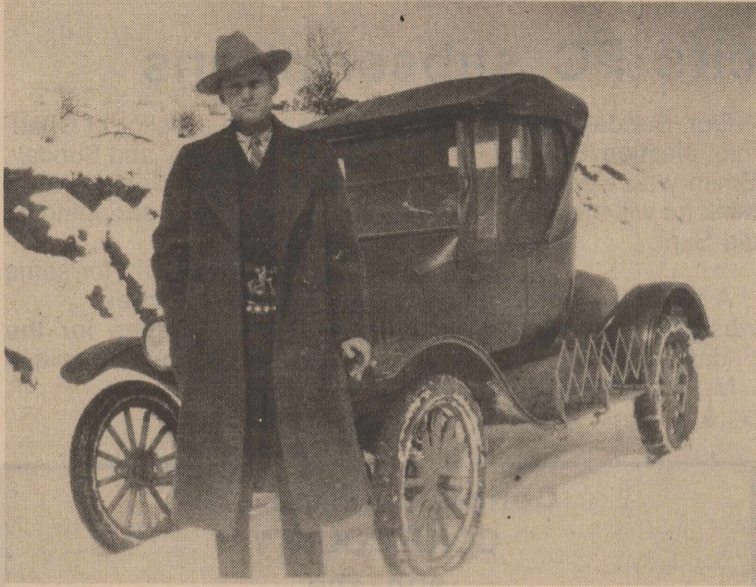
**SUNSET MALL Salutes  
COKE COUNTY  
And Their  
100th ANNIVERSARY.**

**SUNSET MALL Appreciates  
Your Patronage.**

**SUNSET MALL**

Shop: Mon. - Sat.  
10:00am - 9:00pm  
Sun. 12:30 - 5:30pm

Loop 306  
at Southwest Blvd.  
San Angelo



Robbie Willis Smith stands beside his 1920 Model T. He was employed at the time by Home Motor Company at Bronte as a mechanic, bookkeeper and car salesman. Some notable details in the picture are the gun belt he was authorized to wear then and the snow chains on the rear wheels. He later served as Coke County clerk from 1933-1950.

### "We trust no man"

Newspaper, First Named "Coke County Rustler", Invites Settlers, Gives A good Description of Country in 1895

The Coke County Rustler of Saturday, March 9, carries the slogan under its title--"We trust in God, but trust no man."

The outside pages were ready print, carrying news from over the state, one of the articles telling of miracles performed by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

A two column advertisement full length of the second page began with the following wording:

"COKE COUNTY EXTENDS A CORDIAL WELCOME TO HOME SEEKERS WHO COME TO MAKE A HOME FOR THEMSELVES AND CULTIVATE HER LANDS, which are rich, cheap, easily cultivated and produce well when properly tilled.

"Live, energetic and enterprising business men and farmers can do well in this county by the right kinds of efforts."

Then follows a description of the county: "The Colorado river, one of the most important streams of the state, flows through the center of the county from northwest to southeast. The valleys of which are several miles in width in undulating and traversed by numerous streams, affording more or less good water. The valleys are covered with scattering growth of mesquites, the streams are skirted by a growth of hackberry, wild china, pecan, liveoak, and red oak.

"The soils of this county are rich, sandy loam, carrying to a dark sandy with an underlying strata of red clay impervious to water and from 1 to 4 feet from the top of the soil. The soil in the county is easy tillage, the depth of the soil varying from one to four feet. A test of the various soils proves that they are rich in phosphate and peculiarly adapted to the successful culture in dry years of johnson grass, millet, sorghum cane, native grass, vegetables, melons and fruits and in seasonable years when the ground is thoroughly wet from fall and winter rains, corn, wheat, oats, barley, cotton al-

falfa, clover, vegetables, melons and fruits of all kinds and in boundless profusion can be produced with less labor than in almost any portion of the state. The character of our soil is adapted to the culture of peaches, pears, plums, apricots, grapes, and some varieties of apples.

"WATER SUPPLY of this country is good. The depth of the water varies from 10 to 100 feet, owing to the elevation or depression of the country, though water can be procured at the heads of the valleys, near the mountains as shallow as it can be found in the river valley proper. The CHEAP LANDS of this county are a great inducement to home seekers and on terms that will enable all to secure homes. There are several large pastures in this county which the owners are cutting up and selling in small tracts and on easy terms to actual settlers who came to stay with us.

"ROBERT LEE. The county town, Robert Lee is beautifully situated in one of the many lovely valleys on the Colorado River and within about one mile of the center

of the county. The city was located by a vote of the people on the 6th day of January,

1891. At that time not a single house dotted the plot designated for the town and at this writing there are about 150 houses in the town and a population of 350-400 people. There are about twenty businesses houses in Robert Lee, as follows: 2 dry goods and grocery houses, 3 grocery and grain houses, 1 saddle and harness and grocery house, 1 drug store, 1 livery, 3 hotels, 1 hardware and furniture house, 1 saloon, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 meat market, 1 soda fountain, 1 printing office, and one law office.

There is a good opening here for several first class mercantile houses. We have a beautiful little court house built of magnesium limestone, the inside being lined with a brick of fine quality burned on the townsite. A fine steel bridge 160 feet spans the Colorado river at Robert Lee."

### First white couple told

So far as we can learn, the first white couple married in what is now Coke county were the father and mother of Mrs. H. Sackett, living at Camp Colorado, Coleman county, since 1879. Her home is the Sackett ranch house, built of stones from the old outpost there.

Her father was then a soldier at the fort. Her mother lived in the Camp Colorado community as a girl. The couple were married at old Ft. Chadbourne, and later left Texas to go to Washington. In Washington, Mrs. Sackett,

then a little girl, saw Abraham Lincoln review a parade but a day or two before he was assassinated.

Her husband, the late Henry Sackett, was a member of the legislature from Coleman county and active in the life of the county many years.

### Usless Congress

On the 4th of this month at 12 o'clock noon died a natural death the 53rd Congress, without having satisfied itself, the people, the president or any party. Coke County Rustler, 1895.

**Congratulations**  
**Coke County**

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## Hurley averts participation in a duel

J. H. Hurley, 80, old-time trail driver, averted participation in a duel once upon a time and there-by kept himself eligible, just in case, to hold public office. It was a simple matter.

On a trip up the trail with 4,000 longhorns, he and a negro named Wash were riding herd on the Washita river. In a shooting contest, Hurley outpointed the negro. Chagrined, Wash said, You beat me shooting at a tree. Now, how about shootin' at each other's eyes?" Hurley had his gun still in his hand and he lost no time in covering the negro's head. Wash became tearful. Hurley relented after taking the negro's gun and finding it wasn't loaded.

### No Gates to Open

Born in 1856, Mr. Hurley came to Texas in 1877 by rail. Wilson county, where he landed, was a wilderness of blackjack and post-oaks, and is now a well settled farming country.

The next year, the last year cattle were allowed to be driven up the trail to Kansas, he helped drive the 4,000 longhorns for Withers and Blanks. Dr. Blanks, a merchant of Jacksboro, financed the outfit, Withers bossed on the range and trail.

They had no gates to pen from Lockhart to Sidney Bridge on the North Platte river where the last 500 steers in the outfit were sold, in sight of the Black Hills.

A young negro named Tom was with the outfit, and wanted in on every stampede, and they had several. One night when the boys were trying to get around the lead cattle, with only flashes of lightning

to guide them in the darkness, this negro boy piled out of the wagon, on his horse and into the melee. Passing Hurley, he rode off a bluff about eight feet high, got up all right and cussing, but couldn't calm his horse. Begging "Mistah Jess" (Hurley) to help him, he was left scuffling with his mount while Hurley rode a hundred yards further and by firing his pistol several times turned the leaders in time to keep them from running over the low bluff and over the negro boy.

### Fort Worth Town of 500

Fort Griffin was the first town he remembers going through after leaving Austin. Soldiers were stationed there. He saw Fort Worth from the top of a hill as they drove the herd, and as he recalls the scene, it looked like a town of 500 people.

At one place 300 Indians were being held prisoners by soldiers. The red men had to answer roll call night and

morning and could move around freely rest of the day.

Mr. Hurley tells a story of the old wooden cannon at Galveston, as told him by a Mr. Bailey who said 30 or 40 men captured a Federal gunboat with it. Seeing it manned and in position to blow them out of the water, the Yanks ran up a white rag and ran their ship to shore, while the Confederates boarded her.

### Methodist Announcements in the Year 1895

Robert Lee Mission, M. E. Church, South; services as follows;

- Robert Lee, 1st Sunday, 11 a.m.
- Hayrick, 1st Sunday, 4 p.m.
- Bronte, 2nd Sunday, 11 a.m.
- Rock Springs, 2nd Sunday, 4 p.m.
- Mt. Carmel, 3d Sunday, 11 a.m.
- Cow Creek, 3d Sunday, 4 p.m.
- Sanco, 4th Sunday, 11 a.m.
- Tucker S. C., 4th Sunday 4 p.m.



Thomas Harmon was married to Amanda Sparks January 24, 1912 seated in a buggy near the old Saul Ranch house in west Coke County by Rev. Skinner. The couple was honored in 1987 in celebration of their 75th Wedding Anniversary and were on national news, including the Paul Harvey program, because of the length of their marriage. They were parents to 11 children, including 2 sets of twins. Mr. Harmon died Oct. 28, 1987. Most of the couple's children still live in Coke County.

## Byrd arrives in 1878

Coming from Gonzales county with his father, Jim Byrd, they drove 150 head of cattle to this range, W. G. Byrd, landed in Coke County November 29, 1878, and a month later saw his first New Year's day in a new country.

Most of the people he knew here were living in tents and dugouts. The Byrds were on Mess Box creek for awhile, then moving to the location at the pecan mot on Mountain creek that became their homestead. Most of the settlers coming into the country followed the old trail or road from up toward Ft. Chadbourne, usually stopping to

camp at the old Byrd place.

When Amarillo was "just a little wild place on the plains," when Billie the Kid had just left his cave at Portales Lake, and when there were no white men or cattle northwest of the Portales country in New Mexico, at fifteen years of age, he took a mount of horses from Colorado City to the Jim Newman headquarters on Salt Lake, by himself.

"It was a hard day's ride between ranch houses northwest of Colorado those days, said Mr. Byrd. "Sometimes you didn't make it and had to hobble your horses and lay out on the prairie.

**Happy Centennial Anniversary**  
to  
**Coke County and**  
**The Observer/Enterprise**

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on our 100th  
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Noel & Quincie Gregston

**Centennial Greetings**  
to  
**COKE COUNTY**

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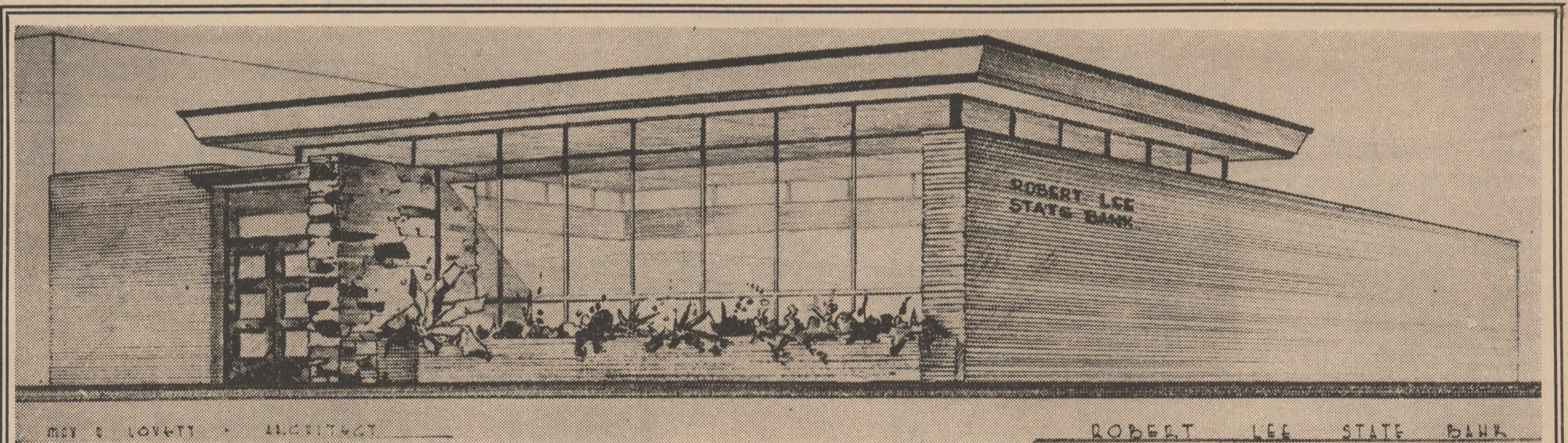
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Old Arnett place during Bass Arnett ranch roundup. John Saul helped his neighbors.



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- Willis W. Smith
- Victor Wojtek
- E.A. Clendennen
- Wayne McCabe

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