

# THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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Friday, July 4, 2014

## Celebrating Coke County's 125th Year!

### Coke County enjoys a colorful history

[Editor's Note: The information for the following article appeared in the July 21, 1989, issue of The Observer/Enterprise, with credit given to Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough's "History of Coke County".]

Indians roamed the area now known as Coke County and the Southwest long before Columbus discovered America according to Mary Jourdan Atkinson's "The Texas Indians."

The main Indians who lived, hunted and scouted the country of the Colorado and Conchos were Comanches, the Lipan Apaches and the Jumanos. Many creeks on the east side of Coke County are named for the Kickapoo Indians.

There are still many Indian springs and petroglyphics in the country. More than twenty Indian campsites have been found in Coke County.

It is believed that Coronado, along with his armed columns of Spanish grandes and scouting parties, crossed through this area in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola in 1540.

A letter, dated February 8, 1842, from Henry Francis Fischer, Burchard Miller and Joseph Baker to Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, is the first written document mentioning Coke County. The letter requested a grant of land on which to settle 1,000 families of German, Swiss, Norwegian, Swedish and

Danish immigrants. On the lower left hand corner of this letter is a note. "Let the contract be made Feb. 23, 1842, Sam Houston".

Six hundred families or single men over 17 years of age were to be introduced within three years of the date of the 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, renewed in 1843, was transferred in 1845 to the German Emigration Company with John Meusebach named as trustee. It included all of the land previously mentioned except 250,000 acres reserved for Fischer and Miller.

Due to surveying and transportation costs, not to mention trouble with Indians already on the land, many settlers were unable to take possession of their new allotments and returned to German settlements in Comal and Gillespie counties.

Meusebach took matters into his own hands and negotiated an important treaty with the Indians. Without the consent of Texas authorities, he met with Comanche and Choctaw Indians. An agreement allowing German immigrants to settle the territory between the Llano and Colorado Rivers was reached. Included in this agreement was



approximately 575,000 acres of land in what would become Coke County. Once this treaty was in place, the way was cleared for white settlers to arrive.

As the Indian and buffalo populations decreased, cattle and cattlemen began to take advantage of the vast grazing lands. The cattle operations comprised the majority of settlement in this area from 1860 to 1880. Some of these early cattlemen were L.B. Harris, Winfield Scott, the Wylie brothers, T. L. Odom, G.G. Odom, Jimmy Byrd, Wiley Bird, D. H. Snyder, J. W. Snyder, J.J. Austin, Bill Glass, Will Whiteside and Rufus Whiteside.

For many years, cattlemen enjoyed the free and open range, respecting each other's "range rights". However, once the T & P Railroad which ran through Abilene and Colorado City, began bringing in the "legal" owners of the land, the situation deteriorated rapidly. Disputes arose over land titles and boundary lines. "Nesters" began fencing off water and cattlemen began fencing the range. This led to the fencing war where fences were cut and fence posts burned.

Following the formation of a Cattlemen's Association, Ben Warren of Hylton was hired to find and prosecute wire cutters. The day before Warren was scheduled to testify in District Court regarding this matter, he was shot through the window of a hotel in Sweetwater. [Editor's Note: Fran Lomas has found that Ben Warren was a Texas Ranger with a young family.]

As they still do today, the Texas Rangers were sent in to gain control of the area. A special session of the Texas Legislature was called by Texas Governor John Ireland on January 7, 1884, where a law making fence cutting a felony was passed. The Warren murder was the beginning of the end of the fence cutting war in Coke County.

With homesteaders arriving in wagons, horseback, and on foot bringing with them all they owned, Coke County was well on its way to settlement. These first settlers made their homes in dugouts, half dugouts and tents. In order to satisfy requirements of the Homesteaders Law, they had to live on the land for three years.

The organization of the area into counties began long before the fence war ended and settlers

arriving in force. This area was originally part of Bexar County with San Antonio as the county seat. At that time, Bexar County contained approximately one half of the entire Republic of Texas.

Due to the distance and time required for traveling from the outer edges of Bexar County to San Antonio every time a deed needed to be recorded or any other business conducted at the courthouse, people determined to see other counties formed from Bexar County. Following all the legal requirements being met, the Texas Legislature created Tom Green County with Ben Ficklin as the county seat on March 13, 1874. However, the Legislature failed to designate a northern boundary for Tom Green County. Therefore, all the land north and west was included in the new Tom Green County. It remained this way until 1876 when 54 counties to the north and 12 counties to the west were created from the original Tom Green County.

On August 25, 1882, Ben Ficklin was destroyed by a flood and the county seat for Tom Green County was moved to San Angelo.

(Continued on page 20)

**This issue of  
The Observer/Enterprise  
is almost entirely  
dedicated to the  
125th Anniversary  
of Coke County.  
Current news begins on  
Page 21 of this issue.**



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## Oldest business celebrates 125 years

The Observer/Enterprise is the oldest business institution in Coke County, celebrating 125 years of continuous service to Coke County on June 13, 2014.

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 Matthews 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 became 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 of 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

1889-1904

# COKE COUNTY RUSTLER

1904-1984

# Robert Lee Observer

1907-1984

# BRONTE ENTERPRISE

1984-2014

# THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*

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 pretty wet, we're going to raise a crop, you bet. His business grew to be a bustler, 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 Kelli's 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

(Continued on Page 19)

## Happy Birthday Coke County!

In 1954, Clytus and Mozelle Smith started Joni Lyn, a wholesale blouse factory in Bronte. In 1971, the Taylor family purchased this business and the name was changed to HSL Taylor Company.

In 1982, the company was purchased by Shirley and Ronnie Denton and Cherry and Linda Dry.

Although it's no longer a blouse factory,



CL Dry and Shirley Denton 1982

*Shirley's Place is a treasure trove of antiques, unique gifts and more!*

## Shirley's Place

121 N. State Bronte (325) 473-7371

## Happy Birthday Coke County!

The Caston CO. LLC was first started when J.D. Harmon came home from WW II. In 1946, J.D. and his brother-in-law Clem Caston camped out and worked for a rancher around the Post area in exchange for his first dozer. In 1958 when Carlton came home from Korea, he went to work for J.D. In 1961, Carlton and Leta were married and in 1965, they purchased their first dozer. In 1967, the business became J.D. Harmon Inc. with J.D., Mary Jo, Carlton and Leta as owners. In 1987, J.D. and Mary decided to retire and Carlton and Leta purchased the company which became known as The Caston Co. In June 1999, Carlton passed away and it became The Caston Co. LLC with Leta and Marty at the helm. It was nothing new to Marty as he had grown up operating and repairing equipment since he was 12 years old.

In 1987, Carlton purchased a Caterpillar 215 excavator and designed a grubber to go on the excavator to grub brush. In 2000, shortly after Carlton's death, the Concho Valley Water Shed project was created. The Caston Co. LLC was asked to take an excavator to the field day in Sterling City and show what the excavator could do in grubbing the mesquite and cedar with the attachment Carlton had designed. Following this demonstration, excavators popped up all over the country with people taking advantage of the attachment Carlton designed and implemented into our business. We have dedicated all of our 68 years in business to specializing in soil and water conservation for farmers and ranchers!

We do want to THANK all of our customers for your long continued business and friendship through the years. We do appreciate all of you! Without you, we could not have existed all of these years! Thank You!

*The Caston Family*

## THE CASTON CO. LLC

*Family Owned for 68 Years!*

Office (325) 453-2453

Marty (325) 277-1375



# “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, live oak, 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 phosphates and peculiarly adapted to the successful culture in dry years of Johnson grass, millet, sorghum cane, native grass, and in seasonable years when the ground is thoroughly wet from fall and winter rains, corn, wheat, oats, barley, cotton, alfalfa, clover, vegetables, melons and fruits of all kinds and in boundless profusion can be produced with less labor than in almost any 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 weeks 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.



**Chuckwagon!** This photograph is of cowboys having dinner on a ranch in Coke County. The lid for a skillet in the foreground was used for baking bread. On the lid of the chuck box, lowered to serve as a cook table, can be seen an old time coffee grinder and leg of roasted beef. An oil lantern hangs on the bow above the chuck box and the harness is hanging over the front wheel. The men are Henry Russell (from left), unidentified, Jack Montath, Ned Richards, Jake Stubblefield, and John Dodd. The picture is from the Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth’s Historic Treasures collection in the University of Texas at Arlington Library.

There is a good opening here for several first call 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 town site. A fine steel bridge 160 feet spans the Colorado river at Robert Lee.”

### Pioneers recall cattle ranges in 1889

[Editor’s Note: The following was taken from the September 22, 1939 Centennial edition of the Robert Lee Observer.]

The Odom called 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 Saner and Skinner had fenced ranges.

E.C. Rawlings was first a cowboy, then later owner of the HXW Ranch north of Sanco. Bill Glass owned the present Whiteside land. It was he who sold out to Will and Rife 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.

## Main Street Market

BRONTE, Texas ~ Est. 1994

K. Gothard ~ Proprietor

Invites you to their  
**20th Anniversary**

**1/2 Price Sale**

Everything Inside & Out!

**Saturday, July 5**

**10 am to 2 pm**

Cash and Checks Accepted

Credit Cards accepted at one register

**\*We will be closed July 4th\***

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY COKE COUNTY!**

Congratulations  
Coke County!

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Inn LLC**

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317 Summit Road & PO Box 122  
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Fax (325) 453-2537

thesecretplaceinn@gmail.com  
www.thesecretplaceinn.com

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He who dwells in the secret place  
of the Most High shall abide under  
the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1



# Local dealership celebrates 100 years

[Editor's Note: The following story was written by local genealogist Fran Lomas in 1967 about the early history of Craddock Motor Company, which would become Ivey Motor Company, Inc. The Robert Lee Ford Dealership is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The Craddocks, Jess and Lela, were Mrs. Lomas' maternal grandparents.]

About 1907, in the midst of a roar and a cloud of dust the first automobile, a Maxwell, came into Coke County. The driver went over a stump near Yellow Wolf Creek and bent the drive gear from which the chain worked. He had someone take him to Jess Craddock, who was working in his father's blacksmith shop. The auto owner asked Jess if he could repair it and he said he thought he could.

"Tom Goss and I decided we'd straighten the running gear and see if we could drive it. We did! That was the first one I ever drove."

Thus the automobile business was started in Coke County - started in the mind of a youth and born out of necessity of the times.

About that time Jess took over the shop where he had helped for sometime, moving to Robert Lee in 1913 and operating the old Tom Cross Blacksmith Shop. The following advertisement appeared in the March 14, 1913, issue of the Robert Lee Observer.

"NEW REPAIRING SHOP. I have purchased the W.E. Brown Blacksmith and Repair Shop and want your patronage. Besides, a general Blacksmithing and Horseshoing Establishment, I am prepared to repair all kinds of machinery. I have also bought the building adjoining the shop, remodeled it and fitted up a FIRST CLASS GARRAGE (sic) ... I expect to keep a full surrply (sic) of gasoline and oils of all kind. Also do all kinds of Auto repair work and take care of the Autos of the traveling public. Give me your patronage. I can please you at a low cost. J.S. Craddock"

After entering the market, cars were given a number upon purchase. The number 10 was given to a 1912 model T originally purchased by Bill Hickman who, at the time, was county sheriff. He could not learn to drive it and thus in the winter of 1913 traded with Jess for a horse, buggy and two hundred dollars. That evening, Jess drove in quite fancy style to Sanco for the weekend. The next morning the car would not start. After repairing it, Jess - accompanied by his sister Lois, who was teaching in Robert Lee, and a Boykin girl - was on his way back home.

The following advertisement appeared in the September 11, 1914, issue of the Robert Lee Observer.

"J.S. Craddock Garage General Gasoline Machinery Repairing. Oils of All Kinds. Service Car anywhere at any

time. Prices reasonable. Salesman for Ford Automobiles."

Craddock Motor Company was the name given to the garage in early 1914. Sub-agencies or sub-dealerships were assigned to smaller areas. R.P. Amacker was Ford Dealer in San Angelo at the time and the sub-agency was placed through him. One car was sold the first year. The purchaser was Mrs. Jake Morrow, sister of the late Bruce Clift. The second year of auto sub-dealership, five cars were sold.

Toward the end of 1914, September 28 to be exact, Jess took a very energetic, vivacious twenty-year old young lady for his wife. Little did either realize how these attributes were to be an asset in their business years. Lela Adaline Morrow, daughter of James Franklin and Lela Ma Westbrook Morrow, pioneer farmers of the area. She shared his interest as well as the labors of the auto world. Many a surprised customer would suddenly find a woman behind the parts counter, and later walk out with a startled expression and a speechless tongue to have found a woman finding and handing out parts as fast as any man.

The main work on the early Model T was in repairing and replacing front springs and rear ends. The springs were nothing more than slightly strengthened buggy springs and they had to take the jolts of chug holes, bumping into rocks, getting over

the country roads and maybe across the ranchman's pasture, for it was not long until the Model T was a work horse in Coke County.

In 1917, a direct dealership was acquired and the business changed locations - to across the street. Between 1917 and 1920, Jess sold one-half interest to Sam Russell.

The first mechanics in Robert Lee were Chism Brown, Lewis Wilson, Frank Smith, Jess Varnadore, Orb Craddock, Freeman Clark, Bud Maxwell and Wilfred Murtishaw.

Each youth who started his career tidying up Craddock Motor Company got his introduction to mechanics by being sent about town to borrow a "left-handed monkey wrench" which suddenly seemed to be in short supply at that time.

There was not any electric power available until Jess bought and installed a Delco battery in 1919. The new auto establishment was the first to install electricity in a place of business in Robert Lee and wore out three batteries before electric power came to town.

Gasoline was dispensed, first from a hand-operated pump attached to pot-bellied barrels, and later from a pump still hand-operated. Automobiles were lined up for a block up the street to await their turn at the gas pump, especially on Saturdays, as it was the only pump in town.

In the fall of 1920, Jess - or Pop as he was soon to be known - sold a Mr. Witte his one-half interest in the business and moved to San Angelo where he was service manager for Amacker Motor Company. Fifteen months later, in the spring of 1923, Jess returned to Robert Lee and regained the business from both Russell and Witte. He was active manager with three-quarters interest and Chism Brown, Freeman Clark and Wilfred Murtishaw owning the remaining fourth. The name, Coke Motor Company, was given to the establishment.

Jess purchased three buildings on the south end of the block in the mid-twenties. One day, a man came in and talked to Lela about renting one of the buildings and had the ready cash available. Without further exchange, she rented one of the buildings to him. A brief time of carpentry work passed before the new store was opened - a liquor store. Needless to say, it was an even shorter time until the building was vacant.

Jess did literally lose his pants in the automobile business. While working with a battery, it burst and acid completely covered him. He went to the vat which was used for testing tires and tubes, and washed the acid from his eyes and face. After removing his shirt, he continued working for some time. While

(Continued on page 18)

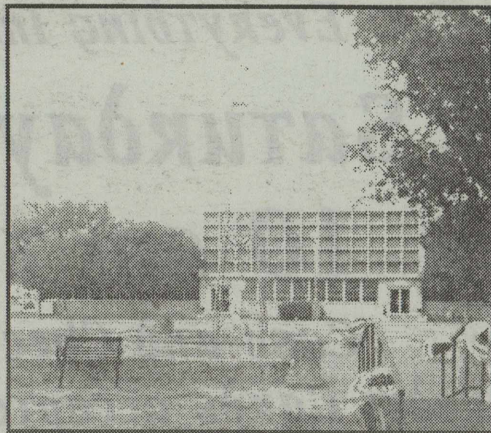
*Happy Happy Birthday*  
**Coke County**  
**The Observer/Enterprise**  
**& Robert Lee, Texas**

From:

**VISION WITH A PURPOSE**

*We wish you the Best!*

*Beautification*  
**&**  
*Restoration*  
*of Robert Lee!*



**VP** The Little Town That Can! **VP**

**We're Proud**  
**of Coke County ...**

**Proud to be a Part of Coke County**

**Proud to Serve its Citizens**

*Happy*  
*Birthday*  
*Coke County!*

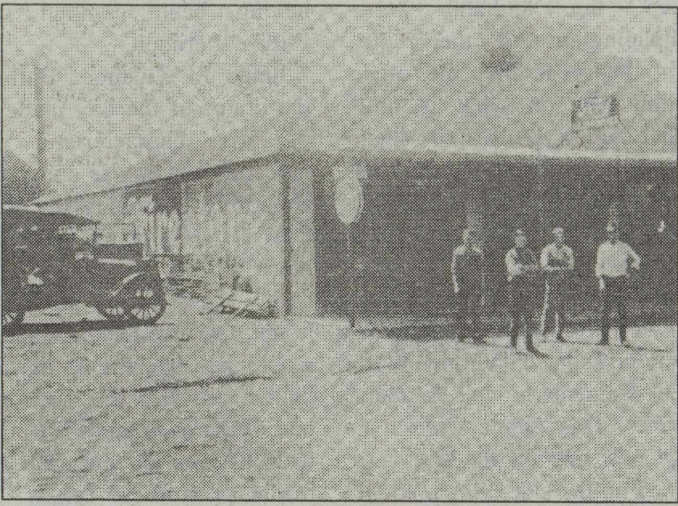
**German & Teresa Pena's**

**RED BARN**  
**BARBECUE**

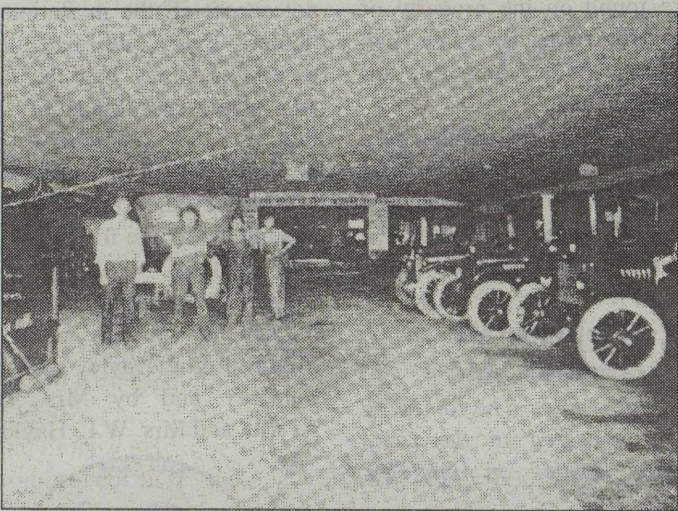
*Serving Coke County since 2004!*



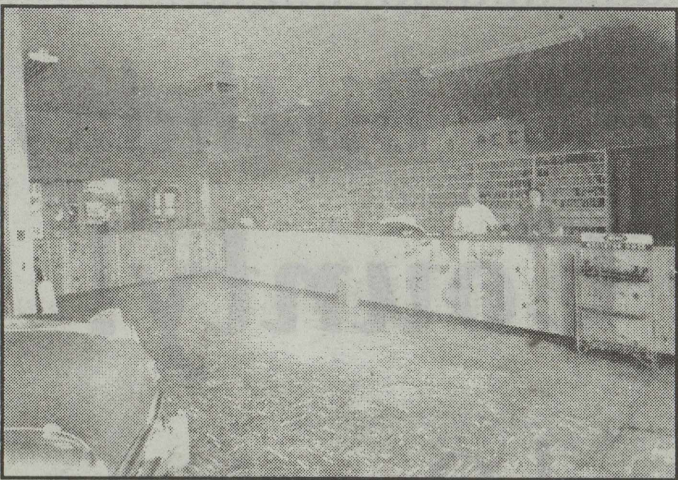
# Happy 125th Birthday Coke County!



Orb Craddock, J.S. Craddock, Frank Smith and Sam Russell in front of Coke Motor Comopany in the early 1920s.



Sam Russell, Freeman Clark, Orb Craddock and Frank Smith in the old Coke Motor Company show room.



Parts Department

About 1907, in the midst of a roar and a cloud of dust, the first automobile came into Coke County. The driver went over a stump near Yellow Wolf Creek and bent the drive gear from which the chain worked. Someone took him to Jess Craddock who worked for his father in a blacksmith shop. The auto owner asked Jess if he could repair it and he said he thought he could.

Jess later took over a blacksmith shop in Robert Lee and ran an ad in the paper stating that besides general blacksmithing and horseshoeing, he would keep gasoline and oil and was prepared to do auto repair work. The automobile business was thus born in Coke County.

In 1914, Mr. Craddock acquired a Ford sub-dealership and sold a car. Craddock Motor Company was the name given to his establishment. The next year, five cars were sold.

A direct dealership was acquired in 1917 and the business was moved across the street to the location where Ivey Motor Company, Inc. now stands.

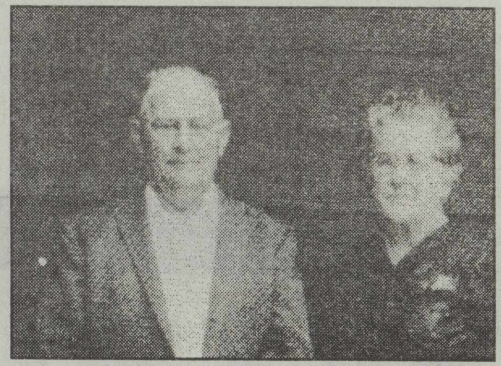
Mr. Craddock's business included the first gasoline pump in the county. He sold gas, at first dispensed from a hand-operated pump attached to pot-bellied barrels. By 1919, cars lined up for a block to wait a turn at the gas pump, especially on Saturdays, as it was the only pump in town. After the gas was dispensed, loud backfires resulted as motors were cranked up again. This disturbed the horses stabled across the street so that they finally had to be moved.

The name of the business was changed to Coke Motor Company around 1922.

Cumbie Ivey Sr. and wife Mary bought the business from Jess Craddock in February of 1944. Cumbie Ivey Jr. and wife Patti moved to Robert Lee in 1955 and became associated with his parents in the business.

In 1964, Ford celebrated their 50th anniversary. The same year, Ivey Motor Company enlarged their show room, expanded the parts department, and built new office space.

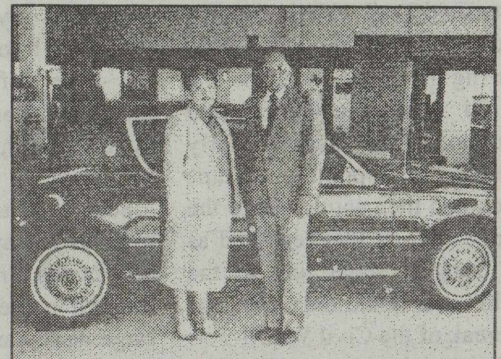
Cumbie Sr. retired to pursue ranching interests in 1965. Following Cumbie Sr.'s retirement, the business continued to grow under Cumbie Jr.'s ownership and management. In the late 1990s, long-time Ivey Motor Co. salesman Billy Wayne Roe purchased the dealership which continues to offer sales and excellent service to residents of Coke County and the surrounding areas.



Jess and Lela Craddock



Cumbie Ivey, Sr. and wife, Mary



Cumbie Ivey, Jr. and wife, Patti

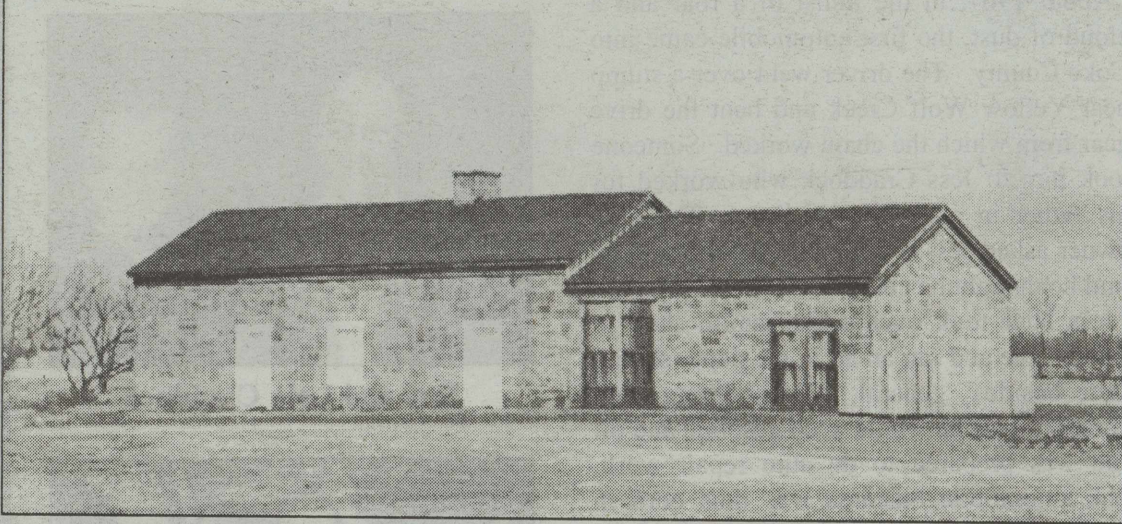


Billy Wayne and Dolores Roe

***Celebrating 100 Years  
of Sales & Service to Coke County!***  
**IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.**  
Robert Lee, Texas (325) 453-4561



**Restored Butterfield Stage Station at Fort Chadbourne**



**Butterfield Line was nation's longest**

[Editor's Note: The information for the following article appeared in the July 21, 1989, issue of The Observer/Enterprise, with credit given to Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough's "History of Coke County".]

Of much historic interest to Coke County is the old Butterfield Trail which traversed Coke County for about 35 miles, entering the county near the site of old Fort Chadbourne and following a southwesterly direction to a point on Grape Creek and then southwest to the county line. It was regarded as the "longest stage line in the world" and lasted only until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Modern highway US 277 follows as nearly as practicable the Overland Mail Route, and is designated as the Butterfield Trail Highway.

The Butterfield Mail and Stage route was established by a law of 1857 under which the postmaster general awarded a contract to John Butterfield, who

was to organize and put into operation, a stageline extending from St. Louis, Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee, to San Francisco, California. Branch lines from the two eastern terminals united near Fort Smith, Arkansas, and entered Texas at Preston Bend near the present city of Denison, westward through Sherman and the line of frontier forts, including Fort Belknap, Fort Phantom Hill, Fort Chadbourne and on west.

Scheduled time for the entire trip was 23 days and 23 hours of continuous driving. The only through passenger on the first stage west was W.L. Ormsby of the New York Herald and his series of articles describing the trip are considered the best source material to be had on the old Trail.

There were two stations in Coke County, Fort Chadbourne and a station on Grape Creek, site of which is unknown. It is generally accepted that the

Grape Creek Station occupied a site (now lost) on Grape Creek in the southwestern edge of Coke County. It is recorded that in February 1861, the Grape Creek station was besieged by some thirty Comanches, who took all the horses and mules and returned one month later to burn the station.

Local citizens said that there were four people in the Grape Creek Station - Joel Pennington, Mrs. Pennington, Charles Cox (a brother-in-law of Pennington), and Elijah Helms. After the Indians were repulsed, Helms made his way to Fort Chadbourne for help, as Pennington had been severely wounded while trying to escape. He was taken to the post hospital where he was attended by the post surgeon and recovered.

Mrs. Yarbrough, who has been studying for many years on Coke County historical information, believes that there was an alternate route from Fort Chadbourne west, probably used when the Indians were rampaging on the other route. This theory is that the other station was on what is now called Yellow Wolf Creek (then also called Grape Creek), 16 miles west of Fort Chadbourne. She has talked with old timers of that area and found that once there was an old road leading due west from Fort Chadbourne to the crossing on Yellow Wolf Creek (some early land abstracts refer to it as Grape Creek); a huge oak tree on the site was burned on the side (which could have happened when the Indians burned the station).

More to substantiate this belief came after Mrs. Yarbrough had finished her book when the remains of an old stage coach were found on the property of Mrs. Nora Gee, by some men opening up the area for oil development.

Service on the Butterfield Trail was disrupted by the Civil War. After the close of the war, some segments were restored under contracts, but in time, most of it was forgotten.

**Confederate reunion held**

[Editor's note: The following article appeared in the Coke County Rustler on July 28, 1899.]

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

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

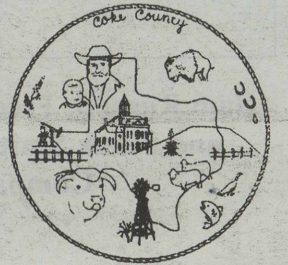
By 10:00 Saturday about 1500 people were on the ground some having been camped since Friday afternoon.

Judge J.I. Guanoof 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 Jude Guano'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 professionals fat. Numbers of our people failed to find friends enough to eat one fourth of their good dinners.

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



**Happy  
125th Birthday  
Coke County!**

*Blessed to have served  
the citizens of Coke County  
since 2011 and  
thankful for our continued  
success in the future!*

**B's Blossoms N Bloom**  
5 E. 6th Street in Robert Lee  
325-453-2390.

**Happy 125th Birthday  
Coke County!**  
**Re-Grand Opening  
Saturday, August 16**

**Now Open 8 am - 6 pm  
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*New faces will gladly help you!*

**Bronte Hardware  
Store**





**Still the Same!** A lot of area ranches still work calves pretty much the same way those cowboys did in the late 1800s. The old cowboys worked in the open, while today there are pens. The branding fire is now often fueled by propane with today's calves getting a boost from a series of vaccinations. Keeping the tradition alive on the old Wendland Ranch during the branding in March 2014 are (from left) Mark Saunders, Tyson Baker, Bob Guerin, Wayne McCutchen, Jennie Baker, Paul Williams and Logan Guerin. Photo courtesy of Morgan McCutchen Brigham.

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**Coke County's 125th Birthday!**

We've been in the insurance business for over two decades and although we're just in our 2nd year of our journey in Coke County...

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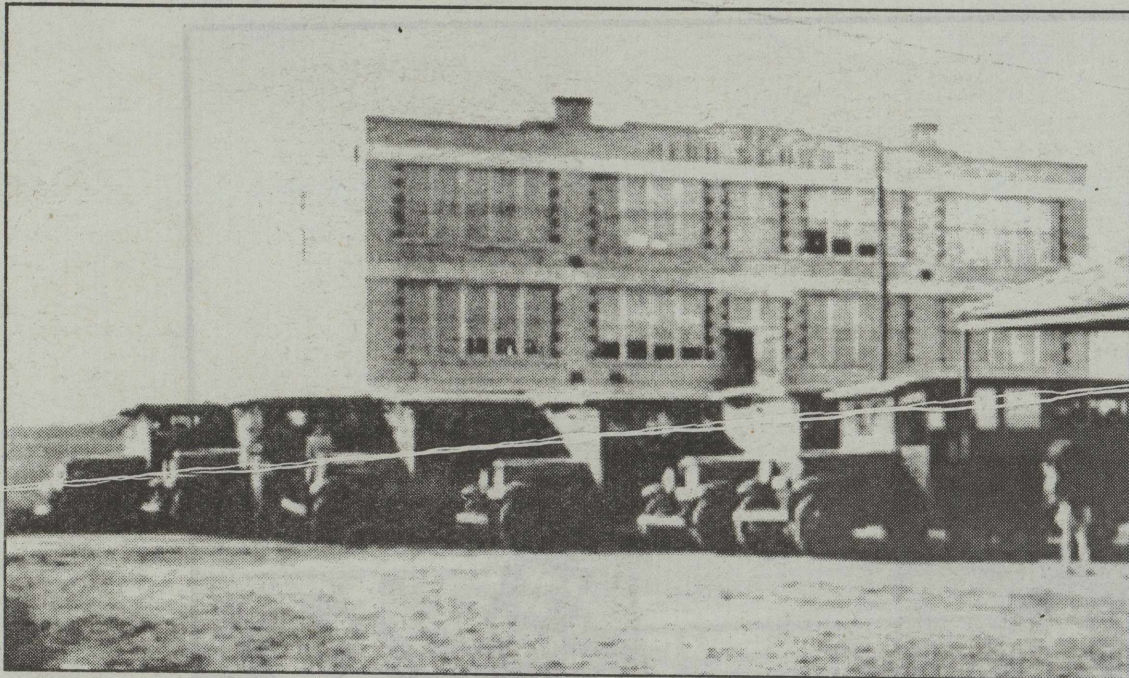
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**School Days!** Bronte students pose in front of the school in 1912 before loading into the buses for the trip home.

## Many Hardships Endured by Pioneer Women of the Area

[Editor's Note: The information for the following article appeared in the July 21, 1989, issue of The Observer/Enterprise, with credit given to Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough's "History of Coke County".]

(Mrs. Yarbrough's note: Mrs. Larking 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 goodbye 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 Peaces 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.

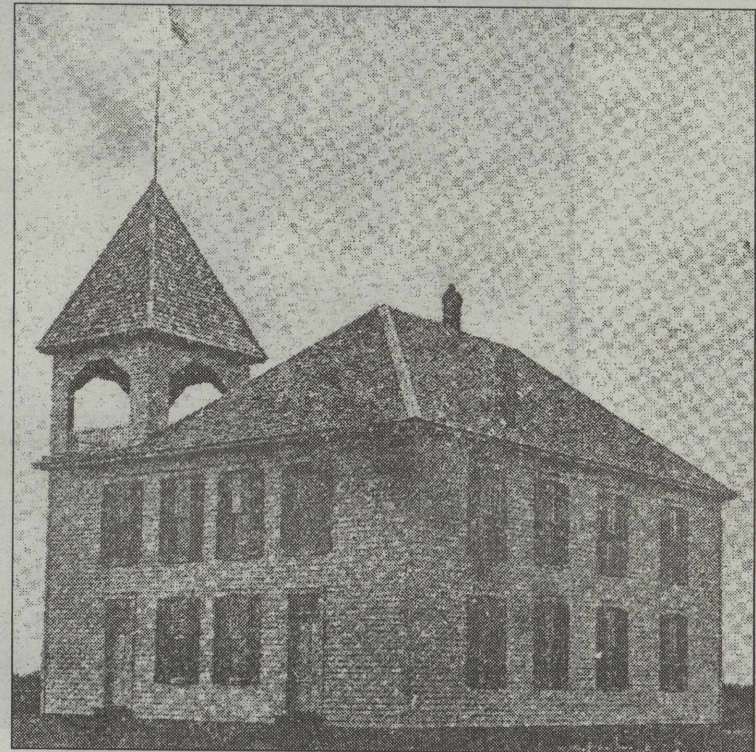
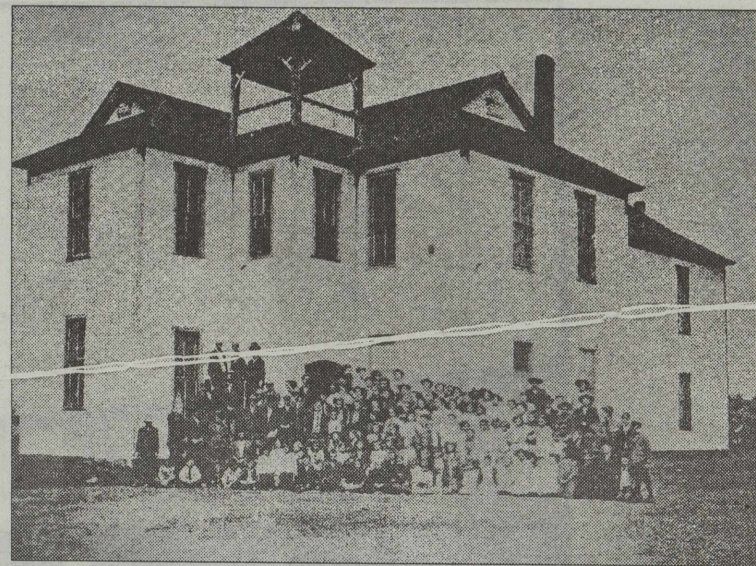
The pioneer mother, ever on the alert for fresh meat for her family, skinned, salted, and put

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, clamed 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 she 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 am the first white child born in the new county made her arrival. She was myself, Ethal



**School Days!** Today's campuses would appear massive to the students who attended these earlier versions. The photo of the Bronte Public School (bottom) was taken in 1898. The Robert Lee photo (top) was taken in 1900.

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 this errand, one of the women became hysterical,

## Happy Birthday Coke County!

This 'N That Shop opened for business May 9, 2002, at 717 Austin and moved to 711 Austin in May 2004.

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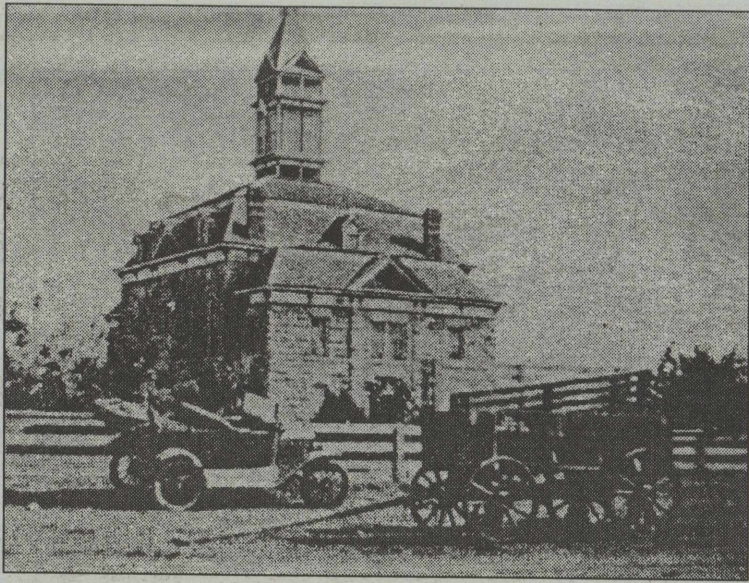
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
COKE COUNTY!



Vegetables & Flower Plants  
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**Coke County Courthouse!** In the spring of 1891, the cornerstone was laid for the new Courthouse that was to be the home of Coke County's government for the next 65 years. Built of native stone quarried by hand, most of the stone came from the Kirkland Ranch and hauled to Robert Lee in wagons.



**A Step Up From the Pony Express!** N.W. Kiker is shown driving the mail hack to Robert Lee in the early 1920s.

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 those pioneer hardships. Mother helped prepare the bodies for burial.

months after they married, 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.

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.

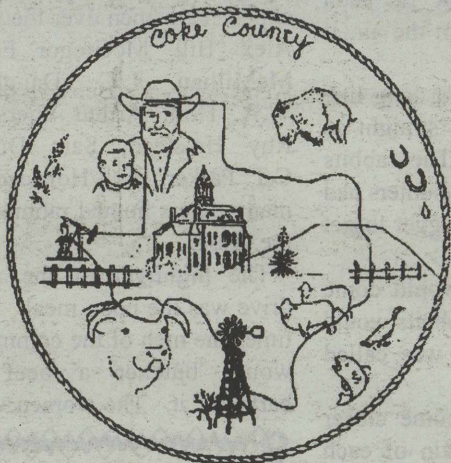
Mr. Pearce returned about sundown on March 2, and no doubt was greatly relieved to find that the baby had arrived and all was well, for he had been unable to secure the services of a midwife, and was planning to take his family in the wagon to Coleman where there was a doctor.

\*\*

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 Margaret's 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 organized Runnels County. They lived in Robert Lee three

## BRONTE'S PIONEER INSURANCE AGENCY



L.T. Youngblood went into the insurance business 100 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 Bivins became a partner in 1983, following Mr. Youngblood's death in 1971. Through the generations, the business has a long record of fair dealing with clients and always puts the interests and welfare of customers first.

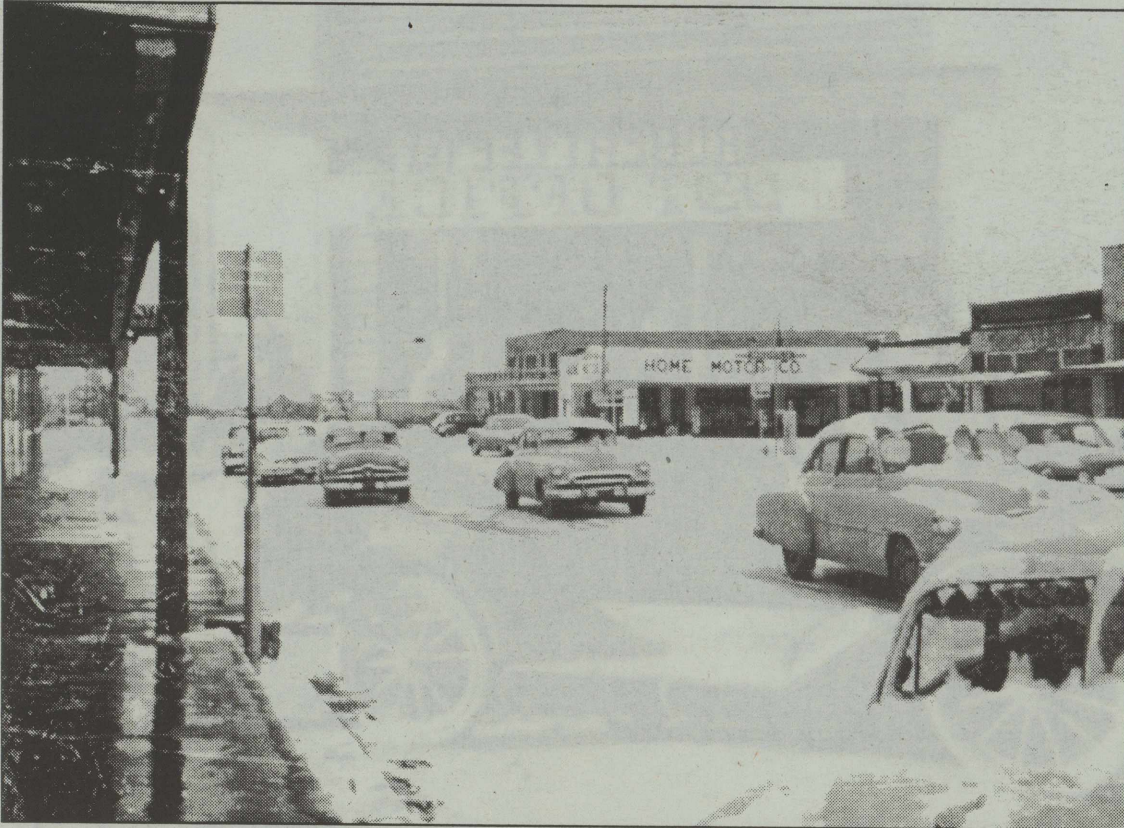
*We'll Be Here When You Need Us!*

Home • Auto • Life  
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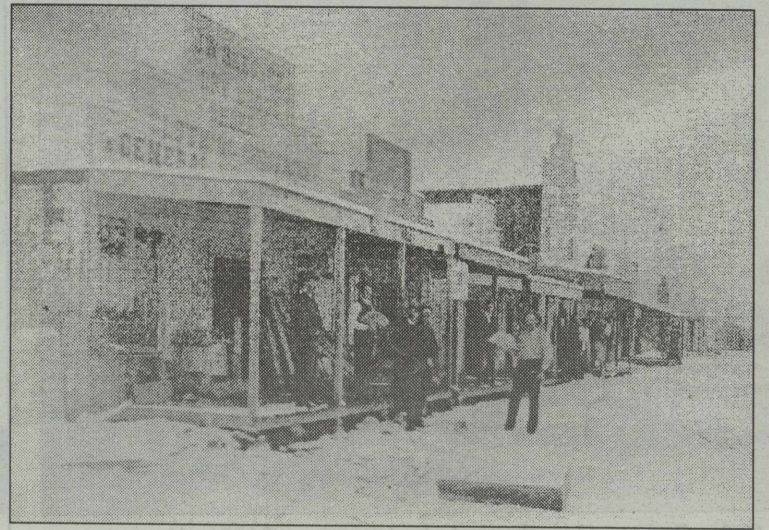
# GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE

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GlennBivinsUsa@aim.com





**Snowy Scene!** Traffic filled Main Street in Bronte in the late 1940s following a snow storm. Due to where the picture was taken, the photographer was possibly Ben Oglesby, long time owner of the Bronte Enterprise and eventually the Robert Lee Observer. Looking at the same scene now, you would see Stripes instead of Home Motor Company and the old hotel.



**Snow in Robert Lee!** J.N.K Adams, part-owner of J.W. Reed and Company, stands in the street fanning himself, with snow on the ground in 1901. The business was located on the west side of Austin Street. A short time after this photo was taken, the south side of the building was blown out due to Jim Clift accidentally dropping his cigarette in a barrel of gunpowder. Fortunately, no was injured.

## Rabbit not so popular

[Editor's Note: The following article ran in the Centennial Edition of The Observer/Enterprise on July 21, 1989.]

Coke County's longtime "mascot", the rabbit, from whom citizens got the name "Rabbit Twister's", 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 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 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 the 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 ranches 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 was 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. 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,

**Congratulations  
to every resident of  
COKE COUNTY**

**on our  
125th BIRTHDAY!**

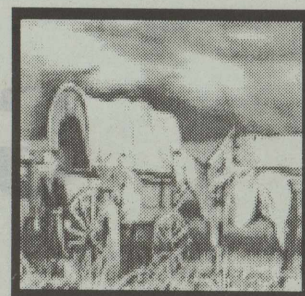
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Coke County on its  
125th Birthday!



We re proud  
to be a part of  
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**Super H Grocery**



# FIRST NATIONAL BANK



The First National Bank in Bronte was established in 1906 when the Orient railroad was built from Sweetwater to San Angelo, passing through Bronte. Organized as The First State Bank, the bank was begun by J.B. Reilly, an Ozona ranchman. Rev. R.M. Cumbie served as President.

The First State Bank served the Bronte community until 1921 and the death of Mr. Reilly. At that time, the cashier, C.R. Golihar, took over the responsibilities of the President and the bank was renamed Guaranty State Bank.

The Guaranty State Bank closed its doors on January 11, 1922. Two week later, \$25,000 of new capital was added to the bank and it was reopened with Leonard T. Youngblood as President of the newly organized First National Bank. Mr. Youngblood had been cashier of the bank in Blackwell and drove from Blackwell each day to operate the Bronte bank.

In 1933, the banks of Bronte and Blackwell merged. J.T. Harmon, who had been President of the Blackwell bank, became Vice-President of the Bank in Bronte. He continued to open an office in Blackwell to cash checks, make deposits and carry on other banking activities. This practice was carried on for several years.

The improving economic climate of Coke County was of interest to some less scrupulous people so that on July 1, 1935, the First National Bank was robbed. Virginia Youngblood was the first to see the two felons who entered the bank through a rear door of the building. Brandishing sawed-off shotguns, the

robbers forced L.T. Youngblood, Carrie Williams, J.T. Harmon and Miss Youngblood to lie on the floor as they emptied the cash windows. They retreated from the building and a wild automobile race ensued in which they dropped tacks and nails on the road to flatten the tires of pursuing law officers. They eluded all roadblocks and were able to get away with the \$1,234.44 in cash taken from the bank. The thieves were later captured.

A second bank robbery took place in Bronte January 27, 1953. Bank employees were working in the building after hours when two oilfield workers from San Angelo entered the building. Douglas Snead and Willie B. Millikin were tied up by the bank robbers and forced into the vault while the robbery took place. Approximately \$8,927 was taken, but was later recovered when the thieves were captured in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The old First National Bank building underwent major remodeling in 1943 and again in 1954. After much deliberation by the bank's directors, the decision was made in December 1982 to construct a new building adjacent to the old building in downtown Bronte. The old structure was demolished to make room for a parking area. The grand opening for the new bank building was held November 27, 1983.

The First National Bank in Bronte is now a branch of the First National Bank of Sterling City.

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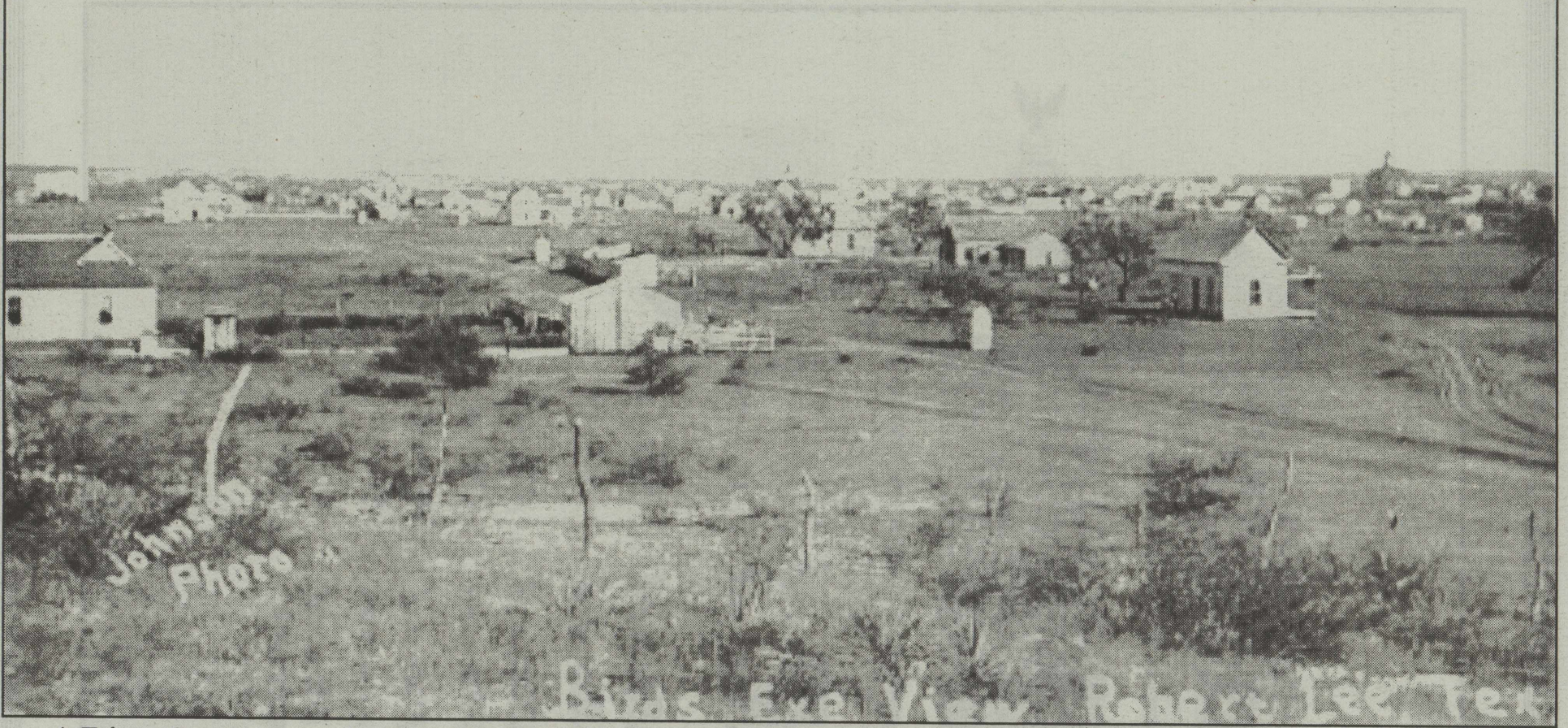
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Branch of the First National Bank  
of Sterling City

MEMBER FDIC



**Bird's Eye View of Robert Lee!** This photo was taken in 1908 or 1909 and used as a postcard sent to John Locke from his brother Oscar Locke.



**A Trip to Sanco**

[Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the January 9, 1906 issue of the Robert Lee Observer.]

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.

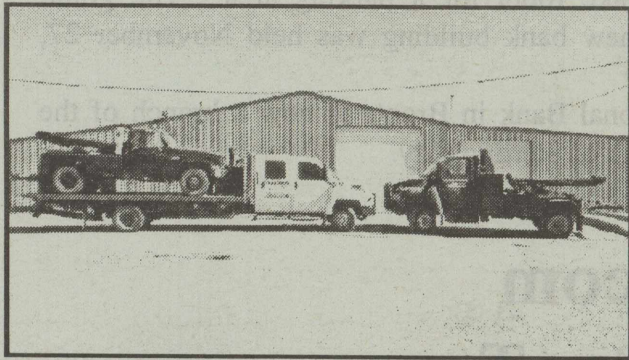
About sundown I pulled up at Bud Ulmer's, one of the most thrifty farmers and ranchmen of Coke county, and by the way, an all around good fellow. I asked him if I could stay all night with him. He said he had never turned a man off, but he did not like my appearance and I would have to see his wife about 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 (Continued on page 18)

**THE BEST CONNECTION**

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**BRONTE HEALTH & REHAB CENTER**

Founded in 1971 as Bronte Nursing Home, we are still locally owned and operated. We are governed by a Board of Directors and assisted by the BHRC Auxilliary. The name of the facility was changed to Bronte Health and Rehab Center in the late 1990's. The original members of the Board of Directors were:

- President: Rev. C.R. Blake
- Vice President: LeDrew Arrott
- Secretary: Dwain Pruitt
- Treasurer: Earl Glenn
- Member: C.E. Bruton



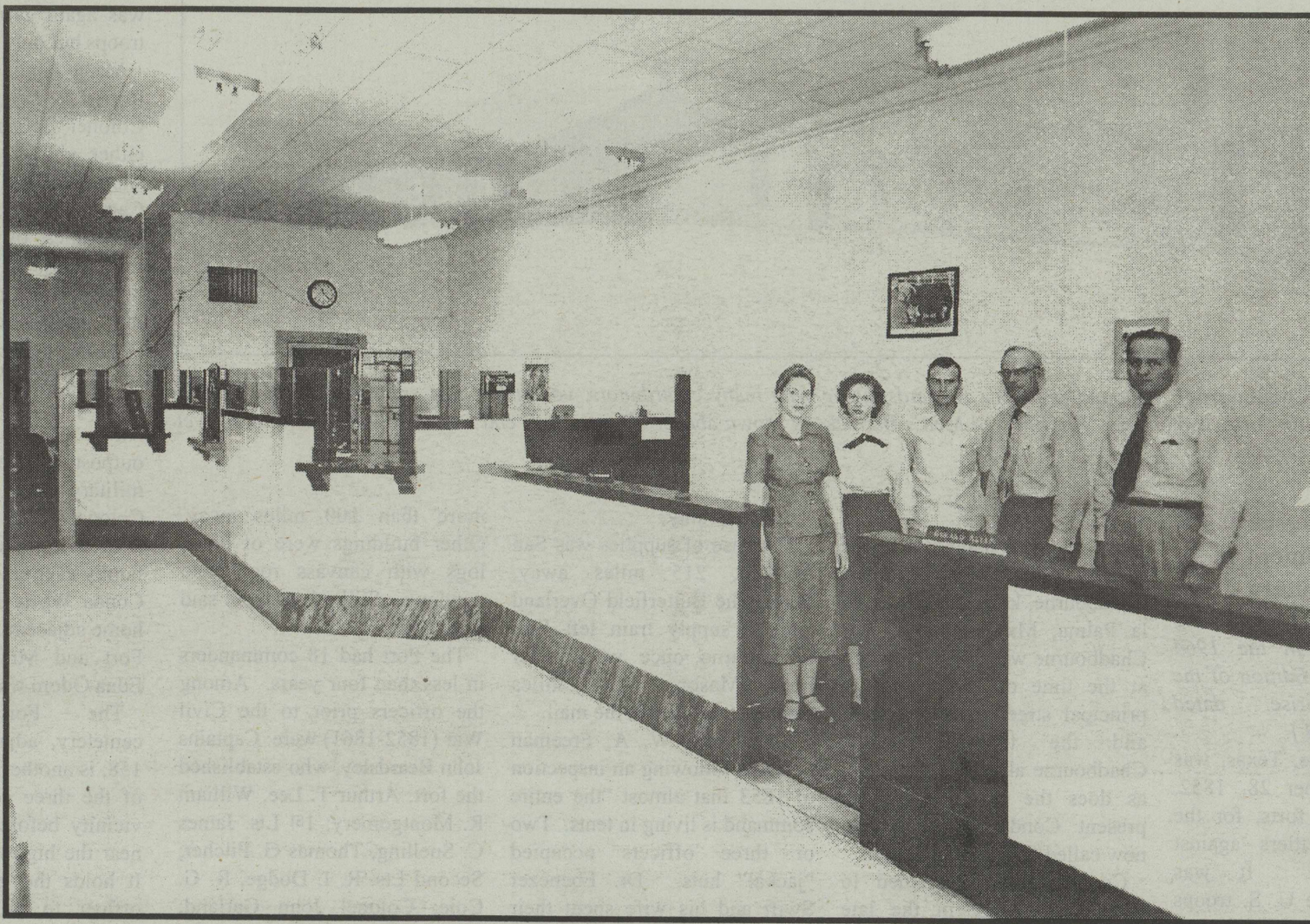
We at Bronte Health and Rehab are dedicated to providing quality services, accessible administrative management, and caring support to all of our residents and their loved ones. Our facility offers an active and inviting atmosphere where everyone that comes through our doors is family.

From individually designed care planning to our professionally licensed staff, our commitment to quality is the primary goal for all of the services offered at Bronte Health and Rehab Center.

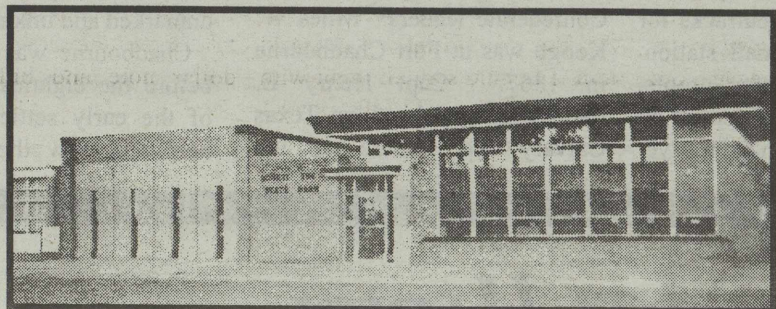
*Honoring the Past • Looking Forward to the Future!*



# Proudly Serving Coke County Since 1936!



The bank was housed in a building at 707 Austin (now The Observer/Enterprise) before moving to its present location at the corner of Austin and 7th Street. The building (below, left) was replaced by our current building.



Although our location and buildings have changed, our dedication to serving the people of our community has not!

**DIRECTORS:**

Stephen Myers  
D'Ann Eubanks  
Jim Clendennen  
B.W. Roe  
Peggy Davis

*As with the early stockholders and officers, it is still the policy of the present management to provide for the financial needs of our community and always be at the service of our customers - YOU!*

*We have great faith in the future of this area and we appreciate your business and confidence!*



# Robert Lee State Bank

621 Austin Street • Robert Lee, Texas

453-2545

MEMBER FDIC







**Today's Fort Chadbourne!** Garland and Lana Richards, along with many contributors, volunteers, and employees, have done an amazing job restoring Fort Chadbourne. The Enlisted Men's Barracks is shown above. The restored end and the portion that has not yet been restored.

**Ft. Chadbourne is First Settlement in Coke County**

[Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the 1964 Diamond Jubilee Edition of the Bronte Enterprise dated September 3, 1964.]

Fort Chadbourne, Texas, was established October 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 December 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 surface damages and this agreement was recorded April 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.

Many famous men, including Robert E. Lee, Earl Van Dorn, Colonel Johnston and others either visited or were there 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, former Edna Odom was born there.

The Fort Chadbourne cemetery, adjacent to highway 158, is another historic spot, one of the 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

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**Happy  
125th  
Anniversary  
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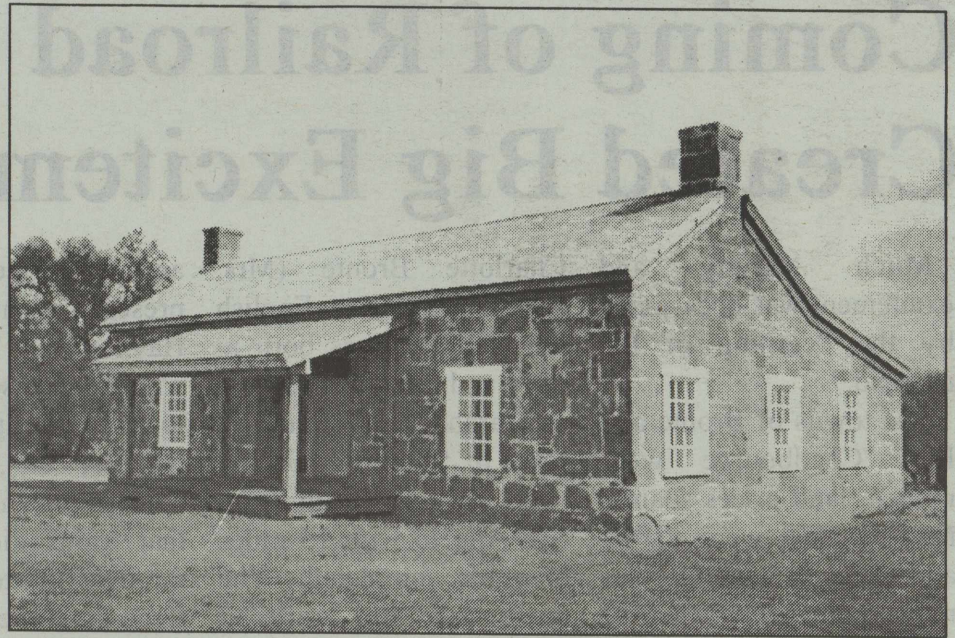
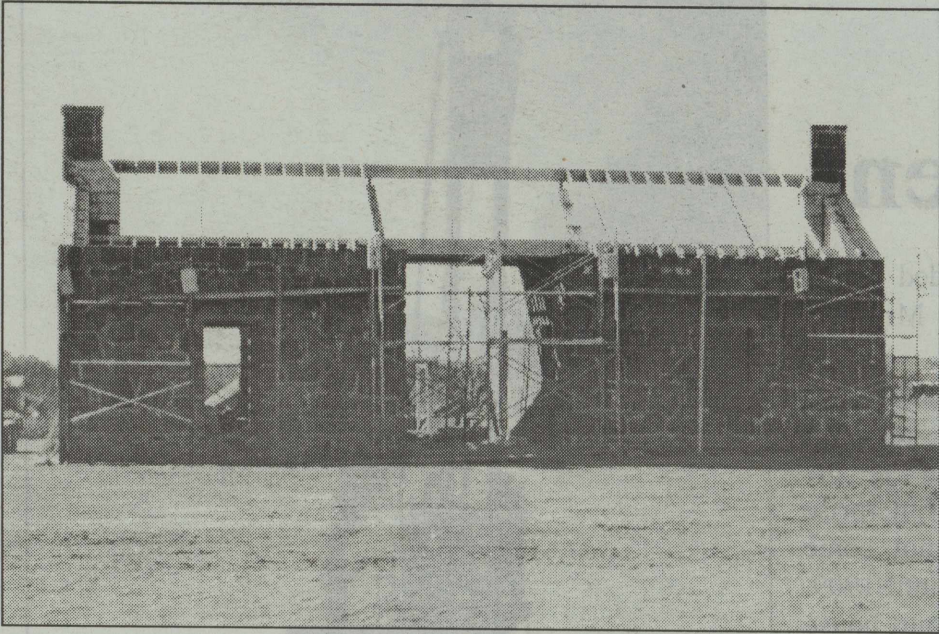
**HAPPY  
125TH BIRTHDAY  
COKE COUNTY!**

**Hwy 158  
CAFE**

**HIGHWAY 158 IN ROBERT LEE**

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A  
FUTURE SERVING GOOD FOOD WITH  
DOWN HOME HOSPITALITY!**





Fort Chadbourne Officers Quarters - Before and After

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.

**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 live oak thicket nearby served cowboys and frontier people as a place to tie up horses and buggies.

**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 vest 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.

[o-e@wcc.net](mailto:o-e@wcc.net)

# CONGRATULATING COKE COUNTY ON ITS 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Robert Lee Care Center is a medicare and medicaid 79-bed long term care facility. We are located in Robert Lee of Coke County, Texas. Our services also include dementia care, skilled nursing care, respite care, hospice care, convalescent care, short-term therapy and rehabilitation, and medical services.

Nestled in the quiet, close-knit community of Robert Lee, the Care Center's origins can be traced to a small local hospital that opened in 1949. Through the years, the hospital evolved and expanded to serve the growing needs of the community. By 1971, a 44-bed nursing home was added to the facility. In 1986, the hospital closed and the building was repositioned to serve area seniors in a home environment. Since its inception, our community of gifted employees, our own caring "home folks," have served the residents and families of Robert Lee Care Center with personal care and support. Our staff, as well as most of the Care Center residents, are lifelong members of the Robert Lee community. In every sense, it is truly family taking care of family.

Some of the greatest gifts Robert Lee Care Center provides residents and families are higher staff-to-resident ratios, more personal attention and a vast array of services, all results of our non-profit status and hospital district funding.

Today, the Robert Lee Care Center is a central hub for community services. In addition to nursing, and therapy, Care Center also prepares meals for the local community senior center. Robert Lee truly embraces the "neighbor caring for neighbor" philosophy both inside and outside the Care Center.

# ROBERT LEE CARE CENTER



# Coming of Railroad Created Big Excitement

Much activity and excitement was occasioned by the "coming of the railroad."

The towns of Bronte and Fort Chadbourne were moved, land prices soared, new business were started and hope in general were more than high. Much of this reflected in other stories in his newspaper and one lady told us that as soon as the trains started coming through, at one time as many as five trains daily, the big entertainment as to go "to meet the train to see who got on and who got off" and that on Sunday, they always dressed up to "go meet the trains."

The following story was sent to us by the Public Relations Department of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway System, Chicago, Ill.:

"When the location engineers for the Panhandle and Gulf Railway Company surveyed through Bronte shortly after the turn of the century they found a thriving community with business establishments consisting of a hotel, restaurant, four stand gin, stable, post office and a blacksmith shop. The name Bronte had been chosen in honor of

Charlotte Bronte (Mrs. A.B. Nicholls) an English novelist who was born in 1816 and died in 1855.

"March 1903 found a force of 50 teams and 150 men working north from San Angelo with 15 miles of grade completed. The name of the railroad changed from Panhandle and Gulf Railway Company to the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company of Texas on September 16, 1905. It was late in the year 1907 before the line through Bronte, between Sweetwater and San Angelo, was completed.

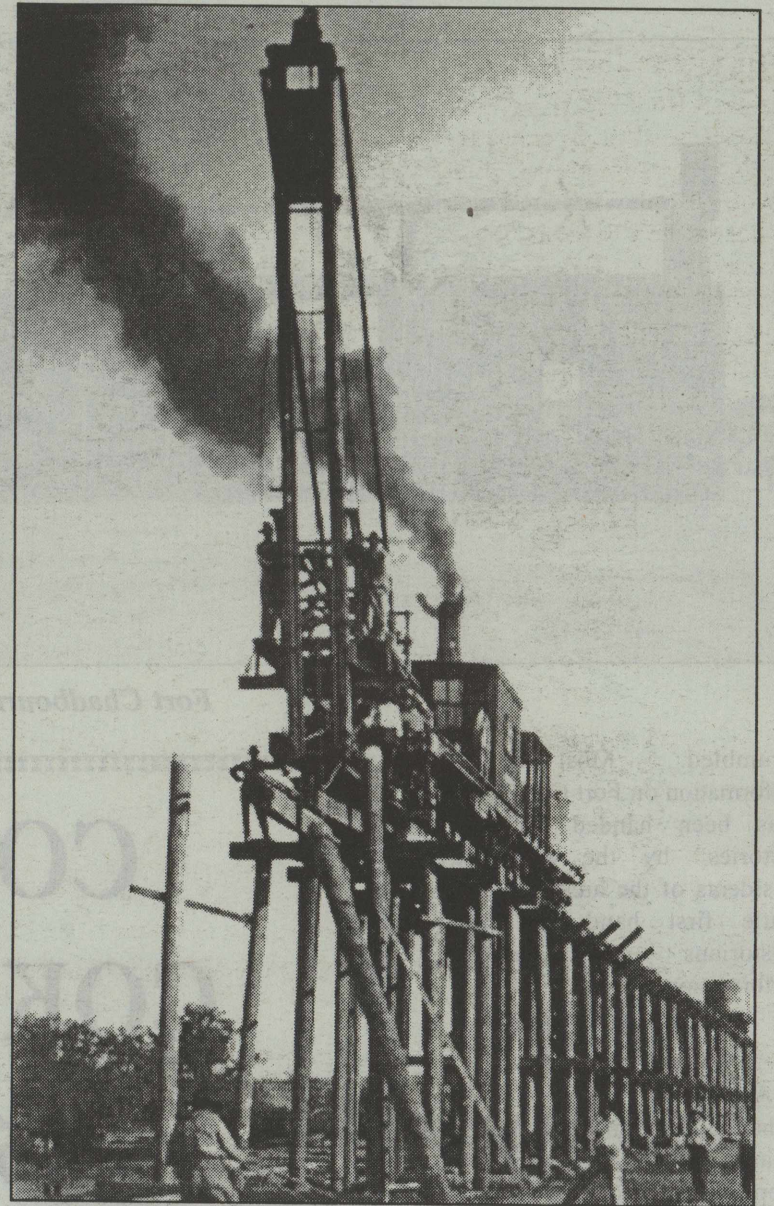
"When the station building was constructed in 1911 Bronte had a population of approximately 100. The stone for the building was donated by the citizens of the town.

"The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company of Texas was purchased and has been under the control of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company since 1928. Records indicate that the first Santa Fe agent at Bronte was Mr. E. F. Maddux in 1929. He was followed in 1930 by Mr. H.O. Whitt who served until his recent retirement

and was succeeded by the present agent, Mr. J.F. Haynes."

In much discussion with local residents, checking records, etc., it is the opinion of the Enterprise that trains did not come through Bronte until 1909. Records at the court house indicate that the first train through Fort Chadbourne, Bronte and Tennyson was Nov. 22, 1909. They had 28.1 miles of track in Coke County before a 20-mile spur line was built from Mary Neal to Silver in 1956, part of which is in Coke County.

The depot building referred to above in the release from Santa Fe was built by "Big Jim" Slammers, father of Vernon Lammers, Leslie Lammers and Mrs. John Coalson. He was a stone mason. Vernon Lammers



**Railroad Construction!** This pile driver was essential in building the railroad bridge across the Colorado River south of Bronte in 1907.

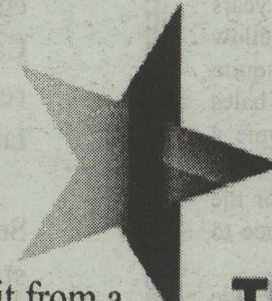
said the stone came from Emerson place, southeast of Bronte.

## COKE-STERLING COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### MISSION

Texas Farm Bureau's mission is to be the Voice of Texas Agriculture

Our vision is for all Texans to benefit from a prosperous agriculture that provides for a viable, long-term domestic source of food, fiber and fuel.



**TEXAS FARM BUREAU**

#### Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau Has ...

1. 647 members as of 2013
2. Helped Develop Policies of State and National Farm Bureau.

#### Programs and Benefits Sponsored By Farm Bureau...

1. Food Connection Week
2. Youth Leadership Conference
3. Agfund
4. Farm Bureau Bank - Loans - Auto, Recreational Vehicles, Boats, Equipment Loans, Credit Cards, Bank accounts (Checking and Savings), Certificates of Deposit
5. Member Discounts on - New GM Vehicles, Dell PC, Hotel, Rental car, Case IH, Amusement Park tickets and Movie Tickets to name a few.
6. Service Program: Insurance - Auto, Home, Life, Health, Annuities, IRAs and Estate Planning

**Happy Birthday  
Coke County!**

**PAUL'S  
BODY SHOP**

**Paul Knight**

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(325) 473-2425 • (325) 450-2281



### Bronte Incorporated in 1907

Bronte was incorporated in 1907; G.S. Arnold was first mayor, and the first recorded session of the City Council was held on July 17, 1907. Members participating in that meeting were J.B. Reilly, W.A. Good, W.H. Maxwell, T.C. Price, and T.R. Butler. E.G. Walton was secretary and H.L. Mobley was treasurer. This much is known.

Just exactly when the town began to be called Bronte is not known. The post office department said several years ago that an application was made for a post office in 1888. "Bronco" was suggested as a name but rejected by the Postal Department, as there was already a post office by that name. "Bronte" was finally decided upon, named after Miss Charlotte Bronte, famed English novelist. According to the Postal Department, the Bronte application was made and approved April 19, 1890, but according to old timers here who remember those days, it was in the fall of 1890 before post office facilities became available. The Post office department says the first post master here was George S. Kelly.

Mr. R.E. Cumby remembers that the first store in Bronte, was a grocery store, built by Dr. W. F. Key in 1890. He said that they had to go to Hayrick for their mail until about Nov. 1 of that year when the first post office was established in the Harris residence near our present ball park. The late E.B. Fletcher corroborated the statement by saying in 1947 "Dr. W.F. Key started this town." The late M. Lasswell, who came here from Bosque County, said in 1956 that when they came here in 1885 there was nothing but ranches and his father filed claim on vacant land.

So it is generally agreed that "old Bronte" as a town came into being shortly after the county as organized in 1889.

Old Bronte was located some

half mile southwest of its present location, a little west of the present cool buildings and was built there because of the availability of water from the West Kickapoo Creek.

When it was learned soon after 1900 that the Orient railroad was planning to come through this section, talk began of moving the town to the railroad. The move began in 1906.

The late Frank and Charlie Keeney used to like to tell of moving the town. They said the stores were moved by means of old wooden rollers.

"They'd put the houses on these wooden rollers," Frank said, "tie one end of a rope around a stake, and pull it forward 50 feet, then repeat the process until they got through."

"Bronte at that time was only farm land, and when we moved we sold goods right along up from the old location to the new one."

#### Ordinances to Govern City

Shortly after incorporation in 1907 the new town council adopted ordinances to Vern the new city. Twelve were adopted at their second meeting on July 22, 1907.

The substance of one was that "all male inhabitants between the ages of 21-45, except ministers of the Gospel, shall be held liable to work on the public streets and allies not to exceed five days a year; or if unable to work, to provide a substitute or a sum of money not to exceed one dollar for each day's work." Failure to work or "provide good services while working" was a fine of \$25.

However, another ordinance adopted the same pay provided that all men who paid \$3.00 to the city within 30 days of the ordinance would be exempt for one year.

In another ordinance a "\$100 fine was set for persons who shall leave any horse, mule or team of any kind hitched to any wagon, buggy or vehicle of any kind in any street or alley without first fastening or tying said animals or team so as to prevent their running away and endangering the lives and



**Sunday Best!** The William Joseph Henry Rogers family has donned their Sunday best for this photo taken in Bronte.

property of others."

The first sanitary ordinance was passed in May, 1908, providing a fine for persons "who failed to clean or have cleaned all closets under their control once a month."

Sept. 8, 1908, a called meeting of the council provided "that a calaboose be built, size 10x12 feet" and J.B. Reilly, T.C. Price were the committee in charge of the building. They later reported that the lumber would cost \$75, and the calaboose was erected on Lot 2, Block 42.

In November, 1908, Dr. A.J. Turner, Dr. J.D. Leonard and I.M. Howard were appointed as a health board to investigate "rumors of some cases of diphtheria." They were the forerunners of the first health officer, T.P. Pippin, who was appointed in April, 1910.

The beginnings of the Bronte water system were discussed in 1909 when it was proposed that water be pumped from the Keeney well to the intersection of State and Main streets. A committee was appointed to

take a subscription for assisting in the project, which included the well, tank, windmill and labor. The city tax rate in 1909 was 20 cents per \$100 valuation.

J.L. Brown in 1910 is the first fire chief on record.

In November, 1909, the Bronte Power and Light Company was instructed to install two 200 candle power tungsten lamps, one at the intersection of Main & State and the other at Main & Washington.

The first ordinance dealing

(Continued on Page 18)

# Shaffer Funeral Home

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Coke County  
for over 35 years.

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Robert Lee, Texas

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Bronte, Texas

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County Since 2001





**Downtown Bronte!** Bronte folks even had to park in the middle of main street during one of the oil booms of the past.

**... Ivey Motor Company**

*(Continued from page 4)*

at home later and changing trousers, the acid covered ones just fell into pieces.

In March 1928, Jess attended a Ford dealers convention in Detroit. Dealers of the area boarded a special train at Dallas about four or five in the afternoon. As not unusual for March weather in Texas, it was quite warm.

As Jess recalls of the day, "We were all just about to burn up in our shirt sleeves. Then when we got off the train in Detroit, it was four degrees below zero. The bunch of us liked to have frozen to death. From the train, we had to walk about a half mile to the administration building in that cold. Bob Harwell, who was the Ford dealer in Ballinger at that time, gave out about half way there. Two of us carried him into the building and called the doctor. When he arrived, he called an ambulance and took him to the hospital. Four or five others took pneumonia and had to be hospitalized too. The convention lasted three or four days. When the men weren't touring the plant, they stayed in their hotel because it was so

cold."

Jeffie Bell set up the Norrick Bookkeeping system in the earlier part of 1928.

"We went to Colorado in July and August of that year. When we came back, I was feeling much better and I went to work keeping the books at the garage and worked until we moved to Colorado City in August of 1944," says Lela.

Of the depression years she relates, "When we weren't making a profit, we used red ink. I got to using so much red ink that finally I got a quart of it from the salesman. Before the depression was over, I had used the whole quart."

When asked of his most embarrassing moment, Jess recalls, "I was working by myself in the shop on the rear end of an automobile. Cleaning it up with gasoline - the old greasy parts in a pan. It was too dirty so I just walked to the front door and, not looking, threw it out. It hit a woman in the face - all over you might say - just down her - that old greasy gasoline. That was my most embarrassing moment. I begged her pardon. She said she knew I didn't mean to. I told her to go have her dress cleaned and she

said no, it wasn't my fault as I wasn't expecting anyone to walk by."

The Craddocks have four children - Mary May, J.S. Jr., Billy Frank and Maxine Morrow - who grew-up on the odor of grease, cut their teeth on wrenches and learned the lingo of the car business as their first words.

In 1944, the Robert Lee business was sold to Cumbie Ivey and the Craddocks moved to Colorado City where they had purchased the dealership, naming it Craddock Motor Company, also.

**... A Trip to Sanco**

*(Continued from page 12)*

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 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 whiteness 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 had 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

**... 1907 Bronte**

*(Continued from page 17)*

with automobile traffic were found in 1916.

Indicative of the expenses incurred by early city government were the following bills, allowed at an early city council meeting:

D.K. Glenn, team, one day, \$2.50.

W.T. Luttrell, blacksmith work, \$3.50.

J.L. Smith, plow point, \$1.50.

Dec. & Jan. lights, \$5.00.

W.P. Sanders for dragging off dog, 50 cents.

Mayors and council men down through the years since are found elsewhere in this section.

Through the 57 years since incorporation, many improvements have been made, most of which are discussed in other stores in this issue.

Bronte, today, not the metropolis its founders dreamed for it, enjoys good churches and schools, paved streets, a beautiful park and swimming pool, a sanitary sewer system, natural gas connections, an adequate water supply, dependable electric service, good telephone service, a new post office and city hall, good highways in every direction.

Bronte is known far and wide for its large number of beautiful homes. Many new residences have been built in the last ten years.

Remembering the good 'ol days as we salute

**COKE COUNTY'S 125th BIRTHDAY!**

**ASKINS PROPANE**

Bronte • Robert Lee

**COKE COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY**

We are one of Coke County's oldest continuously operated businesses, serving since 1891 with land records from Sovereignty of the Soil (Republic of Texas) to current, congratulates Coke County on its 125th Birthday.



**... Cousins**

(Continued from page 10)  
and his family of Robert Lee, were out of town.

Earlier, Betty and Jane visited cousins Annabelle Fletcher Dunn, and her sister Shirley Fletcher Gavit in San Angelo.

Jane and Betty, with her daughters, toured Robert Lee, the Austin Ranch and Sanco Cemetery where Jane and Betty's grandparents, Jordan and Arminta DeLong Austin are buried.

**... County's oldest business**

(Continued from page 2)

Commissioners to call an election to vote off the incorporation, Putt 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, Irvan 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, Hal Spain and current owner/publisher Melinda McCutchen.

Little is known of the very first newspaper serving Bronte. In researching the September 3, 1964 Diamond Jubilee edition, Ben Oglesby discovered a copy of the first Bronte Herald. It was dated September 6, 1902 and listed a Mr. Howell as editor and publisher. It is unknown how long this newspaper was published. 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 resold to D.M. West.

Mr. West published the paper until November 1944. He was succeeded by J.H. Mulvane, 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 papers of the two major communities in the county, received the enthusiastic support



**Round-up Time!** John Saul helping his neighbors on the old Arnett place during the Bass Arnett ranch's round-up.

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 last thirty years. Over the last 125 years, Coke County residents have had a variety of publishers and editors keeping the abreast of local activity. The Observer/Enterprise looks forward to many more years of dedicated service to the residents of Coke County.

*Happy 125th Birthday Coke County!*

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*A Family Owned Business*

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*Serving  
travelers  
through  
Bronte since  
1948!*

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Coke County!**

**Designs by Toni**

(325) 453-4317  
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*Serving Coke County  
for the Past 25 Years!*



**... Coke County's Colorful History**

(Continued from page 1)

As the population grew, the 3-5 day trip to conduct business at the courthouse in San Angelo was now considered onerous and a county of their own with a local county seat was deemed necessary.

Approximately sixty men gathered for a barbecue and strategy session in a grove of trees near the Colorado River in early 1889. Following this initial gathering, Ennis Adams carried a petition throughout this area to be presented to the Texas Legislature. Once all requirements were met, the legislature created Coke County on March 13, 1889. An election for county officials had to be held within 30 days for the new 931 square mile county named for Richard Coke, a former Texas Governor.

Coke served as governor of Texas from January 15, 1874, until December 1, 1876, and was the first governor after the end of reconstruction. His term ended after two years so he could go to Washington DC to represent Texas as a US Senator. While governor of Texas, Coke was tasked with writing a new Texas Constitution. The Indian "trouble" also came to an end during his time as governor.

The Texas Legislature named D.T. Fairley, Z.W. Withers and T.A. Collier to a committee to supervise the first Coke County election held April 23, 1889, at Hayrick. Hayrick, located near the mountain of the same name, was Coke County's first county seat.

Elected during this first Coke County election were: G.W. Perryman, Judge and ex-officio Superintendent of Schools; T.A. Collier, County and District Clerk; W. F. Buchanan, Sheriff and Tax Collector; D.F. Fairley, Tax Assessor; George Williamson, Treasurer; Captain Patteson, Surveyor; Greenleaf, Attorney; R.E. Douglas, Commissioner, Precinct 1; J.R. Farmer, Commissioner, Precinct 2; P.H. Youngblood, Commissioner, Precinct 3; and J.P. Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct 4.

Not long after this election, a controversy developed over the location of the county seat that some attribute as being the birthplace of the strife that still can be occasionally seen in Coke County. Eugene Cartledge, cattleman L.B. Harris' son-in-law, contested the election on the grounds that Hayrick was more than nine miles from the center of the county. The land on which Robert Lee is located was in the center of the Harris Ranch.

Although a two-story courthouse had been constructed at Hayrick, plans were made for a removal election by those who favored moving the county seat to Robert Lee. These people cited a water shortage at Hayrick as the reason for the move. Harris and Cartledge offered to donate the townsite and give every citizen of Hayrick who owned a home there a lot on

which to move.

There were several reasons cited by those against the move including:

Sixty-five citizens had acquired homes in good faith;

The move would be expensive;

Property values would be destroyed in Hayrick;

A good two-room school was already constructed at Hayrick; and

A \$10,000 contract for a new brick courthouse was already let and couldn't be cancelled.

Cartledge was able to obtain an injunction to stop construction of the new courthouse, pending the proposed election. District Judge J.W. Timmins ruled

against Cartledge who appealed the ruling. Although the injunction was dissolved, it had delayed construction long enough that nothing could be done before the next election.

County Judge G.W. Perryman promised voters he would not call a special election while challenger H.L. Adams promised that he would call a special election if elected. Adams was able to unseat Perryman in the December 1890 election and, as his first official act, called for the special election to decide the location of the county seat to be held January 6, 1891. The election was between three sites - Hayrick, the present day location of Robert Lee and

Union City, four miles west of Robert Lee. Robert Lee won by 48 votes and there would be a new county seat. Bonds were issued for the new courthouse and the old ones burned in open court.

Just prior to the election, the courthouse at Hayrick burned, destroying most county records. The fire was thought to be arson. However, not long after the fire, a lawyer who had been investigating the burned records was found drowned in a shallow waterhole in Mountain Creek. A rock was wired to his neck and his feet were wired together. An inquest was held and a verdict of suicide was rendered. The case of arson was dismissed due to insufficient evidence.

[Editor's Note: Fran Lomas has found the "suicide" actually may have occurred four years later than originally reported.]

After the election, the moving process began. What records could be salvaged from the burned Hayrick courthouse were moved into a rented small frame building in Robert Lee. On January 27, 1891, this building also burned.

A new courthouse was constructed in Robert Lee in 1891 and housed Coke County's government offices for the next 65 years. On October 30, 1956, Coke County voters approved issuing \$300,000 in bonds to build the courthouse which has housed county government since that time until the present.

*Serving Coke County  
Since 2001*

**Happy  
Birthday  
Coke County!**

**DJ's  
MERLE NORMAN**

7 E. 6th St. • Robert Lee • 453-4642

*Happy  
125th Birthday  
Coke County!*

**FRONT OF THE LINE  
FEED STORE**

808 Austin • Robert Lee  
(325) 453-2611

**We're Proud  
Coke County!**



We're proud to be a part of this county and proud to serve its citizens for the past 4 years in a business that's been here since the 1920s!

**COKE COUNTY  
HARDWARE**

(325) 453-2911      Robert Lee

*Happy  
125th Birthday  
Coke County!*

It's great to be a part of this fine community and its wonderful history.

We are looking forward to a great future and the opportunity to be your hometown grocery store.

**The  
New  
BRONTE GROCERY**  
(Formerly Hall's Super Save)  
Downtown Bronte

1188.840.258 :x54 47

Work 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Wed 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



# Current News

## Annual Ivey Motor July 4th Golf Tournament slated

The annual Ivey Motor Company, Inc. July 4th Golf Tournament will be held July 4-5, 2014, at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee.

There is no entry fee and everyone is welcome to participate in this unsanctioned and unauthorized tournament. Green fees are not included.

Tee off time is between 8 am and 2 pm. Only July 4th, there is 1 mulligan for the day. If you hit a mulligan, you must use it. Only July 5th, it will be a 1 man scramble, flighted from play on July 4th.

Cash prizes will be given to individual winners in each flight. A cash prize will also be awarded to the golfer hitting closest to the hole on holes 8, 9, 10 and 18.

Entrants must register before tee off and pick up the rules. Golfers must compete in at least a threesome and UIL 9 applies. Golfers must keep a neat and clean individual scorecard.

## Bronte Health and Rehab Auxiliary and Bronte Health and Rehab Center to hold July 4th Celebration

Well it's almost that time of year again, for the annual 4th of July Celebration to be held on Friday, July 4 at 6 pm that takes place at the Bronte Health and Rehab Center. The 4th of July Celebration includes a free meal of hot dogs and watermelon, a live auction (our only fundraiser), and a wonderful fireworks display.

I would like to take this opportunity to let the community know who the Auxiliary is and their purpose. The purpose of the BHRC Auxiliary, is to render volunteer services to the East Coke County Hospital District, dba. Bronte Health and Rehab Center and residents, by providing funds, services and material goods (such as equipment) to aid in its functions, services, and programs of the facility.

The BHRC Auxiliary is a non-profit organization. No part of its net earnings shall be inure to the benefit of any officer, director, member, or individual who has a personal and private interest in the activities of the BHRC Auxiliary; nor shall the BHRC Auxiliary ever declare or pay to any such persons any dividend or other distribution except for a reimbursement specific to BHRC Auxiliary expenditure.

Membership in the BHRC Auxiliary shall be open to all people interested in the community health and the welfare of the BHRC residents, and who agree to abide by the policies of the BHRC Auxiliary and BHRC. The BHRC Auxiliary has 3 levels of membership and of course all donations and memorials are welcome.

The BHRC Auxiliary

meetings are held every month except June, July, August and December. The monthly meeting are held every third Tuesday at 1 pm in the dining room at the BHRC.

Anyone interested in joining the BHRC Auxiliary, making a donation, or a memorial may contact Doris Sims, Secretary/Treasurer of BHRC Auxiliary, PO Box G, Bronte, TX 76933.

### Holiday Closings

The Coke County Courthouse and the Bronte and Robert Lee City Halls will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2014.

The Robert Lee Convenience Center will be closed on Saturday, July 5. There will be

no change in the Robert Lee trash service.

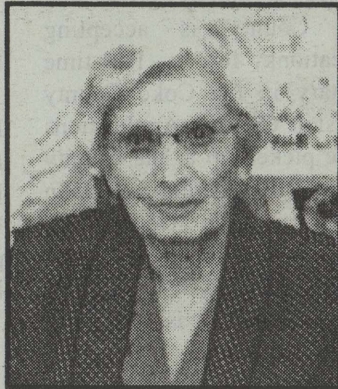
Residents are reminded that all fireworks are banned within the city limits. Any person that violates this ban may be issued a citation and fined. Residents are urged to call the local law enforcement to report any violations.

## Red Hat Society meeting slated

The Red Hat Society will meet July 10, 2014, at Noel's to enjoy a special meal she has planned for the group. Noel's is located 5 miles west of Robert Lee on Highway 158. Look for the Noel sign on the right, then follow the driveway through the

**Coleta Fenley**  
*is turning* **101**  
**July 5, 2014!**

**Happy Birthday**



**We Love You!**  
From:  
**Your Family**

## Area Churches Invite You to Worship

**Bronte**  
**Bronte Church of Christ**  
PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte  
(325) 473-3291  
Preacher John V. Driggers  
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm  
**Central Baptist Church**  
324 S. Franklin • Bronte  
(325) 473-4811  
Dale Patterson, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
11 am & 6 pm Worship  
Wed. 6 pm  
**First Baptist Church**  
424 S. Washington • Bronte  
(325) 473-2331  
Bro. Corey Cornutt, Pastor  
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,  
10:55 am Worship,  
5 pm Worship  
6 pm Youth  
Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting  
**First United Methodist Church**  
Corner of Washington & Holmes  
Bronte  
(325) 473-3281  
Rev. Everett Boyce, Pastor  
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship  
**Forgiven Ministries**  
117 W. Main, Bronte  
Russ Frasier, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am  
**St. James Catholic Church**  
215 N. Washington, Bronte  
(325) 365-2687  
Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor  
Sun. 5 pm

**Coke County**  
**Pecan Baptist**  
PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of  
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy  
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Minister  
www.pecanbaptist.org  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

**Robert Lee**  
**Bible Baptist Church**  
PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin  
Robert Lee, Young Houston, Minister  
Sun. 10 am Sunday School, 11 am  
Worship

**Emmanuel Pentecostal**  
PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy  
Robert Lee (325) 453-2360  
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm  
**First United Methodist Church**  
PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne  
Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417  
Cyndi Weidner, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice  
**Iglesia Bautista Betel**  
101 Houston • Robert Lee  
Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School  
11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm  
**Southside Church of Christ**  
PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston  
Robert Lee (325) 453-2176  
Jordan Arnold, Preacher  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 6 pm, Worship  
Wed. 6 pm, Worship  
**Northside Church of Christ**  
PO Box 508  
9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee  
(325) 453-2685, (806) 543-2118 or  
(325) 473-1053  
Services: Sun. 10 am  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**  
601 W. 10th, Robert Lee  
(325) 365-2687  
Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor  
Sat. 6 pm  
**Robert Lee Baptist Church**  
PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th  
(325) 453-2724  
Danny White, Pastor  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 7 pm, Worship  
Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting  
**Victory Assembly of God**  
(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638  
6th & Houston, Robert Lee  
Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship  
Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study  
**Tennyson**  
**Tennyson Baptist Church**  
Hwy 277 • Tennyson  
(325) 473-2040  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship  
Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

pasture until you come to the buildings. Ladies who live on the east side of Coke County who wish to carpool, need to be at the Bronte Bank parking lot by 10:30 am. Hope to see you there.

## County 4-H Camp slated

The 4-H County Camp will be held Thursday and Friday, July 10 and July 11, 2014, at the Presbyterian Encampment near Buffalo Gap. Plan on two fun-filled days of games and leadership activities.

This camp is for 4-H members finishing 3rd grade and entering the 8th grade. Please contact the office by

June 30, 2014 at 325-453-2461 or email coke@ag.tamu.edu if you plan to attend.

## Bronte Golf Tourney slated

The Bronte Longhorn Golf Club is sponsoring a 3 person 27 hole golf tournament on Saturday, July 26. Tee time is 9 am.

When signing up you must let them know if a cart is needed and leave a call back number. For more information, contact Bronte Longhorn Golf Club at 325-473-2156, 325-473-3231 or 325-262-6617. After 5 pm call 432-661-3431 or 325-864-3312 or 325-236-0089.

## Come As You Are

Sunday Mornings • 10 am  
Table Time • Tuesday evening  
Pot Luck 6 pm • Study 7 pm



**FORGIVEN MINISTRIES**  
Downtown Bronte • Across from Grocery Store  
Russ Frasier, Preacher



**Doc's Drugstore is now serving the residents of Coke County and the surrounding areas!**

**FREE DELIVERY OF YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS**

All residents are eligible to have their prescriptions filled and delivered by Doc's. Doc's eliminates the hassle of getting your medications!

No more trips to the "Big City" or waiting in long lines at the big box stores to pick up your meds.

**ALL ORDERS ARE DELIVERED DAILY.**

All your pharmacy needs delivered to you, including  
• Over the Counter Medications  
• Vitamins • Diapers • Herbals and More Pharmacy Items!

**Simple Billing & Payment Options**  
• All insurances accepted.  
• All major credit & debit cards accepted.  
• Extended Credit - Charge accounts available for approved customers.

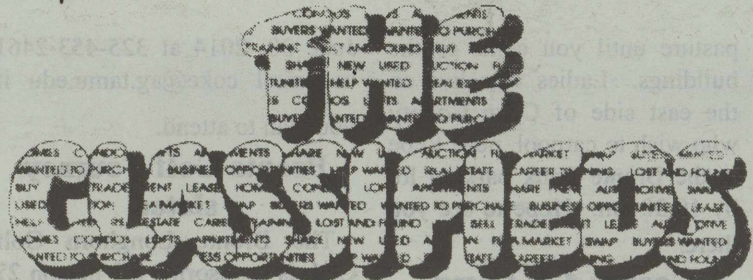
### How to Order:

1. Have your doctor call or fax your prescription to Doc's Drugstore.
2. We will process, bill and fill your order.
3. Your medications will be delivered to you - at your home, place of work, or another location -per your request.

*Doc's comes to you!*

**Toll-Free:**  
**844.383.DRUG**  
**Fax: 325.643.3811**





**BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT!**

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES**

Rates when paid in advance.

25¢ Per Word  
\$5 Minimum

Legal Notices:  
35¢ Per Word

*A service charge will be added to all ads which must be billed.*

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE**  
Tuesday at 10 am

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**FOR SALE**

**HOME FOR SALE**

323 Key St--Corner lot professionally landscaped 4br/3ba, 2442 sq ft home, 2 car garage & carport. San Angelo Real Estate 325-277-7653 Janie Thomas.

44-tnc

**Fish Fridays!**

**Catfish or Shrimp**  
All the Fixin's

**\$8.99**  
per plate

**CINDY'S**

409 W. 10th  
Robert Lee  
453-9200

**POLITICAL CALENDAR**

The Observer/Enterprise has been authorized to make the following announcements for the political offices in Coke County.

Each announcement must be a paid announcement.

**Coke County Judge**  
Roy Blair (Rep.)

**Justice of the Peace Precinct 1**  
Jackie Walker (Rep.)

**Justice of the Peace Precinct 2**  
Grady Coulter (Dem.)

**Commissioner Precinct 2**  
Paul Williams (Rep.)

**FOR RENT**

**BRONTE MINI STORAGE**  
Has storage buildings for rent. 473-2221, 473-0409.

45-tnc

**FOR RENT**  
8 x 10 storage units in Bronte. Call 325-473-3257.

14-tnc

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**KIM'S PET GROOMING AND BOARDING**  
1023 Austin, Robert Lee, Kim Harvey, 325/721-8493.

46-11tp

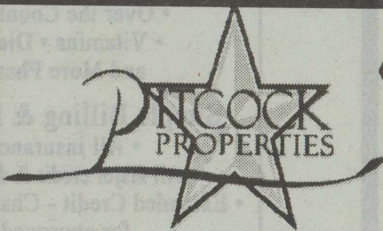
**KEATING PAINT & BODY**

Experienced Painter's Helper needed

**\$1500 SIGN ON BONUS**

**QUALIFIED ONLY NEED TO APPLY.**

**5050 N Chadbourne**



Farm & Ranch,  
Commercial, & Residential  
Real Estate  
Texas General  
Certified Appraiser

Jerrold Pitcock, Broker

www.pitcockproperties.com • (325) 650-4079

- 1,100 Acres in Runnels County, Minerals Available \$1,250/acre
- 813 Acres East of Robert Lee Good Surface Water, Lake Stocked with Fish. Easement Access \$1,350/acre. **SOLD**
- 2 Sections in Reagan County, House, 3 Wells \$695/acre.
- 632.1 Acres North of Robert Lee on Sanco Road, 3 BR, 2 BA House, 2 Water Wells \$1,375/acre.
- 4 Sections in Reagan & Upton Counties, 7 Water Wells, Good Hunting, \$685/acre.
- 50 Acres on Hwy 208 12 Miles North of Robert Lee \$125,000 Owner will drill well & provide electricity

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**GENERAL CONTRACTING**  
Handyman. Call for more information about services. Kenneth Prine (325) 453-2339.  
27-tnc

**HELP WANTED**

**CNA'S NEEDED**  
for Sterling County Nursing Home. Starting wages \$12.00/hour plus shift differentials and mileage allowance. Excellent retirement and insurance. Call Ashley Porter or Amanda Arispe at 325-378-2134

49-tnc

**COKE COUNTY WATER SUPPLY**  
Applications are being accepted for office secretary. Applicant must have knowledge of Quickbooks and Microsoft Office. Applications are available at the CCWSC office at 10390 W. Hwy. 158, Robert Lee, TX. Office hours 8am - 11am M-F or email to ccwsc@wcc.net. Equal Opportunity Employer.

51-2tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Coke County is accepting applications for a Part-time Secretary in the Coke County Extension Office. Applications can be picked up at the County Judge's Office or the Extension Office in the Courthouse. Applications need to be turned in by Monday July 7, 2014 in the Coke County Extension Office. Coke County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

51-2tc

**NURSES UNLIMITED, INC**  
Is seeking enthusiastic and outgoing attendants in the Bronte area to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep and light housekeeping. Part-time. E.O.E. Call: 1-888-859-0642

51-2tc

**ASH-CARSON REAL ESTATE**

453-5144 OFFICE • 21 E 6TH STREET • ROBERT LEE, TX  
JOE ASH • 473-0164 www.amcwesttexasranches.com

**Coke County Ranch & Recreational Land**

**New Listing: Exclusive Office Listing!** Large House, 380.801 ac. of ranchland NW of Robert Lee, Great Hunting

**New Listing!** - 3006.7 ac. all pasture land, Excellent Hunting \$1,000/acre

**1,120 acres** - 1/4 of minerals sold with property, good hunting \$1,350/acre

**1,122 acres** - High Fenced, Exotics sold with property, excellent water

**29 Acres** - Highway frontage. Used for hunting or commercial use.

**Other Tracts** - 316.5 ac, 215 ac, 6.15 ac, 795.5 ac in Runnels County

**Houses** - 3 BR/1 1/2 BA - Good Repair in Bronte

**Robert Lee** - 2 BR/2 BA - updated inside & out, many amenities

**Brick House on 2.6 acres**

**New Listing Cedar Cove** - 3 BR/2B Beautifully Landscaped

**COKE COUNTY TAX OFFICE**

Is now accepting applications for a full time office position. Applications will be accepted until July 11, 2014. Applications are available in the Tax Office or call 453-2614 for information. Coke County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer.

51-2tc

**NOTICES**

**BRONTE ISD**

Is accepting Dairy Product Bids for the 2014-2015 school Year.

List price per carton or pouch:  
Half Pint Whole Milk, Half Pint 2% Milk, Half Pint 1% Milk, Half Pint 1% Chocolate Milk, Half Pint 1% Strawberry Milk, Half Pint Skim Milk, Half Pint Buttermilk. Please attach a price listing of Ice Cream Products also. Bids must be

52-1tc

**CITY OF ROBERT LEE PUBLISHES WATER QUALITY REPORT**

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, A Consumer Confidence Report has been prepared and distributed to the customers of the City of Robert Lee. The report was mailed on 6-26-14.

52-1tc

**BRONTE HEALTH & REHAB CENTER**

Now Taking Applications for the following positions.

**Part Time RN or LVN**  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
10 pm to 6 am

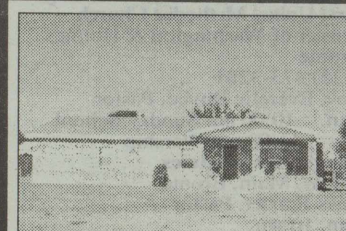
**Full Time LVN/RN**  
Sunday - Wednesday  
10 pm to 6 am

Apply in person at  
900 S. State Street  
Bronte, Texas,  
or online at  
www.brontehealthcenter.net  
EOE

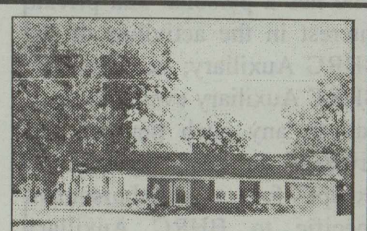
Bob Frazee's 944-0010  
473-6603  
**Texas Best**  
Deflooding & Carpet Cleaning  
24 hr. Emergency  
Water Damage Service

**Tony's Wrench**

201 W. 10th  
Robert Lee, Texas  
(325) 453-2640



**HILCREST ADDITION!** 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Brick Home! Bay window in Living Area! Formal Dining Room could be Office or 4th Bedroom! Oversized Master Bedroom & Closet! Stainless Appliances in Kitchen may stay!



**APARTMENT** with this Brick Home! 2 Living Areas & 2 Dining Areas! Large Sunroom or Game room! Custom Built in Cabinets and shelves in Den and Bedrooms! Fireplace! Fenced yard & Large shade trees!

**Concho Realty**

Office 653-4535  
www.conchorealty.com

Becky Clendennen  
Owner/Broker

Home 453-4748  
Cell 650-9729



**NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ida Jane Black were issued on June 24, 2014, in Cause No. PR1401804, pending in the County Court of Coke County, Texas, to Jana Beth Lehmann.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Jana Beth Lehmann  
Independent Executor  
Estate of Ida Jane Black, Deceased  
c/o John A. Hay, Jr.  
P.O. Box 271  
San Angelo, TX 76902-0271

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
DATED June 25, 2014.

HAY, WITTENBURG, DAVIS,  
CALDWELL & BALE, L.L.P.

By:

JOHN A. HAY, JR.

State Bar No. 09266500

P.O. Box 271

San Angelo, TX 76902-0271

325-658-2728/325-655-2278 (fax)

52-1tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

City of Bronte  
PO Box 310  
114 South Washington

325-473-3501

mailto:brontetx@wcc.net

The City of Bronte, Texas, is accepting bids to lease the sewer plant for the purpose of grazing livestock. Bids will be accepted until Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at 5:00 pm. Information regarding the lease can be obtained at the City Hall at 114 South Washington. Bids will be opened at the Regular City Council Meeting on July 10, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

If you need further assistance, please call the City Secretary at 325-473-3501.

52-1tc

*Homemade Pies,  
Cakes & Treats*

**CINDY'S**

409 W. 10th  
Robert Lee  
453-9200

**JOIN OUR  
TEAM**

Robert Lee Care Center is searching for qualified & motivated professionals and paraprofessionals to join our team.

We provide health insurance for our employees, with no cost to the employee, paid vacations, flexible hours, rewards, and incentives.

We are currently accepting applications for cooks and nurses.

Please come in and fill out application. We are located at 307 W. 8th ST. Robert Lee, TX

EOE

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF ROBERT LEE  
NOTICE TO ABATE -  
VIOLATION  
PUBLIC NUISANCE  
ORDINANCE #1110**

TO: Melvin Terrall  
PROPERTY: Blk 1 Lot 1-3 w/2 of 4 OT Riverview Dr.

TO: IB Properties Holding LLC  
PROPERTY: Blk 1 Lot 23 OT, 207 Zero Street

TO: John Muniz  
PROPERTY: Blk 1 Lot 24 OT, 205 Zero Street

TO: Larry Bell  
PROPERTY: Blk .61 Lot 6 OT, 122 Zero Street

TO: Barbara Cummings  
PROPERTY: Blk 88 Lot 6 OT, 318 E. 1st Street

TO: Virgil Aderholt  
PROPERTY: Blk 82 Lot 11-12 OT, 4th & Colorado

TO: Fern Wilcox Estate  
PROPERTY: Blk 50 Lots 5-6 OT, 222 E 5th St.

TO: Estate of Josephine Rocha  
PROPERTY: Blk 42 Lots S/65 of 11-12 OT, 1702 Washington

TO: Sandra Crenshaw  
PROPERTY: Blk 31 Lot 4 ANL 16th St. & Chadbourne

TO: Mortgage Contracting Services  
PROPERTY: Blk 36 Lot 1 ANL, 310 W 16th Street

TO: Tommy Hatley  
PROPERTY: Blk 33, Lots E/2 of 2, all of 3 ANL

VIOLATIONS: Failure to keep

weeds and grasses at a height of less than twelve (12) inches over all the property. Allowing an accumulation of rubbish, trash, and discarded items.

ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ABATE NUISANCE: Removal of rubbish, trash, discarded items and items that hold water for mosquitoes to breed. Mow weeds and grasses over entire property.

DEADLINE FOR ABATING NUISANCE: July 25, 2014

IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN TO ABATE THE NUISANCE VIOLATIONS, THE CITY SHALL ABATE SUCH NUISANCES AND ASSESS THE COST AGAINST SUCH PERSON OR ESTATE. THE CITY MAY ALSO ENTER UPON SAID PROPERTY AT 30 DAY INTERVALS DURING THE GROWING SEASON TO MOW THE WEEDS AND GRASSES.

BY: CITY OF ROBERT LEE

52-1tc

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
OF INDIGENT HEALTH CARE  
ASSISTANCE**

East Coke County Hospital District of Bronte, Texas will provide from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 Indigent Health Care service to all eligible persons who meet the Hospital District eligibility requirements. Any resident of ECCHD is eligible to apply for these services. Eligibility criteria includes household composition, income and other available



**Russell Davis**  
Agent

611 Austin Street  
PO Box 1079  
Robert Lee, Texas 76945  
(325) 453-4505 office  
(325) 453-4524 fax  
(325) 650-1904 mobile  
TXFB-INS.COM

**FISH DAY**

*It's Pond Stocking Time!*

4-6" Catfish.....	\$36 Per 100
6-8" Catfish.....	\$56 Per 100
8-11" Catfish.....	\$96 Per 100

Also Large Mouth Bass, Minnows, Crappie, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Sun Perch, Fled Ear Bream

To purchase 8-11" Catfish bring your own water & containers. Too big to bag

Wednesday, July 9th, 8 am to 9 am  
Front of the Line Feed  
Robert Lee, Texas

**Stock m'pond** Albin Catfish Available

Call Ahead for Large Quantity Orders  
**501-676-3768**  
Visit Us At: [www.stockmrvpond.com](http://www.stockmrvpond.com)


**IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.**

2012 Ford Flex Limited White Suede w/Black Leather	#7133	\$27,995	2011 Ford Expedition Golden Bronze w/Tan Leather • Rear DVD	#	\$27,995
2013 Ford Escape SE Ingot Silver with Gray Interior	#7149	\$23,997	2009 Ford Mustang Coupe Black w/Charcoal Cloth	#Q273A	\$10,695
2013 Ford Focus SE Ingot Silver with Gray Leather • Moonroof	#7150	\$18,695			
2013 Ford Explorer Limited Tuxedo Black w/Black Leather, Sharp!!!	#7158	\$33,995			
2013 Ford Fusion Ingot Silver w/Graphite Cloth Interior	#P147B	\$22,995			
2013 Ford Explorer Limited Tuxedo Black w/Stone Leather	#5192	\$33,995			
2011 Toyota Tacoma Sport Double Cab w/TRD Pkg. • Magnetic Gray w/Graphite Int. Really Nice!!	#P282A	\$24,994			
2013 Taurus Limited Silver w/Black Leather • Super Sporty • 21K Miles!	#7152	\$23,995			
2008 Ford F-250 Reg. Cab 4x4 Oxford White, 5.4 V8 • Great Truck for Anything!	#6643A	\$11,995			

**We are now doing state inspections.**

**453-4561**

Ask For: **Randy Flanagan • Billy Wayne Roe**



resources. Supporting documentation is required for all components of eligibility. Eligibility for Indigent Health Care services will be limited to persons who can prove residency in the ECCHD and whose family income meets the criteria of the current poverty income guidelines established by the Texas Department of Health and shown to be effective May 2003. Application for this program can be made at the business office of the Bronte Health and Rehab Center. This notice is made in compliance with the plan administration for annual public notification of service availability.

52-2tc

**MOWING SERVICES NEEDED**

The City of Bronte is now compiling a list of individuals interested in mowing overgrown properties. Individuals to mow each separate property will be chosen through a bid process. To be included on the list of bidders

contact the City Hall at 114 South Washington.

52-2tc

**RL Community Band to practice Tuesday**

Robert Lee's Community Band will meet for rehearsal July 8th at 6 pm in the high school band hall. Current members are asked to please attend and new members are still welcome.

*We hope you have enjoyed this issue dedicated to Coke County's 125th Year!*

**DARYL'S BODY SHOP**


300 STATE HWY 229  
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945

DARYL COPELAND, OWNER 453-2980

Licensed Insured


**A-BAN EXTERMINATORS**  
"A BAN ON BUGS"  
TERMITES, ROACHES, ANTS, MOTHS, ETC.

TIM BYRD, Owner  
Phone: (325) 944-4031  
Cell: (325) 656-6212



P.O. Box 861  
San Angelo, Texas 76902

**Finding Solutions for Your Financial Needs**

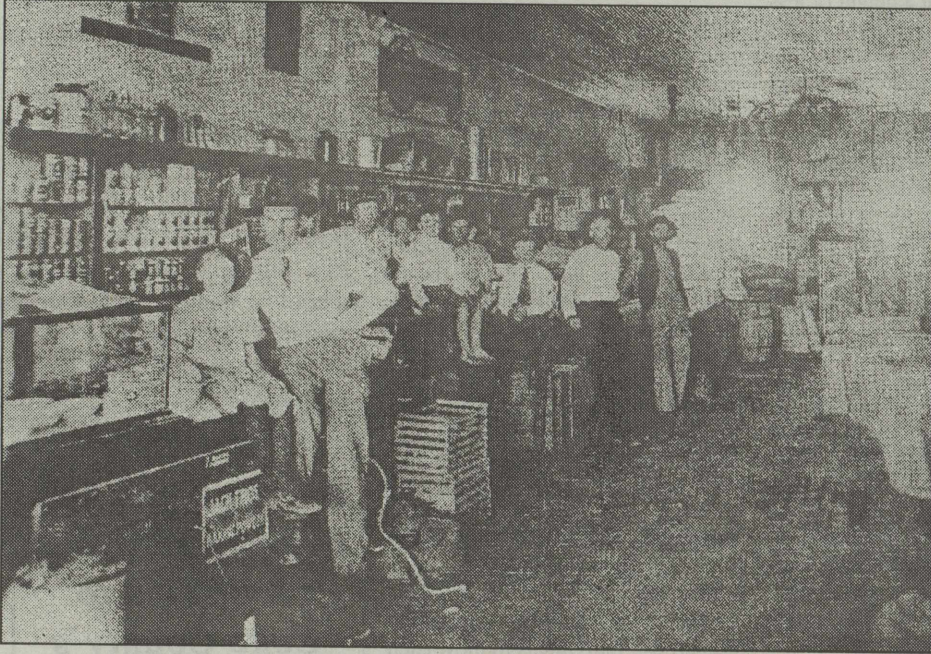


**Tommy E Neal, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor

2412 College Hills Boulevard  
Suite 102  
San Angelo, TX 76904  
325-223-8244  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING





Early Merchants! Two of the early stores in Coke County were J.W. Reed and Company (left) on Austin Street in Robert Lee and Cumbie & Son on Main Street in Bronte.

**1st Annual "Sons of Pitches"  
Midnight Madness Co-ed  
Softball Tournament**

**Friday-Saturday, July 25-26  
Robert Lee • Ages 14 & up**

Contact: Grace (325) 262-1546  
Gina (325) 234-9926  
or Renee (325) 473-1512

**Fireworks are  
prohibited inside the  
city limits of Bronte  
and Robert Lee!**

**Happy  
125th Birthday  
Coke County!**

**Shear Heaven  
Salon & Gifts**

Donna Hall • Family Hair Care  
121 N. Main • Bronte • 450-7720

*A Part of Coke County  
Since 1990!*

**Saluting  
Coke County**

**on our  
125th Anniversary!**

**The Board of Commissioners of the  
Robert Lee Housing Authority**

Bobbie Allen  
Brenda Ellis  
William Hood  
Joe Longoria  
Yvonne Devoll

**and the Employees  
Grace Todacheeny, Executive Director  
Martin Landeros, Maintenance**

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