



The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

The President Sends Greetings

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1964

I am delighted to extend my heartiest greetings and congratulations to the citizens of Coke County as you observe your Diamond Anniversary.

I commend you all on your past record of progress and achievement. May you sustain your vigorous spirit and may the years ahead bring continued growth and prosperity to your fine community.

Ft. Chadbourne First Settlement In Coke County

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

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

Comanche raids seemed to have been worst in the late 1840's and early 1850s. 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 Apr. 15, 1854, Bexar transcript to Runnels County.

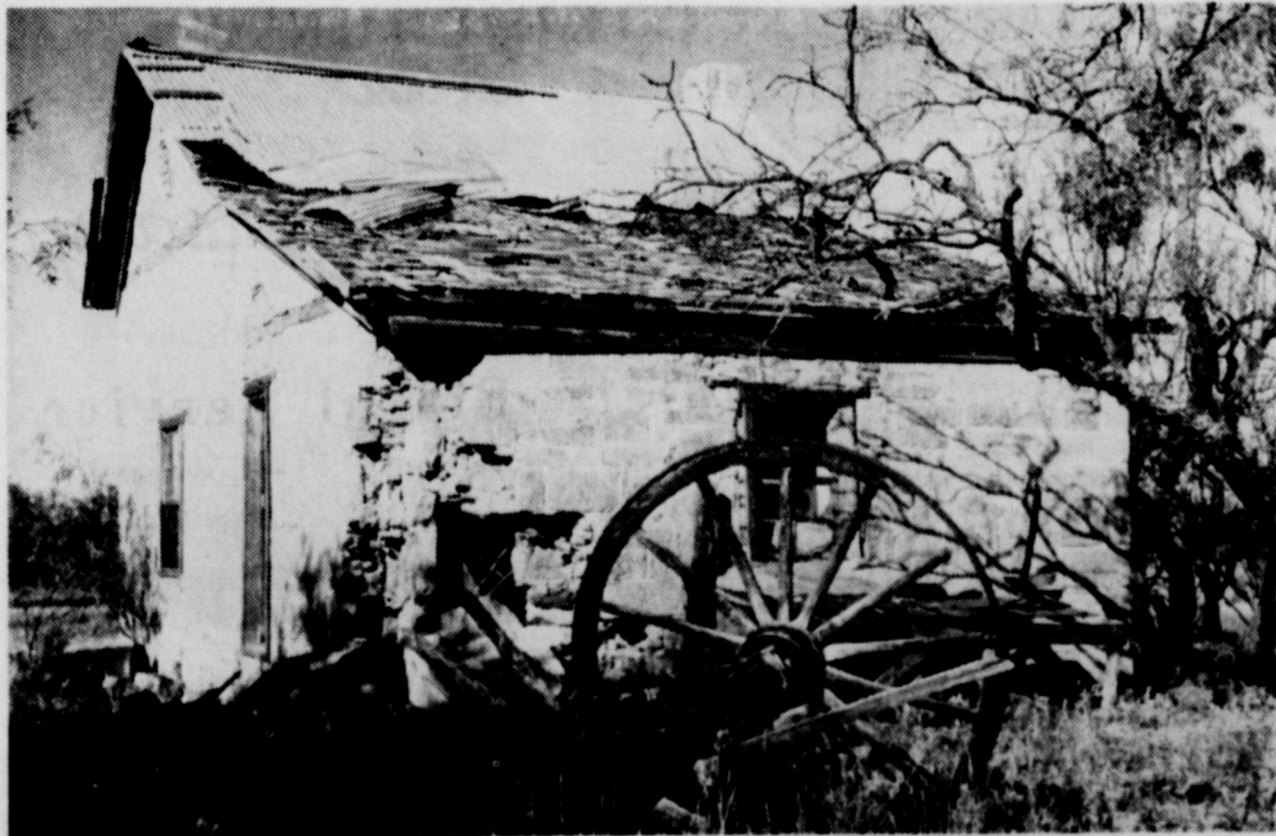
The base of supplies was San Antonio, 215 miles away. Before the Butterfield Overland Mail, a supply train left Fort Chadbourne once weekly for Fort Mason, 120 miles southeast, to receive the mail.

A Lt. Col. W. A. Freeman reported following an inspection of 1853 that almost the "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; seconds Lts. R. I. Dodge, R. G. Cole; Colonel John Garland; Major Pitcairn Morrison; Lt. Col. W.

See OLD FORT Page 8A



REMAINS OF TWO — Two of the buildings erected in the 1850s for U. S. Troops at Fort Chadbourne are partially still standing on the ranch of Mr. and

Mrs. C. H. Wylie. Over 100 years of wear have left their mark on the old stone structures. Photos courtesy Standard Times.



COMMISSIONERS COURT — Made a few years ago this picture shows all the present court with the exception of Floyd Harmon of Precinct 3 and Jack Corley of Precinct 4. Left to right, are: Weldon Fikes, county auditor; W. W. Thetford, county judge; Claude Ditmore, commissioner of Precinct 4; Fern Havins, commissioner of Precinct 1; Ed Hickman (now deceased), commissioner of Precinct 3; Howard Brock, commissioner of Precinct 2; J. L. (Chilly) Tink, county clerk.

Coke County Founded In 1889

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

White settlers began filtering into the region in the latter half of the 19th century, the names of the first settlers unknown. Conjecture is that they were people who had passed through this area and returned to their homes, telling of this vast grazing land; that they were Confederate veterans, who, returning home and finding their living gone, returned west; or that some were fugitives from the law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then Texan Rangers were sent into the area. On Jan. 7, 1884, Gov. John Ireland called a special

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

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

Organization

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

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

The people of the Concho country met the legal requirements and on March 13, 1874, the Texas Legislature created Tom Green County with Ben Ficklin as the county seat, and this was the second county seat for this area. The legislature failed to mention a northern boundary to Tom Green and the entire section of Texas to the north and west was in Tom Green for nearly two years. In 1876, 54 counties north were created out of the original Tom Green. Twelve counties to the west had also been created out of Tom Green.

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

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

Early in 1889, about 60 men met in a grove on the Colorado River, had a barbecue and planned the strategy. Ennis Adams rode horseback over the county, carrying the petition which was presented to the Legislature ask-

ing for the formation of the county. All legal requirements were met and on March 13, 1889, the Legislature created Coke County, described its boundaries and required calling an election of county officers within 30 days. The county comprised 931 square miles.

The county was named for Richard Coke, former Governor of and U. S. Senator from Texas. He was the first governor after reconstruction and carpet bag rule, starting his term of office Jan. 15, 1874, and serving to Dec. 1, 1876. His administration was devoted to reforms and writing a new Texas constitution, thus scrapping the "carpetbag constitution" of 1869.

The one adopted during his administration is the present Texas constitution, though it has been amended many times. He was elected to a second term and thereafter was elected to the U.S. Senate. He resigned the governorship to enter the Senate.

Indian resistance to the white man also ended during the Coke Administration. The committee to supervise the election was named by the Legislature and was made up of D. T. Fairley, Z. W. Withers and T. A. Collier.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

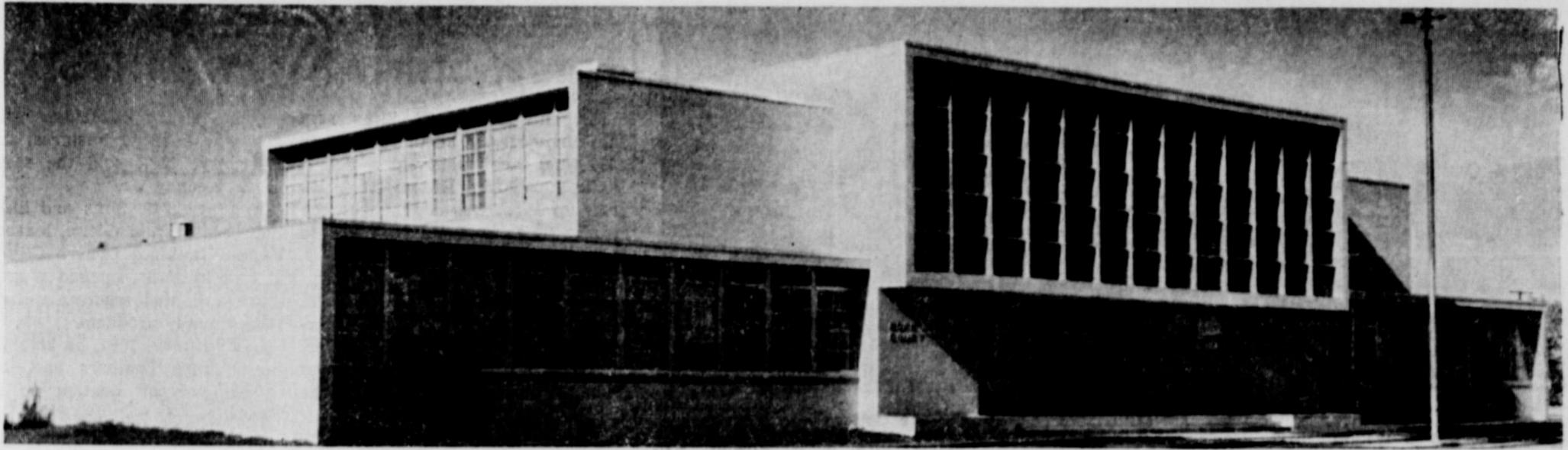
Adams was elected and his first official act was to call the removal election. Two sites were voted on, Robert Lee and Union City, which was on a flat four miles west of Robert Lee.

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

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

After the election the process See COKE COUNTY Page 8A

ORCHIDS...
TO EVERY RESIDENT OF
COKE COUNTY
ON OUR
75th Anniversary
Complete Floral Service
—Funeral Arrangements —Corsages
—Wedding Arrangements —Pot Plants
—Flowers for Any Special Occasion
Bronte Flowers & Gifts
Mrs. Hurlin Lee — Mrs. Tommy Berry



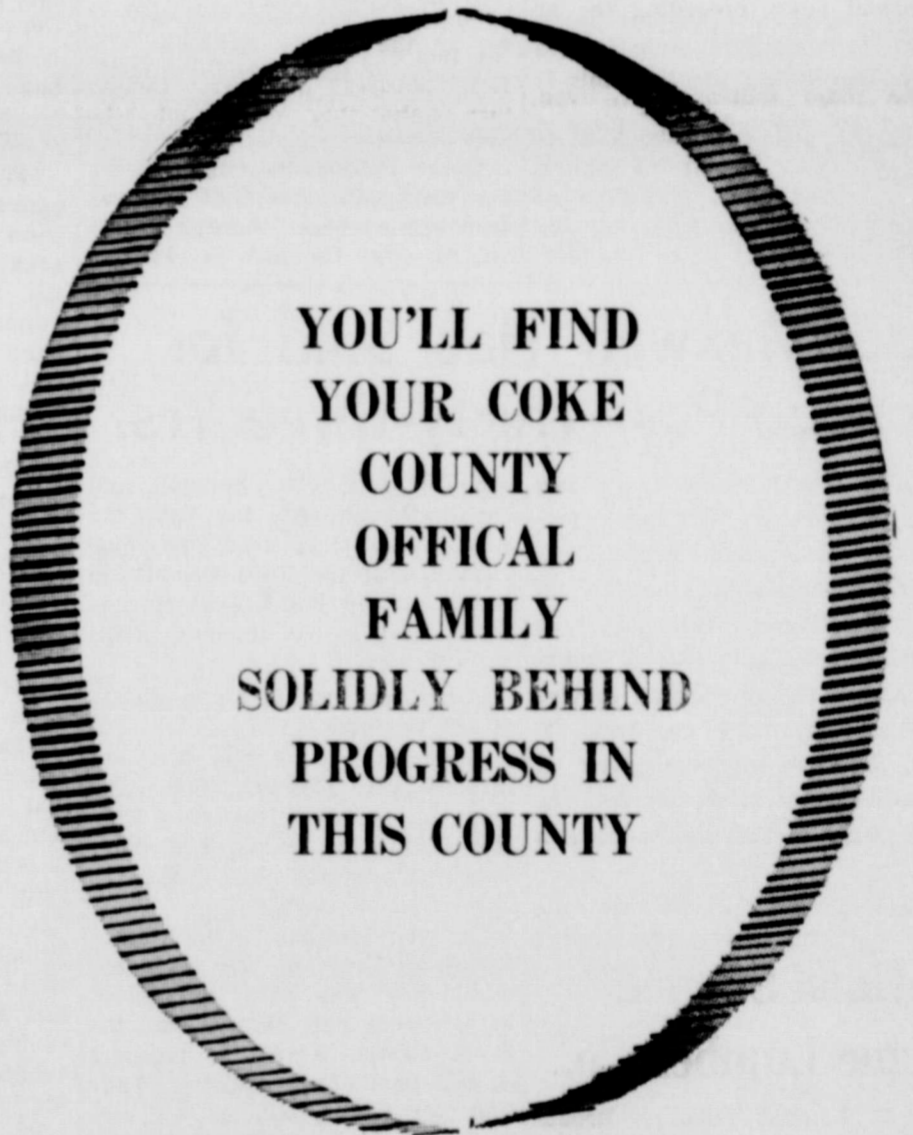
PROGRESS

DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN

IT'S PLANNED



**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**



YOU'LL FIND
YOUR COKE
COUNTY
OFFICIAL
FAMILY
SOLIDLY BEHIND
PROGRESS IN
THIS COUNTY

**Recent Improvements Made Under Direction
Of Your County Officials Include:**

- Hundreds of Blocks of Paved Streets in Bronte and Robert Lee
- A New and Modern Courthouse
- Two Beautiful Parks and Swimming Pools
- Several Miles of Paving and Numerous New Bridges in Rural Areas
- Practically All County Roads Calched and Good in All Weather

**COKE COUNTY WELCOMES
NEW INDUSTRY
NEW PEOPLE**

COKE COUNTY



A WAGON LOAD OF WOMEN— Mr. Will Hearrell has a wagon load of women from Maverick whom he brought to a celebration of the "coming of the railroad in May, 1909. A \$5 prize was offered and was won by Mr. Hearrell for the person bringing the most women and children to the affair. This picture was taken beside the bank building, is courtesy of Mrs. Will Hearrell, now of Abilene. She has identified them, as follows: top row, left to right: Lillie Slaughter (Mrs. N. B. Beard, Austin); Mrs. Vada Little, Abi-

lene; Will Hearrell (deceased); Mrs. Hortense Clinger (deceased); Miss Rena Hanley; Alice McCaulay (Mrs. Pond, Odessa); Miss Linnie Thompson; Mrs. Ellen Critz; (Mr. Critz is standing to left behind the wagon); Mollie Slaughter (Mrs. J. E. Young, Austin); Bernice Little (Mrs. Renza Lee); Miss Ann Seipp (deceased); Mrs. Maggie Thaxton Boynton (deceased); Miss Carrie Travis; Miss Mattie Thompson; Miss Kate Farris; Miss Quinta Huffaker; Etta Belle Hearrell (Mrs. Henry Todd, Abilene).

On the bottom row are Leonora Seipp (Mrs. J. E. Fowler, Ballinger); Mrs. Will Hearrell (wife of driver, Abilene); Miss Dale Williams (Mrs. O. R. O'Neal, Ballinger); Miss Johnnie Mixon; Miss Josie Glenn (Mrs. Guitard, Waco, deceased); Miss Eva Lilly, Norton; Miss Maggie Lilly, Norton; Miss Winnie Huffaker (deceased); Mrs. W. R. Little of Maverick (deceased); Clinton Little now of Houston, in her lap; and Mrs. Tom Gibson, nee Olive Brookshire (deceased).

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 is reflected in other stories in this 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 was 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 cen-

tury 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 the 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, 1809. They had 28.1 miles of track in Coke County before a 20-mile spur line was built from Maryneal 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" Lammers, father of Vernon Lammers, Leslie Lammers and Mrs. John Coalson. He was a stone mason. Vernon Lammers said the stone came from what is now the Taylor Emerson place, southeast of Bronte.

N. W. KIKERS CAME IN 1902

Coming to Bronte from Dublin in 1902 were the N. W. Kiker family. They lived here until 1924, when they moved to Portales, N. M. Mr. Kiker died there in Sept. 1958, and Mrs. Kiker continues to make her home in Portales. A daughter, Mrs. Jess Percifull, lives in Bronte.

Bud Maxwell Has Sold for Conoco Past Thirty-three Yrs.

W. H. (Bud) Maxwell, Jr. has been distributor of Conoco products in this area for the past 33 years. He started the Conoco agency in January, 1931. He was presented the Conoco Good Neighbor Award for outstanding service to his community on Jan. 18, 1962. The award was given at a luncheon by J. A. Martin, district sales representative of San Angelo.

Maxwell has served on the

school board, city council and equalization boards for both the school and city; was one time chairman of the Polio Foundation and American Red Cross. He has been active in the Masonic Lodge and Shrine.

Don Edmiaston is an employee of the business.

Maxwell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Maxwell, Coke pioneers, and moved here from Concho County in 1906. The elder Maxwell served many years as Coke County clerk.

He was married to the former Ernestine Craft in 1931 in Blackwell. She was born and raised in this area and her parents, the J. S. Crafts, were also pioneers in this part of the country. They had the first producing oil well in this county on their place many years ago (see oil section).

Maxwell spent a short time in the abstract business in Robert Lee before taking the Conoco agency, but remarked, "You can just about say I never had but one job."

The Maxwells have one son, Bill, of Dallas, who is a manager-trainee with Sears, Roebuck Co.

Lofland Started Home Lumber Co.

L. C. Lofland came to Bronte in 1955 to succeed O. H. Willoughby as manager of the South Texas Lumber Co. He had been with the firm in Blackwell and the Blackwell yard was being closed out. He had moved to Blackwell in that capacity in 1951, moving there from Roscoe. He is originally from Mexia.

Later when the South Texas Lumber closed out here, Lofland opened his own yard in 1959, named it the Home Lumber Co. and built the building just east of the railroad.

He is now in partnership with his son-in-law, Billy Magness. Magness was born and reared at Blackwell.

Mrs. Lofland is a native of Eastland County.

Sims An Old Timer In Grocery Trade; Started Here In 1939

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Sims went into the grocery business here in 1939 when he bought out a Red & White store from Ernest Ivey. He grew up here, was educated in the Bronte school and got his business training working for the T. C. Price Company.

In November of 1942 Sims went out of business to enter the service, receiving his discharge Mar. 1, 1946, after 39 months in the armed forces, part of which was in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

Shortly thereafter, in May, he

purchased the Alldridge grocery and was back in business, but in February, 1947, sold the store to J. L. Keeney Jr.

In May, 1949, Sims and his brother-in-law, Dale Glenn, leased the Banner building (where City Cafe is now located), opened a grocery store and sold wholesale and retail Banner products.

In February, 1950, he bought out the Holmes Brothers and moved to his present location on Main Street.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sims, the former Pauline Glenn, are members of pioneer Bronte families. They have one son, Tommy Glenn, who will be a freshman at Baylor University this fall. Sims is the son of Mrs. Emma Sims and the late T. F. Sims, and she is the daughter of Mrs. Mattie Glenn and the late J. B. Glenn. Both Mrs. Sims and Mrs. Glenn are residents of Bronte.

Lammers Bought Station-Groc. in 58

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Lammers returned to Bronte in 1947 from Houston and bought the Conoco Grocery and Station in 1958. The station is located on Main Street. The business had been operated by the late H. C. Murtishaw Sr. before Lammers took it over.

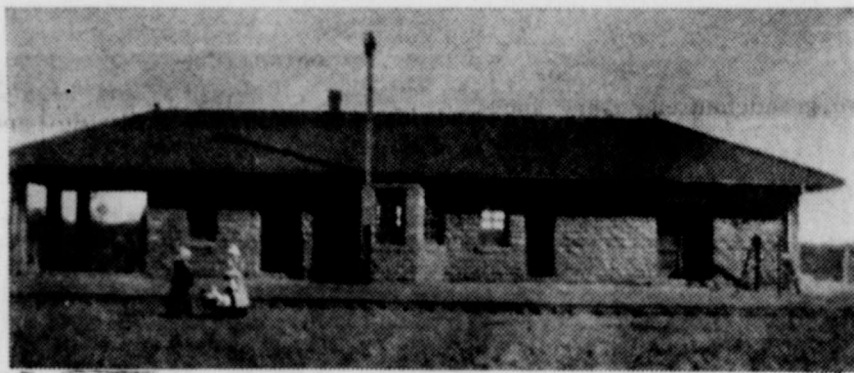
The Lammers are long time residents here and from January, 1948, through September, 1952, they operated a lumber company in the Rawlings building, next door to the present Bronte Enterprise location. When they closed out the lumber yard they moved to Houston and South Texas, until returning here to go into the present business.

Their children are James L. and Wendell Lammers, Houston, and Arlie Gale Lammers of San Jose Calif.

B. D. Snead Agent For Amicable Life

B. D. Snead began his insurance company in 1942 with Amicable Life Insurance Co. He is vice president and cashier at First National Bank, and a long time employee there.

His wife is the former Virginia Thetford and they have four children: Mrs. Norman (Hattie Jane) Roberts; Mrs. Jerry (Wanda Belle) Parker; Ben D. Snead Jr., of San Angelo and Billy Doak, a freshman in Bronte High School.



FORT CHADBOURNE DEPOT

McDonald Place Includes Old Town Of Ft. Chadbourne

The farm 10 miles north of Bronte now owned by W. D. (Pete) McDonald has been in the McDonald family since 1898 and completely surrounds the old town of Fort Chadbourne. The place was bought in 1898 by W. C. McDonald, grandfather of the present owner, and the two story house, which is vacant but still stands, was built in that year. Mrs. W. C. McDonald was the former Laura Doughty of Soddy, Tenn. The couple came to Coke County in 1896 and bought the farm two years later.

The original owner gave 80 acres of land for the original townsite of Fort Chadbourne but later he and his heirs were able to buy back most of the lots in the now ghost town and they are back in the farm.

The farm belonged to the elder McDonald until 1927 when he was killed in an accident and his son, Fred McDonald Sr., bought the interest of the other heirs. He owned the place until his death in 1954 when the ownership passed to his son, W. D. (Pete) McDonald.

Former Col-Tex Is Now Fina Station

The Fina Station (formerly Col-Tex) Station in Bronte was opened in November, 1960, and held their formal opening on Nov. 26, 1960. Free prizes were given by the new owner, Billy Joe Luckett.

Luckett remained in the business about a year and a half and sold to M. W. Freeman and son in June, 1961, who kept the station until December.

At that time G. D. Luckett took over the station and continues in the management at the present. The station is owned by G. T. Trusler of San Angelo, who operates a chain of service stations, known as Cactus Stations.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred McDonald Sr., were married and lived their married life here. Mrs. McDonald was the former Katherine Robinson, who was born Jan. 8, 1880, in Olive Branch, Miss., the daughter of the late W. J. Robinson and Nancy Crow Robinson. She married Fred McDonald Sr. in Sweetwater, Tex., on Aug. 10, 1899.

The family lived in the Fort Chadbourne community until 1924 when they moved to Bronte. Mr. McDonald was a prominent stock farmer and ginnee here for many years. Mr. McDonald died in December, 1954, and Mrs. McDonald died in December, 1957.

Their children were Mrs. A. N. Rawlings and W. D. McDonald, both of Bronte, W. C. McDonald of San Angelo, and Fred McDonald Jr., of Robert Lee, who was killed in an auto accident in 1957.

Home of Bronte Sisters Being Made Into Shrine for Literary Pilgrims

(Editor's note: Following is an article submitted to us in 1955 concerning the Bronte sisters, for whom our town was named. The story originated in Yorkshire, England, but was from an article in the Chicago Daily Tribune.)

HAWORTH, Yorkshire, England, March 13 — Here on the edge of a windswept, snow covered moor, newsreel and television cameramen are marking the 100th anniversary of the death of Charlotte Bronte.

Back in the 1780's, people were flocking to Stratford, birthplace of William Shakespeare, and turning it into what Stratford now is—the chief destination of literary pilgrims in Britain.

A New Shrine

Stratford is flourishing as never before but, up in Yorkshire, 138 miles north of Stratford, a new place of pilgrimage is beginning to flower—the bleak bare country where Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte, together with their brother, Branwell, lived out their short lives.

Here the atmosphere isn't so gentle and rich as it is at Stratford. There is no broad, tranquil Avon river with its proud, comely swans and no cozy straw-thatched timbered houses with gardens soon to put forth their radiant colors.

Charlotte's country is hard and bare. It takes heavy stone to keep a roof over one's head in the harsh winter wind.

Midlands On One Side

To look down over the cliffs on one side of Haworth, Charlotte would be amazed to see how the industrial midlands are creeping up toward the hill. But on the other side there is no change — only miles and miles of barren moorland with remnants of a black stone fencing.

The Bronte parsonage, kept as a museum, joins the moors at the back, and here the girls found

freedom and self-expression. But in front of the parsonage, its windows overlook the graveyard between it and the church. What a gloomy view this is! Haworth's cemetery, like the village itself, dates from Saxon days and there are records saying 66,000 persons have been buried here. The erect slabs stand up like a dark gray army ever at attention.

With their talent it is no wonder that Charlotte wrote "Jane Eyre" and Emily wrote "Wuthering Heights." But their own story is the saddest of all.

Settled in 1820

The Rev. Patrick Bronte brought his family to Haworth in 1820. The mother, five girls and one boy were a pleasant sight to the community when they first took their places in the church. Within 35 years, Rev. Mr. Bronte was left here alone except for his curate whom Charlotte married less than a year before she died at 38.

Charlotte and Emily are the cameramen's chief interest as they record the miniature books in white the Brontes made and wrote in so carefully as children.

The visitors haunt the interior of their house, the favorite spots on the moors including the old wreck of a house which was the model for "Wuthering Heights," the Black Bull pub of which the talented Branwell was too fond. Their cameras also record the concern of the good people of Haworth in keeping alive the tradition of what is now called "The Bronte Country."

Hayrick community has just bought a piano for Sunday School and church and other community use. Services are held in the school building which is not now in use for school purposes, the children being taken to Bronte by bus to school. Floyd Bagwell is bus driver.

—Coke County News, Feb. 21, 1936.



DATE IS 1910 and the happy occasion was a birthday party. The happy youngsters are Vernon Lammers, Louvenia Knierim, Homer Good, Elvie Smith, Paul Good (on donkey), Cova Clark, Walker Good, Winnie Walton, Homer Walton, Mae Walton, Overton Smith and Maudie Good.

Luttrell Has Built Big Business As Dirt Contractor

The J. D. Luttrell Dirt Contractor business has belonged to Luttrell from the start in 1952. Before that Luttrell was connected with his father in the farming and ginning business and theirs was the last gin to operate in Bronte, ceasing operation in 1958.

Now associated with Luttrell in the contracting business is his son, Mike. They have another son, James David. Mrs. Luttrell is the former Margaret Fletcher, daughter of the late Jim Fletcher and Mrs. Iva Newman. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Luttrell Sr. The elder Luttrell came to Coke County with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Luttrell in 1898. He was born in 1879 in Kentucky, moved to Texas (Williamson County) as a child, then on to Coke County. The family has made their home here since that time.

Mr. J. D. Luttrell Sr. was married July 16, 1902, to Miss Jenny Lou Williams, who died in 1931. In 1933, he was married to Miss Miranda Mobley, who still makes her home in Bronte. He started in the cotton ginning business in Bronte in 1912 and was a partner with J. L. Keeney in that business for many years. He helped organize First Methodist Church and build the old wooden structure which the congregation used for many years. He died in 1960.

Oak Creek Village Serves Lake Area

A resort and shopping center north of Oak Creek Lake opened early in September, 1961, and was called Oak Creek Village. It was built and owned by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. May and Mr. and Mrs. Bill May. The S. J. Mays are the present operators.

In the Village are a grocery store and market, cafe, service station, motel and washateria.

Caperton Sells Insurance, Too

Caperton Insurance Co. was started in 1954 by Matthew Caperton, a partner in the Caperton Chevrolet Co. R. T. Caperton was a partner in the business from 1958 until 1961, when Matthew took it over again. The business is conducted from the Caperton Chevrolet Co. building. Mrs. Caperton is the former Armilda Loooney of Robert Lee. They have four children: Janet, Matt, Savannah and Mark, all of the home.

Mrs. Whalen Owns City Cafe In Bronte

Mrs. Olga Whalen is proprietor of the City Cafe, located in the Banner building on Highway 277. She and Mrs. Earl Black put in the business in November, 1962, and she bought the Blacks' interest in November, 1963.

Mrs. Whalen is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Gregory of the Marie community and was married to Walter Whalen in 1926. He was a farmer and did oil field work until his death on July 22, 1962.

Mrs. Whalen has two sons: Greg, serving in the U. S. Army in Germany and Joe Blake, who is in civil service work in Fort Worth; and two grandchildren, Gary and Linda Kay, of Fort Worth.

Youngblood, Glenn Firm Was Started Fifty Years Ago

Parts of the insurance agency which is now Youngblood and Glenn were started a long time ago. L. T. Youngblood went into the insurance business in 1914 in Blackwell, and in 1924, he bought an interest in an existing firm which was known as Gollihar and Williams. He formed a partnership at that time with Mrs. Carrier Williams.

The partnership dissolved after several years of operation and Youngblood operated the business by himself until 1948, when he was joined by his son-in-law, E. F. Glenn. They have been in partnership since that time, and write all kinds of casualty insurance and bonds.



E. F. GLENN

Humble Station Built, Opened by Smiths in Thirties

The late C. C. Smith and his sons, Clytus, Otis and Curtis, built the building in 1932 which now houses Humble Service, and is operated by Hurlin Lee.

The Smith family operated the business until 1946. There used to be a garage in the rear of the building, and Texaco products were handled originally. The station was built before there was a highway in front of it, but Mr. Smith had received news that the new highway would run in front of the site, so he went ahead and built. The highway used to run through town on East Railroad Street. Mr. Smith was a photographer and builder as well as a service station operator. He built the old city hall in 1933, and he and his sons built the Scott Butane building in 1927.

Among pictures taken by Smith were some of the first train coming through Bronte in 1909. The family had moved here earlier that year. Mrs. C. C. Smith and sons, Otis and Clytus, and their families, still reside here, while Curcus lives in San Angelo.

The station was leased on July 15, 1946, to O. L. Pittman and Dwain Pruitt. They announced in January, 1949, they would be retail distributors here for Humble products. Pruitt left the business Dec. 15, 1956, to go to work for the Onyx Co., and Pittman continued the business until June, 1963, when Curtis Smith took over the operation.

In October, 1963, it changed hands again and J. A. and Dan Percifull operated the station until the end of the year, when Hurlin Lee took it over.

Lee is a former downtown merchant, having owned and operated Bronte Food & Supply for a number of years, buying it from J. W. Teague, who established it. The business was completely destroyed in May, 1962, when a fire burned almost half a block on Main Street.



MR. AND MRS. E. C. RAWLINGS

E. C. Rawlings Arrived in 1881; Played Important Role in Developing Area

Shortly after the organization of the county, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Rawlings were married, May 15, 1890, at Sanco, and together helped pioneer and organize this section of West Texas.

He was born Jan. 13, 1864, in Burnet, the son of M. J. Rawlings, former Texas Ranger, Indian fighter and farmer in Hoover's Valley. He came to Coke County before the organization, in 1881, when he was 17 years old. In 1893 he bought and settled the properties near Bronte which continue in the family today. He was connected with First National Bank since its organization and was chairman of the Board of Directors at the time of his death May, 15, 1950. They were charter members of the Methodist Church;

he served as county commissioner and for many years was school trustee. The discovery well in the Bronte oil field was brought in on his farm in 1948.

Mrs. Rawlings was born Jan. 16, 1869 in Limestone County, Texas, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Lasswell. The family came to Coke County when she was about 18, settling at Sanco. She was the last surviving charter member of the Methodist Church at the time of her death, May 15, 1957.

Children of the E. C. Rawlings include: Mrs. J. A. Carter, Mrs. O. R. McQueen, Mrs. Edna Butler, Mrs. Earl Box and Edward Rawlings, all of Bronte, and Carter Rawlings of Water Valley.



BOYS WILL BE BOYS
—Even back in 1910 the boys gathered on Sunday afternoon for a good time. The main difference in then and now is that they rode horses instead of cars. Photo courtesy Mrs. Mabel Brock

Central Drug Opening Date Was Spring Of 1913

In the spring of 1913, B. C. and W. H. Maxwell started the present Central Drug Store, although it was not then known by that name, in the building where the Cactus Cafe is now located. They moved the fixtures from Miles and Ten-

nyson. Some of the original fixtures are still in use.

In the fall of 1913, Jess Percifull bought a half interest with the Maxwell Brothers, but sold his interest to Larkin Hayley in 1914. The following year Hayley bought out the Maxwell Brothers and moved the store to its present location. At that time the post office of Bronte was moved to the drug store.

Mrs. Louisa Johnson bought an interest with Hayley and in later years became sole owner and operated the business for about a third of a century.

In 1945, she sold the City Drug Store to Mr. and Mrs. George Thomas and they changed the name to Central Drug, having their formal opening on June 9, 1945.

The new owners sold out in 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Jess Percifull who kept the store for 13 years before selling out to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kiker, present owners, in 1958.

The Kikers were former residents of Bronte but were living in Carrizo Springs at the time of the sale. He is a grandson of Mrs. S. A. Kiker of Bronte and is a graduate of Bronte School. Mrs. Kiker was reared in Ballinger. They have three daughters, LaJan, Kreta and Kathy.

Boyles Run Barber And Beauty Shop

John Boyles is a comparatively new owner of the barber shop on Main Street, having bought the business from Bob Wilson in 1963. Wilson had owned the shop for 12 years, coming here from Dublin and buying out J. O. Raney who had owned the shop for several years.

Boyles came here in 1961 with his family and taught school one year before buying the barber shop.

Mrs. Boyles attended beauty college in San Angelo after the couple moved here, and is owner of Mari-Ann's Beauty Shop, which was located downtown, but which she recently moved to their home.

They are the parents of three daughters, Johnna Le Ann, Chris-ann and Kelly De Ann.

TENNYNSON TINGLES

The April 25, 1924, edition of The Enterprise carried a column of locals called Tennyson Tingles.



AN EARLY DAY BELLE—Miss Annie McCutchen moved to this area when she was just a baby. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McCutchen. She still lives on her farm south of Bronte and is known to everybody now as "Miss Annie" Wilkins.

Mrs. Ben Murphey One Pioneer Who Was Coke Native

Many of the pioneers of this area were born in other places. The late Mrs. Ben Murphey of Tennyson and Bronte, was a native of this county, having been born Debbie Gunnels on June 2, 1894, at Valley View, near Robert Lee. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gunnels. She lived in Coke County all of her life except for short periods of time. She was married to Ben Frankin Murphey, in her parents' home on Indian Creek, July 29, 1913. They had six daughters, including Mrs. Marvin Corley of Bronte.

In an interview with The Enterprise in 1955, Mrs. Murphey told of the time her first daughter, Eula, now Mrs. R. T. Kinney of Arizona, was born. They were living on Indian Creek. Her younger brother, Ben Gunnels, about 16, rode horseback to Robert Lee for Dr. Turney. After racing the seven miles, he found Dr. Turney out of town. He then rode on 12 miles to Bronte to summon Dr. J. D. Leonard. Ben rode ahead of Dr. Leonard all the way back to Indian Creek to open gates for him. Dr. Leonard, in horse and buggy, never slowed down until he had reached the Murphey home.

Mrs. Murphey also recalled for The Enterprise that her only train ride was when they went to Ranger in 1918 during the big oil boom there. They stayed there about eight months, with Mrs. Murphey cooking for the oil men. Together the couple saved about \$200 and started home. On the train enroute home, Mr. Murphey was robbed of the \$200.

Murphey was a farmer most of his life. He was born Feb. 16, 1884, at Bowie, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Murphey. He came to Coke County in 1905 and lived here until his death in February, 1962. Mrs. Murphey died in 1960.

TENNYNSON SPECIAL EDITION

The April 25, 1924, edition of The Enterprise was devoted largely to advertising to the people of Tennyson and from the business firms there. It described the town as a thing of much beauty, situated at the bottom of towering Mount Margaret.

Robert Knierim Was Founder of Home Motor Co.

The Home Motor Company has been in continuous operation since 1912 when it was established by Bob Knierim in the present location. During the time he was Magnolia agent for a number of years and was a Ford dealer here for 12 years.

In 1947, R. W. Rees, his son-in-law, announced that he had purchased a half-interest in the business and building, and the partnership existed until the death of Mr. Knierim in December, 1961.

Also in 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Rees opened the Bronte Insurance Agency in the Home Motor Company building.

The Knierims are long time residents of this area. He came here in 1904 from East Texas. His first venture was in the grocery business but he remained in it only a short time for, as he once stated "there were not enough customers in a little village of 50 persons." He turned to building of the first telephone, 50 miles, from here to Sweetwater and later organized the Bronte Power and Light Co., owning and operating the first electric light plant here.

He was mayor of Bronte 1918-1922 and Lake Knierim, near the present county park, was built at this time. Always interested in water for this area, Mr. Knierim held the UCRA water rights in his own name for many years.

He and Miss Minnie Clark were married Sept. 21, 1905, in an outdoor ceremony on Cedar Mountain. Mrs. Knierim is still living in the house they moved into after their marriage. Mrs. Knierim was born in Palo Pinto County and came to Coke County with her parents as a girl. She was a teacher before her marriage.

They have two children, Mrs. R. W. (Louvenia) Rees and J. Robert Knierim of San Angelo.

Mr. Rees was born and raised at Center Point and was in the insurance business there before the war. He is also a former school teacher.

THANKS, FRIENDS...

The occasion of our county's Diamond Anniversary reminds us that we appreciate the business you have given us through the years and we are truly grateful. We hope each of you has a big day next Monday at our Big Celebration.

BRONTE MOTOR CO.

Complete Automotive Service

Charlie Boecking — Your Independent Garageman



Best Wishes to All
COKE COUNTIANS

DURING OUR

Diamond Aninversary Year

Whether you are 5 or 85—Motion Pictures offer you the finest entertainment in the world today. New, modern techniques have made motion pictures better than ever. Visit Coke County's two theatres often for more fun.

ALAMO THEATRE

ROBERT LEE

TEXAS THEATRE

BRONTE

WOJTEK BROS., Owners

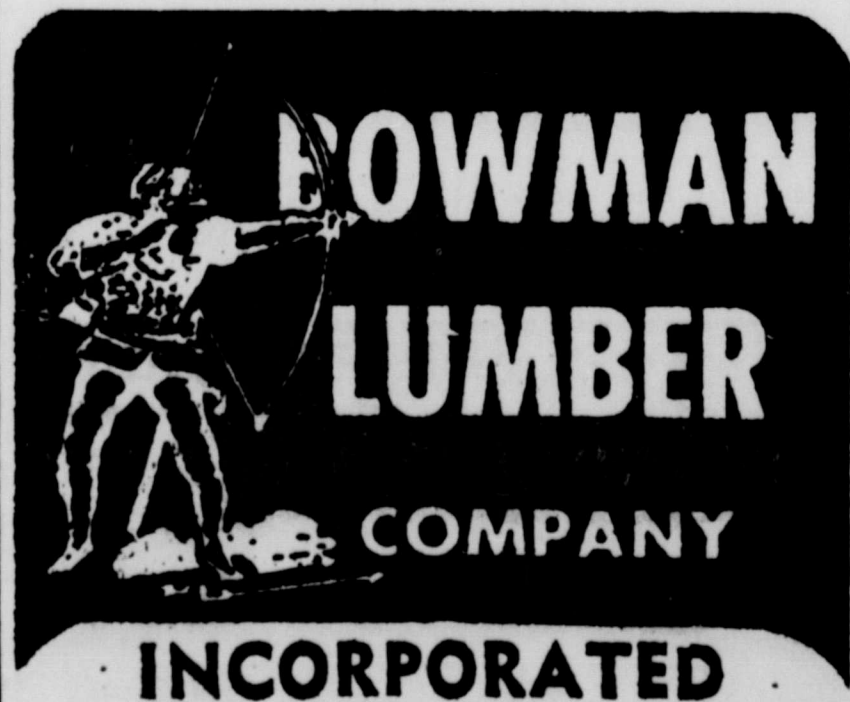
DIAMOND

Anniversary

GREETINGS

COKE COUNTY

Lumber bargains, building materials, and ranch and farm supplies. Complete selection of Pee Gee Paints. Fencing, Aermotor windmills, hardwood and fir plywood. Anything to build or remodel. Home remodeling and repairing, with up to 5 years to pay.



1007 N. Chadbourne

Phone 655-7313

SAN ANGELO



FIRST METHODIST PREACHER—The Rev. Green Cotton Fields was the first Methodist preacher to brave the frontier of Coke County and served as first

pastor of the Hayrick Methodist Church. Beside him is his wife. Mr. Fields later moved into the Edith community where he lived and raised his family.

Flower Shop Has A Complete Line

Beginning for the Bronte Flower & Gift Shop was in November, 1953, when more than 350 persons attended a formal opening of Estelle's Flower and Gift Shop, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Claude Word. The Business was located where Hughes' Television shop is now located.

Mrs. Hurlin Lee took over the shop in the same location in January, 1958, and changed the name to Bronte Flowers & Gifts. She later moved the shop to her home across the street from Bronte Hospital where it was in business until September, 1963, when Mrs. Lee sold an interest in the business to Mrs. T. C. Berry Jr. of Fennyson. The business was moved back to town in the Cumbie building next door to Boyles Barber Shop.

BUILDS AN ELEGANT HOME

(From Enterprise April 25, 1964)

J. B. McCutchen is having a residence erected on the lots he bought some weeks ago in the south part of town.

It is to be brick veneer structure. The Meyers Construction Co. of San Angelo has the contract and work will be rushed until the building is ready to occupy.

(Note: This must be the house occupied by the Jake Henry family and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Binks McCutchen.)

Bronte Lions Club Almost 17 Years Old

The Bronte Lions Club is an outgrowth of the old Community Service Club who voted themselves out of existence in 1947 and voted to turn over their funds to the proposed Lions group.

The club was chartered Dec. 16, 1947, with a banquet at the school. Frank Robertson of San Antonio, then district governor, presented the charter and Judge E. C. Grindstaff of Ballinger made the speech. L. T. Youngblood served as toastmaster at the banquet.

First officers of the group were Vernon Lammers, president; R. T. Caperton, first vice president; Rev. Alvin R. Mauldin, 2nd vice president; Norman Kiker, 3rd vice president; Arnold F. Ball, secretary-treasurer; J. B. Mackey, Lion Tamer; Charlie Boecking, Tail Twister. First directors were Youngblood, H. O. Whitt, Otis Smith and T. H. Rogge.

The club had 22 charter members, including the officers mentioned above, and Steve Badley, C. E. Bruton, Emmett Caperton, Edward Cumbie, Jeff Dean, Ed Fletcher, Ed Nunnally, Noah Pruttitt, R. W. Rees, J. B. Mackey and Sam Spruell.

During its 17-year-old life, the Lions Club has made a great many contributions to community projects and other worthwhile causes. One of its first big projects was the purchase of a used school bus for West Texas Boys Ranch at Tankersley. The club contributes regularly to the Lions Crippled Children's Camp near Kerrville. In early days, Christmas celebrations downtown were sponsored by the club, and one of the projects which has never been stopped is delivery of fruit and candy at Christmas to elderly residents of the community.

Much credit for the construction of six flood control dams on the Kickapoo Creeks is due the Bronte Lions Club. When interest in the project began to wane back in the 1950s, the Lions got behind it, appointed a committee to work, and saw it through to a successful conclusion.

The Lions hold a broom sale each year, which is a profitable venture for the club, but most of the money taken in goes to blind persons who produce the goods sold.

Butane Service Co. Started in 1935

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Smith founded the Butane Service Company in 1935, and operated it for 12 years before selling it. The Smiths were long time residents of Bronte before they founded the business and still live here. It was located on highway 277 in part of the present Caperton Chevrolet Co. building. The business was sold April 1, 1947, to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Ball, who sold it eight years later to the day, April 1, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Sims. Mr. and Mrs. Sims are also long time Bronte residents and still reside here. The Sims continued the business in the same location until 1958 when they constructed a new tile and concrete building which was formally opened in December, 1958. Part of the new building was used for an automatic laundry; part for a hardware store and the butane business.

In August, 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Ivey purchased the butane part of the business. He maintained an office in the Sims building until he purchased a building from J. D. Luttrell Jr. further north on Highway 277, which now houses the Butane business and a recreation hall.

Mrs. Ivey has operated a beauty shop for several years, part of the time at their farm home north of Bronte and more recently at their new home in Bronte.

Ivey is a native of Bronte, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ivey. Mrs. Ivey is the former Louveta H. Jones. They were married in 1949 and have three children, Rocky, Rhonda and Carolyn.

Bruton Long Time Businessman Here

The White Auto Store was opened on Nov. 1, 1946, by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bruton. At that time Bruton was also local agent for Cosden products, in the Lester Webb present location.

In March, 1947, White Auto moved to a new location on Main Street between the Keeney Variety Store and Smith Hardware. In December of that year, Bruton bought the present building from the Keeney Estate and the store was moved to its present location. The store was completely remodeled following the fire in May, 1962, which burned three businesses on Main Street.

Bruton has been active in civic affairs since he started in business in Bronte. He served as president of the old Community Service Club in 1946. In 1951, he was appointed Justice of the Peace to serve the unexpired term of A. E. Beil, and held the office until 1956.

Also in 1956, he acquired property from Mrs. Lula Hines of San Angelo and opened up a new residential area in the south part of town at the end of Washington Street.

YOUNG LADIES IN RUNAWAY

(From Enterprise Nov. 1, 1912)

Enroute to church and Sunday school Sunday morning from the home of G. W. Keesee, northeast of town, Miss Claudie Keesee and here guest, Miss Willie Bone, had an exciting experience. The horse they were driving got unmanageable and ran away.

You're Invited

TO THE BIG
CELEBRATION

In Honor of the

75th Anniversary

of

COKE COUNTY

Monday,

September 7

City of Bronte

Royce Lee, Mayor—C. E. Bruton, Royce Fancher, Bill Luckett, Elmer Hurley and Martin Lee, Councilmen



PRESENT COUNCIL—Standing, from left, Martin Lee, C. E. Bruton, Elmer Hurley, Mayor Royce Lee and Royce Fancher. Seated, Billy Joe Luckett.

OUR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Modern Water System
- Sewer Service
- Garbage Disposal
- Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Police Protection
- Plentiful Street Lights

OLD FORT — —
Continued from Page 1A

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 Cavalry 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 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 for a short time. Lee, stationed at Camp Cooper, and two companies of men traversed the Valley of the Colorado in what is now Coke County twice in the summer of 1856.

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

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

The Fort Chadbourne cemetery, adjacent to highway 158, is another historic spot, one of three cemeteries in that vicinity before 1877. The one near the highway is still in use. It holds the grave of the first officer to be buried at Fort Chadbourne and citizens buried as early as 1878. A number of other graves are scattered around the Wylie Ranch, many unmarked and unknown.

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

COKE COUNTY —
Continued from Page 2A

of moving began. People did not remove the contents of their houses, but rode to Robert Lee in the houses. There was no courthouse to be moved and county offices were placed in various rented offices. The county clerk and county attorney moved into a rented small frame building with what records they had managed to salvage from the Hayrick fire, but two weeks later, Jan. 27, 1891, this building burned, destroying the remaining records.

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

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

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

Oldest Business

The Robert Lee Observer is the oldest continuous business institution in Coke County. It had its beginning in Hayrick in June, 1889, three months after the organization of the county. The first issue was "The Coke County Democrat," a four column, four-page paper "published by Warren and Edgar" at Hayrick. It changed hands often in the early days. The plant was moved to Robert Lee in 1891 when the county seat moved. It was then named the Coke County Rustler. The name was changed to The Robert Lee Observer in 1904, under editor J. T. Rankin.

Those editors and publishers who at one time or another were connected with the Robert Lee Observer include: J. S. Brady, Sam Wilkins, Gray Reed, Tom Durham, Irvin and Pritchard, Mer-



DR. AND MRS. W. F. KEY, one of the earliest settlers of Bronte. Dr. Key built the first store here. The Keys are mentioned many times in this edition of the paper in connection with the earliest events of the town.

Hurley Pharmacy Began 2 Years Ago

Another relatively new business face in Bronte is Elmer Hurley, of the Hurley Pharmacy. He came here with his family in September of 1962 to open the pharmacy located just north of the Harris Clinic.

Although he is new in business here, Hurley is a native of Coke County, having been born and reared in the Edith community. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hurley of San Angelo. He is also a grandson of Mrs. Nannie Thetford and a nephew of Mrs. B. D. Snead, both of Bronte, and a nephew of Coke County Judge W. W. Thetford.

The pharmacy itself is a fairly new business, having been built in 1960. It was first formally opened early in June, 1960, by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne B. Patterson of San Angelo. Patterson closed the pharmacy in February, 1962, and Bronte was without the services of a pharmacy until later that year when the Hurleys moved here.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurley built a new home in the southeast part of town where they live with their four children, Sharon Hurley, Jerry Don, Donnah and Melody Holcombe.

Active in civic, school and church affairs, Hurley is chairman of First Methodist Church official board; president of Bronte Parent-Teachers organization and a member of the city council. He has also served as chairman of the annual Heart Fund drive for funds in Coke County.

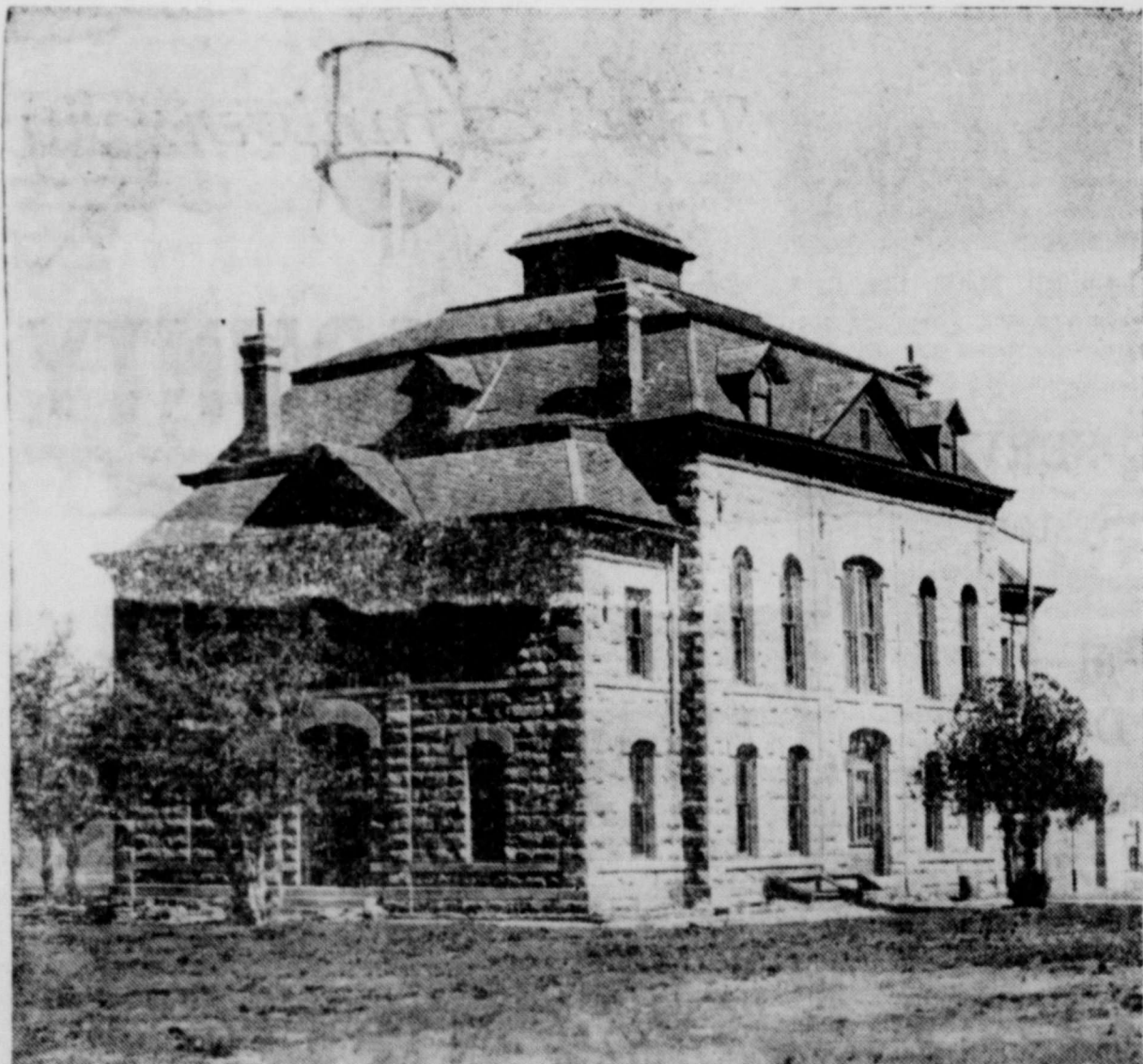
Patronize Our Advertisers

chant 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, John King and the present owner, Ulmer Bird.

Social and economic development of Coke County is treated in other articles in this newspaper, dealing with schools, churches, organizations, agriculture, oil and others.



Dr. John R. Harris, owner of Bronte Hospital, came to Bronte in 1947 and has been practicing here since that time.



PASSING OF AN ERA — Old Coke County Courthouse was erected in 1891 at a cost of \$27,000 and the old cornerstone carried the names of Martin, Byrns and Johnson of Colorado City as the builders. On the other side were

the names of the county officials of that date (given in another story in this paper.) The inscriptions were chiseled into the stone that was quarried from Hayrick Mountain.

This building served as the

courthouse for 65 years and was torn down when the new \$300,000 structure was built in 1956. The old building was constructed soon after the county seat was moved from Hayrick to Robert Lee.

Serving the Oak Creek Lake Area With Modern Facilities

GROCERY & MARKET
MOTEL
SERVICE STATION
CAFE
WASHATERIA

We invite everyone to make use of the modern facilities we have provided.

Happy Birthday to All Coke Countians

OAK CREEK VILLAGE
South of Blackwell on San Angelo Hiway
MR. & MRS. S. J. MAY



Celebration to Be Monday

Austin Sandusky Dies In Hunting Accident

Austin Sandusky, long time Bronte farmer and stockman, died at 11:20 a.m., Wednesday in the Bronte Hospital, as a result of injuries suffered Tuesday afternoon in a hunting accident.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 3 p.m. at Bronte Church of Christ. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, under direction of Williams Funeral Home.

Mr. Sandusky and Delbert Ray Coalson of Silver were hunting on what is known as the old Rosser place, about four miles west of Bronte when the accident occurred. Coalson related that a shot from the 12 gauge shotgun struck Sandusky after they stopped at their pickup. Coalson said Mr. Sandusky was standing at the rear of the pickup, and he was not sure whether he dropped the gun or whether he had laid it down in the pickup and it fell to the ground.

The injured man was able to walk on around to the front of the

vehicle and climb in. Coalson said Sandusky lost consciousness shortly after sitting down. Coalson drove him to Bronte Hospital. Dr. Ray Boster was called in early Wednesday morning to confer with Dr. John R. Harris concerning Mr. Sandusky's condition.

Death was caused by extensive injuries to his chest and left arm.

Survivors include his wife, the former Ruth Hickman; one daughter, Mrs. Louise Snyder of Dumas; two sons, Judge Sandusky of Hondo and Gerald Sandusky of Leveland.

Also five brothers, J. D., W. R., and Ed Sandusky, all of Merkel, Jess Sandusky of Bromide, Okla., and Elmer Sandusky of Arkansas; four sisters, Mrs. L. W. Beaty and Mrs. A. M. Wynne, both of Bronte, Mrs. W. N. Watson of Duncan, Ariz., and Mrs. Ora Lee Hines of Coolidge, Ariz.

Mr. Sandusky was a member of Bronte Church of Christ, and was a long time elder of the church. He was also active in soil and water conservation work in this county.

AD-LIB-BEN

We hope you like our anniversary edition; we have worked long and hard on it and tried to include as much historical information concerning Bronte, organization of the county, concentrating largely on the east side of the county and the Bronte trade area, as we could dig out in a limited amount of time and put out with our limited personnel.

We know in advance that there are some conflicts in dates and information, but we have tried to verify them wherever possible.

We owe a whole lot of people a whole lot of thanks and we cannot name them all. We are especially indebted to Mrs. Bryan (Jessie) Yarbrough of Robert Lee. She gave us permission for a free use of her "History of Coke County" written in 1953; opened her historical files to us and did the research and story on the early history of Bronte Schools. She has made many telephone calls, several trips to Bronte and San Angelo and made at least one telephone call to Washington, D. C.

To Mr. R. E. Cumbie, Mrs. Annie Wilkins, ministers of the local churches, to all who brought in old pictures, papers, clippings with the information to accompany them, we are grateful, whether or not the material was used. Mr. Ulmer S. Bird, publisher of the Robert Lee Observer, gave us a free rein in use of his collection of pictures and the files of his newspaper and we are grateful to him.

To the advertisers of Bronte, from whom we had almost 100% cooperation. See AD-LIB-BEN Page 8B

Enrollment Down Slightly from 1963

First day enrollment at Bronte School was down slightly from last year. A total of 257 students registered on opening day, Monday. Last year, 268 were signed up. Supt. C. B. Barbee said he expected late registrants to bring the total up to about 265.

The enrollment by grade is as follows:

First, 25; second, 19; third, 22; fourth 23, fifth, 22; sixth, 24; seventh 27, and eighth 16. In high school there are 27 freshmen; 18 sophomores; 14 juniors and 19 seniors.

Barbee said the 1964-65 school year got off to a good start this week, and he is looking forward to a successful year.

Monday will be a holiday for the school, as the students will be dismissed for Labor Day and Bronte's celebration of Coke County's Diamond Anniversary.

PROGRAM

Monday, September 7, 5:50 P.M.

- Announcements Mayor Royce Lee
Master of Ceremonies
- Flag Raising Ceremony Bronte Boy Scouts
- Star Spangled Banner Bronte Longhorn Band
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Led by H. O. Whitt
Adjutant, George Scott Post, American Legion
- Invocation The Rev. Murrell Johns
Pastor, First Baptist Church
- BARBECUE DINNER AT 6 P.M.
- Welcome Address Edward M. Cumbie
- Recognition of Old Timers and Special Guests Mayor Royce Lee
- Presentation of Queen Mother Bronte Jaycees
- Remarks and Presentation of Speaker Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough
President, Coke County
Historical Survey Committee
- Address and Dedication of Historical Marker
..... Hon. John Ben Sheppard
President, Texas Historical Survey Committee
- Participation in Dedication Ceremony and Remarks
..... Hon. Dorsey B. Hardeman
Senator, 25th District
- Presentation of Miss Bronte Bronte Jaycees
- Period of Visiting

Good Rain Falls Here Over Weekend

Three to four inches of rain fell last weekend in the Bronte area. The moisture started falling late Saturday, when 2½ to 3 inches fell

in a hard downpour. Then, Sunday night another good shower came to increase the weekend total.

Football Scrimmage Set for Thursday

A football scrimmage will be unrehearsed at 6:30 p.m. tonight at May. Fans are invited to follow the Longhorn squad to May and witness the battle.

The May squad came to Bronte last Thursday night for a pre-season contest.

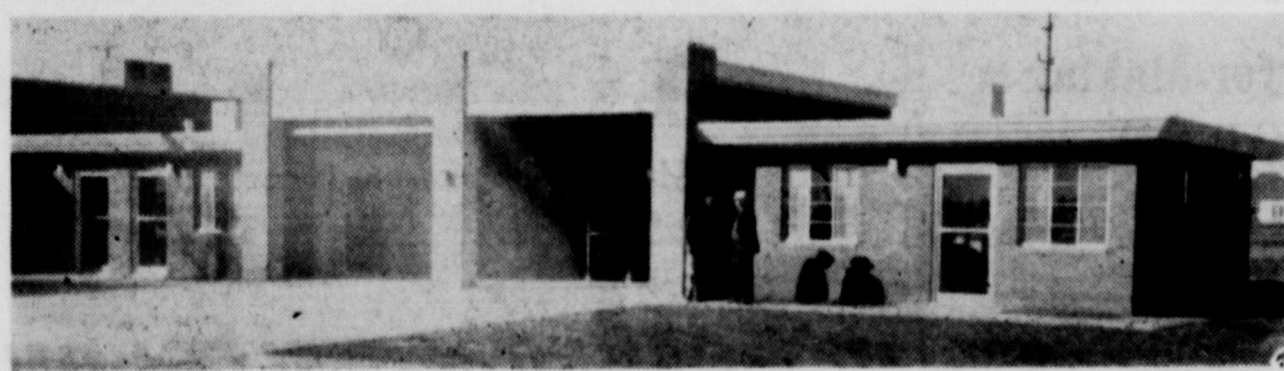
SOROSIS CLUB NOTICE

Sorosis Study Club will meet Friday, Sept. 4, at the home of Mrs. Royce Lee. Time for the year's first meeting is 7:30 p.m.

South of Tennyson, up to six inches was poured in less than two hours, creating a flooding problem and causing damage to tanks, fences, etc.

An electrical storm here during the Saturday night rain, sent a bolt of lightning into an air conditioner at the Hurlin Lee home in South Bronte. Mrs. Lee was there by herself and said the electrical charge knocked off lights in the house, and only a small amount of smoke damage was done. The air conditioner motor was ruined.

Cooler weather has been the rule this week following the rains.



NEW CITY HALL — Completed in 1963, the new Bronte City Hall is located on Washington Street north of the post office. The building contains housing

for two fire trucks, a meeting room, small kitchen, office for the city secretary, mayor, justice of the peace and deputy sheriff and two jail cells. It is

made of brick and tile, and was built by S. J. May of Oak Creek Village.

Everything is in readiness for the big labor day celebration Monday at Bronte County Park.

John Ben Sheppard will be on hand to make a speech and dedicate a new historical marker which will be erected at the intersection of the Ballinger and San Angelo Highways, near Bronte Hospital. Sen. Dorsey B. Hardeman will also be here and will participate in the program.

Sheppard is formerly attorney general of Texas and is now engaged in the oil business in Odessa. He is president of the Texas Historical Survey Committee. At one time he was president of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce and was selected as one of the ten outstanding young men of the country.

In addition, there will be a presentation of the Queen Mother selected to be honored at the celebration. A contest sponsored by the Jaycees has been in progress to make the selection; also a beauty and talent contest will be held Saturday night to select the three top contenders, and the winner of the Miss Bronte title will be presented Monday evening.

Of course, the main feature of the celebration will be the barbecue dinner which will be served at 6 p.m. Aubrey Denman is in charge of feeding the huge crowd which is expected. He said he is preparing 600 pounds of barbecue to feed an estimated crowd of 1000 persons. Beans, green salad, pickles, onion, bread, coffee and tea will be served in addition to the barbecue. Denman asked that all ladies of the community bring desserts, so there will be enough for everybody to have a generous serving. Bronte Longhorn Band will play during the meal.

Bronte Firemen will be in charge of parking cars for the event, and Bronte Lions Club has volunteered to assist Denman in preparation of salad and slicing of meat. Boy Scouts will assist in directing traffic through the serving lines.

Mayor Royce Lee will be master of ceremonies for the program. A complete list of program numbers is printed on this page.

Lee said that this is expected to be the biggest and best celebration ever held at Bronte. "We want everybody to be out Monday afternoon at 5:50," he said. "There's been a lot of work put into this event by a lot of people, and we want everybody in the area to be there to enjoy the occasion," the mayor added.

PTA NEXT TUESDAY

The first regular meeting of the new school year for Bronte PTA will be Tuesday, Sept. 9. A tea following the business session will honor Bronte teachers.

The devotional and pledge will be given by Girl Scout Troop No. 31 of Bronte.

WE ARE SORRY

Some regular news had to be omitted this week due to the great amount of historical information which is included in this edition. Most of it will be used next week.

First City Council Organized In July, 1907

First records available show that the city council of Bronte was first organized July 17, 1907, in a meeting at First State Bank. In this meeting, E. G. Walton was authorized to order a seal for the town.

G. S. Arnold was the city's first mayor. Councilmen were J. B. Reilly, W. A. Good, W. H. Maxwell, T. C. Price and T. R. Butler.

Other city officials were elected as follows, with all names being for councilmen unless indicated to be a mayor.

- 1908-10: C. H. Bentley, mayor; J. B. Reilly, A. E. Wright, J. L. Brown, J. P. Mason, T. C. Price.
- 1910-12: R. G. Hudson, mayor; T. M. Osteen, J. B. Reilly, J. P. Mason, J. L. Brown, A. E. Wright.
- 1912-14: W. E. Caldwell, mayor; J. B. Reilly, T. C. Price, J. J. Caudle, G. H. McCuiston, R. E. Hickman.
- 1914-16: W. E. Caldwell, mayor; E. J. Stockton, R. E. Cumbie, W. H. Maxwell, T. C. Price, J. B. Reilly.
- 1916-18: G. R. Scott, mayor; W. H. Maxwell, U. T. Lowry, J. B. McCutchen, T. R. Butler, T. F. Keeney.

(Note: Apparently 1917 was the date when councilmen started elected in alternate years, causing an election every year.)

Cactus Cafe Senior Among Eating Establishments

The Cactus Cafe had been in business on Bronte's Main Street for 23 years last July 1. Mrs. Inez Franklin, now Mrs. Pete Nutter, came here at that time from Iraan and established the business. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wojtek of Robert Lee.

She was married to Earl D. Nutter of Ashland, Ore., Sept. 4, 1944. He was at that time stationed at Camp Barkley, Abilene. He was released from service in 1946 and they have continued in the operation of the Cactus Cafe.

Mrs. Nutter has three children: Mrs. E. H. Ivey and William Franklin of Robert Lee, and Bob Franklin of Chester, Pa.

Joe Ed Scott Sells Butane, Pipe, Etc.

The Scott Butane Company was started in 1956 by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ed Scott. It is located downtown, on the Robert Lee highway. Mrs. Scott is the former Wilma Roberts of Robert Lee. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joe Scott.

In addition to handling butane and propane, the firm also sells pipe and fitting and other plumbing fixtures, and air conditioner parts and pads.

The Scotts have four children: Merritt, 14; Brenda, 16; Dewitt, 9; and Viva, 7. A nephew, Eddie Clark, 15, is also living with them.

Mackey Feed Is A New Business

One of Bronte's newer businesses is the Mackey Feed & Supply which was established by Dolan Mackey in November, 1963, and is located north of the Lester Webb station on Highway 277.

Mackey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Mackey, and was born and raised in Bronte, except for a period when they lived at Ralls. His wife is the former Betty Lynch of Ralls. They have one son, Tony.

1917-19: R. L. Brewer, Frank Keeney.

1918-20: O. H. Willoughby, mayor; R. E. Cumbie, E. J. Stockton, R. G. Rosser.

1919-21: Frank Keeney, R. E. Cumbie.

1920-22: C. R. Gollihar, mayor; R. G. Rosser, W. A. Good, Robert Knierim, H. R. Wilkins, R. E. Cumbie. (Apparently the council went back to electing all the council this year.)

1921-23: W. R. Knierim, mayor; R. E. Cumbie, R. G. Rosser, F. O. Key.

(The next year, went back to staggered term again.)

1922-23: R. E. Cumbie, mayor; E. L. Price.

1922-24: W. A. Good, H. R. Wilkins.

1923-24: R. E. Hickman, J. D. Luttrell.

1923-25: H. T. Wilkins, mayor; T. C. Price, O. W. Chapman, Frank Keeney.

1924-26: O. W. Chapman, mayor; J. D. Luttrell, R. E. Hickman, B. F. Bridges.

1925-27: T. C. Price, Frank Keeney.

1926-28: H. T. Wilkins, mayor; J. D. Luttrell, B. F. Bridges, I. M. Cumbie.

1927-29: Barney Modgling, E. L. Price.

1928-30: H. T. Wilkins, mayor; J. D. Luttrell, B. F. Bridges, C. C. Glenn.

1929-31: B. E. Modgling, E. L. Price. (E. L. Price resigned and R. E. Cumbie was elected to fill unexpired term.)

1930-32: R. J. Epperson, mayor; I. M. Cumbie, B. E. Modgling.

1931-33: B. F. Bridges, C. C. Glenn, B. D. Mackey.

1932-34: R. J. Epperson, mayor; I. M. Cumbie, B. E. Modgling, Frank Keeney.

1933-35: B. F. Bridges, C. C. Glenn.

1934-36: R. J. Epperson, mayor; I. M. Cumbie, B. E. Modgling, Frank Keeney.

1935-37: C. C. Glenn, B. F. Bridges.

1936-38: R. E. Cumbie, mayor; Frank Keeney, I. M. Cumbie, B. E. Modgling.

1937-39: B. F. Bridges, C. C. Glenn.

1938-40: R. E. Cumbie, mayor; Frank Keeney, B. E. Modgling, I. M. Cumbie.

1939-41: B. F. Bridges, C. C. Glenn.

1940-42: Walter Modgling, mayor; B. E. Modgling, E. L. Caperton. A tie between Frank Keeney, I. M. Cumbie and George Chisholm for the other place on the council resulted in a win for Cumbie.

1941-43: B. F. Bridges, George Thomas.

1942-44: Walter Modgling, mayor; E. L. Caperton, B. E. Modgling, I. M. Cumbie.

1943-45: B. F. Bridges, George Thomas.

1944-46: R. E. Cumbie, mayor; I. M. Cumbie, E. L. Caperton, B. E. Modgling.

1945-47: George Thomas, B. F. Bridges.

1946-48: Noah Pruitt, mayor; C. E. Bruton, C. R. Smith, D. K. Glenn, W. H. Maxwell Jr. elected for one year to fill unexpired term of B. F. Bridges. H. O. Whitt was named mayor in 1947 to fill unexpired term of Noah Pruitt, resigned.

1947-49: W. W. Millikin, Cecil Kemp.

1948-50: H. O. Whitt, mayor; C. E. Bruton, D. K. Glenn, J. M. Rippetoe.

1949-51: H. A. Springer, Sam W. Spruell, J. P. McGuire was also elected in 1949 to fill unexpired term of D. K. Glenn, who resigned (one year term).

1950-52: H. O. Whitt, mayor; J. P. McGuire, J. B. Mackey, J. G. Wilkins.

1951-53: H. A. Springer, Sam W. Spruell.

1952-54: H. O. Whitt, mayor; J. B. Mackey, J. P. McGuire, Joe G. Wilkins.

1953-55: H. A. Springer, Leonard Fletcher.

1954-56: E. E. Ivey, mayor; Ben Oglesby, C. C. Boecking, Joe G. Wilkins.

1955-57: C. E. McGuire, Bob Wilson.

1956-58: Ernest Ivey, mayor; Ben Oglesby, Charlie Boecking, Billy Gene Thomas.

1957-59: Bob Wilson, Matthew Caperton.

1958-60: J. A. Stephenson, mayor; H. A. Springer, C. E. Bruton, Bill Thomas.

1959-61: Billy Joe Luckett, Royce Fancher.

1960-62: J. A. Stephenson, mayor; Matthew Caperton, Joe D. McCutchen, Cecil Kemp.

1961-63: Royce Fancher, C. E. Bruton.

1962-64: J. A. Stephenson, mayor; Matthew Caperton, Billy Joe Luckett, Cecil Kemp.

Norman R. Kiker was elected mayor Jan. 26, 1963, to fill unexpired term of J. A. Stephenson, deceased.

1963-65: C. E. Bruton, Royce Fancher.

1964-66: Royce Lee, mayor; Martin Lee, Billy Joe Luckett, Elmer Hurley.

Garland Odom One of Earliest Coke Cattlemen

Garland C. Odom, one of the earliest cattlemen into this area, was born in Baldwin County, Alabama, Dec. 16, 1852 and brought to Texas by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Odom, who settled in San Antonio in 1853. He began in the cattle business on his father's ranch.

In 1876, he and his father drove a large herd of cattle to the present location of Runnels County and established the O. D. ranch with Fort Chadbourne as the headquarters.

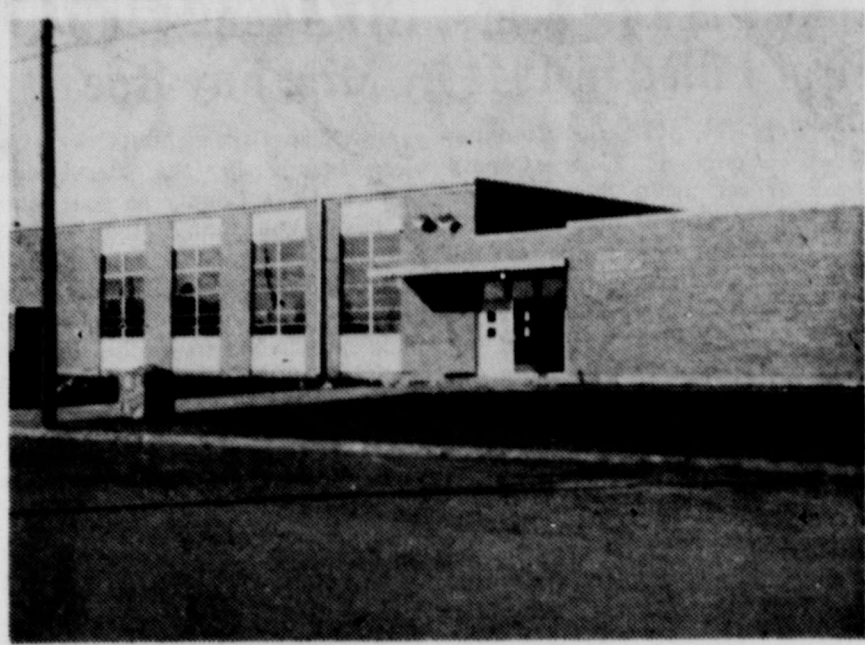
In 1879, he established the Odom-Luckett Land and Livestock Co., of which he was general manager, later acquiring the entire interest. The Company bought up a large body of land and fenced in 100,000 acres, the first pasture of any important size in this section of the state.

This met with quite a lot of opposition in some quarters and wire cutting gave the company no end of trouble, and one time the wire cutters clipped 40 miles of wire in one night.

This grant of land once covered the entire Bronte townsite and was roughly described as extending from Fort Chadbourne to Hayrick south to the Colorado River, following it to Valley Creek and back to Fort Chadbourne.

Odom became connected with extensive business interests in Ballinger, and the Farmers & Merchants Bank there was established by him and some associates in 1909 and he became president. He was married Jan. 28, 1875 to Miss Sallie M. Crigley, the daughter of the late Judge Ruben Crigley, a pioneer Texan and judge of Uvalde County for many years.

They were parents of the late Mrs. John F. (Loue Nettie) Curry of Ballinger and Mrs. Conda H. (Edna Mae) Wylie.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — Bronte's elementary school was completed in 1956 and in addition to housing classrooms for the elementary grades, has a lunch room, auditorium, and office for superintendent, and principal.

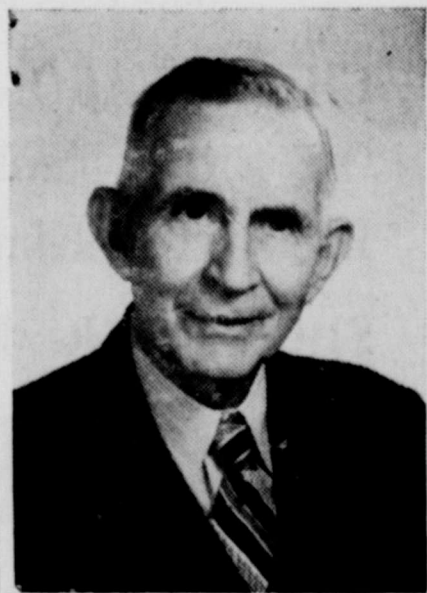
George S. Kelly First Bronte Postmaster

Sometime through the years, the early official records of Bronte Post Office have been lost or destroyed. The Post Office Department in Washington established George S. Kelly as the first postmaster, beginning in 1890. R. E. Cumbie said the first post office was located in a Harris residence here.

According to Enterprise files, W. L. Hayley became the postmaster in 1900 and served until 1924. The post office was located in his drug store after 1915.

M. M. Boynton became postmaster in 1924 and served until his death in 1926 when his wife became acting postmaster and served until 1938. R. J. Epperson was next and served until his death June 5, 1940. Mrs. Carrie G. Williams became the permanent postmaster in 1941 and served until Jan. 1, 1955. J. A. Stephenson was acting postmaster during a term from January, 1955, to Mar. 31, 1956, when Mrs. Hollis Stevens was appointed acting postmaster. She was succeeded by Noah Pruitt, Jr. on Feb. 22, 1957 as acting postmaster and he received his permanent appointment in August, 1959.

A new post office building was completed in November 1961, at the corner of Washington St. and Oliver Ave. A formal opening was held Dec. 7, 1961 with Congressman O. C. Fisher as speaker. Prior



Dr. J. D. LEONARD, pioneer physician here, was born Feb. 8, 1872, a graduate of medical school at Little Rock, Ark., on April 10, 1903. He came to Bronte May 1, 1903. Pioneer doctors were also dentist, surgeons, ministering to all human ailments. Mrs. Leonard is still a Bronte resident.

The Enterprise has written a story taken from his autobiography which will be run at a later date.

to moving to the new location the post office was housed for many years in part of the Bank building to the north of the bank proper.

The Bronte office was made a second class office July 1, 1954.

Pruitt, present postmaster, is a veteran of World War II, having served in the Pacific. He had been in the grocery business with his father prior to being appointed postmaster. He is a graduate of Bronte high school and is married to the former Dorothy Faye Scott. They have one daughter, Norma Lynn.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Pruitt Sr. of Bronte are his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Wylie Moved to Ranch 56 Years Ago, 1908

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wylie both came from pioneer families of this area. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Odom who settled the ranch on which they live in 1876, and Mr. Wylie was born on the Wylie Ranch between Bronte and Ballinger. His family moved to Ballinger in 1874 and settled that ranch a few years later.

Mr. and Mrs. Wylie were married in 1904 and moved to the ranch in 1908. They have lived there since that time. They have one daughter, Mrs. E. L. Richards of Clearwater Beach, Fla., two grandsons and six great-grandchildren. One of the grandsons, Conda O. Richards, lives with his family on the ranch, and assists Mr. Wylie in operation of the giant spread. The ranch contains most of the oil wells in the Fort Chadbourne field.

In January 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Wylie were jointly honored as Citizens of the Year by the Ballinger Chamber of Commerce. It was brought out at the time of the presentation that the Wylies have been most generous in supporting worthy projects in West Texas. They have made sizeable contributions to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center for Crippled Children in Abilene, the West Texas Boys Ranch near San Angelo, and McMurry College in Abilene. The couple also made possible the beautiful First Methodist Church in Ballinger as a memorial to her parents, the late G. C. and Sallie Odom. They also made a large contribution to First Methodist Church in Bronte prior to the addition and remodeling project in 1957.

Stories concerning Fort Chadbourne, the Fort Chadbourne oil field and G. C. Odom appear elsewhere in this issue.

Bronte Incorporated In 1907; G. S. Arnold Town's First Mayor

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 Post Office 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. Cumbie 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 was organized in 1889.

Old Bronte was located some half mile southwest of its present location, a little west of the present school 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 govern 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 service while working" was a fine of \$25. However, another ordinance adopted the same day 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 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 and J. P. Mason 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. Pipkin, 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 20c 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 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.

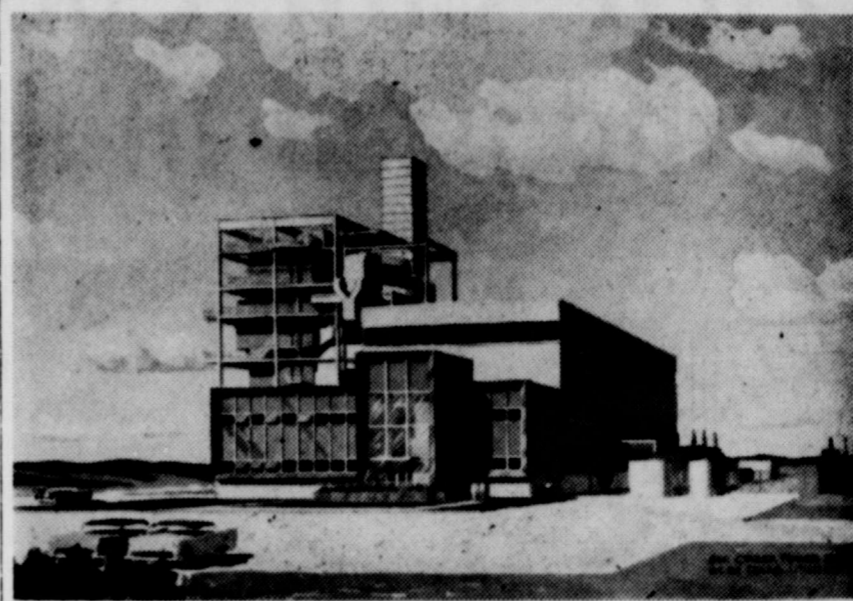
W. P. Sanders for dragging off dog, 50c.

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 stories 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.



BIG POWER PLANT — West Texas Utilities multi-million dollar power plant located at Oak Creek is the place of employment for a number of Bronte residents. The plant was formally opened in 1963.

MISS BRONTE CONTEST HAS 22 ENTRIES; PROGRAM SAT. NIGHT

The Miss Bronte contest, sponsored by Bronte Jaycees in connection with the Diamond Anniversary of Coke County celebration, had a total of 22 entrants at press time Wednesday. The contest will be held Saturday night at Bronte School auditorium. The three top winners will be selected at that time.

An announcement made Wednesday morning said all the girls who are in the contest should go by

Bronte Flowers and Gifts and select the color of their streamers, which will have the name of her sponsor printed on it. Jaycees will pay the cost of producing the banners. It was announced that the sponsors will be responsible for buying corsages for the girls.

A meeting of all contestants has been called for tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. in the Bronte School auditorium. Purpose of the meeting is to rehearse numbers and work out plans for the contest Saturday night.

The public is invited to attend the program and contest Saturday night. No admission charge will be made, but the audience will be given a chance to donate to help pay costs of the contest.

Out of town judges will be present to make the decision on the contest. No one will know who the top winner and Miss Bronte is until Monday afternoon at the celebration in the Bronte County Park.

Jaycees said that the contest is still open and additional entries will be welcome. One new entry was announced Monday. Margi Oglesby will represent Karl Hoblitzelle and Perkins Oil Co. All other 21 entrants were listed in last week's Enterprise.

In addition to the Miss Bronte Contest, the Jaycees are sponsoring a Queen Mother Contest which will select an older lady of the county who will be honored at the Monday program. Her identity will not be known until she is presented.

Rites Held for Mrs. M. Sprinkle At Winter Chapel

By Mrs. Herbert Holland

Mrs. Mary Sprinkle, 91, of Maverick community died at 1:40 p.m. Wednesday of last week in Winters Municipal Hospital, after a long illness.

Mrs. Sprinkle has lived with her daughter, Mrs. Añon Bradberry, and family in the Maverick area since the death of her husband in 1931. She was a member of the Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held last Thursday afternoon in Spill Memorial Chapel at Winters, with burial in Northview Cemetery.

Survivors include three sons, Charlie and Jim Sprinkle of Winters, and Jessie Sprinkle of Austin; four daughters, Mrs. Clyde Hervactae of Electra, Mrs. Margaret Buchard of Avoca, Mrs. Alton Bradberry of Maverick, and Mrs. Beckie Poe of Winters.

LVNA'S TO SPONSOR FILM TONIGHT AT CHURCH

Division 58 of the LVNA of Texas will sponsor the presentation of a film tonight at 8 o'clock at First Methodist Church. Entitled "Toymakers," the picture deals with a story about retarded children.

Mrs. Buddy Casey of Ballinger, president of the Runnels County Association for Retarded Children, will speak following the film. All interested persons are invited to attend.

NINE PUPILS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. A. S. Masterson reported that her kindergarten class which began Sept. 1, has nine pupils enrolled. They are Randy Joe Corbin, Randy Nelson, Donald Butler, Kelly Boyles, Sandra Moody, Scott Tucker, Leah Barbee, Shelly Cumbie and Sue Collins.

In the Renza Lee home Sunday were Mrs. Dorothy Kiker and Janey Lou of Arlington, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Lee of Ballinger, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Lee and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Kiker of San Angelo, and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Martin and Dorothy Ruth of Bronte.

PERSONALS

Mrs. Jim (Aletha) Beyerlein and daughter, Julie, of Indianapolis, Ind., visited last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Murtishaw. Visiting Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Craft and Jimmy of Abilene, and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Roberts and girls of Jal, N. M. Miss Debbie Roberts of San Francisco, Calif., niece of Mrs. Murtishaw, spent the past two weeks with the family.

Mrs. Bill Moody and girls spent several days last week in Olney with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Abbott.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Gilbert and Frank of Galena Park spent Sunday through Tuesday with Mr. Gilbert's uncle, Pete Gilbert, and Mrs. Gilbert.

Terry Richards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Richards, was dismissed from Clinic-Hospital, San Angelo, Friday. His brother, Tad, was admitted Friday and dismissed on Monday of this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomason of Midland spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Marshall.

Patronize Our Advertisers



BRONTE'S SWIMMING POOL — A good shot of the swimming pool at Bronte County Park where hundreds of youngsters

have learned to swim since it was opened. The young lady getting out of the pool is Brenda Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Joe Ed Scott. Picture was made in 1957.



MRS. JAMES EDWARD MACKEY

MISS DIANE BREEDING AND JAMES E. MACKEY ARE WED IN SAN ANGELO CHURCH CEREMONY

Miss Diane Breeding, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Breeding, became the bride of James Edward Mackey, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mackey of Bronte, in a candlelight ceremony Saturday at 8 p.m. at the First Methodist Church in San Angelo.

Dr. Ennis B. Hill, pastor of the Laura Heights Methodist Methodist Church of San Antonio read the vows for the double ring ceremony.

A prelude of nuptial music was presented by Mrs. Eugene Gibson with Miss Sue Brown as soloist.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a formal gown of candlelight Peau de soie with a controlled bell skirt. The elbow length sleeves, scooped neckline, jacket and detachable Watteau train were of silk organza, reem-broidered with medallions of Alenon lace encrusted with pearls. There was a band of peau de soie marking the gently lifted waistline, sash, and Watteau train. Her butterfly veil of illusion cascaded from a crown of pearls. She carried a bridal bouquet of white orchids and garlands of white princess roses. Her only jewelry was a strand of pearls, a gift from the bridegroom.

Miss Judith Ann Ross was maid of honor. Other bridal attendants were Mrs. Larry Charlesworth, Miss Marjorie Gross, Miss Janis Bumgardner and Miss Kay Schwake of Temple. Miss Linda Cumbie, cousin of the groom, and Miss Patricia Harrell of Irving were junior bridesmaids. They wore identical gowns of peau de soie, with shades of light pink to strawberry. Their headpieces were identically made of varied shades of pink petal roses with a butterfly veil of illusion. They carried varied colored pink gladiolas made into a nosegay. Miss Shelley Cumbie, cousin of the groom, was flower girl. She wore pink silk organza over taffeta. Her headpiece was a smaller version of the bridesmaids.

Candlelighters were Freddie and Stephen LaGrasta and Bill Whitehead of Menard. J. B. Mackey, father of the groom, was best man. Groomsmen were Alonzo Robbins, Lanny Denman, Dale Luckett,

Tommy Boecking, Don Spiller, all of Bronte, and Gerald W. Breeding, brother of the bride. Ushers were Dee Arrott, Bobby Webb and Eddie Glenn, all of Bronte. Ring bearer was Robert Bellard.

Immediately following the ceremony a reception was held in the fellowship hall of the church. Greeting guests were Mr. and Mrs. Emory Bellard and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel LaGrasta. Alternating at the bride's book were Mrs. Eugene West of Dallas and Miss Jan Late.

The bride's table was laid with a white satin cloth with an over cloth of tulle and white satin. It was covered with the bridesmaids' bouquets. At one end was the four-tiered columnaded cake and at the other a silver punch bowl. Mrs. Buddy Reed of Bronte and Miss Kit Taylor served punch and Miss Sandy Sheen and Miss Margaret Flesher served cake.

The groom's table was laid with a gold linen cloth with brass candelabra and a brass vase holding red carnations. The coffee was served from a copper somovar. The chocolate wedding ring cake was served by Mrs. Frank Late and Mrs. Gene Whitehead of Menard. Mrs. Max Bumgardner and Mrs. Charles Smith served coffee.

Distributing the rice bags were Misses Dawn and Susan Cumbie, cousins of the groom. Assisting in the dining room were Mrs. Murry Holdrich, Sweetwater, Mrs. Paul Horne and Miss Mary Bringer.

For the wedding trip the bride wore an off white two piece knit suit trimmed in black with black accessories. Her corsage was a white orchid. Following the wedding trip to New Mexico, the couple will be at home in Abilene where both will be students at Hardin Simmons. The bride is a graduate of San Angelo Central High School and attended North Texas State University and San Angelo College. Mr. Mackey graduated from Bronte High School and will be a senior at Hardin-Simmons.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mackey, parents of the groom, were hosts for the rehearsal dinner Friday night at the Town and Country Club.

Mother Comes to West Texas in Covered Wagon With Seven Children

One of the county's earliest settlers was Bob Harwell, his mother and brothers and sisters. He was born Feb. 14, 1870, in Titus County. His father, a well known East Texas farmer, died and the mother with her seven children came to West Texas in a covered wagon. They located in the Fort Chadbourne area in 1881.

Bob Harwell worked on ranches and farms for wages and went into the ranching business for himself in 1900 southwest of Bronte. The ranch still is in the Harwell family.

He was married to the former Miss Ida Caperton Dec. 26, 1897. She was born May 31, 1877, in Travis County. He died in 1951 and Mrs. Harwell died in 1959.

H D Agent's News Dept.

By FAY C. ROE

Ida Lee Parker, Bronte 4-H Club member, presided during a meeting last week of the Coke County 4-H Council. Daphne Roe, Robert Lee, secretary, called the roll and read the minutes of the July meeting. Sharon Walker, Robert Lee, reported on the Rally Day program held recently in the Bronte Park.

During the business session, it was voted to organize a Senior Boys and Girls 4-H Club on Sept. 19. A committee was appointed to assist with the organizational meeting.

This committee is composed of Gaylon Pitcock, Linsey White, Ida Lee Parker, Daphne Roe and Sharon McCutchen. Adult Leaders on the committee are Mrs. T. E. Pitcock and Joe McCutchen.

The state's effort to increase the enrollment of 4-H members and adult leaders was discussed. Each Council member was urged to join the effort by enlisting new members and leaders.

The meeting was attended by 16 persons.

Members of the Coke County Committee for Progress are completing plans for a lamb cutting and preparation program. The program to be called a Lamb-O-Rama is to be held in the Robert Lee auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 1. Frank Ortiz, Meat Specialist from the Extension Service, and Mrs. Joyce Drake, Home Economist for West Texas Utilities Company, will present the programs.

Attending the planning meeting Monday, Aug. 31, were Mrs. Doyle Pittman, homemaking teacher, Robert Lee; Mrs. Glenn Waldrop, Mrs. W. W. Smith; Mrs. C. E. Arrott; C. E. Arrott; Floyd Harmon; Nolan Pentecost; Mr. Lindsey and myself.

"Family Health" will be the topic I will discuss in the Home Demonstration Club meetings during September. Visitors are always welcome in the club meetings.

SCHEDULE

Special dates to remember:
Lamb-O-Rama — Thursday, Oct. 1.

Countywide exhibit—Oct. 9.
Both events will be in Robert Lee.

Thursday, Sept. 3: Office
Friday, Sept. 4: Office.
Friday, Sept. 4: Office; 3 p.m., Friday Food Class.

Monday, Sept. 7: Holiday
Tuesday, Sept. 8: Office; 2 p.m., HD Council.
Wednesday, Sept. 9: Office.

Mrs. B. G. Timmons and her daughter, Mrs. Ross McSwain of San Angelo, were in Midland last Tuesday to attend funeral services for C. R. Richman. Mrs. Timmons also spent last week in Abilene with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Timmons and family.

HICKMAN NAME ASSOCIATED WITH COKE COUNTY SINCE '97

Through the list of pioneer families in this area runs the Hickman name.

It was in 1897 that Mr. and Mrs. John F. Hickman came to this county and Bronte. Both they and their descendents have played a prominent role in the development of this county.

Their children include:

Miss Lou Anna Hickman was married to Tom Modgling Oct. 27, 1889, in Llano. The family moved to Bronte in 1900. He died in 1929.

Mrs. Modgling was born Sept. 6, 1869, in Warren, Ark., and moved with her parents in Llano in 1873.

Their family consisted of ten children; six sons: Bill, Ollie, Walter, Floyd, B. E. and Tom Modgling; and four daughters, Mrs. Iber Cross, Mrs. L. W. Mills, Mrs. Lillie McCullough and Mrs. John Bowers.

Bob Hickman

R. E. (Bob) Hickman was born March 7, 1877, in Arkansas. He married Miss Daisy Casner in Llano County and the couple moved to Bronte in 1901. Mrs. Hickman was born Feb. 8, 1878, in Llano County.

For 32 years, from 1907 until 1939, he operated a general mercantile business in Bronte and supervised extensive ranching interests. He retired from business in 1939, and they resided at their home just west of Bronte. Mrs. Bob Hickman, 77, died in 1955, and he, 82, died in 1959.

Their children are Robert Hickman, Bronte; W. A. Hickman, Blackwell; Mrs. R. J. Warren, San Angelo; and Mrs. Cumbie Ivey, Robert Lee.

Ed Hickman

Ed Hickman was born Oct. 21, 1886, in Llano County and moved to Bronte with his parents at the age of 11. He was married in Bronte Nov. 26, 1905, to Miss Melindy Herron. The couple lived here until 1915 when they moved to the Edith community for two years. They returned to Bronte two years later in 1917, and lived here until 1933, when they again moved to Edith, where they lived until they retired and moved to Robert Lee a few years ago.

Mr. Hickman, 76, died at his home of a heart attack in June, 1963. Their children are Ed, Johnny Mack and Freddy Hickman, Mrs. Austin Sandusky, Mrs. W. P. Harner, Mrs. Curtis Trimble and Mrs. Hadley Richards.

He served as commissioner of

Precinct 3 of Coke County from 1952 through 1960, a period of big improvement for this county. During this time the new court, the two county parks and much new road construction became realities. Hickman Field, the baseball park in Robert Lee, was named in his honor.

Mrs. Sallie Long

Mrs. Sallie Long was born Feb. 3, 1871, in Warren, Ark., and was married May 23, 1888, to Thomas Long in Llano. The couple lived in Bronte a short time but went to Eunice, N. M., in 1911, when they homesteaded land. Mrs. Long died March 7 of this year at the age of 93. Seven daughters and three sons survive her, including Mrs. R. H. Herron of Bronte.

Frank Hickman

Frank Hickman came to Coke County with his parents and was an early day merchant here, then moved to McCauley, Luling and San Antonio. He died in 1955.

Will Hickman

Mr. and Mrs. Will Hickman were married in Llano in 1899. She was the former Daisy Hallmark of that city and they moved to Bronte in 1900. They lived in Bronte a few years and then moved to Robert Lee when he was elected sheriff of Coke County. After he retired from that job they moved back to Bronte. He died in 1915 and she died in 1963. Their children are Mrs. Jewel Hollis and Mrs. Gordon Haile, both of Fort Worth.

Two other daughters, Mrs. Walter Williams and Mrs. Jim Offield, did not remain in this area to make their homes.

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Largest stock of fine used pianos in West Texas. Fully guaranteed, easy terms

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Motion Pictures Are Your Finest Entertainment
Evening Show Starts 6:30

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 & 5
Sean Flynn (Son of Errol Flynn), Ann Todd in
"SON OF CAPTAIN BLOOD" in color
Also Cartoon

SUNDAY 1:30 MATINEE & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 & 7
Hayley Mills, Deborah Kerr, John Mills in
"THE CHALK GARDEN" in color
Also Cartoon

MARY SLAUGHTER

Is a Little Tired — and after long and careful consideration has decided to put her stock farm on the market.

808 Acres, near Robert Lee, \$90 acre, 170 cultivation, brick house, cellar, barns, wells, tanks, ½ minerals, production near ½ down.

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Town & Country Real Estate

Glenn Thomason — Box 243 — Abilene, Texas

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BROOKSHIRE BROWSINGS

By Mrs. Herbert Holland

The good news for this community this week is the good rain received Saturday evening. It averaged 2½ to 3 inches.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Caudle were among the 100 persons who attended the Hedges family reunion Saturday at Abilene State Park.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Caudle and children spent their vacation with the Clovis Moore family in Jal, N. M., the Ollie Lewis family in Amarillo and the F. D. Moores in Cisco. Mrs. Caudle and the children stayed for a longer visit with the Moores who are her parents.

The Willard Caudle visited in Ballinger Thursday with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fletcher of Maverick recently moved to Houston.

Mrs. Jerry Landers spent Tuesday in San Angelo with her mother, Mrs. Etta Marks.

Homer Clark of Big Spring and Mrs. Thelma Thomas of Coahoma spent Wednesday with the Herbert Hollands. Mrs. Bert Hester of Miles spent Thursday with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Bynum of Granite Shoals spent a few days here on their ranch and visited friends. They went on to Levelland to visit her mother, Mrs. L. B. Daniels.

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Davis of Bronte visited the T. G. Gleghorns last Sunday.

Those from here who attended funeral services Wednesday afternoon in Winters for Mrs. Mary Sprinkle were Mrs. Leland Carlton, Mrs. Kate Slaughter, Mrs. Willard Caudle, Mrs. Less Carlton and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Landers.

The Jelly 8 Club met Monday night with Mr. and Mrs. George Coleman as hosts. The group played 42 and dominoes. Refreshments were served to Messrs. and Mmes. Carl Florence, Tom Boykin, Herbert Holland, Jim Brooks, C. Meadow and Coleman.

Mrs. Kate Slaughter spent last weekend in Ballinger with her son, Ivan Slaughter, and family. They all attended the wedding of Judy Hoffman and Roxey Gordon, Saturday night at the Methodist church in Talpa.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holland and Mrs. Carl Florence motored to Big Spring Sunday. The Hollands visited M. and Mrs. James Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Foster and Homer Clark, while the Florences went on to Stanton to visit Mr. and Mrs. Tul Ray Lauder and other relatives.

Mrs. Georgia Mae Nixon of Arlington visited the James Lee family here Saturday. Mrs. Hurlin Lee of Bronte visited them Friday.

Allen Sherrod of Midland visited the Jerry Landers Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gaddy went to Grand Falls last weekend and visited Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Gaddy until Tuesday. Reggie Gaddy returned to his home with them, after visiting here the last eight days.

Sammy Morgan, who had been visiting here with his parents, left Sunday night for Houston.

BRONTE LODGE
No. 962, A. F. & A. M.
Meets first Monday night in each month.
Visitors Welcome.
JESSE PARKER, W. M.
NOAH PRUITT JR., Sec.

For Life, Hospitalization and Cancer Insurance, See
B. D. SNEAD
At First National Bank

NOTICE OF HEARING TO APPROPRIATE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

No. 2162-A

Notice is hereby given to whom concerned that the application of COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, P. O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas, was received on the 17th day of July, 1964, in the office of the Texas Water Commission. Applicant seeks to amend its Application No. 2162, granted June 20, 1960, as follows:

(1) To change the location of the dam from the point proposed in Application No. 2162 on the Colorado River in Mitchell County, to a point on the Colorado River in Coke County. The new location sought for the dam is approximately 2 miles west of Robert Le, Texas, with station 74+00 on the centerline of the proposed dam located S 1° 05' E 10,645 feet from the southeast corner of Section 412, H & TC RR Co. Survey, Block 1-A, A-1676, Coke County, Texas;

(2) To increase the storage capacity of the dam and reservoir by a total of 85,060 acre-feet (from 403,700 acre-feet at the original Mitchell County dam site to 488,760 acre-feet at the proposed Coke County dam site);

(3) To divert the water to be appropriated at a point which bears S 15° 10' W 2011 feet from the southwest corner of H & TC RR Co. Survey, Block 1-A, A-1676,

Coke County, Texas, on the left bank of the Colorado River, approximately 3.2 miles northwest from Robert Lee, Texas, and to increase the rate of diversion by 30,000 gallons per minute (from 40,000 gallons per minute authorized under Application No. 2162 to 70,000 gallons per minute);

(4) To change the amount of water authorized to be appropriated under Application No. 2162 for industrial use from 5,000 acre-feet of water per annum to 2,000 acre-feet of water per annum, and for mining use from 5,000 acre-feet of water per annum to 8,000 acre-feet of water per annum, but not changing the amount of 40,000 acre-feet of water per annum authorized to be appropriated for municipal use nor the total amount of 50,000 acre-feet of water authorized to be appropriated annually under said Application No. 2162;

(5) To add as an additional authorized use, the use in place in the reservoir of the total amount of water impounded therein for the purpose of recreation.

The place of use of the waters used for municipal, industrial and mining purposes will be in the following counties in the Colorado River watershed, but only in those portions thereof within the watershed of the Colorado River: Coke Ector, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry and Sterling Counties. Notice of this fact is hereby given to record appropriators in

The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

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the Colorado River watershed, both within the watershed as a whole and within those portions of said watershed in the above-described counties in which the water is to be introduced and used.

Water which is diverted for municipal use but not consumed as a result thereof will be returned to the Colorado River and its tributaries at sites of the sewage treatment plants of cities served by the District within the above-named counties. Water which is diverted for industrial use or mining use but not consumed as a result thereof will be returned to the Colorado River or its tributaries within the above-named counties.

Applicant further proposes to construct a system of low-flow pollution control diversion works in the channel of the Colorado River in Scurry and Mitchell Counties, and to use as part of its appropriation for mining purposes polluted waters there occurring, consisting of the salt water, oil field brines and commingled salt and fresh water.

Said application was accepted for filing by the Texas Water Commission on the 17th day of August, 1964, as Application No. 2162-A, and a hearing thereon will be held by the Texas Water Commission, in the office of the Commission at Austin, Texas, on MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1964, beginning at ten o'clock a.m., at which

time and place all parties interested may appear and be heard. Those opposing the granting of said application should file written protests with the Commission and the applicant at least five days prior to hearing date, giving their reasons therefor and such other information as is required by Commission Rule 305.2. Such hearing will be continued from time to time, and from place to place, if necessary, until such determination has been made relative to said application as the said Texas Water Commission may deem right, equitable and proper.

Given under and by virtue of an order of the Texas Water Commission, at the office of the said Commission at Austin, Texas, this the 17th day of August, 1964.

TEXAS WATER COMMISSION
Joe D. Carter, Chairman
ATTEST:
Audrey Strandman, Secretary

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Special for Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Sept. 3, 4, & 5—Closed Labor Day

Picnic Hams ^{LB.} **29c**
BEEF RIBS - - Lb. **23c**
FRESH PURE
GROUND MEAT - Lb. **35c**
CHUCK BEEF ROAST - Lb. **43c**
RIDLEY'S ^{2 LBS.}
BACON **89c**
OLEO, Kimbell - 2 Lbs. **33c**
BISCUITS, Kimbell's - 4 for **29c**
FRESH ^{CELLO BAG}
CARROTS **10c**
FRESH
YELLOW SQUASH - Lb. **12½c**
NICE ^{STALK}
CELERY **12c**
LETTUCE - - - Lb. **12c**

GUM - - - - 4 for **15c**
MILK, Tall Cans - 2 for **29c**
KIMBELL'S
SHORTENING - 3 Lb. Can **59c**
FOLGER'S OR MARYLAND CLUB ^{1 LB. CAN}
COFFEE **79c**
WITH \$5.00 BILL GROCERIES
SUPREME SALTINE
CRACKERS - 1 Lb. Box **29c**
LILY BRAND
PINK SALMON - Tall Can **59c**
KIMBELL'S R.S.P.
CHERRIES - No. 303 Can **19c**
Sugar **5 lbs. 49c**
WITH \$5.00 BILL GROCERIES

"YOU ALL—Come to the Big Labor Day Celebration & Barbecue Supper Monday at the Park."

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Classified advertising rates: 5c per word first insertion; 3c per word each additional insertion.

LOST — Billfold containing valuable papers. Reward. Clyde Lee. 36-1tc

WANTED — Cotton hauling and pulling. Phone 473-3582, Gilbert Basquez.

FOR RENT: 6 room house, unfurnished. 4 room house, furnished. L. H. Lammers. 35-2tc

Give him Childcraft World Book that he cannot get in school. Give him Childcraft World Book and Dictionary. See Vera Thomas or call 473-2091. 35-3tc

FOR FAST efficient developing service, bring your film to Central Drug Store.

FINISH WORK, wet wash, ironing at Ditmore Laundry. Phone 473-4502.

FOR SALE — One duo-matic washer, one wringer-type washer, one small window-type air conditioner, one hot point electric range, one 500 lb. ice maker, one 10 foot Philco refrigerator, 2 gas heaters. H. A. Springer, 653-7065, San Angelo.

HOUSE FOR SALE - 3-bedroom. See J. C. Mullins. 17-tfc

WANTED: Used playground equipment. Mrs. A. S. Master-son. 473-3281.

FOR SALE — 3 bedroom house, extra large kitchen, lots of storage space, carpets, drapes, fenced back yard. Allen Sherrod. Contact Mrs. Marvin Landers. 30-tfc

Excellent earnings plus valuable prizes during the summer months. Act now to take advantage of prize program. Write Box 1629, San Angelo, Texas.

Donna Allen Corley and Arthur Sonnenberg Wed In Brookshire Ceremony

Donna Alline Carley of San Angelo became the bride of Arthur Louis Sonnenberg in a ceremony read at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Brookshire Baptist Church. The Rev. R. L. Denton read the double ring rites.

The bride is the daughter of Jessie J. Carley of San Angelo and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Sonnenberg of Tennyson. Sonnenberg is pastor of Brookshire Baptist Church.

Given in marriage by her brother, Richard L. Carley, the bride wore a floor length gown of white taffeta with an over skirt of lace and draped with chiffon. The sabrina neckline and long tapered sleeves were trimmed with lace brocades. She carried a bouquet of white gardenias atop a white Bible.

Maid of honor was Joanne Christofidis and bridesmaid was Beverly Jean Carley, both of San Angelo. They wore light green taffeta sleeveless dresses with overskirts of chiffon. The high rounded neckline dipped in the back and was set off with a taffeta bow.

Best man was Lee Fry of San Angelo and ushers were Otto and Bruce Sonnenberg of Tennyson.

Pianist for the ceremony was Mrs. Harold Henson.

A reception followed the wedding at the Sonnenberg home.

Following a wedding trip to Dallas and Fort Worth the couple will live in San Angelo.

The bride is a graduate of Central High School in San Angelo and is employed at Baptist Memorial Geriatric Hospital.

RUG AND CARPET CLEANING satisfaction guaranteed, reasonable prices. Clay Hudson, 329 Allen, San Angelo. See C. E. Bruton, phone 473-3811, Bronte.

AD-LIB-BEN

Continued from Page 1B

ation and to the out of town advertisers who took this occasion to send greetings to their Coke County friends and patrons, we could not have financed this edition without you. Members of the Enterprise staff have spent many overtime hours on this paper and Charles Coppock gave up one week of his between semesters vacation time from Texas Tech to come and help us.

All of these and many more send this paper to the readers.

Some of the pictures may seem a little dim but in most cases the photographs themselves have been dimmed by time. And a few are photographs of newspaper clippings.

Perhaps you wonder why a small newspaper will attempt a job of this kind; and frankly, during the last few weeks there have been times when we wondered the same thing. However, we feel that the history of our area and the heritage which has been handed down to us is worthy of our knowing about it. The remarkable deeds and accomplishments of early settlers are worthy of being preserved, so that they can be read about in future years. We don't claim by any means that this paper has everything in it that ought to be mentioned but we believe there is enough so that our readers may have a new appreciation of what went on 75, 50 or even 25 years ago.

We are sure this is the largest newspaper ever published in Coke County. It contains 80 tabloid pages, or 6400 inches of reading material, pictures and advertising. If we counted correctly there are 168 separate ads in this issue; they contain interesting information and pictures. It took 14,000 24x36 sheets of newsprint, weighing 960 pounds. Having to print both sides of the paper required 28,000 impression on our press.

WONDER WHAT IT WAS

(From Coke County News)

In a cafe the other day Paul Good, Woodrow Gardner, Walker Good, Mr. Gilbert, Milton Wylie, Ulmer Bird and Floyd Bridges, all inspected a large round coin, decided that it was a silver dollar and was good. — Feb. 21, 1936



JOE RAWLINGS, who received the Ford Foundation Award last year for efficiency in sheep production. The check presented him was set up to finance a sheep program for Coke County youths.

Music by Don Jeter

HAIL, BRONTE HIGH

Words by LaRue U. Broussard, Donna Sheppard, Janet Lee, Cynthia Howard

NEW SCHOOL SONG — Music the words were composed by this Howard. for Bronte's new school song Mrs. LaRue Broussard, Donna Sheppard, Janet Lee and Cynthia Howard was written by Don Jeter and

HERE ARE A FEW, BUT

Many More Deserve Mention

(Editor's note: In going through our files early this summer, hunting out stories for this special edition, we made notes as we went along about some of the early families who came here. We just used the information available at that time. Much of the following, we realize, is incomplete as to descendants, etc., some were probably overlooked, and some may be a duplication of other material in this newspaper. Working up all of these family histories was one of the things that time and space limitations did not allow. But it is hoped the following paragraphs will at least recognize a good many of the early residents of this area. There is a good story which could be developed in almost every paragraph.

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. (Med) Richards were married in 1885. Mrs. Richards was the former Nancy Elizabeth Allen, born Apr. 5, 1868 at Batesville, Ark. She came to West Texas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Allen, in 1880. Mr. Richards died in 1903. Mrs. Richards was employed at the Fort Chadbourne post office when it was the only post office in Coke County. Rome Richards of Bronte is a son of the couple.

Sam Sayner bought a farm near Tennyson in 1890 from the State of Texas. He and his family settled in the Tennyson area in 1882. After his death, the place belonged to D. E. Sayner who operated it until his death. Collins Sayner bought the farm from his fathers estate in 1951. Mrs. Collins Sayner is the former Maggie Hearrell, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hearrell.

J. D. Pruitt was born in Ala., Aug. 13, 1861, met and married Miss Eliza Mitchell June 12, 1883. Their two children were Mrs. M. E. Lasswell and Tenry Pruitt. They moved with their family to Coke County in 1887 and in 1920 moved to the Marie community.

M. E. Lasswell was born Oct. 15, 1897, in Bosque County, son of George Columbus and Margaret Allen Lasswell.

Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Kirkland were early residents here. She was born Dora Smith in Bright Star, Ark., Dec. 5, 1871 and married to Doss McCracken in Sanger, Texas. He died in 1899 and she was remarried to Doss McCracken in Sanger, Texas. He died in 1899 and she was rmarried July 18, 1907 to G. P. Kirkland.

A pioneer Maverick family are the Claude Lees. She was the former Emaa Loler, born Apr. 8, 1875 in Alabama and came to Texas as a child. She was married to Claude Lee in 1901 in Longview.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Larkin moved to Coke County in 1901. He was born Nov. 21, 1866 in Washington Co., Ark. She was the former Eliza Dunlap, born Oct. 7, 1873 in Milam County, Texas. He died in 1952 and she in 1959. They were the parents of Mrs. Tom Williams and the late Mrs. Wylie Clark.

The Will Mackey farm four miles northeast of Bronte has been in the family since 1901. He was born in Georgia Oct. 19, 1868 and was married in Couhutta County Georgia on Nov. 18, 1896. The family came to Texas in 1900, settling soon after on the family farm. He died in 1955 and Mrs. Mackey died in 1963.

Two of the earliest families into the area were the J. P. Hutchinsons and T. A. Higginbothams. They were the parents of Mr. and Mrs. (Mattie) Higginbotham who were married here in 1908. The Htuchinsons came to Ballinger in the 1880s before the railroad came to that town, moving on to Bronte in 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Rawlings were married Feb. 2, 1894 at Burnet. She was a public school teacher. The couple moved to Coke County in Sept. 1904 when they bought the present Rawlings ranch southwest of Bronte. She was born Oct. 22, 1872 at Austin, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. N. A. Norton. Mr. Norton was a pioneer stage coach superintendent and Mrs. Rawlings could remember, as a child, making seve-

ral trips by stage coach through this ara during Indian times. Their children were Albert Rawlings, Mrs. Marvin Simpson, Mrs. Ralph Lewis and Mrs. Lucy Warner.

J. J. Morrow was born in Till County April 20, 1880 and moved to Sterling County about 1897. He moved to Coke County in 1912, locating at Robert Lee. In 1914 he was married to Mrs. Irene (Clift) McCallum of Robert Lee and the couple moved in 1915 to her father's (William Clift) old home place 7 miles north of Bronte in the Fort Chadbourne community. Clift had bought the place in 1902 and Mr. and Mrs. Morrow bought the place from Clift heirs in 1915. The two-story 8-room farm home located on the place, a landmark in the area, burned in 1955. An interesting fact is that Mr. Clift's carpenter to build the house was Mr. Morrow's father, Lewis Morrow who constructed it in 1906.

When Mrs. M. A. Scott died in recent years, she had been a resident of Bronte since 1890. She was born May 19, 1880 in Erath County, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Billy Rogers and married to Joseph Lee Scott, who died here in 1924. They were parents of Mrs. Ray Coalson, Mrs. Lee Roy Deppe, Lee Roy Scott, Walter Scott, Daniel Scott and Joe Ed Scott.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McKown both came to Runnels County before the turn of the century and were married June 27, 1907 in Oak Creek Community. She was the former Viola Drake and attended school at Dry Hollow, later Oak Creek. They settled on land his father bought in the early days. They were charter members of the Oak Creek Methodist Church. W. H. McKown's parents, Mr. and Mrs. (Mary Matilda Moore) and William F. McKown were married in 1877 in Milam County and were residents of Runnels County since 1898, living most of the time in the Oak Creek community.

This column is also to be continued in later issues of the Enterprise.



Historical & Progress Edition

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section C

It All Started a Long Time Ago . . .



BRONTE'S MAIN STREET—This photograph was made some time between 1906, when the Bank Building was completed, and 1910, when fire destroyed part of the buildings on Main Street. In the foreground can be seen some pipe from a well which was located at approximately the same spot as the signal light at Main Street and Highway 277.

And Now . . .



BRONTE'S MAIN STREET
Taken at Student Recognition Day, May, 1964



It Was Exciting Night Hunting Bandits

(Editor's note: the following story was taken from The Enterprise dated Sept. 29, 1933. The main actor in the drama unfolded here was T. F. Sims Sr., long-time law enforcement officer of Bronte. Mr. Sims served some 30 years in various capacities such as deputy sheriff, city marshal, constable, and city nightwatchman. He was constable of this precinct at the time of his death in Sept., 1958.)

Last night was a night of the wildest excitement in the quiet

uneventful history of the peaceable little town!

The cause of the fevered excitement that raged all night and, indeed, has not quieted down now, as we go to press, is due to the shooting of the city's night watchman, T. F. Sims, early last night by a group of bandits.

The shooting took place at the warehouse of the Gulf Refining Company on the Santa Fe right of way, on the outskirts of the business section of the town.

Mr. Sims was making his first round of inspection of the business places of the town, as is always his custom, after coming on duty. He usually makes this inspection about 9 o'clock—about the time that all the places of business of the town close at night. On this first round Mr. Sims always examines the doors and locks and the filling station pumps to ascertain that every thing has been properly closed by the proprietor before going away for the night.

Last night when Mr. Sims reached the warehouse of the Gulf Refining Company, which outside the lighted district of the business section of town, he was throwing his flashlight on the doors and locks of the warehouse. Suddenly the bandits sprang from their hiding place behind some metal tanks and barrels that were on the ground and called to the officer to "stick 'em up." The officer's answer to the bandits' command was to reach for his gun. Having his flashlight in his right hand Mr. Sims had to reach for his gun with his left hand. When the bandits saw what he was doing, before the officer could get his gun in action, the bandits had shot him. After shooting the officer the bandits fled across the railroad, going west and the report it, but without authentication, that a car in waiting just west of the railroad with which a man was waiting, started immediately and carried the fleeing marauders out on the Robert Lee highway, going west.

The officer emptied his gun at the fleeing bandits but it is not known whether he hit any of them or not.

The weapons used by the bandits seemed to be a 30-30 rifle and a .410 shot gun. Only small no. 7 shot seem to have hit the officer. And fortunately, at this writing, it seems the shot, most of them having hit Mr. Sims' pistol belt and scabbard, made only flesh wounds.

After being wounded and having emptied his gun at the fleeing bandits, knowing he was wounded, Mr. Sims started for the business district of town, calling for help. Some local citizens were at the office of the Planters Gin Company. They having heard the shots and then the calls for aid, went rushing to Mr. Sims. They carried him to his home on Church street. Mrs. Sims was at a play rehearsal at the school auditorium. She was brought home, the local physician was called and first aid administered. The Keeney ambulance was called into action and within a few minutes the wounded man was being speeded to a hospital in San Angelo where it was found that no mortal wounds had been inflicted unless complications set up, about which the surgeons in charge are not now apprehensive.

While some were engaged in attending the wounded officer, news of the shooting spread like wild fire over town and into the country outskirts. Officers from San Angelo to Abilene and from Ballinger to Sweetwater and from Winters to Colorado City were communicated with. The almost entire male citizenship of the town were out with every conceivable kind of firearms from pocket

knives to muskets of the war of the sixties, with any number of the very best of models of firearms. One coming into town about midnight, not knowing what had occurred, would have needed no one to tell him that "Machine Gun Kelly" had escaped, for that would have been his first conclusion.

It being known that the bandits had fled westward, Sheriff Frank Percifull was notified at Robert Lee. He requested local citizens to come meeting him and watch all outlets. B. E. Modglin, B. A. Bell and Charlie Baker got in a car and started west. At the top of the seven mile hill on the Robert Lee highway they stopped and upon investigation they saw that the last car going in that direction turned south on the road going toward the river. They followed and some 300 yards from the highway they came upon a car parked without lights. They found a lone

occupant. He stated that the bandits had compelled him to go with them and drive the car. He stated that there was but one other than himself and that one had taken the gun and had gone through the fence and went to the west. But local citizens made the investigation and found the bandit's tracks where he had gone east and had gone into the R. E. Hickman pasture. By this time officers had arrived from several surrounding cities. The ranger captain at San Angelo was at the seven mile hill and in command for the man hunt just 40 minutes from the time he was notified.

A posse of some 200 men was thrown around the Hickman pasture. A pack of blood hounds was called from Brownwood and carried to the place where the bandit had left the car. But it was so very dry and it had been so long that the dogs could not pick up the trail. Because sentiment,

was so strong against the bandits, the captured fellow was taken to Robert Lee and placed in jail.

The posse waited for the coming of the morning before beginning the drive feeling sure the fugitive or fugitives were surrounded and could not possibly escape. But with the coming of the morning the search was begun. At this time as we go to press the pasture has been very thoroughly searched and there has been no trace of him found.

However, the identity of the ones sought is known and it is believed that it is a matter of only a short time until he or they will be apprehended.

The grandjury convenes at Robert Lee Monday a week, Oct. 9, at which time the matter will have a thorough investigation. Later the bandits were captured and an indictment of assault with attempt to murder returned by the grand jury.

Still Confiscated, Though It Was a Crude Affair

(From Enterprise March 31, 1933)

Sheriff Frank Percifull, assisted by Deputy B. A. Bell and Constable Walker Good, found and confiscated another bootlegger's still Saturday. The illegal plant was found in the woodland of a farm near Fort Chadbourne. It was a crude affair, but it is supposed that it was delivering the goods—or rather the booze—as it was connected up and fire had been under one of the cans. The contraption was made of two milk cans and a copper coil. Thus far Sheriff Percifull and his force have been able to find no one who lays claim to the still.

PAPERS HIGHER NOW

An advertisement in The Enterprise on Dec. 6, 1935, stated a year's subscription to the San Angelo Standard-Times cost \$4.85.

OLEO HAS GONE DOWN

Oleomargarine is one item of food that has not advanced in price in the last 20 years. Advertisements in 1941 showed the butter substitute costing 19c a pound. Today, you can buy it on special most any weekend for 17 cents or less.

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The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

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YEARS BE
EVEN GREATER

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75th Anniversary

GREETINGS

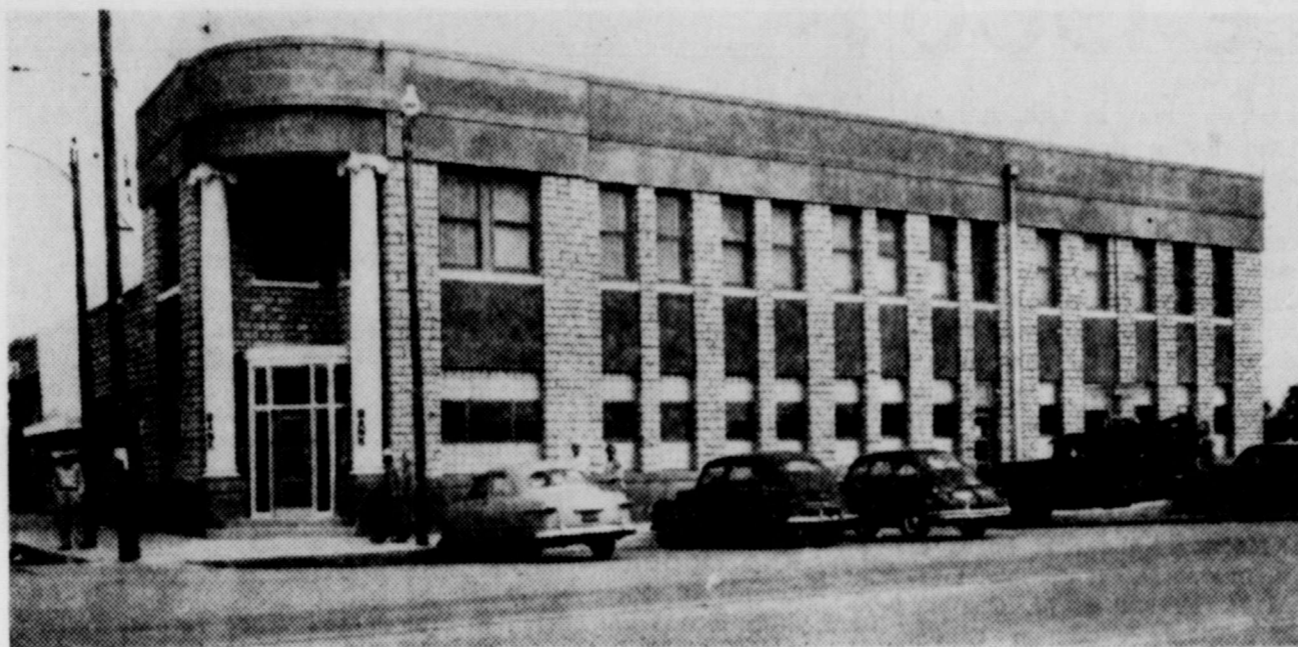
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San Angelo

Since 1906



There Has Been a Bank
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L. T. YOUNGBLOOD HAS GUIDED BANK SINCE '22 —

L. T. Youngblood took over the reins of First National Bank in Bronte in 1922 as its President. He moved his family to Bronte from Blackwell in 1927, when the Bronte and Blackwell banks were consolidated. Mr. Youngblood began his banking career as a bookkeeper for First State Bank at Blackwell, and advanced to cashier and president of the firm before it was consolidated with the Bronte bank. During his 42 years as president, the bank has grown from its meager deposits of approximately \$150,000 to almost \$2½ million today. Likewise the capital strength of the bank has been increased from \$25,000 in 1922 to \$346,500 today. Thousands of men and women have sought and received the bank's help through him during the past 42 years.



THIS BANK HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INSTITUTION OF **SERVICE**

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

It is our hope to continue to serve our more than 2,000 accounts in the best way we know how, and to continue to merit your confidence and your patronage. We invite you to come in and talk over your financial problems with us at any time. We'll help you if we can.

OFFICERS

L. T. YOUNGBLOOD
President and Chairman
of Board

EARL F. GLENN
Executive Vice President

B. D. SNEAD
Vice President and Cashier

VIRGINIA BOECKING
Assistant Cashier

FRANCES COLLINS
BOBBIE ARROTT
GENNIE CROCKETT
KAY DAULONG
Bookkeepers

DIRECTORS

L. T. YOUNGBLOOD
R. E. CUMBIE
E. F. GLENN
D. K. GLENN
J. B. MACKAY
EDWARD RAWLINGS
W. B. MIDDLETON

FIRST NATIONAL BANK In Bronte

First National Has Served This Area Since 1906

Some discussion has been raised about when the first bank was opened in Bronte. Some claim 1904; some say 1905 and still others think it was 1906. In any event, the local bank has rendered about 60 years service to this community and a large area surrounding it.

The First State Bank was organized in "old" Bronte with J. B. Riley of Ozona as its president. It was moved to the site of

the present town in 1906, and was housed for a time in a frame building about where the Bronte Enterprise office is now.

The stone building which now houses the business was the first building of such construction built in town and was completed sometime in 1906 when the bank moved into new quarters. The original structure was not as long as it is now, the part which houses offices on the north end having been added on later.

President of the first board of directors was R. M. Cumbie, father of R. E. and I. M. Cumbie, present Bronte residents. Others on this original board included Dr. W. F. Key, Jim Grimes, and Mr. Riley. A. P. (Buddy) Stone was cashier of the bank when it was organized.

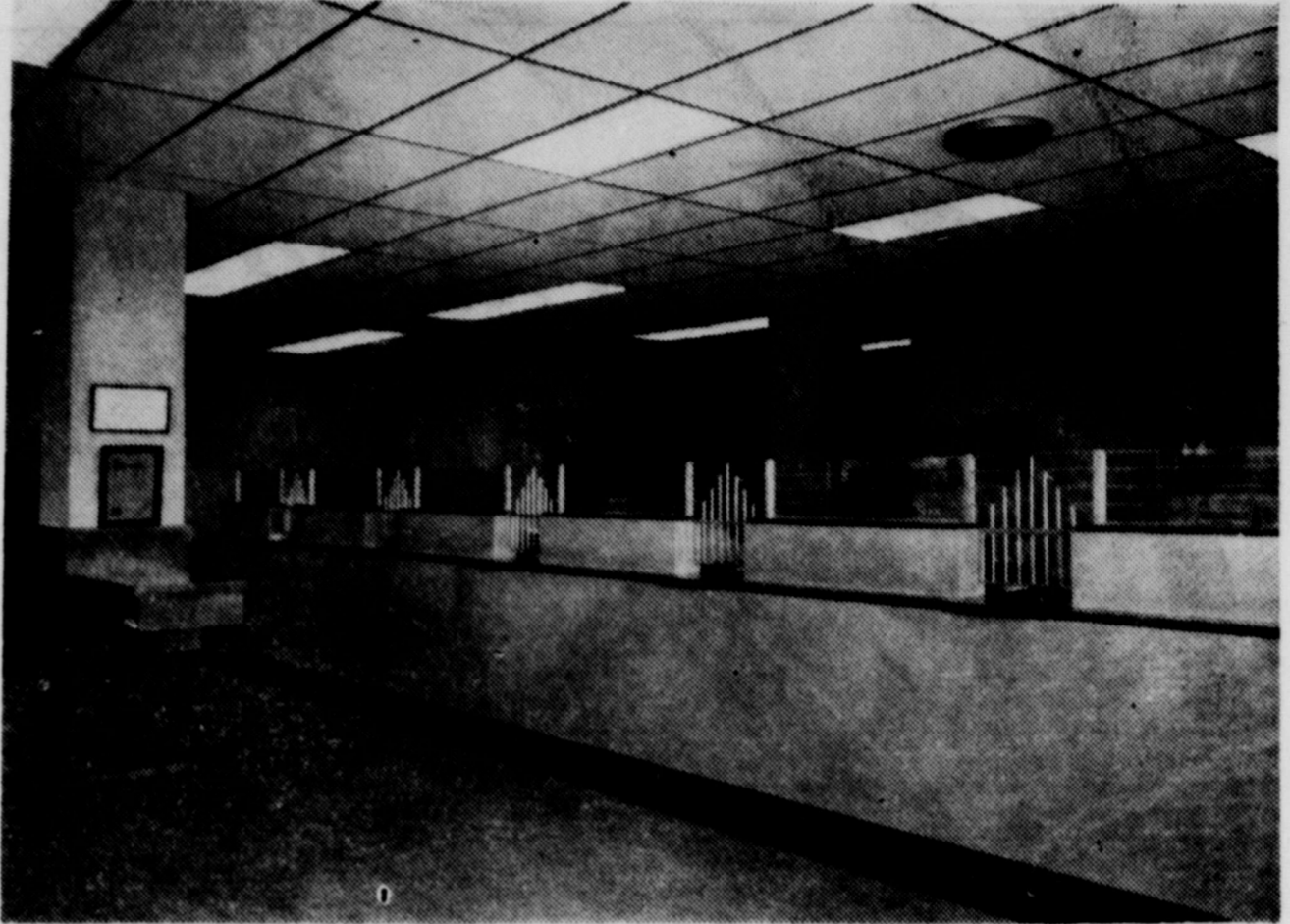
The First State Bank continued in operation until 1922, when it was closed during the financial panic which swept the country at that time.

That was the year that the present president, L. T. Youngblood, came to the bank here. He was operating the bank at Blackwell and was called by state banking officials to assist one of their examiners in investigating the books of the bank here. After the examination was made, he took the report to Austin and was asked by state officials to re-open the bank.

After a period of about 30 days, the bank was reopened as the Guaranty State Bank. Two of the employees who were with the First State Bank remained with the newly created organization. They were Mrs. Carrie G. Williams, who now lives in Grand Prairie, and Rube Gollihar, who was cashier.

On the new Board of Directors were Youngblood, R. E. Cumbie, Frank Keeny, Geo. H. McCulliton, J. B. McCutchen, E. C. Rawlings, Carrie G. Williams, M. A. Butner and J. R. Harmon.

On May 11, 1925, the Guaranty State Bank became the First National Bank and has continued under that name until the present



NEW AND MODERN—The spacious interior of First National Bank after it was remodeled in

May, 1954. Besides enlarging and completely renovating, new fixtures and office furniture were

installed throughout, making the First National one of the most modern small town banks.

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SAN ANGELO

time.

Another bank was also organized in Bronte in 1906, operated for about a year and sold out to First State Bank. It was operated by a banker from Talpa and received local backing from E. C. Rawlings and J. B. McCutchen.

After the death of J. B. McCutchen, chairmen of the board of directors have been E. C. Rawlings, J. R. Harmon and Youngblood, present chairman.

Youngblood has served as president of the bank continuously since he first became associated with the firm in 1922.

The bank building was remodeled in 1942 and again in 1954. In 1954 the building was completely renovated, taking in the building to the west to give additional space; new furniture and fixtures added, and a vault of safety deposit boxes installed.

During the depression years of the '30s First National Bank withstood the panic in stride. A notice signed by all the directors of the bank, and run as advertisements in all nearby newspapers, didn't leave any doubt that depositors' money was safe. The notice was dated Oct. 16, 1931. See **FIRST NATIONAL** Page 5C

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Best Wishes

TO COKE COUNTY

MAY THE COMING YEARS

BE THE GREATEST!

ETHICON, INC.

SAN ANGELO

Continued from Page 4C

and declared that they "could assume full responsibility and fully guarantee all deposits in said bank of every kind and character."

The local bank has been robbed twice, the first time on a Monday, July 1, 1935. Two armed men entered the bank, one from the front and one from the rear, and forced employees to lie on the floor. They took \$504.36, but missed more money than they took, as a drawer containing \$1600 was overlooked. These robbers were caught, convicted and given prison terms.

The last robbery took place on a Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1953. Two armed robbers entered the bank, stuck up two employees, Cashier B. D. Snead and Assistant Cashier Mrs. W. W. Millikin, tied them up and made off with nearly \$9,000. They, too, were careless and missed about \$30,000 sitting in the vault. The gunmen were apprehended on March 4, tried in federal court and each given a seven-year prison term.

Youngblood is currently president of the bank and chairman of the board of directors. His banking career began in 1909 when he went to work for the First State Bank at Blackwell as a bookkeeper. He held a position there, except for one year when he attended Texas A&M College, until he moved to Bronte in 1927.

He was elected cashier of the Blackwell bank in 1912 and was made president of the firm in 1914. After taking over as president of the Bronte bank in 1922, he continued to be associated with the bank at Blackwell until 1927 when the two financial institutions were consolidated.

He was born in Milam County in 1886, lived for a time as a child at Bastrop and in 1890 moved to Hylton, Nolan County, with his parents. He grew up and graduated from high school there and went to a business college in Waco. He operated a barber shop in Sweetwater and Blackwell prior to his banking career. His wife is the former Alma Mahaffey of Mt. Vernon. He also has a LL.B. degree, a result of ten years correspondence work in law courses.

Youngblood was appointed a member of the Upper Colorado River Authority in 1936 and has served continuously since that He served as vice chairman for nine years, and in 1945 was named chairman. He headed the water board until this year. He is an active member of First Baptist Church and has taught a mens Bible class there for about 30 years. He is a Shriner and a member of Bronte Lions Club.



THE ORIGINAL COPY — The construction was completed on building of First State Bank as Main Street's most imposing structure. it appeared in 1906, shortly after

The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

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Other present employees of bank are:

Earl F. (Tuny) Glenn is executive vice president of the bank. He started working there in May, 1946, shortly after being discharged from World War II service in the army. He is married to the former Mary Youngblood. They have three daughters, Marilyn, Frances and Laura.

B. D. Snead, vice president and cashier, began his career with the Bronte bank in 1941. He took the place of Mrs. Carrie G. Williams. Snead is married to the former Virginia Thetford. They are parents of four children, Mrs. Norman (Hattie Jane) Roberts, Ben D. Snead Jr., Mrs. Jerry (Wanda Belle) Parker, and Billy Doak Snead.

Mrs. Charlie (Virginia) Boecking is assistant cashier of First National Bank. She began working there in 1934 shortly after getting out of high school. A

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Youngblood, she and her husband, Charlie Boecking, have one son, Tom, who is a student at Texas Tech.

Mrs. LeDrew (Bobbie) Arrott is head bookkeeper and teller. She has worked at First National since 1962. Mrs. Davey (Gennie) Crockett, a bookkeeper, started to work in 1963. Mrs. Stanley (Kay) Daulong, also a bookkeeper, started work in 1964. Mrs. Jerry Parker has also worked as bookkeeper a good part of the time since 1959. Mrs. Thelma Gentry, the bank's

See FIRST NATIONAL Page 8C

**DIAMOND
ANNIVERSARY
GREETINGS**

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To Our
Neighbors
of

COKE COUNTY

ON YOUR

75th Anniversary

It's always good to join good neighbors when they have something to celebrate, and to wish them well. We take a great deal of pleasure in saluting the residents of Coke County on the occasion of your Diamond Jubilee. We wish you many happy returns.



George Scott Legion Post Was Begun in '25, Had 21 Members

The George Scott American Legion Post No. 394 of Bronte was chartered on Feb. 4, 1925. It was named after George Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Scott of Bronte. He was the first man from Bronte to give his life in service in World War I.

He was killed Oct. 8, 1919, in the Argonne Forest battle by a German sniper. Hubert A. Hayley, also of Bronte at that time, was the first person to reach him after he was hit. Hayley was present for the burial in Europe and also present at the services when his body was brought back to Lubbock in 1921. His father was publisher of the Bronte Enterprise during World War I.

The original post, as chartered, was composed of 21 veterans of

World War I. McNeil Wylie, former Coke County judge, now of Lubbock, served as first commander of the post and the late Prat Williams was the first adjutant.

Due to limited number of veterans in this area, the post never became very large until the American Legion made eligible for membership veterans of World War II.

Probably it was at its height in membership in the early 1950s when almost 100 veterans were enrolled.

One of the early undertakings of the Legion post was the construction of a park. The city furnished a plot of ground on Kickapoo Creek near the east edge of town and park facilities were erected

by the Legion, then all WWI veterans.

When the WWII vets began returning home, a permanent meeting place was needed and in 1944 a tract of land, near the park, was purchased. In 1947 a building was purchased from surplus quarters at Camp Barkley and moved to the present location.

On Memorial Day, 1953, Mrs. George Scott of Lubbock presented the post with the flag which was used at her son's funeral. That same year the post also received a national flag and post colors of matching size from Scott's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Watson of Lubbock.

In more recent years, the post again has declined in size as veterans moved away and became involved in other organizations.

Present commander is J. T. Liles and adjutant is H. O. Whitt.

AN OPERA HOUSE, YET

(From Enterprise March 28, 1913)

A Temperance Drama, "The Last Leaf," will be rendered in the Bronte Opera House, Friday evening, April 4, 1913.



TREASURED FLAG—The banner that draped the casket of George Scott, Bronte soldier in World War I, was given by his mother, Mrs. Katherine Scott, to the George Scott Post of the American Legion at Bronte on

Memorial Day, 1953. Mrs. Scott presented the flag to H. O. Whitt, left. In the background is Fred Young of Lubbock, former adjutant of the American Legion of Texas.

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Man or woman, it pays dividends to be well groomed . . . and that has always been true—even back when grandpa was a boy and Coke County was an infant in the broad expanse of West Texas. John and Ann are always ready to take care of your grooming needs . . . so make it a habit to visit them regularly.



DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION



We are indeed happy to be a part of the Bronte community and Coke County. The fine people of this area make it a real pleasure to live here and make this our home. We want to invite everyone to attend the big Diamond Jubilee Celebration on Labor Day.

John Boyles Barber Shop Mari-Ann's Beauty Shop

JOHN AND ANN BOYLES

Early Day Band Was Community Project

(Editor's note: The story below was taken from Mrs. Annie Wilkins' scrapbook. It gives a history of the Bronte Band up until a few years after it became a part of the curriculum of the school.)

In the following brief sketch of the Bronte band it has been our endeavor to follow as closely as possible the facts in a correlated manner, as they have been gathered from various sources; as there are no written records, we have been compelled to rely upon information gathered from those who have been associated with the organization, at different periods of its existence; and we desire to express our thanks, especially to B. A. Bell, Curtis Smith, J. Robert Knierim and W. R. Knierim.

It was in the latter part of 1922, possibly in September, that the first beginning was made toward the organization of a band for the Bronte community.

C. C. Holder and B. A. Bell deserve first mention as the two most responsible for the original organization; they with several others, who were interested and who possessed instruments and an inclination to assist in the work, began meeting for practice.

In those early days, the work of instruction and directing the rehearsals, fell upon both of these men who gave freely of their time, without thought of reward. After a short time considerable interest was aroused and the Bronte Chamber of Commerce generously donated some half dozen instruments, at a cost of approximately \$1000.00 to assist the new organization and it became known as the Chamber of Commerce Band.

The first paid instructor and director was G. A. Hartman of San Angelo, who came to Bronte with his family, sometime late in 1922 or early in 1923, remaining with the organization some nine months, during which time the band became an important factor in the community life. Liberal donations were made by business men and private citizens to support the organization during this period.

After Mr. Hartman left, the direction of the band again fell to Mr. Holder and Mr. Bell; sometime during the year 1924 the Bronte Band was merged with one at Robert Lee and was known as the Coke County Band and practice meetings were held, alternately, at Bronte and Robert Lee. This arrangement was terminated during 1925 and it seems that the band was inactive for some three or four years, possibly longer, as we have no written records covering the period.

In the summer of 1929, it was again revived, the personnel, this time, composed principally of boy scouts, with C. C. Holder as chairman and W. J. Gideon, secretary of band committee, B. A. Bell, acting as director during the summer months.

In September of 1929, with the assistance of business men and others subscribing one-half and the band membership the other half, of the necessary funds, Mr. H. H. Carsey of Ballinger was employed as director and instructor, and under his tutelage, very gratifying results were had; competing in the state band contest at Abilene, in May of 1930, winning first place in Class C school bands, competing again, in the same contest in 1931, the band won second place in class C. During this year, 1931, the organization was unable to retain Mr. Carsey any longer, and Mr.

Holder again took over the direction of the band, and the following year, 1932, won first place in the FFA band contest at Huntsville, Texas.

In November, 1932, the State FFA Band went to the FFA National convention at Kansas City and the Bronte organization was honored by having thirteen members of their group chosen to play with the state band there and further honored, by the fact that Curtis Smith of Bronte was chosen as president of the State Band. In 1935 five members of the Bronte group were again chosen to go with the FFA state band to the national FFA convention at Kansas City.

The last few years of this musical work had been very closely related to our public and high school, practically all of the personnel being drawn from the student body and it had now become apparent to the school board that it would be to the best interest of the community for the Bronte School to sponsor the band organization.

Thus it was that in 1934 Mr. E. B. Maxwell was elected to a po-

sition in the school with this particular feature in view and he was placed in charge of band instruction and remained in the system in that capacity for two years.

This plan has been followed since that time and band instructors following Mr. Maxwell have been, Martin Baze, E. N. Smith, J. H. Hamblin and Clifford Horn. These gentlemen have all rendered excellent service and deserve great credit for their work. Mr. Horn, who is now in charge of this department, I understand, will be in the same position the coming session and is doing very outstanding work.

It would be very interesting if we had a complete roster through the years of the different individuals who have been active members of the organization but no such list is available, but we do know that through its efforts many lives have been given a fuller appreciation of the better things in life, much entertainment has been given, much of joy and happiness and hope.

(Note: The 13 boys who went to Kansas City National FFA convention with the Texas official

band included Wink Kiker, James Hearn, Frank Hearn, Gene Kee-Donald. The five who went to Kansas City again in 1935 with the state band included Gene Kez-ney, Dwain Leonard, R. I. Col-ner, Wayman Percifull, N. C. Davis, Clyde Holder and Pete Mc-T. M. Wylie Jr. and Curtis Smith.)

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WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF COKE COUNTY



DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION



Like most scientific fields, the profession of medicine and pharmacy have made tremendous strides during the past 75 years. No longer do doctors prescribe and pharmacists dispense old time remedies of doubtful effectiveness. Today's modern physicians and pharmacists work hand in hand to give you, our customers, the finest in the most up-to-date fresh and potent drugs—themselves miracles of this age.

Welcome to the Big Labor Day Celebration

Hurley Pharmacy



A Real Dirty Trick To Play on Sheriff

business reasons. Surely this is a free country and open to fair competition... and this proposition is not open for debate."

Repeal of the Prohibition Amendment was evident in a July, 1935, edition of the Robert Lee Observer. It stated: "BEER GARDEN Now Open. When in Robert Lee and you are dry as DUST and you simply MUST have a bottle of Beer, visit us. Roe & Scoggins."

1960	2,723,819
1961	2,635,129
1962	2,927,629
1963	2,559,792
1964	2,608,584

The figures above were taken from bank statements dated Jan. 1 so far as was possible.

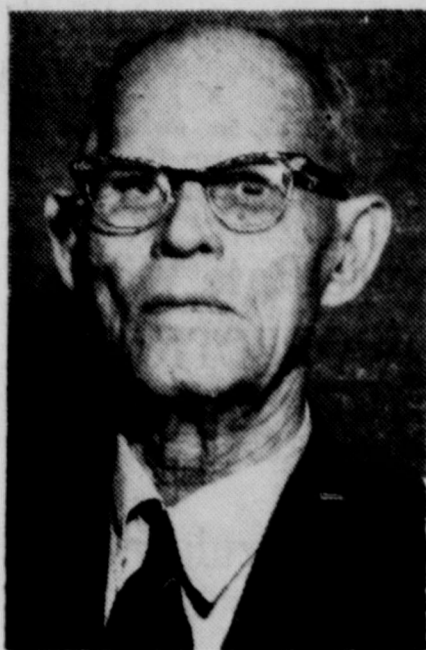
Capital accounts of the bank at the last call on June 30, 1964, amounted to \$346,500.00.

"Dastardly, if it is true!" Such was a headline in the edition of The Bronte Enterprise of March 28, 1913. It seems that Sheriff Hickman received an anonymous letter telling him not to run his auto between Robert Lee and Bronte because the road had been sprinkled with "tacks and horseshoe nails." The sheriff disregarded the warning as the work of a "four-flusher" and "in driv-

ing over there Monday got only seven punctures."

"The next day Mr. Richardson got four punctures, and a drummer making the trip got down several times."

"It is clear that the motive for strewing the road with nails and tacks was to cripple and hinder the service car," the story went on to say, "and the act was the meaner if inspired or done for



FORMER BOARD CHAIRMAN
The late J. T. Harmon of Blackwell served as chairman of the Board of First National Bank, succeeding the late E. C. Rawlings, until his death in January, 1960.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK —
Continued from Page 5C

custodian, has worked part time since 1953.

Young people who have helped during vacations this summer are Tom Boecking, Marilyn Glenn and Elaine Collins.

Mrs. Floyd (Frances) Collins, a bookkeeper and teller since 1956, resigned Aug. 15 to move with her husband to East Texas.

Present members of the board of directors are: L. T. Youngblood, R. E. Cumbie, E. F. Glenn, D. K. Glenn, J. B. Mackey, Edward Rawlings and W. B. Middleton.

Deposits at the First National Bank in Bronte have shown remarkable growth through the years of its existence, and today the firm boasts more than 2,000 accounts, from all over the United States. Below are listed a number of years, beginning in 1911, together with the amount of money on deposit on a date during that year (figures were taken from Enterprise files):

1911	\$ 47,122
1915	71,047
1918	66,340
1920	320,602
1921	200,120
1922	159,520
1923	166,000
1924	188,428
1925	238,193
1930	102,976
1933	72,591
1939	309,529
1945	1,304,769
1946	1,444,665
1947	1,457,727
1948	1,691,130
1949	1,905,097
1950	2,236,832
1951	2,548,164
1952	2,709,649
1953	2,274,937

(This was in the terrible drouth of the early '50s.)

1954	2,552,502
1955	3,398,672

(This unprecedented high was caused by deposit of bond money to build the new Bronte Elementary School and the new Coke County Courthouse.)

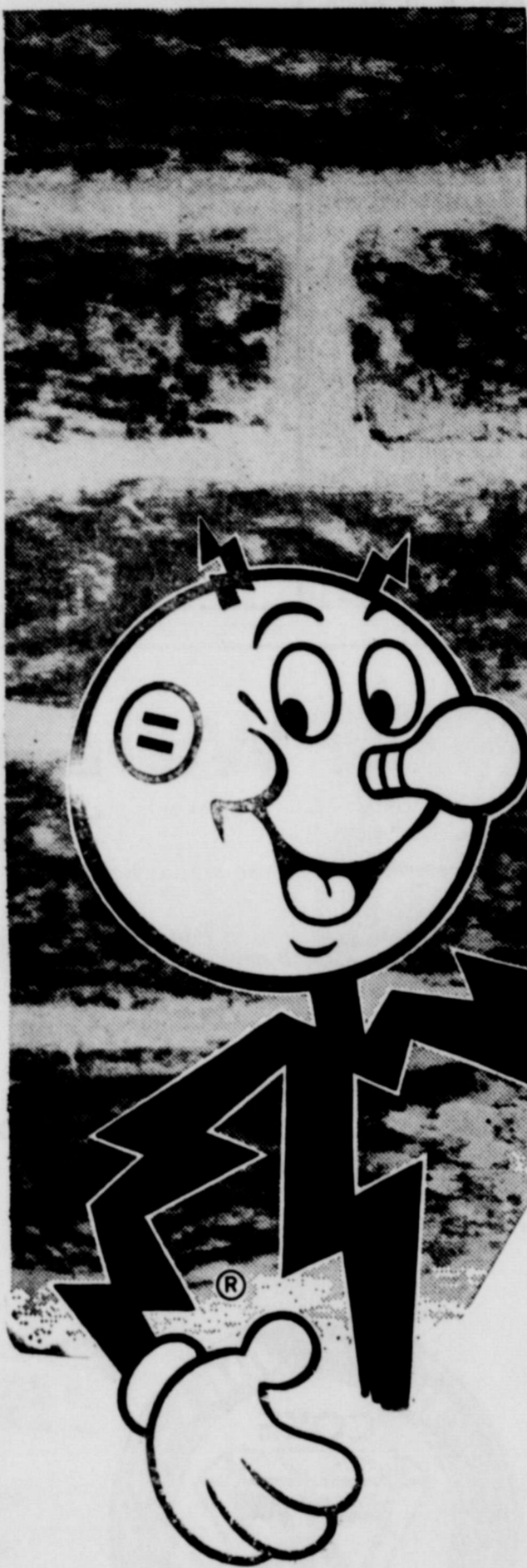
1959	2,433,027
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Texas Theatre Has Air Cooled System

(From Enterprise July 9, 1937)

Wojtek Bros., owners of the Texas Theatre, have installed an air cooling system in their show house. The cooling system is a decided improvement, for the patrons of the Texas can go for an hour of entertainment at this show house and have the cool comfort as much as in the first class show houses of the larger cities.

Wojtek Bros. propose that the patrons of their show house shall have the best.



Congratulations to growing, going

COKE COUNTY

on your

75th Anniversary

Congratulations to the fine citizens of Coke County during the celebration of its 75th anniversary! Coke County has come a long way since it was created and organized in 1889, and WTU with Reddy Kilowatt lights up with pride as he looks back on their participation since 1926 in Coke County's growth and development. Times may have changed since 1889, but the pioneer spirit and determination still run strong in the veins of Coke County's people, and Reddy looks forward to the pages yet to be written in Coke County's history!

In Coke County or any place, electricity is a good bargain. In fact, residential customers serviced by WTU paid 17 per cent less per average KWH in 1963 than in 1953.



Electricity Costs

So Little

You Can Use Lots of It



Historical & Progress Edition

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

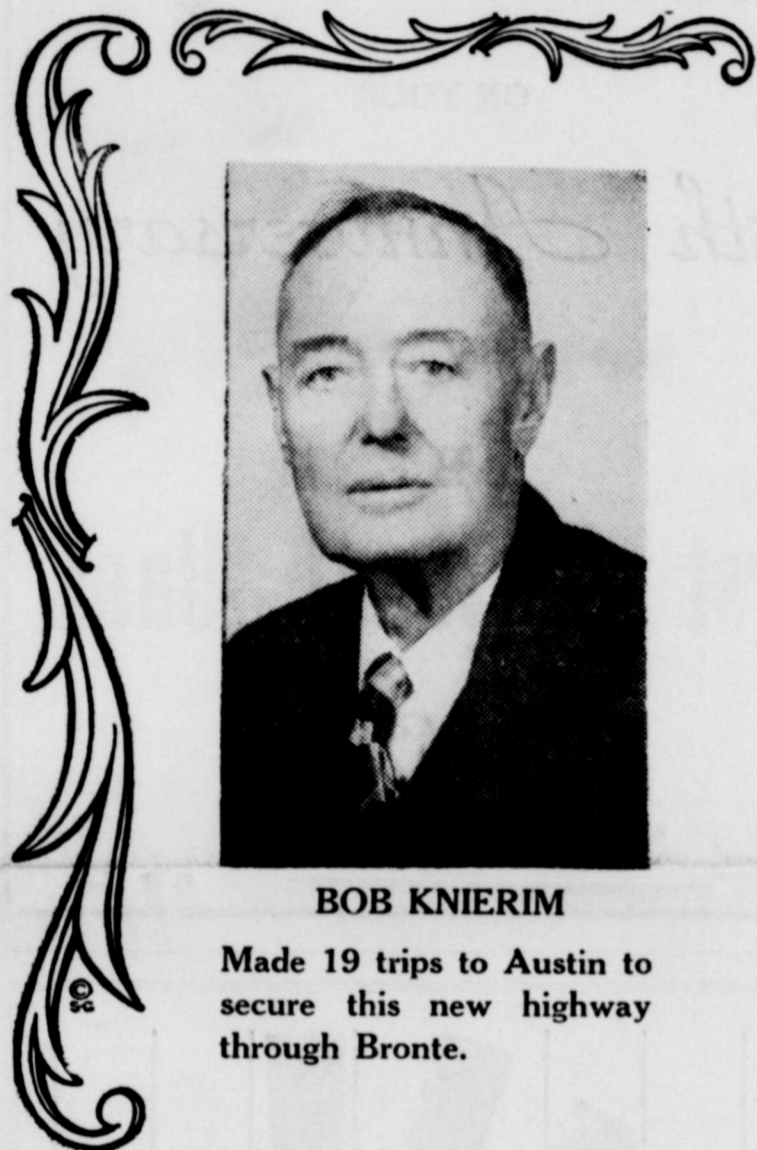
Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section D

It Was

June 9, 1937



BOB KNIERIM

Made 19 trips to Austin to secure this new highway through Bronte.

Sweetwater

HIGHWAY FROM SWEETWATER TO SAN ANGELO COMPLETED

Blackwell



R. E. CUMBIE

Was Mayor of the town on this historic day.

BRONTE

Highway 70 Completed

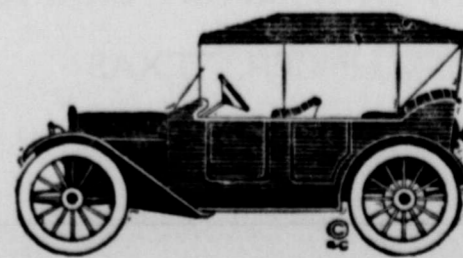
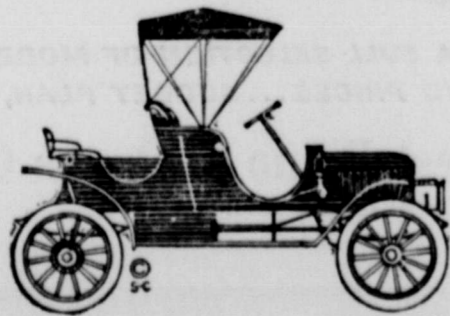
They Came
From Near and Far
For the Big
Celebration and
Picnic on the River

IT WAS A BIG DAY FOR BRONTE

Tennyson

Orient

San Angelo





THE JOHN HARRIS CLINIC—The clinic which is located immediately north of Bronte Hospital, was the last of three additions which have been added to the

medical facility in Bronte. The new clinic was completed in 1957, following hospital additions in 1952 and 1955, which gave Bronte a 21-bed hospital.

Bronte Hospital Rounds Out 17 Years of Service

Page 2D

The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

Coke County is fortunate to have two hospitals in a county of less than 4,000 persons. The first of these to be built and the larger is Bronte Hospital, while West

Coke County Hospital at Robert Lee was built as a county hospital. The story told here concerns the medical facility at Bronte, which is owned and operated by Dr.

John R. Harris.

A need for hospital facilities had been evident in the Bronte area for some time when, in 1947, J. M. Rippetoe, then owner of Bronte Pharmacy and now a resident of Bangs, Texas, built the initial part of the hospital here. It was named Karen-Gayl Hospital, after the two Rippetoe daughters, Belva Karen and Nona Gayl.

This was the first hospital ever built in Coke County and it has always been a privately owned institution. The original structure had seven patient beds and was located at the intersection of the Bronte, Ballinger and San Angelo highways. A formal opening was held, Aug. 5, 1947. The Karen-Gayl Hospital was designed by Doyle Maddux of San Angelo. Several hundred persons from this area attended the formal opening of the new medical facility.

Rippetoe, the original owner of the hospital, came to Bronte in March of 1938. A native of Lipan, he was a registered pharmacist and bought the Bronte Pharmacy in 1938, from Mrs. R. E. Cumbie, the only heir of her father, George McCuiston, who had been conducting the business.

Dr. John R. Harris, who was practicing in Colorado City at that time, moved to Bronte in July, 1947, and set up his office in the new hospital when it was completed. A native of Oklahoma, Harris received his Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1940 and his Doctor of Medicine degree from Baylor University School of Medicine in 1944. He served his internship at Robert B. Green Hospital in San Antonio, and served as a medical officer with the 249th Mobile Surgical Team in the Pacific Theater of Operations in World War II. He practiced a year at Mooreland, Okla., and three months at Colorado City before coming to Bronte.

Dr. Harris brought his family, Mrs. Harris, who was the former Mary Lewis of Carrizozo, N. M., and formerly of Blackwell, and two small children, Rex and Ann.

First employees of the hospital included Mrs. Jess Scott, Miss Maurine Bell (now Mrs. Marvin Landers), Mrs. Della Freeman and Mrs. Harris.

On Aug. 12 that year the first baby was born in the local hospital. He was Bobbie Jack White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob White of the Olga community. First twins to be born here were Barbara Jean and Beverly Joan Hickman, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Hickman.

In 1948 Rippetoe, because of other business interests, leased the hospital to Dr. Harris, and in 1951, Harris bought it outright.

As the need for medical facilities continued to increase, Dr. Harris in 1952 added two wings to the original structure and changed—See BRONTE HOSPITAL Page 8D

GOING TO SAN ANGELO? - - - -

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NNNSan Angelo

1889

We Salute
75 Years of
Progress in Medicine

1964

When Coke County was organized in 1889, modern medicine was still in its infancy. The practice of medicine as we know it today had its beginnings in the work of the following men:

JOSEPH LISTER, Father of Antisepsis

ROBERT KOCH, Discoverer of the Tubercle Bacillus

LOUIS PASTEUR, Pioneer in Bacteriology-Immunology

These great pioneers in medicine were alive and actively engaged in their work when this country was born 75 years ago. Their beginnings in conquering disease have been carried on and improved by countless hundreds of doctors and scientists down through the years.

Today, the conquest of disease is constantly on the march. As techniques and skills improve, new and better drugs are developed, safety in surgery increases, modern medicine strives to help you live a longer, happier and healthier life.

Bronte Hospital

RENDERING A CONSTANT SERVICE TO THIS AREA

Diversity Club, Organized in 1930, Has Fostered Many Community Programs

The present day Diversity Club of Bronte was organized as the Junior Study Club in 1930 by the Woman's Progressive Club with the following charter members: Mmes. Charlie Baker, Alfred Bennett, Homer Good, Herman Glenn, James Glenn, Bryan Ivey,

Ernest Ivey, Barrett Mackey, J. B. Mackey, W. C. McDonald, O. R. McQueen, Lester Rice, Taylor Shelton and George Thomas; also Misses Gertrude Hayley, Elizabeth Leonard and Nell Lowry. The club members were eager to do something for the town and

they had benefit parties to make money. Shrubs were planted at the cemetery, and in 1940, money was given to help buy grass seed for the football field.

In 1941, the Juniors grew up! They were renamed the Diversity Club. Also in 1941, plans for a city park were discussed, and the present day park exceeds the members fondest hopes of what could be done.

During World War II, the club members helped with Red Cross work, knitted and sewed. They

sponsored a needy family overseas, sending boxes of food and clothing to them. The club collected silk stockings for the silk stocking campaign; members also collected papers and magazines which the Boy Scouts picked up for them.

To make money, the club sponsored cake walks on Saturday night. The Main Street was roped off and people came from far and near and walked. A total of \$30.00 was made on this venture. In order to further augment the treas-

ury, each member was assessed five cents each meeting; benefit parties were held, netting as much as \$25.00 per party. Magazine subscriptions were sold and \$22.12 was cleared. That year the members helped with the door to door Red Cross canvass and donated \$15 to the cause.

Another assessment of 50 cents per member was used to purchase two swings for the park. The club sponsored a Hobby Show at the school house which created See DIVERSITY CLUB Page 8D

SELLING MERCHANDISE IN BRONTE . . .

SINCE 1906

That Was the Beginning
Of Our Store

Through the years it has always been our policy to handle only top quality clothing for the entire family, and we are proud of such names in our store as



MR. AND MRS. R. E. CUMBIE

R. E. Cumbie started out in the hardware business in 1906, but soon moved into dry goods merchandising. In 1909 just before he moved into the building which still houses our store, he and Mrs. Cumbie were married and they were active in the business until a few years ago, when their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mackey, took over the management.

- Cater Frock Children's Dresses
- Mr. Jack Dresses
- Arrow Shirts
- Stetson Hats
- Ship & Shore Blouses
- Levi & Lee's Jeans
- Dickie Work Clothes
- Lorraine Lingerie
- Herman Marcus Dresses
- Miss Virginia Dresses
- Buster Brown for Children
- Haynes Underwear
- And Many Others

We sincerely hope that during the past 58 years this firm has made a contribution to the growth and progress of Coke County. Your friendship and confidence are our greatest assets.



**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**

On This Occasion of Celebrating Coke County's 75th Anniversary
We Take Pleasure in Welcoming You to Bronte

Cumbie & Mackey

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Cumbie

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mackey

New Highway Was Big Asset to Bronte

It was a big occasion when Highway 70 was completed through Coke County in early June, 1937, making "an all weather paved highway" complete north and south through the county. A big celebration occurred in Bronte on June 9 with civic leaders and residents of San Angelo, Bronte and Sweetwater all gath-

ering for a picnic, celebration and program on the Colorado River near the newly completed river bridge, south of Bronte. R. E. Cumbie was then mayor of Bronte.

The completion of the highway was the result of over 20 years of work and planning by many persons involved. The first start came in 1916 when the highway was first suggested by the late Col. Thomas Trammell, early Sweetwater pioneer. Trammell induced the late Col. D. E. Culp of San Antonio, secretary of the Texas Good Roads Assn., to come to Sweetwater, to try to interest him in the highway. Col. Trammell suggested that it run straight through to Del Rio, thus creating a short route to Old Mexico.

During the discussions, Col. Trammell telephoned the late Bob Knierim in Bronte, who joined the men for further discussions of the proposed paved road. The group decided to travel the proposed route, though the roads along the route at that time were in terrible condition and very rough.

When they got to Bronte, they lunched at the Cottage Hotel, where they were met by J. A. Clift and D. I. Durham of Robert Lee, who were interested in seeing the highway go through Robert Lee.

Following this meeting for a time a big controversy raged over whether the road should go directly from Sweetwater to Robert Lee, thus missing Blackwell and Bronte, or whether it should take the originally proposed route through Blackwell and Bronte. During the time the debating was going on, bonds were voted by the county for construction of the road.

In April, 1917, the State Highway Department was created with Curtis Hanacock as first chairman and Capt. Fauntleroy as chief engineer. Negotiations continued through the years.

In 1924, the State Highway Department contracted with R. L. Hannah Construction Co. for grade and drainage work from Robert Lee to the south line of Nolan

County at Blackwell. J. E. Beavers was engineer on this job.

Meanwhile, Nolan County had pushed its own road construction work and had completed a paved road to Blackwell. Much correspondence and seven years later, in '31, the proposed 70 was surveyed directly from Bronte to San Angelo and location was definitely fixed. A. F. Moursand was the division engineer. In 1932, the State Highway Department let contracts for grade and drainage construction; Bucey & Childs was awarded the contract north from Bronte to the Nolan County line, with some changes in the route from that of its location in 1924; construction south to the Tom Green County line was given to G. F. Construction Co.; bridge and culvert construction was awarded to Dozier Construction Co., and the contract for the big bridge across the Colorado River two and one-half miles south of Bronte went to Jones Construction Co. of Little Rock, Ark. Will Blanks was state engineer on the bridge.

Early in 1937 contracts were let for topping 70, thus making it an "all weather artery of travel." The job of topping from Bronte to Nolan County was done by the Lone Star Construction Co. and the south end of 70 was topped by Bucey and Childs. The complete job was accepted in June 1937.

The late Bob Knierim of Bronte made 19 trips to Austin, among many other trips, working on this project for more than 20 years. Others in Coke County who worked and were influential in this project included Judge W. H. Bell, Ed Holman, S. A. Kiker, Judge McNeil Wylie and Bronte Mayor R. E. Cumbie.

More Recent Developments

The 28 miles of new highway served the area well until 1948 when it was given a retopping job completely across the county at a cost of approximately \$30,000. The highway through Bronte was also widened 40 feet from one block north of the bank to the city limits on the south. H. O. Whitt was mayor of Bronte at that time.

Early in 1948, it was also announced that Highway 70 going through Bronte would also bear the name of U. S. Highway 277, which was being rerouted from San Angelo through Bronte, View and Caps to Abilene instead of by Ballinger and Winters.

Highway Department minutes showed that the "new route would be 2.9 miles shorter from San Angelo to Abilene" and the the road "is preferred by local highway users and is an adequate facility in good condition and is under state highway maintenance." The new route is the same as at present, following the highway known as the Butterfield Trail from Abilene to a junction with State 70 nine miles north of Bronte, and then to a junction with U. S. 67 just north of San Angelo.

Latest Rebuilding

After another decade of travel, reworking of 277 and 70 began to be talked again late in 1957, when it was proposed to rebuild the highway from Main Street in Bronte to the Abilene-Sweetwater intersection. Included in the project were rebuilding of the bridge over Kickapoo Creek in north Bronte, rebuilding and relocating the road to the Y, and construction of an overpass at the Y. This project was for 8.587 miles and was completed in August, 1959. The new highway was built on a contract for \$505,422.00 with Strain Bros., Inc., of San Angelo.

Being a part of an overall plan to rebuild a four-lane highway from Abilene to San Angelo, the next part of the plan called for rebuilding the south end of the highway from Main Street in Bronte to San Angelo. The con-



TWO ELEGANT YOUNG LADIES—Georgia McCutchen Woullard, left, and Fannie McCutchen Lockhart are posing for their portrait which was made some time in the early 1900s. They were the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. McCutchen, Coke pioneers.



PIONEER COUPLE—Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Clark in a picture taken in 1904. Both the late Mr. Clark and his wife were from pioneer families in this area. She is the former Alice Percifull. Mr. Clark was in the barber business here for many years before his retirement. He died in 1960.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

PIONEERS IN SERVICE TO THE PLUMBERS IN THE AREA

OBERKAMPF PLUMBING SUPPLY

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Enjoy America's Most Popular Fun Sport

FALL LEAGUE NOW FORMING

MEN'S WOMEN'S MIXED COUPLE'S

Thanks, Bronte

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Authorized Dealer for

RADIOEAR

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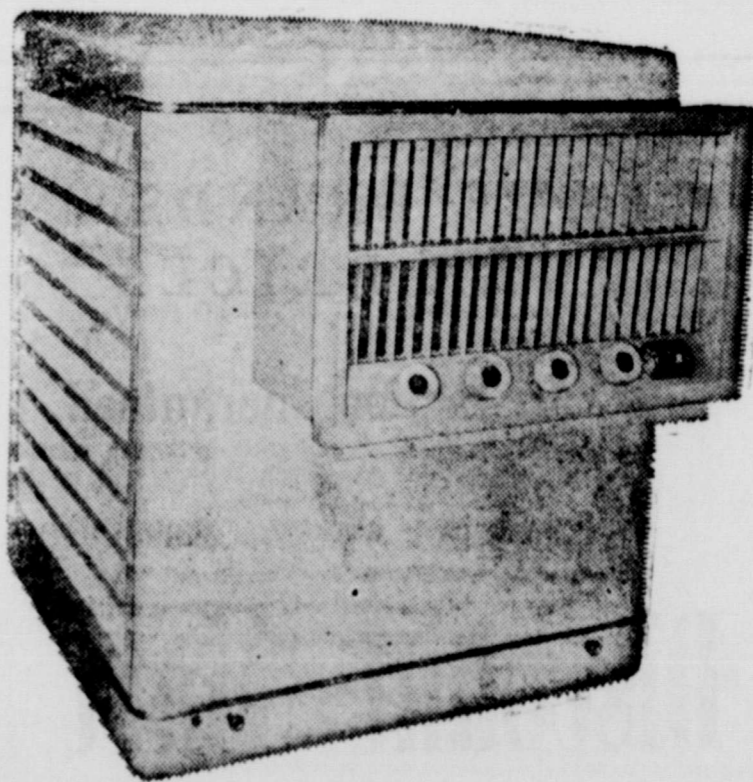
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**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**

**ANNIVERSARY
GREETINGS**

FROM

Roy Swafford

OF

**WALL
TRADING
COMPANY**

Wall

Sorosis Study Club Is Area's Newest Federated Organization; Began in '47

The Sorosis Club is the newest Federated club in Bronte, having been sponsored by the Diversity Club and organized Oct. 3, 1946, in the home of Mrs. W. H. Maxwell Jr. It was organized with the name Junior Study Club and the name was changed by action of the members in 1952. It became a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1947.

Charter members of the organization were: Mmes. Louis (Ruby) Bridges, R. T. (Zelma) Caperton, Buck (Lynn) Coleman, Clark (Mary Frances) Glenn, Vernon (Bobbie) Glenn, Royce (Betty) Lee, Joe (Jerry) McCutchen, Ed (Jane) Nunnally, Noel (Maxine) Percifull, Francis (Noragene) Pruitt, R. H. (Gladys Mae) Sims, Frank (Mozelle) Sayner, W. D. (Maxine) McDonald, Hollis (Mary) Stevens and Miss Mary Beth Cumbie, now Mrs. R. D. Garrett.

Four of the charter members still belong to the organization. They are Mmes. Clark Glenn, E. F. Glenn, Royce Lee and W. D. McDonald.

Stated object of the club "is to unite the members in a closer bond of sympathy and friendship, to pursue a selected course of study

and to foster community enterprises."

Sorosis Club members have sponsored and helped with many community objectives including traffic safety, erecting street markers, erecting a flag pole at the local football field, and helping in the improvement and beautification of the county park in Bronte.

Past presidents of the organization have been: Mmes. Frank Sayner, 1946-48; R. T. Caperton, 1948-50; Noel Percifull, 1950-52; Clark Glenn, 1952-54; R. H. Sims, 1954-56; Grady Baker, 1956-57; Royce Lee, 1957-58; Jacob Morrow, 1958-60; Bill Clark, 1960-62; E. F. Glenn, 1962-64. The present president, elected to serve through the 1966 club year, is Mrs. Joe Rawlings.

Present members are: Mmes. C. B. Barbee, C. C. Boecking, Matthew Caperton, Bill J. Clark, Davy Crockett, Edward M. Cumbie, Royce Fancher, Don Furr, Clark Glenn, E. F. Glenn, John Harris, Clyde Lee, Royce Lee, Austin Masterson, W. D. McDonald, Ben Oglesby, C. L. Rasberry, Joe Rawlings, C. O. Richards and Roy Robinson.

The Sorosis Club was instrumental in organizing another Junior study club here in 1952. Mrs. Bobby Vaughn, in whose home they had their first meeting, was the first president of the Junior club. Other presidents of the club include Mrs. Bill Clark, Mrs. J. B. Arrott, Mrs. Allen Bryan, Mrs. Norman Porter and Mrs. William Fletcher. This club disbanded in 1959.

'OLD MUST GIVE WAY,' EVEN 30 YEARS AGO

(From Enterprise June 16, 1933)

Truly, "the old must give away to the new"—that is inevitable. And the work of the hands of man are not exempt. Two of the first buildings to be erected in the business section of Bronte when the town was first laid out and the work of erecting buildings began, are being torn down.

Dr. R. R. McCleskey is wrecking the little business house that was occupied by the A. D. Miller Shoe Shop. It is a wooden structure. Dr. McCleskey will use the lumber in erecting a garage at his home.

The other building is that of Mrs. U. G. Thomas, a two-story structure at the corner of Main and Railroad streets. It was built for a hotel in the early days of the town. Mrs. Thomas will use the material in building her a home at her present home location on Church street.

Honest Prices

Quality Repairs

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19-29 W. TWOHIG

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58 EAST 5TH

SHOP BOTH LOCATIONS FOR
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Girls and Boys

LEARN BEAUTY CULTURE

For An Excellent Paying Profession

IT COSTS SO LITTLE TO LEARN

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Than to need one and not have it.

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San Angelo

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ON YOUR

75th Anniversary

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Discount Mart

"WHY PAY MORE"?

1818 W. BEAUREGARD

San Angelo

Poem Tells Story of Progressive Club, The Oldest Federated Club in Bronte

The Woman's Progressive Club of Bronte is the oldest federated club in this area, having been organized in 1915 and federated in 1920. This year, 1964, the club elected to defederate.

In its history the Progressive Club has done many worthwhile things for its community and others. For many years they presented a loving cup to the high school student making the highest grades; they placed many books and magazines in the school library. Many of the trees in the Fairview Cemetery were placed there by this club as they aided in the beautification of the cemetery. In later years, they have worked with other clubs and the town in the improvement and beautification of the new Bronte County Park.

The following poem was written in the early 1940 telling some of the history of the club and is reprinted here as written, and as taken from the scrapbook of Mrs. Annie Wilkins:

In 1915 on April third
In the home of Mrs. Chapman
This incident occurred.
The Woman's Progressive Club
was organized then,
The number of members being
just ten.
There were May, Emma, Minnie
and Julia,
Two Annies, Leola, Eva, Daisy
and Eula,
With Julia as president. My: How
the club did go
With their first course of study
on old Mexico.
The object of this Civic organiza-
tion
Was to help increase civilization,
Beautify our homes, city and state
And an interest in all worthy
causes create.
Now 25 members have come to
stay,
To work in the Club and then to
play
With a study course and work to
do,
We are busy women the whole
year through.
With nimble fingers it was a joy
To knit socks and sweaters for
the soldier boy.
All through the war we worked
as one,
To try to comfort "Some Mother's
Son."
In 1920 without hesitation
We became a member of the State
Federation,
A branch of the national family
tree
Of Women's clubs in this country.
Two silver loving cups to the
school,

A city park, and a library too,
Three art exhibits and an ex-
change of bulbs
Are part of the work of the
Women's Club.
Over our city a big stork flew
On October eighth 1930
He dropped a bundle bright and
gay,
The Junior Club was born that
day.
So today "Hats Off" to you Ju-
nior band,
We want to give you a breat big
hand
For the accomplishments of one
so young.
When you set a task you get the
job done.
We fenced the park in '33
And entertained the Seniors with
a tea.
Our outstanding member in that
year
Was Eva Keeney—who was in the
chair.
In '34 after careful consideration
We joined the Ft. Concho Fed-
eration.
This link has been the binding tie
That has raised our standards
very high.
"Out of the west rode young" La-
Marr
And played in concert as our star.
We claim this artist as our own
Because Bronte land is his native
home.
To the Rodger's Memorial Fund
we gave a donation
And pondered city beautification.
We made Whoopee! And stayed
out late
When Highway 70 opened its gate.
In co-operation with other Clubs
We have planted flowers, trees
and shrubs
Our Burial Park to beautify
The resting place where our loved
ones lie.
There are some of our members
I am sorry to state
Have been taken from us, it seems
by fate.
An evergreen tree we planted this
year
In memory of those we hold so
dear.
Sixth district is rolling on a
coaster
Since three of our members are
on its roster.
The committee chairman the dis-
trict claim
Are Willie Mae, Lois and Emma
by name.
President Ann calm and cool
Suggested we give books to the
school.
So 120 bound nice and fine
Were presented the school in '39.
Busy Lottie worked night and day
Until a big shipment was on its
way

To the crippled children sad and sick

Scrap-book material was sent by this clique.

We have sent flowers to our capital town

To help the district beautify the ground

Of the State Federation home so grand

Where Clara Driscoll lent her hand.

To Atlantic City we sent the mon.

For the Golden Jubilee in '41

Let's don bathing suits and go

To the Jubilee and the beauty show.

Sh! Sh! Mother Club is expecting another, we're told.

On this grand idea each member is sold.

We must mean you Juniors, "Let thee do for thyself,"

Which means we must now lay you high on the shelf.

We cannot forget you or the things that you do

But of course this old mother is all in a stew

With this new baby to care for we do not have time

To think of Spring bonnets or to continue this rhyme.

Charter members mentioned by first name in the poem are Mrs. Homer (May) Wilkins, Mrs. R. E. (Emma) Cumbie, Mrs. Sam J. (Minnie) Powell, Mrs. O. W. (Julia) Chapman, Mrs. Will (Annie) Gideon, Mrs. Clint (Annie) Wilkins, Mrs. Luther (Leola) Terry, Mrs. Frank (Eva) Keeney, Mrs.

The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

Page 7D

Jack (Daisy) Caudle and Mrs. J. D. (Eula) Leonard. The Junior club mentioned is the present day Diversity Club.

Presidents of the club through its history are: Mrs. O. W. Chapman, 1915-16; Mrs. J. J. Caudle, 1916-17; Mrs. Frank Keeney, 1917-18; Mrs. L. D. Terry, 1919-20; Mrs. J. D. Leonard, 1920-21; Mrs. W. J. Gideon, 1921-23; Mrs. Frank Keeney, 1923-26; Mrs. Pratt Williams, 1926-27; Mrs. O. H. Willoughby, 1927-32; Mrs. Lucy Warner, 1932-34; Mrs. Frank Keeney, 1934-36; Mrs. A. N. Rawlings, 1936-38; Mrs. Clint Wilkins, 1938-40; Mrs. Cecil Glenn, 1940-42; Mrs. F. S. Higginbotham, 1942-44; Mrs. J. D. Leonard, 1944-46; Mrs. W. J. Gideon, 1946-48; Mrs. L. T. Youngblood, 1948-50; Mrs. Clint Duncan, 1950-52; Mrs. J. D. Leonard, 1952-54; Mrs. L. E. Smith, 1954-56; Mrs. Edna Butner, 1956-58; Mrs. Joe Carter, 1958-60; Mrs. Clint Duncan, 1960-62; Mrs. Emma Sims, 1962-64.

Mrs. Sims is present president of the club. Present members are Mmes. Edna Butner, Joe Carter, Linton Crow, R. E. Cumbie, W. C. Duncan, Genie Fort, Mattie Glenn, Willie Mae Glenn, F. S. Higginbotham, Olive Keeney, J. D. Leonard, J. W. Labenske, J. Madera, Mable Myers, A. N. Rawlings, M. Russell, Emma Sims, L. E. Smith, Annie Wilkins and L. T. Youngblood.

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CONGRATULATIONS BRONTE

On the occasion of your seventy-fifth anniversary. It has been our pleasure to serve the citizens of Bronte and the surrounding area for over half a century, and we look forward to many more years of pleasant association with you!

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On Labor Day
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**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**

Hurlin Lee Humble Station
Hurlin Lee and Employees



IT LOOKED LIKE THIS ONCE—An architect's drawing of the original Karen-Gayl Hospital shows the structure as it was when

built in 1947 by J. M. Rippetoe. This building had seven patient rooms in addition to an operating room, small office and kitchen.

BRONTE HOSPITAL —
Continued from Page 2D

ed the name of it to Bronte Hospital. The wings were added onto the north and south ends of the original building. With the addition, the room capacity of the hospital was doubled and the entire building was redecorated. On Sunday, Aug. 31, 1952, a formal opening of the new structure was held. This addition included the installation of refrigerated air conditioning and new operating and delivery rooms.

Again in 1955, the pressure for more bed space caused Dr. Harris to announce that another new wing would be added to the east side of the present building, making the original rectangular structure E-shaped. Total bed space with the addition was for 21 patients and 25 can be handled in emergencies. In the meantime Dr. Harris had moved his outpatient clinic into a building next door to the hospital, making the entire building space available for bed space and hospital work.

Since that time, no more space has been added, but in the fall of 1957, preparations were made to double the size of the clinic, thus joining it to the hospital. The entire clinic-hospital structure was finished in brick, and the new part opened in early 1958.

Many persons have been associated with Bronte Hospital and Harris Clinic through the years it has been in operation. In addition to treating thousands of patients, the payroll has been an economic boost for this area. The hospital is a member of the American Hospital Association and the Texas Hospital Association.

For many years, Bronte Hospital had "preceptee" doctors come out from the University of Texas

Medical School at Galveston. All were senior students who were required to go to various places in the state to practice medicine for three months at an approved facility and under supervision of an experienced physician.

Bronte Hospital has also several times sponsored classes in vocational nursing. Many local women have attended the school and received their vocational nursing licenses, enabling them to secure jobs here and in other places. Mrs. John R. Harris was director of these schools.

At various times, several doctors have been here associated with Dr. Harris in the practice of medicine and use of Bronte Hospital. They have included Dr. Dean Adams, Dr. Charles H. Robinson and Dr. Robert N. Muckleroy. At the present time Dr. Harris has no associate. W. D. (Pete) McDonald is hospital administrator and Mrs. Osmo (Kathleen) Black is head nurse.

WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL HAS SERVED SINCE 1949

West Coke County Hospital was built in 1948 after a county wide bond issue was voted in the summer of 1948. It was known as Coke County Memorial Hospital until last year, when residents of commissioner precincts 1 and 3 voted to form a hospital district. Since that time it has been operated free of county control. A board of directors is elected to govern the hospital.

Dr. John McDaniel has served as doctor for the hospital in Rob-Lee since it was first opened.

A bond issue has been approved by voters of the district to enlarge the hospital, and plans are now in the making to carry out an expansion program.

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The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

DIVERSITY CLUB —
Continued from Page 4D

much interest. The "Hobbyist" was from Abilene and displayed around 200 hobbies.

The Club has made regular contributions to the Penny Art Fund, the Latin-American Fund, Scholarship Fund, March of Dimes, Heart Fund, Red Cross and in later years the Cancer Crusade.

In 1946, the club organized a Junior Study Club (now the Sorosis Club) of which they are justly proud.

In 1951, the club sponsored a Mother's Day Tea at the Legion Hall. In January, 1952, the Club sponsored a Safety Program at the school. They helped the Lions Club sponsor the chest X-ray program twice in this area.

Club members customarily entertain their husbands at a Christmas party. Many gala occasions have been enjoyed. Many times the food would be cooked at home and spilled on the best bib and tucker of both husband and wife before arriving at the party . . . so it was decided to eat out and keep the clothes clean.

The Diversity Club sponsored and marched in the Mothers'

March from 1940 until 1956, after which they were assisted by the Sorosis Club.

The club paid for a table and benches at the park in 1957. In 1960 members had the columns and arch at the entrance to the cemetery painted. Shrubs were also planted at the entrance, but they died for lack of water.

In 1963, the club was asked to help in the beautification of the park and \$25.00 was given; flowers were also donated by club members.

Mrs. James Glenn was the first president of the organization and served 1930-32. She was followed by Mmes. Ernest Ivey, 1932-34; J. B. Mackey, 1934-36; Vetal Flores (Nell Lowry), 1936-38; D. K. Glenn, 1938-40; Curtis Smith, 1940-41; Clytus Smith, 1941-42; W. H. Maxwell Jr., 1942-44; Otis Smith, 1944-46; George Thomas, 1946-48; Charlie Boecking, 1948-50; Will Thomason, 1950-52; Cecil Kemp, 1952-54; A. S. Whatley, 1954-56; Claude Word, 1956-57; J. T. Henry, 1957-58; Clifford Clark, 1958-59; Collins Sayner, 1959-62; and R. C. Lasswell, 1962-64.

Present club president is Mrs. O. R. McQueen.

Continued from Page 5D

tract of 13.8 miles of construction to the Tom Green County line was awarded Collins Construction Co. of Austin in October of 1959. Construction began in November and was completed in 1961.

The old Colorado River bridge, which when built in 1936-37 was one of the "most modern and largest in West Texas," also gave way to the new and was completely rebuilt to make the four lane highway from Abilene to Bronte, to San Angelo a reality.

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Historical & Progress Edition

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section E

Ghosts of Stage Coaches and Saddle Bags Linger

Ft. Chadbourne P. O. Closing Ends Era



THE NEW POSTOFFICE—The building in which the postoffice at Fort Chadbourne had been housed for many years when the office was closed on

Sept. 30, 1942, after it had been in existence for about 90 years. Mrs. Nora Hallmark was postmaster in charge at the time.

An epoch in the historical setting of this area terminated at the close of business on Sept. 30, 1942, by decree of the U. S. Post-office Department. That decree that closed the Fort Chadbourne postoffice was about the last of the things "of the days of the forts" in this part of West Texas. From that day since Fort Chadbourne mail patrons have been served on a Bronte route.

The post office was first established in the old Fort and took its name from the fort. The fort was established Oct. 28, 1852, and it is believed mail service started about that time.

The date of the establishment of the post office cannot be officially learned, but there was a system of mail delivery even before the coming of the Butterfield Trail stage coaches in 1857. This route was officially recognized as the Southern Overland Line. Part of the time the mail was brought on horseback from Buffalo Gap, the nearest post office at the time, and for a time, mail was brought from Walthall, near the site of present-day Ballinger.

Old timers have also recorded that they can remember some mail being brought by horseback from Fort Concho. When Oak Creek could not be crossed by horseback, they said, a rope was stretched across the stream and the saddle bags in which the carrier brought the mail, were put on the rope. Another rope was tied to the saddle bags and they were pulled across the stream.

While the postoffice was at the fort, Dick Tilery was a postmaster and Mrs. Robert Kirkland was an assistant. Mrs. Kirkland's maiden name was Orleana Stone and she came from California over the Butterfield. These are the only names that could be found out in connection with the post-office while located in the fort.

Mrs. Robert Kirkland was the mother of Mrs. Walter Johnson, mentioned in connection with the picture of the dugout. The Johnsons, too, have long been connected with development of the Fort Chadbourne country.

It was not until 1889 that official information is available. At that time, Mrs. R. E. Douglas was appointed postmaster and the postoffice was moved to the Douglas home, about 1½ miles west of the present Fort Chadbourne community. Gov. James Stephen Hogg had preempted the tract to Douglas and they built the house of split post oak and live oak logs. When she became postmaster they



THE LAST STAGECOACH — A large crowd assembled at the Bronte postoffice in 1958 to meet the stagecoach which came through here on its way from St. Louis to San Francisco. The caravan retraced, insofar as possible the original route of a cen-

tury ago made by the Overland Stages, commonly known as the Butterfield Stage Line. The route entered Texas at Preston, thence across northeast Texas to Fort Chadbourne, then westward till it went into New Mexico at El Paso.

built the dugout and walled it with native rock.

In 1907 when the Orient railroad was completed through from Sweetwater to San Angelo, the town of Fort Chadbourne was established on the railroad.

Mrs. Douglas gave up office as postmaster in 1912 and Miss Addie Pritchard, later Mrs. James Calloway and now Mrs. Marvin Stevens of Bronte, served until 1919. It was during this time that the town of Fort Chadbourne flourished. At one time it had a newspaper, a bank, good mercantile es-

tablishments, school and churches. Another railroad survey came and the roadbed was built for several miles on both sides of town.

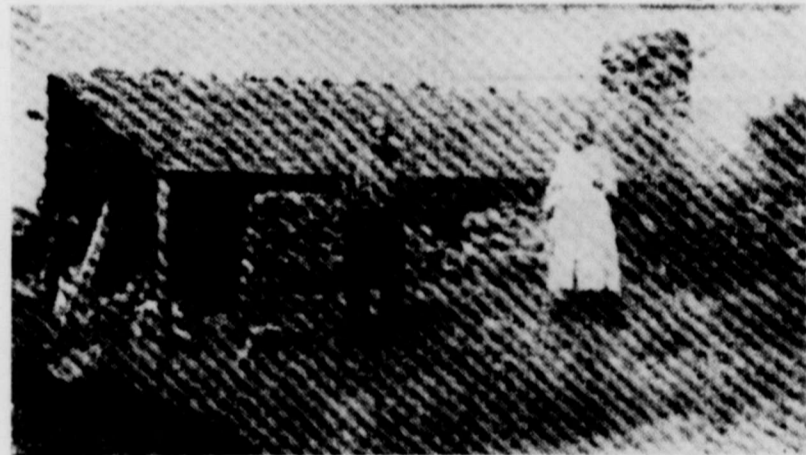
Following Miss Pritchard, Mrs. John (Edna Alsop) Moore served to 1921. Mrs. Louis Bergen, a member of another of the old-time Fort Chadbourne families, served as postmaster until 1928. Mrs. Nora Hallmark took over then and served until the curtain fell that September day in 1942, to close the office that had served the people for about 90 years.



EARLY DAY FOLKS — Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Douglas (both deceased) were early day pioneers in the Fort Chadbourne area. Mrs. Douglas was the first post-



master of the Fort Chadbourne postoffice when the office was removed from the old Fort in 1889, the year in which Coke County was organized.



A POSTOFFICE?—The dugout in which the Fort Chadbourne postoffice was housed for many years, following the appointment of Mrs. R. E. Douglas as postmaster in 1889, when the post office at the old Fort ceased to exist. The two people in the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson, who came into possession of the place in 1925. The

opening in the wall of the dugout between Mr. and Mrs. Johnson was the opening for the letter box, through which patrons of the post office mailed their letters in the absence of the postmaster. Out in front of the dugout is a live oak thicket where frontiersmen and cowboys would tie their horses when they came for the mail.



This Is How It Was 74 Years Ago-1890

By R. E. CUMBIE

(Editor's Note: R. E. Cumbie is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Cumbie. R. M. Cumbie was the first pastor of Bronte First Baptist Church and most of his story is told in an article concerning the First Baptist Church of Bronte.)

Mrs. R. M. Cumbie died in 1947. She was born in Cherokee County in 1852, came to Bronte with the family in 1890. They had eight children, four of whom are still living. They were W. J. Cumbie, Mrs. H. R. (Mae) Wilkins, Drue Cumbie and Bob Cumbie, all deceased; and R. E. Cumbie, I. M. Cumbie, Mrs. Cova Collier, all of Bronte; and Mrs. J. L. Wallace of Franklin.

Mr. Cumbie wrote the following

story as he remembers the family's coming here and of the early days of this town. We thank him for it.)

In April, 1890, we sold our farm in Comanche County and headed for Coke County in two covered wagons, one pulled by two oxen and the other by a team of horses driven by my father and older brother. I was only nine years old. Another brother and myself followed the wagons with about 35 head of cattle. We were about two weeks making the trip. We landed in the pecan grove near our present park on June 1. There we camped for about two weeks until we bought and got possession of a farm known now as the Jack Ivey place where we children grew and there were eight of us.

Dr. W. F. Key had just built a new home about where the H. A. Springer home now stands. A few months later he built the first store, a grocery, in Bronte. Then there was no post office here and we had to go to Hayrick for our mail. About Nov. 1st, we secured a post office, which was in the Harris residence, near our present ball park, for several years.

Dr. Key sold the grocery store and built a drug store. Carley and Williams built another grocery store but in a few years they went out of business and P. S. Starks of Brownwood moved to Bronte and opened a small grocery store. Then J. A. Hayes from Ballinger opened up a hardware business. W. L. Hayley opened up the first barber shop. Then came Ed Schawe of Ballinger to open a furniture and undertaking business.

Will and Ed Walton built a new hotel and a wagon yard in 1905.

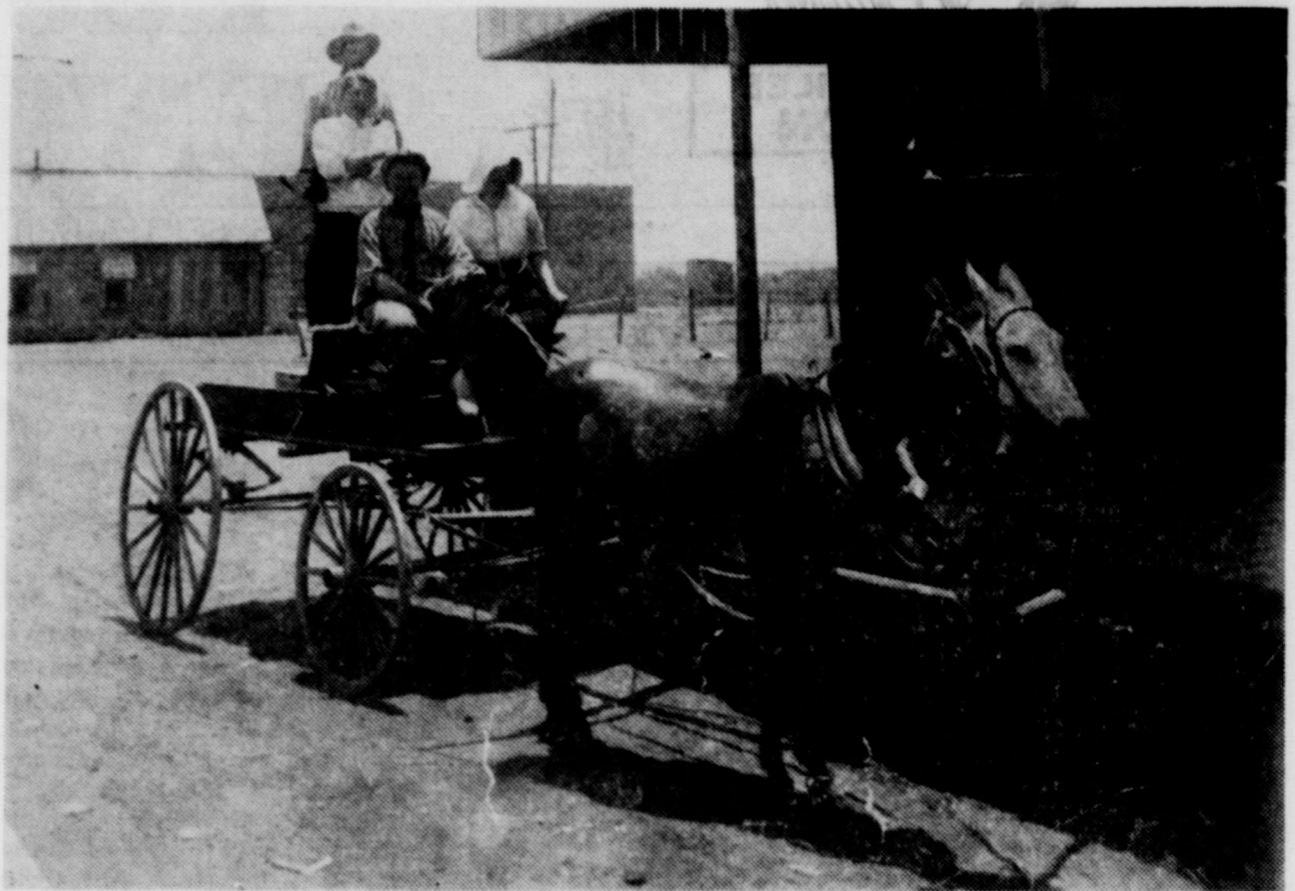
When it was settled that we were going to get the railroad, J. B. Riley from Ozona came and organized the First State Bank. Also South Texas Lumber Co. opened a lumber yard.

So this was the end of old Bronte before the move of business houses began to the present location in 1906.

1907 WANT ADS FROM THE BALLINGER DAILY LEDGER

Our horseshoeing trade is good, but we can handle more. Gressett, Hicks & Moore.

C. B. Armstrong—the old reliable ice man.



GOING HOME FOR LUNCH in the delivery wagon and mail hack about 1912 or 1914 are: Paul Good is driving, with Mrs. Mose Glenn sitting beside him. Mose Glenn is wearing the white shirt and the other man is Commie Hudson. Mrs. Glenn is now Mrs. Lamont Scott of Robert Lee. This vehicle served as the delivery wagon for a hardware and dry goods business owned

by Bob Hickman, Will Good and Mose Glenn. It was located about the middle of the block on the south side of Main Street in

Bronte, near the present site of Scott Butane Co. Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Mattie Glenn.

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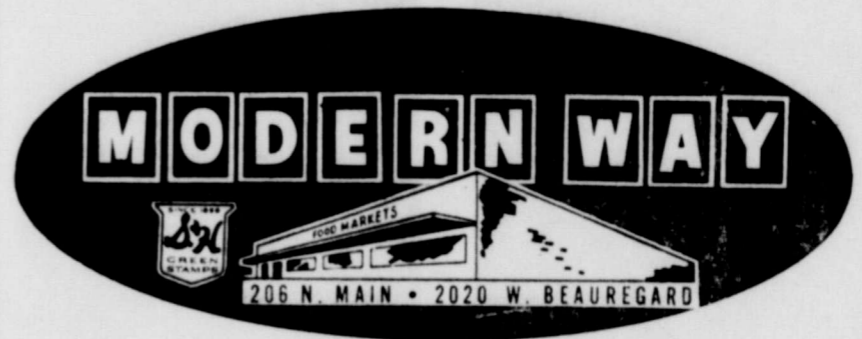
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CAPERTONS

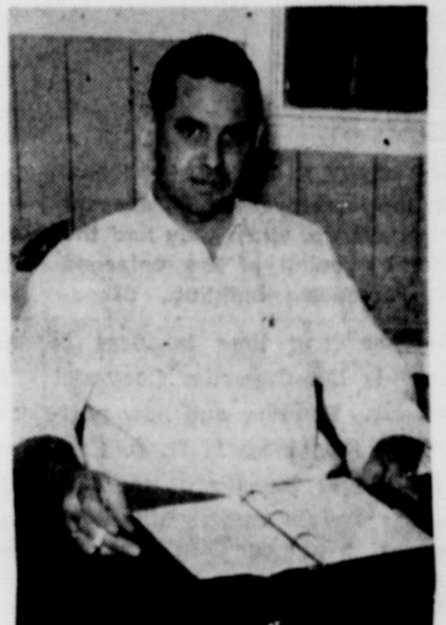
HAVE BEEN SERVICING AND SELLING AUTOMOBILES HERE
FOR THE PAST

34 YEARS



E. L. CAPERTON

E. L. Caperton went into the automobile and service station business in Bronte in 1930. He was a Ford dealer and sold gasoline and other automotive needs on the corner of Main Street and Highway 277 until 1947, when the firm opened in a new building in its present location. It was then known as Caperton Motor Co. In 1949, the firm became Chevrolet dealers for their area, and then in 1961 an addition was built on to the building, almost doubling the floor space. Matthew Caperton joined the firm in April 1947, and R. T. Caperton, one of the early firm members, and his younger brother, Leslie Dean Caperton, are now operators of R. T. Caperton Chevrolet Co. in Coleman.



MATTHEW CAPERTON

As we look into the future, we realize that our obligation requires more than just selling new cars. It is our responsibility to provide facilities for taking care of Chevrolets . . . as well as to sell new Chevrolets at the lowest possible price. We feel that as long as we maintain this progressive policy, there will always be a place in Coke County for Caperton Chevrolet Co.

We Are Proud Of Our Organization

Roy Robinson
Clifford Hageman
Louis Gallaway
MECHANICS

Royce Fancher
PARTS

Jerry Proctor
OFFICE

Lee Hennecke
SALES

Pete Puentez
WASH & GREASE

E. L. Caperton
Matthew Caperton
OWNERS & SALES



WELCOME
TO THE BIG
CELEBRATION
ON
LABOR
DAY

Caperton Chevrolet Co.

E. L. Caperton Started Garage Business in '30



THE WHOLE CREW IN 1961—All the employees of Caperton Chevrolet Co. when they had the formal opening of the enlarged and remodeled building. Stand-

ing from left, Roy Robinson, Louis Gallaway, Clifford Hageman, Clifford Dwain Hageman, Royce Fancher and Pete Puentez. Sitting, Mrs. Merle Proc-

tor, E. L. Caperton, R. T. Caperton, and Matthew Caperton. The crew is still the same except for the younger Hageman and R. T. Caperton.

Another long time business in Bronte is the Caperton Chevrolet Company. Founder and now partner in the business is E. L. Caperton. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. (Vannie) Milton G. Caperton, a pioneer family in the Maverick area. Emmett was born at Maverick and raised in Bronte.

He was engaged in farming for many years, but in 1930 went into the filling station and garage business on what is now the intersection of Highway 277 and Main Street, where a Conoco Station was formerly located.

So far as The Enterprise has been able to determine, E. L. Caperton has been coming to work each morning in downtown Bronte longer than any other person who is still engaged in business, other

than L. T. Youngblood.

During the years, 1932-42, Caperton was associated with Cumbie Ivey of Robert Lee as a Ford dealer here. When World War II came, no new cars were available so the partnership was dissolved. Meanwhile, Caperton kept on in the garage and filling station at the same location.

Following the end of the war, plans were made for construction of a new building, and in February, 1947, Caperton moved across the alley to their present location. A three-way partnership was established in the new and expanded garage and service station. It was composed of E. L. Caperton and his son, R. T. Caperton, and his brother-in-law, Bob Coleman. It was known then as Caperton

Motor Co.

R. T. was a graduate of A&M College and a veteran of World War II, discharged as a major after five years army duty, most of it in the China-Burma-India Theater of War.

Coleman was born and raised in Bronte. He had been an electrical foreman for three years at San Angelo Army Air Field and prior to that had worked for West Texas Utilities Co.

Employees with the business at that time included Homer Phillips, head mechanic, and Clifford Hageman, Grant Richards and Roy Robinson, in the garage. Luther McCutchen was in charge of the filling station.

In late 1947, Matthew Caperton purchased the interest of his uncle, Bob Coleman, and in 1948, the company acquired the Chevrolet franchise with Emmett, R. T., and Matthew as partners. It then be-

came Caperton Chevrolet Co. They went out of the filling station business in 1954. The firm received the O.K. Used Car license in 1950.

Matthew also, was an ex-student of Texas A&M, and a World War II veteran of the U. S. Navy, serving in the Pacific.

In 1961, the firm took on and completed a large expansion and remodeling program. They took over the building to the south and the one-quarter of a block on the west.

E. L. and Matthew Caperton now manage the Bronte Chevrolet agency. In 1961, the Capertons purchased the Chevrolet agency in Coleman, with R. T. in charge of it. When a younger brother, Leslie Dean Caperton, graduated from Texas Tech in 1960, he became associated with the firm and now lives in Coleman.

Capertons also owned the Chevrolet agency in Sterling City, but closed it after a few years' operation.

Mrs. E. L. Caperton also comes from a pioneer family of the area. She is the former Lillian Coleman, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Coleman. Mr. Coleman was a native Texan and married the former Ruth Rosser

of Bronte, daughter of a pioneer minister, the Rev. R. H. Rosser. The family came to Coke County in 1903.

In addition to the three sons, the Capertons have a daughter, Mrs. Jack (Savannah Ruth) Belcher of Andrews.

The younger Caperton wives are: Mrs. R. T. Caperton, the former Zelma Slaughter of Robert Lee; Mrs. Matthew Caperton, the former Armilda Looney, who was raised at Bronte and Robert Lee; Mrs. Leslie Dean Caperton, the former Wanda Kirkland of Bronte.

Present employees of the firm who started with the business in its new location in 1947 are Clifford Hageman and Roy Robinson, both mechanics. Other employees are: Louis Gallaway, mechanic; Royce Fancher, parts man; Mrs. Merle Proctor, bookkeeper; Lee Hennecke, salesman; and Pete Puentez, in charge of the wash and grease department.

DR. WARREN OPENED DENTAL OFFICE IN BRONTE IN 1925

(From Enterprise Jan. 23, 1925)
Dr. R. J. Warren of Brownwood located in Bronte and established a dental parlor in Hayley & Johnson Drug Store.

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Includes TUB — LAVATORY — COMMODOE
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SAN ANGELO

Editor West Writes of Golden Jubilee in 1939

(The following story was taken from the Bronte Weekly Enterprise of Friday, April 28, 1939.)

The citizens of Coke County—the old time citizens as well as the citizens who have not resided in the county so long joined in a golden jubilee celebration of the county organic existence at Sanco Sunday.

And it was really a most pleasant affair from the beginning of the program until the final benediction was pronounced in the late afternoon.

The setting of the place for the golden jubilee celebration was both historic and romantic for much of the pioneer history of the county, far as the first immigrants are concerned, is associated with Sanco and Yellow Wolf creek which flows hard by this little, but beautiful and sequestered village. The tabernacle in which the gathering met is on the banks of the Yellow Wolf, and the little village and its tabernacle nestle in the creek valley, with the blue-capped mountains almost surrounding the town, in the distance.

There were more than 50 of the pioneers—those who were here when the county was organized in 1889. Some of them have now grown old and came into the meeting on their crutches while others were assisted to places in the seats of honor reserved for the pioneers. The morning hours were taken up in religious services and a message from Mrs. E. P. Mead of Abilene who has just returned from Palestine. It is said that her message gripped the hearts of her auditors from the first to the last sentence.

At noon an old-fashioned lunch was spread picnic style and the old pioneers and the many hundreds of others enjoyed a hospitality that was never surpassed, which is the standard always of Coke County people, regarding hospitality.

In the afternoon the Robert Lee quartette supplied most of the music, singing appropriate songs. Each of the pioneers who had seats in the place of honor were called up to speak briefly.

Many humorous incidents of the pioneer days were told, while some were pathetic and provoked tears in the eyes of the great numbers in attendance. Judge McNeil Wylie at the outset of the afternoon program brought greetings in his usual happy style to the pioneers. At the close of his address Judge Wylie asked the audience to join him in a tribute to the memory of the pioneers who have passed on, by closed eyes and perfect silence for a moment.

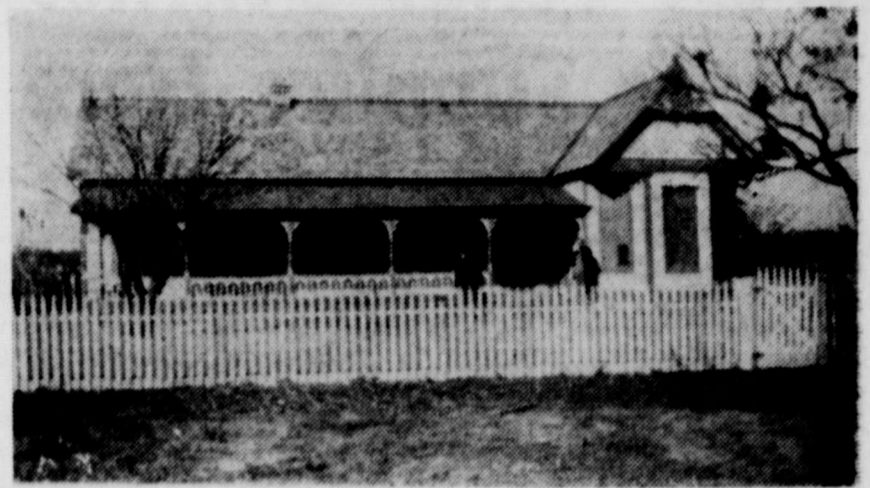
Judge D. I. Durham, also, in his characteristically happy way, spoke briefly. Judge Durham hav-

ing been a resident of Coke County for many years before moving away, brought a message of greetings and a eulogy to the hardihood of the pioneers and the present splendid citizenship of Coke County.

Ira M. Bird of Robert Lee, as a young man, brought a wonderfully interesting message on "The Years Ahead." Mr. Bird as a young man, proved himself an orator with a masterful flow of language with which to depict his imagery as he walked across the years to come and with the paint brush of words painted the picture of "The Years Ahead."

Ulmer Bird, born and reared at Sanco but now editor of The Abilene Times, was master of ceremonies and carried the program of the day right along without a hitch anywhere.

As the sun was fast setting Sunday afternoon, the benediction pronounced, the pioneers and the others of the large gathering, said goodbye and turned their faces toward their homes—all wondering and dreaming as to what the next fifty years of the county will mean.



TYPICAL EARLY DAY HOME—The eight-room home above was built before the turn of the century in 1898 by Lee Good for his family, who lived there several years before it was bought by Joe McCutchen. The McCutchens lived there about a year, before it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Grimes of Bronte in May, 1905. This family lived there until 1928, when it was sold to Bob Hickman, and has been in the Hickman family since that time. The

house still stands, about 1½ miles southwest of Bronte toward Cedar Mountain, but has been vastly changed in appearance. Lee Good's son, Charlie, now lives in Clyde, Texas. The Grimes children, who grew up there, still living, include Mrs. Nora Bridges, Frank Grimes, Mrs. John Taylor, Mrs. Mamie Epperson, all of Bronte; H. A. Grimes of Portales, N. M.; Lonnie Grimes of Barksdale and Mrs. H. D. Lynn of Crawford.

COALSONS PIONEER FAMILY

A pioneer Coke County family was Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Coalson. He was born Dec. 2, 1880, in Mason County and moved to Coke County in 1889. His first wife was Mary Frances Stephenson of Bronte

whom he married Jan. 12, 1902. She died Feb. 12, 1944, and he married Mrs. Hallie Herron of Bronte March 19, 1951.

The children included Frank D. Coalson, Robert Lee; Ray Coalson, Bronte; John Coalson, Meadow, and Bill Coalson, Abilene.

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SAN ANGELO

West Texas Utilities Has Been Power Supplier Here Since 1926



H. A. SPRINGER
... manager for 22 years

For more than half of the 75 years Coke County has been in existence, West Texas Utilities has provided electrical service to Bronte residents, purchasing the Bronte Light & Power Company in 1926, and appointing Stell Branch as first WTU manager.

No steps backward is the rule of human history, and West Texas Utilities' service to Coke countians has steadily moved forward through 38 years of operation, present manager Marvin Bryant said. Electrical power in 1926 for the 161 Bronte customers was generated with a small oil engine. Only part of the town had service, Bryant said. Today electrical service for the 444 Bronte customers is provided by a completely new sub station completed in 1963, and a 69,000 volt transmission line.

The first WTU sub station in Bronte was built in 1926 as was the first transmission line, Bryant said. One ran from Robert Lee to Bronte, and another from Winters to Bronte. In 1929, a 12,000 volt line was built into Bronte from Miles. This line was converted to 22,000 volt in 1954, and then converted to 69,000 volt in 1963.

Digging back into the WTU records it was learned that a total of four men have served as managers of the Bronte office. Stell Branch, the first manager, was replaced in 1928 by George Chisholm. Chisholm was transferred to Eden in 1940 to become WTU manager there. He retired in 1962 and makes his home in Eden.

Following Chisholm was the third manager, H. A. Springer, who moved from Eden to Bronte in July, 1940. Springer retired in 1962 which made him local manager over half the time the company has been operating in Bronte. He and his wife, Ida Mae, now make their home in San Angelo, but are frequent visitors to Bronte since they still maintain a cabin on Oak Creek Lake.

Present manager, Marvin Bryant, moved to Bronte in January, 1962, and operates from the new WTU office, completed in February, 1962.

The Bronte story is only a part of West Texas Utilities' progress in electrical service, Bryant said. To keep ahead of demand for electrical power to operate industries, business and homes, WTU has shown rapid growth.

Established a little over 50 years ago with one generating plant at



MARVIN BRYANT
... present manager

Abilene, and one short transmission line, West Texas Utilities today has more than 2,637 miles of high voltage lines and seven generating stations serving the highly diversified economy of central Texas covering a 52,830 square mile area, from the Red River to the Rio Grande.

With completion of the huge Nasworthy plant now under construction in San Angelo, West Texas Utilities will have a generating capability of 540,000 kilowatts. The company's newest generating plant now in operation, located at Oak Creek Lake only a few miles from Bronte, added 75,000 kilowatts to WTU's generating capability. The first unit of the plant is now operating and it is so designed that two more units can be added at a later date.

The modern flameless electric homes found in Bronte today, are a far cry from the lamp-lighted, coal-heated homes of the early settlers. With some 166 electrical appliances on the market to make living easier and more work-free for modern man, people everywhere are switching to the easier life. Electrical power is available to rural as well as city dwellers.

Planned lighting for homes and businesses is one of today's electrical advances. Cooking with flameless electricity is on the increase. In the United States today, there are some 2,000,000 electrically heated homes, with an estimated 6,000,000 by 1969, Bryant

said. Today, electricity powers everything from miling machines to equipment for the space program. The best thing about it all, Bryant said, is that people in Bronte can live as modern as the man in a penthouse in New York.

The local manager pointed out that the cost is negligible, when one considers the gerat amount of electrical energy now used by the modern family. Electricity provided by WTU costs the residential consumer 17 per cent less per kilowatt hour than it did 10 years ago. "People are using more electricity. The average consumer's monthly expenditure for electricity is on the increase. They know electricity is a big bargain," Bryant said.

Si Phillips, president of West Texas Utilities, said that the company continually researches ways to provide electricity at less cost to the consumer. West Texas Utilities' participation in the atomic research program (along with 10 sister companies) is an effort

to discover a source of cheaper power, Phillips said.

In extending his congratulations to Coke countians on their 75th Anniversary, President Phillips included a promise of continuing electrical service to WTU customers in the 52,830 square mile area, served by the company and a planned program of progress to stay ahead of the demand for today's "most modern fuel—electricity."

CITY AND AREA SUFFER BAD FINANCIAL SETBACK

From The Enterprise, July 1, 1938:

The "hardest luck" Bronte has suffered in some time, as far as its future as to material prosperity was the abandonment of the oil well that was being sunk on the E. C. Rawlings ranch, 3 1/4 mi. northeast of Bronte. It was the third attempt for oil in this immediate vicinity.

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Clothing for All the Family 58 Year Old Policy of Local Firm

In September of this year, R. E. Cumbie will have been in business on Main street in Bronte for 58 years, most of the time in the same location.

It was in September, 1906, that Mr. Cumbie sold his crops and he and his father, the late R. M. Cumbie, pioneer Baptist minister here, bought the interest of T. R. Butler, who was with the firm Hickman and Butler. The name then was changed to the Hickman-Cumbie Co.

In July, 1909, the business was divided with the late Frank Hickman taking the hardware and implement business and remaining in the building that now houses C. R. Smith & Co. Bob Hickman moved the grocery stock into the building that now houses Sims Food Store and in December, 1909, the Cumbies moved the dry goods portion of the business to its present location and the name was changed to R. M. Cumbie and son.

In 1911, H. R. Wilkins, brother-in-law of R. E. Cumbie, and son-in-law of R. M. Cumbie, bought an interest in the firm and the name was changed again, to Cumbie & Wilkins. He remained a partner in the firm until his death in 1933. R. M. Cumbie died in 1936.

In 1929, J. B. Mackey, son-in-law of Mr. Cumbie, became a partner in the firm, and in 1946, bought the interest of Mrs. Wilkins. At that time the name became Cumbie & Mackey, which it remains today, and which partnership remains today.

Although he is no longer active in the everyday management of the store, Mr. Cumbie maintains a lively interest in affairs about town and in the First Baptist Church, which he has served as a deacon many years. The store is now operated by Mackey and his wife, Georgia Mae.

The store has been remodeled numerous times throughout the years.

Mrs. R. E. Cumbie is the for-

mer Emma McCuiston, also from a pioneer family of Bronte. Her father and family, George H. McCuiston, came to Bronte in 1906 and entered the drug business, which continued until his death in 1938. The business sold to J. M. Rippetoe May 21, 1938. "Miss Emma" and "Mr. Ed," as they are familiarly known, were married here Dec. 26, 1909, just a few days before the store was moved into its present location. They have two children, Mrs. J. B. (Georgia Mae) Mackey and Edward Cumbie, both of Bronte.

WATER PROBLEMS WERE OVER WITH NEW LAKE IN '23

In 1923 Lake Knierim was built in Bronte and would "supply the town for 6 months without a drop of rain." Lake Chapman was built on the Ballinger highway in 1925. Robert Knierim was mayor of Bronte in 1923 and O. W. Chapman was mayor in 1925.



EARLY BASEBALL — The Enterprise is indebted to F. S. Higginbotham for this picture of an early day baseball club. He said the picture was made at Norton about 1905. Sitting on the

porch, left to right, are an unidentified player, Ollie Eubanks and Sam Hough. Standing are John Daniels, Oden Willoughby, F. S. Higginbotham, Drue Cumbie, Bill Modgling, Ernest Dod-

son, Lloyd Brown and Alva Dodson. The two men standing behind are also not identified. Maybe some oldtimers can tell who they are.

TWO HISTORICAL MARKERS PUT UP DURING CENTENNIAL

The Texas Centennial Commission installed two historical markers in Coke County in 1936, Texas'

Centennial year. A story in the Enterprise dated Dec. 6, 1935, told about them.

"The ruins of old Fort Chadbourne and the town of Robert Lee are the locations for two

markers to be placed in Coke County as part of the preparation for the Texas Centennial Celebrations, according to a letter received by County Judge McNeil Wylie."

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City Of Bronte In 1902 As Seen At That Time

(Editor's Note: The following was copied from The Bronte Herald, first issue, published on Sept. 6, 1902, and written by a local citizen at that time. The headline and story are as they appeared then, an adult account in 1902, almost 62 years ago to the day.)

ABOUT BRONTE — SOME INTERESTING FACTS CONCERNING BRONTE AND SURROUNDING COUNTY

By DR. J. F. CLARK

Bronte is a beautiful town located in the east part of Coke County, 12 miles from Robert Lee, the county site, near the Colorado River, amid the fertile valleys of

that stream and the Kickapoo Creeks. This renders it a place of more than local importance, with a number of stores, shops, hotel, livery stable, printing office and a large two story school building, the largest gin now complete in West Texas, which consists of four new seventy gin saws, a fifty horse power automatic engine, double box revolving press, owned and manipulated by Eaton & Wright. We have local option. Our merchants do a good business. We have phone connections in all directions. Daily mails are received from Ballinger, San Angelo and Robert Lee; every other day from Sweet Water and other points. Ballinger, San Angelo and Sweet Water are our rail points.

Bronte is about equidistant between the Texas & Pacific and Santa Fe railroads from Temple to San Angelo. It is a pretty mountainous country with the finest and most fertile valley, creek and river banks in West Texas.

And as the Kansas City and Orient railroad passes through Bronte we will have transportation facilities that are unexcelled. Lands that are now selling at \$5 to \$10 will in the near future sell for \$20 to \$25. Nearly all of the country is under fence as pastures and farms and cannot be excelled anywhere by scenic beauty, fertility and excellent health, while its people are up-to-date, generous and industrious.

This section of the Lone Star State is daily enhancing in value attracting the attention of home seekers and investors, notwithstanding we have experienced the worst drouth we have ever had, and after seeing many reports from a large number of Counties, we have reason to believe that Coke County is in the lead in many respects and by diversification of crops the farmer and stockman

will be able to tide over the winter.

Dr. J. F. Clark, writer of the above story in 1902, was one of the first, if not the first, physicians in this area. Dr. and Mrs. Clark came here in 1883 from Palo Pinto County. Originally they were both from North Georgia and resided for a time in Erath County after coming to Texas. After coming to what is now Coke County they made their home north of Cedar Mountain, and he at one time owned the Cottage Hotel, which is the present home of Wylie Clark. He practiced medicine mostly on horseback and sometimes by buggy. He died at an early age in 1914 of pneumonia. Mrs. Clark died in 1935.

Four of their eight children survive. They are Wylie Clark of Bronte and Riley Clark of Austin (twins), Mrs. Robert (Minnie) Knerim of Bronte and Miss Hettie Clark of San Antonio. The four children who are deceased are Forrest Clark, Mrs. Mae Walton, Mrs. Tannie Luttrell and Mrs. Co-va Bennett.

Dr. Clark was here before the organization of Coke County and was one of the persons who was instrumental in the organization of the county in 1889.

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- 1935 Ford V-8 ReLuxe Tudor .. \$600.00
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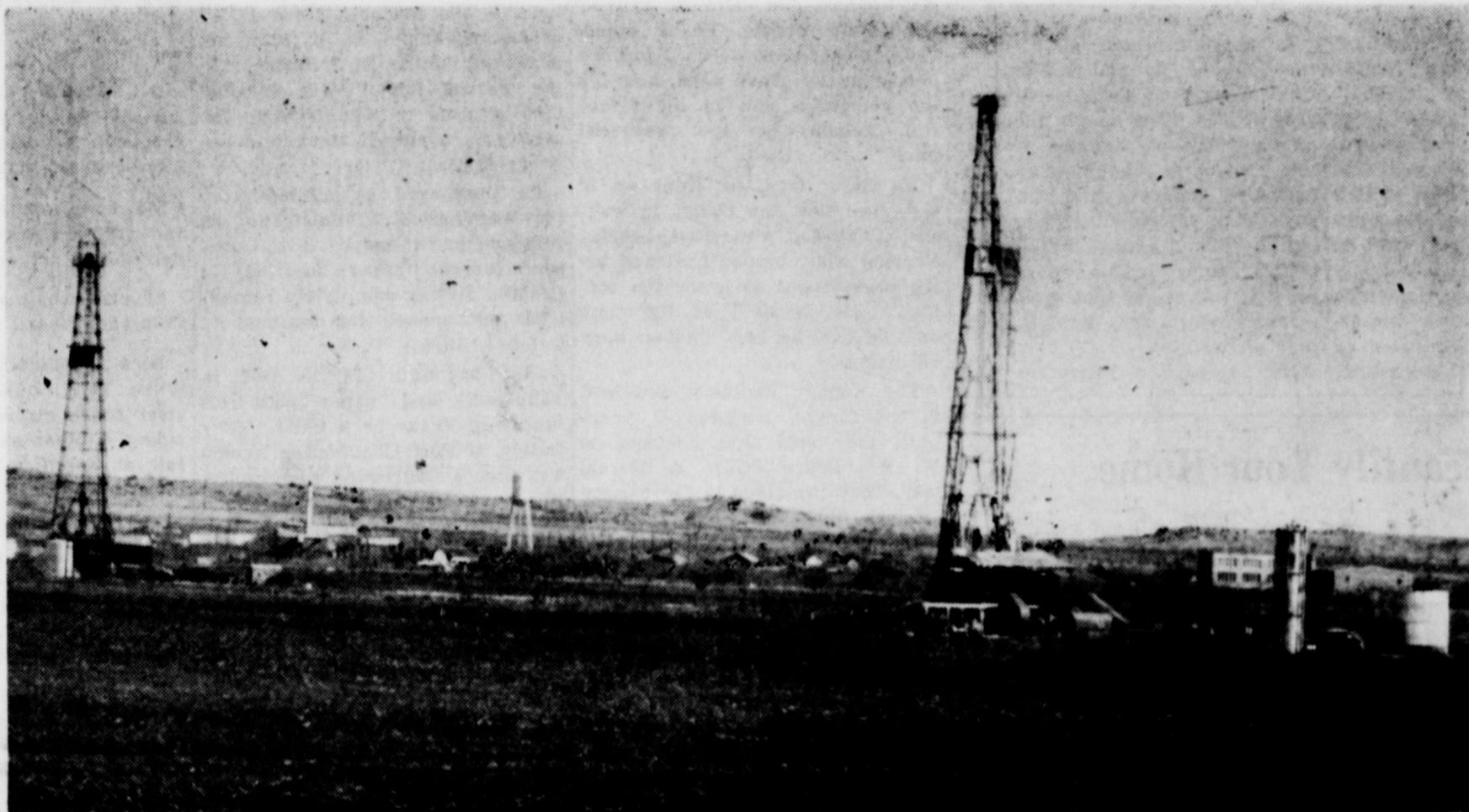
The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section F

Remember the BIG BOOM



"Bronte - - Another Kilgore?" Was the Question in 1949

Oil fever started running high in Bronte after Nov. 29, 1948, when Humble brought in its No. 1 R. E. Hickman. Even though this well was not the opener of the Bronte Field, it was the first indication of really plush production in the east part of Coke County.

Actually, the Bronte Field opener, Hickok & Reynolds and Dan Auld No. 1 E. C. Rawlings, was brought in in early August, and created a great deal of excitement. However, it was thought first only to be a fair producer, as the official daily potential was gauged at 74 barrels. A couple of weeks later The Enterprise had a story which stated that the No. 1 Rawlings was making 40 to 60 barrels per day. After the Hickman well blew in with such force, the operator went back and acidized the No. 1 Rawlings and increased its production considerably.

McQueen & Cleavinger's rig and drilling crew, working under C. E. Ernest as pusher, brought in the Hickman well, which was drilled as an offset to the Rawlings test. Gas surfaced in three minutes and clean oil came out the pipe in nine minutes. After the oil began to flow, it was turned into tank and the tool left open 30 minutes. At the end of half an hour the gauge showed the well had flowed 75 barrels of 46 gravity oil with no water.

Sun Field Came First

The Hickman test was not the first big producer for Coke County, even though it was the first for the Bronte section. Sun Oil Co. drilled in northwest Coke and its discovery well, No. 1 Allen Jameson, showed good possibilities in November of 1946. By De-

ember it was completed. The success of the No. 1 Jameson set off a gigantic spree of drilling in the

Silver area and opened up Coke County's largest and most prolific field.

Third Bronte Well

A north offset to the Rawlings opener was being anxiously watched after the Hickman test came in with such force. It was American Republics No. 1 J. A. Percifull, located north of the Robert Lee highway. A test on the well was run Dec. 30 and it flowed 33 barrels in 90 minutes.

The New Year of 1949 started off with a boom on in Bronte. Drilling crews, royalty buyers and other oil men were thick, trying to get in on the act. A number of new businesses went in here at Bronte, and activity went full blast for months. Writers in daily papers predicted that Bronte would be another Kilgore, with Christmas trees and oil pumps on every block of the city. Leasing of town lots went forward early in the year and it looked as though the oil would come right on into town until the No. 1 Warren, the test closest to the city limits, recovered more water than oil, and was plugged.

Field Named

Early in February, 1949, about 25 Bronte business men went to Austin to be present for a hearing before the Railroad Commission for the purpose of designating the new field. They succeeded in vetting it named Bronte Field.

The new oil pool continued to move out and before the limits were set on the field, wells had been sunk on leases styled as follows: E. C. Rawlings, Olive Mae Keeney, O. R. McQueen, J. A. Percifull, R. E. Hickman, Robert Forman, Dr. R. J. Warren, O. L. Johnson, Nannie Ash, J. L. Brunson, D. K. Glenn, Will Gideon and perhaps others.

In June, 1949, residents of the
See BIG BOOM Page 8F

This is the Location for a Tight Hole



... and that bird in the middle asked too darn many questions

Funeral Home One of Bronte's Oldest Firms

One of Bronte's newest business men is owner of one of the oldest, if not the oldest, continuous businesses in Bronte. He is Sam Williams, owner of the Williams Funeral Home. The exact date of the beginning of the funeral business in "old" Bronte cannot be determined but can be traced back before 1906.

First written record of the business was when Frank Keeney bought out Ed Schawe in "old" Bronte in 1906. How long Schawe had been in business is not known. Mr. Keeney, born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Keeney June 22, 1877, in Bell County, rode horse-back to Coke County in 1901, taking a week to make the trip.

According to an interview with Mr. Keeney in 1955, upon his arrival here, the town consisted of a post office, hotel, blacksmith

shop, livery stable and one grocery store. He settled near Valley View and started out to farm, but but was not successful, so he moved to Bronte and went into the grocery business. Here he met Mrs. Keeney, the former Eva Flood of Midland, who was a primary teacher in the Bronte School. They were married July 9, 1908.

In the meantime, Mr. Keeney recalled how he and his brother, Charlie, entered the funeral business in 1906. They bought the store of Ed Schawe. Schawe was in the general merchandise and undertaking business and the Keeneys were interested in acquiring everything except the stock of coffins. However, Mr. Schawe refused to sell unless they took them—consequently, they went into the funeral business.

In an earlier interview with



FRANK KEENEY

Frank Keeney in 1947, he said, "I started in old Bronte and bought out Ed Schawe, who had two old wooden coffins, and Charlie and I took them over." That was before the Orient railway came into Bronte, Frank noted, "and at that time we used to bury people in the grave yard, now it's the cemetery, and in the future it'll probably be the memorial park."

In those days, he went on to say, "we took the bodies in wagons, which had white tops, besides wearing white topped hats and using grass ropes to lower the coffins." He recalled at the time he sold out, he had "helped bury 800 people."

The Keeney Brothers remained in the funeral business 41 years until they sold that business to W. B. "Bruce" Clift in March, 1947. They remained in the variety store business until the death of Charlie Keeney in August, 1956. Frank Keeney had died two months earlier in June, 1956—and the Keeney Brothers closed out more than 51 years in business in Bronte.

Charlie Keeney was born in Temple in 1884 and came to Bronte in 1906. He married Olive Lowry here on April 4, 1917, and she lives in the family home here. Mrs. Frank Keeney lives in San Angelo.

The Tom Keeney family included eight children: Mrs. Walter Hoch of San Marcos; Mrs. Joe Hoherd, Temple; Mrs. Dolly Pruitt, Fort Worth; J. L. Keeney, San Angelo; G. C. Keeney, Temple; and Frank, Charlie and John Keeney, all deceased.

Mr. Tom Keeney died in 1929 and she in 1933.

Under Clift Ownership

Clift purchased all the funeral supplies and remodeled the Ed Stevens building on Main Street and moved the business there. Clift had been the funeral director in Robert Lee for some time,



BRUCE CLIFT

having bought the interest of W. K. Simpson, Robert Lee funeral director, in 1935.

When he bought the business in 1947, Clift said that he had "really been in the business since 1935," as he had helped W. K. Simpson, a retired Methodist minister, "in the earlier days." He recalled that he used to take trips to the cemetery in an old truck and delivery wagon.

He purchased a building from the War Assets Administration in 1948 and had it moved to the present funeral home location in Bronte. It was completely remodeled and opened for business in October, 1948.

Clift was born Oct. 15, 1891, in Tennessee and came with his family to Texas as a child. They settled in Fort Chadbourne, which was then a flourishing community. He moved on to Robert Lee and graduated from high school there in 1909. He married the former Ruth Simpson in August, 1919. He died in December, 1963. Mrs. Clift lives in Robert Lee. The Clifts had two children, Mrs. Allen Davis of Ballinger and the Rev. Wallace Clift of Houston.

Sold to Williams

The announcement of the sale of the funeral home to Sam Williams was made last fall. Williams has been a resident of Coke County for over 40 years. His wife is the former Ruth Casey and they have two sons, Sherman of Silver, and Gary Sam, a Robert Lee high school student.

Williams had worked for Clift for a number of years before taking over the business. Prior to that time he had been in the grocery business and has served as a mail carrier on a star route

from Robert Lee to Sanco and Silver for many years.

He received his state funeral director's license after attending the Dallas Institute of Gupton-Jones College of Mortuary Science.

Williams has remodeled and added to the building since buying the business and the name was changed in August, 1964, from Clift Funeral Home to Williams Funeral Home and Ambulance Service. Williams also operates a similar business in Robert Lee.

Bob Northington Landman — Realtor BALLINGER, TEXAS

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Ballinger

FLETCHER FAMILY CAME HERE YEAR COUNTY WAS ORGANIZED

There were only about four families living here in the immediate Bronte area when the late W. B. Fletcher family moved here in 1889. The family came here from Comanche County before Coke County was organized. Mr. Fletcher came from Alabama and his wife's original home was in Illinois. Mr. Fletcher told descendants of riding to San Angelo horseback to serve on the jury. San Angelo was then the county seat.

Two of their children, Miss Addie Fletcher, and E. B. Fletcher, remained in Bronte to make their homes.

E. B. Fletcher was married to Miss Ina Myrtle Vestal, whose father came to Bronte around 1886 behind a team of oxen, in the first church wedding ever held in Coke

County. They were married by the Rev. W. K. Simpson in the Robert Lee Methodist Church.

Telling of the wedding in later years, Mr. Fletcher said: "We'd been going together for three or four years when we got married, and at that time I had 240 acres of land that I'd paid \$4 an acre for." It seems that when they walked up the aisle together, the preacher told them to turn around because, Mr. Fletcher related, "I got tangled in so much trail I like to have never got out." For their honeymoon, he declared, they went to San Angelo to get their housekeeping outfit, then back home to start in.

They settled in the house on the farm 2½ miles west of town on the Hayrick road where Mrs. Fletcher, now Mrs. Vic Haselden, still resides.

On the occasion of their 43rd wedding anniversary in 1947, Mr. Fletcher told an Enterprise reporter: "Dr. W. F. Key started this town and his son, Fletcher, was the first person buried in the cemetery and his brother, Charlie Fletcher, was the eighth person to be buried here. When we came here in 1888, we found F. L. Clark already on the place, then Ollie Eubanks came the next day, quickly followed by Elmer Hudman, who came around the first of 1889.

"R. M. Cumbie came about the same year," he added, "and was invited here from Content to preach, then he got a place north of town."

For awhile after he came, he hauled lumber from Ballinger and would take three days to make a round trip. But over a period of three months, he hauled 17 carloads of the lumber, which was used in building Bronte, he said. "There was a fellow here," Ed told the reporter, "by the name of Richards, and we called him Reuben-at-the-Roundup Richards, for he could fiddle all night, and many a night I was up trying to keep up with his fiddling."

He also recalled that you could saddle up and ride from here to Coleman without ever seeing a fence or a house.

The four living children of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher are Leonard Fletcher of Bronte, Charles of Sweetwater, Frank of Fort Worth and Mrs. Lela Brownrigg of Goldthwaite.

E. B. Fletcher died April 23, 1948.

JOHN LANE ONE OF COKE COUNTY FOUNDERS

John F. Lane of Alpine was one of the founders of Coke County. He died at his ranch home near Alpine April 3, 1958.

He was born in San Saba County in 1867 of parents who moved to Texas from Alabama to escape oppression of Yankee carpetbaggers. He punched cattle in West Texas and at 22 years of age was ranching in Coke County, which he had helped organize in 1889.

Later he moved to Gaines County and had a hand in the organization of that county in 1905. From there he went to Upton County and was in on the organization of that county in 1910. He moved to his Brewster County ranch in 1936.

Blackwell Oil Well Drilling Plans Are Now Started

(From Enterprise March 27, 1942)

Things are beginning to "look oily" in and around Blackwell again. Location was made there first of the week for another oil test. J. C. Hunter of Abilene has the contract to drill.

The location was made for the test first of the week and slush pit is being dug, and water lines being laid. It is expected that actual drilling will begin within two weeks and those in position to know state that the well will be drilled by early July.

Down with the drill—up with the oil.

C. A. EUBANKS FAMILY CAME HERE IN 1880S

Early residents of this area were Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Eubanks, who came to Texas in 1886 and lived and farmed in Coke County many years. He was born May 26, 1881, in Arkansas, and had returned there by the time of his death in 1959. He was married July 26, 1904, to Miss Jimmie Effie Samford, who died in 1943. They were the parents of Ellis Eubanks of Bronte and Mrs. Elizabeth Crisp of Midland. Mr. Eubanks was married in 1955 to Bertie Leonard at DeQueen, Ark.

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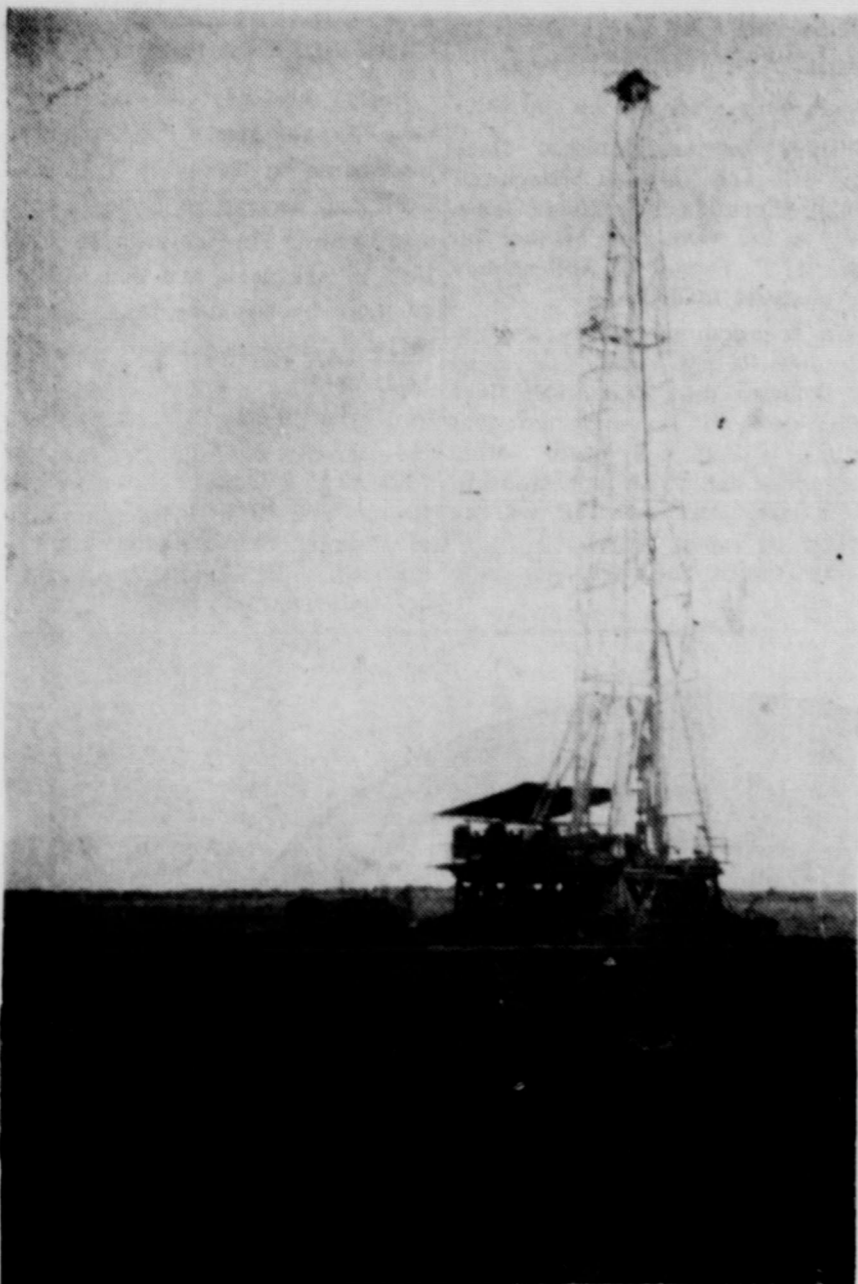
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SKIDDING A BIG RIG — The little Caterpillar on the left doesn't look very big as it pulls the big rig of McQueen-Cleavenger from one location to another. This rig drilled a large number of Humble wells in the Bronte Field, and was the one over the hole when No. 1 R. E. Hickman flowed heavily on drillstem test.

1911 Editor Not Too Happy With Census Report Giving Bronte 635

(From Bronte Weekly Enterprise, April 7, 1911)

The official announcement, issued the first of the week by the Census Bureau, shows a population of 635 for Bronte which, although rather disappointing, is a very fair showing, especially when we consider the number of Bronteans who at the time of the enumeration had established a temporary residence elsewhere, thus

adversely affecting the report, and while the outside world may never know it the fact remains that but for three successive years of business depression that has so disastrously affected this entire Western country, Bronte would today be a little city of 2500 to 3500, and The Enterprise confidently bespeaks a phenomenal growth for the next ten years, since every indication now points, unmistakably, to the dawn of a new era along all material lines.

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Oil Tax Money Used in Coke for Improvements

Taxes from the oil industry have made possible a large number of improvements which, in all probability, could not have been made without the huge tax bill paid by oil.

Coke County has been able to carry on an improvement and maintenance program which would have been unthinkable without oil tax money. The Bronte, Robert Lee and Silver Schools owe their new buildings and other improvements to this source of income. Also, on the precinct level, paving in Bronte and Robert Lee, and other precinct road and bridge improvements have been made since the oil companies were put on the tax rolls.

Just about all of Robert Lee's school plant is new, and Bronte Slementary Building, containing classrooms, offices, auditorium and lunchroom, was built in recent years, as were new facilities in the Silver School District.

The new and beautiful courthouse in Robert Lee was voted and built after oil money began to fill county coffers. Two fine parks and swimming pools, at Bronte and Robert Lee were made possible. Hundreds of blocks of paving in the two Coke County towns, as well as some rural paving and bridge improvements were made possible because of oil money.

The building and maintenance of these improvements have also provided employment for a great number of local people down through th years.

Oil has made a lasting impression on the economy of Coke County.

AD IN ENTERPRISE ON MARCH 16, 1906

OUR NEW SPRING GOODS are all in and we have the largest and the greatest variety of up-to-date goods ever brought to Coke County. Our J. H. McDonald is just in from St. Louis, where he bought goods for three large stores, in buying in large quantities he bought at Rock Bottom prices. We must sell these goods, so we invite ladies of Coke, Runnels, Nolan and Taylor counties to come in and inspect our stock and extremely low prices before buying elsewhere. Once in our store you will realize the truth of the above statement and coming once we are sure you will come again to Ft. Chadbourne and see McDONALD - DOUGHTY & CO.

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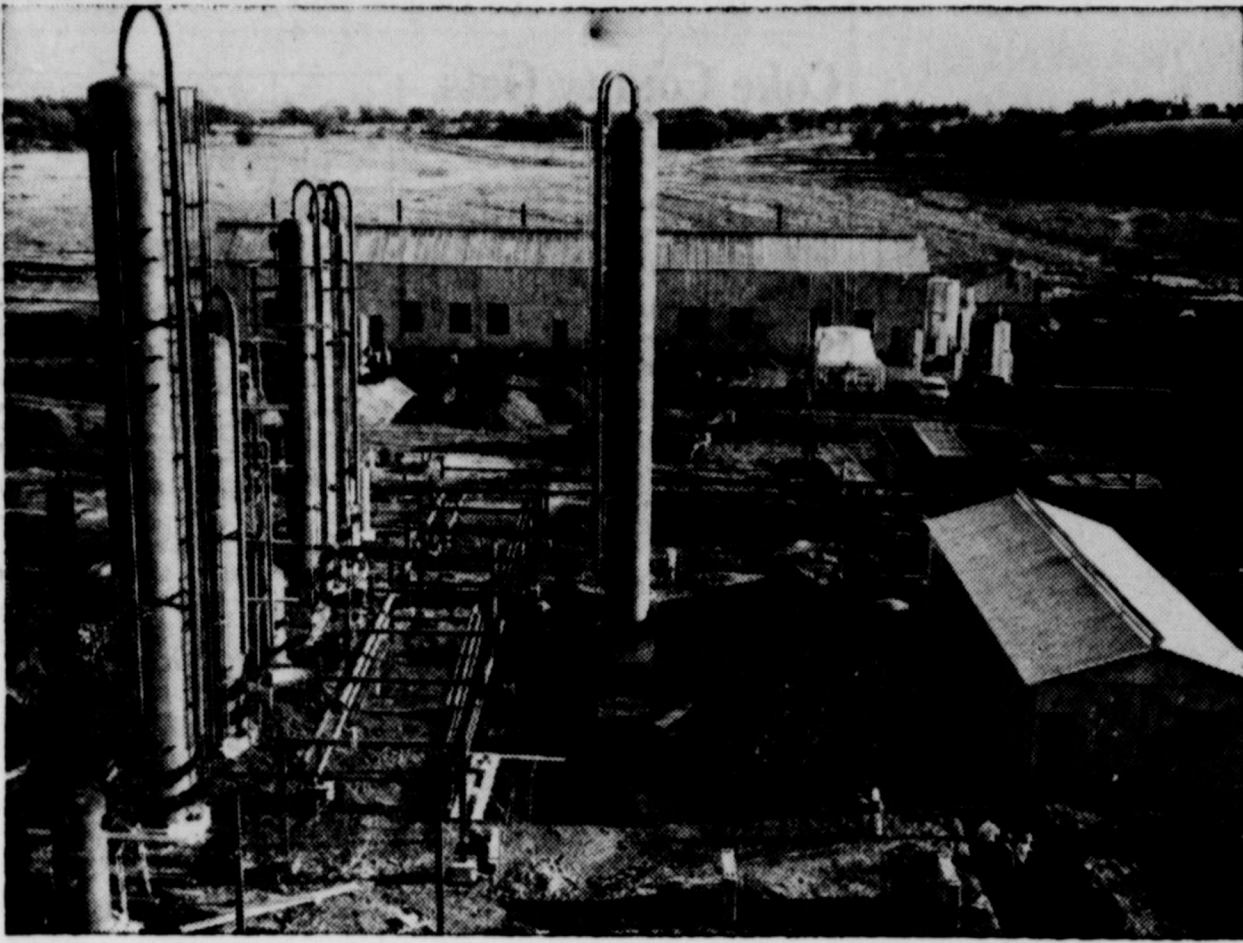
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UNDER CONSTRUCTION—The \$3 million Lone Star Producing plant is shown here while under construction in 1953. In the center is one of the tall fractionating towers, while another is hidden behind it, and the base for a third is in front. Towering to the left is part of the distillation, and to the right is the fractionating pump house. In the rear is the compressor unit.

Completion of Gas Plant Reopens Ft. Chad. Field

April 1, 1951, was a big day in the Fort Chadbourne field, since it marked the completion of the new \$3 million Lone Star Producing Co. gas plant and of resuming production in the field after being shut in for 13 months.

A story in The Enterprise dated March 27, tells the story as follows:

The Fort Chadbourne (Odom) field of Runnels and Coke Counties, shut in since Feb. 1, 1952, by order of the Railroad Commission, will be returned to producing status April 1.

The field was shut in to prevent the flaring of approximately 11 million cubic feet of gas daily.

Nineteen days of production will be allowed during April. Total daily allowable for that period was set at 27,000 barrels. This means that the field can produce 513,000

barrels of oil during April. The field, when shut in, had 217 producing wells and a total daily allowable of 16,215 barrels of oil. It now has 290 producers.

The field's ten operators have lost, during the 13 months since the field was shut in, approximately 4,600,000 barrels of oil due to their inability to produce their wells.

Plant Ready

The three million dollar Lone Star Producing Co. gasoline plant will be in full capacity by April 1. The plant with a capacity to process 30 million cubic feet of gas daily, is expected to take approximately 20 to 24 million cubic feet of gas daily from the field's wells beginning April 1. The residue will be returned to the producing formations through in-

jection wells.

Humble Oil & Refining Co. was preparing five wells for use as injection wells. These are their 70, 71, 73, 74 and 84 Sallie Odom.

Humble now has 174 producing wells in the field, accounting for approximately 62 per cent of the production. Other producers have 114 wells in the field to make up the 27,000 daily allowable. They include Burdell Oil Co., Currie & Wylie, Greenbriar Oil Co., Hiawatha Oil & Gas Co., King Oil Co., Lester & Duffield, Inc., N. P. Powell, Stanolind Oil & Gas Co. and George Strake.

That concludes the story of the opening of the Fort Chadbourne gas plant. Since that time it has had a strong influence on community life, with a number of families who were employed there living in Bronte. These Lone Star people have become a part of the community life in Bronte.

However, for the last few years, constant reports have been heard that the gas production is falling off, and the Lone Star Plant will

close any time. Consequently, a large number of the old time employees have moved to other Lone Star plants in Texas. Latest word, however, is that Lone Star has secured an adequate supply of gas to operate the plant for a number of years.

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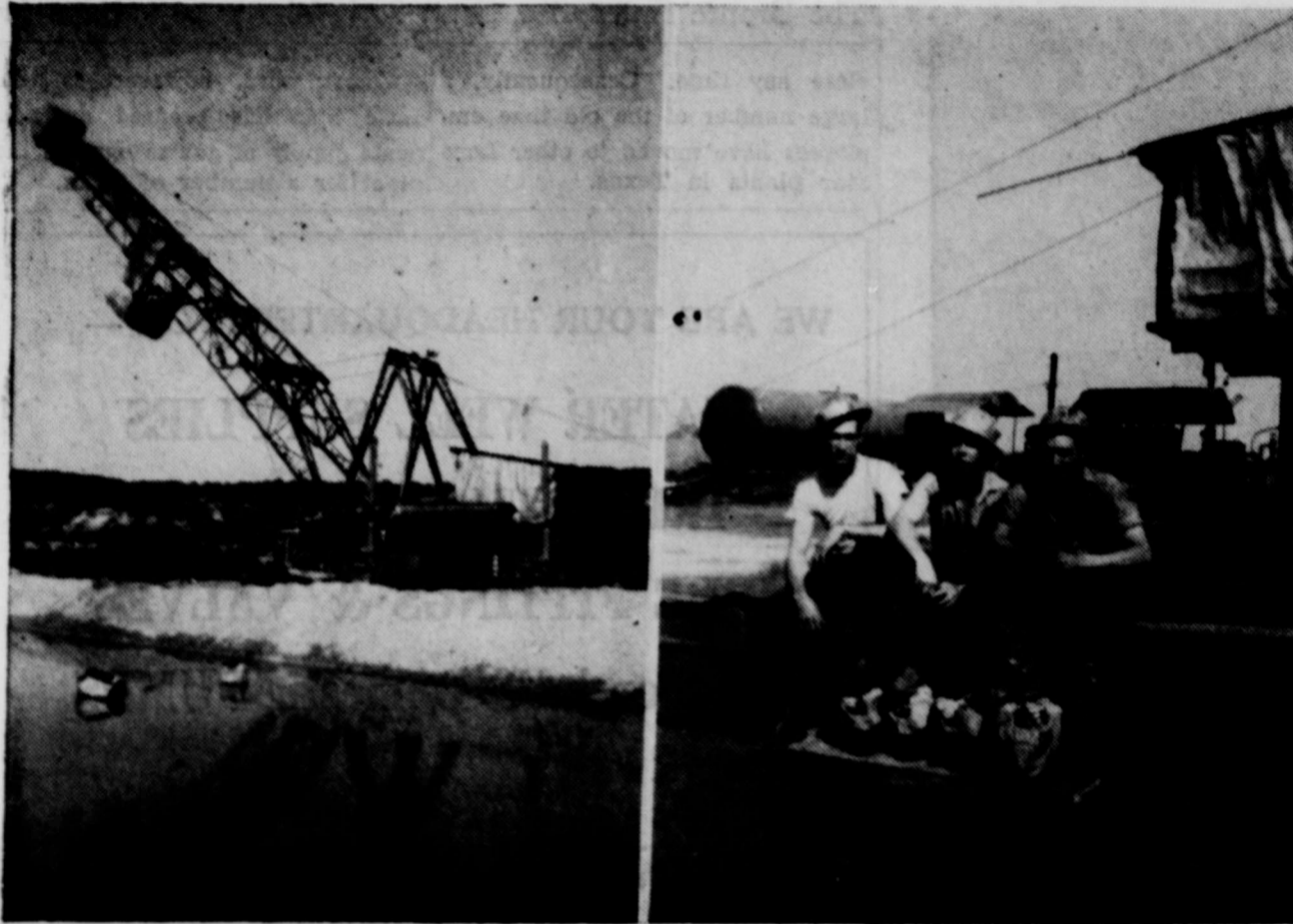
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LOWERING THE BIB RIG — One of the rigs which operated in the Bronte Field back in the early 1950s was the one shown here belonging to McQueen & Stout Drilling Co. It was being lowered after finishing an Hum-

ble well on the O. L. Johnson lease. The day drilling crew is shown on the right, from left are H. E. Brigman, T. L. Henson and Dewey Luckett. Fourth man in the crew, Jack D. Ivey, is not shown. He made the picture.

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Test Holes For Oil Well On Wylie Ranch Are Sunk

(Editor's note: So far as we have been able to determine from the incomplete files of The Enterprise, the oil activity reported below on the C. H. Wylie Ranch was the first in the vicinity of what is now the center of the big Fort Chadbourne field. No later mention of the test was found in the files. This story was published July 23, 1943.)

Wednesday afternoon Lee Russell of McCamey moved into the Conda Wylie ranch, ten miles north of Bronte with a spudder, and a crew of men, to sink test holes preparatory to making location for drilling an oil well.

The Cardinal Oil Company of San Angelo is sinking the well. Three test holes will be sunk in the effort to locate the drilling site for the well.

The Wylie ranch venture is another effort to bring in oil in the Bronte sector. Wells near Bronte have been sunk within the last 25 years; wells northwest of Bronte on the E. C. Rawlings ranch have been sunk; two tests at Blackwell have been made without securing oil in commercial quantities. To

the southeast of Bronte, in the Maverick section, two efforts have been made for the golden fluid. One of the wells was lost in bringing it in.

Hence, the venture of the Cardinal on the Wylie ranch is hailed with delight by all our people and it is hoped that a well of goodly commercial proportions may be brought in.

Soon as the test holes are finished the drilling site will be decided upon and there will be no time lost in drilling the well to sufficient depth to determine whether or not the oil is there. A three-tower crew is working on the job, drilling the test holes.

Ogden Is Ready to Start Drilling West of Bronte

(From Enterprise March 26, 1937)

"To get oil, or not to get oil"—that is the question as to the oil situation of the Bronte section at this time. The stake was set this morning, as we go to press, by the geologist for G. A. Simmons of Muskogee, Okla., and H. E. Ogden of Wichita, Kans., for a 3500 foot test on the E. C. Rawlings ranch five miles southwest of Bronte.

The location of the new well is about a quarter of a mile west of the well drilled some years ago on the Rawlings ranch. The well was started by J. W. Crotty which was later taken over by the Mid-Kansas Oil Company and drilled to the contract depth of 3500 feet. Showings of oil were found in this well but not in sufficient quantity at the price of crude oil at that time for commercial purposes. Hence the well was abandoned.

EUBANKS FAMILY CAME TO TEXAS IN 1886, TO COKE IN 1889

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Eubanks came to Texas in 1886, and settled in Comanche County. They came on westward to Coke County in 1889 while it was still part of Tom Green County. Mr. Eubanks died in 1930 and Mrs. Eubanks in 1954. They were the parents of W. O. Eubanks Sr. of Bronte.

If you want extra copies of this edition, better get them NOW!

Coke County Gets First Producer— 200 Barrels Daily

(From Enterprise May 8, 1942)

Yes, Coke County has an oil well—a real, sure enough, flowing well. It came in Sunday, the J. S. Craft well, at Blackwell, drilled by Wm. F. Morgan of Houston.

And the bringing in of this well has brought to realization the dreams of Coke County people for a third of a century.

The well flowed Sunday for a time and was shut off, pending the completion of storage tanks. It is estimated to be a well with 150 to 300 barrels.

Due to war conditions the bringing in of the well did not create much excitement—everyone seemed to take it as a matter of fact. All of course are glad that the search for the liquid gold beneath the surface of grand old Coke finally resulted in victory.

Maverick Oil Well On Fletcher Shuts Down

(From Enterprise Dec. 24, 1937)

It was a matter of regret and disappointment to all the people generally of the Bronte country when it became known first of this week that the owners of the oil well on the Bert Fletcher lease at Maverick had closed down the well, after failing to bring in a producing well. Salt water seemed to be the hindrance.

They did not plug the well, but only closed it down until after the first of the year—that announcement leaves the people with hope that after the holidays the owners will return and undertake further to make the well a producer or else drill a new well. It is generally believed that the Bert Fletcher test proves that oil is there. It is possible that a general drill campaign will be started early next year.

The E. C. Rawlings well four miles northwest of Bronte is "drilling along" after encountering many difficulties.

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SWEETWATER, TEXAS

Fanchers, Monteiths Among First Settlers In Coke County Area

When Mrs. H. P. (Sallie) Fancher died at the age of 86 in 1951, she was believed to have been the oldest living resident of Coke County, in terms of years in the county. She was one of the last pioneers who had endured Indian raids, common to this area some 67 years before the time of her death.

She came to this area in 1877 while it was still a part of Tom Green County, and settled on Oak Creek about one mile south of Fort Chadbourne.

She accompanied her father, Felix Daniel Monteith, from Brown County. He had driven ahead of him 100 hogs and some cattle.

Mr. Fancher arrived in the same year and month from Palo Pinto County with a herd of cattle for John Aston and Joe McConnell, and stayed on as a cowhand of the Odom ranch, with headquarters in the old fort.

The couple met and were mar-

ried, and lived in that area until their deaths. Mr. Fancher was born Aug. 27, 1854 and died at the age of 84, Sept. 25th, 1938. Both are buried in the old Fort Chadbourne Cemetery.

In 1950, County Attorney Frank C. Dickey interview Mrs. Fancher, and she told him she remembered the Indians making raids on almost every moonlight night in Brown County. At one time she counted 12 warriors as they rode past her house. She also told him of a raid on a farm of one of her neighbors in which a Mrs. Williams was killed; a baby burned to death and the kidnaping of a little girl whose body was later found hanging to a tree with the girth from the mother's side-saddle used as a rope.

Mrs. Fancher told Mr. Dickey that when she moved to Coke County, however, the Indian raids were about over. She said that the late Garland Odom, with his new bride, Sallie, moved into the



DO YOU REMEMBER? — The Eaton family, taken before 1900. The family of Pink Eaton, who died in 1939, came to Coke County in 1896 from Eastland County. This picture was made at their former home south and east of the gin in Bronte. Left to right

they are: Jack Eaton of San Angelo; May Eaton, now Mrs. R. H. Pendergrast of Abilene; Mr. and Mrs. Eaton, both deceased; Frank Eaton, deceased; Roy Eaton, deceased; Odessa Eaton, now Mrs. Ace Keightlinger of Denver, Colo.

old fort soon after she and her family settled on Oak Creek.

She told of seeing the first school house built in Coke County at Rock Springs and she could remember well seeing the country settled, and fenced, and recalled the days of the buffalo skinners and the antelope.

In an interview with the Fort Worth Star Telegram in 1936, Fancher told of a grave in the old Fort Chadbourne Cemetery when he came to the area. It was that of an army officer, under a liveoak tree—which has long since died. Then it had a cross above it, but now has neither name nor date. Fancher related to them how, years ago, the United States Government commissioned the father of Fred McDonald of Fort Chadbourne to open the grave and send the remains to Washington for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, but when the grave was opened it was empty.

Mrs. Fancher told the Star Telegram of the first time she remembered going to church back in Brown County. The services were held at a neighboring ranch. The women and children were loaded into an ox-wagon and the men rode horseback, with guns on their saddle-horns and a pistol on each side, with several guns thrown into the wagons as spares.

"It looked more like going to war than to church," she said. at the service men squatted or stood around the room with guns in easy reach. Later when ser-

vices were held in schoolhouses, the men usually laid their guns on the desks in front of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Fancher's living children are Clay Fancher of Portales, N. M., Floyd Fancher of Bronte, Mrs. Vada Henry of Blackwell, Mrs. Iva Richards of Bronte and Mrs. Elsie Lasswell of Bronte. Four of the children are now deceased.

**DIXON FAMILY CAME HERE
IN 1905 FROM MENARD**

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin B. Dixon were long-time Coke County residents. She was the former Sallie Hodges and was married July 16, 1891, to Edwin B. Dixon. The couple moved to a farm near Bronte from Menard County in 1905 and moved into Bronte from their farm in 1947. Mr. Dixon died in 1951 and Mrs. Dixon in 1963.

The couple had five children, Jack Dixon of Bronte, John Dixon of Portal, Ariz., Sam Dixon of Coolidge, Ariz., Mrs. J. O. Hageman of Bronte; and another daughter, Mrs. A. W. Henderson who died in 1953.

Fletcher Key, son of Dr. W. F. Key, pioneer physician here, was the first person buried in Bronte cemetery.

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BIG BOOM —

Continued from Page 1F

City of Bronte got something they had been wanting for months—a rig went up in the city limits. T. W. Murray and Louis Mabee leased lots behind Bronte Motor Co. belonging to L. T. Youngblood, and started a test. A couple of stories in The Enterprise during June presented an optimistic picture, but during the latter part of the month the hole was abandoned. It recovered 4600 feet of salt water on a drillstem test of a section at 5,166-86 feet. Efforts were made in later years by Barney Carter to make a producer out of this hole, but it was never done successfully.

Fort Chadbourne

Meanwhile, during the spring of 1949, a wildcat was being drilled on the ranch property of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wylie, about ten miles northeast of Bronte. This test was destined to open up the largest field in this immediate vicinity. In June, Humble No. 1 Sallie Odom was completed for a daily potential of 319 barrels of 42.3 gravity oil. This test was over the line in Runnels County, but it wasn't long until it spread into Coke County, when Barnsdall Oil Co. No. 1 Harris Davenport was completed as a small pump. This well extended the field 4½ miles west and slightly south. William Hamm Jr. No. 1 S. L. McNay also extended the Fort Chadbourne Field, 3¼ miles east when it was completed.

Drilling in the new field picked up and continued at a rapid pace for three or four years. Most every week, a new list of completions and new locations came out in the Enterprise. The operators in Fort Chadbourne received a blow in February, 1952, when the Railroad Commission ordered all production to stop until something was done about gas flaring. The field was shut in for 13 months, until a \$3 million gas processing plant was completed by Lone Star Producing Co., to take care of the huge amount of gas which was being wasted. At the time the field was shut in, it had 217 producing wells, and when it was opened up again, 290 had been completed. (See story in this section about new Lone Star plant.)

The Fort Chadbourne Field continued to spread during 1950, 1951 and 1953. Since that time, drilling has slackened off. A test staked in January, 1950, on Tad Richards place by Hiawatha Oil Co. was completed in March for 165.2 barrels of oil per day. Barnsdall No. 2 Davenport extended the field three-quarters mile further southwest, when it was completed for 152.29 barrels of oil per day. In April, production spread into Nolan County with the completion of a well on property of Mary Alice McNay. Humble No. 1 Charles C. Cave extended it northwest toward Blackwell when it was completed for a daily flow of 180-78 barrels of 44.1 gravity oil. Stanolind's No. 1 Irene Morrow made 301 barrels per day, to move the field southward.

Smaller Fields

Smaller fields which were brought in during the big boom in the early 50s included the North Bronte Multipay Field; the McCutchen (Cisco) Field, located some seven miles west of town, the Wendkirk Field, southwest of town across the river. Likewise in the west part of the county, oil discoveries continued to spread. Another large field in a sand section was brought in alongside the original Jameson Strawn lime discovery near Silver, and the Milligan Field west of Edith came up with some good producers. In more recent years, Humble discovered another field between Silver and Robert Lee in the IAB Field, located in the Sanco vicinity.

All holes, however, have not pro-

duced oil. Files of The Enterprise are full of stories about wildcats and field stepouts which came in as dusters. Dry holes were put down in several locations south of the river, in the Tennyson area, east and north of Bronte.

Lots of Pay Zones

A large number of pay strata were found in this area during the time it was being drilled out. The discovery well in the Bronte Field was in the Palo Pinto, but oil has been found in the Goens and Cambrian formations as well. The Ellenburger has not produced much oil around here. The Odom lime formation is the pay zone for most wells in the Fort Chadbourne Field. Only a few weeks ago a well on the east side of the Bronte Field produced heavily in the Cambrian formation. It is located several miles from other producers in this pay zone.

Production People Come

Shortly after discovery of the Bronte and Fort Chadbourne Fields, Humble built camps for their employees, one located west of Bronte and the other in the Fort Chadbourne Field. Only one house and offices remain in the Bronte Camp, as most of their employees have moved into town. The Fort Chadbourne still has quite a number of residents, but it, too, has been reduced in size.

The impact of the oil people has been felt down through the years, on economic, social, school,

church and other aspects of community life in Bronte. They are not so plentiful as they were ten years ago, but they still are of great importance to the area.

Most of the oil people who reside in this vicinity now are employed by Humble or Lone Star Producing Co. Both the Bronte and Fort Chadbourne Fields have been unitized and are operated by Humble.

Rumors say that oil activity will pick up some this fall and early in 1965, but no one expects it to be what it was back in its heyday of the late 40s and early 50s.

MAVERICK OIL WELL DRILLING MAY BE RESUMED

(From Enterprise Nov. 6, 1942)

The Enterprise has "the inside" about the probability of drilling operations resuming in the Maverick section. In this locality a well was drilled which had oil but was lost bringing it in. Then later an effort was made but the undertaking was not finished.

But, this time, according to information The Enterprise has, the interested parties are successful oil men, having oil interests both in California and Texas. And the Enterprise was given the assurance that if the project is launched, it will be carried to completion—drilling will continue until it is known there is no oil.

Hoblitzelle Operation Headquartered Here

An independent producer, who maintains headquarters in Bronte is Karl Hoblitzelle of Dallas. Hoblitzelle, with his partner, Ronald Perkins, has approximately 40 oil producers in the vicinity of Norton.

Royce and Clyde Lee are in charge of the Hoblitzelle operation in this area. Clyde is superintendent of drilling operations, and Royce is production superintendent. They both live in Bronte. Clyde started in the oil business in 1948, shortly after the discovery well in the Bronte Field was brought in, and Royce returned to Texas in 1950 and has been in the business since that time.

The first well drilled exclusively by Hoblitzelle and Perkins was the No. 1 Bryan, near Norton. However, the Dallas men were associated with the Lee Brothers as early as 1952 in a venture near Maverick known as Lee Bros. No. 1 Homer Daniel and another, the No. 1 Culp. These were discovery wells.

Hoblitzelle and Perkins have been operating their own rig the last few years, with Clyde Lee in charge. Drilling operations employ 12 men, eight of whom live in Bronte. The rig is not running at the present time, but Lee said

he expects it to start up in October. It ran ten months straight until it was recently shut down.

Besides Royce Lee, Davy Crockett and Don Furr work in the production department. Crockett lives here and Furr resides at Norton. They produce wells in the North Motley, South Motley and Ronald Perkins Fields, all east of Bronte in Runnels County.

The Hoblitzelle and Perkins operation extends from Ballinger Lake and the Colorado River west into the edge of Coke County and north beyond Norton.

Hoblitzelle also has other oil interests in Louisiana, on the Plains of Northwest Texas and in South Texas.

MID-FIFTIES SHOWED OIL PRODUCTION LEVELLING OFF

A chart in the Oil Progress edition of The Enterprise in 1957 showed allowables and production beginning to slow somewhat. At that time there were 42 differently designated fields in Coke County.

The 1955 allowable for the county was 13,048,836 barrels while 11,511,172 barrels were actually produced.

The 1956 allowable was cut to 11,005,497 and production amounted to 9,339,063 barrels.

Congratulations

TO OUR FRIENDS OF

COKE COUNTY

On the Occasion of Your

75th Anniversary

It has been our pleasure for a good many years to be associated with the wonderful people of Coke County in our oil operations located in this vicinity. A number of our employees live in your city and are tax paying citizens, members of your churches, and a part of your community life. On this 75th Anniversary of Coke County, we are happy to be a part of the Bronte community.

Karl Hoblitzelle

Independent Oil Operator

DALLAS, TEXAS



Historical & Progress Edition

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

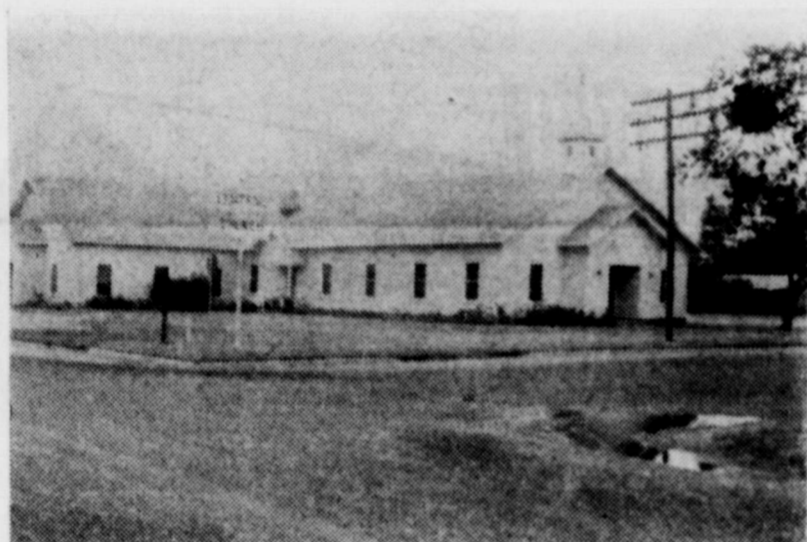
BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section G

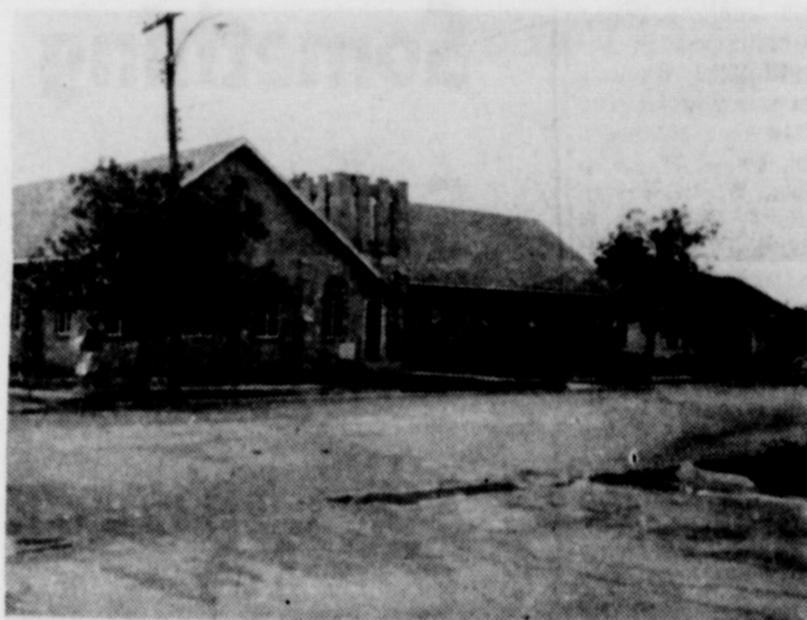
*Bronte's Five
Beautiful
Churches*



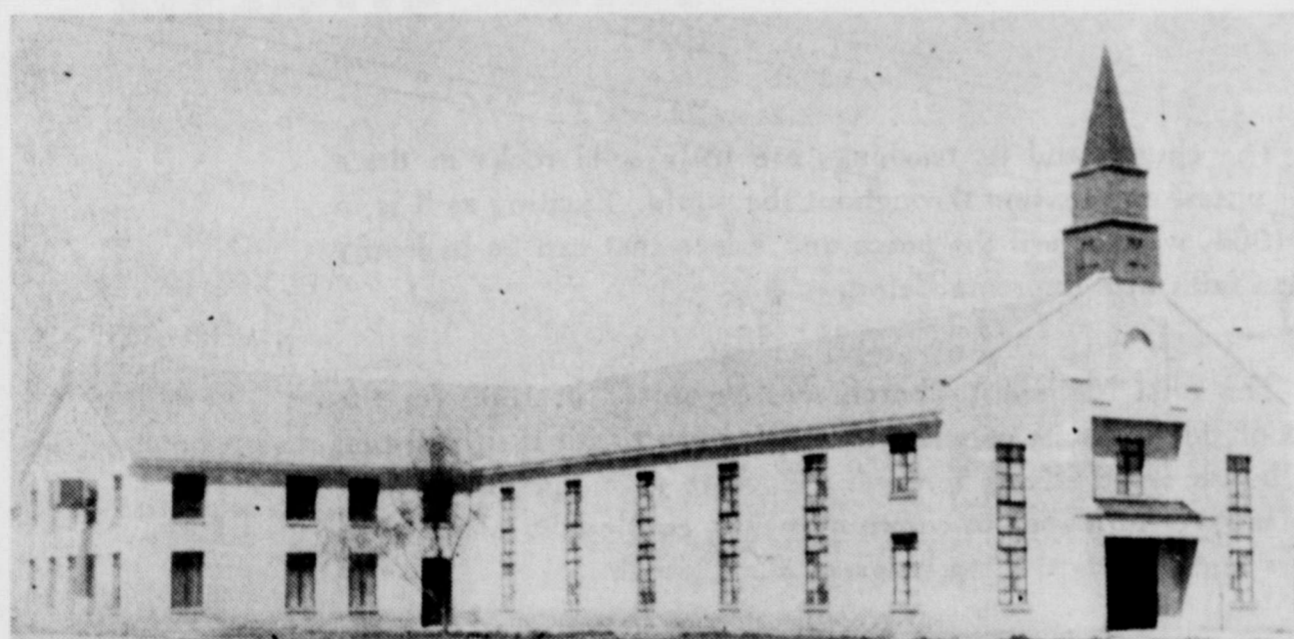
(Above) Bronte Church of Christ



(Above) Central Baptist Church



(Above) First Methodist Church

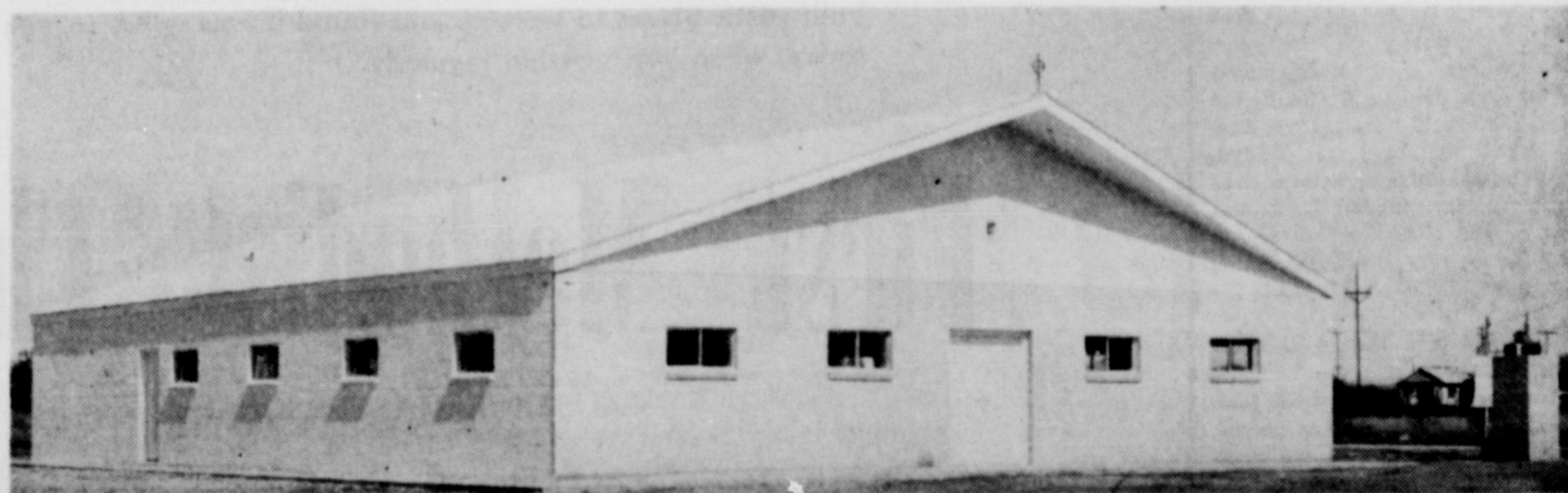


(Left)
First Baptist Church

(Below)
St. James Catholic Church

*"Not forsaking
the assembling of
ourselves
together..."*

-- Hebrews 10:25



First Methodist Church Began at 'Pecan Motts'

It was under a brush arbor at the Pecan Motts on East Kickapoo Creek in the summer of 1890 that First Methodist Church in Bronte was organized. Organizer was the Rev. J. W. Montgomery, then pastor of the Hayrick Church.

Three families constituted the original church and they were: Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Key and son, Henry, and daughter, Pearl; Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Williams and daughter, Mrs. Tom Williams; and Mr. and Mrs. George Harris. Other early members were Capt. and Mrs. J. P. Hutchinson, Ennis Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Caulley, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rawlings and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rawlings, who were married by the Rev. Montgomery, organizer of the church. They joined this church in 1897. In 1899 came Mr. and Mrs. Ed Merchant and W. L. Hayley.

Originally the Bronte church was a part of the Robert Lee circuit in the old Northwest Texas Conference, Abilene District. The first annual conference in which this church participated was Nov. 3, 1891, in Abilene. Bishop James S. Key presided.

Ira F. Key, son of Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Key, was licensed to preach at the 4th quarterly conference in Bronte in 1903, the first to be licensed from this congregation.

The church worshipped in the school house until 1906 when a building program was started. The building committee was composed of Dr. W. F. Key, Dr. J. D. Leonard, J. A. Grimes, W. L. Hayley and E. C. Rawlings. The cornerstone was laid Jan. 27, 1907; D. A. McGuire was pastor. A building, costing \$5,000 was erected at the present location. J. A. Grimes, A. J. Rawlings and Walter Kiker made the trip in wagons to San Angelo to bring out the church seats. It required two days or longer to make the trip with a load.

That same fall Bronte became head of a circuit. Rev. N. C. Morton, 1908-09, was the first pastor to reside in Bronte. Bishop Hoss was the bishop and Rev. E. R. Bolton was their first presiding elder.

In 1909 the Bronte church became a station. Rev. Charles D. Spann was the first station pastor. Jas. S. Key was then bishop and Rev. J. A. Whitehurst was presiding elder.

The Sunday School was organized in 1898 in the old school house which burned in October, 1899, and C. F. Gideon was the first superintendent.

Bronte was in the Northwest Texas Conference until 1910 when the Central Texas Conference was formed and Bronte became a part of it. In 1934 it was changed to the West Texas Conference, San Angelo District and was put in the Southwest Texas Conference in 1939.

In the early lean year of 1918, the Bronte and Robert Lee charges were put under one charge with Rev. P. H. Gates serving both churches as pastor for the year.

The church membership worshipped from 1907 until 1951 in the original building. In 1947 a Sunday school building was added. In 1951 the old structure was torn down and members held services in the Full Gospel Church downtown during the construction of a new \$30,000 brick and tile building. Ground breaking ceremonies were held June 6, the cornerstone was laid June 26, and the formal opening was held Nov. 11, 1951. J. E. Fuller was pastor, and C. E. Arrott, O. H. Willoughby, B. E. Modgling and D. K.

Glenn composed the building committee.

In 1957-58, more room was needed so an educational unit was added including Sunday school rooms and MYF hall. The church was completely remodeled, re-decorated, and refrigerated air conditioning and central heating added. Ground breaking for the new addition was in October and the formal opening was in March, 1958. A. Lin Loeffler was pastor. Building committee for this addition was C. O. Richards, D. K. Glenn, Joe McCutchen and Mrs. Vera Thomas.

A new parsonage was erected in 1959, west of the church, while Bob Grimes was pastor. Mrs. Royce Lee, Mrs. Edna Butner and Bob Wilson were the building committee and the parsonage was dedicated in 1960. The parsonage was made possible by a gift of more than \$2700, earmarked for this purpose, from the Hayrick Methodist Church when they disbanded their church and became a part of the Bronte congregation in May, 1959.

Pastors who have served here through the years are:

J. W. Montgomery, 1890-91; Rev. Hulsey and J. T. Fair (exact dates not known) from 1891-95; Eugene Bates, 1895-99; L. A. Clark, 1899-1901; W. K. Simpson, 1901-04; J. M. Baker, 1905-06; D. A. McGuire, 1907-08; C. N. Morton, 1908-09; C. D. Spann, 1910-11; A. E. Turney, 1911-12; R. B. Wagner, 1913-14; Thomas L. Sorrels, 1914-15; A. C. Smith, 1916-17; P. H. Gates, 1918-19; B. M. Galloway, 1920 and part of '21; C. W. Harden, balance of 1921; W. T. Veach, 1922-23; W. E. Anderson, 1923-26; P. L. Shuler, 1927-28; C. O. Hightower, 1928-31; W. E. Anderson, 1932, part of '33; Wallace N. Dunson, balance 1933-35; Stanley R. Harwood, part of 1936; Paul Moon, balance 1936; J. H. Thompson, 1937-38; C. Reginald Hardy, 1939-40; B. F. Bahmfolk, 1941-42; Abner Hanson, 1942-45; J. B. McCrary, 1945-47; Alvin Mauldin, 1947-49; J. E. Fuller, 1949-53; W. C. Craig, 1953-56; Lin Loeffler, 1956-58; James W. Campbell, 1958-59; G. R. Grimes, 1959-61; A. S. Neely, 1961-63. Rev. A. S. Masterson is now pastor, coming here in August, 1963. Elmer Hurley is present board chairman.



First Methodist Church, 1907-1951

Sunday School at Hayrick Was First In Coke County

Early in 1885, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Robbins moved to what at that time was known as Tom Green County, and settled near the Hayrick mountain. In a short time a small settlement was started at the foot of the mountain. The community took its name from the mountain and became the first county seat of Coke County in 1889.

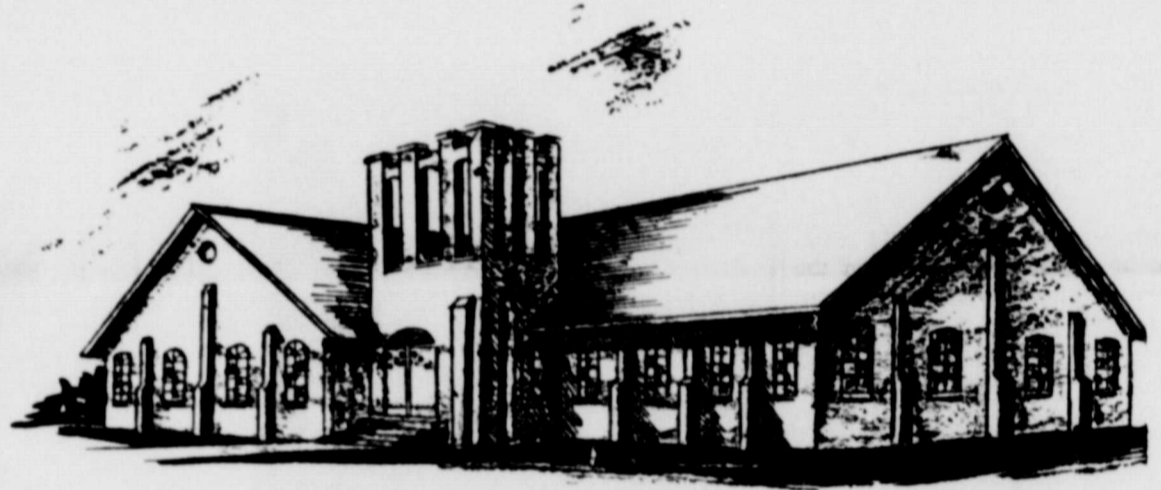
In the meantime, in 1886, Mr. Robbins and a few others who were Methodists came together in the home of Charley Roe and organized a Sunday School. Mr. Robbins was the first superintendent. It is believed to be the first Sunday School in Coke County.

In 1887, Rev. J. P. Hulse, a Methodist circuit rider, was sent to the old Fort Chadbourne Mission, Abilene district, Old Northwest Texas Conference. He soon found the Methodist people in the Hayrick settlement and organized. See SUNDAY SCHOOL Page 6G

Something Solid

in a

TROUBLED WORLD



- - The Church

The church and its teachings are truly solid rocks in these times of unrest and tension throughout the world. Exciting as it is to live in 1964, we all need the peace and solace that can be had only by a firm faith in a Supreme Being.

The First Methodist Church was organized in 1890 for the purpose of providing its people with a program to fill their spiritual needs. It has stood strong through the years as an important part and a steadying influence in community life, continually offering its members and friends the teachings of the Gospel.

Just as the pioneers who founded our county 75 years ago built rustic places to worship and found it was good, so you may do today, when you worship regularly.

First Methodist Church

AUSTIN S. MASTERSON, Pastor

Kickapoo Baptist Church Became 'Central' in '62

Central Baptist Church was established as the Kickapoo Missionary Baptist Church in 1904. Those known to be charter members were:

C. W. Warner, Charlie Taylor, Mrs. E. F. Taylor, J. H. Stephenson, D. E. Scott, Mrs. N. M. Scott, Mrs. S. E. Scott, Mrs. M. A. Scott, J. L. Scott, Mrs. T. J. Richardson, Mrs. Ida Robbins, J. T. Robbins, Andrew Jones, Mrs. Ethel Hayley, R. N. Harrold, P. W. Hudman, J. P. Daniels, Mrs. M. Daniels, G. A. Best, Mrs. Emma Best. These persons are known to be charter members, but church officials said that "complete records were not kept at the beginning and it is possible, and also regrettable, that some have have been missed."

The early church was organized Feb. 28, 1904, and was named for the Kickapoo Creeks and Kickapoo mountains in this area. The Rev. J. C. Johnson served as temporary moderator during the organization and was later called as first pastor. J. L. Scott was the first clerk.

First meetings of the group were held in the school building in Bronte, but on April 8, 1905, the congregation met in their own church, a new building, for the first time. It was located near the present Bronte school. Some time about 1915, the church building was sold to the Church of Christ and the congregation held services in the Union School north of town.

Another new building was completed in 1924 and it burned in the spring of 1926. That fall (1926) another new building was erected, located about four miles north of Bronte. It was used about 30 years until 1955, when the new church building was completed on the present location in town. An

educational building was added in 1959.

During some short periods during the past 58 years the church has been without a pastor, but listed below are the names of the

Present Pastor



WAYNE N. STOUT

men who have served the church and the years they were here:

J. C. Johnson, 1904-06; D. W. White, 1906-07; P. C. Shilling, 1907-08; T. S. Barron, a few months in 1908; W. N. White, 1910-12; M. T. Priddy, 1912-13; T. D. Murdock, 1913-16; J. A. Branaman, 1916-32; J. O. McCaleb, 1932-33; C. L. Carroll, 1933-45; L. L. Griffin, 1946-47; Wayne N. Stout, 1947 for several months; E. L. Thurman, 1949-50; W. A. Reeves, 1950-52; C. W. Coleman, 1952-55; R. W. Blackmon, 1955-62; Wayne N. Stout, 1962 to present.

The church is a member of the Fairland Missionary Baptist Association, which has a membership of several churches in this area.

The church plant now has adequate space for all Sunday School classes, a modern kitchen and fellowship hall and a spacious sanctuary. The building is air conditioned.

The name was changed in August, 1962, to Central Baptist Church, after the church had borne the name "Kickapoo" for more than 58 years. Officials of the church said that the change

was in name only, and there was no change in the doctrine and beliefs of the church.

The present church board con-

sists of: Hollis Ensor, chairman; Noah Pruitt Jr., secretary; George Wrinkle, Dwain Pruitt, Noah Pruitt Sr., and Francis Seltz.

EVERYTHING TO BUILD REMODEL or REPAIR

LUMBER — ROOFING — DOORS
WINDOWS — SHEETROCK
HARDWARE — PAINTS

Title I FHA Loans

No Down Payment — 36 to 60 Mos. to Pay

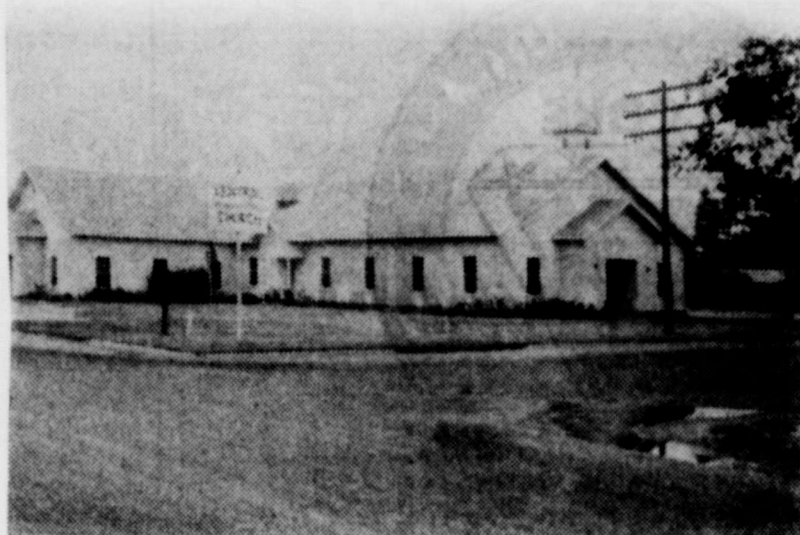
CITY LUMBER & WHOLESALE

Dial 653-1403

811 W. 14th

San Angelo

AN
EXCITING
TOMORROW



We'd Share With You

We Honor Our Pioneers

We pay honor to those who have gone on before us, the stalwart pioneers who preserved our faith through the years and handed it down to us. They should receive our special honor on this Diamond Anniversary of our county.

Life IS exciting when you realize its true meaning . . . when you have the peace of mind which comes with a real faith in Him Who proclaimed the Gospel in all its simplicity.

This church has, through the years, exercised every effort to serve the spiritual needs of this community. It is our prayer that we may continue to serve and to experience the spiritual contentment as we now know, in the future. We also give our prayers of thanks to Him Who has enabled us to grow and build our new house of worship.

To anyone who needs the solace provided by faith, we invite you to worship with us at any time.

Central Baptist Church

WAYNE N. STOUT, Pastor

GREETINGS Coke County Friends

Always Shop Our
Store for

DIAMONDS

WATCHES

Longine, Mido, Bulova

SILVERWARE

Gorham Sterling, 1847 Rogers
Community

CHINA

Syracuse, Castleton

EXPERT WATCH
REPAIRING

CHARLES
HAMBRICK
JEWELER

BALLINGER, TEXAS

Gastons Moved to Tennyson in 1899

On Oct. 25, 1888, Miss Addie Allen Brooks became the bride of Mr. Samuel W. Gaston in Calhoun County, Miss. The wedding took place at the home of her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Brooks. She was born May 1, 1874, in Calhoun County, one of eight children. Mr. Gaston was also of Calhoun County.

The young couple came to Texas in the fall of 1890, traveling by train to Fort Worth, and then to San Angelo by covered wagon. Mrs. Gaston recently recalled that it took them a month to make the trip from Fort Worth, traveling by day and stretching their tent by night.

They settle in the Grape Creek community in Tom Green County, but after eight years, on June 1, 1899, they moved to Coke County and bought the Cross Bar Ranch, living there almost 13 years, then moving to Tennyson where Mr. Gaston owned and operated a grocery store. After a few years, they moved again to the ranch, located six miles west of Tennyson where Mrs. Gaston now resides with a son, Sam Gaston.

During the early days, Mr. Gaston served two terms as commissioner of precinct No. 4, during the time the "new" jail was built at Robert Lee. Their son, Sam, also was commissioner of the precinct

three terms, from 1935 through 1940.

Mrs. Gaston remembers when they first come to Texas, cotton was selling at 5 and 6 cents a pound and there was no market for home produce.

The Gastons had 13 children, 11 of whom are still living. Mr. Gaston died in February, 1939.

The children include: Mrs. R. B. Allen, Mrs. Claud Cotten, Mrs. Wm. Roy Dickens, Mrs. Frank Farmer, Rev. W. H. Gaston, R. L. Gaston, Edward W. Gaston, Grady Gaston, Walter Gaston, Sam L. Gaston and John W. Gaston.

Tennyson Church Descendant of One On Mule Creek

Forerunner of the Tennyson Baptist Church was the Mt. Margaret Baptist Church established on Mule Creek. First deacons of that church were J. D. and C. D. Hale, W. W. Brooks and C. Baker.

The church was moved in 1925. It was then located across the railroad west of the present church, near the site of the Hamp Thomas home. The name was changed to the Tennyson Tabernacle Baptist Church, and, ac-

ording to information furnished by Mrs. Ben Brooks to Mrs. Tom Green, the tabernacle was built by volunteer laborers of the community. The pews were all built by the late W. W. Brooks, father of Ben Brooks, who now lives at Sterling City.

First pastor of the new tabernacle was Rev. N. D. Bullock. Others serving as pastor through the years have been the Revs. Amos Holmes, D. K. Smith, Golden, A. T. Nixon, A. V. Bradley, Lee Ray Stuckey, M. Row, Hal Martin, C. B. Baker and C. E. Lake.

During the pastorate of Rev.

Martin, funds began to be gathered for a new church. The old tabernacle was moved to the present church location, completely remodeled and additions made and while the Rev. Gene Lake was pastor, the first sermon was preached in the new location on Sept. 23, 1951. During this time the name had been changed again to Tennyson Baptist Church.

Pastors who have followed since that time include the Revs. W. E. Chandler, H. L. Teems, O. L. Frasier, Billy Hill and the present pastor, Rev. Robert Ritchie, who came to the church in 1959.

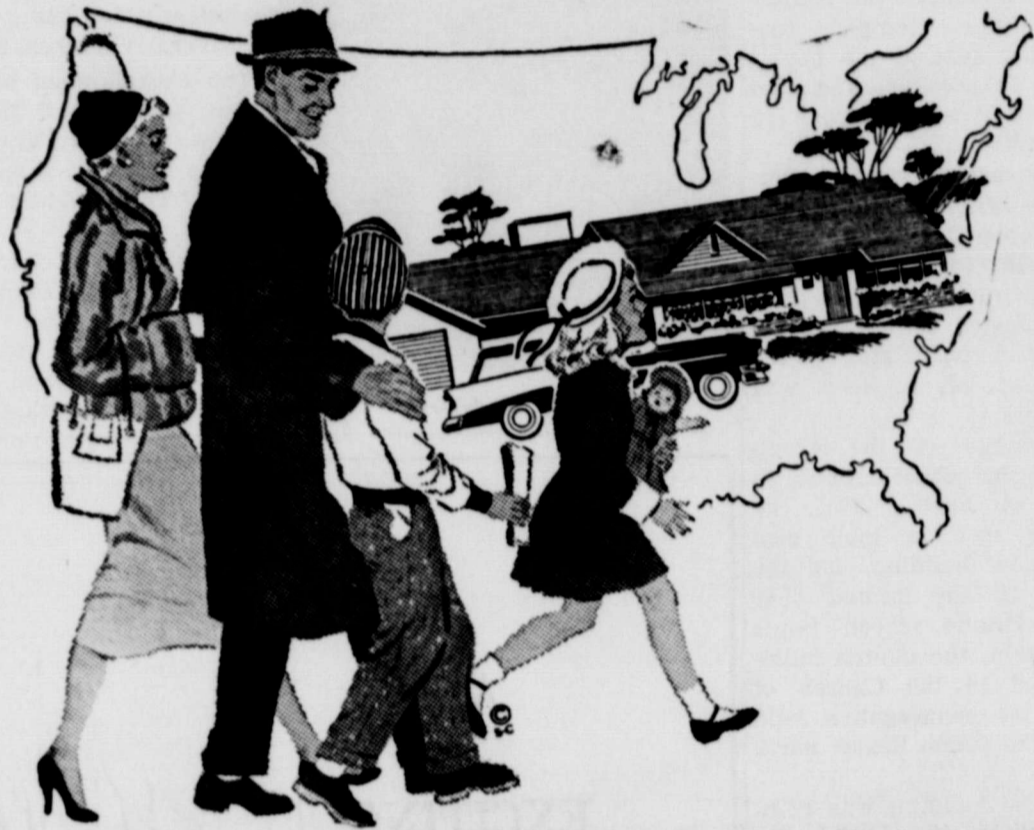
Tragedy struck the church in

1961 when it burned on Nov. 19. Members got busy and rebuilt the church, almost to the same specifications, and it was dedicated less than a year later on Oct. 28, 1962.

AD FROM THE ENTERPRISE EDITION OF MARCH 16, 1906

Stop at the Ft. Concho Wagon Yard when you go to San Angelo. Yard is new, clean and commodious. Good water and first-class accommodations. Fee 10c per team. A full line of Feed Stuff and Groceries in connection. J. O. Hickman, Pro., San Angelo, Texas.

THE WELL DRESSED AMERICAN FAMILY



And High Quality
Dry Cleaning
Go Hand in Hand

Good grooming can make all the difference in the world in a person's looks and his outlook—confidence goes with the assurance that you look your best. Since 1946, we have been providing high quality cleaning service for the people of this area. Our careful attention to each cleaning problem, plus the use of the very latest equipment, assures you that you always receive the best when you bring your clothes to Kemp's.

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND OUR

COKE COUNTY



We are proud to be a part of this community on the occasion of our county's Diamond Anniversary. It's a real pleasure to live and do business in a place like Bronte.

Kemp's
CLEANERS & HATTERS

Cecil & Frances Kemp



DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

WELCOME
TO
BRONTE'S
Big Celebration
On Labor Day

And Don't Forget...

It will soon be time to light those . . .

GAS HEATERS

BETTER CHECK YOUR SUPPLY

OF GAS RIGHT AWAY—IF

YOU'RE RUNNING LOW—JUST

CALL

Scott Butane Co.

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ed Scott

St. James Catholic Is Bronte's Newest Church

The new St. James Catholic Church in Bronte was blessed and formally opened to serve the community, Aug. 19, 1962. His Excellency Bishop Thomas Joseph Drury, bishop of San Angelo, was present to bless the new structure and offer the mass. He also erected and blessed the Stations of the Cross. The Very Rev. Bernard J. Binversie was pastor at the time. The church is located on north Washington street and is built of brick and tile. It will seat 300 persons.

First instruction for the Catholic population here came in 1941 when two Catechists, Helen Terese and Isabel, came to Bronte to start instructing the children. No priest had been here prior to that time. They used a small building, furnished by the Martinez and Fuentes families.

The Catechists were followed

two weeks later by Father Alcuin, who was taking care of charges at Metrzon, Knickerbocker and Sanitorium. The first communion class was in 1942 and numbered around 20. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fuentes furnished generous help for the class and their daughter, Odalia was a member of that first class.

In 1950 property was purchased here and Father Fidelis Albrect, O.F.M., supervised the erection of a small church, which was dedicated under the name of San Ysidro (St. Isidore) by the late Monsignor Pokluda on June 14, 1951. The building was an old barracks set on cinder blocks and stuccoed on the outside, with a seating capacity of 100. It is still located in the north part of town on East Railroad Street, but is vacant.

Father Fidelis remained in charge of the mission here until

February, 1962, when Father Binversie was placed in charge.

The need for a larger church was evident in 1960 and a tract of one-half block was purchased from the Lamesa corporation. In February, 1962, an appeal was made to the Catholic Church Extension Society in Chicago through the late Archbishop O'Brien. A grant of \$10,000 was approved with the request that the church be named St. James.

The Revs. James Bridges and James Aaron were priests in charge of the church for a short time. Pastors following Rev. Binversie have been Rev. Louis Moeller and Rev. Paul Surlis, D.D., is the present pastor.

Catholics from Robert Lee and the west part of the county, as well as the rural area around Bronte are also served by St. James Catholic Church.



ON OPENING DAY—His Excellency, Thomas J. Drury, Bishop of San Angelo, chats with Frank C. Dickey, Coke County Attorney, following the blessing and opening of St. James Catholic Church.

Politics Hot Then Just As It Is Now

(From The Bronte Enterprise Editorial Column, Nov. 1, 1912)

There has been some quiet discussion in town lately as to the binding force of the pledge on the ticket voted in the Democratic primary. From our point of view the question does not admit of argument. The man who pledged himself to support the nominee of the primary and who goes to the polls next Tuesday and votes for another candidate, or refuses to vote at all, is false to a voluntary obligation and cannot be trusted politically. He had no right in the primary if he did not intend to vote the ticket, and this applies to Democrats as well as Republicans and Socialists.

The editor of this newspaper (Editor's note: C. W. Goff) fought vigorously for his man and lost, and now he is going to vote for Gov. Colquitt, if it takes the hair and some hide, but we abate not one jot or tittle of our adherence to the views expressed during the campaign, and when the hosts of Democracy again go forth to battle upon the open field of public opinion, we shall combat the views and policies supported by Mr. Colquitt and his followers in the last campaign. We exercised our per-

sonal and political privilege in the primary and by our voluntary participancy therein surrendered to the will of the majority, or plurality, as the case may be. That is the only way in which party organization can be maintained and it is fair and reasonable to demand and expect that those who enter a party primary will vote for the nominees of that party. Indeed, the man who voted in the Democratic primary in July is as firmly and honorably pledged to vote the ticket next Tuesday as he is to tell the truth in or out of court or to live up to any other obligation.

When we get to the point we cannot stick to a pledge, we will remain out of the primary, and then when the general election comes on will vote for the best man, as we always try to do in the primary.

(Editor's note: Many things have changed in the past 52 years, and we never met Editor Goff, but The Enterprise stand on the above question is still the same as then. Possibly it is because the word "pledge" still means the same as then, or at least it should.)

Good Luck COKE COUNTY

On 75 Years of Growth

Shop at Sears and Save

SEARS ROEBUCK AND CO.

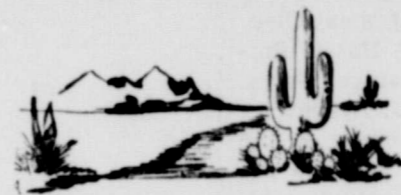
604 E. Broadway

SWEETWATER, TEXAS

God's Country



The Fabulous Southwest



The popular conception of the Southwest is that it is a land of rough and ready cowboys and Indians; but it should be remembered this is truly "God's Country" and that nowhere in America has religion and the Church played a more important part in the development of the country than in the Fabulous Southwest.

Earliest recorded history of this area tells the story of Spanish priests and missionaries who first brought the Word of God to this part of our country many years before the founding of Jamestown or the landing on Plymouth Rock.

Missions, churches and cathedrals, hundreds of years old, are to be found throughout the Fabulous Southwest. Not many miles from Bronte and Coke County, near Menard, Franciscan missionaries established a mission in 1757, almost 20 years before our Declaration of Independence was signed.

The influence of the Church is basic everywhere and churches and church membership are most vital to the lives of every family and citizen.

St. James Catholic Church

BRONTE, TEXAS

Church of Christ Has Beautiful New Building

Housed in a lovely new building of brick and tile, the Bronte Church of Christ dates back to about 1895 when it was organized in the old plank school house here.

Some of the first members of the early church were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. George Woullard and Miss Ada Woullard, Mrs. Tom Luttrell, Mr. and Mrs. George Keesee, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Simpson and many others including the Wynns, Sanduskys, J. R. Johnsons, Jacksons, Coalsons and Huffakers.

Some of the early ministers of the church included Dave Farley, George McCraw, N. P. Black, W. D. Black and others.

The church congregation met in the school building until about 1915 when they bought a church building from the Kickapoo Baptist Church (now Central Baptist). It was located across the street from the school.

In 1926 that church was torn down and another church moved and built on the present location of the Church of Christ. It served the congregation well until the present building was completed and opened in August 1961.

Later ministers of the church have been W. L. Fry, first full-time minister, who came here in 1948. He was followed by Idus England, Leon Sharp, Bill Pugh, Owen Cosgrove, Melvin Placke, Joe Wolf and Foy Moore.

The present minister is Walter Jubber of South Africa, who is attending school at Abilene Christian College in Abilene.

Present elders of the church are: Horace Taylor, James Allen, Austin Sandusky and Harry Porter. Deacons are Horace Grigg, C. E. Bruton and A. J. Bragewitz.

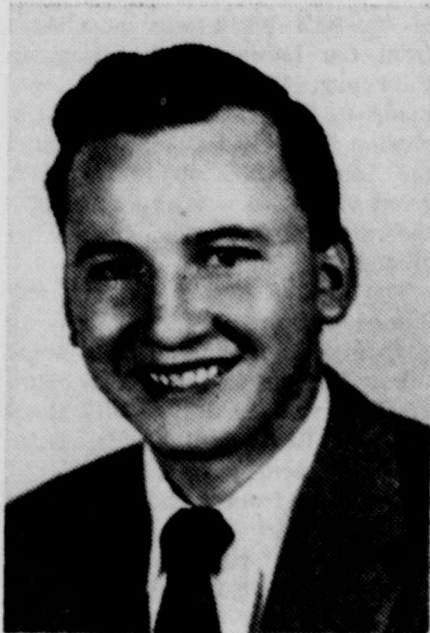
In discussing the history of the church C. E. Bruton said, "I am told the church had several meetings in a big tent on the site of the present church, in the early 1900s. Mrs. L. W. Beaty was baptized in 1904 by Bro. Chisum during one of these meetings." He also said, "There are still a few members of the Church of Christ attending services here in Bronte that went to church in the old school building some 70 years ago."

The church building completed in 1961 is centrally air conditioned

Two Former Ministers



FOY L. MOORE



OWEN COSGROVE

and heated, has indirect lighting, an a spacious auditorium unmarred by building supports which might hamper vision. A Sunday school wing extends to the south.

The Bronte church sponsors a gospel meeting each summer, and vacation Bible schools are held each year for youngsters of the community.

GOOD LUCK COKE COUNTY

We Wish You Many More Years
Of Growth and Prosperity

Your Dealer for International
Harvester Tractors and
Farm Machinery

DIESEL AND HYDRAULIC HEADQUARTERS

**BALLINGER TRUCK
& TRACTOR CO.**

Phones: Day—2-7373; Night—8643

Highway 67 West

Ballinger

The Church of Christ

69 YEARS IN BRONTE



Where the Church of Christ Meets in Bronte

We Would Like to Know You Better...

On this occasion of the 75th Anniversary of our county, we are reminded that we are living in a fast-moving and tension-ridden age. In 1964 we are sometimes too busy to seek out the REALLY IMPORTANT thing in our lives—the spiritual values that can be obtained only from the teachings of the New Testament.

We would like to invite everyone who reads this newspaper to visit us in our regular services. We believe you will enjoy the simple beauty of New Testament worship. You will be treated as an honored guest, and your presence will aid us in becoming better acquainted.

It is very easy for all of us to be honestly mistaken. It is very dangerous, too. A continued study of the scriptures for one's self is necessary to overcome the false ideas so prevalent today. Let us help you with your study.

Every Visitor an Honored Guest

SUNDAY SCHOOL —

Continued from Page 2G

ed a church the same year.

Mr. Robbins and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Roe and a few others were the charter members. Robbins, the last of these pioneers to pass away, died in 1934. After the organization of the county in 1889, the Sunday school and church met in the upstairs room of the first Coke County courthouse in Hayrick.

Hayrick was put on the Robert Lee charge, after it was established in 1891, when the county seat was moved to Robert Lee.

This was the oldest church in this part of the country. It was later transferred to the Bronte charge. It was put in the West Texas Conference in 1934, with Bronte, out of the Central Texas Conference. Later, both were made members of the Southwest Texas Conference.

The Hayrick church continued for many years, meeting in the school house, until May, 1959, when it consolidated with First Methodist Church in Bronte. Many of its early members still attend church services here.

First Baptist Church Had Beginning in '87

The First Baptist Church of Bronte, as we know it, had its humble beginning in the year 1887. From a church ledger, well worn but legible, the following was recorded:

"This is to certify that I, W. G. Green, an ordained minister of the gospel, met the following brethren and sisters holding letters in good standing from the Baptist Church at Pleasant Grove and organized them into a Missionary Baptist Church, adopting the articles of faith prescribed by the Missionary Baptist denomination:

Bro. L. H. Criswell
J. J. Treadwell
Sister Criswell

This June 19th, 1887.

W. G. Green, Moderator
J. D. Miller, Church Clerk, pro tem"

The people met in the local school house, and different preachers would come and preach to the few living here at that time. In 1890, the church called its first pastor, R. M. Cumbie.

In 1901, a group of Baptists met to organize a Sunday School and the following first officers of that body were elected: J. B. McCutchen, superintendent; Lula Wilkins, secretary and treasurer; Frank Robbins, Will Walton, Lula Wilkins, Mrs. G. A. Wilkins, Dona Hearell and Mrs. J. B. McCutchen were selected as teachers. The Sunday school was organized under direction of Rev. A. M. Lackey.

The following men have served the church as Sunday School Superintendent: R. H. Harrell, 1902; J. B. McCutchen, 1903; J. J. Robbins, 1905-6; Frank Hickman, 1907-08; T. R. Butler, 1910; H. T. Wilkins, 1911-13; J. B. McCutchen, 1914-15; R. E. Cumbie, 1916-30; L. T. Youngblood, 1931-32; R. E. Cumbie, 1933-51; Vetal Flores, 1952-56; Oscar Dorsey, 1957-58; Earl F. Glenn, 1959-62; C. B. Barbee, 1963-64.

The first deacon to be ordained in the church was W. C. Walton on June 21, 1902.

The church became a convention Baptist Church in 1904.

Church services were held in the schoolhouse during the winter months and under a large brush arbor during the summer months. The group continued to grow and on July 13, 1905, Rev. Cumbie brought up the matter of a building and a committee was appointed to see what could be done. On the committee were J. B. McCutchen, J. R. Smith, Sam Chumley, J. J. Robbins, Will Walton and Frank Hickman. After a committee meeting it was decided to defer the matter for the time.

Again in 1906, in the April conference, after a committee of W. J. Cumbie, Howard Wilkins and J. B. McCutchen arranged to organize Sunday schools at Mineral Springs and Union school houses, the question of a building was reopened. A committee of J. B. McCutchen, Frank Hickman and Will Walton was appointed to see the railroad company and secure a suitable lot and location. The building committee was composed of J. B. McCutchen, J. D. O'Daniel, S. H. Chumley, W. C. Walton, W. J. Cumbie, J. F. Hickman, J. R. Smith and R. M. Cumbie, chairman.

In the May conference the pastor, Rev. Sullivan, appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions. This committee included R. E. Cumbie, E. G. Walton, R. M. Cumbie, Howard Wilkins, J. R. Smith, Mrs. T. F. McCutchen, Misses Lou Wilkins, May Cumbie and Annie McCutchen.

In 1907 these committees reported that the building was pro-

gressing and Mrs. Gertrude Hayley, first president of the Ladies Aid Society, was appointed chairman of a committee to work toward securing seats.

The church was finished and occupied in 1907, on the same location where the new First Baptist Church now stands.

During the ministry of Rev. Vernon Price in 1950, another aggressive building program was launched. The building committee this time was composed of Mrs. L. T. Youngblood, Mrs. Charlie Keeney, Mrs. Clint Wilkins, R. E. Cumbie, R. E. Hickman and R. T. Caperton, and they soon announced plans for a new structure, to be built at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

This church was completed and opened for worship in early 1951, and the service of dedication and a noteburning ceremony followed less than 10 years later on April 24, 1960. The new church is in an L shape with a 36x59 foot auditorium, which will seat 360 people, using the balcony. An Education wing 36x70 feet is on the

Present Pastor

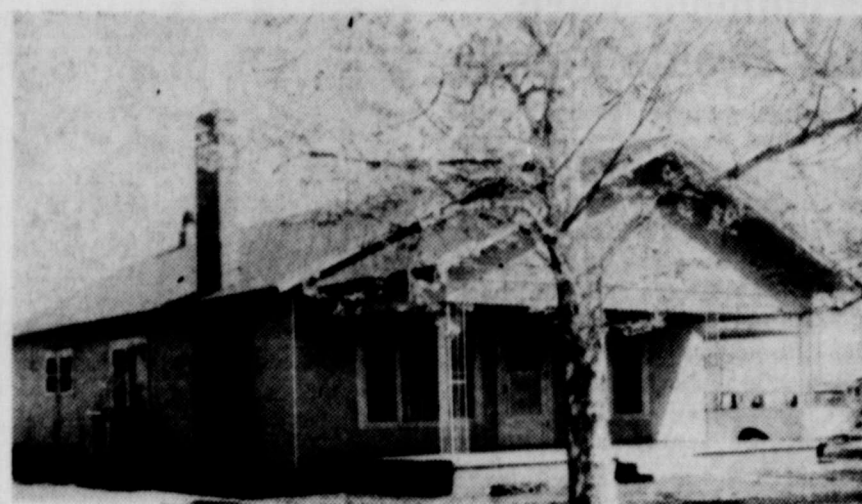


MURRELL JOHNS

south of the building, forming the L.

The Baptist parsonage was remodeled in 1959.

The following have served the church as pastor: 1890-1896, R. M. Cumbie; 1896-1900, A. M. Lackey,



First Baptist Parsonage

1900-02, W. J. Hicks; 1903-06, Ben S. Sullivan; 1907-08, W. H. Rosser; 1909, L. F. Parker; 1910, L. S. Smith; 1911-12, D. M. West; 1913, E. L. Springer; 1914, A. J. Morgan; 1915-16, L. U. Comulander; 1917-18, A. R. Watson; 1919, Bob Hamilton; 1920-21, R. D. Deeweese; 1922-23, D. M. West; 1924, W. M. Couch; 1925-30, R. D. Deeweese; 1931-33, N. W. Pitts; 1934-37, Lewis Stuckey; 1938, A. V. Bradley; 1939-44, J. E. Ethridge; 1945-48, C. R. Blake; 1949-52, Vernon Price; 1953, G. M. Rickels; 1954-57, M. R. Rogers; 1957-58, Douglas Brown; 1959-62, Lester Vinson.

The present pastor is the Rev. Murrell Johns who came here in 1962 from Knox City, and heads

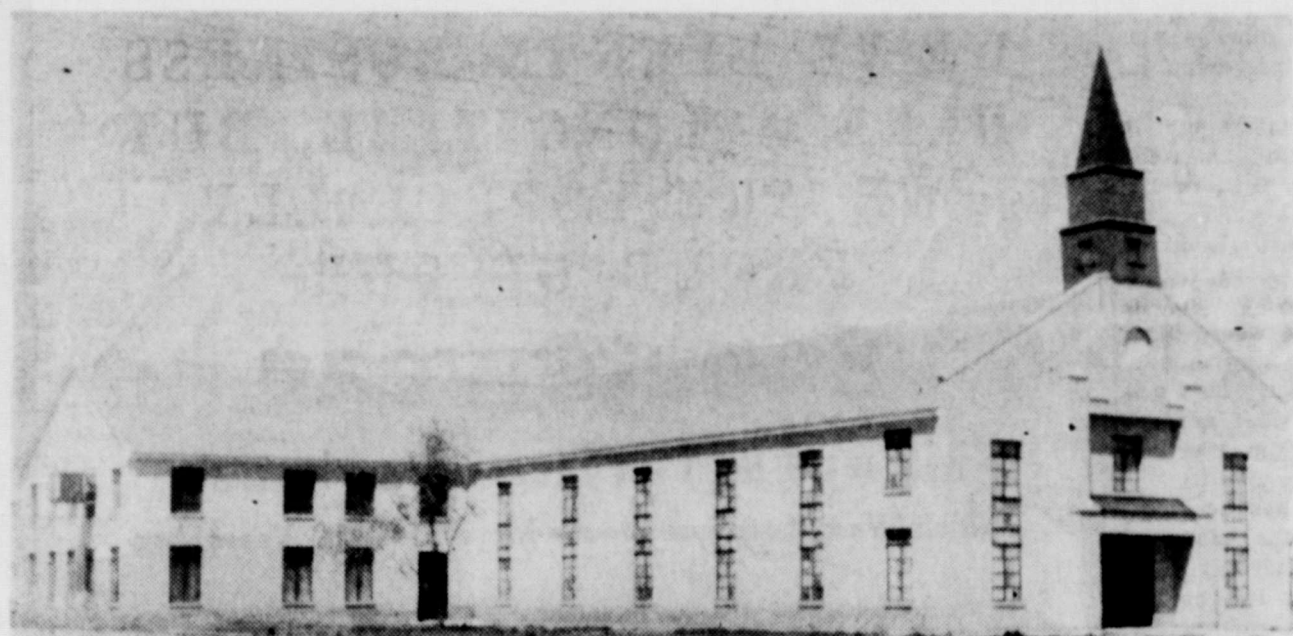
the church in its 78th year of service to this community.

YOU COULD PUT SUGAR IN COFFEE AT THESE PRICES

Grocery prices advertised in the Coke County News of Robert Lee in February, 1936, included the following: Washington Winesap apples, 10c dozen; 16 ounce bag seedless raisins, 9c; 10 pound sack spuds, 20c; 5 pound can syrup, 29c; Bright and Early coffee, 1 lb. pkg., 19c; 6 pound pail Snowdrift, 99c; 6 giant bars P&G soap, 23c.

ENTERPRISE AD MAR. 16, 1906

KEENEY BROS., dealers in furniture, coffins and caskets, staple and fancy groceries.



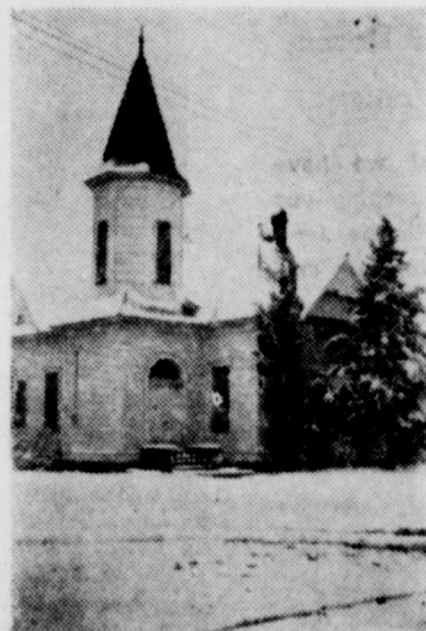
The House of the Lord

FAITH In Our Future . . .

FAITH is the essence of progress.

FAITH is the fruitful foundation of a joyous life.

FAITH in a Supreme Being gives one a sense of security which cannot be gained any other way.



First Baptist Church 1906-1950

Yes, FAITH is important to everyone in any undertaking, but it is the very foundation of the life of this church. Without it we would not meet for worship services; without it we would not have this beautiful sanctuary. The FAITH of our fathers has come down to us to give us the blessings we enjoy today and to make us understand that without FAITH in the Gospel as taught nearly 2,000 years ago, our lives are fruitless and without meaning. We cordially invite you to share the joys which our FAITH has brought . . . come any time.

First Baptist Church

MURRELL JOHNS, Pastor

J. B. McCutchens Prominent Early Day Bronte Family

J. B. McCutchen brought cattle and came here in April, 1889, from Santa Anna, Coleman County. He came by wagon, driving the stock by horseback. He left Mrs. McCutchen and "two daughters" in Santa Anna and went back in September for Mrs. McCutchen and "three daughters." The third girl who was born was Mrs. Annie McCutchen Wilkins. He brought the family back to the place that is still the family home where Mrs. Clint (Annie) Wilkins still lives. There were four children in the family: Mrs. Lula Hines, San Angelo; Mrs. Wilkins, Bronte; Mrs. Minnie Powell and Jodie McCutchen, both deceased.

Mrs. Wilkins told The Enterprise that when her father came here there was nothing, no fences, etc., so he bought the land and patented it (now the J. B. McCutchen survey). According to Mrs. Wilkins, the land her father settled on was a sheep camp and he found on it a half-cellar. Their first house was one procured from the creek, which had washed down from what is now the Warren place. It was a one-room house, and her parents took it out of the creek and set it up by the cellar, forming the first home for the J. B. McCutchen family in this area.

Mrs. Wilkins told The Enterprise that in their home the school and the church were placed first. (And an examination of the histories of these institutions in other stories in this issue more than bear out this statement.)

Mrs. Wilkins remembers that in summer their main entertainments were the Old Settlers Reunions at Maverick and Fort Chadbourne, with Lee Richards usually calling the dances. In August, camp meetings were held under the arbor near where Mrs. Conger's school store now stands. Everybody came from far and near, regardless of what denomination was holding the meeting. The McCutchens were Baptists.

Mrs. Wilkins still has her side-saddle which was the mode of travel for ladies of that day. She told of the time she lost control of her horse, riding side-saddle, and her father ordered divided skirts for the ladies of the family. She said her mother put 10 yards of material in each skirt and they never rode the side saddle again.

Mrs. Wilkins' mother, Mrs. J. B. McCutchen, was born Georgia Gentry, in Athens, Henderson County. Mr. McCutchen was born in Coryell County. He was on the committee that helped select Robert Lee as the site for the court house. Part of the judgment of that committee was rendered on account of the availability of water there.

"Miss Annie," as she is now known, remembers that it was a two day trip to Ballinger in the early days, that they would camp at the Quarry Crossing on the Colorado River because of the water. The crossing was on the Ballinger road near the old Bob Wylie ranch. When they shipped cattle, they would drive them to Miles Station to send them by train to Fort Worth.

Another interesting fact she brought to light was that her sister, Mrs. Lula Hines of San Angelo, started to school here about 1893, and there had been some member of the family in Bronte Schools continuously until last spring, 1964, when her granddaughter, Jan Wilkins, graduated.

Miss McCutchen was married to Clint H. Wilkins on Dec. 20, 1911, by the Rev. D. M. West at the First Baptist Church. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Wilkins and was born in Coleman County, Dec. 20, 1885. That family came to Coke County in 1900. Mr. Wilkins died Aug. 2, 1949.



THE J. B. McCUTCHEN FAMILY picture, taken about the turn of the century. Standing behind the four children are Mr. and Mrs. McCutchen. The children, from left are: Lula (Mrs. Lula Hines of San Angelo); Minnie (now deceased); Annie; Mrs. Clint Wilkins of Bronte), and Jodie (the only son who died about 1905).

Tot Through Teen

SCOGGIN'S SHOP

810 Hutchins

Ballinger

Dotty Dan	—	Buster Brown
Jack Tar	—	Fawn
Kingston	—	Johnston
Ruth Original	—	Jr. Sizes
Trio Sportswear	—	Aileen Knits
Nan Dorsey	—	Carol Rodgers Jr.
Baby Bliss Infant Wear		
O. B. Jeans — Cord-Denim Jackets to Match		

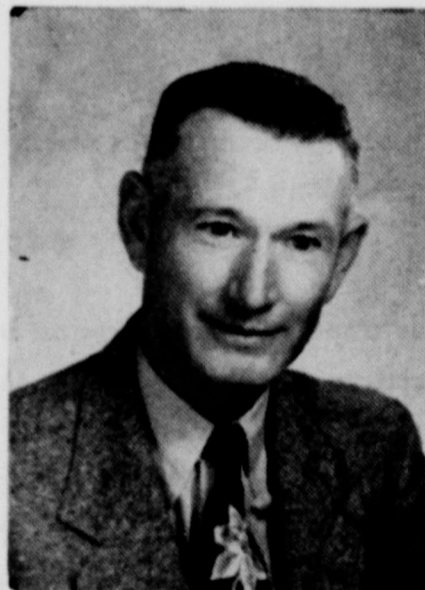
All Summer Merchandise
GREATLY REDUCED

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

Manufacturing Business

Which Was Started in Bronte More Than 10 Years Ago

It was in April, 1954, that we produced our first order of blouses. Since that time we have added skirts, shorts, pedal pushers and cabin pants to the Joni-Lyn line. We always insist on using only the best of materials, put together only by top craftsmanship methods. For that reason, we have been able to place Joni-Lyn Sportswear in retail stores throughout Texas. Since opening ten years ago, we have sold more than 250,000 pieces of fine sportswear.



C. R. Smith

We Are Happy to Offer
Steady Work to a Dozen
Bronte Area Women

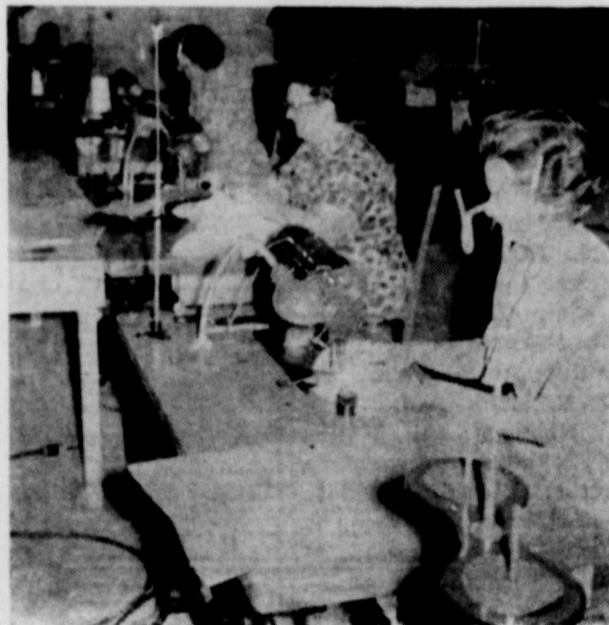
Due to the fact that we have a steady business of keeping our customers supplied with the Joni-Lynn line, we can offer our employees steady work and are happy to make this contribution to the economy of Bronte. At present we are manufacturing approximately 425 pieces per week.

C. R. Smith & Co.

Retail Dry Goods & Manufacturers of
Joni-Lyn Sportswear



Mrs. R. M. Andrews at Cutting Table



Mrs. Andrews & Mrs. Claude Beaver
At Two of Our Battery of Machines



Mrs. C. R. Smith Does Some Book Work



Historical & Progress Edition

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section H

Coke Still Primarily an Agricultural Area



DEE ARROTT RAISED TURKEYS a good while before he started playing football for the Bronte Longhorns. Here he is

shown with the reserve pen of three at the State Fair of Texas. All the Arrott boys, sons of both James and C. E. were out-

standing as young livestock and poultry showmen some years back.

Scenes of Not So Many Years Ago



PRIZE RAMBOUILLET — J. Lee Ensor and the late Ed Ratliff pose with a prize Rambouillet which Ensor fed and which was bred by Ratliff. Back in

the 1950s Ratliff was one of the top breeders of fine sheep in this part of the country. Ensor was also one of the top young stockmen.



FLOOD DAMAGE—The Santa Fe Railroad was a big loser in the 1953 flood when a large section of track was washed out

Coke County was from its earliest beginnings an agricultural area. The economy of this area has always been based primarily on the production of crops from the soil or the production of livestock.

Agricultural activity began here with the production of cattle on the open range, but with the coming of settlers the type farming was changed to production of crops. During recent years, however, the tendency has been to swing back to the production of feed crops and livestock.

According to the History of Coke County written by Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough of Robert Lee, some of the early day cattle men who ran their herds on the open range in this country included: L. B. Harris, who owned the "OL" herds and operated in the vicinity of Robert Lee; Wylie Bros., whose activities began in 1874 and extended from near Ballinger into Tom Green county and up around Mount Margaret; T. L. and G. G. Odom, who headquartered at the old Fort Chadbourne and whose herds rambled all through that country and on into where the city of Bronte now stands.

Mrs. Yarbrough also writes that the Snyders owned "all out of doors" in Northwest Coke County, on into Mitchell, including the Spade Ranch which they sold to the Elwoods in 1890.

Some other early day ranchers who made Coke County their permanent home were E. C. Rawlings, J. Q. McCabe and W. P. Walling.

When the homesteaders began to come, there was some difference of opinion as to whom the land belonged. Fence burning of the new settlers was a common occurrence, but they gradually won out, and transformed this

country into an area of small farmers.

Cotton production probably was at its peak during the early 20s. At one time Bronte had two cotton gins in operation and Robert Lee had one. Now there is not a cotton gin in the county, even though there still is a small amount of cotton produced, mainly along the river valley west of Robert Lee. It was during the period of small farms, cotton production, and general diversification that Coke County's rural population reached a peak.

In more recent years, it has been the practice for one operator to cultivate or operate more land, and run cattle and sheep, thus cutting down on the number of people who "live in the country."

The Texas Almanac calls Coke County one of the leading sheep producing counties of the state. It also ranks high in production of goats and cattle.

Production of dairy cattle and poultry is still carried on to some extent, but has declined in recent years. At one time there were a large number of huge poultry houses in this area, which were used for production of eggs or broilers. Their number was at its height during the period soon after World War II. Turkeys were also produced commercially in large quantities a few years ago, but no big flocks are grown today.

The coming of the oil industry did much to take the spotlight off of agricultural pursuits, and many farmers cut their agricultural activities to take jobs connected with the new oil business.

In the early 1960s emphasis has once again returned to agriculture, with special importance being attached to soil and water conservation and production of quality livestock.

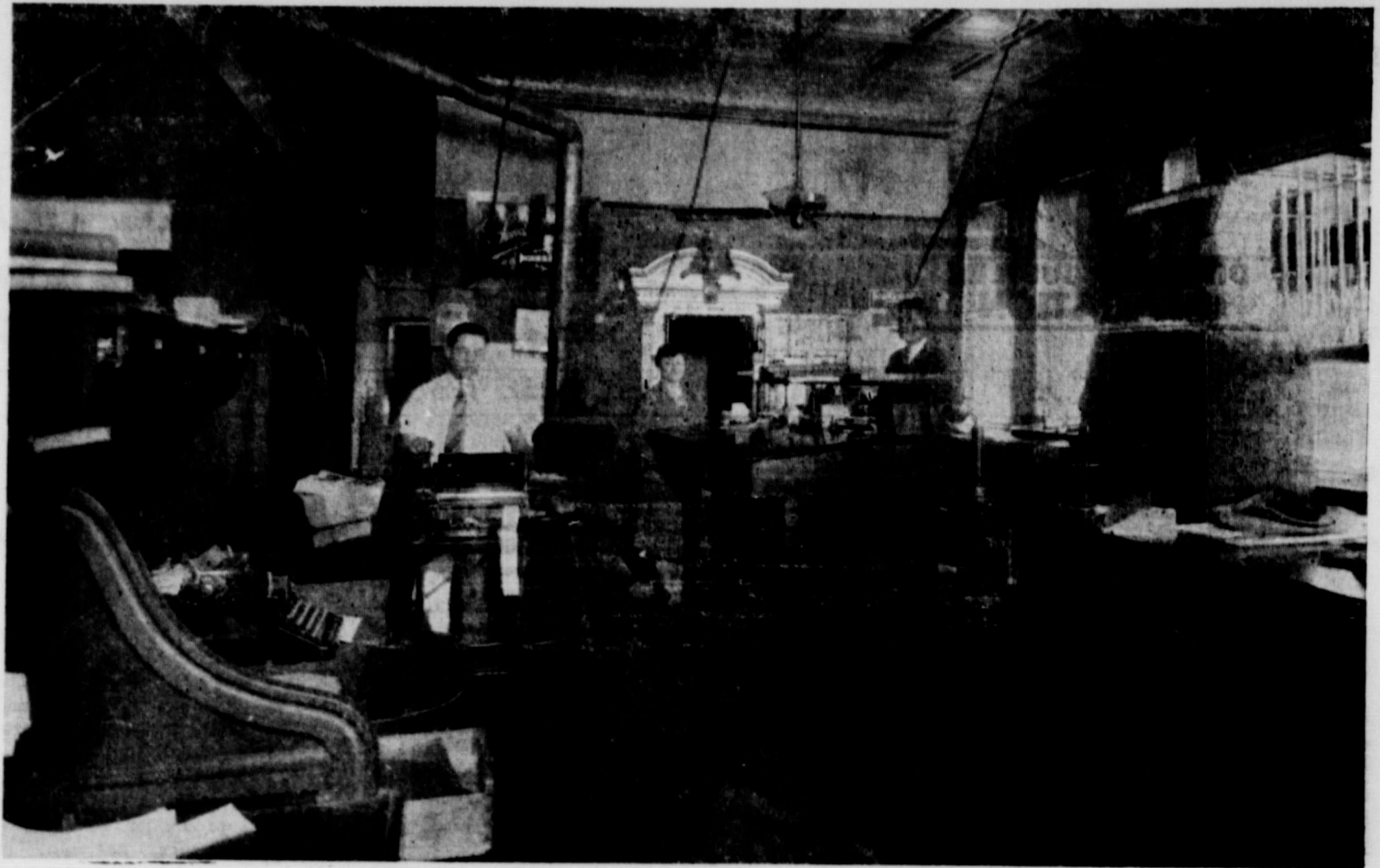
north of town. The sunken and wavy rails are evidence of the force with which the flood

waters crossed the track. Repair work had started when this picture was made.

NO HORNS, BUT IT DOES
TALK AND IT'S BEAUTIFUL

(From Enterprise June 20, 1913)

A beautiful hornless symphony talking machine, \$25.00. Truly it is wonderful. This instrument is of the very latest, modern, improved type. The records are marvelously clear, producing the most perfect reproductions ever rendered. W. E. CALDWELL HDW. CO.



YES, IT'S BEEN CHANGED — This view of the interior of First National Bank was made in 1928 and doesn't look much like the streamlined banking house in Bronte today. From left are shown, Barrett Mackey, Mrs. Carrie G. Williams and L. T. Youngblood. Careful looking shows the old time typewriter, bookkeeping machine and telephone.

OUR SINCERE
Congratulations
TO OUR
Many Friends
And Stockmen

IN

Coke County

ON

YOUR

75th

Anniversary

**PREMIUM
PACKING CO.**

High Quality
MEATS

Wholesale

Dial 653-3394
620 South Bell St.
San Angelo, Texas

**Convert Grain Thresher
Into Peanut Machine**

(From Enterprise July 23, 1943)

Truly "necessity is the mother of invention," as much now as ever in the history of mankind and an emergency is the test of both individuals and communities.

For years Kiker & Modgling, composed of S. A. Kiker and B. E. Modgling, has owned and operated a thresher and in the days before combines came, they threshed the grain for the small grain farmers all over this section of country.

This year the farmers, more than ever, have turned to growing peanuts. Hence the question of harvesting the peanut crop has become one of paramount interest.

Working with the Bronte Service Club, Kiker and Modgling decided to convert their small grain thresher into a peanut machine.

(Editor's note: Peanut farming must not have worked out too well, for we know of no one who raises peanuts around here now.)

**Use of Harrows
Urged by Butcher**

(From Enterprise April 7, 1911)

"Harrows should be started again as soon as the ground is dry enough," said J. W. Butcher, local agent of the United States department of agriculture, "and corn and feed crops should be harrowed with the row. The harrowing of land on which cotton is be grown this year should also be started, and barring unfavorable weather the planting of cotton on all demonstration farms will be well underway within a week," Mr. Butcher also stated.

Belief that good crops will be grown here this year is held by Mr. Butcher. He says, however, that intense cultivation is necessary to conserve the moisture in the soil and advises all farmers to get busy.

**C. B. Hines Operated
Livery Stable in 1911**

(From Enterprise April 7, 1911)

The Bronte Livery Stable. Good Rigs, Fast Teams and Courteous Treatment. Feed and Sales Stable in Connection. We want your patronage. C. B. Hines, Prop.

Page 2H

The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

BEST WISHES, STOCKMEN

Diamond Anniversary

Greetings

FROM

**WESTERN CATTLE &
SHEEP YARDS**

BOB HURT & J. C. MAYFIELD

Dial 655-4250

1212 Hughes

San Angelo

**A SPECIAL THANKS
& CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR FRIENDS
IN BRONTE**

Southwestern
**SALT & SUPPLY
COMPANY**

DIAL 655-6736

117 BIRD

SAN ANGELO

BEST WISHES

COKE COUNTY

On Your Diamond Anniversary

We are always glad to do business with Coke County farmers and ranchmen and greatly appreciate your valued patronage.

Alderman - Cave
MILLING & GRAIN CO.

308 W. Dale

Phone PL 4-2181

WINTERS, TEXAS

Farm Bureau

HAS HELPED

**Coke
County**

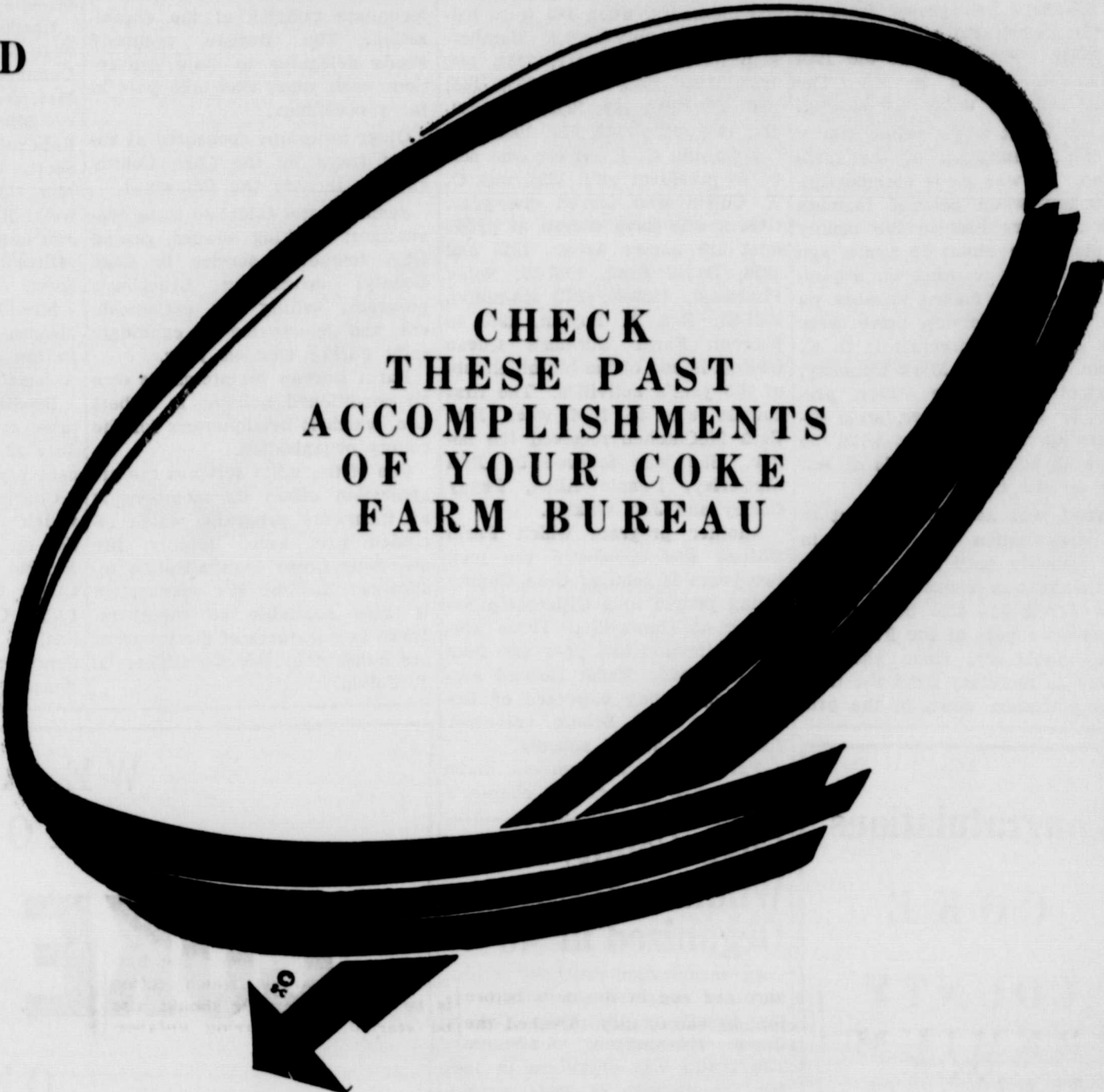
BY

HELPING

Farmers

and

Ranchmen



CHECK
THESE PAST
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF YOUR COKE
FARM BUREAU

FARM BUREAU
IS THE
FARMERS' & RANCHERS'
ORGANIZATION

BEN A. BOYKIN, President
HONAS H. HOLLAND, Vice President
MRS. C. E. ARROTT, Secy.-Treas.
GUY C. BURTON, Chairman,
Policy Development Committee
FRED McCABE JR., Chairman,
Policy Execution Committee
O. T. COLVIN, Service Agent and
Chairman for Publicity

YOUR FARM BUREAU HAS . . .

1. A Membership of 237 Organized Farmers and Ranchmen.
2. Trained and Developed Agricultural Leaders.
3. Helped Develop Policies of State and National Farm Bureau.

PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY FARM BUREAU . . .

1. Farm Safety Week.
2. Student Citizenship Seminar.
3. Queen Contest.
4. "American Beef Is Best" Program.
5. June Dairy Month.
6. Service Program:
Insurance
Blue Cross, Fire, Auto, Liability and Life.
Income Tax Returns Worked Up.

Coke County Farm Bureau

Coke Farm Bureau Ups Members Over 700%

Coke County Farm Bureau has experienced tremendous growth since it was organized. Number of members has grown from 33 in 1945, when FB was organized to 237 in 1963. Goal of the 1964 membership drive is 240. The drive will get underway shortly.

C. E. Arrott was a prime mover in the organization of the farm group. He was made membership chairman when several farmers and ranchers met in the county agents office about 19 years ago to talk about forming an organization. Others named to work on the first membership drive were Lem Cowley, in precinct 1; D. K. Glenn, precinct 2; Mark Chumley, precinct 3; and Joe Miller, precinct 4. Marvin Carter, state organization director, met with the group to help with details of setting up the Coke Chapter.

Arrott was named president of the organization and served in that capacity until 1954, when O. T. Colvin was elected president. Mrs. Arrott has also been an indispensable part of the Farm Bureau machinery, since she has served as secretary from the time of organization down to the present.

Farm Bureau continued to grow and in 1949, reached a goal of over 100 members, when 103 were listed on the county books. Membership for 1950 was 111; 1951, 144; 1952, 126; 1953, 126; 1955, 160; 1957, 180; 1958, 187; 1959, 200; 1960, 211; 1961, 212; 1962, 213; 1963, 237.

Following C. E. Arrott who served as president until 1954, was O. T. Colvin who served one year. Others who have served as president are James Arrott, 1955 and 1956; David King, 1957-58; Nolan Pentecost, 1959-60; Bill Hamilton, 1961-62; Ben A. Boykin, 1963 to present. Farm Bureau's Queen Contest is one of the big highlights of the year's activities. The first contest was in 1954 when Rita Beth McCutchen received the honor. She was followed by Rita McCarley, Deanie Allen, Peggy Corley and Jan Wilkins.

Another program which Farm Bureau has sponsored the past two years is sending Coke County young people to a Citizenship Seminar at Huntsville. Three students attended last year and four this summer. Farm Bureau also has helped pay expenses of Robert Lee and Bronte volunteer firemen to attend schools.

Farm Bureau members have been active through the chapter's

entire history in taking part in programs of the State and National Farm Bureaus, and helping to formulate policies of the organization. The Bureau regularly sends delegates to state conventions each year, who take part in the proceedings.

Other programs sponsored at various times by the Coke County chapter include the following:

Sending local talent to state conventions; working toward getting REA telephone service in Coke County; sponsoring Brucellosis program; selling fire extinguishers and sponsoring a candidate rally during election year.

Farm Bureau maintains its own air conditioned building in Robert Lee, which is headquarters for the county organization.

One of the main services the organization offers its members is an insurance program, which included fire, auto, liability, life and Blue Cross hospitalization insurance. Income tax preparation is also available to members. These two features of the program are handled by Service Officer O. T. Colvin.

Bronte Has Had Two OES Groups, First Was in 1911

Two Eastern Star chapters have existed here. The first, Bronte Chapter 517, was organized Sept. 20, 1911, the charter granted Oct. 12, 1911, and demised in 1931.

Charter members of this group were Miss Mae Cumbie, Mrs. Bell Lammers, Mrs. Maud Hudson, Mrs. Neva Key, Miss Olive Lowry, Miss Annie McCutchen, Mrs. Rebekah Jane Rosser, Mrs. Mae Scott, Mrs. Nattie Lee Mitchell, Mrs. Dollie Wylie, W. C. Caldwell, R. B. Hudson, H. R. Key, Jim Lammers, U. T. Lowry, J. W. Mitchell, W. H. Rosser and J. L. Scott.

Mrs. Wylie was the first Worthy Matron, Rosser was the Worthy Patron and Mrs. Hudson was the Associate Matron.

Bronte Chapter 1048 was instituted at the school gymnasium on July 12, 1958, with 19 Grand officers present.

Charter members of this group, which is still a strong organization included: Garland Black, Mrs. Mayme Black, Mrs. Billie Jean Clark, Clifford E. Clark, Mrs. Lillie Clark, Mrs. Dorothy Collins, B. B. Edmiaston, Mrs. Alene Emerson, Taylor Emerson, Mrs. Bernice Evans, Mrs. Gladys

Fletcher, Leonard Fletcher, Mrs. Nell Flores, Vetal Flores, Mrs. Elsie Freeman, Mrs. Myra Grace, J. T. Henry, Mrs. Sybil Henry, F. S. Higginbotham, Mrs. Mattie Higginbotham, Mrs. Olive Keeney, Mrs. Betty Lee, Mrs. Eula Verne Lee, Hurlin Lee, Royce Lee, Mrs. Winnie Madera.

Also Mrs. Willie B. Millikin, W. W. Millikin, Mrs. Edna Morrow, Mrs. Irene Morrow, Jacob B. Morrow, Mrs. Dorothy Faye Pruitt, Noah Pruitt Jr., Mrs. Louvenia Rees, J. A. Stephenson, Mrs. Vera Thomas, C. N. Webb, Mrs. Lanora Webb, Miss Joy Lynn Wilkins, L. L. Wilkins, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson and Robert Wilson.

First officers were: Myra Grace, Worthy Matron; Royce Lee, Worthy Patron; Edna Morrow, associate matron; J. B. Morrow, associate patron; Mrs. Vera Thomas, secretary; Mrs. Louvenia Rees, treasurer; Mrs. Willie B. Millikin, conductress; Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, associate conductress; J. T. Henry, chaplain; Mrs. Sybil Henry, marshal; Mrs. Olive Keeney, organist; Mrs. Bernice Evans, Ada; Mrs. Lillie Clark, Ruth; Mrs. Nell Flores, Esther; Mrs. Betty Lee, Martha; Mrs. Elsie Freeman, Electa; L. L. Wilkins, warder, and Robert Wilson, sentinel.

The chapter was constituted Nov. 6, 1958, in the school gymnasium with 20 Grand officers attending. See EASTERN STAR Page 8H

Congratulations

COKE COUNTY

ON

75

YEARS

OF

GROWTH

We appreciate the fine relationship between the people of Coke County and Runnels County, and are grateful to you for all past business you have given us. We look forward to serving you in the future.

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BALLINGER

Coke County's Wildlife Assn. Organized in '46

An organization designed to protect and conserve the wildlife of the county is the Coke County Game Management Association. The group was organized in 1946 for the purpose of fostering development of good hunting, and to protect game of the county.

First meeting of the group was in October, 1946, at the Weaver Ranch south of Robert Lee. The association holds an annual barbecue and program for the purpose of presenting the various aspects of wildlife conservation.

Much improvement has been noted in wildlife in the county since the Wildlife Association was organized. Only a small number of deer and turkey were here when the group started its work, and the season was closed on both. Now a good number of each are taken during hunting season each year.

The association is set up with a president, vice president, secretary and director from each of the commissioner precincts. Present officers are Curtis Walker, Robert Lee, president; C. E. Arrott, Bronte, vice president; Sterling Lindsey, Robert Lee, secretary; and directors are Willis W. Smith for precinct 1, Bob White for precinct 2, Wilburn Millican for precinct 3, and LeDrew Arrott for precinct 4.

GET THOSE LIGHTS FIXED (From Enterprise Sept. 4, 1925)

Warning — To Those Driving Cars:—You have been warned plenty of times about your car lights. The law requires that you must have two lights in front and a tail light on the rear of your car. The law also requires that you must have a horn if you are to be in the clear in case of accident happening when you pass another car.

This is the last warning. You will be made to pay the legal penalty if you are caught without proper lights. Don't blame any body but yourself if you are caught. Listen for the police whistle. T. F. Sims, City Marshall—Walker Good, Constable.

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GREETINGS, FRIENDS OF

COKE COUNTY

on your

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Commercial Feeders, Inc.

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Winters, Texas

Coke SCD Leads In Saving Land

THOSE IN CHARGE—Members of the board of directors of Coke County Soil Conservation District are, from left, J. W. Service, Robert Lee, vice chairman; D. K. Glenn, Bronte, chairman; Joe Rawlings, Bronte, secretary; W. E. Burns, Edith, member; Robert Walker, Silver, member; and W. E. Jacoby, who is work unit conservationist for Coke County with the SCS.



Congratulations

TO OUR

GOOD FRIENDS

OF

COKE COUNTY

It's a pleasure to wish you well on your 75th Birthday.

WHEN YOU NEED THE BEST IN FARM MACHINERY WE'D BE GLAD TO SERVE YOU.

J. I. CASE FARM EQUIPMENT

WINTERS, TEXAS

First news of Coke County Soil Conservation District was of an election on June 10, 1946, when land owners of the county went to the polls and cast their votes in favor of forming the district.

A board of directors was organized the following October with the following membership: R. B. Allen, chairman; C. N. Webb, vice chairman; W. C. Shamblin, secretary; Bryan Yarbrough and W. E. Burns, members.

Present officers include: D. K. Glenn, chairman; J. W. Service Sr., vice chairman; Joe Rawlings, secretary; W. E. Burns and Robert Walker, members. Mr. Burns is the only member of the original board still serving.

Actually, according to W. E. Jacoby, work unit conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, it was early in 1948 before the plan of work for the county was completed and the district started functioning to save the soil and water of Coke County.

Coke County Soil Conservation District is a subdivision of the State of Texas. Contrary to belief of many persons, the district has no connection with the federal government. The district is made up of farmers and ranchers who band themselves together under authority of Texas law to practice soil, water and plant conservation. The district elects its own officers who set its policies. On the other hand, the Soil Conservation Service is a division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture set up to provide technical assistance and

service for the district if they ask for it.

A special project of the Coke District at this time is placing emphasis on good land treatment for the Kickapoo watershed in order to prolong the effectiveness of the six structures now completed. The Kickapoo watershed covers about 40,000 acres.

Other special programs of the local soil conservation district include sponsoring field days to inspect results of conservation practices; Soil Stewardship Week in May of each year; and awards to outstanding conservationists in the district.

Jacoby followed A. V. Sheppard, who was work unit conservationist during the early years of the district. Jacoby came here in December, 1958, when Sheppard transferred to Colorado City. Other employees of the Soil Conservation Service are L. L. Wilkins of Bronte, who came here in 1948, and is a soil conservation technician; and Jim Barnhill of Robert Lee, who is a soil scientist.

Thousands of acres of Coke County land have benefitted from treatment received through the efforts of the district and SCS. A big majority of land owners in the county have seen fit to sign up as cooperators in the district.

The late C. N. Webb, who served as a member of the district for 16 years and as chairman for 12 years was awarded a plaque for his outstanding service early this year.

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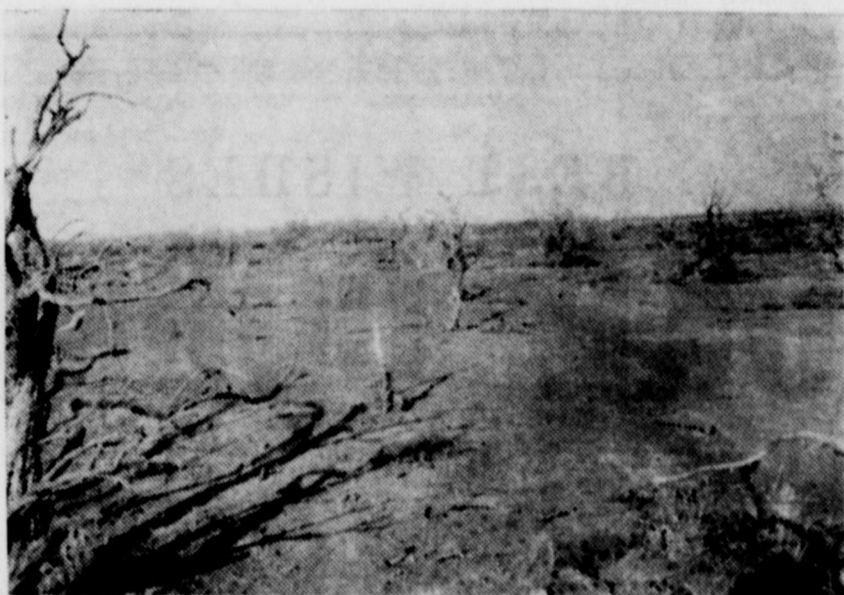
SAN ANGELO

Coke Soil Conservation District

D. K. GLENN, Bronte, Chairman

J. W. SERVICE
Robert Lee
Vice
Chairman

W. E. BURNS
Robert Lee
Member



JOE RAWLINGS
Bronte
Secretary

ROBERT WALKER
Silver
Member

THIS or THIS

THESE THINGS WE BELIEVE...

That man has God-given responsibility for conserving and improving the precious soil, water, plant, and wildlife resources with which our Creator has endowed us, and without which man cannot live. That conservation of our natural resources is and should be everybody's business, with

major responsibility resting upon local people, primarily on those who own and operate the land. That your local Soil Conservation District is the medium with which all individuals and agencies can effectively work together in solving their local land and water conservation problems.



A HUNTING WE WILL GO — The Coke County Rabbit Club apparently made a pretty good haul from the looks of the carcasses piled out in front. Rabbit drives are getting fewer,

though several have been held in this area in recent years. The early drives were not only a big sporting event, but a social happening as well. They were occasions for a big outdoor picnic

and a day of visiting and having fun, as well as serving to rid the country of rabbits. Photo courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Ray Coalson.

Livestock Assn. Sponsors Annual Jr. Stock Show

Coke County Livestock Association is the agency in this county that sponsors an annual livestock show at which 4-H and FFA members may exhibit the results of their livestock raising efforts.

The annual show is usually held at Robert Lee, though it has been held at Bronte on occasion. The show is held early in the year, in order for the young people who want to take their stock on to big shows to be through with the county affair. Coke County usually has participants at shows in San Angelo, Abilene, Fort Worth, Houston and other places.

In connection with the show, an auction sale follows at which spirited bidding brings above market prices for the animals of young Coke stockmen who want to sell. A large number of out of town and local buyers are always on hand to participate in the bidding.

Directors of the last show which was held Jan. 14, 1964, were James Wells, president; T. E. Pitcock, vice president; J. B. Arrott, secretary; Nolan Pentecost, Lindy Devoll, D. K. Glenn, LeDrew Arrott, Bert Blaylock, J. W. Service Jr., L. E. Wink, Glenn Waldrop, C. E. McGuire, A. Z. Donman, J. B. Morrow and B. A. Boykin.

James Starkey, railroad man who came to this area in 1893, long before the railroad, said that "in 1896, mail was brought overland by stage from Ballinger."

County Used to Pay Bounty on Rattlers

Coke County paid a bounty of 50 cents each on rattlesnakes from early 1959 to August, 1960. They had to stop the practice because of the unexpected drain on the county treasury. Some observers even said that a few collectors of the four bits on each set of rattlers might have been bringing them in from beyond the confines of Coke County.

At any rate, about \$8,000 was paid out during the time and the commissioners court felt this a little steep for the project. Bounties are still paid here on bobcats and coyotes, \$12.50 each, and on rabbits, 5 cents per pair of ears.

The bobcat, coyote and rabbit program costs only a few hundred dollars per year.

Bronte Had Two Busy Hotels in Early Days

Files of the Enterprise show a couple of columns which list arrivals for the week at the Clark and Bronte Hotels. Evidently, the hotel business was good in 1911, for guests were listed from Emepe, Ill., Chicago, San Angelo, Christoval, Goldthwaite, Fort Worth, Evansville, Ind., Ballinger, Hylton, Buffalo, N. Y., Norton, and Robert Lee. In addition to these guests there were a number whose addresses were listed as "city," and others who lived on area ranches.

If you want extra copies of this edition, better order them now. They are 20 cents per copy.

Coke Had Relief Fund in Depression Days of the 1930s

An item published in 1934 showed that Coke County was also suffering from the depression of the 30's. Issued by the Coke County Relief Office, the release read as follows:

Folks, we are struggling with a serious situation, which is gradually becoming worse. Our state is short on money, and the number of dependents increasing.

This office is doing all in its power to help needy people, and we ask you, please, be patient and help yourselves just as far as it is possible. Don't ask for help unless you must have it, otherwise you will be thrusting yourself in front of hungry children, and no real man will do that. We have hopes that August will be our hardest month, but we can't be sure about that.

As soon as the State Highway Department gets ready to go to work that will give us much relief, and it surely won't be long now till they do start.

Our Legislature will meet in special session August 27th and no doubt they will authorize the sale of more Relief Bonds, the proceeds to be used for relief purposes.

Our President has promised that no one will be let starve.

So if each one will at all times do all he can to help himself and a little to help his neighbor, and not criticize the people who are doing all in their power to work out this problem, then we can pull through; otherwise, no one knows what may happen.

J. A. Knight, Administrator

October, 1947 — Texas junior senator, W. Lee O'Daniel, visited in Bronte.

Tribute to the Early Auto

(The following was taken from the autobiography of Dr. J. D. Leonard, M. D., written by him and described as a tribute to his old Model T Ford:)

My auto 'tis of thee, short cut to poverty, of thee I chant. I blew a pile of dough on you two years ago and now you refuse to go, won't or can't. Through town and country side, you were my joy and pride, a happy day. I love thy gaudy hue, thy nice white tires so new, but now now you're down and through, in every way. To the old rattle box, come many bumps and knocks; for thee I grieve. Badly thy top is torn, frayed are thy seats and worn; a wrooping cough affects thy horn, I do believe. Thy perfume swells the breeze while good folks choke and wheeze while we pass by. I paid for thee a price, 'twould buy a mansion twice, now are all peddling "ice." I wonder why? Thy motor has the grip, thy spark plug has the pip, and woe is thine. I, too, have suffered chills, ague and kindred ills, endeavoring to pay my bills since thou were mine. No more 'twould choke the cow, as once before. Yet if I had the mon, so help me John, Amen, I'd buy a car again and speed some more."

Extra copies of this edition are 20cents each. The supply is limited, so you should order now.

GREETINGS and BEST WISHES

on your **75th Anniversary**

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Greetings to Our Friends of **COKE COUNTY**

ON YOUR

75th Anniversary

Ranchmen and Farmers . . .

Write to Us for Information About America's Finest Beef Cattle

Red Angus Association OF America

1200 BROADWAY — BALLINGER

Address Your Correspondence to: Mrs. Sybil Parker, Box 391, Ballinger, Texas

BEST WISHES

COKE COUNTY

on your

75th Anniversary

Pace Packing Co.

1300 W. Broadway SWEETWATER, TEXAS

**Farmers Marketing Assn.
Formed Back in 1934**

The Farmers Marketing Assn. of Bronte was formed in 1934 and was composed of a large number of cotton farmers of the Bronte country and some of the gin men. Purpose was to operate a gin business.

E. R. Gideon was president; W. R. Stephenson, vice president; B. H. Mackey, secretary-treasurer; A. M. Wynne and A. E. Coalson, members of the board of directors. J. D. Luttrell was named manager and the association bought the Luttrell and Keeney gin.



TIMES HAVE CHANGED—This hersedrawn binder is harvesting grain on the J. L. Stephenson farm east of Tennyson in the mid-1920s. In those days the grain had to be cut with either a broadcast or row binder, shocked and later threshed. Photo courtesy J. L. Stephenson.

were able to report a magnificent season for this entire section, and adjacent counties, assuring a while on Sunday night or rather Monday morning, of this week, a rain fall varying from one to one and a half inches covered this growth of vegetation surpassing anything witnessed for several years.

We Are Your Headquarters

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WATER TANKS

AND

SHEET METAL WORK

OF ALL KINDS

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COMPANY**

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San Angelo

**Good Rain in Early 1911 Causes Editor
To Predict Good Crops and Prosperity**

(From Enterprise April 7, 1911)

Stockmen advise that range conditions are simply superb by reason of Monday's rains, which removes every doubt which may have heretofore existed with reference to the certainty of plenty of grass.

Both agricultural and stock conditions are greatly improved and the farmers and ranchmen are now wearing the smile that refuses to come off. The only complaint The Enterprise hears now from any quarter is that wheat and oats have put on such growth as to render the plants easily susceptible to severe injury in case of a freeze.

The seeds recently planted or those that may be planted within the near future, will not suffer for lack of moisture, all agree, and crops of all kinds will make a rapid early growth. The consensus of conservative opinion is that Coke county will, under normal conditions, produce 10,000 bales of cotton, which means a little more than one and one-half bales for each man, woman and child in the county and this, even at ten cents per pound, together with the seeds, means from \$90.00 to \$100.00 per capita from cotton alone and since, as a matter of fact, the great bulk of this cotton will be ginned and marketed in Bronte, it stands to reason that Bronte merchants will get the lion's share of the \$500,000.00 that will be paid to the farmer in exchange for his cotton and seed.

The small grain crop will show a large yield and some are estimating the wheat at 100,000 bushels, while the oat yield, they say, will be a large one. All this considered in connection with the

fact that all feed crops are being put in the best possible condition justifying the hope, in the opinion of The Enterprise, that the wheels of commerce may soon begin to revolve, as never before in Bronte and Coke Co.

Good seasons in West Texas are fast becoming the rule rather than the exception, thus enabling The Enterprise to add each week something to the ever interesting story of a wonderful era of prosperity about to dawn for Western Texas generally, and Coke County particularly. Only last week we

**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**

GREETINGS

TO OUR

FRIENDS

IN

**COKE
COUNTY**

Come by to see us anytime we can help you with your feeding and livestock supply problems.

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BALLINGER

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ORIGINAL
LEDDY
BOOT**

In all the great Southwest no other boots and saddles are made quite like M. L. LEDDY'S for here are blended the old ways with the new . . . the time honored, fine hand-craftsmanship and individual pride in workmanship, in the efficiency of 20th Century industry. The shop where M. L. LEDDY boots and saddles and other products are made is modern in production and methods. But located in West Texas, the old spirit of fine hand-craftsmanship persists. Every product reflects this heritage of technical skill, integrity of workmanship and highest standards.

We would be mighty proud to have you pay us a right neighborly call at our shop in San Angelo—the Latch String is always out to YOU; OUR FRIENDS . . .

M.L.Leddy & Sons
San Angelo & Midland

**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**

**WE ARE HAPPY
TO SALUTE**

COKE COUNTY

on your

75th Birthday

**Ranchers & Farmers
Livestock Commission Co.**

East Hiway 80 Abilene, Texas

Kickapoo WCID Pushes Six Dams to Completion

**When It Comes
To Planting
GRASS SEED**

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We Have the Equipment

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**Farm Machinery &
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Recently completed dams on the Kickapoo watershed are the result of lots of work on the part of a number of people in the Bronte community. The six structures which will protect Bronte and the farm and ranch land to the north and west of town are all finished, and all but one has been seeded with grass to protect it from erosion.

The big project got started to some extent after the disastrous flood in August, 1953, which did millions of dollars in damage to agricultural land and improvements, as well as to structures in the city of Bronte.

The project reached a climax in June, 1959, when Kickapoo Coke County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 was created by an act of the 56th Legislature in called session, and approved by Gov. Price Daniel. Early in July in a meeting held at Robert Lee, F. S. Higginbotham was elected president of the new district. His fellow directors named at that time were D. K. Glenn, vice president; J. A. Percifull, secretary; Preston Davis and Austin Sandusky, members. These men still compose the board.

After the big flood in 1953, interest in doing something to protect the area ran high for awhile. At that time the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture was paying only half the bill on such projects. It soon became apparent that the cost would be extremely high to foot the area's half of constructing dams which would be capable of preventing a recurrence of the '53 deluge, so interest began to lag.

Then in October, 1957, another flood swept down from the mountains in the Kickapoo and caused considerable damage to local property, though not nearly to the extent of damage done in 1953.

But it was enough to stir interest once again in trying to do something to keep from being washed away.

On Dec. 6, 1957, Bronte Lions Club appointed a steering committee to study and guide work in getting a water district created. Higginbotham was named to head the committee and served in that capacity until the committee was no longer needed. Other members of the committee were W. D. McDonald, Noah Pruitt Sr., Sandusky, Percifull, Davis and Edward Rawlings.

The committee tried to get the district set up through Coke County Commissioners Court, but that body advised it was not legally qualified to create the district. County Attorney Frank C. Dickey went to Austin during the called session of the legislature, and with the help of Sen. Dorsey B. Hardeman got the bill through both houses of the legislature.

The only money required for a project to be furnished locally is the cost of making preliminary surveys to determine the feasibility of construction. Coke County Commissioners Court voted money to pay the bill on this part of the project. They supplied \$18,500 at first and had to advance a small amount over that, in order to bring the survey to a successful conclusion.

All preliminary work was completed and it was determined that



WCID OFFICIALS—The guiding force behind the six new dams on the Kickapoo Creeks is the board of directors. From left: Austin Sandusky, member; D. K. Glenn, vice president; Pres-

ton Davis, member; F. S. Higginbotham, president; W. E. Jacoby, work unit conservationist with the SCS; Norman R. Kiker, clerk; and J. A. Percifull, secretary.

It would be economically feasible to spend federal money to build the dams. Bids were received and opened on Dec. 19, 1961 on contract number 1, which included sites 1 and 4. The low bid was received from Lyles & Davis of Childress, amounting to \$141,263.49. The same company received the contract for the second contract which was for sites 3 and 6. It amounted to \$126,401.62. Bids were opened on June 26, 1962.

T. L. Free Construction Co. of Coleman was the successful bidder on the third contract which was for site number 5. The amount was \$170,192.41. The bids for contract number 4, on site 2 were opened Aug. 27, 1963, and went to H. F. Construction Co., Inc., of San Marcos, for a total of \$136,873.12.

Total amount of all contracts for construction of the six dams amounted to \$574,730.65. An additional \$18,225.14 has been spent on vegetation and maintenance on the first five structures. No work of this nature has been done on site number 2, but it will probably be started within 45 days.

In addition to the board of directors, Norman R. Kiker works

with the WCID as clerk. The work has also been under the supervision of the Soil Conservation Service, and the board had the assistance of W. E. Jacoby, work unit conservationist for this county, and others in his office. Clarence Raspberry, also an employee of the SCS, came here when construction started and remained until the last work was finished.

EASTERN STAR —
Continued from Page 4H

A seated tea followed this meeting.

A social hour and tea followed the installation.

Past worthy matrons and patrons are: Myra Grace, Edna Morrow, Willie B. Millikin, Louvenia Rees, Lona Pittman, Dorthey Faye Pruitt, Royce Fancher, Jacob B. Morrow, Vetal Flores, J. T. Henry and Noah Pruitt Jr.

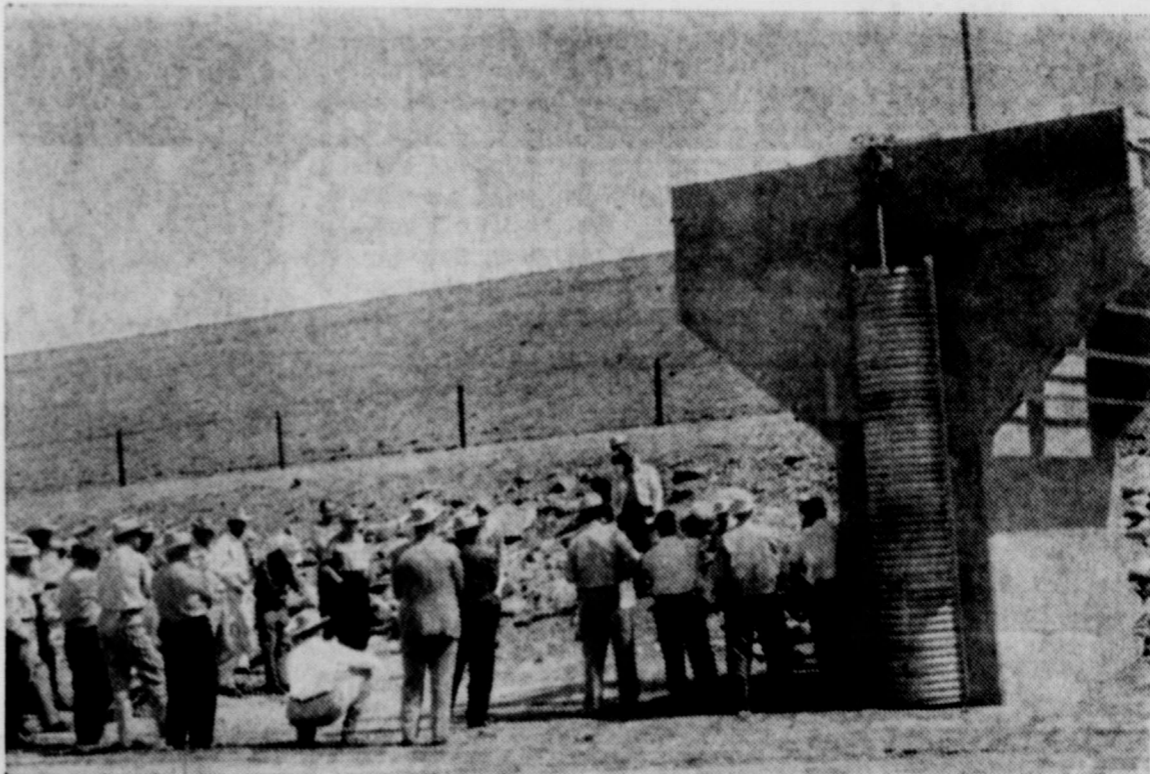
The following are past matrons and patrons of other subordinate chapters: Nell Flores, Myra Grace, Betty Green, Mattie Higginbotham, Olive Keeney, Betty Lee, Orpha Shurley, Sallie Yocham, Clifford Clark, B. B. Edmiston, Taylor Emerson, Futha Higginbotham and Royce Lee.

To Protect Your Property . . .

THE COKE COUNTY

Kickapoo WCID

Was created to serve as the instrument for building dams which will protect the lives, soil and other property of the residents of this area.



Part of the crowd is shown here at a Field Day held last year, to give everyone a chance to see the work that has been done. Standing at the base of the dam, those present are listening to an explanation of the project. To the right is the drawn down tube which will allow water to escape from the lake slowly without damage to property below.

The Kickapoo WCID was created by an act of the Texas Legislature in June, 1959, for the purpose of serving as a supervisory body in the construction of six dams on the Kickapoo Creeks north and west of Bronte. The dams have all been completed at a cost of \$573,730.65. All the sites except one have been seeded and are in the process of growing a protective covering. The directors of the district are grateful to Coke County and the Commissioners Court for providing funds necessary for making the preliminary survey on this project, and to the landowners involved, and to all others for their cooperation in making the project a success. We feel that the money provided by the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture was well spent and will be worth a great deal in the protection of life, soil and property on this watershed.

Coke County Kickapoo Water Control & Improvement District No. 1

D. K. GLENN, Vice President

F. S. HIGGINBOTHAM, President

J. A. PERCIFULL, Secretary

AUSTIN SANDUSKY and PRESTON DAVIS, Members

NORMAN R. KIKER, Clerk



Historical & Progress Edition

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section I

Bronte School Began As Oso in Late 80s

By MRS. JESSIE NEWTON YARBROUGH
Chairman, Coke County Historical Survey Committee

Bronte School has not always had easy sledding, but patrons have always met emergencies with chins up and a forward look.

Bronte School had its beginning as did most schools in pioneer settlements. No bonds were issued. Instead, the fathers raised the necessary funds for materials, hauled the lumber, and with their own hands erected the small one-room, boxed and stripped building which housed the first school.

Twelve years ago (when this writer was attempting to compile the history of Coke County) only a few "Old Timers" could remember the name and exact location of the old school.

Some of the "Old Timers" called the school "Oso," while others called it "Bronc" or "Broncho." Whether you refer to the school as "Oso" or "Bronc" or "Bronte," it is all one and the same; however, the official name of the original school WAS OSO. The records in the office of the County Judge and Ex-Officio School Superintendent list the school as OSO, District 4, Coke County. It was recorded as OSO as late as 1895; however, it was probably called Bronte from the time the Bronte P. O. was established.

According to the memory of the Old Timers, the school was actually built a few months before Coke County was organized and while the area was still a part of Tom Green County; however, the earliest records were burned; therefore, the first available record (1891) refers to the school as Dist. 4, Coke County.

The first settlers in the area were ranchers attracted to the open-range country in the early 1880's. Homes were too isolated and transportation too slow for the children to be assembled for school purposes.

It was in 1888 that the OSO school was established, with Mr. Madison McCutchen as the first teacher.

OSO School was located west of East Kickapoo Creek near where

Highway 70 (now US 277) crosses the East Kickapoo. No Old Timer could give the total enrollment of the school. None questioned was willing to guess the average daily attendance.

The ungraded school's curriculum consisted of the 3-R's and little else. They did not have uniform texts. The students studied whatever texts happened to be available, and each progressed according to his innate ability and his willingness to work.

According to the late Mr. Forest Clark, the second teacher was Mr. J. N. Bullard. Mr. Bullard was followed by J. A. Carter, W. B. Jones, F. K. Popplewell, and J. D. Jowers in that order.

According to Mr. R. E. (Eddy) Cumbie, the school was moved in 1890 to a site very near but slightly west of the present school building. Mr. J. A. Carter was the teacher at that time. The curriculum had been expanded to include some geography, grammar, and history. The school was still ungraded and progress remained on an individual basis.

Commissioner's Court records reveal that "qualified voters of Coke County" were appointed to hold trustee elections on the first Saturday in June, 1891, for ten school districts in the county. Those appointed for OSO, District 4, were J. B. McCutchen, L. H. Creswell, and J. F. Clark.

Settlers, including farmer-homesteaders, were coming faster in the early 1890's. School enrollment increased so much that in 1894-95, during Mr. Popplewell's tenure, an assistant, Miss Janie Stewart, was employed for two and one-half months. Since the school still had only one room, Mr. Popplewell held classes in one end of the building, while Miss Stewart taught in the other end. Records were still in the name of "OSO." The County Superintendent's records lists six vouchers paid to F. K. Popplewell for \$49.00; \$47.50; \$50.00; \$55.00; \$50.00; and \$43.15—the last on Aug. 17, 1895. Miss Stewart was paid in three vouch-

ers—\$35.00 on Feb. 22, 1895; \$35.00 on April 2, 1895; and \$17.50 on August 18, 1895. Evidently money was slow.

By 1899, the school enrollment had increased until more room became a necessity. According to Mr. R. E. Cumbie, bonds were

issued, and two rooms were added across one end of the old building, making a three-room, T-shaped building.

The late Mrs. W. L. Hayley said, "Since the Masonic Lodge needed a meeting place, the Masons, cooperating with the school

board, added an upstairs room which was used by the lodge. Also the various church organizations held services in the building."

Then tragedy struck. School was scheduled to open in October, but the schoolhouse burned to the ground before the opening date. There was some difference of opinion among Old Timers as to the exact date of the fire.

The late Mrs. Larkin Hayley said, "Mr. P. S. Stark, an Ex-Confederate soldier, a Presbyterian and a very fine man, was superintendent of the Union Sunday School held in the school building and attended by all the community. The Baptist and Methodist each had services once a month in the schoolhouse. It burned to the ground I think the 1st Sunday in September, just after services. The people living near by tried to put out the fire, but with no equipment and no water nearer than the creek, it was impossible." (Mrs. Hayley believed that the building had been built by public subscription.)

Mr. Eddy Cumbie said, "The Methodists held services at eleven o'clock on Sunday," and he and his brothers saw smoke from the fire about three o'clock in the afternoon. "School was to open the next day," Mr. Eddy said.

There was no insurance on the building. The district was unable to float bonds, so it was up to the community to meet the emergency head-on.

The late Mrs. Hayley said, "Rev. R. M. Cumbie, a Baptist minister and great leader in the community, called the people together to see what could be done to build another schoolhouse. We decided to build by organizing a stock company and selling stock at \$25.00 per share... We built a much better school building than See BRONTE SCHOOL Page 81



BUILT BY PRIVATE STOCK COMPANY—This school building is the one which was built by private subscription to a stock company after Bronte's other school was destroyed by fire. Mr. R. E. Cumbie tells of a large bell which was placed in the belfry which could be heard for miles out in the country, calling the children to school. A school catalogue for the 1901-1902 school year said: "Only three years ago the school was taught in a one-room building. Now we occupy a two story building, 28 by 48 feet, and well equipped with modern furniture. The high school department occupies all the second story. The

intermediate and primary departments are on the first floor. Good board in private families can be had at a price not exceeding \$10 per month. This includes fuel, lights, etc. Tuition: primary department, \$1.50 per month; intermediate department, \$2.00 per month; 7th, 8th and 9th grades, \$2.50 per month; 10th and 11th grades, \$3.00 per month. The course of study includes 11 grades." Photo and school catalogue courtesy of Mrs. J. D. Huffaker.



FORT CHADBOURNE School—was built in 1910 by a Mr. Linton. After the Fort Chadbourne school was consolidated with Bronte, the building was demolished and the stone used to build the present FFA building on the the Bronte school campus.

Among those still living here

who attended this school are Mrs. Albert Rawlings, a member of the first graduating class, Mrs. Vera Thomas, a member of the second graduating class, Garland Spencer, J. B. Morrow, and Mrs. Vernon Lammers. Mrs. D. M. West was a teacher in this school, beginning the second year.

ORIGINAL STOCK CERTIFICATE

Certificate of Stock.

SHARES \$25.00 EACH.

This Certifies that R. M. Cumbie is owner of Two shares in the CAPITAL STOCK of,

Bronte High School Company

Transferrable only on the books of the Company, in person, or by order, upon the surrender of this CERTIFICATE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SUBSCRIBE THEIR NAMES,

THIS, THE 22 DAY OF Jan. 1900
J. B. McCutchen PRESIDENT.
J. D. Jowers SECRETARY.

Described by Mrs. Yarbrough in her accompanying story of Bronte Schools. It was issued Jan. 22, 1900, to R. M. Cumbie.

Coke County Officials from Beginning to the Present

(Editor's note: Information for this story through 1953-54 was obtained from Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough's History of Coke County. It gives the names of county officials from 1889 to the present. Following the first paragraph complete titles of officers are not given for space reasons.)

1889-1890

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

1891-1892

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

1893-94

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

1895-96

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

1897-98

Judge, S. J. Chapman; clerk, J. W. Barnett; sheriff, L. B. Murray; assessor, H. E. Johnston; treasurer, C. L. Hughes; surveyor, Gid Graham; attorney, W. C. Merchant; commissioners: 1, E. C. Rawlings; 2, Sam Sayner; 3, J. C. Newton; 4, J. H. Campbell.

1899-1900

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

1901-02

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

1903-04

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

1905-06

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

1907-08

Judge, P. D. Coulson; Clerk, John S. Gardner; sheriff, Will Hickman; assessor, W. W. Mc-

Cutchen; treasurer, B. F. Hall Jr.; surveyor, W. P. Graves; attorney, George E. Critz; commissioners: 1, C. M. Jones; 2, S. W. Gaston; 3, C. M. Barger; 4, T. J. Goss.

1909-10

Judge, P. D. Coulson; clerk, John S. Gardner; sheriff, Will Hickman; assessor, T. Johnson; surveyor, W. P. Graves; attorney, V. O. Key; commissioners: 1, J. H. Stephenson; 2, S. W. Gaston; 3, C. M. Barger; 4, T. J. Goss.

1911-12

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

1913-14

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

1915-16

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

1917-18

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

1919-20

Judge, D. I. Durham; clerk, W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, W. B. Hamilton; assessor, W. J. Cumbie; treasurer, Willie E. Swofford; surveyor, T. E. Puett; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, I. A. Bird; 2, H. T. Wilkins; 3, F. M. Pritchard; 4, W. R. Brock.

1921-22

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

1923-24

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

1925-26

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

1927-28

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

1929-30

Judge, W. H. Bell; clerk, W. H. Maxwell; sheriff, S. J. Russell; assessor, G. A. Harmon; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Daniel; attorney, C. H. Bridges; commissioners: 1, M. H. Havins; 2, E. T. Holman;

3, J. R. Mims; 4, Homer Cornelius.

1931-32

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

1933-34

Judge, O. E. Gerron, W. H. Bell appointed Sept. 10, 1934; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull (note: the offices of sheriff and tax assessor were combined for the first time during this term); treasurer, Daisy McCutchen; surveyor, C. H. Bridges, J. L. Taylor appointed April 11, 1934; attorney, W. C. McDonald; commissioners: 1, E. T. Sparks; 2, E. T. Holman, S. A. Kiker appointed July 13, 1933; 3, J. K. Lofton Jr.; 4, Ben Brooks.

1935-36

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

1937-38

Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer, I. H.

Brunson; surveyor, J. L. Taylor; attorney, Wm. C. McDonald; commissioners: 1, Henry C. Varnadore; 2, S. A. Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Sam Gaston.

1939-40

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

1941-42

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

1943-44

Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer Mrs. B. See COKE OFFICIALS Page 31

Page 21

The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

Thanks, Friends— FOR YOUR PATRONAGE

During the Years We Have Been
In the Insurance Business in Bronte

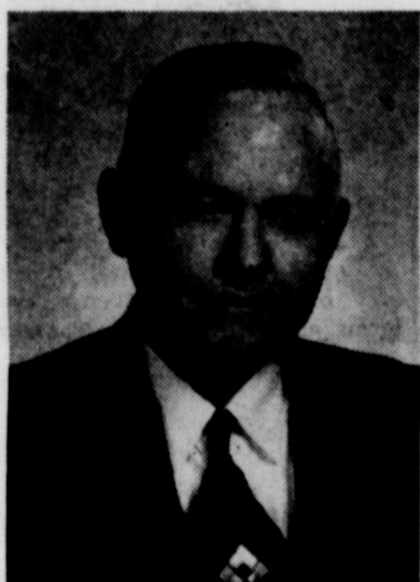
We Are Happy to Live in a Fine
Community Like BRONTE

B. D. SNEAD, INSURANCE

LIFE AND CANCER INSURANCE

First National Bank Bldg.

Bronte



C. E. BRUTON



MRS. C. E. BRUTON

We're
OLD
TIMERS
in business
in Bronte
Since 1932

We Opened A Service Station Here in 1932

After operating it until 1946 we opened our —
WHITE'S STORE

Since we opened our White's Store in 1946, we have done our utmost to supply this area with high quality merchandise. We handle a large line of hardware items, auto parts, housewares, electrical supplies, pipe fittings, toys, and hundreds of other items. It has been our pleasure to serve this community in past years, and we are proud to call Bronte our hometown, and Coke County our home county.

We Cordially Invite Everyone
To Attend Our Big
CELEBRATION
On Labor Day, Sept. 7

AUTHORIZED DEALER

WHITE AUTO STORE

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bruton, Owners



ANOTHER BANK? — Yes, at one time Bronte had two banks. Little is known about the one whose interior is pictured here. It was organized in 1906, operated about one year to 18 months and sold out to First State Bank. It was operated by a banker from Talpa and received local backing from E. C. Rawlings and J. B. McCutchen. The bank was located about where Boyles Barber Shop is now. The large man is John Thurmond. Others not identified.

COKE OFFICIALS —
Continued from Page 21

M. Gramling; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, Henry Varnadore; 2, Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Ben Brooks.

1945-46

Judge, McNeil Wylie; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Frank Percifull; treasurer, Ruby L. Pettit; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, Henry Varnadore; 2, S. A. Kiker; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Ben Brooks.

1947-48

Judge, Bob L. Davis; clerk, Willis Smith; sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; treasurer, Ruby L.

Pettit; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, G. S. Arnold; commissioners: 1, Henry Varnadore; 2, W. J. Eads, Otis Smith appointed Sept. 26, 1947; 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Ben Brooks.

1949-50

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

1951-52

Judge, Jeff Dean; clerk, Weldon Fikes; sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; treasurer, Ruby L. Pettit; surveyor, Roy Taylor; attorney, Frank Dickey Sr.; com-

missioners: 1, J. W. Service, 2, Otis Smith, 3, T. R. Harmon; 4, Claude Ditmore.

1953-54

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

1954-58

(Note: A constitutional amendment passed in 1954 extended terms of county and precinct officials to four years, instead of two. However, only half the official rosters were given 4 year terms at the beginning. Those re-

ceiving four year terms in 1954 were judge, clerk, treasurer and commissioners from precincts 2 and 4 and the justices of the peace. The sheriff, county attorney and commissioners in precincts 1 and 3, and constables got only two year terms, thus creating elections every two years.)

Judge, Jeff Dean (4 yrs.); clerk, Weldon Fikes (4 yrs.), J. L. Tinkler appointed Oct. 1955; sheriff and assessor, Paul Good; treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Gray (4 yrs.); attorney, Frank Dickey Jr.; commissioners: 1, J. W. Service; 2, Howard Brock (4 yrs.); 3, Ed Hickman; 4, Claude Ditmore (4 yrs.).

1956-60

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

1958-62

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

1960-64

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

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

1962-66

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

1964-Present

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

Coke County Interscholastic League was organized Nov. 3, 1934, at a meeting in Robert Lee.

ENTERPRISE MARCH 16, 1906
We have a complete stock of the celebrated Racine Wagons and buggies. These vehicles have a world wide reputation. Be sure you have the best by getting a Racine. Hickman and Butler, Bronte, Texas.

WESTBROOK-COLE CO.

SERVING YOUR

Ranch Loan Needs

SENDS

Congratulations

Westbrook - Cole Co.

Ranch Loan

Corresponendent

FOR

CONNECTICUT GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

DIAL 655-3555

FIRST SAVINGS BLDG.

SAN ANGELO

YES... WE'VE DEFINITELY THROWN IN WITH...

**We Deeply Appreciate
The Wonderful Reception
You Have Given Us**

We are deeply grateful to the good people of the Bronte area for the fine way you have received us as a part of your community since we first came here in November, 1963. We thank you for the business you have given us at our Gulf Service Station as well as that which you have sent our way since we bought out the wholesale agency from Mr. Ronald Walton last May.

Mr. and Mrs. Elroy Butler and Children

ANNOUNCEMENT—
WE HAVE LEASED THE
SERVICE STATION at
OAK CREEK VILLAGE
Where You Now May Obtain
GOOD GULF PRODUCTS
Plus Prompt, Courteous Service

COKE COUNTY

and just in time to take part in the

75th Anniversary

CELEBRATION

We haven't been residents of Bronte too long, but we are glad to be here during this big 75th Anniversary Celebration. While you are here, drop by to visit us at the

Gulf Service Station

ON NORTH HIWAY 277



Elroy Butler

YOUR GULF CONSIGNEE

BRONTE, TEXAS

R. E. CUMBIE RECOUNTS HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF SCHOOLS

By R. E. Cumbie

(Editor's note: Our thanks to R. E. Cumbie for writing the following story about his recollections of the early days of Bronte schools.)

When we arrived here in June, 1890, there was a small school house somewhere near where the Mack Eubanks live now. In August, they moved the building to the present school yard, one room, one teacher for several years. In 1899 we voted a small bond and built an addition to the old building, with the Masonic Lodge joining in and building the up stairs. We only had money enough each year for a seven month school, so in order that the children could help gather the cotton crop, school usually began in October. The new part of the building had just been finished, and there was a small amount of lumber stacked in the front part of the building. The Methodist congregation held services at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning. At three o'clock in the afternoon there was to be a community singing. My brothers and I were on our way to the school house on horseback when we were about half way from our home to town we noticed a black smoke,

so we soon had our horses at full speed, but when we arrived, the building was in flames. School was to open the next day, so women and children stood in tears as they saw their building in ashes.

No building, no insurance. We could not vote any more bonds, so what were we to do? My father (R. M. Cumbie) called a meeting for everyone in the district to see what could be done and we decided to form a stock co. of \$25.00 per share and asked everyone to buy one or more shares and lease the building to the school. We sold enough shares to build a good four-room building. We used this building until 1908—when we built an eight room rock building. In 1921, we wrecked these two buildings and erected the old two story part of our present building.

PRESIDENT HERE IN 1948

Congressman Lyndon Johnson came to Bronte by helicopter early in July, 1948, in behalf of his candidacy for the U. S. Senate. The future President landed out on the north edge of town and was received by a large crowd.



MADE AT HAYRICK SCHOOL 60 to 65 years ago—Mrs. J. W. Labenske furnished this picture made at the old Hayrick school, and she identified as many of the students as she could. The teacher was Jim Robbins, who is third from the left in the top row. Others, left to right, are: unidentified girl, Mrs. Frank Burns, Robbins, Miss Walling, Sam Weathers, Ella Caraway and Nettie Hefley.

Left to right on the second row from the top are: unidentified girl, Frank Hefley, Pearl Collins, Lula Robbins, Lula Hayley, Gus Jones, Jarusha Stevens. Left to right on the third row: Claude Carlile, Lela Stevens, Minnie Weathers, Austin Stewart, Nannie Bird Caraway, Abbie Lou Hefley, Bus Robbins, Nora Stevens, Bessie Carlile, Frank Robbins. Left to right on fourth row: El-

lie Collins, Sadie Stevens, unidentified boy, Jane Modrall, Bertha Robbins, Johnny Bird, unidentified girl, Johnnie Jones, Della Bird, unidentified girl, and Mildred Robbins. Seated on the ground are Emma Jones, Jeff Shook, a Modrall boy and an unidentified boy. Through the open window to the left can be seen a desk. Also the only air conditioning available at that time was a stick to hold the window open.

Oso School As Recalled in '58 By M. McCutchen

In an interview with The Enterprise in 1958, the late Monroe McCutchen did some reminiscing about the first Bronte school, Oso, and others in the county. He told of picking out the exact location of the school at that time, that it was over on Mack Eubanks' place and a persimmon tree was growing on the site at that time. He said for many years the place was known as the Archer place.

His grandfather, Madison McCutchen was the first teacher at the school. He told of another teacher in 1889, a Mr. Wilson.

The first school in Robert Lee, he said, was in 1891, and he attended it also. Badger Den or Arkansas Bend school was also in 1890 or '91. It was located east of where Bronte now stands. Madison McCutchen also taught in this school. He said Mrs. T. G. Stinebaugh was one of the early students there.

Mr. McCutchen, who died in 1960, came to this area with his parents in April of 1889. He said they camped south of the present site of Bronte. They lived there until 1890 when they moved south of the present site of Robert Lee. Mr. McCutchen could remember the beginning of Robert Lee and saw the first house moved in there.

He said 1890 was also well remembered because that was when the first post office was opened in Bronte. Before the office opened, he said they had to go to Maverick to get their mail. He remembered that Ernest Marshall's mother was postmaster at Maverick at that time.

He was married to Miss Mattie Moore Jan. 14, 1904, at Indian Creek. Mrs. McCutchen still makes her home in Bronte.

STEPHENSON FIELD

The local football stadium is named "Stephenson Field." It is named after Lt. Elbert Stephenson, son of Mrs. J. A. Stephenson and the late Mayor Stephenson. The Lieutenant was reported missing in action in 1944 while flying a B-26 Marauder during World War II. The Marauder was from the 12th AAF B-26 Marauder Bomber Base in Corsica. Italy was the focal point of the attack. He had flown six missions when his plane was shot down in January, 1944.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

YOUR
CONOCO
WHOLESALER
FOR THE PAST
33 YEARS

We've been going to work a good many mornings to deliver Conoco Petroleum Products to our customers in Coke County, and we are grateful for the business you have given us through the years. We hope to continue to serve you for many more years with those top quality CONOCO PRODUCTS.

"Hottest Brand Going"



W. H. Maxwell, Jr.

BRONTE'S PIONEER INSURANCE AGENCY

INVITES YOU TO BRONTE'S BIG



ON LABOR DAY

L. T. Youngblood went into the insurance business 50 years ago, in 1914, at Blackwell. Soon after coming to Bronte he formed a partnership with Mrs. Carrie G. Williams under the name of Youngblood & Williams. He has been connected with this firm since that time. In 1948 E. F. (Tuny) Glenn joined the firm as a partner. The business has a long record of fair dealing with clients, and always puts the interests and welfare of customers first. The write all kinds of casualty insurance and bonds.



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

SEE US FOR COMPLETE
CASUALTY
INSURANCE
PROTECTION

Youngblood & Glenn

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.

BRONTE

First Coke School And Other Early Schools of 1880s

First school in Coke County was located at Rock Springs near old Fort Chadbourne and was in existence only three years, 1881-83, well before the organization of the county.

According to an early report of the school the walls were made of pickets and the cracks "chinked and daubed with mud." The roof was made of poles and the "cracks filled with bear grass; then mortar was made of clay and spread over the bear grass. The roof was finished by covering with dry earth."

The seats were made of split logs and the legs were short posts. There were no backs on the seats. This school was attended and told of by Wiley Bird, Lee Richards, and others.

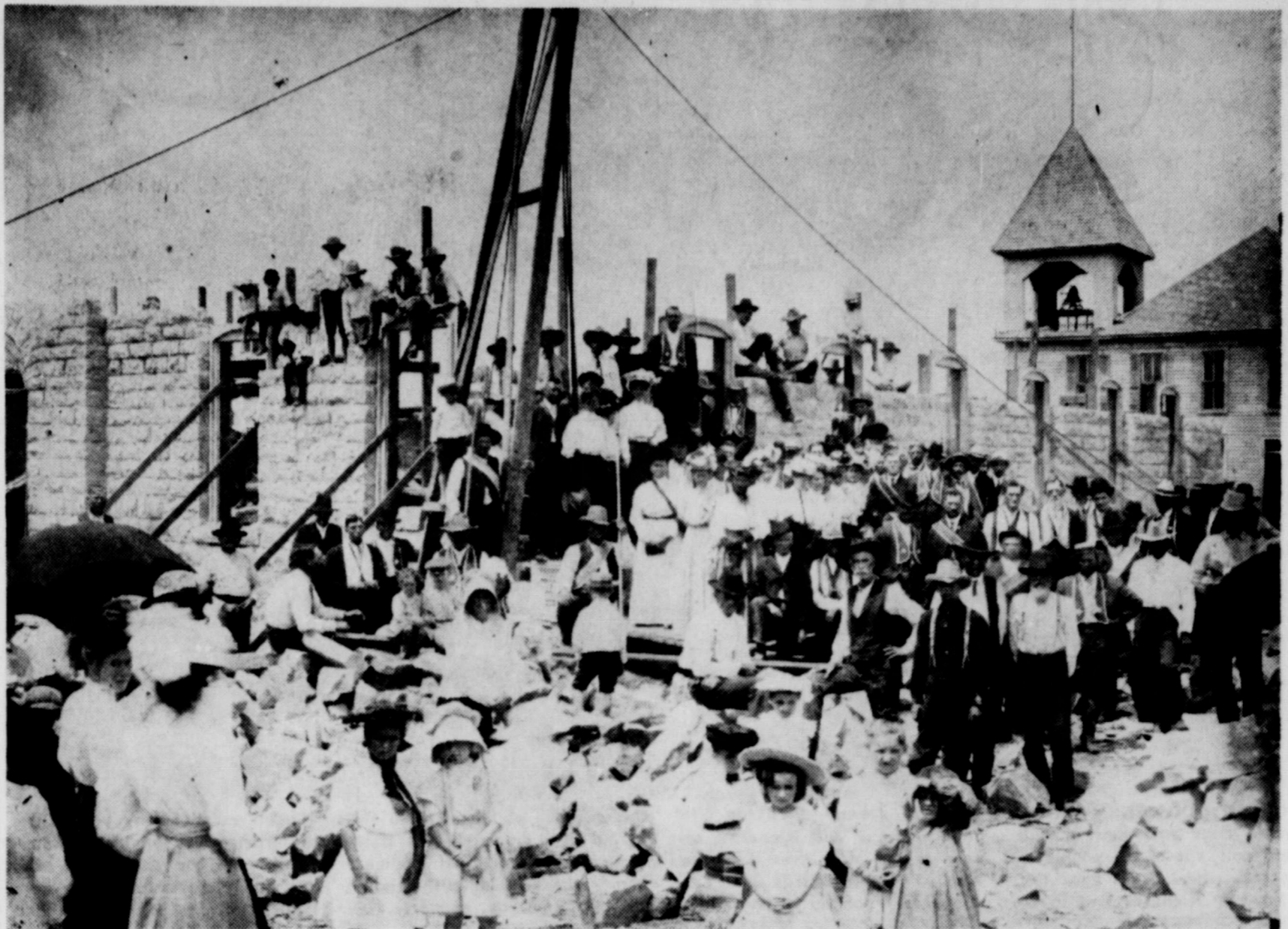
School at Hayrick Before County

Another of the first schools was taught in 1885-86 by a Mr. Hall and was a one room structure on Mountain Creek, one mile west of Hayrick. It was a four-month "subscription school." Tuition was \$1.50 per month per child. After that term, the school was moved two miles east to Sand Springs and 11 or 12 pupils were taught by Miss Idalia Nance. Miss Betty Eidson taught there in 1887-88.

When the county was organized a Mr. Carrigan and J. J. Bishop were teaching there and the school was moved to Hayrick to a new two-room structure. Miss Vida Youngblood was a substitute teacher. When the county seat was moved the people moved and the daily attendance dropped from 75 to less than a dozen.

Bronte School Superintendents Or Head Teachers

- 1888-89—Madison McCutchen
- 1889-90—O. N. Bullard
- 1890-92—H. T. Carter
- 1892-95—W. B. Jones
- 1895-99—F. K. Poplewell
- 1899-03—J. D. Jowers
- 1903-04—W. P. Leslie
- 1904-05—N. R. Thomas
- 1905-07—S. M. Evans
- 1907-09—W. E. Lockard
- 1909-14—J. W. Skinner
- 1914-16—E. H. Hankins
- 1916-17—J. B. Glaze
- 1917-18—Wm. (Bill) Hall
- 1918-20—D. E. Renfro
- 1920-21—J. R. Haliburton
- 1921-25—J. H. Hollingsworth
- 1925-29—W. R. Hardy



LAYING CORNERSTONE for the new school building was held in 1907. The Oddfellow Lodge of Bronte was in charge of the ceremonies. The people at the celebration are unidentified. The building was made of native stone and was completed in 1908.

- 1929-32—John Armstrong
- 1932-34—E. H. Hankins
- 1934-35—C. R. Owens
- 1935-38—Nathan Johnson
- 1938-41—B. B. Covery
- 1941-45—B. F. Kirk
- 1945-48—Jeff Dean
- 1948-54—J. L. Carroll
- 1954-55—O. K. Wolfenbarger
- 1955-59—Garland Black
- 1959-present—C. B. Barbee.

NOT ENOUGH SUGAR

(From Enterprise Mar. 24, 1939)

Last week The Enterprise made an error in the ad of Cumbie & Co. Red & White store. They quoted sugar 25 pounds for \$1.19. The way we had it was "10 pounds for \$1.19. It was just not enough sugar for the price. Of course, we "got razzed" about it, plenty, as everybody knew it was an error.

GREETINGS

TO ALL OUR Friends and Neighbors

ON OUR COUNTY'S

75th Anniversary

On this Diamond Anniversary let us take time for a moment to say that we thank you for all the favors you have shown us down through the years. We appreciate your business and will strive to continue to merit your support.

WEBB'S STANDARD STATION

Wholesale & Retail

L. L. Webb

Congratulations to All Residents of
COKE COUNTY

ON OUR

75th Anniversary

WE'RE PROUD TO BE PART OF

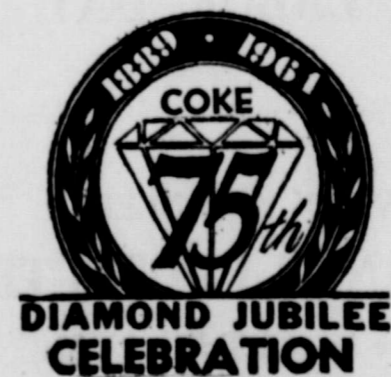
COKE COUNTY

A drug store was first established in our building in 1915, making this one of the oldest firms in Bronte. Since it was first established, it has been the policy of the owners to provide the customers of this area with fine quality merchandise and prompt, courteous service. We have tried, and will continue to try, to live up to this policy set up by our predecessors. We are extremely grateful for the patronage you have given us, and hope to have many more years of pleasant relations with the people of the Bronte area and Coke County.

We're Also Proud
To Be Merchandisers
Of the Following
Famous Brands

- Pangburn's Candies
- McKesson-Robbins
- Dr. Scholl's
- Yardley
- Old Spice
- Coty
- Dorothy Perkins
- Amity
- Timex
- Westclox
- Universal
- And Many, Many More

Welcome to the Big Barbecue
Commemorating Coke County's



Central Drug

Mr. and Mrs. Norman R. Kiker



HOUND DOG MEN — These hunting dogs and their masters were well known to people of this area many years ago. Left is Rowster Richards and to the right is Johnny Richards. In the center is Will Richards, father of the other two men and also of Tad Richards and Lee Richards. Johnny Richards is the only one of the children still living. The house in the background is the original Richards homeplace and is still standing on the Richards property, although vacant many years. The Enterprise was unable to determine what the dogs were used for, but it is presumed they were hunters. Ralph Richards' Photo

Fletchers Had Sad Trip To California in Early Days

An old newspaper relates this story:
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Fletcher made a trip to California from this area in 1867 in an ox wagon. They were enroute nine months and it took them three months to return with a team of horses. On the outgoing trip their only child died and was buried "on the trail" at the place of death. Later they had seven other children. Mrs. Fletcher was born in 1842 in Mt. Carroll, Ill. The family came to Texas in 1850 and she was married to William B. Fletcher in 1866. He died in 1915.

EARLY POST OFFICES

Maverick post office was established Oct. 10, 1883, with Marion Cock as first postmaster. It was located on Oak Creek in the west part of Runnels County and at one time Maverick was in the election for the county seat.
Norton post office was established Nov. 27, 1894, with Marion A. Wilkerson as the first postmaster. It was located at his residence 18 miles northwest of Ballinger. On Oct. 13, 1902, it was moved 1 1/2 miles southwest and on May 4, 1920, to the present Norton town-site.

Make your plans to be at the Bronte County Park for the Labor Day Celebration.

ON THIS
75th Anniversary

We're Proud to Be a Part of
COKE COUNTY

We Invite Everyone to the



To Be Held at Bronte
On **LABOR DAY**

WHEN YOU NEED
INSURANCE PROTECTION

Come in and Talk with Us

Caperton Insurance Agcy.

BRONTE, TEXAS

Welcome TO OUR PLACES OF BUSINESS

And to Bronte's
Big 75th Anniversary
Celebration



WE'RE FAIRLY NEW IN BUSINESS

But having lived here most all our lives, we feel like old timers in Bronte. Since we bought the Texaco Station in 1960, we have endeavored to give you high quality merchandise and prompt, courteous service. We have also tried our best to render the very best service possible in our other businesses which have been added from time to time. We appreciate your patronage.

DITMORE

TEXACO SERVICE STATION

LP GAS COMPANY

RECREATION CENTER

AUTOMATIC LAUNDRY

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Ditmore

L. Webb Has Run Station Since '53

Lester Webb has operated the Standard Service in Bronte since 1953, when he bought out Charles Timmens. Prior to that time he was employed at the same place of business by its former owners.

Webb and his family came to Coke County from Concho County in 1942. He began working at the station for C. E. Bruton, later worked for Bon Spoons and Portis Robbins before Timmens took over the station. In the early days the station sold Cosden products.

Webb is a native of Bell County, while his wife, Lois, was born in Runnels County. They have two children, Leon Webb of San Angelo and Mrs. Edward (Joan) Poehls of Norton. Mrs. Webb is employed at Bronte Hospital.

Coke Has Had 30 School Dists.

Below is a list of the 30 schools which have existed in Coke County. The number is the one assigned to the school and bits of information follows the name, when available. This list was compiled by Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough.

1. Live Oak—1898, also 1902-03; known as Powell in 1926-27.
2. Rock Springs—1898, became part of Ft. Chadbourne.
3. Mineral Springs — Hayrick (1900-01); also known as Indian Creek.
4. Oso—Bronte — (Indian Creek) Bronte became Independent District 1907. Indian Creek is listed as No. 3 on some records.
5. Sanco—Horse Mt. and Mea-

Mt. were part of Sanco.

6. Conner—Silver, Silver Peak.
7. Lometa—Between Robert Lee and Tennyson, now used as community center.
8. Paint Creek—Edith; was old Paint Creek school near the Alf Key residence.
9. Pecan.
10. Hayrick—Robert Lee; became independent district and No. 10 assigned to Hayrick, which was its number when consolidated with Bronte.
11. Union.
12. Cow Creek—Cow Creek, Indian Creek, Mineral Springs; called "Cow Creek Consolidated" at the time it was grouped with Bronte.

The Bronte Enterprise, Sept. 3, 1964

Page 71

13. Olga.
14. Juniper.
15. Mt. Margaret—Mule Creek (1900).
16. Valley View—(1901) consolidated with Robert Lee.
17. Simpson.
18. Tennyson — County Line; some records refer to this district as County Line District, part in another county.
19. Graham Valley—District now in Robert Lee.
20. Robert Lee.
21. Wild Cat.
22. Friendship.
23. Cedar Hill—abolished in 1913 and put into Sand Springs.

24. Sand Springs—old school was up in Silver area.
 25. Walnut—over toward Water Valley in Mims community.
 26. Kates Creek—on upper divide toward Sterling.
 27. Green Mt.—Pecan, Edith and Green Mt. were consolidated and kept Green Mt. name.
 28. Silver Peak.
 29. Mays — consolidated with Bronte Aug. 20, 1948.
 30. Paint Creek—later school by M. B. Sheppard.
- Two other schools which evidently were assigned no numbers were New Hope and Chapman (on divide).

LAMMERS FAMILY CAME IN 1906; MEN WERE STONE MASONS, BUILT DEPOTS ON ORIENT RAILROAD

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lammers moved to Bronte from Goldthwaite in 1906, settling on the site across from the school which is now being used as a parking lot for the school. Mr. Lammers was a stone mason by trade and Mrs. Lammers operated a bakery which was built there at their home.

They were followed to Bronte in 1907 by their oldest son, Jim Lammers and family, including two sons, Vernon and Leslie and a daughter, Nettie Lee was born after they came here.

The location they chose for a home is one block south of the school and then was one of the former Bronte store buildings, as the town site continued on south from there. Their home location was never changed and is still in

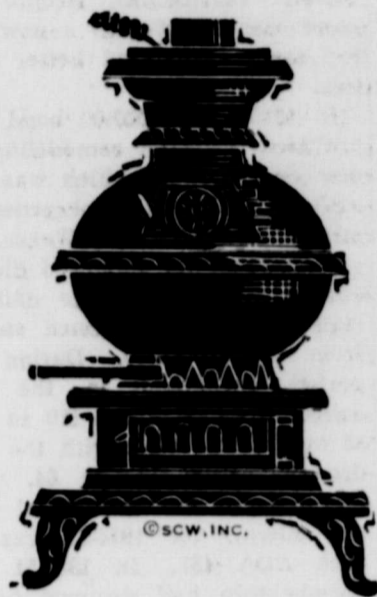
the family today, belonging to Leslie Lammers.

Built Depot Buildings

Jim Lammers, like his father, was a stone mason by trade. He built the stone depots on the old Orient Railroad line at Bronte and Fort Chadbourne in 1909. He also built the stone depots at Tennyson, Mertzon and Ft. Stockton.

Mr. Lammers died in 1941 and Mrs. Lammers died in 1953.

**Better Order Your
Extra Copies of
This Edition Now**



YOU CAN BEAT THIS ---

WITH

BUTANE

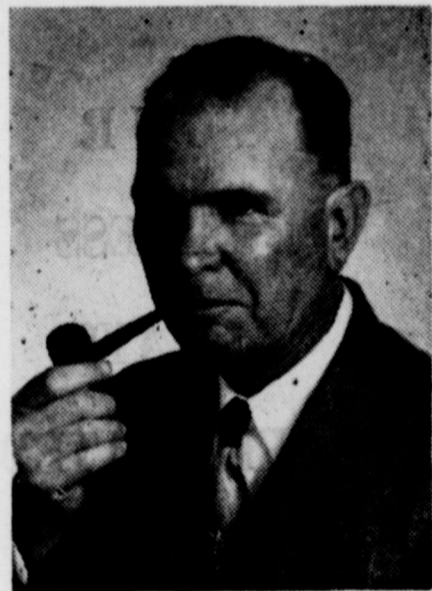
The days of pot bellied stoves are over—and aren't you glad? Even folks who live in the country can now enjoy all the conveniences of city living when they use economical, clean BUTANE. It's the cheapest fuel available for heating, cooling, and supplying power to your tractors and trucks. See us today if you are not taking full advantage of this inexpensive fuel.

BUTANE SERVICE CO.

AND

RECREATION CENTER

JACK D. IVEY



VERNON C. LAMMERS

WE'RE OLD TIMERS IN COKE COUNTY---

AND ARE HAPPY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS

75th Anniversary Celebration

Both of us were reared in Coke County and have lived here most of our lives. We feel this is an especially good time to pay tribute to those gallant pioneers from whom we descended, and who came here when this country was mostly a wilderness and carved out our modern day community.

WE WELCOME YOU TO THE BIG LABOR DAY PROGRAM AND BARBECUE

SINCE WE OPENED OUR STORE AND STATION

We have endeavored at all times to supply the needs of our customers thoroughly and courteously. We don't operate a super market nor the most modern station in the world, but we're open 14 hours a day, seven days a week, to serve you.



**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**



Lammers Conoco Station & Grocery

MR. AND MRS. VERNON C. LAMMERS

BRONTE SCHOOL —
Continued from Page 11

we had... When finished, we lacked \$700.00 or \$800.00 having enough money to pay it out. It was insured against fire and wind. In a year or two a bad sandstorm with a terrific wind came and nearly blew it down. The top was pushed over about four feet and walls sagged. The insurance company paid \$1000.00 damage. That enabled us to fix it up and pay off to the lumber company the note which all had signed. Several years later when they organized the independent school district, the State gave us our money back on our stock for the building and grounds. Of course, we had drawn no dividend nor interest on it. Other leaders in the stock company included Dr. W. F. Key, J. B. McCutchen and Lee Good.

Only one "Certificate of Stock" of the issue is known to be in existence. Mr. Eddy Cumbie has it. (See accompanying photo). The certificate is for two shares at \$25.00 each. It was issued to R. M. Cumbie on the 22nd day of January, 1900. On that date, Mr. Cumbie had paid \$12.50. He had paid another \$12.50 in April and the remaining \$25.00 in November. (It must have been a real sacrifice for a farming minister with a large family to support to raise that amount. No doubt many others made real sacrifices to help meet the emergency.)

A bountiful crop in 1906 and the coming of the K.C.M.&O. railroad about 1907 put Bronte on a boom. The town was moved, but that is a different story.

Under the leadership of Mr. J. B. Reilly, a banker, Bronte organized an independent school district in 1907, a little less than five miles square and containing twenty-three square miles.

The new district floated a \$6,000.00 bond issue for the construc-

tion of a new school building. The native stone building contained six classrooms and completed in 1908. Mr. W. E. (Edgar) Lockhart was the first superintendent to teach in the new stone building.

Bronte took on another building program in 1922, when bonds totaling \$21,000 were issued and the north section of the present building was erected. The building contained two stories above ground level plus a basement. It contained fifteen classrooms, an office and an auditorium. Jacketed coal stoves were used to heat the building.

In 1931, a move to consolidate schools gained momentum. A grouping election was held for the purpose of forming a Rural High School at Bronte. The districts to be grouped were Bronte Independent, Cow Creek Consolidated Common School District (comprised of Cow Creek, Indian Creek and Mineral Springs), Fort Chadbourne, Hayrick and Union Common School Districts. The grouping movement caused much controversy and some hard feelings.

Results of the election ordered March 14, 1931, for and against grouping were:

	For	Ag.
Bronte Independent	239	18
Cow Creek	9	24
Fort Chadbourne	4	54
Hayrick	1	24
Union	25	29
Total votes	278	149

An annexation election on July 14, 1931, brought Juniper into the Bronte Rural H.S. Dist. Bronte voted 102 for with only one against. Juniper voted 29 for and 24 against—the first of the small rural schools to approve consolidation by their vote.

Through the grouping and annexation moves, the old 23 sq. mi.

district was enlarged to 158.32 sq. mi.

Other consolidations with Bronte at later dates were Marie Common School District of Runnels County and Tennyson Common School District. Also Brookshire and Oak Creek came to Bronte on a contract basis. The consolidation was ended when Mays became part of Bronte District Aug. 20, 1948. Bronte Consolidated (Rural School became Bronte Independent School District in 1934.

The curriculum was enriched. Vocational agriculture was added in 1931, with Mr. R. R. Petty as the Ag teacher. Typing was added in 1934. Other courses were added from time to time.

With the enlarged district, the increased enrollment and the expanded curriculum, Bronte once more was faced with a new need for more space and better facilities.

In 1935, a \$20,000.00 bond issue provided funds for remodeling and new construction, which was done under the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.

In spite of the enlarged district, enrollment and average daily attendance (ADA) declined steadily from 1934 to 1950. During that period, enrollment in the high school dropped from 139 in 1934-35 to 67 in 1950-51, with the ADA dropping from 123 to 64. Total membership for the school (H.S. and Elem.) for 1934-35 was 514, with ADA 481. In 1950-51 total membership had dropped to 339, with an ADA of 317.

Exodus from the rural areas to the cities explains the decline. One extreme example of this exodus is to be found in the records of the old Hayrick district, now a part of Bronte district. Hayrick once had an enrollment of 91 with an average daily attendance of 72. Today, there is not even one child of scholastic age residing in the old Hayrick district. No

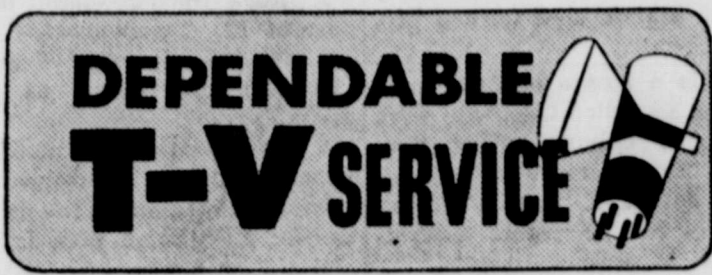
doubt there are few scholastics in other rural districts.

The discovery of oil in Rawlings No. 1, on July 17, 1948, and subsequent development in the oil and gas industries painted a new economic picture for Bronte School; however, stringent limitation of oil allowables has hurt, and the ADA of scholastics remains a problem.

Bronte has 27 accredited H.S. units and a faculty of 18 well

qualified teachers. Bronte graduates give a good account of themselves in college and as citizens of the community.

Last spring when the problems seemed acute and rumors were flying, the community held a mass meeting to clarify the situation. As usual, Bronte rose to the occasion, pledging to take "whatever" steps were necessary to maintain a first class school "in" Bronte.



Yes, We Provide Dependable Service to Keep Your Radio, TV and Other Appliances Operating Properly

We've been in Bronte only a comparatively short time, but already we've come to love the fine people who are our friends and neighbors. We deeply appreciate the patronage you have given us during the past.

HUGHES TV & RADIO SERVICE AND GIFT SHOP

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hughes

SERVING THIS AREA WITH TOP QUALITY FOODS



DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

YOUR BUSINESS ALWAYS APPRECIATED

In The Good Old Days . . .

We Pay Tribute to the **HARDY PIONEERS** Who Settled and Developed **COKE COUNTY**
Each of us who lives here now should be grateful for their enterprising spirits.

THEY HAD WONDERFUL FOOD BUT YOU CAN ENJOY EVEN BETTER FOODS TODAY BY SHOPPING AT

Joyce's Food Market



Historical & Progress Edition

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 46 (Old Vol. 59), No. 36

BRONTE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Section J

Butterfield Line Was Nation's Longest

Enterprise Was Started in '06, But Herald Was First Paper

In all records up to this year, it was believed that The Enterprise was the first newspaper here and began in 1906, but in seeking information for this edition, a copy of a Bronte Herald, printed Sept. 6, 1902, was found in the possession of Mrs. Robert Knierim. It was Vol. 1, No. 1 of the publication which means that it was the first issue of the first year



D. M. WEST

of publication. Mrs. Knierim remembers that the paper had an office in town but did not remember how long the paper was published. The mast head showed that Will L. Howell was editor and publisher and that the subscription price was \$1.00 per year. A congratulations notice on the opening of the new paper indicated that Mr. Howell was from Miles.

Advertisements were carried from: H. V. Robinson Dry Goods, Miles; The Bronte Hotel, E. G. Walton, proprietor; Greenwood & Osteen, Ballinger photographers; Key and Wicker, Bronte physicians and surgeons; Meineke Banking Co., Miles Station, Runnels; The W. C. Parks Banking Co. of Ballinger; Findlaters in San Angelo; First Nat'l Bank, Ballinger; W. C. Walton, Bronte's Livestockman; W. L. Hayley Drugs, Bronte; A. P. McCarty Drugs, Bronte; C. M. Campbell & Sons Lumber, of Miles.

A large front page advertisement from the Bronte Land Agency with office in the Bronte Herald Building, listed the Herald owner, Howell, P. W. Hudman, and E. G. Walton as owners of the agency. They advertised, "We have a notary public in office. We have lands for sale in Coke and adjoining counties in any size tract from a farm to a large ranch.—Teams to drive prospectors over the county; a few nice tracts of land adjoining the Kansas City and Oriental R.R. Survey."

First Bronte Enterprise

First record of The Bronte Enterprise was Mar. 16, 1906, as the Bronte Weekly Enterprise, published by the Bronte Publishing Co. with L. Beth Bentley as publisher. However, not many of

these papers were published.

The next Bronte Weekly Enterprise began in 1907, with C. H. Bentley as publisher (probably related to the 1906 Bentley). C. H. Bentley was a Tennessean and installed a fairly good newspaper and job printing plant for a small country weekly and for a time did well. Bentley was mayor of Bronte from 1908-10. The town did not grow as fast as he anticipated and he became discouraged, selling in 1910 to D. M. West, who owned the newspaper on two different occasions.

West at that time also owned and operated a newspaper at Miles. C. W. Goff was employed as editor for the Bronte paper by Mr. West. In 1912, the paper changed hands again with T. R. Butler, at the time a druggist, assuming ownership. He retained Goff as editor until he sold the paper to A. J. Nelson, who also retained Goff as editor, until Nelson closed the office and ceased publication in 1915. Nelson also sold ice to supplement his newspaper income.

The plant remained intact in the place it had been printed until 1918, when Mr. and Mrs. George Scott came and revived the paper under the same name it had formerly been published.

Scott soon sold The Enterprise to W. C. Redmond, who came with his family and operated the paper until Jan. 1, 1923. Redmond sold a half interest to D. M. West and, later in the same year, West bought Redmond's interest and became sole owner again. In 1924,

See ENTERPRISE Page 8J



MRS. BRYAN YARBROUGH as she uses a magnifying glass to examine the remains of a stage coach found in recent years in Pierce Canyon, tributary of Grubbs Canyon. It was found by oil developers on the land of Mrs. Nora Gee, about 12 miles west of Robert Lee, close to the

Sterling County line. This find seems to bear out the theory that there was an alternate route of the Butterfield Trail west out of Fort Chabourne. The wheels of the coach were missing but the tongue was still intact. It has been placed in the Fort Concho Museum.



EARLY DAY PRINT SHOP may have been in Blackwell, Robert Lee, Fort Chadbourne or Bronte. Owner of the picture, Mrs. Charles Ragsdale of Blackwell,

is not sure. The man in the foreground is her father, Bob Hall, who worked in the printshops in all the named places. However, it was made some time ago, as Mr. Hall would now

be in his nineties. The other man is unidentified—may have been a tramp printer or typographical tourist, which were quite prevalent years ago.

(Most of the following information was taken from 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 U.S. 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 stage line extending from St. Louis, Mo., and Memphis, Tenn., to San Francisco, Calif. Branch lines from the two eastern terminals united near Fort Smith, Ark., and entered Texas at Preston Bend, near the present city of Denison, westward through Sherman and the line of frontier forts, including Ft. 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 30 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, who were 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

See BUTTERFIELD Page 8J

Blackwell Story Started When Railroad Came

(Editor's note: Part of this information came from the Feb. 21, 1936, edition of Coke County News and part from the Abilene Reporter News, April 8, 1956, written by Mrs. Charles Ragsdale.)

James was the first name given to this place. It was named after a son of one of the stockholders of the Orient Railroad. The boy died and the name was to be a memorial to him. The Orient town-site company laid off the town and a lot sale was conducted Aug. 20, 1906.

For about a year all the mail was brought down on a mail hack that went from Sweetwater to Robert Lee. Jerry McShan met the mail hack at Olga, a small store west of James, which was the nearest post office, and brought the mail back to the post office at James. D. T. Hunt was the first postmaster at James and the Olga post office and store was run by Roe McRorey. Before Jerry McShan started carrying the mail from Olga, it was a neighborly obligation for anyone who made the trip to pick up all the mail, which was then distributed in the "pigeon holes," where each merchant got his mail.

The town asked for a post office in 1907 and the post office department ruled the name would have to be changed from James, as there was a neighboring post office that once had been called by that name. Blackwell was among several names submitted, and was the one chosen by the P. O. department.

The Orient constructed its grade through here in 1906; in 1908 the rails were laid, and trains began to run in 1909. The first carload of freight shipped in was machinery for a gin owned by McDonald Brothers, later known as Red Gin. There were five passenger trains daily. Ben Palmer installed the first telegraph soon after the railroad came through.

The First State Bank, later changed to the First National Bank, and in 1932 consolidated with the Bronte bank and moved there, was organized Aug. 20, 1907, with the following officers: president, Dr. J. F. Campbell; vice president, J. T. Hamilton, cashier, J. L. Ross; and assistant cashier, J. B. Henslee. L. T. Youngblood of Bronte later became president of the bank.

The first dry goods and grocery store was owned by J. J. Montgomery and was in a small wooden building erected on the corner later occupied by Tom Carlisle.

Henry Fulton owned the first drug store and the first telephone was installed in this drug store. W. P. Hunt had a hardware store.

The first residence was built by Oscar Shepherd. D. T. Hunt put in a drug store about 1909, and later became postmaster.

A central telephone office was constructed in 1907 by San Angelo Telephone Co. John Collins was first operator and the switchboard was in the back of the bank.

June 1, 1907, Mrs. N. B. Robinson moved to Blackwell from Hylton and put up the first and only Hotel Blackwell ever had.

Doc McDorman and Dark Downing were the town's first blacksmiths. Their shop was in front of the telephone office.

The first theater was established in 1915 and operated by O. M. Ratliff. J. W. Reed had a grocery and dry goods store in 1909.

The Primitive Baptists organized the first church. They built north of town. The building was utilized by the school until a frame structure was built near the site of the present school building.

The next church, originally organized at old Olga, in 1907, was Protestant Methodist. A church building was erected in 1911. A



RAGSDALE BARBER SHOP in Blackwell in 1927 had just installed electricity. Charles Ragsdale works on an unidentified customer, while Mrs. Jake Carter, then Thelma Hanna, looks on. The water supply for the barber shop was the faucet in the wall in the back of the photograph, which was put in the can and heated on the stove which can barely be seen in the picture.

Rev. Woods was the first pastor.

In 1914 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, bought the building and the church became a member of that organization. Rev. Jones of the old Fort Chadbourn circuit organized the church. Rev. Cal C. Wright was one of the first pastors. In 1939, a substantial stone annex was built. This church was destroyed by fire in 1945.

The first revival meeting was conducted under an old fashioned brush arbor.

Earliest settlers in the Blackwell area were David McLaughlin and sons, Dan and Jim, Mr. and Mrs. John Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Russell, Mr. and Mrs. John Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Will Whiteside, Ruff Whiteside, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin McRorey, Judge J. Q. Hanna, one of the first county judges in Nolan County, and his son, John, one of the first commissioners.

Tom Ford published the first Blackwell newspaper in 1910. Then his brother, Ben, took it over and in 1916, R. L. (Bob) Hall (father of Mrs. Charles Ragsdale of Blackwell) became publisher. He printed it on and off until 1926.

Utilities were acquired at different times. Electricity was initiated in 1928; natural gas in 1952; city water came from Oak Creek Lake in 1953.

In 1936, fire destroyed almost all of Blackwell's businesses, and those firms completely burned down were never rebuilt.

IDEAL CLIMATE FOR TB

According to the first issue of The Enterprise on March 16, 1906, this part of the country should be ideal for persons suffering from tuberculosis. The editor wrote, "I imagine I can see a sanitarium now, lying on the edge of town, close to the hills, with a broad view in every direction. A corps of resident physicians shall be in control and the attendants shall be gentle women."

Congratulations

COKE COUNTY

75th Anniversary

More Than 6,000 Friendly

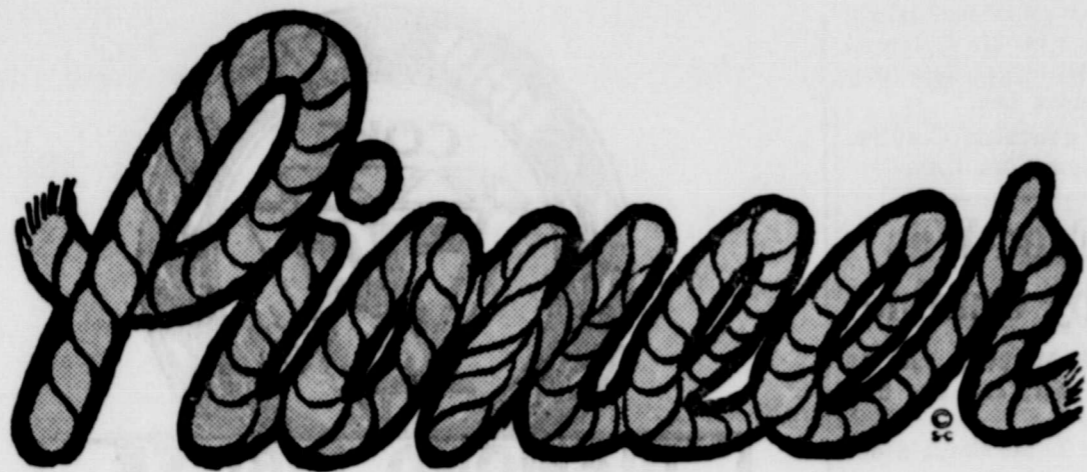
People Serving the Customers

Of This Area

Lone Star Gas Co.

WE RESPECTFULLY
SALUTE

THE



Settlers
OF
Coke County

Early settlers in this area were of a hardy stock who were willing to endure the hardships of a harsh country in order to establish their homes and pursue their lives as they wished. Today, that same spirit of independence and freedom has been handed down to our own people as their heritage—something of which all of us can be proud. The good people of Coke County in 1964 are our friends and neighbors and we value your good will as our most prized possession.



**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**



WE ARE
PROUD
TO SERVE
AS YOUR
PUBLIC
OFFICIALS

W. W. Thetford
County Judge

J. L. Tinkler
County Clerk

Coke County Sheriff's Department
Melvin Childress—Jesse Parker—Evelyn Flanagan

O. B. Jacobs
Tax Assessor-Collector

Weldon Fikes
County Auditor

Inez Burns
County Treasurer

Fern Havins
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Howard Brock
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Floyd Harmon
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Jack Corley
Commissioner, Precinct 4

C. R. Smith Started In Hdw., Got In Dry Goods In 1947

Smith Hardware Co. came into being on Bronte's main street in 1943, handling hardware, paints and pipe, with the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Smith as owners then. In August, 1947, they added a stock of dry goods and changed the name to C. R. Smith & Co., which it remains today.

In 1953, the store moved temporarily while a complete remodeling was done on their building, located three doors west of First National Bank. In 1958 a fire in the Bronte Pharmacy building next door damaged the store and its contents. Following a fire sale during which damaged merchandise was disposed of, Smith again refinished the building and fixtures and completely restocked

his store.

In 1954 the Smiths brought a new industry to Bronte when they started out making blouses on a wholesale basis. They called their brand Joni-Lynn (after their two children) and received their first order for blouses on Feb. 17, 1954. They first located this part of the business in the Woodman building on the highway, later moving into an extension on the back of their store.

Again fire struck C. R. Smith and Co., this time, May 1, 1962, completely destroying the building and contents. The fire occurred on Tuesday and the next Monday morning the Smiths opened up in the Price building at Main and Washington Streets at the present location. Business went on through a period of remodeling the building and a formal opening of their new store took place in August, 1962.

On the tenth anniversary of their factory business in April this year, they had turned out 150,000 garments and extended their line to include skirts, pedal pushers, shorts and cabin pants.

The Smiths have two children, Rev. Johnny Smith of Moran and Mrs. Milford (Linda) Phillips of Amarillo.

Robert Lee Bros. Own Theater Here

The Wojtek Brothers, Otto, Victor and Frank, have been in the business in Bronte since 1936, when they opened the old Texas Theater. They had gone into the business in Robert Lee one year earlier, opening the Alamo Theater. The old theater was located on Main Street next door to the Bronte Pharmacy building, where West Texas Utilities office is now located.

On Sept. 14, 1948, the present Texas Theater was opened in an all new building. Feature attraction of opening night was "Blondie's Reward." The new building was air conditioned, centrally heated and can seat 400 persons.

They later added a new wide plastic screen, with the advent of cinemascope.

An earlier theater operated here in the 1920's, started by C. C. Holder and sold to McNeil Wylie in July, 1925. Showing at that time was a Tom Mix production, "When a Man Found Himself."

The Wojtek family moved to Robert Lee in 1904.

Kemps Cleaners Began Back in '46

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Kemp have operated a dry cleaning establishment here since January of 1946, coming here from Dallas. Their first plant was located in the same building with West Texas Utilities Co. on the south side of Main Street.

In March, 1947, they moved across the street to the present Bronte Enterprise location. That building and the business were destroyed by fire on Dec. 9, 1949.

They rebuilt and moved into their new building on the highway in April, 1949.

He is a native of Ballinger, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kemp. Mrs. Kemp is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Lewis, formerly of Ballinger, but now residents of Robert Lee.

They have a daughter, Carolyn, now living in New York City.

Joyce's Food Was Started by Cumbie

Joyce's Food Market was 10 years old this year, and has had three owners.

Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Cumbie opened the new Cumbie Grocery and Market in March, 1954, in a newly constructed building next door to their home on Highway 277. New and modern fixtures were bought. Cumbie had been in the grocery business in Bronte for many years, having formerly owned the Red & White Store, now owned by T. F. Sims.

The Cumbies operated the store until 1960 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Walker of Sweetwater and the name was changed to Henry's Food Market.

Mrs. Ralph (Joyce) Richards bought the Walker interests in the store in November, 1963.

Bronte Cemetery Named "Fairview" in 1934

The name "Fairview" was first applied to the Bronte cemetery when it was enlarged in 1934, and the entire 15 acres put under fence. At the time Frank Keeney was president of the cemetery association and Mrs. O. H. Willoughby was secretary. The association had about 200 members.

A crescent shaped entrance way was erected with the new name, "Fairview" on it.

LIGHT PLANT TO START

The Nov. 1, 1912 Enterprise said that the light plant had been sold to F. R. Eaton and he hoped to have it operation again soon.

Motel Victor Only One in Bronte

Bronte's first motel was opened Dec. 23, 1948, by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ivey, with a formal opening of the Motel Victor. Construction started on the structure in September, 1948. It is located on Highway 277.

Seven new rooms were added and completed in August, 1950.

Ivey was mayor of Bronte from 1954-58. It was during his administration that the paving project for Bronte streets was undertaken and completed.

Mrs. Ivey is the former Elizabeth Maxwell. They have two children, Victor and Ann.

Ditmore Has Four Businesses Going

The Ditmore Texaco Station has changed ownership several times but has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Ditmore since Dec. 24, 1960.

Ditmore is the son of Claude Ditmore of Tennyson, and was born in Tom Green County. Mrs. Ditmore is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Green of Tennyson, but was born at Rankin. The couple was married in January, 1954.

Ditmore worked for Cecil Montgomery before going into the filling station business.

In December, 1961, he added a butane delivery truck to his business and the Ditmore LP Gas Co. is housed in the same building.

A continued expansion occurred in March, 1963, when the Ditmores purchased the building on Highway 277, containing the automatic laundry, from Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Sims. They continued the laundry but remodeled the other side of the building into a pool hall and recreation center. The center is used for parties, reunions, etc.

The Ditmores bought the station from C. N. Webb Jr. and the late C. N. Webb Sr. They in turn had purchased it from Bill and G. D. Luckett in February, 1960.

The station was built and opened in August, 1955, under the ownership of Billy Joe Luckett and his brother-in-law, Allen Bryan. In March, 1956, G. D. Luckett bought Bryan's interest and the father and son were partners until it sold to the Webbs.



DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

GREETINGS

We are happy to supply the feed, seed and ranch supply needs for this area. Check with us when we can be of service.

Mackey Feed & Supply

Dolan Mackey — Bronte, Texas

Be Sure to Come to the
75th Anniversary
CELEBRATION

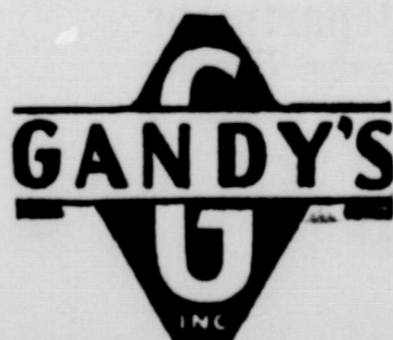
And Be Sure to Visit Us
While You're in Town

COMPLETE LINE OF TOP QUALITY
FINA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

**LUCKETT'S
STATION & ICE**

Congratulations
COKE COUNTY
on your
75th Anniversary

We Are Proud to Have Served You
These Many Years With
FINE DAIRY PRODUCTS



TEXAS LARGEST
INDEPENDENT
DAIRIES



Butler New; Owns Two of Town's Oldest Businesses

Elroy Butler is comparatively new to the business scene in Bronte, but is owner of an old business here. Butler came here Nov. 1, 1963, and bought the Gulf Service Station from Bill Wrinkle and Charles Sims. Wrinkle had

operated the station here for 29 years.

Sims worked for him until early in World War II, when he was away from Bronte serving in the U. S. Navy. The two men formed a partnership in 1946.

The station was originally located at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 277, where Ditmore's station is now located. In 1959, the present building was constructed and the business moved.

Butler also bought another old business here in June this year when he took over the wholesale Gulf Agency from Ronald Walton.

This firm was started in 1921 by Cecil and Herman Glenn. Walton worked for the Glenns until 1928, when he bought the business having 42 years service with the firm when he sold it.

The Butler family came here from Sterling City, where he was in the station business. He was born in Junction.

Mrs. Butler is the former Marge Lindy, a native of Indiana, but whose family now live in Louisiana. The couple met while he was in service and stationed at Barksdale AFB. They were married in 1956 and have three children, Donna 7; Donald 5; and Lindy, 2.

A 1910 BAPTIZING on the West Kickapoo is being conducted by the Rev. D. M. West, pastor of the First Baptist Church. The two ladies who are candidates for baptism, according to Mrs. Mabel Brock, owner of the picture, are Nora Herron, now Mrs. Modgling of San Angelo, and Olan Hardin, now Mrs. Gene Williams of Abilene. Picture was made on the creek at a spot west of the school. Notice the Bronte water tower in the background.

Bronte Mtr. Began As Bronte Tractor

Charlie Boecking and L. T. Youngblood opened Bronte Tractor Co., handling Allis-Chalmers implements, in a new building in 1947. Boecking is a native of Johnson City and came to Robert Lee in 1939 with the Bureau of Reclamation. He was married in 1940 to Virginia Youngblood and they have one son, Tommy, who will be a sophomore at Texas Tech this fall. The business has remained in the same location and from 1955 to 1961, they were the Ford dealers here. Boecking is now in the automotive repair and body shop business. The name was changed to Bronte Motor Company when they took on the Ford dealership.

GREETINGS
To All Our Friends on
COKE COUNTY'S
75TH BIRTHDAY

We are grateful for the patronage you have given us over the years. Come to see us at any time.

SPENCER'S
GROCERY — STATION — FEED

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Spencer

Spencer Started Business in 1954

Garland Spencer entered business in Bronte Nov. 1, 1954, when he bought out the L. M. Jones station and grocery. Prior to that times, he had stock farmed. The business handles groceries, Texaco products and feeds.

Spencer is a native of Coke County. He was raised on a farm near here and has lived here all of his life except a period of two years, 1937-39. His wife, Mary, is from Nolan County. They have one son, Richard, who is assistant county agent at Brownfield.

Garland is from a pioneer Coke County family, whose father, Andrew S. Spencer, came here before the turn of the century. His mother is the former Ruth Warner, also of pioneer stock, who came to the county in 1893. She makes her home with the Spencers, here in Bronte. His father died in 1936.

TO BRONTE'S

VISIT US WHILE YOU ARE HERE

We welcome all the many visitors who will be here next Monday for Bronte's big 75th Anniversary celebration. Chances are you'll get plenty to eat at the barbecue and program, but if you get here early or stay around a few days after it's over, we invite you to come in and eat with us. We serve delicious steaks, lunches, chicken, chops, and short orders, cooked just to a turn — the way YOU like them. Don't forget our delicious breakfasts — and coffee that is brewed with your taste in mind.

On This 75th Birthday of
Of Coke County
We Are Happy to Pay Tribute
To This Area's
HARDY PIONEERS

The gallant men and women who settled this country and sacrificed to make it the fine place it is today, deserve our tribute and gratitude. We deeply appreciate them for what they did for our country.

CITY CAFE

Mrs. Olga Whalen

ALL GOOD WISHES TO
OUR FRIENDS OF
COKE COUNTY

WE HOPE YOUR
75th Anniversary
CELEBRATION
IS A GALA OCCASION

MORGAN MOTOR CO.
Your Authorized Cadillac - Pontiac - Olds Dealer

Phone 2392 Ballinger

TENNYSON POST OFFICE STARTED 1902; USED TO BE THRIVING TOWN

Tennyson has been a town with post office facilities since Aug. 20, 1902. The town was first located about a mile southwest of the present location and was known as Juniper. In 1909 it was moved to its present location on the railroad.

School facilities were there as early as 1904. The school was first called County Line and in 1912, the name of the school was changed to Tennyson and school district No. 18 was created, bonds voted and the first school built. This school was destroyed by fire on Thanksgiving day, 1937, and a new three-room modern brick building erected. This building was dedicated in March, 1938. P. R. Jones, principal, presided at the dedication ceremonies. Members of the school board at that time were J. P. Arrott, C. N. Webb, R. B. Caldwell, Will Palmer, Clarence Derrick and W. T. Brooks.

Board members, assisted by Ben Brooks, former board member, directed the work of building the new school. School had gone on in the interim, using a church and a wooden structure on the school ground as classrooms. This school later consolidated with the Bronte district.

The Enterprise, in April, 1924, edited by D. M. West, said that the Tennyson name was given to the community either by Mr. Sam Sayner or Mr. John Sayner. He said that "because of its picturesque, it seemed so close akin to the beautiful poetic sentiment of Lord Tennyson that it was given the name it bears after him."

Editor West went on to say in 1924: "Industrially and commercially, the town has four stores, one garage, one blacksmith shop and a cotton gin. J. L. Howell is

postmaster and is also engaged in the grocery business, auto accessories and lubricating oil and gasoline. J. A. Ellison is also a merchant, selling drugs, jewelry, dry goods and hardware.

"M. J. Dunn is another merchant. He carries a full line of fresh, clean groceries and also a full line of garden seeds. Mr. Dunn is also establishing hotel facilities at Tennyson.

"Another business man is S. J. Townsend. He is selling dry goods and groceries and is buying the people's produce. In December of 1923, the Masonic Lodge of Tennyson was organized in the second story of the building owned by Mr. Townsend.

"D. E. Little is the blacksmith and garage man for Tennyson."

Tradition has it that in the earliest times, a little girl by the name of Margaret died and her father buried her body away up on the top of the mountain which towers over Tennyson, and from this incident the mountain took its name. It is a fact that in 1942 Sgt. Siver Froman of Chicago, a soldier at Camp Barkley, was killed on the mountain. He and some companions climbed to the summit and sat down on a ledge of rock. The ledge crumbled and fell, crushing him beneath its weight.

The Tennyson post office was established in 1902, with Mrs. W. P. Byrd as postmaster. She served until 1906. The next two postmasters were J. T. Daniels and Joe Howell and the dates of their tenure are not exact; but it is thought Daniels served from 1906 until about 1924, when Mr. Howell took over and was postmaster

until October, 1937, when Mrs. Gladys VanZandt was commissioned. She served until Mar. 31, 1943, when Mrs. Tom (Betty) Green took over and is still the postmaster there.

The post office used to be west of the present site, across the railroad, but was moved across the highway in the early 30's.

Early Tennyson Residents

The C. Bakers are pioneers of the Tennyson area. The D. E. Sayner family were also early residents in this area. They were married in November, 1897, in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Ainsworth, in the present Tennyson community. She came to what is now Coke County in the late 1870s with her parents, and helped to settle the Tennyson community.

Carliles Ran Early Day Hotel and Livery Stable

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

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

EASY TERMS IN 1906

The first Enterprise, March 16, 1906, advertised easy running vehicles and implements on easy terms. The ad was run by Hickman and Butler.

BRONTE'S OLDEST

CONTINUOUS BUSINESS

So far as we have been able to determine from old records, our funeral home is the oldest continuous business institution in Bronte still in operation. We have been unable to determine the exact date it was started by Ed Schawe, but Frank and Charlie Keeney bought him out in 1906. They, in turn, sold out to Bruce Clift in 1947, and we purchased the business in 1963 from him. Service we offer, therefore, is backed by a long line of competent, sympathetic men. We realize, as the fourth owner of this business in its more than 60 years of operation, that we have a great responsibility in following them.

SYMPATHETIC AND CONSIDERATE SERVICE IS OUR AIM

WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME

Robert Lee

Bronte

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Williams

The Grocery Business Has Changed, Too

The days of the cracker barrel and horehound candy are a thing of the past. No longer do housewives have to buy food in huge quantities—enough to last between trips to town once or twice a year. Yes, the grocery business has changed, and we think it is for the better.



COME TO THE BIG LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Today's modern housewife has access to food items that would make the ladies of early Coke County green with envy. Not only is the variety of foods available much more complete, but today's modern packaging processing methods make the homemaker's job much more simple and interesting. It is our aim at all times to supply you with the latest and most up-to-date food products.

WE HONOR THE GALLANT PIONEERS

Who Endured Many Hardships

To Make

COKE COUNTY

What It Is Today

Sims Food Store

Pauline, T. F., Glenn, Hiram, Leonard and Ronald

Many Hardships Endured by Pioneer Women of the Area

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

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

Before daybreak on March 1, 1880, Mr. H. D. Pearce bid good-bye 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, climbed upon it to nail the roof. Just as she thought it nailed securely, a harder gust of wind ripped away all of the roof. Sand poured into the house. (This, by-the-way, was when there was no plowed ground.)

As the mother put her sleepy children to bed, she realized that the stork had decided to hasten his visit; and realizing that must depend upon herself for assistance, she made ready as best she could in the dark, for the kero-

sene lantern would not stay lighted in the storm. About midnight the storm ceased—in answer to her prayer no doubt. A great calm came upon the land. The stars came out in all their glory and lighted up every corner of the roofless room. About 3 a.m. the first white child born in the new county made her arrival. She was myself, Ethel Anna Pearce. Because of her bravery and experience in waiting on her sick neighbors in Paint Rock and Brownwood, my wonderful mother was able to care for herself at this time. She wrapped her new-born babe and rested until daybreak—then her 10-year-old son was awakened and sent a mile away to where an old German and his son were camped, improving their land. He was told to take his wagon and bring some women from the nearest neighbors five miles distant. Upon his arrival there and telling his errand, one of the women became hysterical, for she, too, was expecting a visit from the stork soon, and she would not permit the other women to leave her.—Yes, they were forgiven, for three weeks later my mother carried her new baby and watched through the long hours of night at the bedside of the same dying young mother, who was not strong enough to endure these pioneer hardships. Mother helped prepare the bodies for burial.

When the German had returned with no help, my mother said to him, "Mr. Nulan, 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 first 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 to the next neighbor and bring her if I have to carry her and her children on my back." This neighbor lived 10 miles away.

Away went the major, and late in the afternoon a young mother came horseback while the Major stayed with her children.

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

Mr. Hayley moved to Coke County in 1889. He served as postmaster here 24 years and at Norton 15 years. He operated

a drug store in Bronte where Central Drug is now located. He died in June, 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayley were married at the Pearce Hotel in Balinger June 28, 1899. The hotel was owned by her father, H. L. Pearce, who helped organize Runnels County. They lived in Robert Lee three months after their marriage, then moved to Bronte and lived here 27 years.

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

WE'RE ONE OF THE OLDEST— Home Motor Co. Was Established in 1921 by Robert Knierim

Mr. Knierim came to Bronte in 1905 and established this firm in 1921. He was active in its operation until 1958 when he retired. He was Ford dealer here for many years and rendered a service from the very beginning of the age of automobiles, for this community. In addition to his business interests, he served as Mayor, and spent untold hours and many dollars of his personal money to promote the interests of this town.

We Respectfully Dedicate This Space
To the Memory of

ROBERT KNIERIM

And in Honor of His Wife

**MINNIE CLARK
KNIERIM**

Daughter of One of Bronte's Pioneer Doctors

MR. & MRS. R. W. REES

COKE COUNTY

Has Been a Fine Place for
Us to Live and Operate
Our Business

We Extend Our
BEST WISHES
To Each of You

ON THIS

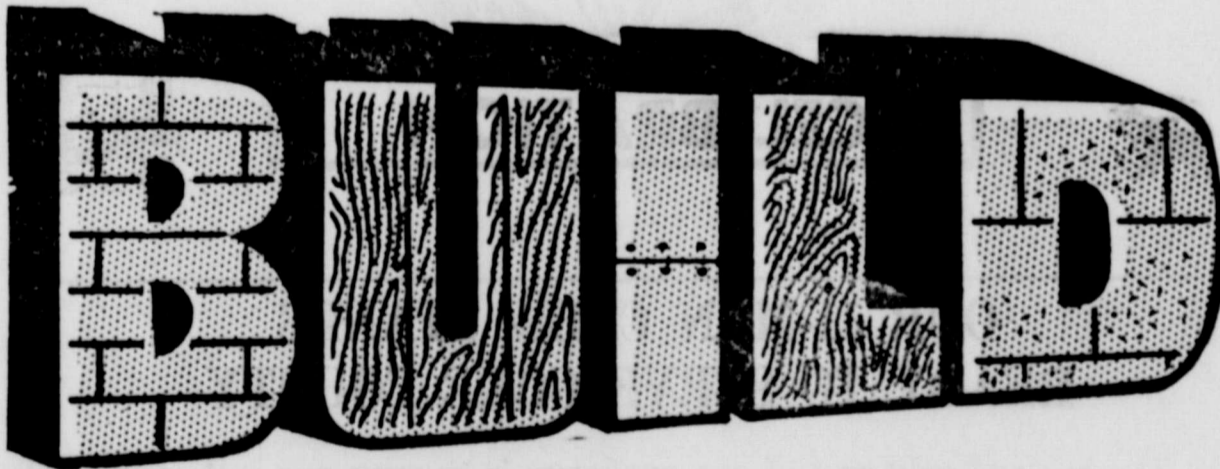
75th Anniversary

We appreciate your generous patronage in the past and look forward to serving you for many more years. When you have work that requires special, heavy earth moving equipment, come by to see us.

J. D. Luttrell, Jr.

DIRT CONTRACTOR

BRONTE, TEXAS



AS DID THE PIONEERS OF COKE

That's the Way to Make a Town...

And When You Have Something to Build

GET YOUR MATERIALS RIGHT HERE....

HOME LUMBER COMPANY

Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Lofland

Mr. & Mrs. Billy Magness

ENTERPRISE —

Continued from Page 1J

West bought the native stone building just east of the present location of Home Motor Co., and The Enterprise was moved.

In 1929 fire believed to be "of incendiary origin" by Mr. West, destroyed The Enterprise, all files and most of the newspaper plant.

According to West, he suffered a \$16,000 loss with only about a fourth covered by insurance. He missed only one issue because of the fire, but claimed it took 10 years to recoup his losses.

West was a colorful editor. In addition to his newspaper interests, he was an ordained Baptist minister, and ran for representative from the 92nd district in 1935. In the 1930's he carried on a violent editorial feud with "Uncle Bill" Kellis, who owned the Sterling City News Record. The two did not agree on religion, politics or prohibition, and each week long front page editorials answered the other's editorial of the week before.

During the hard years of the depression, The enterprise advertised in 1933 that "we will accept eggs, Saturday only, at 15 cents per dozen in payment on your subscription. The price is \$1.00 per year."

After suffering a crippling stroke of paralysis Sept. 12, 1945, Mr. West was unable to continue, and Nov. 3, 1945, sold to J. H. Mullane, Exton Talley and Ed Nunnally Jr., all of San Angelo. Nunnally took over active management and moved the Enterprise to the building now occupied by Bronte Flowers & Gifts. The printing was done in San Angelo at the Talley Press.

The paper sold again July 1, 1948, to Ben Oglesby, then of Muleshoe, who continued to have the paper printed in San Angelo and later in Abilene, but installed

job printing equipment in January, 1949. In January, 1951, The Enterprise moved across the street to the Bridges Building and equipment to print the newspaper was moved from Standard Printing Co., Abilene. It has been printed locally since that time, but made one more move in April, 1958, to the present location.

In October, 1953, the old drum cylinder press was discarded, and a new two-revolution Lee press installed. At that time the format of the paper was changed from a 7 column by 20 inch page to the 5 column by 16 inch, tabloid size.

Longest single employee of the business is Mrs. Charles Ragsdale, who has been the paper's correspondent from Blackwell, since 1938.

Other correspondents of The Enterprise are Mrs. Herbert Holland at Brookshire and Mrs. Barney Griffin at Tennyson. Eddie Alexander has been an employee of the firm since December, 1950, except for one year when he attended San Angelo College.

A large number of high school boys have learned the rudiments of printing in The Enterprise since the plant was moved here 14 years ago. Many of them have used their knowledge in getting jobs to pay college expenses. Among them are Doyle Adair, Eddie Alexander, Gene Walker, Billy Alexander, Albert Grace III, James Vernon Andrews, Don Andrews, Buddy Walker, and Charles Coppock. Ron Johns and Ronald Hooper are presently working part time.

The Enterprise has also had a number of Girls Friday during the last several years. Among them have been Mrs. Jean Smith Sheppard, Mrs. A. S. Whatley, Mrs. Marvin Corley, Miss Aletha Murtishaw, Miss Wanda Kirkland, Mrs. Charlie Phillips, Mrs. Bob

Wilson and Mrs. J. W. Martin. Mrs. Martin started back to work this week, after being off during the summer months.

Ben and Libby Oglesby and their daughters, Margie and Bennie Carol, are the other people who work on various aspects of publishing The Enterprise.

Another Paper in 1941

Another newspaper, also called the Bronte Herald, made a brief appearance here in 1941. It was published by J. B. (Glenn) Thacker with offices in the Stevens building.

A newspaper called Coke County News was published here for a short time back in the 1930's. It was started by Editor West and was edited for a time by Ulmer Bird, present owner of the Robert Lee Observer. It was intended primarily for circulation in Robert Lee and the west side of the county.

BUTTERFIELD —

Continued from Page 1J

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 of 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.

WOOD! WOOD! WOOD!

(From Enterprise Nov. 1, 1912)

J. M. Harrell will give the wood on 100 acres of land to have it cleared and ready for plowing.

Hughes TV Repair Began As Hobby

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hughes and their son, Ronald, came to Bronte in March of 1955 from Karnes City, Texas. He had been transferred here with Atlantic Pipeline Co., and is still employed by that company, but has built a radio and TV business in addition.

He first had the shop in 1956 in an upstairs room of the house where they lived in the west end of town and later moved it to the garage of another residence in which they lived.

Then in 1958 he moved the shop to town to the Youngblood building, north of Ditmore's station, and in 1959 moved to the present

location on Main Street. Mrs. Hughes also has a gift and card shop in the other side of this building.

Hughes started working on television sets and radios as a pastime, and has worked it into a full time employment for himself and a business for the town.

They plan to put full time into the work and business when he retires from the Atlantic Pipeline Co.

In the meantime Ronald and Jan Sharp were married and with their son, Guy, live at Sulphur Springs, Texas, where he works with a seismograph crew.

**In the CAFE BUSINESS
In Bronte 23 Years**

**Yeah, We're Old Timers . . . Have
Been in the Business Plenty Long
Enough to Know How to Cook and
Serve Your Meals JUST RIGHT.**

There's no doubt about it, we are the senior cafe operators in Bronte . . . having opened up July 1, 1941. We are grateful to all our customers for the patronage you have given us through the years, and we look forward to cooking for you a long time to come. We hope all of you enjoy the big Labor Day Celebration.

CACTUS CAFE
Pete and Inez Nutter

50 Years In Coke-Your County Ford Dealer



**DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**

**OUR 11-MAN CREW STANDS
READY TO SERVE COKE COUNTY**

The one and only goal of our employees is to serve our customers, and we invite you to visit us when you are in need of repair work or in the market for a new Ford or Mercury or a first class used car.

Our business, now known as Ivey Motor Co., was started more than 50 years ago by J. S. Craddock. He sold Fords here until 1944, when Cumbie Ivey Sr. purchased the business. Cumbie Ivey Jr. joined the firm in 1954. We realize that we owe a great deal of appreciation to the people of Coke County and the area for the wonderful support they have given us. We also know that we have an obligation to give our customers the very best in service and the best deals possible on new car sales and maintenance. For this reason, we are now completing an enlarging and remodeling program which will enable us to serve you better. We invite each of you to visit us when we have our open house in the near future.

**Watch for Our Announcement
Of the Showing of the NEW 1965
FORDS and MERCURYS**

Ivey Motor Company

ROBERT LEE, TEXAS