

...Scariest Bridge

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In 1957 the North Port Arthur Lions Club had a naming contest, and 6-year-old Christy McClintock submitted the winning entry - Rainbow Bridge. She said it looked like a mechanical rainbow. You will agree if you are there near sunset and see it illuminated in the shimmering hues of the evening. McClintock earned a \$50 U.S. savings bond as her prize.

Why was the bridge, with 177 feet of vertical clearance, built so tall? It crossed an important ship channel and builders wanted the tallest ship in the Navy at the time, the USS Patoka, to be able to pass easily beneath it, pulling a dirigible.

The Rainbow Bridge was more than an engineering marvel. It was also a magnet for teenagers in the night. The high school kids in the area used to climb up into the catwalks. One of those students was destined for worldwide fame. It is said that she used to sit up there high above the moonlit waters of the Neches River and sing in her passionately raw style. I'm sure you've heard of her. Janis Joplin? Her biographer, Myra Friedman, said Joplin would sing up there under the great Texas sky and "scorch the stars." But that's a whole other story.

The tallest ship in the Navy never did pass beneath the Rainbow Bridge. Seems a shame. Somewhat like a bride having planned a perfect wedding, but the groom never showed.

W.F. Strong is a professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and first wrote this story for Texas Standard and also appeared in Texas Co-Op Power magazine.

Since 1889, newspapers have served Coke County beginning with the Coke County Rustler. In the 1980s, the Bronte Enterprise and the Robert Lee Observer combined to become The Observer/Enterprise. The history told in these publications is fascinating and we want to share it with our readers of today. Each week, we will include items from the archives.

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ANNUAL STAFFERS — The group shown here are the ones who worked up the 1955 edition of The Longhorn, Bronte School yearbook. The new annuals were distributed this week and many compliments have been heard on them. From left to right,

front row, are Mrs. J. T. Henry, sponsor; Bill Maxwell, editor-in-chief; Mrs. Royce Fancher, sponsor. Second row: Glenna Fletcher, general reporter; Leslie Caperton, boys' sports reporter; Billy Alexander, snap

shot editor; Rickie Hester, assistant editor; Ann Adams, Faith Rogers and Jane Powell, business managers; Frances Carlton, snap shot editor; Dale Luckett, artist; and Betty Woods, business manager.

Polio Shots to Be Given Here Soon

Dr. John R. Harris announced Wednesday that he will give polio vaccine to all children in the first and second grades if their parents request it.

This announcement came as a result of the news made public

this week that the Salk vaccine has proved tremendously successful. The news was released Tuesday that the vaccine was successful approximately 90 percent of the time. The announcement also stated that ill effects from the vaccine were practically negligible, with only minor reactions in a very few cases.

Dr. Harris said that request blanks will be distributed in the near future and that parents who wish that their children be given the shots should sign them. Exact date for giving the shots has not been decided, as the vaccine has not yet been received.

Any Questions?

The local physician also said that he would like to answer questions which local residents may have in regard to the new serum. Anyone who has a question in regard to any phase of this program, may turn his question in to the Bronte Hospital or to The Bronte Enterprise or questions may be telephoned in to Mrs. Marvin Landers or Mrs. E. G. Collins at the Harris Clinic. It is planned to publish the questions and answers in next week's papers.

Development of the Salk vaccine has come about after years of research and study by some of the nation's foremost scientists. Most of the funds for the study which led to the serum development have been contributed by the people of the United States through the March of Dimes.

Deposits Down Slightly From Last Report

Deposits in the First National Bank in Bronte were down slightly from Dec. 31, 1954, in a report dated April 11, 1955. Money deposited in the local bank totaled \$3,289,873.19 on April 11 as compared with \$3,398,672.91 last December.

Loans were up some \$50,000. The loans and discounts column in the April 11 statement totaled \$598,663.30 and last December read \$546,423.00.

Capital structure of the banking firm increased \$180,000 last December to \$189,274.00 now. The gain was in the undivided profits account. Capital stock remains at \$50,000 and surplus account still is \$100,000.

English Minister To Lead Revival

Dr. W. Myrddin Lewis of Birmingham, England, will lead the Spring Revival at First Baptist Church, Bronte, April 25-May 6. Dr. Lewis has been pastor for some 16 years of the Ward End Baptist Church in Birmingham, England. He is a regular conference speaker at Winona Lake Bible Conference, which is the world's largest Bible Conference.

He has held meetings in some of the outstanding churches both in Europe and the United States, having held three successive meetings in the People's Church in Toronto.

He will come to Bronte from a Revival Crusade with the First Baptist Church of Galveston, Texas, where Rev. John W. Salzman is pastor. From Bronte, Dr. Lewis will go to the First Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Arkansas. "But just because he is an humble servant of God's Holy Word, do we consider ourselves fortunate to have him as our Revival preacher," stated Maynard R. Rogers, pastor of the church.

Services this year are planned for 10 a. m. and 8 p. m. daily.

Council Turns Down Phone Company's Proposal of Rate Increase and Dial in 1957

Bronte's city council had another session with representatives of the General Telephone Company Monday night. At that meeting the company offered to install a dial telephone system in Bronte in the first quarter of 1957, or possibly sooner, if the council would grant the rate increase which they asked.

Again the council turned their proposal down. And again the council made a counter proposal which those present from the phone company said they felt sure would be rejected.

Representing General were John E. Robbins and Paul LeBlanc of San Angelo and Ted Maxwell of Sonora. They told council members that they could not schedule dial equipment for Bronte until the exchange is making them a fair return on their investment.

The council proposed that the company charge the following rates, providing Bronte would be scheduled for dial service in the first quarter of 1957:

- One party business, \$7.00
- Two party business, \$5.00

- One party residence, \$4.50
- Two party residence, \$3.50

Mayor Ernest Ivey said he expects to hear a report from the phone company in the next few days as to their decision on the rates proposed by the council.

Mrs. Helen Kirkland, city secretary, has prepared a financial statement covering the city's business during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1955. This statement will be run in next week's Enterprise.

ACCUSED OF CAR THEFT

Frank Baker of Honey Grove is in the Coke County jail at Robert Lee and will be charged with car theft. Baker had lived with the Leslie Lammers family for the past month and was employed on the school building project. It is reported that on Tuesday morning he asked for the Lammers car to go after the mail and failed to return. He was apprehended in Sweetwater Tuesday night and the Lammers went after the car.

Officials then returned Baker to the Coke County jail to await trial.

Gospelaire to Be Here Tonight

The Gospelaire will appear here tonight at 7:30 p. m. in a program of music. The quartet has become very popular in this area, appearing weekly over KRBC-TV. This is also said to be the last public appearance of the group since one of the members is moving from this area.

The program is sponsored by the Bronte sophomore class and will begin at 7:30 p. m. Admission is to be 30 and 60 cents and members of the class are putting on an advance ticket sale. They are urging everyone to buy tickets in advance since the class will receive a larger percentage on tickets sold before the program starts.

KICKAPOO BAPTIST CHURCH HAD BIG CROWD AT OPENING SERVICE

The Kickapoo Baptist church held first services in their new building on Easter Sunday, April 19 with services in the morning, afternoon and evening and beginning a revival meeting. Rev. James Edge of the Talpa Baptist church is doing the preaching. A large crowd were present for all of the Sunday services. The afternoon was given to special services and speaker were two young men from the church who are going into the ministry. They were Francis Pruitt of Brownwood, who pastors the Northside Baptist Church in Santa Anna and Roye

Dean Clark of Bronte. Another highlight of the afternoon was a play "The Challenge of the Cross" presented by several young ladies of the church. The new church, begun about four months ago, still has some work that remains to be done but the sanctuary was completed and ready for the Sunday services. Rev. Clyde W. Coleman is pastor of the church. Mrs. Mattie Gibson was presented with a pot plant for being the eldest person to attend Sunday services. She is 83 years old and will be 84 in May.

GIRL SCOUT TROOPS BEING ORGANIZED

Miss Margaret McAdams, Girl Scout District Supervisor of Abilene, was here Wednesday, April 6 to meet with a group of leaders for Girl Scout troops in Bronte. According to a report by Mrs. H. A. Springer, Miss McAdams was well pleased with the progress so far. She described the organization of a scout troop, composed of the girls, their leader and the troop committee, composed of both men and women.

Next Tuesday, April 19, Miss McAdams will return to Bronte to begin a leadership training course. The course will continue for three meetings of about three hours each. The course will be conducted in the study hall at the local high school.

All those who will be willing to serve as a leader, an assistant, are on a troop committee are asked to be present at this meeting.

GIVE TO CONQUER CANCER

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Deadline to submit information to The Observer/Enterprise is Monday at 5 pm.

Only a poker player is happy when he has the blues.
One of the greatest mysteries of
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