

Old Coke County Jail is 110 Years Old!

Coke County Jail! *Coke County Historical Commission members assembled at the installation of the plaque documenting the Old Coke County Jail fencing project, along with Julian Torres, welder and senior at Robert Lee High School (top photo). Those in attendance included Torres, Brenda Hines, Bobby Blaylock, Phelan Wrinkle, Bobbie Allen, Peggy Davis, and Jerita Taylor.*

Jeff Brisbin, Agriculture Department at Robert Lee ISD, Bobby Blaylock, and Julian Torres, discuss the installation of the fence plaque.

The Old Coke County Jail is now 110 years old. For the past several years a preservation project funded by the Roberta Cole Johnson estate and through the direction of Charles and Joy Millican Blake has preserved the building for another 100 years.

The Old Jail property has recently been defined by an iron fence forged in Coke County by Steve Clark and Ryan Jones, with the planning of Jeff McCrea, who oversaw the Old Jail preservation project with Coke County Historical Commission members.

Charles and Joy Blake are the benefactors of the fence project. The local NRCS office personnel helped in measuring the property when the project began two years ago.

The fence now bears a plaque designed and cut by Caitlin McGuire of Bronte ISD and installed with the help of Jeff Brisbin, Ag Dept. at Robert Lee ISD and Julian Torres, senior at RLHS. The plaque documents the date and people involved in

the fencing project.

Historical documentation of the preservation of the Old Jail property began with a master's thesis from the University of Texas by Kara Dotter who spent a year in research into the construction materials, installation of the cells by the the Southern Folger Detention Equipment company still in operation in San Antonio, and included professional historical preservation procedures necessary.

Local history of the jail was documented by Bonita Copeland Cartrite in her book *A History of the Old Coke County Jail and Sheriffs: With Related Facts and Tales*. The first printing has sold out. A second printing of her work is in the planning. Descendants and friends of the sheriffs who served the County prior to 1969 reside in the County and can relate first hand stories of the Old Jail, its sheriffs and its history. It is hoped their historical remembrances can also be documented for the next generation.

labor costs.

The farm bill helps keep our farmers on the land—a national food security issue.

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...World War I

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When he played the guitar and sang some of the World War I songs, "Over There" and "It's a long, long, way to Temporary" he always ended with this song he learned while he was in the Army. He taught this to my brother, Mack, and I. It goes like this:

"Oh she promised to meet me
When the clock struck seventeen,
In the stock yard a mile away
from town,

Where the pig feet and pig ears,
and the tough old Texas Steers,
Sell for sirloin steaks at 17
cents a pound.

She's my Darlin', my Daisy,
She's hump back, she's crazy,
She's knock knee'd, bowlegged
and she's blind.

Oh, they say her teeth are
false,

Just from drinkin epsom salts.
She's my freckle faced,
consumptive Susan Brown"



Written in memory of Pammie

Landers, Willie I. Tubb and Arthur Tubb.
(Material for this write-up was furnished and obtained from

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- Another 2 Ring - Call for Additional Firefighters
- 3 Rings - Tornado Warning
- 1 Long Continuous Ring - All Clear for Tornado
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