## 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

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.

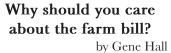
The Old Jail property has recently been defined by an iron fence forged in Coke County by Steve Clark and Ryan Jones, with the planning of Jeff McCrea, who oversaw the Old Jail preservation project with County Historical Commission members.

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 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.



The process of reauthorizing the farm bill has begun in Congress. That happens every

five years. Historically, the farm bill has received a lot of support. It provides for conservation, food for the hungry and a safety net for farmers.

In recent years, this debate has difficult. The environmental left sees the bill as opportunity to force regulations on agriculture that would be difficult. The far right sees the farm bill as an affront to the free market.

Agriculture uses technology to make enormous strides in environmental protection. We get much bigger yields from the same amount of land we farmed 50 years ago, with much less fuel and chemicals.

As for an absolutely free market, just understand that means most of our food will be grown somewhere else. Other subsidize nations food production heavily. Others have far fewer regulations and lower

labor costs.

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

If your Congressman asks, there are many good reasons to have a farm bill.

## ...World War I

(Continued from previous page)

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

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

Where the pig feet and pig

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

**Editorial & Advertising** Deadline is 5 pm on Monday preceding publication.





Just from drinkin epsom salts. She's my freckle faced, sonsumptive Susan Brown" Written in memory of Pammie

Arthur Tubb.

(Material for this write-up was Library.) furnished and obtained from

Landers, Willie I. Tubb and Bunyon Millican, Wilbern Millican, Clodene Guillary and Tom Green

## **Emergency Siren Signals**

Cities of both Bronte and Robert Lee

1 Long Ring - Wind Advisory over 60 mph

2 Rings - Fire or VFD Meeting

Another 2 Ring - Call for Additional Firefighters

3 Rings - Tornado Warning

1 Long Continuous Ring - All Clear for Tornado 4 Rings - Alarm Test