

Section 3

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IN MY MEMORY'S STOREHOUSE

By Edwin W. Hamm

In My Memory's Storehouse lies remembrances of many splendid people whom I have been honored in knowing in all parts of the United States. There are moments in my life which will never be forgotten, coming from all classes of people, the multi-millionaires, the less richer people, the well-to-do and the poorest of poor.

I have held no man nor woman, higher than the rest. I love children. I was a child myself a "few years ago," they are the "Salt of the Earth." While here I have stopped to talk to these little ones, occasionally buying ice cream for one here and one there. The smiles given by those "little men and women were smiles that made me happy.

An old saying that we have made acquaintances is as true today as it was many years ago. However, I feel that regardless of secret affiliations, church attendances and on business, I have made many friends right here at Robert Lee, Texas, and to those friends go my best wishes for a happier life than ever before. And as the days come and go, I shall feel that at least once in a while some of you most excellent people will at least give me a single thought. And even though I am not aware of those thoughts, as they come to you, I shall ever cherish your acquaintance and your splendid friendship.

At the time this is written I have been at Robert Lee exactly eleven (11) days; but, in those eleven days I have spent some of the happiest days of my life. I have felt that I was not only with you but that you had given me the pleasure of being ONE OF YOU.

May the blessings of the Giver of All Good and Happiness, ever be with you all unto the end of time, and take you Unto Himself in the end.

SHERIFF GOOD



Sheriff Paul Good is serving his second term and has made many friends during his time in office. He is attentive to his office and is never found wanting in doing his duties. Sheriff Good is a splendid gentleman and has the confidence of his many friends. No better man could fill the office of Sheriff of any county.

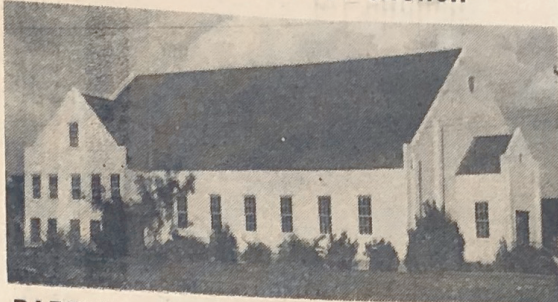
PRUITT'S STORE Bronte, Texas

Pruitt's Store at Bronte, is another of those high-class stores where you are given a hearty welcome every time you enter the store. Mr. Pruitt and his two sons manage the business and it is not necessary to say that each of these gentlemen are ever alert to give the best service to be found in any store.

The public is extended a hearty welcome to call on this store. Pruitt's extend congratulations to Coke County on its Sixtieth Anniversary, and best wishes to the county's officers, one and all.

Third base is the "hot corner" of baseball.

ROBERT LEE BAPTIST CHURCH



BAPTIST CHURCH Organized in 1904

The Robert Lee Baptist Church was organized July 26, 1904, with 14 members. During its 45 years the Church has made steady progress with the town and community and now has a membership of 250.

The Rev. W. A. Knight, now of San Angelo, served as the first pastor, and L. D. Evans was the first Sunday School teacher.

The first building was completed in 1907. The present church edifice was completed in 1938 when the Rev. Fred DeLashaw was pastor. All debts were paid during the pastorate of the Rev. Harry Hames in 1944.

The Rev. Fred Blake, present pastor, came here nearly five years ago.

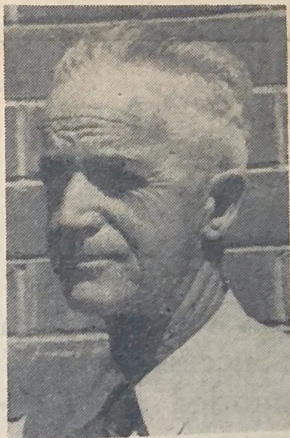
He made the following statement for publication in this issue:

"The Church has made its Spiritual contribution to the community, and this influence has been felt in many parts of the world as individuals move on to other places. At times the turnover has been rapid. During the past five years we have shown a gain of 175 members, with about 50 net gain. As these come to us they share their influence with us, then go on to share our influence with others.

"At present our physical equipment is inadequate to take care of the increasing attendance. Plans are under way to construct an activity building soon.

"The Church is happy to be a part of Robert Lee, and to do what it can to make our community all that it should be."

CIVIC LEADER



W. B. Clift operates a funeral home in Robert Lee and one in Bronte. In addition he gives liberally of his time to church, fraternal and civic affairs.

Hygiene in the garden is as important to vegetables as cleanliness is in the home. Many diseases of vegetables are carried over on the stems, roots or leaves of the plants which have spent themselves in spring production. Such plants should be dug up, and not cut off at ground level.

DRUGGIST



T. W. Farris moved to Robert Lee less than a year ago when he and his son purchased the City Drug Store. Mr. Farris is president of the Lions club.

After cleaning and moth-proofing your clothes, you can store them in trunks, chests or pasteboard boxes, first lined with paper. Be sure the containers are air tight. After placing the garments in the boxes, lay a piece of tissue paper over the top and sprinkle about four ounces of paradichlorobenzene crystals on the tissue.

Subscriber 43 Years

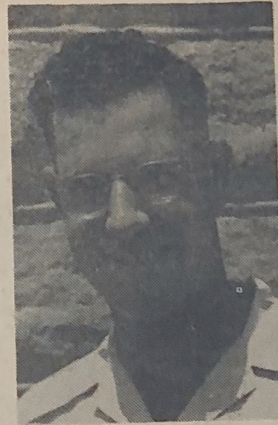
Bill McCutchen renewed his subscription last week, after being on the list 43 years. George Cowan was editor of The Observer back in 1906 and he sent the paper the first year to young Bill and his bride as a wedding gift. Since that time the McCutchens have reared a fine large family and they are subscribers, too. One of their grandchildren, J. W. Service, Jr., was recently added as a new reader.

Highway Marker



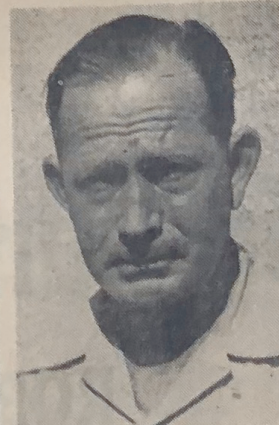
Pictured above is the large highway marker two miles out of Robert Lee on the Bronte Road. The inscription: "Coke County, Formed From Tom Green County, March 13, 1889. Organized April 23, 1899. Named in Honor of Richard Coke, 1829-1896, Governor of Texas 1874-76, Member United States Senate 1878-1896. County Seat, Hayrick 1889, Robert Lee Since 1890."

Utility Manager



W. D. McAdams is manager of the West Texas Utilities office here. Everyone was glad when the company sent "Mac" to Robert Lee.

GROCERYMAN



Genie Baker is making a fine success of the grocery and meat business which he opened two years ago when the Rawlings tourist courts were built. Genie's frown is unnatural. The sun was in his eyes when this picture was snapped.

A gardner in baseball is an outfielder.

ROBERT LEE METHODIST CHURCH



Some Things You Should Know About Your Home County

Interesting facts and statistics concerning Coke county are given herewith. Much of the material was obtained from an Economic Survey of Coke County prepared for the Texas & Pacific Railway by Bureau of Business Research, College of Business Administration, University of Texas.

Location and Area

Coke County is in the central portion of West Texas and lies on both the Edwards Plateau and the rolling plains of Texas. Robert Lee, the county seat, is located on the Colorado River in the central part of the county.

Coke County has a total area of 585,600 acres, or 915 square miles.

History

Coke County was created in 1889 from Tom Green County; the county was organized the same year and Robert Lee was chosen as the county seat. The county was named for General Richard Coke, who had been Governor of Texas and a United States Senator.

Robert Lee was founded in 1890 by L. B. Harris. The city was reportedly named for General Robert E. Lee, who came as far as old Fort Chadbourne in Coke County and was driven back by the Indians. Old Fort Chadbourne was on the old Butterfield Stage Trail.

General

The climate of Coke County is mild during the greater part of the year and is healthful. Precipitation is the most important climatic consideration in the area. Rainfall varies from year to year and in many years is insufficient for the production of satisfactory crop yields. Periods of dry weather sometimes continue for several years.

The rate of evaporation of soil water is very high because of the comparatively high altitude, abundance of sunshine, and almost constant wind. The winters are cool and there are occasional short periods of very cold weather, or northers, which last only a few days. The summers are warm, but the constant cool breezes keep the heat from being oppressive.

Average date of the last killing frost in the spring is March 28, and the average date of the first killing frost in the fall is November 10. Length of the average growing season is 230 days.

Rainfall

Average rainfall over the 20-year period ending with 1946 was 21.42 inches. Greatest rainfall in any year was 1941 with 41.18 inches. Only 10.63 inches was gauged in 1946, and very little more in 1947 and 1948.

Elevation of Coke County ranges from 1,800 feet to 2,250 feet above sea level.

The surface on the whole is rough. Mountains on the north and south sides of the Colorado River rise from 100 to 500 feet above their bases. The valley region between the mountains is fairly well dissected. The mountains in the south part of the county form the northwest part of the Edwards Plateau.

Approximately 90 per cent of the total area of Coke County is rangeland. Most of the soils in the county contain rather large amounts of calcium, and are therefore somewhat alkaline in their chemical properties. In general, phosphorous and nitrogen are deficient in the soils of the county. Most of the soils would be improved by an increase of organic matter.

Farms and Land Use

The number of farms in Coke County increased from 721 in 1920 to 876 in 1935 and then dropped to 549 in 1945. The decline in the number of farm units has been attributed to the change from cotton and other row crop farming to seeding of feed to be grazed by livestock or harvested for livestock feed.

Size of the average Coke County farm in 1945 was 1,109 acres. There were 107 ranches in the county with more than 1,000 acres each, and these large holdings raised the average size of farms.

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.