

...Hump Day
(Continued from previous page)
Camel humps - one for dromedaries, two for Bactrians - are filled with fat. (If you're riding a single-humper, you'll sit on a padded seat behind the hump. For a two-humper, you ride between the bumps.) Camels can be downright cuddly, and they don't spit—although llamas, which are closely related, do.

I learn, when Cinco exhales on me, that the stinky part of the stereotype rings true. Camels' awful breath is both sweet and pungent, like grass clippings mixed with syrup—in part because they chew their cud. They are ruminants and employ three stomachs to process their food. Stand next to one for a few minutes, and you'll hear that digestive system in action, gurgling and glugging like a clogged drain. Also, they fart - loudly and potently.

Two other guests on the trek, Sue and Randy Howerter, Guadalupe Valley EC members, are equally taken by the animals. Randy, who makes musical instruments, met Baum at a festival in New Braunfels. Sue, a blacksmith, was intrigued, too, and the Seguin couple visited Baum's farm, where he lives with his family, the camels, five miniature donkeys, a pair of dogs, a flock of chickens, assorted sheep and goats, one horse, and "too many" kittens.

After that the Howerters needed no convincing. They headed to Cibolo Creek Ranch, where we all loaded sleeping bags and pajamas into large canvas saddlebags; climbed aboard our kneeling, straw-colored steeds; and hung on as the animals rose to full height.

"Sometimes you get an attachment to animals," Sue Howerter says. "It's the same with camels. They have so much personality and character."

Before our two-day trip ends, we've lumbered a dozen miles across a stark landscape that looks like the backdrop of a John Wayne movie, soaked in a spring-fed creek, eaten a traditional Moroccan meal, sung around the campfire, watched shooting stars streak across the sky and listened to coyotes yip as we snuggled in our tents. But it's the camels that get top billing. And that's just how Baum likes it.

Pam LeBlanc, an Austin-based adventure journalist and former staff writer at the Austin American-Statesman, prefers riding a camel to driving a car in heavy traffic. Her book, My Stories, All True: J. David Bamberger on Life as an Entrepreneur and Conservationist, was published in September. This article was also published at texascooppower.com.

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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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Sanco-Robert Lee Consolidation Plan Results in Tie Vote

The proposition of consolidating Sanco and Robert Lee school failed to carry last Saturday when a tie vote of 35 for and 35 against was cast at Sanco. In Robert Lee the vote was 176 for and 1 against.

As a result it will count the same as if no election had been held. Official canvass of the ballots was made by the county commissioners court in session here Tuesday. There was some talk by persons favoring the consolidation that a contest might be filed, but no such move seems likely. Claim of protests was based on the allegation that a man and his wife voted who previously lived in California and had not been back in Texas the required twelve months.

New developments include the filing of petitions asking for a vote to consolidate the Sanco and Silver districts. Judge Bob L. Davis, ex-officio county superintendent of schools, has set March 6 as the election date. A majority vote in both districts will be necessary for the proposed consolidation to carry.

Some pretty fair fireworks were displayed at a mass meeting at the court house Tuesday night, when school boards from all sections of the county were invited to lay their school problems before the county board of education. Will Millican of Edith served as chairman and other trustees present included Frank Keeney of Bronte, Will Fikes of Sanco and L. Y. Harrell of Tennyson.

The occasion gave everyone an opportunity to express themselves on the proposed consolidation or annexation of all the districts on the west side of the county. After the fireworks were shot off the result was about this way: Wildcat, Edith and one-half Sanco favored annexation with Robert Lee, while Silver was strong against any such move, and was supported by a half of the Sanco voters.

Representatives of the various districts were called upon Tuesday to bring out any problems that they might have. Bronte and Tennyson both were satisfied with school affairs over their way. Ulmer Bird presented a petition from Sanco requesting the county not to call an annexation election, while a similar petition was presented from Silver by Russ Mathers.

Supt. M. G. Hannaford spoke for the Robert Lee district and advised the group to not let any man stand between them and the best interests of the girls and boys.

A. B. Sheppard, representing the Wildcat school board, said we would have to forget some of our likes and dislikes. He stated that the education of the children of this locality is at stake and we are going to depend upon county school trustees to do something about it.

Dave King, Green Mountain board president, said his folks would be satisfied with the county board's action of annexation of all districts into one.

Russ Mathers, speaking for Silver, reported their school had 26 pupils last year. The present term started with 47 and they now have 62 and others are moving in. Fred Jameson of Silver said he thinks they'll have a good school up there if they are let alone. Maybe Silver will prove pretty hard to be dragged in, he added.

Bryan Gartman of the Sanco board said he favored all the districts being joined with Robert

Bill Ratliff Takes Cafe

Bill Ratliff reopened the Club Cafe last week and is giving the business his undivided attention. He owns the fixtures and lease, but the property has been leased out recently. Bill is a hustler and has a host of good friends who welcome him back as a Robert Lee business man.

Mrs. Joseph A. Dausch and year-old son, Peter Eugene, departed by plane from San Angelo Tuesday morning for their home in Pittsburgh, Pa. after a seven weeks' visit in the home of her parents, Editor and Mrs. A. J. Kirkpatrick. Mrs. Dausch has been caring for the Kirkpatrick household while her mother was recovering from illness. It was a highly enjoyable visit for all members of the family, and the editor and his wife have learned how wonderful it is to have grandchildren.

No Action Taken On County Hospital

The matter of building a county hospital is still pending, since the Coke county commissioners court at a hearing Monday refused to proceed with a proposed plan of issuing \$40,000 in time warrants to cover construction costs.

Members of the court previously had shown a favorable attitude to the proposal, but later the question of legality was brought up and besides some folks in the eastern part of the county expressed opposition to the plan.

Oris Smith, commissioner from the Bronte precinct, said he believed a county bond issue could be voted to build a hospital in Robert Lee, if the county would agree to buy the hospital recently erected at Bronte by Mac Rippetoe.

Rippetoe appeared before the commissioners court and said he would sell his hospital at a figure approximating \$50,000, providing he could lease same for \$500 per year. No action was taken since the law provides that a lease could be signed with an individual only after bids were called for. It was further disclosed there are no provisions in the law for construction of hospitals except at the county seat.

During the forenoon Gerald Allen appeared at the hearing and filed petitions favoring the \$40,000 time warrant plan, signed by nearly 200 persons from Robert Lee and Edith communities. No other petitions were circulated since word got around two weeks ago that the plan might not be a legal procedure. There were no protests, Smith having told his people to stay away because no action would be taken.

Mr. Allen, who is president of the Robert Lee Board of Community Development, said other plans of getting a hospital would be discussed and presented to proper authorities. He said a number of persons had expressed a willingness to make sizeable donations, and perhaps \$20,000 might be raised by individuals.

He pointed out that Sun Oil company is anxious to have medical and hospital facilities provided here for their employees, and they may be forced to go outside the county. Allen stated that Sun's taxes within the next few years will bring enormous revenue to the county and he thought their requests for a hospital should be given immediate attention.

Plans for a nine bed hospital were submitted by Roy Ainsworth, San Angelo architect.

Check Your Land Titles

The Observer has been advised that land title sharks are at work in Coke county, and this fact may mean trouble for property owners whose titles are not perfect. Some of the early day surveys were not always correct, and as a result there is a chance you may not own exactly what you think you do. It will pay everyone to be on the look out and take steps to check your surveys. Title sharks have been known to gobble up valuable oil properties in other Texas counties.

County Tax Levy To Be Lower in 1948

County tax levies for 1948 were reduced from 1.05 to .95 cents on each \$100 valuation in action taken by the county commissioners court in its regular monthly session here Monday. The new levies were fixed as follows: General county, 25c; court house and jail repairs, 25c; jury, 15c; road & bridge regular, 15c; road and bridge special, 15c.

The commissioners also selected judges and clerks of the election to be held next November. State law provides that they shall be named at the February meeting.

A salary of \$25 per week was set for a clerk to work jointly in the county agent's and home demonstration agent's offices.

Commissioner Ben Brooks of Tennyson has announced that he is not a candidate for re-election this year and two candidates have announced from his precinct. Brooks has held the office a number of years.

Ray Mundell Sells Home

Ray Mundell has sold his residence in Robert Lee to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fields, who took possession of the property last week. This is the nice rock veneered place in the north part of town which was constructed a few years ago by Jack Duncan. Ray bought a bulldozer and has moved to Sheffield where he has a good sized contract. Henry Montgomery is operating for him.

Strickland for Commissioner

J. C. Strickland announces this week his candidacy for county commissioner from Precinct No. 1. The position is now held by H. C. Varnadore, who is a candidate for re-election. Mr. Strickland said he would publish a statement next week.

Mrs. Annie McCabe was honored with a dinner recently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dean Bryan, the occasion being Mrs. McCabe's 79th birthday. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Simpson and Arlyn and Annelle, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Simpson and Gary of San Angelo, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Burch of Monahans, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bryan. The honored guest received a number of gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Allen of Abilene are the happy parents of a son, William Glyn, Jr., born Thursday, Feb. 5. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and is their first child. Mr. Allen is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Allen of Silver and is employed by the Curtis Candy company at Abilene.

T. B. (Bigum) Childress recently purchased one of the 1948 Chevrolet sedans from Casey Chevrolet company here, and then traded it in on a new DeSoto at Brady.

Stake Location On Bloodworth; Also Elwood Wildcat

Sun Oil company Monday staked location for No. 1 Mary A. Bloodworth at the south end of the Jameson field in northwestern Coke county.

The test will be 560 from the north, and 467 feet from the west line of the lease, comprising the northeast quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 526-1A-H&TC. It will be an east offset to Sun No. 1 J. S. Walker, which with the two Mathers wells, are the most southerly producers in the field.

The Bloodworth location is now being cleared and a drilling rig is expected to be moved in soon. Probably one of the four rotary rigs now at work in the Jameson field will be used.

Sun also announces a new wildcat has been staked on the Elwood estate in Mitchell county, about 10 air miles northwest of Silver where Sun has a block of 25 sections. It is west of the Colorado River. Dewey Smith, area superintendent, said this week the Elwood test would be supervised by personnel from the Silver office. A drilling contract has not been announced.

Sun's Allen Jameson No. 3 was drilling Wednesday at 4,653 feet in shale.

No. 3 C. E. Mathers was down 2,627 feet in shale, after setting 9 5-8 inch surface pipe to 1,400 feet.

No. 1 Central National Bank was drilling Wednesday at 3,530 feet in shale. Location is a diagonal offset to No. 1 J. B. Walker, high producing discovery in the South Jameson field across the river.

No. 6 Fred Jameson set casing last week to a bottom of 6,155 feet, but some delay was experienced when the pipe showed a leak below 3,000 feet. The hole will be depend to approximately 6,400 feet.

No. 6 Homer Jameson was drilling Wednesday in shale and lime at a depth of 4,311 feet.

No. 2 J. W. Arledge was drilling in shale at 4,853 feet. Location is a northeast diagonal offset to No. 1 Arledge, recent discovery producer, 10 miles east and a mile north of Silver.

Game Preserve Meeting

There will be a mass meeting of all persons interested in a Coke county game preserve on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 2 o'clock p. m. at the court house. Everyone is invited to attend. A game preserve for the section of the county south and west of the river has already been organized. A board of directors has been selected and rules and by-laws will be offered for adoption at the meeting next Saturday.

Mrs. J. C. Jackson visited a couple of days the last of the week with her parents in Wichita Falls.

Gerald Allen, Cumbie Ivey and L. T. Youngblood left Thursday morning for Austin where they will look after matters pertaining to the Upper Colorado River Authority, and attend a water conservation meeting called by the governor.