

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.

# The Bronte Weekly Enterprise

VOL. 15, NO. 14.

BRONTE, COKE COUNTY, TEXAS, APRIL 28, 1933.

Subscription only \$1 the year.

## Second Annual "Arkansans' Reunion" At Oak Creek, Set for Sunday, May 28

The 2nd Annual "Arkansans' Reunion" date has been set, according to information received from the executive committee, in charge of the affairs of the annual reunion.

The Arkansans' Reunion is called by those interested directly in its annual meetings, "The Arkansawyers' Reunion." The pronunciation of the name, "Arkansaw" is "Arkansaw." That was settled by the legislature of Arkansas some years ago, it is said.

The first annual gathering of "Arkansawyers" was held at Oak Creek in June last year. The origin of the occasion came about by a few old-time Arkansans friends meeting at a funeral service in Bronte early last spring, when Rev. D. M. West of Bronte, editor of The Bronte Enterprise, who is an Arkansan, conducted the funeral of "Uncle Mack" Herron, formerly of Arkansas, who was the nearest neighbor in an early day of the parents of Rev. West in the old state. In his remarks Rev. West spoke of the large number present from his old home county in Arkansas, all of whom knew deceased and family and also knew the parents of Rev. West.

Following the funeral a group of those from Arkansas, were together, talking of the remarks of Rev. West and it was suggested that all the Arkansans, their children and friends gather at Oak Creek and hold an "Arkansawyers' Reunion." The suggestion met with enthusiastic approval and the first Sunday in June was set as the day. Some publicity was given the occasion. To the surprise of all, there was a large crowd in attendance and a delightfully arranged program extending throughout the entire day was rendered. So delightful was the day, it was unanimously and enthusiastically voted to make the occasion an annual event. It was agreed that all those now anywhere in Texas who ever resided in Arkansas, whose residence is near enough for them to attend, are members of the organization, and are expected to attend, as well as those who are descendants of "Arkansawyers" and all those who are friends of the "Arkansawyers" and their descendants—and, of course, that includes any and everybody who wishes to attend.

An executive committee was appointed to have charge of the affairs of the organization and the 1933 reunion. Mrs. Dr. W. W. Mitchell of Norton, H. Baldwin, Winters and G. A. Best of Bronte were elected as the committee, with Mrs. Mitchell as chairman. The committee are at work, arranging, it is said, a program that perhaps for elaborateness and unusually entertaining features was never excelled by any like program ever rendered at any gathering in West Texas. In order to get some features, the committee very much desires, the date was changed from the first Sunday in June to the fourth Sunday in May, for the 1933 reunion, which date is May 28.

The committee gives out the information that there is such wide spread and growing interest in the 1933 gathering, they are ready surprised—that almost every day, now, someone who is a native of Arkansas, or formerly resided there, or someone who is a descendant of Arkansas origin, is making that fact known and also expressing their intention of attending this year. The committee extends one

(Continued on page two)

### PROF. E. A. HANKINS, SUPERINTENDENT AGAIN

Prof. E. A. Hankins has advised the school board of his acceptance of the position of superintendent of the school for another school year. Prof. Hankins is closing his first year as superintendent. His accepting the superintendency also means that Mrs. Hankins accepts her place as a member of the High School faculty.

Prof. Hankins and the entire school have been handicapped through the entire year, due to depleted finances and also due to the scourge of illness that has raged. The measles, scarlet fever, flu and pneumonia have been in the community more or less through the winter months. But notwithstanding all this, Prof. Hankins and his faculty have been courageous and persistent and self-sacrificing. As a result the school has happily surprised even the most sanguine. Prof. and Mrs. Hankins forever endeared themselves to hundreds of little sick school children and their anxious parents during the measles epidemic in the first weeks of January. School had to suspend for two weeks. During that time Prof. and Mrs. Hankins could have remained at home and enjoyed the comfort of their warm fireside—but instead, they were out from early till late, visiting the school children that were stricken with measles, caring for the children, carrying them dainties and medicines and cheering and encouraging the anxious parents. Many nights they were out till after the midnight hour and were callers at homes where their little school children were stricken even later than that hour. Believe it or not, you will not find many teachers who would have that deep and kind and abiding interest in their pupils.

Prof. Hankins, speaking to The Enterprise stated that he and Mrs. Hankins liked Bronte and appreciate the Bronte people; that he hoped the worst in the way of hindrances is now passed and he hopes for the continued cooperation of all the patrons and pupils, and it is his deepest wish and plans that the school next year may be normal everywhere and that rapid progress of the school may be made everywhere.

### OLD FRIENDS ARE GUESTS IN EDITOR'S HOME

In 1917 the writer closed his church work in Rosebud and sold his newspaper. Moving away we have never had occasion to retrace our steps and visit the town. We made many true and steadfast friends, memories of whom we have cherished thru the years. But, not one of those friends have we ever met since the day we left Rosebud, except one time—that was only barely to meet in Fort Worth, exchange greetings and pass on. Often when memory has become treant and gone "gleaning in the silent fields of the past," we have thought of the names and faces of those of the yesteryears and have longed to retrace our steps and greet the old friends again.

But, outstanding in memory were two good friends, a man and his wife—Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas. He was the party we met in Fort Worth in 1922 and barely had time to exchange greetings. Back in 1917 they were comparatively a young

(Continued on page two)

### H. R. WILKINS DIES

Though his death had been expected for several days, yet when the news came Saturday afternoon that H. R. Wilkins had died in a hospital in San Angelo, it was a shock to his hundreds of friends, not only in Bronte, but throughout West Texas.

Deceased was stricken at his place of business, Saturday morning, April 15. The following Monday he was taken to San Angelo. But, his condition was such that attending physicians could not make an examination in order to determine the cause of his suffering. For a week he bravely endured the intense pain, gradually growing worse till Saturday afternoon, April 22, 1933, surrounded by loved ones and friends, death came and brought surcease from the awful pain, to the sufferer.

The body was returned to the family home in Bronte Saturday night by Frank Keeney, undertaker. Sunday afternoon, following religious services at the Baptist church, the body was taken to the Bronte cemetery and buried in the family lot, where already his mother and brother, Howard, were sleeping.

A large concourse of friends and acquaintances attended the obsequies. Old time friends from many places throughout West Texas came Sunday afternoon and paid their last tribute of love to the memory of their friend. After the religious services the Masons took charge and carried the body of their fallen brother to the silent city and put his body away with the beautiful and impressive rites of their order. Wm. Storey of Miles, an aged man, and long time a Mason, had charge of the Masonic services and delivered the Masonic eulogy at the grave which was a masterpiece of fraternal sentiment and deeply impressed all who heard it, by the soulful way in which it was delivered.

Several ministers had part in the religious services at the church. Rev. N. W. Pitts, pastor, was in charge. Rev. Wallace N. Dunson, pastor of the Bronte Methodist church, led in prayer. Rev. J. F. Steele, pastor of the Baptist church at Norton, read the Scriptures. Rev. J. H. McClain, pastor of the Balinger Baptist church, made a brief address, speaking kindly and beautiful things of the deceased.

(Continued on page two)

The editor appreciates the many encouraging words spoken to us by so many with reference to our position on the booze question in the little tilt we have had with "Uncle Bill" Kellis on the subject. "Uncle Bat" Taylor came to town Saturday and came to see us. "I just dropped in to say to you that I appreciate your attitude on the liquor question, in your reply to 'Bill' Kellis. You know I have always opposed liquor and saloons. But they are going to try to turn something loose on us that will be worse than the saloons ever were. As you know I am too old to get out actively now and fight, but just put me down for five dollars to aid in the good fight." A spirit like that on the part of those who are against booze control and domination and damnation will smite the liquor move hip and thigh.

Rev. Wallace N. Dunson, pastor of the Bronte Methodist church, attended a general meeting of his church at Winters, Wednesday. Rev. Dunson was accompanied by—or rather we should say that he accompanied—a group of ladies. The ladies were Mesdames Dunson and I.

### I WOULD NOT GRIEVE TOO MUCH

I would not grieve too much—the promise tells,  
That rest is hers who sleeps so sweetly there;  
Beyond the dull, slow tolling of the bells,  
Which marks her passing, life is free from care.  
You would not mourn, if one you love should rise,  
To wear the royal purple and the crown—  
Should gain the glory of the great wise,  
And put the tools of humble service down.  
Suppose that life should call some friend you know,  
Out of the ranks, and end her days of care,  
You would rejoice and smile to see her go,  
Though you remained to work and struggle there.  
Should high promotion call some friend away,  
To crown with conquest all her earthly years,  
You would not plead and beg with her to stay,  
But, thinking of her joy, you'd hide your tears.  
So, when death comes, though it seems hard to bear,  
And long the years with all their loneliness,  
The loved one has been called away from care,  
To high promotion, rest and happiness.  
She has been called from pain and hurt and strife,  
From all the ills that fall to flesh and clay,  
She has been raised to an ampler life—  
Nor should we mourn too much who still must stay.

—Edgar A. Guest.

### SCHOOL BOND ELECTION IS SET FOR MAY 4

An election has been ordered by the Commissioners' Court upon petition of the required number of signatures of tax payers of the district, for a bond election in Bronte Consolidated School District, for May 4. The election order carries provision that the election voting boxes will be at Bronte and Fort Chadbourne.

The purpose of the election, as The Enterprise understands it, is to equalize the tax rate between all the communities in the consolidated district. Before consolidation, one district had one rate and another district had another rate. Hence, it is not just to continue to make one community pay a higher rate than the other communities in the consolidated district. An election must be held to change that situation.

Another reason is that there will be no state aid available until the tax rate is equalized. The election order provides that an assessment not to exceed one dollar on the one hundred dollars valuation can be levied. It is absolutely necessary to have this election and thus vote, or else the Bronte Consolidated District will be left out, without state aid. Hence it becomes each and everyone, if he wants to do justice to all in the district and do the best thing for the children of the district, to go to the polls that day and vote for the tax levy.

Since writing the above, The Enterprise has been given more definite information relative to the matter by L. T. Youngblood, president of the school board.

Two of the old districts, Junior and Union, have only seventy-five cents school tax rate, while the other communities in the consolidated district have a one dollar rate. Hence the tax rate of no one will be raised by voting the levy proposed in the election call, except those in the two above mentioned communities.

The state aid director has informed the school board that absolutely there will not be any more state aid appropriated for the Bronte Consolidated District until the above situation has been remedied and there is a uniform tax rate throughout the entire district.

M. Cumble and the Misses Lottie Ivey and Lillian Kiker. The group report a most excellent program and good day.

### TENNYSON SCHOOL GRADUATING EXERCISES

The graduating exercises of the Tennyson school will be held this Friday evening, at the Methodist church of that place, beginning at 8:15 o'clock.

The editor acknowledges with appreciation an invitation from the graduating class, to deliver the address before the members of the class.

Members of the graduating class are Lena Corley, Katharine Martin, Bessie Muriel Alexander, and Wesley Martin.

The Tennyson school has had a most successful session for 1932-1933. Mrs. Ludie Dunn is the successful and popular principal, ably assisted by Misses Willie Morrison of Valley Mills, and Mozelle Sayner, a Tennyson young lady who was born and has grown to young womanhood there. Miss Sayner is a graduate of the San Angelo schools. Notwithstanding Tennyson school has felt the effects of the depression the same as all the other schools of the country, yet so determined was the members of the faculty, the board of trustees, the patrons and pupils, that they have gone right on through and completed the school session.

Every member of the faculty has been reelected for another school year, which indicates that entire satisfaction prevails at the progress the school has made.

### METHODIST CHURCH

Services at the Methodist church for Sunday, April 30:  
Sunday school 10 A. M.  
Preaching by the pastor

at 11 A. N.  
Epworth League 7 P. M.  
Evening worship 8 P. M.

You have a very great part in making these services what they should be. If you are absent, without cause, you rob your soul and the soul of your brother, of a supreme blessing. So, be in your place. Tell others about the services.

"The church with a welcome to all."  
Wallace N. Dunson,  
Pastor.

E. W. Hudman, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Hudman and little son, Loyd, and Mrs. F. C. Hudman and two children, little Miss Imogene and "sonny boy," returned Saturday from a visit of several days with relatives at Mineral Wells. They report a delightful visit.