

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. 20.

BRONTE, COKE COUNTY, TEXAS. JUNE 9, 1933.

Subscription only \$1 the year.

Mass Meeting At Robert Lee Favors Irrigation; Machinery Set in Motion

The machinery necessary for the long-dreamed-of and long-planned irrigation system of Coke and Runnels counties to become a reality, was set in motion at a mass meeting of interested citizens of Coke, Tom Green, Runnels and Nolan counties, at the court house at Robert Lee Monday night.

Due to matters The Enterprise editor could not control, we were not in attendance. But, the reports given us are to the effect that it was a group of outstanding citizens who put in quite a lengthy time going into the details, both as to the project itself and the manner of getting the project to going.

Interested citizens from San Angelo, Winters and Sweetwater as well as a good representation from both Bronte and Robert Lee were in attendance. Also, D. A. Bandeen of Stamford, manager of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, and Hon. Chas Coombs, past president of the WTCC from Stamford were in attendance. An industrial engineer of the West Texas Chamber was also present.

Interest in the meeting ran high. The plan as outlined is to get the Federal Government to construct the project out of the R. F. C. fund. If this can be done—and it can, if the Federal Government finds the project feasible after investigation—there will be no taxation on anyone. And the question of tax is the point of division of sentiment among the citizens of the section to be included in the irrigation system.

The project is to irrigate approximately 150,000 acres of land in Coke and Runnels counties, with the dam on the Colorado river some fifteen miles above Robert Lee.

A board of directors of prominent and influential citizens

was appointed to take charge of directing the project to a status where a definite proposition can be submitted to the Federal Government so that the Government can take the project under advisement and make its investigations as to the feasibility of the project.

An election will have to be held forming the irrigation district so that the Government can have before it the exact territory included in the irrigation system.

Following are those who were appointed as a board of directors to steer the project to the election and through the election. When the district has been thus defined, then, the Government will take charge and make its investigations. If the Government finds the project feasible from every standpoint the system will be built.

As The Enterprise understands the plan, the Government will ascertain as to how much water those within the defined territory will agree to consume annually. If the water rentals are sufficient to guarantee that eventually the water rentals will reimburse the Government for the installation of the system, the Government will construct the system and pay itself back the cost of installation as the water rentals come in.

Ed Roane and Fred Roe, Robert Lee, Ralph Harris, San Angelo, H. G. Wendland, San Angelo, R. E. Hickman, Bronte, Robert Knierim Bronte and Tad Richards, Wingham, were appointed as a board of directors to have charge of directing the preliminaries necessary to getting the project definitely before the Federal Government.

The West Texas Chamber of Commerce is clearly and definitely behind the project to aid in every possible way.

Rev. M. C. Golden of Ballinger spoke some encouraging words to the editor the other day with reference to The Enterprise. He said he had gotten to where he found himself watching for the paper's arrival to his home on the day it was due. Thanks, Rev. Golden, such words are a stimulus to us.

L. T. Youngblood attended court in Ballinger Tuesday. Mr. Youngblood was accompanied by Misses Iva Dell Modgling, Claudia Mae Anderson and his daughter, Miss Virginia, and Frank Keeney. Miss Anderson who had been visiting friends here, took the bus at Ballinger for her home at Thurber.

The canning season is here.

The canning season is here.

OLD FOLKS' DAY PROGRAM

Honoring the Aged Ones in an All-Day Program

Following is the second annual program to be rendered at the Kickapoo Baptist Church, three and a half miles north of Bronte, on the Sweetwater highway, the second Sunday in June, which is June 11:

- 10:30 A. M. Song service.
- 10:45 A. M. Devotional, Pastor Opal McCaleb.
- 11:00 A. M. Sermon, Elder F. M. Powers.
- 12:00 Noon.
- 1:30 P. M. Congregational singing, led by Mord Tucker of Winters.
- Announcement of visitors.
- Presentation of bouquets to the oldest man and the oldest lady present.
- Playlet, several small children.
- Song, Quartette.
- Reading, Dale Branaman.
- Reading Francis Pruitt.
- Song, Tucker Twins.
- Reading Geraldine Bell.
- Song: "Never Grow Old."
- Musical Reading, Mrs. Ray Coalson.
- Song, Delbert Ray Coalson.
- Reading, Jr. Pruitt.
- Duet, Mrs. Noah Pruitt and Miss Pearlmae Mae Warner.
- Reading, Archie Branaman.
- Reading, Glen Branaman.
- Special music, Louzelle and Jay Brock.
- Reading, Nathalee Stephenson.
- Everybody is cordially invited to come—especially those sixty years of age and older.

THE WOMANS PROGRESSIVE CLUB

Mrs. F. S. Higginbotham won high score in bridge, when Mrs. Cecil Glenn was hostess to the Womans' Progressive Club and other guests Thursday afternoon of last week.

Pink, green and white were the colors used for the decorations and table appointments.

The Glenn home was made lovely on this occasion by the artistic placing of baskets of gladiolus and fern at advantageous points for decoration.

After a series of games of bridge and 42 the hostess served ices of molded pink roses and individual cakes iced in white.

Those enjoying the delightful hospitality were: Mrs. O. H. Willoughby, Mrs. Ed Cumbie, Mrs. O. W. Chapman, Mrs. Lannon Dorn, Mrs. Chas. Keeney, Mrs. I. M. Cumbie, Mrs. Lucy Warner, Mrs. B. F. Bridges, Mrs. L. T. Youngblood, Mrs. M. A. Butner, Mrs. Clint Wilkins, Mrs. Frank Keeney, Mrs. F. S. Higginbotham, Mrs. Clint Duncan, Miss Ruth Maxwell, Miss Gladys Glenn and Mrs. Warren Hames of Ralls.

ATTENDS THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Rev. Wallace N. Dunson, pastor of the Bronte Methodist Church, departed early Monday morning for Georgetown, where he entered the theological department of Southwestern University for a three week's course of study.

Rev. Dunson has made arrangements for the regular hours of worship during his absence.

Rev. Dunson has been pastor of the Bronte congregation only for a few months, but he is fast becoming popular, as he meets the people, becomes acquainted with them and ingratiates himself into the good graces of all the people regardless of church affiliations. Therefore, he will be missed and all wish for him a profitable and delightful stay in school and a quick return home.

Cecil Glenn has been suffering from an injury to his foot, received by a tractor running over his foot. He has been able to be out most of the time but not able to work. He is getting along splendidly and no trouble is anticipated.

SWEETWATER PLANS 4-H CLUB CALF SHOW

Sweetwater, Texas, June 9.—Nolan County 4-H Club boys will hold their first annual show and sale, June 22, in Sweetwater. Last fall, 21 calves were placed with the Club boys, the movement being fostered by the local Rotary Club, who after organizing it, passed the project on to the Sweetwater Board of City Development to carry on and conduct show and sale.

County Agent Charles Clark directed the boys in their work. Tentative plans have been made for the organization of a five county show to embrace Mitchell, Fisher, Nolan, Jones and Scurry counties. It is likely that a permanent organization will be perfected during this year's show.

Miss Mildred Heidel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Heidel, has returned home from San Angelo where she was a student in the San Angelo Junior College, the past school year. Miss Heidel passed in all of her examinations which gave her a four-year teacher's certificate. It is Miss Heidel's plan to teach the next school year.

Thieves Rob Two Bronte Stores Tuesday Night; Tried Other Places of Business

The boldest, most wholesale and successful robbery in the history of Bronte was staged Tuesday night.

The two stores entered by the thieves that suffered loss are Cumbie & Wilkins, dry goods, and the City Drug Company, Mrs. Louise Johnson, owner. Other places that were entered are the Home Motor Company, Ford dealers, and A. F. McQueen feed store. At the Home Motor Company the intruders got the handle to the gasoline pump and put it on the pump—but Mr. Knierim has no way of determining whether or not they got any gasoline. They entered by breaking in at the back door. At the A. F. McQueen feed store down on the railroad right of way they broke the lock on the front door. However they were not successful in finding anything they wanted. The back door of the Bridges Hardware Company seem to show signs of having been tampered with.

At the City Drug store the intruders gained entrance by entering through a transom which they broke. Mrs. Johnson estimates her loss at about \$250. The merchandise taken consisted of razor blades, toilet articles, such as combs, brushes, face powders, rouge and perfumes, fountain pens etc. Mrs. Johnson is treasurer of the Methodist church and keeps a little box hidden away in the shelves in which she keeps the Sunday incidental offerings until sufficient accumulates to make a deposit. James Hearne who is an employe in the store and is treasurer of the Methodist Sunday school likewise keeps the Sunday school money hidden in a box on the shelves until there is sufficient

for a deposit. The thieves evidently knew something about the church boxes of collections, for they had torn everything out of the shelves where the two boxes were kept. Evidently they planned to make "a cash clean-up" on "the Lord's offerings." Fortunately, however, the church funds had been deposited in the bank that afternoon.

The store of Cumbie & Wilkins was entered from the rear by breaking a small hole in the glass of a transom and then unfastening the transom by pushing back a wooden button by which the transom was fastened. Mr. Cumbie estimates the loss of his store at about \$300. The loss consists of men's suits, hats, shirts and shoes, and silk goods consisting of piece silk, and men's and ladies silk underwear and hose.

W. O. Eubanks, the night watchman, had taken that night to go fishing—hence, the thieves seemed to be aware of that fact and therefore took "their own good time," and worked with all leisure. In the drug store they made themselves cold drinks and ate candy. There was about a dozen oranges and they took them and one of the peels was found on the counter at Cumbie & Wilkins store.

Wednesday morning when the robbery was discovered as those engaged in business came to open their places of business, officers were called. Sheriff Frank Percifull was notified at Robert Lee. He came and a fingerprint expert was called from San Angelo and good fingerprints were taken.

But, as we go to press, the officers report no clues as to the raiders.

An Anti-Prohibition Asinine Appeal

For audacity, inconsistency and pure de rottenness a communication sent out from the Democratic National Committee at Austin the other day is a prize winner. If we wanted to locate suitable headquarters for the Shrewd Club in this election we would go to Austin. There are five paragraphs in the remarkable deliverance. So remarkable is it, that it is evident, no one man produced it by himself—for it is rich as cream in audacity, presumption, and misrepresentation. Evidently, when the authors had finished their big task, they wiped the perspiration from their intellectual brows, took one big, hearty democratic "chuckle," shook hands with themselves, took a big tumbler full of ice water and said: "Hain't we put over an immortal document?"

We want to quote just a paragraph at a time of this wonderful deliverance and call attention to some of the gross inconsistencies of this wonderful ultimatum to the little democrats of Texas:

Paragraph one reads: "Although as an organization the Texas Democratic National Committee will take no active part in the repeal and modification campaign preceding the election called for August 26th, the active heads of the organization, Roy Miller, Director; and Frank Scofield, Finance Director, in a statement issued today, called upon Texas Democrats to support both repeal and modification, as a national platform demand."

Going to take no part, yet the "active heads of the organiza-

tion . . . called upon Texas Democrats to support both repeal and modification." They are taking no "active part"—why, certainly not, you "simp"—they are only telling the masses what they must do, if they want to be classed as "democrats." Heaven save us, should they take a notion to "take an active part."

Paragraph two reads: (quoting the "organization leaders:")

"While we realize that both prohibition and modification are controversial questions among Texas Democrats, we feel it our duty to urge adoption of both the repeal and modification proposals at the special election called for August 26th. The question as to whether or not Texas shall be wet or dry is not involved. The Chicago platform contained a ringing appeal, both for repeal and modification. In his acceptance address, President Roosevelt committed the Party irrevocably to both proposals."

What a deliverance! Beyond all question, the "organization leaders" must have heaved a sigh of relief big as the ocean's wave when they "picked that load" into the little democrats of Texas—and, of course, they had to take another drink of ice water to cool their lightened brows—for there could not possibly have been much left above their hat bands except a vacuum.

"We realize," said the "organization leaders," "that both prohibition and modification are controversial questions among Texas Democrats . . . to support both repeal and modification."

Organization