



James C. Lammers

Lammers to be honored at rededication of Bronte Depot

[Editor's Note: The following information was compiled by James Coalson and Arlie Lammers, Mr. Lammers' grandsons.]

James C. Lammers was the stone mason who built the Bronte Depot, along with many other rock buildings in and around Bronte. He will be honored Saturday, June 18, 2011, at the 100th Anniversary celebration of the depot. The event will begin at 12:30 pm and will

include this history and refreshments.

James C. Lammers ("Big Jim") was the son of Bernard Lammers (born in Germany, 1847) and Nettie Lammers (born in Iowa, 1858). Bernard died in 1920 and Nettie died in 1922. They had moved to Bronte in 1907.

"Big Jim" was born in Goldthwaite in 1874 and died in Bronte in 1942. Elizabeth (wife) was born in 1880 and died in 1953.

Bernard Lammers was a stone mason and brick mason in Germany before he immigrated to the United States. "Big Jim" learned the art of being a successful stone mason and brick mason from his father. Bernard and "Big Jim" constructed several stone buildings at Fort Concho in San Angelo and built the original "sun dial" at Fort Concho. They continued their trade and built numerous buildings in Ballinger and Goldthwaite, before relocating to Bronte.

"Big Jim" greatly enjoyed the art of being a successful stone mason and got involved with several projects in Bronte and Coke County. He built the Bronte Depot, starting in 1909 and finishing in 1911. He also built the depots at Fort Chadbourne, Orient and Mertzon.

The Bronte Depot was the only stone depot maintained and entered into the "National Achieves". It is now owned and maintained by the Masonic Lodge. Each of the depots had similar floor plans, which made for easier planning and construction.

"Big Jim" and Elizabeth had three children (Vernon, Leslie and Nettie [Coalson]). "Big Jim" was a hard worker (German ethic) and encouraged his children to be independent and to take care of themselves at an early age.

In addition to building the depots at various locations,

"Big Jim" is credited with building many of the stone buildings on Main Street in Bronte, plus many of the rock residences.

One item of interest that was passed down from a main street merchant involved the aggressiveness and reliability of "Big Jim" in honoring his commitments to the community. During construction of one of the downtown buildings, a section of rock/brick shifted and fell on "Big Jim". According to the merchant, this accident would have put most people in the hospital, but "Big Jim" simply got up; dusted off the stone dust and told the other employees that "we have a building to complete, so we need to proceed as planned." This is part of the nature of the reliability of "Big Jim".

Before they started paving roads, the stone/gravel roads were subject to washouts when it did rain on occasion. "Big Jim" organized a work crew who hand built the concrete culverts in Coke, Nolan and Mitchell County on most of the important gravel roads. All of the roads were built using teams of mules and horses to move and grade the stone/gravel. "Big Jim" and crew used teams and freight wagons to haul all of their needed materials from site to site and all concrete was mixed by hand using "concrete eye hoes" and then poured by hand

into the wooden forms.

Royce Fancher's father was a member of one of "Big Jim's" crews and, according to Royce, worked one complete winter building concrete culverts. Royce's father told his son that they used a lot of rock from local work locations in the concrete mix since it was so difficult to haul all of the materials by wagon. Of course, all of these were replaced when they started paving roads and building better sub-structures.

"Big Jim" was interested in the improvements that were made in Bronte with the new Railroad Depot and the new "Downtown Area". As history would indicate, he was proud of the opportunity afforded to him and his family to be involved in many of the improvements of the growing town that really started with the advent of the Orient Railroad and the Bronte Depot.

Emergency Grazing for CRP

Coke County has been approved for emergency grazing on certain CRP acres. Some of the CRP practices are not eligible to graze. Producers with CRP acres need to come to the Coke County FSA Office to see if their CRP acres are eligible for this emergency grazing. Producers will be required to give up 25% of their 2011 annual CRP payment.

Please contact Coke FSA for more information.

1st Annual

BUTTERFIELD TRAIL DAYS

Saturday • June 18th

Bronte, Texas

Arts & Crafts Vendors!

Food Booths!

Live Music!

Fun Starts at 10 am!

Horse Shoe & Washer Pitching

Tournaments!

Entries open at 10 am.

Tournament begins at 11 am.

For Information,

Call City Hall

(325)

473-3501.

KICKAPOO CREEK
COOK-OFF

Brisket • Ribs • Chicken

Set-up beginning at 5 pm Friday.

Saturday Judging:

Chicken 1 pm, Ribs 2 pm, Brisket 3 pm

BRONTE DEPOT

100th Anniversary Celebration

12:30 pm

20th
Annual

COKE COUNTY RANCH RODEO

Wild Cow Milking • Trailer Loading • Team Branding
• Team Doctoring • Wild Horse Race

5 pm • For More Information, Call (325) 716-9626

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