



Story Hour! Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen read to over twenty children at the Story Hour held at Coke County Library Wednesday morning, June 24, 2015. The children were each given "Junior Deputy" badges and enjoyed a demonstration of all the bells and whistles (lights and siren) on the patrol vehicle.

The Case of the Thirsty Bees

[The story of the Case of the Thirsty Bees as told by Eddie Paul Good, son of Sheriff Paul Good (1947-59) in the dedication brochure of the Old Coke County Jail, Sept. 20, 2014.]

Late one early spring afternoon, Dad received a call that there was a suspicious looking truck that had been parked all day on the Bronte Road just outside of Robert Lee. This also happened to be close to the city lake. Dad went to investigate and as he pulled up to the truck he noticed that it was loaded with boxes and a very fine net was pulled back exposing the boxes. Dad introduced himself to the truck driver and inquired of what he was doing parked there all day.

The man said that he was watering his bees! The beekeeper said he was transporting the bees from South Texas to Colorado for the summer to make honey from the clover fields there. The bees would remain in Colorado over the summer and then would be transported back to South Texas for the winter. He said the bees would return about dusk and he would be on his way.

As you might have guessed by now the boxes on the truck were beehives. I have often wondered if bees really get thirsty and just how dependable they would be to return. After this happened I did notice several other trucks loaded with beehives going north through Robert Lee, I supposed to Colorado.

Mountain Creek Golf Course History

Mt. Creek Golf Course was established by a volunteer board of directors in early 1960's on the bank of Mountain Creek. Volunteers divided themselves into teams, each responsible for the construction of a green. The teams provided their own

equipment and invested their sweat equity to construct the golf course. Billy Wayne Roe and Add Davis can testify to the sweat equity.

The nine-hole golf course hosts tournaments and provides a practice area for the local high school golf teams who have made Robert Lee proud in many competitions across the state.

Today's volunteer board of directors is working to maintain and upgrade Mt. Creek for future residents, visitors and students.

... Governor Coke

(Continued from page 1) following more than a dozen years of war and military rule. He felt strongly about higher education and was instrumental in the establishment of Texas A&M.

Following is an article on Governor Coke from TSHA Online, the online outlet of the Texas State Historical Association.

Richard Coke, Texas governor and United States senator, son of John and Eliza (Hankins) Coke, was born near Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 13, 1829. He entered William and Mary College in 1843 and in July 1848 was awarded a diploma in civil law.

In 1850, he moved to Waco, then only a shantytown on the Texas frontier, where he soon earned a reputation as an able lawyer in both civil and criminal cases.

In 1852, he married Mary Evans Horne of Waco, who was only fifteen years old. They had two daughters who died in

infancy, and two sons, both of whom died before the age of thirty.

In 1859, Coke was appointed by Gov. Hardin R. Runnels to a commission that decided that Comanche Indians on the Brazos Indian Reservation should be removed from Texas.

In 1861, Coke was a delegate to the Secession Convention in Austin and voted for secession. The next year he raised a company that became part of Joseph W. Speight's Fifteenth Texas Infantry and, as captain, served throughout the Civil War, except for a sixty-day leave in 1864. He was wounded at Bayou Bourbeau (Muddy Creek), near Opelousas, Louisiana, on November 3, 1863.

In September 1865, he was appointed judge of the Nineteenth Judicial District by Gov. A. J. Hamilton, who valued Coke's integrity in spite of their political differences. Coke was elected associate justice of the state Supreme Court in 1866 but was removed a year later by Philip Henry Sheridan, the military commander.

Coke won the Democratic nomination for governor in 1873 and, in a bitter and sometimes violent election, defeated Governor Edmund J. Davis, the Republican candidate, by a vote of 85,549 to 42,663. He took office in January 1874 in spite of Davis's resistance and an attempt of the Texas Supreme Court to nullify the election by its decision in the case *Ex parte Rodriguez*.

Governor Coke tried to restore financial order by cutting expenditures for public printing and the state asylums, but the cost of securing the safety of the

Mexican border and combatting Comanche and Kiowa Indians on the western frontier offset such reductions.

On one occasion, he ignored threats of physical violence when he vetoed a popular bill for a subsidy to the International-Great Northern Railroad.

The new governor was burdened with job applications, pleas for pardons, and requests for six-gun permits and for reward money to aid in the capture of criminals.

Under the Constitution of 1876, adopted during his term, Coke served on a three-member board that supervised a new, decentralized system of public education. Vocational education benefited from the opening of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University), at which Coke made an eloquent speech.

He was reelected governor by a ratio of three to one over William Morton Chambers, the Republican candidate. He was elected to the United States Senate in May 1876 and resigned the governorship in December. He began his first term as senator on March 4, 1877, replacing Morgan C. Hamilton.

Coke was generally regarded as an able and well-informed member of the Senate. "Old Brains," as his admirers called him, supported the Bland-Allison Act of 1878 and the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887.

On grounds of unconstitutionality and extravagance, he opposed the Blair Bill for federal aid to the common schools.

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