



Downtown Bronte! Bronte folks even had to park in the middle of main street during one of the oil booms of the past.

... Ivey Motor Company

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at home later and changing trousers, the acid covered ones just fell into pieces.

In March 1928, Jess attended a Ford dealers convention in Detroit. Dealers of the area boarded a special train at Dallas about four or five in the afternoon. As not unusual for March weather in Texas, it was quite warm.

As Jess recalls of the day, "We were all just about to burn up in our shirt sleeves. Then when we got off the train in Detroit, it was four degrees below zero. The bunch of us liked to have frozen to death. From the train, we had to walk about a half mile to the administration building in that cold. Bob Harwell, who was the Ford dealer in Ballinger at that time, gave out about half way there. Two of us carried him into the building and called the doctor. When he arrived, he called an ambulance and took him to the hospital. Four or five others took pneumonia and had to be hospitalized too. The convention lasted three or four days. When the men weren't touring the plant, they stayed in their hotel because it was so

cold."

Jeffie Bell set up the Norrick Bookkeeping system in the earlier part of 1928.

"We went to Colorado in July and August of that year. When we came back, I was feeling much better and I went to work keeping the books at the garage and worked until we moved to Colorado City in August of 1944," says Lela.

Of the depression years she relates, "When we weren't making a profit, we used red ink. I got to using so much red ink that finally I got a quart of it from the salesman. Before the depression was over, I had used the whole quart."

When asked of his most embarrassing moment, Jess recalls, "I was working by myself in the shop on the rear end of an automobile. Cleaning it up with gasoline – the old greasy parts in a pan. It was too dirty so I just walked to the front door and, not looking, threw it out. It hit a woman in the face – all over you might say – just down her – that old greasy gasoline. That was my most embarrassing moment. I begged her pardon. She said she knew I didn't mean to. I told her to go have her dress cleaned and she

said no, it wasn't my fault as I wasn't expecting anyone to walk by."

The Craddocks have four children – Mary May, J.S. Jr., Billy Frank and Maxine Morrow – who grew-up on the odor of grease, cut their teeth on wrenches and learned the lingo of the car business as their first words.

In 1944, the Robert Lee business was sold to Cumbie Ivey and the Craddocks moved to Colorado City where they had purchased the dealership, naming it Craddock Motor Company, also.

... A Trip to Sanco

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Texas. I was never treated better in all my life. I found him, like all others, hard at work getting ready for a big crop.

After dinner I moved on to

J.F. Cole's. I found him in a terrible state of mind. I made inquiry as to the cause of his trouble, and he told me that Bilbo's pet coon had run off and he was afraid he would come down his way. I told him I was just from there and had heard him say nothing about a coon. He said it made no difference, that he had had one and that it was gone. Everybody was looking for it so I moved on wondering if that coon was as mean as Campbell's mule. All at once I heard someone say, "Hold up, there!" I stopped and a fellow wanted to know where I was going. I told him I was going down to Mr. Tucker's to stay all night. "Well," he says, "do you know anything about Bilbo's negro?" I told him that I did not know Bilbo had a negro, but I heard his pet coon was gone. I concluded to go on and see Perry Breedlove and get the matter straight. I told him what I had heard and that I wanted the thing straight, as might be a whiteness some time, and here is just what he told me.: He said that a gentleman from down east had made Mr. Bilbo a Christmas present of a little negro boy. As he was the first colored settler in that locality his advent caused considerable excitement. Mr. Bilbo had either sent him back or the little fellow had strayed off and been caught by the coyotes. Now, if that negro boy had been devoured, Cole did it, for he sure looked guilty when he said he was looking for a coon.

It is very true that after my experience with the mule I

might have been a little mixed up but not so much as some of those fellows who I saw hunting for that coon. I hope the little fellow will make landing safe and that Sanco will continue in peace and prosperity

.... 1907 Bronte

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with automobile traffic were found in 1916.

Indicative of the expenses incurred by early city government were the following bills, allowed at an early city council meeting:

D.K. Glenn, team, one day, \$2.50.

W.T. Luttrell, blacksmith work, \$3.50.

J.L. Smith, plow point, \$1.50.

Dec. & Jan. lights, \$5.00.

W.P. Sanders for dragging off dog, 50 cents.

Mayors and council men down through the years since are found elsewhere in this section.

Through the 57 years since incorporation, many improvements have been made, most of which are discussed in other stores in this issue.

Bronte, today, not the metropolis its founders dreamed for it, enjoys good churches and schools, paved streets, a beautiful park and swimming pool, a sanitary sewer system, natural gas connections, an adequate water supply, dependable electric service, good telephone service, a new post office and city hall, good highways in every direction.

Bronte is known far and wide for its large number of beautiful homes. Many new residences have been built in the last ten years.

COKE COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY

We are one of
Coke County's
oldest continuously operated
businesses, serving since 1891
with land records from
Sovereignty of the Soil
(Republic of Texas) to current,
congratulates
Coke County on its
125th Birthday.

Remembering the good 'ol days as
we salute

**COKE COUNTY'S
125th BIRTHDAY!**



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