

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 ENTERPRISE

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Precinct Lines Are Changed

Ethicon Employees Due Here for Annual Picnic

Employees of Ethicon, Inc., of San Angelo will flock to Bronte en masse Saturday for the company's third annual employees picnic in the local county park. Minimum estimate of 800 and a maximum of 1200 are expected. Ethicon employees had their first company picnic in the Bronte County Park in 1967. They liked the facilities so much they came back again in 1968, and are returning for the third time Saturday. Mayor Royce Lee issued a proclamation this week proclaiming Saturday as "Bronte's Appreciation Day for Ethicon Employees" and called on all citizens to make the visitors welcome. "It's rather unusual," the mayor said, "for residents of a large city to pack up and drive 30

miles to a small town for a picnic and I think it speaks well for our town and its facilities at the park, as well as for the hospitality of our citizens."

Larry Mead of Ethicon told

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION
BY
ROYCE LEE, MAYOR
CITY OF BRONTE,
BRONTE, TEXAS

WHEREAS all of the City Councilmen of the City of Bronte, Texas, join me in encouraging all of the people of Bronte to welcome our neighbors from San Angelo, namely, the employees of Ethicon, for their third annual employees picnic in the City of Bronte and County Park; and

WHEREAS the entire Council on behalf of the Citizens of Bronte extend to Ethicon a most cordial welcome and solicit all citizens of Bronte to make our visitors feel at home;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROYCE LEE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BRONTE, TEXAS, do hereby designate September 6, 1969, Bronte's Appreciation Day for the Ethicon employees annual picnic and urge all families of Bronte to wish them well and help their day be a most enjoyable one.

IN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION THEREOF, I affix my signature, this third day of September, 1969.
Signed: Royce Lee, Mayor

REX HARRIS HOME

Rex Harris was home last weekend for a short visit with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. John R. Harris, and his sister, Ann. He has just completed training for a teaching job with the Peace Corps in Venezuela.

He left Monday, flying from San Angelo to Dallas, then to Miami, where he boarded a non-stop flight to Caracas, Venezuela. He will participate in a teaching program sponsored by the Venezuelan government, and expects to remain in South America for three years. He is a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans.

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Burge of Dallas visited over Labor Day with Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Stout. Mrs. Burge is Mrs. Stout's sister.

The Enterprise this week, "After reviewing the many favorable comments of our employees who attended picnics in Bronte the past two years, we are very pleased once again to have access to your park." Mead stated the park is ideally laid out for a family style picnic.

The visitors will come to town in private cars and will start arriving about 9 to 10 a.m. Some of the employees who are golfing enthusiasts are expected to arrive earlier.

Supt. C. B. Barbee said that buses will provide tours of the school for all visitors who wish to inspect Bronte's modern school plant.

Ethicon, whose factory is located east of San Angelo on the Bronte-Ballinger highway, is one of the largest manufacturers of surgical supplies in the United States. The plant in San Angelo specializes in making surgical sutures used for sewing up all kinds of wounds. The massive plant was built mainly underground, which officials say contributes to the security of the building as well as to ease in meeting sanitation standards.

Coalson's Red Barn Barbecue will cater the picnic lunch, Mead said.

Commissioners Name Directors For Hospital Dist.

Directors of East Coke County Hospital District were appointed at Tuesday's meeting of the commissioners court. Three of the directors are from precinct 2 and two are from precinct 4.

Named from precinct 2 are Matthew Casperon, E. F. Glenn and Wayman Percifull, and from precinct 4, LeDrew Arrott and C. R. Blake.

The five directors are scheduled to have an organizational meeting Thursday night at the city hall.

The new district was voted recently by citizens of precincts 2 and 4. First board of directors was appointed by the commissioners and subsequent members will be elected.

Citizens of Precincts 1 and 3 may not know which commissioner precinct they live in now, as the commissioners court has announced changes in precinct lines to conform to a ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States that all precincts within a county must contain approximately the same number of people.

Since the county was first organized precincts 1 and 2 have had a preponderance of the county's population since they, respectively contained the towns of Robert Lee and Bronte. With the new redistricting precincts 3 and 4 contain about the same number of residents as precincts 1 and 2. The new lines give Commissioner Floyd Harmon of precinct 3 a hunk of Robert Lee

which formerly all belonged to Commissioner Fern Havins of precinct 1. Likewise, Commissioner Jack Corley of precinct 4 took a sizeable piece of Bronte from Commissioner Howard Brock of precinct 2—all to even out the population requirement devised by the men in Washington wearing long black robes and who have the final say on all questions brought to their attention.

The revolutionary change which has or will affect a majority of counties all over the country, was brought about by former Mayor Hank Avery of Midland, who objected to rural commissioners of Midland County controlling the county government. Avery took his case all the way to the Supreme Court and he won his point.

Towns Split

The redistricting split Robert Lee and Bronte approximately in half. Everything north of State Highway 158 in Robert Lee remains in precinct 1, while everything south of the highway, including the county courthouse, now is in precinct 3. In Bronte everything, except for a few jogs in the south part of town, which is west of Washington (Church) Street now is in precinct 4, while everything east of Washington remains in precinct 2.

The commissioners did leave the two west side precincts and the two east sides intact within themselves, making all the changes so as not to interfere with the boundary lines of the county's two hospital districts which follow the boundary lines of precincts 1 and 3 for the West Coke County Hospital District and the lines of precincts 2 and 4 for the East Coke County Hospital District.

Generally the precinct lines follow the same lines they have for years except for their approaches to, and the area within the two towns. Precinct 3 now follows a line from the west boundary of the county which runs east and west approximately two miles north of the Sterling City highway until it reaches the shores of Lake E. V. Spence; then it follows the south shoreline of the lake till it comes to the highway. From there it follows the highway till it intersects Robert Lee Dam; then it travels northward until it intersects the old Sterling City highway; then it follows the highway through Robert Lee and continues westward to a spot approximately at Seven Mile Hill, where it turns south to the Tom Green County line.

Precinct 1 retains all the area north of this line and turns north at the same spot (Seven Mile Hill) until it comes to the Nolan County Line. Precinct 4 contains all of its original area south of the Colorado River, but now extends north into Bronte and beyond. The east boundary of the new part extends from the river along the Santa Fe Railroad to the city limits, goes down East Railroad Street to Riley Avenue, where it turns east to Washington Street then turns north on Washington to the north city limits where it jogs back west to the railroad. It then follows the railroad approximately two miles, turns west for approximately one mile, then back south to Highway 158. It

EX-STUDENT'S ADDRESSES NEEDED BY ASSOCIATION

Names and addresses of ex-students and ex-teachers of Bronte School are needed by the Bronte Ex-Students Association. Anyone knowing addresses of exes is invited to contact Mrs. Marvin Landers. The information is needed for use in preparing for the homecoming which is scheduled for Oct. 25.

WINTERS RITES HELD FOR LEONARD F. WILSON SR., 80

Funeral services for Leonard F. Wilson Sr., 80, were held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday in Spill Memorial Chapel in Winters, with the Rev. Joe R. Cochran of Austin officiating. He was assisted by the Rev. Glenn Bowman of Winters First Methodist Church. Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery.

He died at his home at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday. He and his wife had just returned from a month-long trip to the west coast where they visited their son, Kenneth Wilson. Another son, Bob Wilson of Oklahoma City, lived in Bronte with his family for many years.

Survivors include his wife; the two sons; one daughter, Mrs. Paul Neill of Midland; a daughter-in-law, Mrs. L. F. Wilson Jr. of San Angelo; three brothers, two sisters, seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

ENROLLMENT REACHES 311

Enrollment in Bronte Schools increased slightly this week when elementary student total reached 204 and high school reached 107. Supt. C. B. Barbee said there may be a few students in the district who have not yet enrolled.

Scrimmage Here Friday

Football fans will have their first opportunity Friday night to see how the Bronte Longhorns, 1969 version, look on their home ground. Clyde's football squad will be here for a scrimmage which will begin at 8 p.m. The next Friday night, Sept. 12, is the date set for the opening of the regular season play when the El-dorado Eagles will come here.

Reserve Seat Tickets Reserve seat tickets are still

on sale in the office of Supt. C. B. Barbee. Persons who had reserved seats last season have through today (Friday) to claim the same seats again this year if they wish to retain them during the coming season. After today, all unsold seats in the reserved section will go on sale to the public on a first come-first served basis.

Price for the reserved seats for the season, which includes six

home games, is \$7.50. This amounts to 25 cents per game more than the general admission price of \$1.00 per game. The reserved seats section is centered on the 50 yard line and provides the best seats in the stands.

Pocket sized schedules have been printed and are being distributed at a number of places in town. Newby Funeral Home and Sims Food Store bought the cards as a public service.

Allen Bryan Dies In Alaska Crash

Word was received here Wednesday of the death of Allen (Punk) Bryan, 43, near an oil well drilling site in Alaska. He was killed in a helicopter crash some 600 miles from Anchorage.

Bryan was the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Luckett of Bronte. The family reported information they have been able to obtain said the fatal crash occurred about 6:45 p.m. Tuesday. Funeral arrangements are pending, since the Civil Aeronautics Administration is conducting and investigation of the crash.

Mrs. Bryan, the former Pat Luckett, told her brother, Billy Joe Luckett, that she thought perhaps the investigation would be completed in time for the family and body to arrive in Texas by Saturday.

Newby Funeral Home will be in charge of local arrangements and services will be conducted in Bronte Church of Christ with burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Bill Luckett told the Enterprise he understood Bryan was part of a crew which was moving a rig to a new test location. They were flying the largest helicopter made. The huge craft is used to skylift rig parts over the rugged Alaskan terrain from one location to another. He said they had unloaded part of the rig and were on a return trip prior to quitting work for the day when the crash occurred.

Bryan had been employed by Rowan Drilling Co. the past 18 years. He and his family had been residents of Anchorage the past three years, and had lived in Alaska on two tours of work prior to the current one.

Survivors include his wife, Pat; three daughters, Mrs. Thomas Lee Easterling of Alaska; Cathy and Connie, both of the home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Bryan of Bradshaw; a brother, Joe Bryan of Winters; a sister, Mrs. Christine Barker of San Francisco, Calif.

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