

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.

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

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Cumbie & Mackey Have 75th Anniversary Sale

Cumbie & Mackey Dry Goods will soon complete 75 years as a dry goods merchandising store in Bronte. Actually, the birthday is not until September, but store owners, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Mackey decided to celebrate the occasion with their annual July clearance sale which begins Friday.

The firm is running a page ad in this week's paper, offering 75th anniversary specials to their customers on hundreds of items they carry in stock.

A \$75 gift certificate will be given away at a drawing a 4 p.m. Saturday, July 18. Mackey said everyone is urged to come in and register for the gift certificate. No purchase is required and the lucky winner does not have to be present to win.

The late R.E. Cumbie, who was Mrs. Mackey's father, started in the dry goods business in 1906 in the buildings where Thrif-Tee Food Market is now located. The building where the store is now located was completed in 1909 and "Mr. Ed" moved the dry goods store to its present location. R.E. Cumbie was in business with his father, R.M. Cumbie and they were joined in 1911 by H.R. Wilkins. The name of the firm was changed to Cumbie & Wilkins. Mr. Wilkins died in 1933 and R.M. Cumbie died in 1936.

Meanwhile in 1929 J.B. Mackey became a partner in the firm, and in 1946, he bought the interest of the Wilkins family and the name was changed to Cumbie & Mackey.

The firm has been operated for many years by Mr. and Mrs. Mackey and they have continued to handle top quality clothing for the entire family.

The Mackeys said they are

Heavy Winds, But Little Rain

The Bronte area, along with the rest of West Texas, was under a severe weather alert last Friday and Saturday nights, but Bronte received more wind than rain. H.J. Winchester reported .3 inch Friday and another .3 Saturday for a two day total of .6 inch.

Special July 4 celebrations were underway at Robert Lee and Blackwell when the Saturday storm hit, but activities continued in spite of the bad weather. Both the Robert Lee Ambulance Service and Blackwell Fire Department reported successful affairs.

Robert Lee received a much heavier rain than Bronte, recording 2.75 inches. A report from Sanco read 2.20 inches. W.H. Thomas at Tennyson had 1.00 inch Friday and another .30 inch Saturday for a weekend total of 1.3 inches.

Hard winds accompanied the storms both days but little damage was reported. A tree was blown down at Larry Saunders home in west Bronte and an old peach tree described as being in bad shape also was broken off.

Much damage from winds and flooding were reported in San Angelo, Abilene, Brownwood,

grateful to all their friends and customers who have been so loyal through the years and made it possible for them to serve this area.

"We want everybody to come by to see us during this 75th anniversary celebration," they said. "Be sure to register for the free \$75 gift certificate, for some lucky person is going to win it."

The Mackeys have a son, Jimmy Ed, who lives in Bronte with his wife, Marifrances, and their two little daughters.



Ralph Ritchie

Ritchie Is New Oak Creek Boss

Ralph Earl Ritchie Jr., has taken over as plant superintendent at West Texas Utilities Company's Oak Creek Power Station north of Bronte, replacing Charles H. (Chuck) Adami, who was transferred to San Angelo.

Ritchie moved from WTU's Paint Creek Power Station on Lake Stamford near Haskell, where he had been results engineer.

Adami is now plant superintendent at San Angelo Power Station, succeeding Jim Tom, who resigned from the company. Adami began his career with WTU in 1977 at the San Angelo Station and had moved to Oak Creek in 1979.

Ritchie joined WTU in July 1975 as a results engineer at the Rio Pecos Power Station near McCamey. He was transferred to Abilene, where he worked in the Systems Operations Department as an operations engineer before being named results engineer at Paint Creek in October, 1978.

He was born in Altoona, Pa., in 1948 and attended the Oxford Valley and Fairless View schools.

He received his diploma from Pennsbury High School in 1966, then attended New Mexico State University and earned a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1970. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force before joining WTU.

Ritchie and his wife, Nancy, a school teacher, are the parents of two children: Rebecca Erin, 6, and Joshua Caleb, 2.

The Oak Creek plant is one of eight major generating stations in the WTU System. E.I. (Champ) Champion is assistant plant superintendent.

Coke County Pageant To Run Two Weekends

By Alice Beaty
President, Pageant Asso.

"YEP". THE OLD TIMER IS BACK and announcing that rehearsals are underway for the fourth annual production of "OLE COKE COUNTY" at the Mountain Creek Amphitheatre. Dates for the 1981 production are July 24 and 25 and July 31 and Aug. 1.

A special feature of the 1981 production is its numerous new songs. The choir is having great fun with them, from the inspiring "GREAT SPIRIT" which the Indians perform at sunset, to the hilarious "AWAY WITH RUM" in which the irate wives of Bronte declare, "Whiskey must go from Coke County!" The Blue Goose there will never be the same, nor will Granny Moore's place in Robert Lee.

Two groups from the cast will advertise the shows on TV. Mark your calendar. July 20, 12:30

p.m. they will appear on KRBC-TV- Channel 3, Abilene, Midday with Kay. On July 21, 5 p.m. they will be on KCTV, San Angelo, Channel 8, The Pat Attebery Show.

The Coke County Pageant Association members are working

Maverick Homecoming July 18 and 19

The biennial Maverick Homecoming will be held July 18 and 19 in the Bronte Community Center. The every-other-year event will begin Saturday night and continue through Sunday. All present and former residents, as well as friends of the community are invited to attend.

Registration will begin at 7 p.m. July 18 and it is expected visiting will continue into the night.

Sunday activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will be served at noon. Meat, drinks and bread will be furnished by the Maverick Homecoming Association and everyone is asked to bring a dessert or vegetable dish.

Royce Lee, president of the association, said a large crowd is expected and he urged all those who have a Maverick connection to mark their calendars for July 18 and 19.

Other officers are Betty Lee, secretary; Turner Lee, vice president; and Eyvonne Lee, treasurer.

Margaret Martin returned home Sunday, June 28, from Houston where she had spent two weeks with her daughter and her husband, Dorothy Ruth and Dan Mitchell. She also visited with her sister-in-law, Mrs. P.N. Touchstone, and Mr. Touchstone.

Many Subs Are Due in July

A large number of subscriptions to The Bronte Enterprise are due in July, and it would be a tremendous help if everyone would come by and pay without having to be mailed a notice.

For many years The Enterprise ran a subscription special in July, which led to approximately one-third of the subscriptions expiring this month.

Also, we have gotten behind sending out notices and have quite a few subscribers who are behind with their subscriptions. It would be a big help if everyone who is behind would come in, too.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation. We greatly appreciate your letting us send you The Enterprise each Friday morning.

Plans Being Completed For Coke County Fair

The 1981 Coke County Fair will be held Sept. 18-20, at the Show and Recreation Center in the Robert Lee Park. Initial plans for the fair were developed in a committee meeting held last week. Everyone is encouraged to mark their calendar and plan to participate in the 1981 fair, committee members said.

Very few changes are expected in the 1981 edition of the fair. One change planned is that the Coke County Stock Show board of directors will sponsor a commercial finewool ewe lamb show during the fair. The show will have junior and open divisions with the groups of three finewool ewe lambs competing for prize money in the junior division. The open or adult division will also have prizes if enough sponsors and/or donations are received. The show directors felt that

adding the sheep classes to the county fair could help improve the quality of the finewool sheep in Coke County and would emphasize the importance of sheep to agriculture in the county. Any Coke County producer, 4-H or FFA member desiring to participate in the show is welcome to do so.

The flea market portion of the fair was removed since the show arena will be needed for the sheep show. Commercial display space, however, will be available as in the past.

The fair catalogs should be off the press in August. In the meantime, circle Sept. 18-20 on your calendar and make plans to participate in the county fair.

County Extension Agent Sterling Lindsey said the fair is for all persons of Coke County, and urged participation by everyone.

hard-like the "rabbit twisters" who inspired it by learning to harvest the area's plentiful jack rabbits without capital outlay by running forked sticks into rabbit warrens and bringing them out by the fur for a source of protein during the frontier era and later in the depression days. In the past three years the association has built the amphitheatre, purchased the lighting and sound system. They had planned to improve the theatre site, but due to the flood of last September and the damage done to the present facilities, it was decided to clean up, fix up and have the show! The association operates entirely on donation, memberships and pageant receipts.

Our Coke County heritage glitters with examples of how our ingenious and industrious ancestors managed to have good times while helping each other. Whether it was a barn-raising or quilting bee, the neighbors could be counted on to get together and make a real event of it. The Coke County Pageant Association carries that tradition today by presenting the fourth annual production of "OLE COKE COUNTY-Home of the Rabbit Twisters" in the Mountain Creek Amphitheatre, July 24 and 25 and July 31 and Aug. 1, 8:30 p.m. Plan now to be with us!

Buddy Trulls Take Position At Christoval

Rev. and Mrs. Buddy Trull have moved from Blackwell to Christoval where he will serve as pastor of the Baptist Church. He has been pastor of Blackwell First Baptist Church for the past 3 1/2 years.

Last Sunday was Trull's final service at Blackwell and a good crowd was on hand to bid farewell to him and his family. He presented each senior citizen present with a book marker with a verse on it, entitled "Footprints in the Sand."

The church then presented him with a plaque for "the good work he has done the past 3 1/2 years." A covered dish luncheon was served at noon and a love offering was given to him and his wife, Delores, "with best wishes for them at their new location."

Members said the Trulls "will really be missed, as he was so good to visit everyone in the hospitals and nursing homes." He visited regularly at Leisure Lodge Nursing Home in Roscoe and went every Monday to visit the Bronte Nursing Home.

The Trulls loaded out early Monday morning and left for their new home in Christoval.



Texas Department of Public Safety