

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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Friends, Neighbors Pay Tribute To Mrs. Yarbrough, Historian

More than 200 friends and relatives gathered at the Recreation Center in Robert Lee Sunday afternoon to pay tribute to Mrs. Jessie N. Yarbrough, Coke County historian. The reception marked the publication of her book, "A History of Coke County, Home of the Rabbit Twisters"

Mrs. Yarbrough has spent practically all of her adult life gathering material for the book. It was first published as a thesis for her master's degree, but many additions, changes and corrections have been made.

County Extension Agent Sterling Lindsey presided at a short program at 3 p.m. Robert Lee Mayor Robert Vaughan read a proclamation declaring May 31 to be "Jessie N. Yarbrough Appreciation Day" and presented her with a framed copy of the document.

Ulmer Bird, another Coke County historian, paid tribute to the honoree, as he noted that she has been chairman of the Coke County Historical Survey Committee since its inception in 1963. During this time, 20 historical markers have been erected in the county at sites which have special significance.

Bird also called attention to Mrs. Yarbrough's service as a teacher for 48 years in Coke and other area counties. Since her retirement in 1960, she has

spent hundreds of hours tutoring students who needed special help with troublesome school work. In addition, she has served as correspondent for San Angelo and Abilene daily newspapers. She used the money she earned writing for the newspapers to purchase books for the libraries at Robert Lee and Bronte Schools.

Elto Mims of Water Valley, also a Coke County historian, paid tribute to Mrs. Yarbrough. "Her influence is world-wide," Mims said. "Who else in Coke County can say they pinned diapers on the governor of New Mexico, or gave him cookies, or wiped his nose?" Mims also recalled that world-famous novelist James Michener once spent three hours with Mrs. Yarbrough, picking her brain for authentic historical details to be used in one of his novels.

County Judge D.W. Sims said that Mrs. Yarbrough's efforts in preserving and writing history were invaluable to the county and everyone interested in its history. He presented her an engraved plaque expressing official appreciation from the county.

Mrs. Yarbrough was the last speaker on the program. She told the audience she was grateful for the recognition and related some of her early day experiences. She said even though she has a master's degree, "I went to school only one long term, but I went for 15 summer terms." She also thanked several persons who have helped her in compiling information and writing her book.

After the program, Mrs. Yarbrough spent a busy two hours autographing books and visiting with well-wishers.

It was truly a day when lots of people showed lots of love and appreciation for a great lady.

Coke Firemen Discuss Fire Prevention District

A large group of volunteer firemen from Robert Lee and Bronte, county and city officials and other citizens met Monday night at the Bronte City Hall to hear about and discuss the formation of a rural fire prevention district in Coke County.

Allen R. Baca of Austin, a community assistance specialist with the Texas Department of Community Affairs, was present and explained a little known Texas statute which provides for the creation of such districts. The law was enacted in 1957 and some 17 counties have created 31 districts which provide financial assistance to 112 volunteer and paid fire departments in Texas.

Baca explained the law to his

audience and said the scope of activities of fire prevention districts can be about as broad or as limited as citizens wish it to be.

Districts have the authority to levy a tax not to exceed three cents per \$100 valuation for use of fire departments and other emergency functions, such as ambulance service. He said fire prevention districts can be compared to hospital or water districts which provide services not met by existing county or city governmental bodies.

Baca said the creation of a district would in no way affect the autonomy of the Robert Lee and Bronte Volunteer Fire Departments.

The procedure for creation of a district is for citizens to present a petition to the commissioners' court signed by a least 100 qualified voters who reside and own property in the district. After the county clerk certifies the eligibility of at least 100 of the signatures, the commissioners may call an election. If the

election carries, the commissioners will issue and order that the district has been legally formed and appoint a five-member fore commission to administer the affairs of the district. Commissioners are appointed for two year terms. County Judge D.W. Sims told the group that the approximately \$75 million valuation of Coke County would net \$22,500 a year which could be used for fire protection and other emergency services. All four Coke County commissioners were present, including George Newby and Finis Millican of Robert Lee and Bobby Vaughn and Jerry Parker of Bronte. County Attorney Bill Helwig was also at the meeting.

President Willie Johnson of the Bronte Fire Department presided. No action was taken on the formation of a district but representatives from both towns said they would discuss and consider the matter.

Baca left information kits with the firemen and officials

Interviews For Coach, Vo-Ag Jobs

Members of the Bronte School board of trustees will interview applicants for a new head coach and vocational agriculture teacher when they were scheduled to meet.

The board is seeking a replacement for Coach Ronnie Krejci and Vo-Ag Teacher David Howell. Krejci has resigned to accept a position as principal of Miles High School, and Howell resigned to accept a position as vo-ag teacher at Cotton Center.

So far, these two positions are the only ones where vacancies exist on the faculty of Bronte School.

The school has several applicants for both positions.

HOBBY MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

The Hobby Shop in Bronte has moved into larger quarters and is now open for business in the building between Cumbie & Mackey and Ragsdale's Barber Shop. The building former housed Charles's Angels.

Mrs. Effie Corley, owner said the larger building will enable her to display merchandise to better advantage, as well as provide more space for art students who use her place for painting classes and practice sessions.

Barbecue Nets Firemen \$1003

Members of the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department decided at their meeting Monday night that their Memorial Day barbecue was a big success, in spite of heavy expenses. Treasurer C.E. Bruton reported the net profit at \$1003.91.

He said it is possible a few small bills still haven't come in, but he felt that figure was close. Expenses were added up to \$1340.09

In other business conducted before the program was turned over to Allen R. Baca for discussion of rural fire prevention district, Wade Stautzenberger was elected reporter for the department.

He said Tuesday that he would like to have more news in The Enterprise about activities of the firemen and added he would turn in information on a regular basis.

The new reporter said he felt a good way to start would be to acquaint readers with who makes up the Bronte Volunteer Department. Who are the officers and members? He turned in the following list:

President, Willie Johnson; vice president, T.H. Franklin; secretary, David Scott; treasurer, C.E. Bruton; chaplain, Roy Nixon; fire chief, Roland Sowell; second chief, Bill Jackson; third chief, Wendell Lee; fire Marshall, Billy Joe Luckett; reporter, Wade Stautzenberger.

Other members are Steve Badley, James A. Tidwell, Paul Sublett, Royce Dyess, Harold Dunn, Jack Asbill, David Howell, Louis Lee, Scotty McCorkle, Jess Ensor, Tommy Bailey, Bob Martin, Larry Spivey, Robert Perry and Tim McKee.

Central Baptist Revival Planned For June 7-14

An eight-day revival meeting will begin Sunday at Central Baptist Church in Bronte. Services will be held twice a day from June 7 through June 14. Sunday services will be at the regular times and weekday services will be at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

The Rev. Marion Wilson of Laurel, Miss., will be the evangelist for the meeting and Steve Brand of Carthage will direct the music. Wilson is head of the Bible Department of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel and Brand is music director at First Baptist Church in Carthage.

The Rev. Dewey Hines, pastor of Central Baptist Church, said the entire membership of the church joins him in inviting everyone in the community to attend the revival services.

MOVING?

Unless we have your new address, your Bronte Enterprise will be undeliverable. A change of address notice is sent to us at a charge of 25 cents each and often there is considerable delay before we get your address. Please notify us at least two weeks BEFORE your address changes and we will change it on the date you specify.

SENIOR CITIZENS TO MEET

Bronte senior citizens will meet Thursday, June 11, at 10 a.m. in the Community Center for their regular monthly meeting. Everyone is invited to bring a dish of food for the covered dish luncheon. A game party will also be held.



IN APPRECIATION--An official "Thank You" from Coke County went to Mrs. Jessie N. Yarbrough at a Sunday afternoon reception when County Judge D.W. Sims presented her with an engraved plaque. She recently

published a book, "A History of Coke County, Home of the Rabbit Twisters." From left are Judge Sims; Ulmer Bird, another Coke County historian; Mrs. Royce Smith [seated], a neighbor of

Mrs. Yarbrough; Mrs. Yarbrough; and Ben Oglesby, publisher of the Robert Lee Observer and Bronte Enterprise. [Photo by Goss Graphic Services, Colorado City]