

The Donley County Leader

Historical News of the Pioneers of the "Green Belt" of the Panhandle of Texas

A supplement to The Clarendon Enterprise.

Volume 64

PIONEER EDITION

CLARENDON, DONLEY COUNTY, TEXAS, JULY 5, 2012

A Common Paper For Common People

Donley Pioneers Blaze Trail For Education

First School Established At Old Clarendon

Editor's Note: This year's Pioneer Edition of The Leader is dedicated to the educators of our community - past, present, and future.

W.A. Allen, a Methodist minister, came to the Saint's Roost Colony [in 1878] at the invitation of his brother-in-law, L.H. Carhart, to establish a school which would help convert the frontier to Methodism. Allen, like other ministers of that period, considered the education of the young to be as much a part of his obligation to the church as the spiritual welfare of their elders.

A small structure was erected from lumber hauled from Dodge City, Kansas, and used for a school and a church. It was the first building made from lumber in the new colony of Clarendon.

During the first year of trying to establish a school (1878-1879), Allen found children scarce and needed for daily chores, which did not leave time for booklearning, and the school did not last. But despite Allen's failure to establish a permanent school in the colony, he is generally credited with being the Panhandle's first teacher and giving Clarendon claim to having the first school in the region even though it was not a success.

Soon after the organization of the county in 1882, the cattlemen's association, under the advisement of Colonel Goodnight, organized a school by raising the money themselves. The organization kept the school going for two years, even though not a one of the men in the organization had a child in the school.

After the teacher was hired, classes were held in the picket house built for Ed Carhart and his printing press, with the students sitting in planks nailed across the drygoods boxes. The original class of ten pupils were all children of the colonists: the White boys, the Allen girls, the Phillips boys, Wally Parks and the Wagner children. Later the school was moved to an upstairs room of the building used for the courthouse.

After B.H. White was elected County Judge in 1884, he established Donley County as a school district with the boundaries of the district being the boundaries of the county and the district was numbered as one. Morris Rosenfield, school trustee, directed construction of a frame building for classes. A cowboy from the Heart Ranch, Tom Martindale, was hired as the teacher and education was at last firmly rooted in Donley County.

When the Saint's Roost colony began its move to the new townsite of Clarendon, it became necessary to relocate the school. In 1888, the first school

Bootleggers Are Nabbed Tuesday

Sheriff Guy Wright and patrolman Bill Abbott arrested two Oklahoma men west of town Tuesday evening and took over their cargo of 120 pints of whiskey. The officers were returning from Amarillo and noticed extra spare tires on the automobile and thought they might be tire thieves. The two men were so jittery that they figured a good shake-down would be in order, so as a result they found the 5 cases of whiskey.

The men gave their names as Richard and Clarence Yarber of Mangum, Ok. They were tried in County court Wednesday and were each fined \$100 and court cost.

Donley County Leader, September 3, 1942.



Clarendon Public School in its first year 1888. The school was situated about where the Clarendon Lions Club is today. Miss Ella Smith was the teacher.

LEADER ARCHIVE PHOTO

building to be constructed on the present site of Clarendon was built. The first school term in the new structure, which consisted of ten months, was during the 1888-89 school year and was taught by Miss Katie Lewis (Mrs. B.W. Chamberlain) and Mrs. Henry Hicocks. The frame school building was used until 1902 when over-crowded conditions brought about the need for a larger school. In the spring of 1901, the last class graduated from the old wooden building. The graduating students were: Mary McNeelis, Georgia McNeelis, Anna Bourland, Towne Young and Clyde Caldwell. The old public school building was offered for sale by closed bids and on January 24, 1902, the school board sold the wooden structure to J.D. Jefferies, who moved it and erected from its lumber a large residents and barn on a section of land just east of the place Al Gentry owned. The new farmhouse was occupied by Taylor Warner and family of Arkansas City, Kansas, who were relatives of Jefferies.

Even before the wooden schoolhouse was torn down, plans were being made for a new brick structure. Bonds to the amount of \$10,000 were voted in late in 1900, and construction was started on the building located on the block southeast of the courthouse square, which was originally the site of the frame schoolhouse. The building was completed in December, 1901, and was first occupied on Monday, January 6, 1902. The first class to graduate from the new building consisted of four boys and four girls, as follows: Fred Chamberlain, Lee Anderson, Robert Latimer, John McLean, Maude Atterberry, Maude McLean, Burlie Jacks and Mary Peeble.

In 1913, crowded condition of the school again made it necessary to provide additional school housing and a brick building was constructed for the high school students. A bond issue was passed which provided \$25,000 for construction costs. The old brick building was still used for the elementary grades and was referred to as the central ward school.

In 1921, it became necessary again to provide additional room for large and growing populace. A new building was erected to the east of the high school, at a cost of \$75,000, and was referred to as the South Ward school. It was ready for occupancy by January 1922. The junior high students were moved from the old brick building to the new school, but it was still necessary to use the original brick building, making three buildings in use. The school enrollment had increased from 100 students in 1888 to 187 in 1894, 432 students in 1902 to an enrollment of 694 students in November of 1921. The total enrollment of the high school was 218 in December of 1922.

The steady increase of students in the public schools was due in part to the educational advantage provided by the establishment of Clarendon Methodist College in 1898. Families who wanted their children to get a complete educa-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.

Annual July 4th Celebration Committee Heads Are Named

The Clarendon Outdoor Entertainment Association held a called meeting Tuesday night at the court room of all members of the association. The celebration as a whole was discussed and plans are already beginning to form to make this even bigger and better celebration. It was decided that the barbecue would be held at the Rodeo grounds this year with the ranchers furnishing the beef and the businessmen furnishing the trimmings. It was decided to have a Grand Marshall of all festivities each year honoring our prominent ranchers. C.T. McMurtry has been selected as the Grand Marshall this year. J.W. Murphy is president of the Association and also the business manager. Committee chairmen

are as follows: Rodeo, Pat Slavin; Horse Races, Arthur Howard and Pat Slavin; Publicity and Advertising, G.W. Estlack; Queen Contest, Mrs. Alfred McMurtry; Parking, Jack Brooks; Parade & Booster Trips, Jimmy Faulkner; Ticket Sales & Gates, E.O. Simmons; Barbecue, Flip Breedlove; Concessions, R.E. Drennan; Dance, Clarence Pipes; Sponsor Contest, Mrs. Joe McMurtry and Mrs. Boyd Rogers.

The Finance committee is composed of the following with J.W. Murphy as chairman; Jimmy Faulkner, C.T. McMurtry, Alfred McMurtry, L.T. Shelton, Bill Lewis, Jr., Bob Head, Pete Kunz, Bud Knorpp, Joe McMurtry, Bill Cushing and Fontayne Elmore. The Celebration will be held on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July so everyone can be looking forward to a very busy and enjoyable time ahead. Everyone is expected to help when called upon; in fact, the association will appreciate all voluntary help in any way.

Donley County Leader, May 22, 1922.

2617 Students In Census of County

Scholastic Report For Current Year Indicates Loss Of 103.

For the first time in years, the scholastic report for Donley County registers a loss in the number of students who will attend Donley County schools for the coming year. Two Independent Districts, Lelia Lake and Hedley, show a small gain to partly offset the loss found in the Common school districts of the county and in the loss found in the Clarendon Independent School District.

The Common School Districts of the county show a loss of 103 students reported by the census taker, with figures of 1148 for the present year as against 1251 for the year 1927. The Clarendon Independent School District shows the greatest loss of any parts of the County, even though the attendance for the past year has been larger than at any time in the past history of the district. This may be accounted for in the fact that many students are in attendance on the schools and are over age and are not counted in the census.

Lelia Lake District shows a gain of fourteen students with a reported scholastic census of 246 students in 1927 and 260 for the present year. Hedley recognizes a gain of twelve scholastics, reporting 429 for the year 1927 and 417 for the year ended.

The census for this year has been very carefully checked and some errors may have been overlooked in the last year's census that occasioned the report of this year. The number will be increased to some extent by transfers into the county after the census has been finished.

The Clarendon News, May 3, 1928

Junior College Tax Finds Favor

According to reports from members of the board of trustees of the Clarendon Independent School District and from expressions heard at random on the street, there is a growing sentiment in favor of some sort of tax levy to care for the needs of Clarendon Junior College. Many feel that if funds are required the tax is the only equitable way of taking care of the demand.

There is some sentiment for a county-wide levy under the new law but there are many who doubt if such a tax could be carried. There is little understanding of the status and workings of a junior college and the proponents of the tax would enter the election under a severe handicap.

President F.E. Chamberlain and the members of the school board will appreciate a frank expression of opinions from all residents of the district as it is a serious problem just how to finance the college and as public servants they are anxious to carry out the popular will.

The Clarendon News, April 25, 1929

One Man's Experiment

J. M. Eldridge planted out a few thousand bermuda onion sets early in the spring by way of experiment. These onions are now as large as saucers and will soon be ready for the harvest.

The Clarendon News, June 2, 1921

Hedley Teachers, Pupils Poisoned At Lunch Room

Approximately 65 pupils and 8 teachers of the Hedley School who experienced the ordeal of ptomaine Tuesday afternoon are now out of danger, physicians stated and all have returned to their homes. However, a few special cases are still being treated. Principal W.C. Payne of the Hedley Schools said all of the students affected were those that had eaten in the WPA school lunch project Tuesday noon. The first victim was stricken about 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Others were stricken after school was out, increasing difficulty in treating them. What might have been a tragedy of catastrophic proportions was averted when the poison victims were rounded up hurriedly and rushed to Memphis and Clarendon hospitals where medical aid was rendered.

Seeing that the situation was becoming acute, calls were made to Clarendon and Memphis for help. Cars, buses and ambulances quickly arrived on the scene. The Womack Funeral Home at Hedley, Memphis, and Clarendon rushed four ambulances into field of action, making several round trips carrying the victims to the Clarendon Clinic. When there was no more room at the Clinic the overflow was taken care of at Womack Funeral Home.

No official diagnosis concerning the poisoning had been given at press time. A report is expected soon, however, as samples of the food have been sent to a laboratory for an official analysis.

Physicians and those closely concerned have expressed their appreciation for the excellent spirit of cooperation exemplified by local citizens. Cots, mattresses and bed pans were quickly donated to take care of the serious situation.

The whole county heaved a sigh of relief and gratitude as the early Wednesday morning report went out, "There are no fatalities, and the patients are fast regaining their normal status."

The Donley County Leader, May 14, 1942.

Lelia Lake Pupils Ride Rail to Giles

Believe it or not, many boys and girls almost ready for high school had not ridden on a train, the old standby of transportation. Many grown-ups have not ridden on a modern air conditioned train.

As an educational feature of the Lelia Lake grammar school, sixty-six pupils a few days ago boarded the Denver noon train at Lelia and rode to Giles for an outing at Highway Park.

Every courtesy was shown to the school group by the trainmen. An inspection of the train was made from "stem to stern" and every detail explained to the youthful prodigies.

As the train neared Giles, it was stopped at the nearest point to the Park where the pupils took off for the hills and hollows of the Park. Supt. Raymond Wilson headed the excursion, assisted by Miss Lucas, Miss Webster and Mrs. Cook, instructors in the grades.

"The old depot at Lelia Lake took on an appearance of days of yesteryear when 'putting the train through' was a great outdoor diversion," stated Mr. Albert W. Gerner as he was asked for information.

Probably the boys and girls making the trip are now boosters of the old Denver that hauled their ancestors to the Panhandle in the days of martial bliss and wide open ranges.

The Donley County Leader, May 16, 1940.

**More Plows, Sows, & Hens
For Donley County**

THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

Established 1929

J.C. ESTLACK • FOUNDER

A.D. ESTLACK & G.W. ESTLACK • PAST PUBLISHERS

MARGARET ESTLACK & RUBY DELL ESTLACK • PAST SOCIETY EDITORS

ROGER ALLEN ESTLACK • PUBLISHER & EDITOR

ASHLEE ESTLACK • CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

TARA HOGAN • OFFICE DIRECTOR

MORGAN WHEATLY • AD DIRECTOR & LAYOUTS

FREDDY GRAY • FEATURED COLUMNIST

The DONLEY COUNTY LEADER is published annually by Roger A. Estlack at Clarendon, Texas. Copyright © MMXII. All Rights Reserved. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher.

History: The DONLEY COUNTY LEADER was founded on March 12, 1929, by J.C. Estlack and was published weekly by the Estlack Family until November 28, 1974. It was then purchased by The CLARENDON Press, which continued the LEADER for a short time as a Sunday paper before suspending its publication. The LEADER volume number was carried on the Press' masthead thru 1976. The LEADER was revived on March 14, 1996, and merged with The CLARENDON News in the creation of The CLARENDON ENTERPRISE. In July of that year, The LEADER's annual Pioneer Edition was launched to reflect on the pioneer news and history of Donley County and the Texas Panhandle.

The Declaration of Independence

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.—We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.—He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.—He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.—He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.—He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.—He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.—He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.—He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.—He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.—He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.—He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.—He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.—He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.—He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:—For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:—For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:—For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:—For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:—For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:—For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences—For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:—For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:—For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.—He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.—He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.—He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.—He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.—He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and he has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.—We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.— And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Early Schools:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

tion could make their homes in Clarendon and send their children to elementary, high school and college. However, the Methodist Conference decided to move the college to Amarillo in 1926, which offered an opportunity for the Clarendon School District to purchase three college building in 1927 by the issuance of \$42,000 of bonds. The addition to the plant enables the school board to re-launch the college as a municipal institution, which opened its doors in September 1928 as Clarendon Municipal Junior College.

In 1933, the old brick school building, the first one erected in Clarendon was torn down. All of the elementary grades were moved to the south ward school, the Junior High was moved to the High School building and the High School was moved to the college campus to share their facility. Today the old Junior High building is known as former Texas Saddle Company, and the home of Kevin Johnson occupies the site of the old High School building which was destroyed by fire.


A new public school was built on the college campus in 1961. The elementary, junior high and high school were all combined in the new building which is still in use today. In 1968, Clarendon College moved to its new campus south of Highway 287, leaving the old buildings to be utilized by the Clarendon Public Schools. In 1989, the need for expansion prompted the renovation of the old College "Main" building for use as a separate high school. The students moved into their new facility in 1990.

From the time of the first pioneer to the citizens of today, education has always been a prime concern to the people of Clarendon. Many, many students have walked the halls of the public school buildings of Clarendon over the years, enjoying the rich educational heritage that has been such a vital part of the community.

By Jean Stavenhagen, Chair
Donley Co. Historical Commission

TEMPLE OF TRUTH

By the Apostle



Instinct v. Brains

We as a people, the most intelligent on the Globe, elect a man to office, require him to place his hand upon the Bible and pledge himself before Almighty God to do that which a dog does from instinct.

After viewing the records of professional politicians, how can we avoid having greater respect for the dog?

Professor Used Tact

Replying to a letter received from a school patron of a Panhandle town, the professor wrote in reply: "Not being used to profanity, I can only say that my opinion of you could be phrased in five adjectives, two strong nouns, one ultra strong noun respectfully resented by every red-blooded Texan, and a compound phrase which you have heard since early childhood.


Extremities

Often some folks find it difficult to make their earning ability equal their yearning ability.

Human Frailties

Some men and a few women lose their tempers, then turn their tongues loose to look for their tempers saying things causing for bitter regret upon sober reflection.

The Donley County Leader,
July 1, 1937



Clarendon Public School Faculty - 1911: (standing) Katherine Stout, Mag. Willis, Susie Patterson, Miss Cape, Miss Garrison, Maggie Stout, Miss Watts, (seated) Gabbie Betts, Prof. Silvey, Mr. Vance, and unknown.

LEADER ARCHIVE PHOTO

Several Rural

Schools Closed

To Pick Cotton

Ashtola School Has Adopted Plan of Half Day Sessions For The Present

Schools at Glenwood, Bray, McKnight, Chamberlain, Fish and possibly others have closed for the "cotton holiday" to permit a prompt gathering of the crops.

Martin will close Friday of this week. Jericho, being outside the cotton district, will continue through the term without interruption.

Ashtola adopted a new plan of half day sessions. School begins at seven and closes at 12:20 each day. Class periods have been shortened five minutes each. The high school and upper grades of elementary classes have no recess period.

The plan enables school to be in session while crop gathering is in progress. So far as can be learned, this plan is new and working to the satisfaction of both teachers, pupils, and patrons.

Mrs. Nora McMurry, county superintendent of schools, has warned those in authority to see that all children of the compulsory age attend school this term, she also calls attention to the fact that the schools receiving state aid should use every precaution to see that the required attendance is kept up to par.

It is possible that a teacher be dropped even though the term has begun if pupils of all ages do not attend in sufficient number to meet the requirements of the State Department of Education.

When the crop gathering period has closed and schools have opened, she states that it will be necessary that those in authority make a careful survey to see that no pupils are permitted to remain out of school.

Donley County Leader, Sept. 24, 1931.

Happy Independence Day!

Family, food, and fun. These are the main ingredients for a perfect holiday! We hope you enjoy it and celebrate it safely.





Pride



Join us in showing our pride for America by flying your flag this holiday.

Happy Independence Day!



GREENBELT

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





Clarendon's grammar school on March 6, 1922. The school was located where the Post Office and Lions Hall are today. The Methodist Church can be seen in the background.

LEADER ARCHIVE PHOTO

Pioneer Publisher Recalls Clarendon's First Brick School Building

John E. Cooke, As Publisher Of The Banner-Stockman At Time School Building Was Erected Supplies Information.

As a Clarendon publisher, no doubt John E. Cooke did the folks around here a lot of favors. After all these years he digs up information that all of us can appreciate and he continues to render the citizens here a distinct favor. Friend Cooke's information is authentic, having been taken from the files of his publication, as he explains it.

We often become "befuddled" in our reckoning after we have reached old age. Few admit old age, but we often make errors in dates because of the lapse of time. Anyhow here is the information John E. Cooke, publisher of the Rockdale Reporter, has given us in the following paragraphs:

I read with interest your paper each week, and am constantly finding something therein that brings back pleasant memories of the ten years I spent in Clarendon as editor of the Banner-Stockman. I bought the old Clarendon Banner in the fall of 1899 and immediately changed the name to "Banner-Stockman," and continued as editor and publisher until January 1909. I still have complete file of my old paper for those years.

I noted with interest your recent stories concerning the tearing down of Clarendon's first brick public school building, and with a degree of amusement the difficulty such old-times as John Sims seem to have in remembering just when the building was erected. My old Banner-Stockman files prove that Friend Sims' memory is very bad; he has missed his guess by four years.

Here is some data that I compiled from Banner-Stockman files:

Bonds to the amount of \$10,000 were voted late in year of 1900. Contract was awarded to a Mr. White on May 6, 1901. The building was completed in December 1901, and was first occupied on Monday, January 6, 1902.

On the afternoon of Jan. 3, 1902, an informal reception was held in the new building and a program rendered. This program included an opening prayer by Supt. W. R. Silvery, a talk by Mayor I.W. Carhart, a short speech by Contractor White who delivered the keys to the school board, a response by W. B. Ware, secretary of the Board, and talks by Rev. W. L. Skinner, Baptist pastor, and County Judge B. H. White.

My files show that on January 24, 1902, the School Board sold the old wooden building to J. D. Jefferies, who moved it and erected from its lumber a large resident and barn on a section of land just east of the Al Gentry place. This new farm home was at once occupied by Taylor Warner and family of Arkansas City, Kansas. They were relatives of Jefferies.

I fail to find in these files a complete roster of the School board, but I find that on May 17, 1901, the Board was recognized with the following officers: Barnhart, President; W.B. Ware, secretary; R.A. Chamberlain, treasurer; John T. Sims, assessor and collector. At the time the building was accepted, however, it would appear from a story I wrote that George F. Morgan was president of the Board.



Clarendon's first brick school building, erected in 1901 and razed in 1933.

LEADER ARCHIVE PHOTO



Clarendon Public School Trustees in front of the new brick building in 1901: John T. Sims, Trustee; John White, Building Contractor; T.S. Bugbee, Trustee; Dave Barnhart, Trustee; Morris Rosenfield, Trustee; W.R. Silvery, Superintendent; W.B. Wall, Trustee; and R.A. Chamberlain, Trustee.

SAINTS' ROOST MUSEUM PHOTO / CLYDE I. PRICE COLLECTION

At the time of the completion of the building the faculty consisted of seven, to-wit: W.R. Silvery, superintendent; W.G. Stewart, principal; C.E. Hall, Mrs. Kate Palmer, Miss Norma Skinner, Miss Chamberlain and Miss Coulter. Silvery reported scholastic census as 375 at the time.

The first class to graduate from the new building consisted of four boys and four girls, as follows: Fred Chamberlain, Lee Anderson, Robert Lattimer and John McLean, Misses Maude Atterberry, Maude McLean, Burlie Jacks and Mary Pebbles.

The last class to graduate from the old wooden building was composed of Misses Mary McNellis, Georgia McNeelis and Annie Bourland; Messrs. Towne Young and Clyde Caldwell. Towne Young is now a prominent jurist of Dallas. Following his graduation he went to work as a printer for the Banner-Stockman, and my files of that date indicate that he had that time political aspirations and was considered making the race for the State Senate.

Publishing a newspaper is Clarendon in those days was an altogether different proposition from what it seems to be now. Our pages were small—only four columns—our type was all set by hand in "long primer" and space was never available for long stories. Stories to which you would now devote a column or more were then handled in paragraphs all too brief, and the building then of what was the best and finest public school house in the Panhandle was not "featured" as you would now feature it. At that, however, the Banner-Stockman handled the news quite well, and did not fail to "rag" other nearby towns about Clarendon's superior educational advantages.

We called her "the Athens of the Panhandle,"—and we were not far from wrong, at that; in fact, we were right, for Clarendon College was just coming into flower about that time.

I could reminisce about that school, too, but this is already too long.

Donley County Leader, June 22, 1933

Regular Meeting Of Board Of County Trustees May 10, 1913

The board was organized and Prof. W.R. Silvey was elected chairman. Lots having been cast for long and short terms by members of the board present and resulted in the election of W.R. Silvey and V.B. Smith for one year each and B.F. Naylor, N.C. Duggins and J.R. Durrett for two years each.

The following resolutions were adopted by the board to wit: (1) That a uniform set of 8th grade entrance examination questions be prepared by the board for the promotion of pupils from the 7th to the 8th grade for use throughout the county.

(2) That the County Commissioners Court be requested to appropriate \$20.00 for printing a course of study.

(3) That the school at Jericho and Bray be and they are hereby classified as High Schools of the 3rd class.

No further business appearing the board adjourned.

The Clarendon News

The New School Faculty

The trustees have selected the teachers for the next scholastic year, with the exception of the principal to fill Prof. Wade Willis' place. The faculty is made up largely from the one of the past year. Prof. W.R. Silvey is president and will be assisted by the following:


Misses Willie May Procter, Lizzie Stevens, Ola Willis, Amy Harding, Maggie and Kate Stout, Mamie McLean and Claudia Curnutte, making, all told, ten teachers, or one more than they had last year. The salaries of teachers run from \$50 up to \$125 per month.

Clarendon Chronicle, June 6, 1908

A great many gentlemen have been out to see for themselves, before moving their families here, and so far, all have been well pleased, and several are now preparing their families to come.


The Clarendon News, June 1, 1878

Read Tomorrow's History Today
In The Pages Of
The Clarendon Enterprise.



CELEBRATE Freedom

Take the day off & enjoy.



GREENBELT Water Authority • Lakeside Marina • 874-5111

Rapid Recovery From Disaster At Chamberlain

School Burning Calamity Has Brought Out Fine Spirit Of Cooperation

There is no better test of the mettle of the people of any community than disaster. When the school building at Chamberlain burned before daybreak Wednesday morning, the loss of the community was keenly felt.

Before the close of the day, plans were made to continue the school in a building kindly contributed by Karl Adams on his ranch formerly occupied by Frank Newton. Sloan Baker, county superintendent of schools, was active in making temporary arrangements and showed a fine spirit of cooperation with the citizens.

More than forty of the good citizens met at the building on Adams ranch Saturday for purpose of putting the building in shape for school opening Monday of this week.

The building was leveled, steps were built, blackboards were hastily constructed and the walls papered after one partition of the four room house was removed. When the job was completed, three teachers were quipped to continue their work with comfortable rooms for each of the departments.

The younger folks moved their basketball equipment from the old location and games will continue uninterrupted.

The ladies were out assisting in every manner possible and served a typical picnic dinner at noon inside the building. Chamberlain has every reason to be proud of her class of citizenship, and never before was this fine spirit of cooperation more prominently displayed than Saturday.

Orin Hott, F.G. Reeves, and M. C. Rampey compose the school board taking a prominent part in the recover. The teachers are Clarence Jackson as principle, and Misses Mary Sue Walters and Maude Crawford as assistant.

Donley County Leader,
February 2, 1933

Fire Destroys Ashtola School

Only Benches And Piano Saved In Early Blaze

Fire of undetermined origin leveled the Ashtola High School building early Saturday morning. The blaze was first sighted by a Fort Worth and Denver train crew who sounded the alarm. Only a piano and a few benches were saved.

The brick building was erected about ten years ago at a cost of \$12,000. Insurance coverage amounted to \$9,000.

School is being held this week at the teacherage after residents of the community had remodeled the interior. Partitions were removed to accommodate the students. The Principal and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Estlack, are living south of Ashtola at the present.

Donley County Leader,
March 18, 1937

Martin School House Burned Sunday Night

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed Martin school house five miles northwest of the city late Sunday night. At the time it was discovered the flames had already made such headway it was impossible to save the building or its contents. The trustees of the Martin School district have the school term and have placed rooms with the co-operation of faculty.

The Clarendon News, April 28, 1932



A new building for Clarendon High School was erected in 1921 and situated where the Kevin Johnson home is now at Seventh and Jefferson. When it opened it was hailed as a "fire proof" building...



... The building burned in the 1960s following the construction of today's public school campus. It had previously been stuccoed and converted to use as a junior high building. LEADER ARCHIVE PHOTOS

Jericho School House Burns Thursday Morn

The Jericho schoolhouse caught fire Thursday morning about ten thirty o'clock from a defective flue, and burned with complete loss of books and furnishings. The building was an old one, and the efforts to stop the flames of no avail. A new building which has been planned for some time, and it will be constructed with all possible speed. Until the completion of the new building, rooms will be rented for school purposes.

On Thursday of the previous week, the building almost burned due to the defect of the flue, but quick work saved the structure. As the building was an old one, the loss was small.

The Clarendon News,
Jan. 19, 1922

The horse that eats his oats too ravenously and is in danger of choking should be given a little chopped clover hay or some whole corncobs, mixed with the oats. The use of wheat bran with oats also lessens the tendency towards choking.

The Clarendon News,
December 12, 1929



Stand up and be proud
this July Fourth to
show your support
for all those who have
given their lives for
the freedom we
enjoy today.

Mike's
PHARMACY



Let Freedom Ring

Our forefathers fought for
our freedom. Our veterans have
fought to protect our freedom.

Let us remember them during
this holiday and be thankful for
what we enjoy.



We hope you and your family enjoy the festivities!

Clarendon Family
Medical Center

Our Heritage Lives On

With the restoration of the historic 1890 Donley County Courthouse, we join our fellow citizens in commemorating the Pioneer Spirit that brought civilization to the Texas Panhandle.

As the elected officials of Donley County, we welcome visitors to the 135th annual Saints' Roost Celebration.

Have a safe and happy Fourth.

- Jack Hall, Judge
- Wanda Smith, Treasurer
- Fay Vargas, Clerk
- Linda Crump, Tax Assessor/Collector
- Connie Havens, Justice of the Peace
- Denise Bertrand, Justice of the Peace
- Butch Blackburn, Sheriff
- Landon Lambert, County Attorney
- Stuart Messer, District Judge
- Mark White, Commissioner Pct. 1
- Don Hall, Commissioner Pct. 2
- Andy Wheatly, Commissioner Pct. 3
- Dan Sawyer, Commissioner Pct. 4
- Doug Wright, Constable

Our offices will be closed
Wednesday July 4

READ TOMORROW'S HISTORY TODAY.

The Clarendon Enterprise. "Spreading the word since 1878."



As One Pioneer to Another

The Founder of the Donley County Leader arrived at Tascosa in 1883. All of his life, except his school days, had been spent in the Panhandle and great Southwest. He believed in her history, the stability of her people as the most progressive and persevering in existence. Every member of the Leader staff is a product of the Southwest. We hope you appreciate our efforts to present to you, unbiased, the news each week.

THE LEADER STAFF

THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

The Emblem of the Land We Love



As we celebrate the Fourth of July with barbecues, fireworks and revelry, it's important to remember the true meaning of this important holiday. On the birthday of our nation, we celebrate freedom and democracy while saluting the heroic efforts of those who have fought for and defended our liberty since July 4, 1776. We're proud of our country, our people, our history and our standing as a symbol of hope, freedom and democracy to people around the world. Happy Birthday, America, and may you continue to prosper and stand strong through future challenges, as you have so many times in the past.

Remember to proudly display your American flag on July 4!

McKinney's Motor CO



School Board Explains Why No Football Team

The Leader was asked this week by the Clarendon Independent School Board to make an explanation of the reason why Athletics was cut out of the local schools, as they wanted everyone to know that it wasn't for any personal reasons.

One reason was lack of transportation. In past years, school buses usually carried football players, band members and pep squad girls to out of town games. This year the government has put restrictions on these buses, allowing them to

carry teachers and pupils to and from school only. Without these buses it would be hard to get enough transportation to out of town games due to the rubber shortage.

Another thing is the money question. It takes a good gate receipt to make a football team pay off, and the outlook was very vague for much of a turn out for any games.

The questions also arose that it might be necessary to close our schools for harvest. Our football schedule would

have to start in October and run through November. This would be at the same time as the turn-out for harvest.

The government has requested all schools do away with athletics that govern only a few and organize something that would take in the student body as a whole. A plan along this line is under study at this time.

We hope this explains the situation; no one wanted to see the Bronchos left out. The best thing we can do now is plan to back our boys in the army and the Bronchos when the whole thing is over.

Donley County Leader, Sept. 3, 1942

Ninth Grade Students Pull Bolls For Classmate

Twenty-seven members of the 9th grade, accompanied by Principal O.D. Lowry and some of the students mothers, invaded the W.H. Strawn cotton patch Wednesday afternoon after school and all pulled bolls with one grand purpose in mind. They pooled their money and will send it to their classmate Joe Tom Naylor who is a patient in the Polio center at Plainview. All students who were unable to go on the boll pulling are going to donate one afternoon's wages of baby sitting or whatever work they are doing. They expect to reach near the \$40 mark.

Donley County Leader, November 27, 1949



celebrating AMERICA

We hope that you and your family enjoy all the festivities during the Saints' Roost Celebration and Rodeo!

Country Bloomers Flowers & Gifts
Clarendon, Texas • 806.874.2508
www.countrybloomers.com

First Graders Take Train Ride

First grade students, taught by Mrs. C.R. Brown and Mrs. Donald Ballew, boarded the 10:37 train to Memphis Friday morning. The Conductor took the children thru the train explaining the many comforts offered by this means of travel.

At Memphis, the group was met by the Chief of Police and a Memphis School bus and were led thru town to the City Park where all enjoyed, their picnic lunch. Drinks were served by Frank Phelan of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

A number of mothers and guest met the train and helped with the serving of lunch. They were also on hand to return the children to Clarendon. Among these present were Mesdames John Lemons, Sick Maxey, Gordon Mann & son, Lloyd McCord, Frank Phelan, Sr., Clyde Slavin, R.C. Jenkins, Durwood Ray, J.G. McAnear and two boys, David Hudgins, Warren Hardin, Chas. Blackburn, Scotty Reneau,

Walker Lane, Hershel Heath and Pat, Tom Harrell and Glenda Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Neece, Emily Meredith, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ballew, Mrs. C.R. Brown, Mrs. Everet Johnson and Mrs. A.S. McAnear.


All reported a most enjoyable time.

Donley County Leader, May 22, 1952

Happy Birthday America!

Come join us in celebrating this July 4th at the 135th annual Saints' Roost Celebration.

DON STONE SIGNS





Enjoy an all American summer with America's music.

KLSR 105.3 FM



Happy Independence Day!

Come Eat A Steak At J.D. Steakout

J.D. STEAKOUT
Hwy. 287 in Clarendon • 874-7777



TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS gets the paper for a year in Donley County. Call 874-2259.



Founding Fathers

Our founding fathers worked hard to give us the freedoms we enjoy today. Our veterans fought and died defending those freedoms. Take time this Independence Day to remember all those who sacrificed for what we have and celebrate our nation's birthday.

Happy Fourth of July!
We will be closed July 4.

24 HR. 287 TIRE & TUBE SERVICE
Floyd's Automotive Supply


Celebrate Freedom Wednesday, July 4

Wishing everyone a wonderful Independence Day. Join us in celebrating our nation's birthday at the Saints' Roots Celebration!

Morrow Drilling & Service
Hwy. 287 West, Clarendon

John E. Morrow (806)874-2704 • (806)662-3943

Old Glory



Symbol of Freedom
Glory
Honor

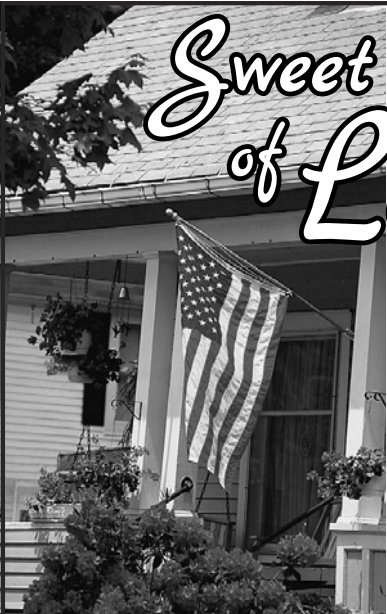
We salute the flag and everything that it represents, including all those lives lost protecting it and the freedom we have today.

Join us in celebrating our nation's independence and giving thanks for having the right to do so.

City of Howardwick Officials
Johnny Hubbard, Mayor Pro-Tem

Board of Aldermen Members:
Tanis McMorries, Gene Roger,
Robert Brewester & Brenda Hampton

Howardwick Volunteer Fire Dept.
and all City Employees



Sweet Land of Liberty

Our great nation was born on this day in 1776, founded on the principles that all people are created equal and have certain unalienable rights. We're proud and blessed to live in a country where the ideals of freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are embraced. Please have a wonderful and safe holiday, and see you at the Saints' Roots Celebration & Rodeo.

Germania INSURANCE
Joey & Brenda Lee
Lee's Insurance
PO Box 189 • Clarendon, Texas 79226
806.874.2130
HOME • AUTO • LIFE • COMMERCIAL

Historic Donley County Schools



Goldston



McKnight



Hedley



Smith



Lelia Lake



Martin



Windy Valley



Giles



Pleasant Valley



Hudgins



Naylor



Jericho



Skillet



Chamberlain



Watkins



Ashtola



Whitefish



Glenwood



Bray



Sunyview

PHOTOS COURTESY
SAINTS' ROOST MUSEUM

Giles School Is Closed Since Bus Rammed

Blinded by the sun late Monday afternoon, Chester Hill drove his car into the side of the Giles school bus. The accident occurred a short distance west of the Hedley school building and the bus was driven by Principal Ed Wilmeth of the Giles School.

Martin and Margaret Johnson were cut by broken glass. Other pupils sustained minor injuries. No one was seriously injured.

In an exchange, the higher grades of the Giles School attended the Hedley School, and some of the lower grades of the Hedley School attend the Giles School, it is explained.

The Giles School closed the remainder of this week until the bus could be repaired. "Shine" Martin of the Chevrolet firm in Clarendon took the bus to Amarillo Wednesday to have the frame straightened. Other repairs will be made here in the paint and body repair department of the Chevrolet motor company.

Donley County Leader, Jan. 23, 1941.

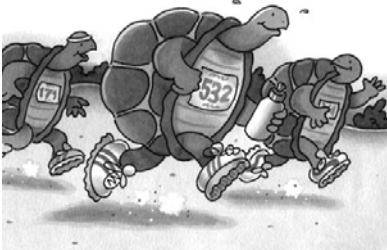
**Have A Happy
And Safe
Fourth of July!**



From your friends at

**Bailey
Autos**

Bring the whole family to Henson's Annual
Turtle Race



Friday, July 6
at 2 p.m. in downtown
CLARENDON



and Come Early for our
**Depression
Luncheon**
downtown beginning at 11 a.m.



and then shop til you drop and

**SAVE,
SAVE,
SAVE!**

Friday & Saturday at Clarendon Merchants'
Sales all over town, including Every Nook &
Granny. Henson's. Stavenhagen Video.
Ronna's Creations. Country Bloomers.
Cornell's Country Store. and more!

Bairfield School To Be Restored At Texas Tech

The 16 by 16 foot Bairfield schoolhouse, long a landmark in this area was donated to the Ranch Headquarters Outdoor Museum at Texas Tech by Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Bairfield and will be restored to its original state.

This one-room school house, sometimes with on pupil and one teacher, was a most important facility in early days providing a source of learning within its walls. It was the only one-room school remaining standing in this area, so far as we know.

Quoting from the Lubbock Avalanche Journal: C.E. Bairfield, who attended the school located on the Bairfield Ranch southwest of Clarendon, remarked that “Kids learned a lot more that way. Usually there was one pupil to a class and he got full benefit of the teacher’s knowledge. Then, when the teacher went to the higher grades, he got to listen in on those and learn them too. I enjoyed hearing the older students recite history and listening to stories about George Washington gave me quite a sense of patriotism.”

Classes were alternated. Shelves in one corner held the school library, and small shelf to one side the water bucket. Water came from a dug well a quarter of a mile away.



The Bairfield School southwest of Clarendon prior to its removal to Texas Tech’s Ranch Heritage Center in 1972. The school closed in 1934 and Miss Zell Rodgers (SoRelle) was its last teacher. She was on hand to ring an old school bell when the building was moved to Lubbock. To learn more about the Bairfield Schoolhouse, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ranchhc/BairfieldSchoolhouse.htm>.

PHOTOS COURTESY SAINTS’ ROOST MUSEUM AND TEXAS TECH.

Mr. Bairfield started to school in 1907. The schoolhouse was built before his time. In research , however, he learned that it had been founed to serve the children of three homesteaders – Fred Wiedman, Jim Porter, and Joe Beaty - and was known as the Porter school. Wint Bairfield bought the Beaty claim about the turn of the century and soon moved the building close to his home for his children. The structure was moved on two wagons. Lunch was taken in syrup buckets or in Cottonlene buckets. Wood, coal, and cow chips provided fuel for the stove. Occasionally a church service or ice cream supper was held at the school.

One clue to the age of the school was discovered by movers. A note was found in a corner written by a woman

who had attend the school in 1893 and had revisited it on her 90th birthday. among the teachers at the school was Mrs. J.F. Anthony of Lubbock. Mrs. Anthony, sister of Mrs. John Bass and Mrs. Van Kennedy, was the teacher in 1921. She was known as Mary Cagle in those days. Her first paycheck was well earned and was \$80.

Also a tradition with the school was the annual picnic at Troublesome which marked the end of the school term.

Just how many teacher taught at the small school or how many young people attended through the years is not known. However, Bairfield School was the last one-teacher school operating in the area at the time it was closed [in 1934].

Zell Rodgers SoRelle was the last teacher at the school

and was on hand to ring an old school bell when the building was moved to Tech.

The Bairfields are to be commended for the donation of this small historical structure to Texas Tech for restoration for it



Ring 874-2259 To Place
Your Classifieds!



SADDLE UP FOR HEART POUNDING
ACTION & EXCITEMENT AT THE
2012 SAINTS’ ROOST
CELEBRATION

We’re back and open just in time for this years annual Saints’ Roost Celebration and Rodeo. Come in and join us in celebrating the Fourth of July celebration. Wishing everyone a safe and fun filled weekend.

Open 6 am to 9 pm
Everyday but Tuesdays.

A Powerful History – SWEPCO Turns 100

Celebrating A Century Of Service In 2012

Editor’s Note: Southwestern Electric Power Company serves customers in Clarendon, Hedley, and other parts of Donley County that were historically served by West Texas Utilities Company.

SHREVEPORT, La. – Formed as Southwestern Gas and Electric Company in June 1912, AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) is 100 years old, has undergone a name change twice, and no longer provides gas, water, ice or transportation services.

The original Southwestern Gas and Electric Company was the product of a merger between three utilities – Shreveport Gas, Electric Light and Power Company, Caddo Gas and Oil Company, and Texarkana Gas and Electric Company. These utilities were owned by a trio of brothers – Rufus, Henry and Charles Dawes, and in 1912 they consolidated their holdings into one company and Southwestern was born on June 29.

The Dawes retained control of Southwestern until 1925 when it was sold to Middle West Utilities. The largest of Middle West’s many holding companies was Central and South West. Southwestern became a part of CSW, which also controlled Central Power and Light Co., Public Service Company of Oklahoma and West Texas Utilities Co.

Through the 1930s and early 1940s, Southwestern was involved in other operations such as ice, water and streetcars, before divesting of these interests in the late 1940s. The company got out of the gas business in 1943.

Southwestern’s service territory continued to expand, and the company’s original power plant units, including the 10,000-kilowatt (KW) “giant” of its day, Arsenal Hill in Louisiana, were inadequate to meet the growing need. Southwestern built natural gas-fired plants and added multiple generating units in various locations in the 1940s and 1950s, including Knox Lee Power Plant on Cherokee Lake near Longview, Tex.; and the Lieberman Power Plant on

Caddo Lake at Mooringsport, La.

In 1958, after 46 years as Southwestern Gas and Electric, a new corporate name was adopted – Southwestern Electric Power Company. This name would change again 42 years later, with the American Electric Power merger of 2000 to reflect the company as its known today – AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company, or more commonly as SWEPCO. AEP celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2006.

By the early 1970s, natural gas shortages hit and long-term contracts couldn’t be found. The advantages of coal were obvious – inexpensive, abundant and available in the U.S. Southwestern would go on to build two coal plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s – Flint Creek in NW Arkansas, and Welsh in East Texas.

Continued customer growth created the need for additional plants. The fuel to fire these plants was found right in SWEPCO’s own back yard – lignite. The Pirkey Plant in East Texas was completed in 1985, and the Dolet Hills Power Plant in Louisiana went on line in 1986. SWEPCO built Dolet Hills, while Central Louisiana Electric Company (Cleco) operates the plant and both SWEPCO and Cleco are partners with two other companies that share in the power produced from its single 640,000 KW unit.

While the company did not build a power plant for over 20 years, increased electricity usage and strong customer growth prompted a return to the plant-building business again, as three new proposed plants were announced in the 2006 that will add some 1,400,000 KWs to the system by late 2012. SWEPCO installed simple-cycle gas combustion turbine peaking generation in July 2007 at the Harry Mattison Power Plant in Tontitown, Ark. near Fayetteville; completed the 508,000 KW combined-cycle gas J. Lamar Stall unit in Shreveport in June 2010 at the site of the company’s oldest plant, Arsenal Hill; and construction work continues on an advanced clean coal combustion plant using ultra-supercritical technology at the John W. Turk, Jr. Power Plant at Fulton, Ark. near Hope in Hempstead County. The Turk plant is over

90 percent complete and should be operational early next year. All three plants are named for former SWEPCO presidents.

The company received Texas commission approval and transferred 7,000 retail electric customers in five counties in the Texas Panhandle from AEP Texas to SWEPCO in 2007. The change was made because these customers were located in the same regional reliability council known as the Southwest Power Pool as the rest of SWEPCO’s East Texas customers. These new customers immediately saw lower electric prices, with an estimated annual savings of about 15 to 20 percent depending on usage.

Additionally, SWEPCO finalized the purchase of Valley Electric Membership Corporation (VEMCO) in October 2010. These 30,000 customers in eight northern and central Louisiana parishes also enjoy electric rate savings of about 20 percent. Adding Valley’s service area greatly expands SWEPCO’s geographic footprint in Louisiana and brings economic growth opportunities with the company’s lower rates along the Interstate 49 and Toledo Bend corridors.

SWEPCO values its most cherished assets – its customers and its employees. When the company was first formed, it had 125 employees and served only three communities – Shreveport, Bossier City and Texarkana – with a combined population of 42,000. Today, SWEPCO serves over 200 communities on its lines, representing a diverse 33,000-square mile service area of northern and central La., east and north Texas, and western Arkansas with a population of two million. There are 1,670 company employees supplying electricity to over 521,600 customers over 4,000 miles of transmission lines and about 28,000 miles of distribution power lines.

SWEPCO has most recently purchased over 469,000 KW of long-term renewable power capacity from wind farms in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

SWEPCO is proud of its 100-year commitment to reliable rates at affordable prices for its customers, and will continue to be a powerful company in the Ark-La-Tex.

Take a cue from Uncle Sam and live the dream this Fourth of July!

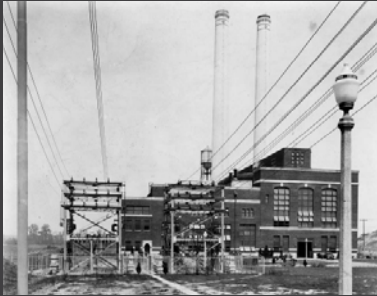
We hope you and
your family enjoy
all the fun here in
Clarendon this week!



WootWick’s PIT STOP



The Power to serve you...
now and in the future.



SWEPCO’s oldest
plant, Arsenal Hill,
came on line in
Louisiana in 1926.

Ronald Reagan visits
Arsenal Hill in 1958
as a spokesman for
General Electric.



AEP SOUTHWESTERN
ELECTRIC POWER
COMPANY
A unit of American Electric Power

www.swepco.com



CELEBRATING AMERICA

On July Fourth, we celebrate the birthday of the United States of America and all the great things our nation represents. We are proud of our country and the values it upholds, and we gratefully salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who fight to defend America and her ideals. God bless the U.S.A.

**Wishing You and Yours a Safe and
Happy Independence Day!**



HERRING BANK

P.O. Box 947, Clarendon, Texas 79226 • 806/874-3556 • Member FDIC • Equal Housing Lender

We will be closed Wednesday, July 4, 2012.