

BOB BOWMAN'S EAST TEXAS

From the 1800s to shortly after World War II, east Texas was made up mostly of farming communities — small in size, but big in community spirit.

The communities were the world to their residents. They couldn't run to places like Tyler, Longview and Paris, like people do today. A trip in a mule-drawn wagon took hours away from farming where the farmers (and the mules) needed to be.

Some communities had a small general store and a church, but almost every community had a school which acted as the glue that

held each settlement together.

The schools were dictated by the size of the community and by the distance the kids could be expected to walk. School buses had not yet arrived.

Most schools had only two or three rooms with wooden floors and were warmed during cold weather by a wood-burning potbelly stove in each classroom.

Hot days were made cooler only if a breeze blew through the windows. A rope was strung out one window and hitched to a bell hanging on a post.

The rope was yanked by a teacher to call the classes to order and end the recess.

One such school stood at Hickory Grove in Anderson County, not far from the Neches River. The community had a church, a graveyard (Muse Cemetery), and a store or two down the road.

Standing behind the school were two outhouses, one for the boys and one for the girls. Recess meant mumblety-peg and wolf-over-the-river or, if there was enough ground without trees, baseball games were played by both girls and boys.

The schools often provided entertainment for the community — usually plays performed by students, some with homemade costumes.

Each student carried a lunch to school, sometimes in a syrup bucket filled with cornbread, boiled eggs, and a piece of fried chicken. That continued until Franklin D. Roosevelt's commodities program supplied food to the country schools.

Each school usually had a well that supplied water. Some even had a drinking fountain.

Many of East Texas' small farming communities began to fade away when their

schools were consolidated with those in other towns.

If you travel across East Texas, you can still find some reminders of the towns, often abandoned buildings that once served as schools and stores — places like Dextra in Nacogdoches County and Denning in San Augustine County.

Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 40 books about east Texas. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com.

The Chandler & Brownsboro Statesman

Founded 1976

P.O. Box 168
Brownsboro, TX 75756
Phone: 903-852-7641
Fax: 903-852-7631
Subscriptions: 903-852-7641
Email: advertising@c-bstatesman.com

Bill Woodall - Publisher
Paul Bryant - Editor
Bette Jones - Composing
Lloyd Cook - Sports/News
James Taffinger - Advertising

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in The Chandler & Brownsboro Statesman will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the editor.

★ SUBSCRIPTION RATES ★
Henderson & adjoining Counties: \$26.00 / yr.
Other Counties within Texas: \$30.00 / yr.
Out of State in U.S.: \$33.00 / yr.

To subscribe or change your information, call 903-984-2593

Published every Thursday by Bluebonnet Publishing, LLC Brownsboro, Texas 75756

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
THE STATESMAN,
P.O. Box 1210,
Kilgore, TX 75662
Periodicals Postage
Paid at the Post Office
Brownsboro, Texas 75756
(USPS 335-710)

Letters To The Editor
The Statesman welcomes and encourages letters and e-mails from readers.
Letters must include the names, addresses and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.
All letters are subject to editing and must be limited to 400 words or less.
Letters must not be false or misleading. The paper reserves the right to authenticate any information in letters. If misleading information is printed, we will submit a retraction as the information is called to our attention.
It is our goal to give those in the community a place to voice their opinions.

Deadline:
The deadline for display advertising in The Statesman is noon on Friday.

The classified ad deadline is Monday at noon for the same week's paper.

Family News Policy:
Family news such as wedding or engagement announcements must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday for publication on a space-available basis in the same week's newspaper. Please include a telephone number to call if questions arise about spelling, etc.
Engagement announcements must be signed by the prospective bride and groom, or other satisfactory arrangements made by which the newspaper may verify authenticity.
Birth announcements should be signed by both parents and are published free of charge.
A \$20 fee applies for engagement announcements and a \$50 fee for wedding announcements. A photo may be included at no extra cost.
Anniversary announcements with photos are published for \$5.25 per column inch and are free for couples celebrating 50 years or more of marriage.
Birthday announcements for children under 6 years old and seniors 80 and above are published for free. Friends and relatives may purchase advertising space to congratulate a person on their birthday for the standard per-column/inch advertising rate.

WRITER'S CORNER

BLOOMING

I saw Your resurrection power in daffodils today;
So freely on the earth they take the gifts You send their way.

CHECKLIST CHARLIE

The slender, 20-foot obelisk serves as one of two bright red focal points in a garden cloud of white azaleas, encircled with a halo of bright red tulips.

Originally an abandoned steeple, it now calls to worship those who recognize the Creator's beauty in the garden.

As often as I have zipped past this garden sanctuary and been given a reason to refocus my soul, I didn't realize until recently that landscape architect, Casey Brownlow of Wilhite

The gift of life that You did buy for us on Calvary, received with love now in the earth with signs for us to see.

Oh, Lord, why is it hard for us to take the gifts You

send,
Like love and grace and new life in Christ our faithful friend?

The earth receives so beautifully the life brought back from none.

So let us learn to bloom again with new life from Your Son.
For He did pay a price

so great to live in us again.

Please humble us so we receive our ransom from all sin.

And as Your Spirit breathes new life upon the earth today,

Teach us, dear Lord, to just receive Your life in us, I pray.
by Glenda McReynolds

Nurseries, and his wife Kelley, lived in the fabulous azalea district home in Tyler.

So, when the Brownlows opened their home recently for a group of garden aficionados, I took notes.

When Casey talks about bulbs, he emphasizes those, like daffodils, which come up every spring in east Texas. He likes the idea of making a colorful

See CHARLIE | Page 6

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KICKAPOO 4H

Kickapoo Creek 4H is scheduled to host a meeting Monday, at 6:30 p.m., at Murchison School.

VETERANS DAY

The social studies department of Brownsboro High School is set to sponsor a Veterans Day program on Wednesday, at 9 a.m.

Veterans are asked to arrive at the school gym by 8:45 to have their photos taken for a slide presentation.

Register by Nov. 5. Call 903-852-2321.

BHS FCCLA

The Brownsboro High School FCCLA Booster Club is set to host a fundraiser Thursday through Saturday in front of the vacant building on State Highway 31, across from Ingram Street.

The fundraiser is scheduled to begin at 8 each day. Call 903-852-6398.

BHS BAND BOOSTERS

The Brownsboro High School Band Booster Club is scheduled to meet Friday, at 6 p.m., in the band hall.

MURCHISON ISD

The Murchison Independent School District is scheduled to host a Veterans Day program Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m., at Murchison School.

GOLDEN GIRLS

A spaghetti-dinner fundraiser has been scheduled for Nov. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Chandler Community Center.
Tickets may be purchased

from a member of Golden Girls and are available at the door.

PARKSIDE SHORES

Parkside Shores has scheduled a car hop for Nov. 14, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Non-perishable food items to be donated to God's Open Hands are welcomed.

HOMETOWN HEROES

The deadline to obtain applications for this year's hometown heroes is set for Dec. 4.

Applications may be picked up at the Brownsboro Police Department and fire departments.

MASONIC LODGE

The Brownsboro Masonic Lodge meets on the second Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

The Chandler Masonic Lodge No. 993 meets on the third Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

FBC BROWNSBORO

First Baptist Church of Brownsboro hosts a senior citizen luncheon each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.
Call 903-852-4129.

MUSIC NIGHT

Parkside Shores hosts Music Night with the East Texas Backroads Band, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., every first and third Monday.

CHANDLER LIONS

The Chandler Lions Club regular meeting dates are at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Chandler Community Center.

For information on becoming a Lion, call 903-849-6355.

ALL STAR PLUMBING
★★★★★
10% Discount
with this Ad!
No overtime charges! M#8401
903.581.4999

FOR SALE
Owner Finance
1 Acre Chandler Restricted To Double Wides Sub-Division Close-out
Call Now
Nick Shumake
Realtor
903-570-8419

Farm Tractor & Equipment

25 Yrs. Experience
Redbud Repair Service
903-852-7281

Growing Together
Focusing on the entire family.

Sundays at 10:30 am
Life Groups at 6:00 pm
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
840 N. Broad St.
903-849-6419
CHANDLER FIRST ASSEMBLY

RAFFLE
Proceeds Benefiting the
"Keep Brownsboro Beautiful"
City Park Renovation Projects

\$100
GIFT CERTIFICATE TO Y's HOMETOWN FOODS Brownsboro, Texas
Ticket \$1 Each or 6 Tickets for \$5
Tickets are sold at
Y's Hometown Food and 1st State Bank
Winner to be announced at half time during the Brownsboro vs Athens Football Game Friday, November 6, 2009

1ST STATE BANK OF BROWNSBORO
Branch Hwy 31E 903-469-4600 Murchison
Hwy. 31 W. 903-852-6911 - www.fsbbrownsboro.com
Member FDIC


EDOM BAKERY & GRILL
Mon. & Tues. 7am - 6pm
Wednesday 7am - 8pm
Thur. - Sun. 7am - 9pm
8334 FM 279 in Edom
903-852-5552
www.edombakery.com
Thanksgiving Buffet
\$16.95 adults - \$10.95 kids
Monday & Tuesday
1/2 price Burgers & Chicago style 10" Hot dogs with all the trimmings.
Special Dessert \$1.49
4-6 pm
CATERING FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Pies - Cakes - Breads