

50 Years Ago This Week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Friday, June 23, 1961

B & B Foods Set For Grand Opening – Friday and Saturday mark the grand opening of the B & B Food Store, Emory's first ultra-modern super market, located west on Highway 69.

Owners, Bruce Bullard and son, have planned opening day specials and door prizes. Some lucky lad or lass under the age of 15 years of age will win a Shetland Pony and six baskets of groceries will be given away to six families. Drawings for the door prizes will be held Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m.

The store, formerly known as the Locker Plant, instills 6,100 square feet of shopping space and offers customers 26,000 square feet of paved parking.

Rainettes Hold Drill Team School – Mrs. Jean Morris Bell, Director of the Henderson County Junior College Cardettes, will conduct a drill team workshop for members of the Rains High Rainettes beginning Monday.

Classes in marching, formations and routines will be held daily, Monday through Friday.

Ice Cream Supper At Point Community Center – The Ladies Civic Club will sponsor an ice cream supper at the Point Community Center on Thursday night, June 22.

Proceeds from the supper will be used for the Lone Star Cemetery road.

Miller Grove Defeats Cumby 7-0 – Pete Adams pitched a no-hitter Monday night for Miller Grove. Score for the game was 7 to 0 in favor of Miller Grove.

Rainfall Report – Paul Sparks Orsborn has reported that we received 4.38 inches of rain since last Wednesday night here in the city limits of Emory.

Seen...

Mrs. A. M. Fenter sending her father, R. T. Pope, the *Rains County Leader* as a Father's Day gift ... J. I. Case of Alba in town last week ... Ruth Braziel in town getting her hair done and chatting with Bernice McCollum and Gladys Nix ... Andrew Fenter and Jack Cozart visitors in Greenville Monday ... Maurine Amis baby sitting this week during the Methodist Bible School for the Bill Connells ... Bunker Braziel returning home from Corpus Christi after attending a Dairy Show ... Mrs. Hubert Moore of Greenville in town last week ... Booker Nix attending the Appaloosa horse show in Ft. Worth Sunday...

LOOKING BACK...



BAPTISM CIRCA 1928 – Bro. Clyde Smith officiates at the baptism of 20 congregants in the Hogansville/Pilgrims Rest area. Left to right are: Joe Smith, Irene Goodson, Billie McKay, Ruth Jones, Ila Robbins, Ida Norris, Jewell Ditman, Ruby McKay, Della Eary, Velma Jones, Inez Tadlock, Katie Harrison, Dorsey Bennett, Grady Panter, Fred McKowen, Lester Osborn, Claude Varnon, Bernice Johnson, Leonard McKay, J.D. McKeown and Bro. Smith. Photo contributed by Bobby Robbins

ALL THINGS HISTORICAL
A WEEKLY LOOK AT EAST TEXAS HISTORY
BY BOB BOWMAN

Science Hill

Sitting atop a scenic hilltop in southwestern Henderson County, Science Hill lasted only a few decades, but its reputation as a center of education is well-remembered by descendants of its founders and builders.

So is its violence in the early days of the Civil War.

The earliest settlers arrived at the hill in 1846. D.M. Thompson and J.D. Jagers built the community's first industry, a cotton gin, and carried the cotton as far away as Navasota and Calvert.

But the town's greatest step forward was the establishment of the Science Hill Academy in 1848 through the efforts of Andrew J. Fowler, Robert Hodge, John Tanner and other members of the Science Hill Masonic Lodge.

Located on the lodge's ground

floor, the academy was ahead of its time for the 1850s with courses that included orthography, Latin, Greek and natural sciences.

Four well-known ministers lived at Science Hill, using their leadership skills and intellect to shape the community. They were Hezekiah Mitchum, who organized the First Methodist Church of Henderson County in 1852; Robert Hodge, who organized the First Presbyterian Church of Henderson County in 1855; Harrison Rushing, another Methodist minister; and Wes Jackson, a Baptist preacher.

Science Hill Academy lasted only until 1872, the result of the Civil War and its aftermath.

With the eruption of the war, the town found itself caught up

in issues such as slavery, which in the 1860s provided the labor on East Texas cotton plantations. As the war exploded, the plantation owners saw their prosperity facing extinction.

As fires erupted in a number of East Texas cities and communities at the peak of the Texas secession crisis, a violent mob rode into southwestern Henderson County and killed three men suspected of being involved in a conspiracy against Science Hill.

It was reported that a slave named Bob belonging to a slave owner was meeting with two men from Tennessee Colony, who had been harboring escaped slaves and selling liquor to them.

During a community "inquiry," Bob supposedly said the two white men had supplied him with

poison and phosphorous matches and told him the time had come for the blacks to "rise up against their masters."

Bob was quickly found guilty in a hastily-arranged trial and hanged. The two other men suffered the same fate.

Following the Civil War, Science Hill's fortune skidded. Its post office, established in 1859, was closed in 1866.

Science Hill's families began moving away from the hilltop. By 1936, there was nothing left to identify the site of Science Hill except for Patterson Cemetery, which was organized in 1861 on a plot of land owned by John Patterson.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 50 books about East Texas. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com.)

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