

50 Years Ago This Week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Friday, May 5, 1961

Emory Brightened With Street Lights – The City of Emory will be in the bright lights in a few days when the Community Public Service completes their work here.

An agreement with the Community Public Service and the City of Emory for a new electric service system has been approved. Incandescent street lights will be installed in the residential area including the streets of the four churches of Emory.

Seven new lights are to be placed around the courthouse. These lights will have 295 watts.

Junior-Senior Banquet Set For Tomorrow Night – The annual Junior-Senior banquet and Prom is scheduled for Friday night, May 5. It will be held in the Colonial Room of the Blackstone Hotel in Tyler.

Those attending will be the

juniors, seniors, sponsors and administrators. Four sophomore students have been selected by the junior class to serve. These are Lois Mooring, Sandra Patterson, Ronald Mays and Max Fletcher.

Norwin Norris Vies For State In Tennis – Norwin Norris and Coach Jerry Keeble will go to Austin Friday where Norwin will compete in the 51st annual state tennis meet.

Norwin won the right to compete in the state tournament by winning the Regional meet in Kilgore April 21 and 22.

Schools represented at Kilgore were San Augustine, Trinity, Judson and Queen City.

Norwin won the final match in three straight sets from James Williams of Judson 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

The state meet in Norwin's division starts at 4:00 p.m. on Fri-

day. The finals of the meet will be played at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. The matches will be played on Penick Courts at the University of Texas.

Citizens Attend School Workshop – The Texas Association of School Boards, co-sponsored by East Texas State College, presented a workshop April 20 for local school boards, superintendents and PTA members of the North Texas area.

Attending the workshop from Emory were Superintendent Carl Waddle, Mrs. Freeman Smith, Mrs. Rubye McKeown, Mrs. Nona Fleming, Mrs. Norman Lee Gowin, Mrs. Jane Harvey and Mrs. Nan Chism.

Suzanne Ivie and Mrs. Carl Waddle Will Head 1962 Rainettes Drill Team – The Rains High School Rainettes have selected Suzanne Ivie as their Head Majorette for next year. Marion Fleming was elected as her assistant. Mrs. Carl Waddle has been selected as Director of the Rainettes. She will also be in charge of the cheerleaders.

Suzanne Ivie has been working with the 8th-grade girls at Point for the past two weeks, beginning the fundamental marching instruction for those girls interested in becoming Rainettes next year.

What's Cooking! by Carolyn Hill – Active in the work of the Emory Baptist Church and the Emory PTA is Mrs. William

Childers.

Mrs. Childers, as does her entire family, takes an active interest in the Baptist Church. She is now serving as Vice President of the WMU and Reporter for the TEL Class. Her husband, William, is a member of the church choir.

Melba is also a member and past officer of the Emory PTA. She is the mother of two children, one a sixth-grader and the other in the first grade.

Quick Spicy Salad
1/2 cup red hot
1 cup boiling water
1 package red jello
1 No. 2 can chilled apple-sauce
Dissolve red hot in boiling water. Add jello and applesauce. Chill until firm.

Seen...
Tom Hayes showing off a 1937 Rains County Leader ... Clyde Kearney having some bulldozing done at his place where he will move a house ... Dutch Arrington enjoying the sunshine Tuesday while sitting in front of his business ... Weaver Kennemer and John Schrimsher in town Tuesday morning ... Buz Basden in the city office ... Duward Holland visiting at Charlie Robertson's ... D. K. Herriage visiting the Leader office and Mrs. Jimmy Franklin in the Leader office to renew her Leader ... Carolyn Melton, a freshman at East Texas State College, looking for material on the history of Rains County ...

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

A Historic County

One of my favorite rural counties in East Texas, San Jacinto County, celebrated its 140th anniversary this year.

Named for the 1836 battle which ended the Texas revolution against Mexico, the county lies south of Livingston and is sprinkled with some of the most interesting small towns in East Texas.

Coldspring, the county seat, is actually two towns. The town's first site, often called "Old Town," was built in an area called "the gullies," where heavy rains were always washing away buildings and other improvements.

The county's first jail still stands in the gullies and housed inmates until the early 1980s when a new jail was built on a hill. The new Coldspring was also built atop the hill with a new courthouse in 1918.

On Highway 190 is Oakhurst, which was once a prosperous sawmill town named for Oakhurst, Oklahoma, home of several lumber men who moved to Texas.

Three miles north of Oakhurst is Raven Hill, the one-time home of Sam Houston, the hero of San Jacinto. The hill got its name from an Indian name for Houston.

Further up Highway 190 from Oakhurst is Point Blanc, which was originally named Point Blanc by a Frenchwoman who moved here from Alabama. The town was also called Point White and White Point.

About a mile south of Point Blanc is Robinson Cemetery, where a large monument marks the grave of Governor George Tyler Wood, who served from 1849 to 1851. Wood's grave was unmarked for more than a half-century until the monument was built.

At Coldspring, historical markers dot the community. Coldspring United Methodist Church is believed to be the oldest Methodist church in continuous use in Texas.

Another church, Evergreen

United Methodist, was organized in 1862, several years before the county was formed.

The Trapp-McClanahan house, built around 1880, is privately owned and Council Hill, also located on private property, was the home of Vernal B. Lea, brother of Mrs. Sam Houston.

Several old cemeteries dot the county, including Laurel Hill, where General James Davis is buried.

Old Wavery, an early center of culture, is located on Highway 150 about 14 miles west of Coldspring.

The town of Shepherd, located on U.S. 59, originated near Old Drew's Landing on the Trinity River, and the Coushatta Indians inhabited an area on Coley Creek from 1835 to 1900.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of almost 50 books about East Texas history and folklore. He may be reached at bob-bowman.com.)

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