



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Caro Crawford Brown. Then, answer questions about it.

Caro Crawford Brown 1908–2001

In 1947, Caro Brown and her family were living in the South Texas town of Alice when she took a job as a proofreader with the local newspaper, the *Daily Echo*.

Brown soon became the paper's courthouse reporter. In 1952, she began covering the increasing violence in neighboring Duval County, where corrupt political boss George Parr struggled to maintain his control over local elections.

Over a two-year period, Brown attended countless court proceedings, studied public documents, and met secretly with informants—all to document the vast extent of Parr's political machine. The Associated Press picked up Brown's stories, bringing national attention to the case.

In 1955, Brown received the Pulitzer Prize for local reporting on a deadline, becoming the first female journalist in Texas to win that award. As the Pulitzer committee put it, Brown "dug into the facts behind the dramatic daily events . . . and obtained her stories in spite of the bitterest political opposition." Texas Attorney General John Ben Shepperd confirmed that Brown's reporting "helped to bring forty years of corruption and terrorism to an end."

Shortly after winning the Pulitzer, Brown left journalism. Her daughter once remarked, "There are those who write their whole life and don't accomplish what she did in five years."

Following her death in 2001, Brown was inducted into the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Caro Crawford Brown. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What two roles did Caro Crawford Brown hold at the *Daily Echo*?
2. For what did Brown receive the Pulitzer Prize?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Creating Connections.** What is a "political machine"?