

Since 1889, newspapers have served Coke County beginning with the Coke County Rustler. In the 1980s, the Bronte Enterprise and the Robert Lee Observer combined to become The Observer/Enterprise. The history told in these publications is fascinating and we want to share it with our readers of today. Each week, we will include items from the archives.

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# Robert Lee Observer

WEST TEXAS' NEATEST WEEKLY PAPER—COMPARE! FIFTY-NINTH YEAR—ESTABLISHED JUNE 13, 1889 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

Vol. 58, No. 31 Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Friday, Jan. 16, 1948 Published Weekly

### Felix Peay Victim of Shotgun Blast

The community was shocked Monday afternoon when Felix Peay, 58, well known ranchman, was found dead of gunshot wounds at his home in the Divide community in the western part of the county.

When Mr. Peay failed to meet with relatives in Robert Lee to transact some business matters Monday, a sister, Mrs. Will Augustine of Sterling City, and her husband went to the residence where they discovered his body.

Officials called to the scene were Sheriff Paul Good, Constable R. S. Crum, Bruce Clift and Walter B. Durham, Sterling county attorney. Also taking part in the investigation were the brother-in-law, W. D. Augustine, and two neighbors, Earl Smith and John Tolbert.

Constable Crum filed a report as acting coroner that Mr. Peay was believed to have died from gunshot wounds that were self-inflicted. A 12 gauge shotgun was laying against the bed with one empty shell in the chamber. The blast from the gun had entered one side of the man's face and emerged from the top of the head.

There were no notes or letters found upon his person or about the premises. Mr. Peay was clad in his night clothing and officers believe he may have been dead about 15 hours. He had lived alone on the ranch since the death of his father last Sept. 29.

Felix had been in failing health for some time. Three weeks after the father's death a brother died in Midland county and Felix had been burdened with looking after their affairs. He came to Coke county when he was a small baby in 1890. Survivors include the sister, Mrs. Augustine, and a brother, Tom Peay of the Edith community.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon from the graveside at Paint Creek cemetery near Edith, with the Rev. J. H. Estes and the Rev. Fred D. Blake officiating. Clift funeral home had charge of arrangements.

### Ivey Motor Company Shows New Ford Truck

The first public showing in Robert Lee of the new 1948 model Ford trucks will take place Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16 and 17, at an "open house" to be conducted by the Ivey Motor company.


With the streamlined new truck—the first post-war products of the Ford Motor Company—as the main attraction, Ivey Motor Company will welcome the public to its show rooms here in Robert Lee.

"We arranged an open house for public announcement of the 1948 truck line because we feel that it is the most important new truck showing in Ford history," said Mr. Cumbie Ivey, owner of the motor company bearing his name.

"We are entering the greatest truck market of all time with the widest range of models and capacities Ford has ever produced. We expect to receive trucks during the coming months in quantities increased sufficiently to permit us to meet the heavy demand," Mr. Ivey said.

S. R. Young was returned to the Shannon hospital last week for additional treatment. He is much improved and was expected to be brought home Thursday.

### Heads Civic Body



Gerald C. Allen

### Half Section Near Edith Sells at \$60 Per Acre

A price of \$60 an acre, probably the highest figure ever known for Coke county land, was paid by Mrs. Stella Wardlaw of Ballinger this week for a half section in the Edith community.

The property which is evenly divided between farm and grass land, is described as the south half of Section 184 H & TC survey, and is known as the old Newt Fields place. It was sold by Ira L. and James E. Stokes of San Angelo who bought the tract last year from Mrs. M. D. Porter.

Terms of sale provide that the Stokes brothers will retain one-half the oil and mineral rights. The farm is located 3 miles west of the Thetford store at Edith.

Frank Dickey of Robert Lee made the deal.

### Commissioners Settle Cochran County Suits

Regular monthly session of the Coke county commissioners court, the first meeting of the new year, was the occasion for transacting a lot of important business here Monday.

One of the principal matters taken up was settlement of three lawsuits against Coke county involving land in Cochran county which Coke county formerly owned. The three pieces of land in question were sold a number of years ago, but litigation arose over oil rights.

Terms of settlement provide that Coke county will receive the lease bonus one more time and also retains a fourth interest in royalties. Three other suits of a similar nature are pending.

The commissioners approved a salary raise from \$75 to \$100 per month for County Attorney G. S. Arnold.

A contract was signed with Attorney Sam Dotson to collect delinquent taxes for the county.

### A Happy Reunion

On Dec. 27th the children of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Dean gathered in their home for a reunion. Those present were Mrs. Nora May of New York City, Jeff Dean and family of Bronte, Mrs. D. H. Kingston and children of Balmorhea, Miss Della Dean of Fort Worth, Edmond Dean, wife and little son of Las Cruces, N. Mex., Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Lewis of Corona, N. Mex., Mr. and Mrs. Hodges Escue of Ft. Worth and Douglas and Janet Dean of Robert Lee. The family had not all been together for a number of years and it was indeed a happy occasion.

### Community Group Off To New Start

A big crowd of business men and civic minded citizens were on hand Monday night to discuss the matter of promoting a live business and civic organization.

Every person present was agreed on the need of an active community body, and as a result it was voted to revive the former Board of Community Development and surrender the Junior Chamber of Commerce charter.

Consensus of opinion was that the town needs but one community club, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce affiliations with state and national bodies was not so important in Robert Lee at present, since our problems are strictly local.

A small amount of funds in the treasuries will be consolidated and a new membership list will be made up of any and all persons who desire to affiliate. New officers were elected as follows:

President—G. C. Allen.  
Vice Pres.—J. C. Strickland.  
Sec.-treas.—A. J. Kirkpatrick.  
Directors—Cumbie Ivey, T. A. Richardson, C. E. Davis, Sumner Cragin, Jr., Fern Havins, Maurice Cole, A. W. McKinney, Jr., Genie Baker and Roy Taylor.

Next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p. m. at the court house. Some important subjects will be up for discussion and committees named. Membership dues will probably be \$1.00 per month, and new members will be signed up at the meeting next Thursday night.

Robert Lee has great opportunity to forge ahead and its future is squarely in the hands of the citizens. Everyone is invited and urged to lend a hand.

### Building New Ice House

Angelo Ice company is erecting a new ice house to replace the old building which has been in use here many years. The old structure has been moved back and will be torn down. The new building will have storage capacity for 60 blocks of ice and also provide warehouse and office space for the lessee, H. S. Lewis. Site for the property was leased from R. C. Russell.

### Political Announcements

Rates:

Precinct Office	\$10.00
County Office	15.00
District	20.00
Congressional	20.00
State	20.00

NOTE: The above prices include one write-up of not to exceed 250 words; additional wording will be charged for at the rate of 2 cents per word. This price does not include a subscription to this publication.

The Robert Lee Observer is authorized to announce the candidacy of the following persons, subject to the 1948 Democratic primaries:

For Congress, 21st District:  
O. C. FISHER (Re-election)

For County Judge and School Supt.:  
MCNEIL WYLIE

BOB L. DAVIS (Re-election)

For County Treasurer:  
RUBY L. PETTIT (Re-election)

For District and County Clerk:  
WILLIS SMITH (Re-election)

For Sheriff, Tax Collector and Assessor:  
PAUL GOOD (Re-election)

### WSCS Holds Luncheon

The W. S. C. S. of the Methodist church met with Mrs. Marvin Simpson on Jan. 12 for a covered dish luncheon. There were 22 present. Following luncheon Mrs. Bruce Clift led the devotions and installation services for the new officers. The president took over and read the goals for 1948.

Among other things it was decided to organize a young women's circle. Leader of Circle No. 1 is Mrs. Chism Brown and Circle No. 2 leader is Mrs. O. B. Jacobs. We hope that all women of the church will feel that the W. S. C. S. is their particular organization and will meet with us each second and fourth Monday at 3 p. m.

Methodist church services Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Everybody welcome.

### Propose \$40,000 Hospital Building

A very definite step toward securing a hospital for Robert Lee and Coke county was made Monday, when the county commissioners court set Feb. 9 as the date for hearing on a proposal to issue \$40,000 in time warrants for the purpose of constructing a hospital and medical clinic.

While the matter is still in its embryo stage, there is general belief that the public will get behind the movement and urge immediate action. Before the hearing date detailed plans of the proposed building will be in the hands of county officials.

With the big oil development under way there is an urgent need of medical and hospital facilities for the western part of the county.

It has been pointed out that the county proposal includes only construction of a suitable building which would be equipped and operated by a competent physician and nursing staff.

### Robert Lee Bank Pays 10 Pct. Dividend

Annual meeting of stockholders of the Robert Lee State Bank was held Tuesday, Jan. 13. As a result of having enjoyed one of the best years in the bank's history a dividend of 10 per cent was declared in addition to a good sized sum going to the undivided profits account.

Deposits gained nearly 50 per cent during 1947 and reached almost a million dollars.

All officers and directors were re-elected as follows:

President, Willis Smith.  
Vice Pres., G. C. Allen.  
Cashier, T. A. Richardson.  
In addition to the above officers the board of directors includes D. R. Campbell and R. C. Russell.

### Freshman Class Party

Robert Lee high school freshmen enjoyed a class party last Thursday night at the Legion hall from 7:30 to 10 p. m. Room mothers present were Mrs. Buster Fields and Mrs. Jeff Blair, and the class sponsor, Mrs. Sam Powell. Other mothers who attended were Mmes. Delmir Sheppard, Allen Jameson and J. Jameson. Games were played and refreshments of sandwiches, cookies and milk were served to about 25 class members.

Mrs. Elmo Bell has been a patient at a San Angelo hospital this week and her condition is considered serious. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Davis.

### 2 More Producers In Prospect For Sun Jameson Field

Two more producers were indicated this week in Sun Oil company's field near Silver with No. 3 Willie I. Tubb and No. 5 Homer Jameson both nearing completion.

Following a drillstem test at No. 3 Tubb Wednesday gas came to the surface in 14 minutes and a pressure of 150 pounds was gauged. Recovery included 515 feet of clean oil. Top of the lime reef was hit at 6,028 feet but pay section was not encountered until a depth of 6,478 feet had been reached. The drillstem test was from 6,447 to 6,509 feet, total depth.

No. 5 Homer Jameson was bottomed at 6,466 feet and was prepared to run tubing Thursday. Good showings of oil were recovered in prior drillstem tests.

Location is being cleared for No. 6 Homer Jameson, a south offset to his No. 5, with the contract going to Morris-Hamilton, whose rotary equipment will be moved when No. 5 is completed.

No. 2 C. E. Mathers was drilling Thursday at 5,733 feet in shale and lime.

No. 6 Fred Jameson was drilling in shale at 3,681 feet Thursday.

No. 1 Central National Bank of San Angelo, a diagonal offset to the newly discovered John B. Walker producer south of the Colorado River, was preparing to start drilling Thursday. Crudeoil Drilling & Exploration company, the contractors, had rigged up with a new derrick and pump.

No. 3 Allen Jameson was also being cleared, with Roberts & Hawkins to have the contract. Sun's office at Silver did not confirm a report that Roberts & Hawkins were to bring in a second rig. No. 3 Allen Jameson is a north offset to No. 1 Allen Jameson, the pool discovery producer.

### Acid Used at Arledge

No. 1 J. W. Arledge, Sun's wildcat discovery 4 miles northwest of Sanco, was treated with 500 gallons of acid Thursday. The test has not flowed too strongly and made only 56 barrels of oil during a 19 hour test ending Thursday morning at 7 o'clock.

No further drilling was done following last week's drillstem test from 6,602-21 feet which recovered 1,470 feet of clean oil. Ray-Harris equipment is rigging up on No. 2 Arledge, northeast diagonal offset to Arledge No. 1.

### Schooley Buys Cafe

Cecil Schooley has purchased the Club Cafe from Mrs. Louis Theaux, the deal having been closed the first of the week. Assisting in the management will be Mrs. Schooley and her mother, Mrs. H. C. Scott, who recently came to Robert Lee from Brownfield. Mrs. Scott has had a number of years experience in the cafe business. Cecil plans a number of improvements, promises to give the community a first class restaurant. He will continue his work as a finishing carpenter at the Sun camp at Silver.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Patterson are the happy parents of a daughter born at 3 a. m. Jan. 13 at Shannon hospital. The baby weighed more than 7 pounds and has been named Billie Joyce. This is their first child. Mrs. Patterson is manager of the Robert Lee telephone exchange.

For Sale—100 ewes bred to black faced bucks. T. M. Wylie, Jr