

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly

The Observer/Enterprise, LLC

(325) 453-2433 (325) 473-8863 Cell

observerenterprise@gmail.com

www.ObserverEnterprise.com

Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, Texas

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to

Observer/Enterprise

PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

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Morgan McCutchen Brigham, Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke County ... \$30.00

Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$35.00

Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$37.00

Obituaries



Lomas

Thelma M. Lomas, 98, of Longview, Texas, passed away November 16, 2019. Visitation was held all day Monday, November 18, 2019, at the funeral home with family present from 5 pm to 7 pm. Graveside services were held at 10 am, Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at Robert Lee Cemetery with Reverend William Hood officiating. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Thelma was born to William B. and Texie Wollet in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, August 29, 1921. After finishing Dundee High School, where she was part of a quartet, she married the late George Lomas on October 29, 1939. They later moved to Illinois, then to Texas, where they resided in Robert Lee for the better part of 45 years. She and George moved to San Angelo where she lived until 2017.

Thelma is survived by her son, Robert Lomas with wife Juanita of Longview, Texas; twin sister, Zelma Reed, of Abilene; younger sister, Dolores Holt of California; and daughter-in-law, Frances Lomas of San Angelo. She will also be missed by her loving, grandchildren, Kim Hodge, Lisa Lewis, Jamie Gressett, Jennifer Ducote, Derek Lomas, Jennifer McDaniel, Marcus Lomas, and Linsey Ebey; 20 great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, sons, William Patrick and George Michael, in that order; her brother, Bud Jr. Wollet, and Dr. Russell Lomas.

Thelma was a real trooper when it came to raising kids, her own and others. She welcomed many who spent months under her roof. She fed them and was more than happy to feed and

care for them in any way she could. Her cooking was heralded by all for its quality as well as quantity. Thelma was on a bowling team which she enjoyed very much. Not only was she a superb homemaker, but she helped George renovate houses, whether it was a friend, her children, or a customers. You will have a difficult time finding a truer follower of Christ than Mrs. Lomas. She was totally devoted and let everyone know it. She enjoyed singing with her lovely voice and found joy whistling.

Online condolences can be made at www.shafferpioneer.com.
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The Strenuous Life

by James M. Decker

Sometimes, it takes a serious amount of concentration for me to be properly inspired to write this essay. Other weeks, the inspiration comes easy. Then, I have an interesting week like this one, where I've been inundated with essay topics. Some are about experiences in my own life. Others are about experiences I've witnessed in the

world around me. They're all important and I feel called to write about each of them in due order, but today, there's something special on my mind.

If you've been reading my essays for any length of time, you know I have a podcast launching (hopefully sooner than later). Recently, my wife was trying to assist me in developing the inaugural podcast episode. She asked me the following question: "if you could have anybody on your podcast as a guest, who would it be?" I instantly knew the answer: Theodore Roosevelt and Dalton, Patrick Swayze's character in the 1989 cinematic classic "Road House." I think she expected that I would choose guests that were a) living and b) non-fictional. I stand by both choices.

My fandom of Theodore Roosevelt is no secret. I've written about some of his speeches before. It so happens that October 27 was the 161st birthday of Theodore Roosevelt. Several Roosevelt-oriented organizations like the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership commemorated his birthday with celebrations of favorite quotes and his impact on America. As I thought about Roosevelt's birthday, I thought about my favorite speech of his, "The Strenuous Life."

Roosevelt gave this speech on April 10, 1899 in Chicago. It was inspired by his own life. Roosevelt was a sickly child who spent much of his youth in bed or indoors until he took up rigorous exercising to transform his life, almost through his sheer will. Doctors advised him to avoid physical activity. Instead, he took up boxing, rowing, hiking, jujitsu, and numerous other physical endeavors. Living a strenuous life—from physical exercise to wartime service to safaris and daring adventures—

became intertwined with the very legacy of Theodore Roosevelt.

Roosevelt saw a strenuous life as necessary to the character of the individual as well as the communities and nation that they served. Living a life of ease had little worth, he said. We should teach our children to strive for goals and for great things. A superficial reading of this speech might criticize Roosevelt for advocating an attitude of violence and warmongering and for condemning recreation and pleasure. I've read those criticisms of Roosevelt. In truth, that's far from the case.

Roosevelt's vision of a strenuous life is about, above all things, living a life of PURPOSE. Many decades before the rise of self-help and motivational books, Roosevelt preached the value of a living a purpose-filled life. His criticism of a "life of ignoble ease" was not about pleasure. Instead, he described it as a life that arose from a lack of desire to achieve things. A life of ignoble ease was not about a life of pleasure. It was about NOTHING. It was floating through life, carried by the currents of the wind.

Roosevelt said that "we admire the man who embodies victorious effort." How did he describe such victorious effort?

He described it as "the man who never wrongs his neighbor, who is prompt to help a friend, but who has those virile qualities necessary to win in the stern strife of actual life." A strenuous life doesn't hunt down strife. It improves the surrounding world and deals with the strife when it arises. "The Strenuous Life" is a brilliant speech, but it's also many times longer than the usual length of my essays. If you've never read it, I encourage you to look it up online. I'm happy to send you a link if you'd like.

Whatever your specific station in life, I encourage you to consider Roosevelt and his strenuous life. From the wealthiest to the poorest (however we choose to judge those things), we can all live a life of purpose. We can all improve the world around us, even if it requires us to rise to challenge and strife. Roosevelt told his audience, in a famous excerpt from this speech, that "it is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed. In this life we get nothing save by effort."

Indeed, Colonel Roosevelt. Indeed.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at [facebook.com/james.decker](https://www.facebook.com/james.decker).

Area Churches

Invite You to Worship

Bronte

Bronte Church of Christ

PO Box 346
118 S. Jefferson • Bronte
Preacher David Lewis
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

Central Baptist Church

324 S. Franklin • Bronte
(325) 473-4811
Dale Patterson, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am & 5 pm Worship

First Baptist Church

424 S. Washington • Bronte
(325) 473-2331 • Pastor George Cooper
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Bible
Study & Worship
Wednesday 6 pm RA's & GA's,
6:30 pm Youth & Adults

First United Methodist Church

Corner of Washington & Holmes
Bronte
(325) 473-3281
Rev. Stacy Sprinkle, Pastor
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

Forgiven Ministries

117 W. Main, Bronte
Russ Frasier, Pastor
Sun. 10 am
Tuesday 6 pm Table Time

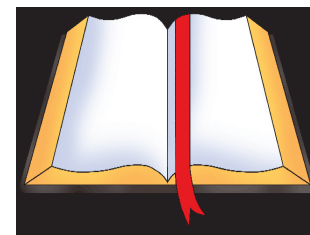
St. James Catholic Church

215 N. Washington, Bronte
(325) 365-2687
Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Jr., Pastor
Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am
4C Cowboy Church
Texas Theater, Downtown Bronte
Interim Pastor Robert Lemmond
Sunday, 10:30 am

Coke County

Pecan Baptist

PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor
www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship



Robert Lee

Bible Baptist Church

PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin
Robert Lee
Sun. 10 am Sunday School, 11 am
Worship, Wed 5:30 pm Bible Study

Emmanuel Pentecostal

PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
Pastor Kevin Millstid 453-2360
Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417
Cyndi Weidner, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice

Iglesia Bautista Betel

101 Houston • Robert Lee
Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School
11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

Southside Church of Christ

PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
Robert Lee (325) 453-2176
Recardo Reyes, Preacher
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Northside Church of Christ

PO Box 508
9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee
(325) 453-2685, (806) 543-2118 or
(325) 473-1053
Services: Sun. 10 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
(325) 365-2687
Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Mass 5 pm

Robert Lee Baptist Church

PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
(325) 453-2724
Chris Walls, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Victory Assembly of God

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638
6th & Houston, Robert Lee
Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study

Tennyson

Tennyson Baptist Church

Hwy 277 • Tennyson
(325) 473-2040
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

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Happy Thanksgiving



Larry M Gilbert, CFP®, AAMS®

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