

## THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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## Friends of the RLCC meeting held

The February meeting of Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center was held on Monday, February 24, with 9 members and one guest present. In the absence of the auxiliary secretary, Harriet Demere, minutes from the January meeting were presented by Pat Stephens and approved. In the absence of auxiliary treasurer, Johnetta Lawrence, auxiliary president Della Alexander, reported on the bank balance as of January 27, 2020. A new bid of \$5,400 was submitted by Felipe Rangel for modifications to complete the gazebo project at the Robert Lee Care Center.

The motion was made and passed to accept this new bid. Work on the project is scheduled to begin on March 15 and to be completed within 30 days. Auxiliary member Becky Ross met in November with RLCC Administrator Houston McGuire, Director of Nurses Becca McGuire and Activity Director Mary Rodriguez to compile a wish list of ideas for the Auxiliary to consider. Becky presented this list to those present. Short term projects discussed from the wish list included visiting pets, to be researched further; purchase of TV mounts for resident rooms,

action to be taken at next meeting when a firm count can be given as to how many are needed; providing nail care supplies for activity department, a motion was made and carried to fund this project with a starter amount of \$50 to be given to the RLCC Activity Department and replenished as requested from the Activity Director. A long term project to be considered once the gazebo project is completed will be to look at having a concrete slab poured in the fenced yard located at the southeast corner of the RLCC facility and work toward making this yard be more functional for outside events. Other items on the wish list will be discussed at a later time. An item of new business was introduced by Della Alexander to make the Administrator of the Robert Lee Care Center an ex-officio member of the FRLCC Auxiliary. After discussion, action was taken in the form of a motion to enact this idea, motion passed. The next monthly meeting of the Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center will be held on Monday, March 23, at 10 am.

the Rice Hotel in Houston at the 1928 Democratic National Convention.

He was a friend to celebrities, politicians, and captains of industry (he counted Will Rogers as his best friend). Carter wore custom short-brimmed cowboy hats and sent countless such hats to rich and famous friends, expecting that he could ask favors of those folks later. Those favors were always for one purpose: Fort Worth. The Amon G. Carter Foundation describes Carter as “befriending U.S. presidents, crashing the halls of Congress, enticing industry leaders, and shaking any hand that was offered to him....to tell the world about the greatness of Fort Worth and its people and that there was every reason for everyone to be there.” It’s no wonder that Carter’s wife once described herself as being married to the Chamber of Commerce.

Former U.S. Vice President John Nance Garner once observed that “Amon wants the government of the United States to run for the exclusive benefit of Fort Worth and, if possible, to the detriment of Dallas” (he was also famously petty in his disdain

for Dallas).

Carter was a one-man Chamber of Commerce and it worked! It is estimated today that he lured one TRILLION dollars’ worth of business to the Fort Worth area. Upon his death, his estate established a nonprofit foundation that has given away \$650 million in grants (and counting). He once said the following, which was embodied by his life and by his legacy after his death:

“We each have an opportunity to make a difference in our cities and in the lives of others, and it’s not all about money. It’s about giving. Giving our time. Giving our respect.”

If you get a chance to see the play, I recommend it. Amon G. Carter was very successful in Fort Worth, but he did not merely live off that success. He lived with his community like few have ever done. May we strive to be the Amon Carters that our communities need today.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, Texas, and the creator of the forthcoming “West of 98” podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.



### A Community's Champion

by James M. Decker

“A man cannot live off his community. He must live with it.” - Amon G. Carter

It is unlikely that any community ever had a greater, more passionate, and more successful champion than Fort Worth had in Amon G. Carter. Carter is memorialized through a variety of namesakes - TCU’s football stadium, Texas Tech’s main entrance plaza, and a world renowned art museum, among others - but his full legacy has faded over time (he died in 1955) and is largely unknown to many. Carter’s legacy is on display in the brilliant new play “Amon! The Ultimate Texan.” This one-man performance tells the story of Carter’s life and accomplishments and after a wildly successful run in Fort Worth, it is beginning a Texas tour. My wife and I recently caught the play at the Paramount Theatre in Abilene.

Amon G. Carter was born into poverty in 1879, dropped out of school as a teenager, and became a traveling salesman.

By 1905, he helped start a brand-new newspaper, the *Fort Worth Star*. As the venture struggled, Carter boldly raised the funds to buy his competitor, *the Telegram*. On January 1, 1909, he launched his brand-new *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, which soon became the largest paper in the Southwest, serving as the main news outlet for West Texas, New Mexico, and western Oklahoma. In 1922, he created WBAP, Texas’ oldest radio station. In 1948, he launched Texas’ first television station, WBAP-TV. He invested in oil and gas too, and after 90(!) dry holes, he struck black gold.

With wealth and a growing media empire at his disposal, Carter set out after his true life’s work: improving Fort Worth. He enticed oil companies to headquarter there. He lured

American Airlines (then known as Southern Air Transport) from Dallas to Fort Worth. When the War Department decided to build a massive new bomber plant in 1940, he lobbied President Roosevelt to locate the plant in Fort Worth. The government agreed and today that plant is operated by Lockheed Martin and is one of North Texas’ single largest employers.

If lobbying the president sounds bold, it was just par for the course with Carter. His entire life was built to promote Fort Worth. He loved to tuck his pants in his boots, strap on a pair of six-shooters and play cowboy for America (and to attract more attention to Fort Worth). There’s an infamous story of him getting carried away and firing off his pistols in

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## Area Churches

### Invite You to Worship

#### Bronte

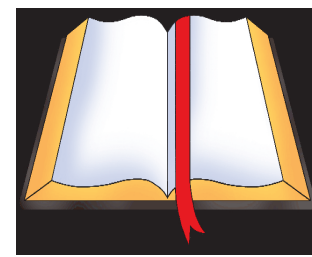
**Bronte Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 346  
 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte  
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm  
**Central Baptist Church**  
 324 S. Franklin • Bronte  
 (325) 473-4811  
 Dale Patterson, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
 11 am & 5 pm Worship

**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  
 Sunday 10 am Sunday School, 11 am and  
 5 pm Worship, Wed 5 pm Bible Study  
**Emmanuel Pentecostal**  
 PO Box 794 • 1004 Hillcrest  
 Pastor Brantly Robertson  
 (972) 841-2009  
 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  
 Wed. 6 pm, Worship

**Northside Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 508  
 9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee  
 (325) 453-2685, (325) 763-2118 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  
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting  
**Victory Assembly of God**  
 (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