

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.

Robert Lee Observer

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Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Friday, January 31, 1958

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BASS HORN PLAYERS—Jerry Dean and Joe Jones are shown above with the over sized bass horns which they play in the Robert Lee high school band. Jerry is not a regular tuba player but he fills in sometimes when the band is marching. He started on baritone and later switched to trombone. He is a junior and is over 6 feet in height. Joe Jones is at least a foot shorter, but he's pretty good on the big horn. He is a freshman, started on drums while in the 7th grade and has played bass the past two years.

DIAL SERVICE ON RURAL LINES DUE IN 90 DAYS

Dial telephone service will be provided for all rural lines out of Robert Lee in the near future. This promise was made by John E. Robbins, Jr., district manager of General Telephone Co. at a luncheon meeting of the Board of Community Development at Varnadore Cafe Wednesday.

Mr. Robbins said the delay had resulted when 18 months ago a committee of farmers and ranchers decided to try and form an REA telephone co-op in the surrounding area.

With such a proposition pending, he said General cancelled its order for materials and used the appropriation elsewhere. Robbins told the civic group that his company was going to make good on its original agreement to rebuild its rural lines so that satisfactory dial service will be available. Farmers and ranchers will have to stand the cost of building lines across their own premises.

"It will be completed within 90 days," Mr. Robbins stated. "Engineers are here now and we are making plans to move the poles inside the fence lines. Our men are at work getting easements for private right of way for the telephone lines."

Robbins said the Silver phone matter is still under study. All subscribers there will be given dial service. He said he hopes to extend the lines throughout the Silver area where at present there are 57 bona fide applicants for phone service.

President J. S. Ferrell presided over the weekly luncheon meeting which was well attended. O. B. Jacobs, chairman of the dues and membership committee, reported an active drive for members is to be made in the near future. It was voted that dues remain at \$6.00 per year for all members, with a \$5.00 annual fee for business firms who wish to have a sustaining membership.

Mayor Cumbie Ivey, Jr., Commissioner Fern Havins and Robert Vaughan reported their meeting with the Silver school trustees Monday night when the matter of getting some help for the summer recreation program was presented.

Friday, Jan. 31 Is Deadline For Paying Poll Tax

All persons between the ages of 21 and 60 who wish to vote in this year's elections, should remember to get their poll tax receipts before the deadline Friday night, Jan. 31.

The county tax office reported 927 poll taxes issued up to closing time Wednesday. This included 70 which had been sold at Silver and 57 paid at Bronte Tuesday when a deputy spent the day there.

Deputy Sheriff O. B. Jacobs told The Observer Wednesday night that 40 receipts had been written during the day. A bigger run was anticipated on Thursday and throughout Friday.

A total of 1,100 poll taxes are expected to be issued in Coke County by Friday night.

For the presidential election of 1956 poll tax receipts were issued to 1,283 residents. In 1957, an off election year, the number was less than 1,000.

DEATH OF MRS. VEST

Mrs. Frank Coalson went to Blackwell Monday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Mary Ida Vest, who died Sunday after a long illness. Mrs. Vest was an aunt of Mrs. Coalson and years ago resided in Coke County near Robert Lee. She was 82 years of age and had been living with a daughter, Mrs. Daisy Henderson, in Blackwell.

Robert Lewis Jay Again to Direct Summer Program

Robert Lewis Jay has been hired to head up the Robert Lee recreation program for next summer. He accepted the position at a meeting of the county park board and civic leaders here Thursday afternoon.

The summer program was launched last year to coordinate with the new County Park and swimming pool. Jay was in charge of the work which resulted in hundreds of children and many adults taking free swimming lessons. Instruction in life saving and diving, tennis and other sports were also included.

Everyone considered the project a great success during its five weeks of operation. Plans are to extend the program over at least eight weeks the coming summer. Other activities will be added. One of them is archery, which is said to be popular in many communities.

Base ball for little leaguers and the pony league boys, as well as soft ball for both men and women will be sponsored.

Cost of the program is to be financed largely through funds from taxing agencies to be divided among the schools, city and local precincts. Silver school district will be invited to help with the expense.

Robert Lewis is a Robert Lee native, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jay. He has been attending Sul Ross College in Alpine where he will get a bachelor of science degree June 1. He has a wife and small son.

Trio Picked Up For Forgery

A man is in Coke County jail and his two teen-age daughters are being held in the San Angelo juvenile detention quarters for forgery and passing. Martin E. Fernandez will appear before the grand jury when it meets Monday, and hearings for the two girls will be held soon.

The group was picked up in Eldorado Monday by Sheriff Paul Good, Deputy O. B. Jacobs, Constable Ollie Roe and authorities from San Angelo. They face similar charges in Schleicher County.

The incident occurred in Robert Lee, Sheriff Good said, late Saturday afternoon. The younger of the two girls cashed a check for \$20 at Calvin Wallace's grocery and another for \$25 at Roberts Grocery. The older girl told Good she wrote the checks and the father stayed in the car.

The checks were made out to Manuel Jasso and Harry Weaver's name was signed to them. The trio said that the Jasso name was one they made up and that they got Harry Weaver's name off of his mail box between Robert Lee and San Angelo.

Are you a qualified voter? Pay your poll tax today.

Mothers' March Friday Night In Polio Campaign

Robert Lee's contributions to the March of Dimes reached \$258.44 Wednesday, according to the local drive chairman, W. D. McAdams.

However, the fund is expected to receive a big boost later this week when a canvass of the business district is completed and the Mothers March is over. Rev. Travis McNair is chairman of the committee which will call on business firms Thursday.

McAdams states a Coffee Day on Tuesday raised \$46.70 from the following firms: Varnadore Cafe \$18.05, Froggy's 11.85, Melba Denman 10.30, and Farris Drug 6.50.

Robert Lee school children have contributed the sum of \$33.74 with more cards to be turned in.

Mrs. Fred McCabe accounted for \$128.00 from her canvass of the Divide and Wildcat communities southwest of Robert Lee.

Silver has raised \$406 and receipts up to date at Bronte and the east side of the county are in excess of \$700. The MOD benefit dance Friday night at the Tad Richards barn is expected to bring in a considerable amount.

The Mothers March in Robert Lee is scheduled for Friday night of this week. Mrs. J. S. Ferrell is chairman and will be assisted by a number of women from all sections of the city. Every home will be canvassed and residents are requested to turn on their porch lights. The canvass will be made from 6:30 to 8:00 in the evening.

Mrs. Ferrell states that success of the Mothers March will help with continued March of Dimes research and rehabilitation for thousands of polio patients.

"Millions of women across the nation are joining in this observance of the 20th anniversary of the March of Dimes," Mrs. Ferrell said.

"From 1938 to 1958 our volunteers have written a magnificent record. They have provided direct financial aid to 325,000 victims of polio. The nation counts on 'Mom' to make it possible to continue this vitally necessary service."

Mrs. A. B. Sheppard was admitted Sunday to the Sterling County Hospital where she is being treated for a heart ailment. Her condition is improved.

TURN ON YOUR PORCHLIGHT



JOIN THE **MOTHERS' MARCH ON POLIO**

Notes From The Oil Field



Stake Wildcat On Weaver Ranch

Wilson Germany of Dallas and Paul Page of Eldorado will drill a 6,600-foot rotary wildcat in Coke County, eight miles south of Robert Lee. It will be the No. 1 H. E. Weaver Ranch.

Rotary drilling to 6,600 feet will begin immediately. Ground elevation is 2,032 feet.

Location, on a 12,000-acre lease, is 4,921 feet from the south and 2,225 feet from the east lines of 15-Silas Dinsmore survey.

The project, a farmout from Humble Oil & Refining Co., is 2 1/4 miles south of the one-well Weaver Ranch (Strawn) field, producing from approximately 6,240 feet, and 1 5/8 miles north and slightly west of the depleted one-well Weaver Ranch (Palo Pinto) field.

Humble No. 1 R. C. Russell testing upper sand section Wednesday at 5,041 feet. Location is southeast of Humble No. 2 I. A. Bird, and an east offset to Sun 4 Menielle which is now being drilled.

Sun 4 Menielle set surface casing to a depth of 347 feet and Tuesday was drilling ahead at 1,870 feet in lime and shale.

Murray No. 1 Bynum drilling Wednesday at 5,847 feet in shale.

Encouraging reports come from Mrs. V. P. Byrne who has been under treatment the past two weeks in Coke County Memorial Hospital.

Grand Jury To Report Monday

A district court grand jury has been called for a Coke County session next Monday, Feb. 3, with Judge Joe L. Mays presiding. Grand jurors have been notified to report at 10 a.m. Monday.

Several criminal matters are to be investigated, with District Attorney Justin Kever in charge of the grand jury testimony.

The grand jury list includes John Brown, Cumbie Ivey, Jr., Raymond McCutchen, Bailey Russell, Leonard Fletcher, Cecil Kemp, Austin Sandusky.

Also D. K. Glenn, Jesse Parker, Glenn Waldrop, D. L. Estes, B. A. Boykin, B. D. Gartman, N. C. Pentecost, L. B. Carden and Fred Jameson.

SCHOOL BAND BANQUET

Annual banquet for members of the Robert Lee high school band has been set for Monday night, Feb. 3, at 7 o'clock in the school cafeteria. It will be a co-ed school affair and all families attending are requested to bring at least one dish of food. The public as well as band parents are invited to attend.

Rainfall Nearly 26 Inches in '57

Robert Lee received a total of 25.89 inches of rainfall during the year of 1957, according to the official records kept by the Soil Conservation District office.

Rainfall for the years of 1955 and 1956 were about 12 inches.

The present month of January is starting off in an encouraging manner with 1.79 inches of moisture gauged so far. Rainfall for January of last year was .57 of an inch.