

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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REAL SHOWMANSHIP —Sharon McCutchen of Robert Lee 4-H club and her Hereford calf, Demon, pose for the camera, after it was announced that she won top honors in showmanship at the big Houston Livestock

Show last week. Sharon received a \$100 prize for her efforts. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe (Binks) McCutchen and the granddaughter of Mrs. Daisy McCutchen of Robert Lee and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Lasswell of Bronte.

Coke Youths Place High In Houston Show

A fine showing was made by Coke County 4-H and FFA boys and girls last week at the Houston Livestock. Sharon McCutchen of Robert Lee 4-H won first place in showmanship among the girls showing fat steers, and Keith Waldrop of Robert Lee FFA won second place and reserve championship honors with his Shropshire fat lamb.

The Coke County delegation sold the second largest number of lambs of all counties entered in the big show. Robert Lee FFA won first place honors for the herdsman award and Coke 4-H took second place honors. Robert Lee FFA also took 4th place with a group of 10 lambs.

Coke County young people placing in the various divisions were as follows:

Steers: Sharon McCutchen, 7th, heavy Angus; Maxie Evans, 15th, medium Angus; Sharon McCutchen, 21st, medium Hereford; Sharon McCutchen, 1st in showmanship and \$100 award.

Breeding heifers: Beef scramble: Jimmy Varnadore, 4th; Darrel Pitcock, 6th.

Junior breeding heifers: Jimmy Varnadore, 10th; Darrel Pitcock, 13th.

BREEDING SHEEP

Rambouillet rams: Ronny Varnadore, 7th; Jimmy Varnadore, 10th.

Rambouillet ewe lambs: Ronnie Varnadore, 5th; Jimmy Varnadore, 4th (2 tooth ewes).

Ronnie Varnadore won 8th with his Hampshire ram, 5th and 6th with Hampshire ewe lambs, and 3rd with his pair of Hampshire ewe lambs.

FAT LAMBS

Finewool: Nicky Arrott, 5th; Ronnie Devoll, 13th; Edwin Lindsey, 18th; Ronnie Varnadore, 25th; James Fields, 27th; Keith Waldrop, 32nd; Nicky Arrott, 45th; Glenn Roach, 47th.

Southdown: Sue Lindsey, 15th. Crossbred: Marcia Varnadore, 20th; Jimmy Varnadore, 42nd.

Shropshire: Keith Waldrop, 2nd and Reserve Champion.

Other medium wool: Donnie Devoll, 3rd; Ronnie Devoll, 9th; Albert Fields, 18th; Ronny Varnadore, 27th.

Other Coke County exhibitors not listed above were Buddy Thomas, Gary Williams, Robert Wink, Jay, John and Kathy Service, Mike Arrott and Jerry Parker.

Adults attending were Messrs. and Mmes. Bob Fields, Lindy Devoll, J. B. Evans, Joe McCutchen and J. W. Service Jr.; also Mrs. A. J. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Sterling Lindsey, Howard Varnadore and LeDrew Arrott.

Supervising the Coke County exhibits were Sterling Lindsey of the county Extension Service who was in charge of 4-H Club entries, and L. R. McDaniel, Robert Lee vocational agriculture instructor, who supervised the FFA entries.

Funeral Held for Condie Clark, 71, Ranch Foreman

Funeral services for Condie Clark, 71, were held at 2:30 p.m. Monday, March 8, in Central Baptist Church in Bronte. The Rev. Wayne N. Stout, pastor, officiated. Burial was in Old Fort Chadbourne cemetery under direction of Williams Funeral Home.

Mr. Clark died at 6 p.m. Saturday in Bronte Hospital after an extended illness.

He was born June 27, 1893, in Coke County. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Clark, and attended school at Union and Ft. Chadbourne.

Mr. Clark was married to Dema Gary, Dec. 1, 1919, in Sweetwater.

He was a retired ranch foreman, having worked on various ranches in this area, including the Wendland Ranch southwest of Bronte. He was a veteran of World War I and was a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, one brother, Freeman Clark of Robert Lee, and a sister, Mrs. Bertie Clift of San Angelo.

Pallbearers were Frankie Percifull, Frank Allen and Weldon Johnson, all of Robert Lee; Sid Eubanks, Jacob Morrow and T. F. Sims Jr., all of Bronte.

Audit of County's Finances Printed In This Newspaper

The annual audit of Coke County funds, prepared by Auditor Weldon Fikes, is being published in this week's newspaper. County officials are having the annual financial statement published in both the Bronte Enterprise and Robert Lee Observer in order that all interested citizens may see how various county funds stand.

The first part of the audit is the condition of all county funds and winds up with a balance of \$422,430.24 in all of them. This figure represents both operating and interest and sinking funds.

The second part of the statements shows the bonded and warranted indebtedness of the county and its commissioners precincts. The entry shows for each outstanding bond issue the date of issue, date of maturity, interest rate, amount of the issue, amount retired, amount outstanding, and principal and interest payments due this year.

Total amount of issues which have any part outstanding is \$1,192,000. Of this amount, \$779,000 has been retired, leaving an outstanding balance of \$413,000.

The last part of the audit shows that Coke County owns \$79,000 worth of bonds purchased as an investment. The first of these securities becomes due in 1967, while the last one matures in 1975.

Fikes urged that all taxpayers and other interested citizens of the county study the audit, as it shows how the county spent almost a half million dollars last year.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FRIDAY

Robert Lee schools will be dismissed Friday in order that teachers and administrators may attend the Texas State Teachers Association meeting in Brownwood. School will be resumed as usual on Monday.

Hospital Election Set For April 3

Apparently Gene Baker and T. A. Richardson will be reelected to the board of directors of West Coke County Hospital District without opposition, when voters cast their ballots Apr. 3.

Deadline for filing for a place on the ballot was midnight Tuesday and the incumbents were the

only two whose names had been filed with J. E. Quisenberry Jr., secretary of the district. They were both petitioned to seek re-election.

Plenty of work is in store for the hospital's board of directors during the coming year, as plans are about completed for building an addition which will raise the total number of beds to 42, and completely remodel the existing plant.

Plans call for the addition to consist of 20 new patient rooms, plus new operating room, emergency room, doctors and nurses lounges, administrative offices, nursery, labor room, visitors lobby, lab facilities, central supply, and a remodeled kitchen and dining room.

R. B. Vandiver, hospital administrator, said this week that the proposed addition will make the West Coke County Hospital completely modern and capable of serving this area with first class medical care.

The hospital improvement program will be financed by bonds which were voted last Apr. 1. The issue amounts to \$110,000 and carried by a 343-163 vote, better than two to one. In addition to the bond money available, the district has received a \$117,000 federal grant for use in building and equipping the hospital. Total estimated cost is \$234,000.

Holdover directors who have another year to serve on the board are Fred McCabe, Sr., Cumbie Ivey Sr. and Quisenberry.

SEWER SYSTEM DISCUSSED AT BCD MEETING

A sewer system for Robert Lee was discussed at the Tuesday noon meeting of the BCD. Mayor Robert D. Vaughan spoke to the group and then a general discussion of the matter was carried on.

The BCD plans to call a meeting in the near future for the general public to discuss the need for a sewer system in the city.

Polio Vaccine Given to 200

The Sabin oral three-in-one vaccine was administered to about 200 Robert Lee school students last Friday. Students who were absent that day were taken by bus Tuesday to the hospital to receive the vaccine.

Cost to cover the vaccine was \$1.00 per student and it was administered by County Health Officer, Dr. J. D. McDaniel, and a staff from West Coke County Hospital.

Robert Lee Places 3 On All-District Teams

Robert Lee's High School basketball teams placed three players, two boys and one girl, on the all-district teams for District 83-B. Gaining a spot on the mythical team were Dennis Gartman, Terry Thetford and Rhonda Gartman.

Receiving honorable mention were Pistol Hood, Linda Heuvel and Jackie Counts.

Robert Lee Supt. Dorman Thomas made the announcement of results of balloting by coaches of the five schools in the district. Thomas served as chairman for basketball in District 83-B.

Complete list of places on the all-district teams follows:

BOYS

Dennis Gartman, Robert Lee; Crisp Williams, Sterling City;

GIRLS

Forwards: Jody Dodd, Forsan; Judy Hirt, Garden City; Peggy Corley, Bronte; Brenda Jacobs, Garden City, Rhonda Gartman, Robert Lee. Honorable mention: Maria Rees, Bronte, and Sally Munn, Water Valley.

Guards: Sharon Jacobs, Garden City, Mary Corley, Bronte; Patsy Gooch, Forsan. Honorable mention: Susan Elrod, Forsan; Linda Heuvel and Jackie Counts, both of Robert Lee.