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

Vol. 77, No. 47 — Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Thursday, May 25, 1967 — Single Copy 10c

Thirty Seniors To Graduate

Hail Damage Will Run Into Thousands

A devastating hail storm hit Robert Lee shortly before 3 p.m. last Friday, doing many thousands of dollars worth of damage to roofs, automobiles and vegetation. No injuries have been reported.

The hail came out of a reasonably mild looking cloud and did not cover a wide area. However, its swath cut through the entire city.

Local insurance men said Tuesday that the damage is running much higher than was thought right after the storm. They added that all claims are not yet in and an estimate of the amount of damage is hard to make at this time.

Bill Allen said Tuesday that his insurance firm already had over 100 claims filed and more are expected. T. A. Richardson, another insurance agent here, said Tuesday that about 20 of his customers had filed claims.

Vaughan Chevrolet Co. and Ivey Motor Co. had a large stock of new automobiles and trucks parked out in the open when the storm hit. Damage was heavy to all the vehicles. Ivey is running a "Hail Sale" ad in this week's Observer, offering substantial discounts on the vehicles which were hit by hail.

Many vehicles belonging to individual owners were also damaged by the storm.

Insurance adjusters were busy in Robert Lee early this week and their work will continue for several days. Out of town roofing contractors were also in evidence Tuesday, hoping to get some business.

Rain Welcome

Along with the hail came rains for many sections of the area. They were most welcome, despite the damage done by the hail. Robert Lee had an inch; Sanco reported 1.75 inches; Silver had an inch; Sloan Boone of Edith had .3 inch; Alton Roberts, south of town, had 1 inch; Cumbie Ivey reported 1.4 east of town; and 1.4 inches was reported north in the Graham Valley community.

GIRLS PLACE AT STATE TRACK MEET

Robert Lee High School's girls track team placed in a couple of events at the state track meet held May 13 on the campus of ACC in Abilene.

Lois Heuvel placed sixth in the hurdles event and the mile relay team also placed sixth. Relay team members are Lois Heuvel, Jackie Counts, Patty Hughes and Elaine Fikes.

Robert Jameson was coach for the team.

Four New Fords "Borrowed"; Two Heavily Damaged

Unknown culprits went into a storage building being used by Ivey Motor Co. late Saturday night or early Sunday morning and "borrowed" three new pickups and one Mustang from the local Ford dealer.

Three of the vehicles were returned after being used awhile, but one was abandoned four miles west of Bronte. The abandoned pickup and one other were damaged by a collision in which one rammed the right side of the other. The rammed pickup was the one abandoned.

Three of the new Fords were driven about 26 miles, while 49 miles had been added to the speedometer of the fourth.

Cumbie Ivey Jr., owner of the vehicles, said damage to the two pickups would amount to over $1,000.

Ivey told the Observer that this is not the first time he has had vehicles borrowed from his new car stock. However, he said this is the first time such extensive damage has been done.

Sheriff Melvin Childress is investigating the incident.

Tuesday, May 30, National Holiday

Next Tuesday will be observed as a holiday by most Robert Lee business firms. May 30 is Memorial Day, a national holiday.

City and county offices will be closed, along with many business firms.

Only exceptions of the closing reported to the Observer are restaurants and service stations which will remain open in order to serve travelers as well as local customers.

The Observer will be printed next week as usual on Wednesday. However, since Tuesday is a holiday, persons who have news or advertising for the paper are requested to get it in not later than Monday.

Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough, chairman of the Coke County Historical Committee, called on everyone to clean their own cemetery lots and "go the second mile and clean

GRADUATION PROGRAM

Processional ..... Mrs. Bonita Copeland
Invocation ..... Mr. Dale Hamby
Salutatory ..... Katherine Dean
Valedictory ..... Rhea Jean McCutchen
Introduction of Speaker ..... Melinda Percifull
Address ..... Dr. Harlan Ford, Dean of Sul Ross State College
Presentation of Class Gift ..... Carl Bloodworth, President of Senior Class
Presentation of Class ..... Mr. Garland Davis, High School Principal
Presentation of Diplomas ..... Mr. Jimmy Bickley, Superintendent; Mr. Douglas Gartman, President of Board of Education
Benediction ..... Mr. Clifford Wilson
Recessional ..... Mrs. Bonita Copeland

Friday, May 26, will see the culmination of the hopes of 30 Robert Lee High School seniors when they receive their diplomas and are proclaimed high school graduates.

Dr. Harlan Ford, dean of Sul Ross College, will be the speaker of the evening. The valedictory address will be given by Rhea Jean McCutchen, who had a grade average 96.67. Della Katherine Dean will give the salutatory address. Her grade average was 93.65. Glenn Roach is high boy in the class with a 93.06 average.

The program will begin at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Climax of the evening's program will be the presentation of diplomas by Supt. Jimmy Bickley and Douglas Gartman, president of the board of trustees.

Carl Bloodworth, president of the senior class, will present a gift from the class to the school.

Ushers will be Jeannie Hatch, Lois Heuvel, Randy Hall and Donnie Devoll.

Senior who are candidates for graduation include:

Carl Ernest Bloodworth, Shirley Ruth Brice, Larry Carl Brock, Paula Suzann Burns, Sherry Ruth Cole, Della Katherine Dean, Marsha Ann Dodson, Doris Janelle Fernandez, Elisa Gloria, Ray Gloria, John Darvin Gregston, Nancy Jane Jacoby, Anna Maria Lara, Robert Alan Lomas, Helen Dianna McClure, Rhea Jean McCutchen, Johnnie Rae McDonald.

Also Wayne Edward McGrath, Melinda Lou Percifull, Gaylon Lynn Pitcock, Jean Kathleen Preslar, Glenn Pierce Roach, Ray Don Roe, Stephen Lynn Shandley, Jeanmarie Sirus, James Drexiel Skipworth, Almeda Pauline Sparks, Rinda Lizabeth Wojtek, Lynsey Ray White, and Javan Murice Vosburg.

Class sponsors for this year's seniors are Dale Hamby and Clifford Wilson.

Baccalaureate Held

A baccalaureate service honoring the seniors was held last Sunday night. The Rev. Bill McKinley, pastor of Robert Lee Methodist Church, delivered the sermon. Bill Roach, minister of Robert Lee Church of Christ, gave the invocation and the Rev. Bill Beaty, pastor of Robert Lee Baptist Church, gave the benediction. Mrs. Bonita Copeland furnished processional and recessional music.

Eighth Graders Have Graduation Tonight

Thirty-eight eighth graders will be promoted into high school at a junior high commencement program Thursday at 8 p.m. Supt. Jimmy Bickley will be the featured speaker on the program.

The invocation and benediction will be given by Bill Roach, minister, Robert Lee Church of Christ. Jo Adkins, who had a grade average of 95.45, will give the salutatorian address, and Kay Cole, whose average is 95.90 will give the valedictory.

Elementary Prin. Robert Jameson will introduce Supt. Bickley, and High School Prin. Garland Davis will present the class for graduation. Billy J. Blair and D. J. Walker Jr., school board members, will present the diplomas. Mrs. Bonita Copeland will play the processional and recessional music, as well as a special number during the program.

Ushers will be Linda Parker, Marsha Duncan, Danny Percifull and Kenneth Mathers.

The class roll is as follows:

Jo Louise Adkins, Melvin Bruce Allen, Nelson Ray Barnes, Linda Sue Blair, Connie Ruth Blaylock, Tony Neil Calder, Marilyn Kay Cole, Jackie Diane Conley, Martha Gaylene Eldred, James Cowley Fields.

Also Margaret Ellen Flanagan, Peggy Ann Green, Wanda Ganell Gregston, James Ernest Herford, Paul Mark Hicks, James Keith Hood, Sharon Susan Hughes, Patrick Hugh Lewis, Neva Jean McDaniel, Jerry Lynn McDonald, Johnny Lee Millican, Marshall Wayne Millican, Waldon Lee Millican, James Micheal Mumford, Richard Castillio Palacio, Becky Lynn Percifull, Sheri Jerene Pitcock, Kenneth Alan Prine.

And Christie Lea Roach, Leslie Lee Sanders, Beverly Nell Shandley, James Royce Smith, Carolyn Ruth Thomason, Laveta Josephine Todd, Rebecca Elaine Walker, Charles Randolph Wojtek, James Allen Wright, Quincie Lee Wright.

SWIM POOL OPENS MAY 27

The swimming pool in Robert Lee's County Park will open Saturday. Hours for opening will be 2-6 p.m. daily.

Admission price to the pool will be 15 cents for all pre-schoolers and students, and 35 cents for adults. Season tickets are now on sale for $5.00. They will admit the owners as many times as they wish to go swimming.

Swimming lessons are planned later in the summer, probably the latter part of July. Cool mornings now indicate it would be better to postpone the lessons until later.

Patronize Our Advertisers

Housing Authority Gets Okay of Plans

Federal Housing Authority officials have approved the low bid received last week when Robert Lee Housing Authority opened bids to build its new low rent housing units.

Mrs. Yvonne Devoll, executive director of the local authority, said this week that a letter from federal officials okayed the plans, budget, etc., and authorized the contract be awarded to Herman Bennett of Brownwood. His bid was $191,790.

Mrs. Devoll said the local authority was requested to come to Fort Worth one day next week for a pre-construction conference. After it has been successfully completed, construction can begin at once, probably by June 1.

BCD Pushing For City Cleanup

A campaign to improve the looks and safety of Robert Lee was born Tuesday at noon when the BCD met and a committee was appointed to assist and recommend a system for razing unused delapidated buildings and cleaning up vacant lots.

President Jim Bickley appointed Gerald Allen as chairman of the committee and A. B. Shepard and W. D. McAdams as members.

Fire Marshal Gene Kilgore of San Angelo met with the group and explained San Angelo's campaign to clean up shacks and other unsightly structures which are no longer used.

He suggested that the best method of cleaning up is to contact owners of such property and ask their permission to tear down unsightly buildings. If the owner agrees, he should sign a form, giving permission to enter his property and demolish the structure in question.

Kilgore pointed out that most property owners will cooperate in a cleanup campaign.

He reviewed the progress which has been made in San Angelo's campaign and said that he could see no reason why a similar program would not work in Robert Lee.

He suggested that owners of vacant lots be requested to clean off debris on them.

Kilgore emphasized that such a campaign not only adds greatly to the appearance of a city, but removes many fire hazards as well.

Guests at the meeting besides Kilgore were County Attorney Frank C. Dickey and Noel Percifull, Abilene insurance adjustor.

The Board of Community Development will not meet next week, President Jim Bickley announced Tuesday. Next Tuesday is Memorial Day, a national holiday and the organization will forego its meeting in order to join in the observance of the day.