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# Robert Lee Observer

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WEST TEXAS' NEATEST WEEKLY PAPER—COMPARE!  
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Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Friday, November 29, 1946

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## Death Claimed John Vestal, 92, County Pioneer

Funeral services for J. J. Vestal, 92, who died at his home here last Friday morning of pneumonia after a short illness, were held Saturday at 3 p. m. at the Robert Lee Methodist church with the Rev. J. H. Estes officiating. Hymns were sung by the church choir, with Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough singing a solo, "Death Is Only a Dream." Burial was held in the local cemetery with the following pallbearers: B. M. Mundell, Earl Roberts, Eli Higgins, W. P. McDorman, Henry Varnadore and Jack Dixon. Clift funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

"Uncle John," as he was familiarly known, was one of the county's pioneers and one of its most greatly esteemed citizens. He was born July 9, 1854, in Columbia, Tenn., and moved to Missouri as a child. He came to West Texas in August, 1886, and settled in Coke county where he learned the blacksmith trade under the old apprentice system.

His first shop was in Abilene where he worked a year before going to Hayrick, where he stayed until 1891, when the county seat was moved to Robert Lee. He moved his shop at the same time.

The blacksmith shop operated in Robert Lee by Uncle John is one of the landmarks of Coke county. He chiseled the stone, burned the lime and built it himself. He worked at his trade regularly until he was 87 years old, and occasionally until last Nov. 14 when he became ill.

Mr. Vestal was the last surviving charter member of the Robert Lee Methodist church. He was married to Mary Walker in 1877. She died in 1892. In 1897 he married Catherine Walker, who preceded him in death in 1945.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. J. I. Murtishaw of Robert Lee; Mrs. Ed Fletcher of Bronte; Mrs. Tom Leineweber of Caddo, Okla.; and Mrs. Walter McDorman of Ballinger; and three sons, Aaron Vestal of Robert Lee, and Delbert and Clarence Vestal, both of Ballinger.

Also surviving are 23 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild.

**Building New Home**  
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Allen are constructing a new home on the corner west of Mrs. Ollie Green's property. A concrete foundation was run a few weeks ago and this week the walls are being laid. The hollow tile is being used. The material was obtained from a surplus following construction of a new church at Blackwell.

## School Buys Oil Stoves

At a special meeting of the school board Monday night it was voted to purchase oil heating stoves to be used in the six rooms of the north wing. For some time it has been impossible to heat these rooms from the large furnace, and it is hoped the central heating plant can now be adjusted to properly heat all rooms of the main building. The stoves will be installed as soon as possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Savage and children, Forest and Martha Jane, of Denver City, Texas, visited relatives and friends at Silver over the weekend.

## Billie Campbell Sells Beauty Shop

Purchase of the Billie Campbell beauty shop by Olene Snoddy is announced this week, with the new proprietor taking charge Dec. 1. The shop enjoys a fine patronage and is well equipped.

Olene graduated from the Jolley beauty culture school and for a year and a half was employed as an operator here. She is well acquainted with the patrons and will no doubt meet with fine success.

Mrs. Campbell has owned the business for several years. She is one of the community's most popular young ladies and her many friends wish her success in the future. Billie says her plans at present are indefinite.

## County WHD Clubs Make Plans For 1947

Coke County WHD Council held its annual meeting last Saturday at the office of the home demonstration agent. Seven of the nine clubs of the county were represented, with 16 voting members and two visitors.

Each club president reported on the achievements of her members during the past year. Mrs. Taylor Emerson of Bronte was elected council chairman for 1947.

The group voted to alternate their meetings between Robert Lee and Bronte during the coming year. The annual Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, in the home of Mrs. O. W. Chapman at Bronte. Honored guests will be the new council members.

The county WHD clubs officers training school is scheduled for next Monday, Dec. 2, at the Bronte Baptist church, from 10 a. m. until 2:30 p. m. A fine program has been arranged and The Observer regrets that publicity concerning same was submitted too late for publication in this issue.

## Furn Havins Buys Home

Furn Havins has bought the H. M. Edwards home, two blocks north and two west of the post office. This is the former Naomi Brown property and was purchased by Mr. Edwards last May. Mr. Havins and his family will move here from San Angelo the last of the week.

## Steers Lick Bronte; Meet Ozona For Bi-District Title

Robert Lee high school's football team, known far and wide as the stampeding Steers, closed the regular season in a blaze of glory last Thursday afternoon when they defeated their friendly enemies from Bronte by a score of 13 to 0. It can be said here and now that the Longhorns were a good football outfit, too, but were up against an assignment that was a little too tough. For details of the Bronte-Robert Lee game turn to an inside page.

The big game last Thursday drew a record crowd, with gross receipts of \$605, and a net split for each school of \$236.

Last week's victory gave the Steers a clear title to the 7-B conference, and as a result they meet Ozona in a bi-district playoff on the Ozona field Thanksgiving Day. School authorities from Ozona were here for the Bronte game and after its conclusion they went into a huddle with Coach Hannaford on arrangements for the playoff. The Robert Lee mentor accepted their proposition of a \$325 flat guarantee to play the contest at Ozona.

Hannaford and his football squad were scheduled to leave at 8 a. m. Thursday, while a special bus was chartered from Abilene to carry fans at \$2.80 for the round trip. A large crowd of Coke county folks will be on hand for the contest which should see two well matched elevens in action.

Winner of the Robert Lee-Ozona game will then have a crack at the regional title with their opponent being the winner of the Ft. Stockton-Marfagame. Who knows? Maybe Robert Lee will be in there at the finish, but they've had a glorious season anyway, and here's the record to prove it:

- Robert Lee 13; Eldorado 0.
- Robert Lee 8; Loraine 0.
- Robert Lee 97; Miles 0.
- Robert Lee 13; Bronte 7.
- Robert Lee 40; Christoval 0.
- Robert Lee 33; Noton 0.
- Robert Lee 76; Wingate 6.
- Robert Lee 24; Stanton 14.
- Robert Lee 13; Bronte 0.
- Total points, 317 to 27.

## Terminal Leave Pay

Hubert Buchanan is the first veteran of World War II in this locality to receive his terminal leave pay. His settlement which included a \$275 bond to mature in 5 years and \$23 in cash was received last Friday from the Navy office at Great Lakes, Ill. Hubert was in the service three years.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Young last week were her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Townsend of Pecan Station, and her brother, W. A. Perry and wife of Ray community.

If you've been having us to send The Observer to a friend and want it to continue, better call and check expiration dates. A number of subscriptions expire this and next month, and when the time is up the paper is discontinued.

## L. S. Bird Remains Serious

The condition of L. S. Bird, well known Sanco resident, remains very serious, according to word from his brother, Ira, upon the latter's return from San Angelo Wednesday noon. The patient seemed to be somewhat improved the middle of the week, following a setback on Monday night. He has had a number of blood transfusions and is under oxygen. Mr. Bird, who is nearing his 73rd birthday, underwent a surgical operation and has been in the hospital six weeks. He has a wide circle of friends and neighbors who are deeply concerned over his condition.

## Wallace Clift Will Spend Year In Orient

Wallace B. Clift, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce of Robert Lee, is preparing to leave next week for a year's stay in the orient where he will be employed by the War Department. He plans to leave early in the week for Seattle where he will take boat transportation across the Pacific.

His appointment is designated as an administrative assistant with the Military Government and he is scheduled to be stationed at Gensan, Korea. He hopes, however, that he may get a transfer to Japan.

Wallace is well qualified for the position. He recently was discharged from the Navy after completing a course in Japanese language at A & M College in Stillwater, Okla.

## Auxiliary Unit Of Legion Elects Officers

Plans are going ahead rapidly with organization of an Auxiliary unit of the American Legion in Robert Lee. Sixteen charter members attended a special meeting at the J. C. Strickland home on Monday night when the following officers were elected.

- Pres.—Mrs. J. C. Strickland.
- V. Pres.—Mrs. Eddie Patterson.
- Secy. treas.—Ava Lou Tubb.
- Historian—Mrs. H. S. Lewis.
- Chap'n—Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough
- Sgt. at Arms—Mrs. Minnie Buchanan.

The officers will be formally installed at a joint meeting of the Legion and Auxiliary Tuesday night at the court house. Officers of the Auxiliary unit of San Angelo will be in charge of the installation. All veterans and their ladies are urged to attend. Women eligible to membership in the Auxiliary include wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of veterans of either war.

All ladies who sign up before Tuesday night will be considered as charter members of the Robert Lee unit. There will be a social hour following the meeting Dec. 3.

Ed Looney and wife of Burk Burnett visited here a couple of days the last of the week with the former's brother, O. V. Looney, and family.

Ed McDorman of Bronte was taken to the hospital in the Clift ambulance Sunday night for an emergency operation for hernia.

## Final Testing Of Jameson Oil Well Is Expected Soon

Swabbing operations were in progress Thursday at Sun Oil Company's wildcat test on the Allen Jameson property near Silver. A 5-inch casing was cemented in a week ago and the well capped with heavy valves, but difficulties have been encountered to prevent a final test.

The new casing was tested out Sunday night and found to be satisfactory. Later the plug was opened, but attempts to run a drillstem test on Wednesday were unsuccessful because the testing tool failed to open. A large accumulation of mud is believed in the bottom of the hole. After swabbing is finished the path will be cleared for testing. It is reported the test will cover a 24-hour period.

Oil and gas were reached on Nov. 17 in crinoidal at a depth of 6,210 feet. A core from 6,210 to 6,230 feet yielded five feet of lime, the bottom two feet of which was very porous and saturated with high gravity oil. Gas came to the surface, the volume of which was estimated at 2 million cubic feet daily. The recovery included 500 feet of sweet, green oil that tested 44.

Interest has calmed down somewhat awaiting results of the final test. There is every indication, however, that a good producing well has been brought in. Some activity is reported in leasing operations, but few have signed up the past week. Lease talk includes quite a territory around Robert Lee and Edith.

Too late for last week's Observer was the deal in which R. S. (Sherm) Anderson was given a bonus of \$40 per acre for leasing 360 acres to Sun. The tract lies across the road north of the Jameson land where the test is being made. This deal followed the one in which Victor McCabe received \$40 per acre for leasing two sections two miles north of the well, to the Sun company.

## Uncle Sam Says



Supposing you had the job of buying Christmas presents for everyone in our big country? Tonight in your dreams you would be living a nightmare of huge shopping crowds pushing you off empty-handed into endless space. And yet you could buy a splendid Christmas gift for every American . . . and with great ease and comfort, too. United States Savings Bonds are available in as great numbers as you and millions of my other nieces and nephews need to fill out your 1946 Christmas gift list. Give United States Savings Bonds—the present with the future.

U. S. Treasury Department