

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. 68, No. 42

Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Friday, March 22, 1957

Dial GL 3-3501

## Important Information

For Robert Lee Residents

In case of Fire or any other Emergency requiring the services of the Fire Department, dial the following number:

**GL 3-3131**

Be sure the person answering understands the location of the Fire or the nature of the Emergency before you hang up. **THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

Clip this Notice and keep it handy for your convenience and future reference.

**SAM JAY, Chief**

Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department

## Coke Gets More Rain; Escapes Storm Damage

Coke County escaped storm damage but received some beneficial moisture Wednesday when turbulent clouds and tornado warnings originated in West Texas and sped southeast to the Gulf. Robert Lee gauged a half inch from a heavy shower about 1:30 p.m. There was very little wind here, indicating we were on the edge of the storm. Valley View farmers southeast of town got an inch of moisture, while to the southwest the measurement was a half inch. Less rainfall was received north of town, but Bronte's heavy downpour amounted to .9 of an inch. Silver reported good rains.

The moisture will prove highly beneficial to thousands of acres of oats and other small grain which has furnished excellent grazing for several weeks, but was beginning to need rain.

While the San Angelo radio stations kept anxious listeners informed of the weather warnings, no damage was reported in West Texas although several tornadoes were seen.



FRANK D. COALSON has been re-elected superintendent of the Robert Lee public school system, along with all other teachers and employees. His two-year contract was extended another year. Supt. Coalson is serving his first year at Robert Lee.

## Rites Held For Mrs. J. M. Sparks, Early Resident

Death has claimed another long time Coke resident, Mrs. J. M. (Effie) Sparks, 81, whose passing occurred Saturday, March 16, at the home of her son, Cecil Sparks, near Santo, Tex.

She had been in failing health for two years, but her son and his family were shocked to find her dead in her room at 6 a. m. Saturday. She had gotten out of bed and was sitting in a rocking chair.

The body was brought to Robert Lee Sunday by Smith Funeral Home of Lipan and local arrangements were in charge of Clift Funeral Home. The Rev. Jimmy Rogers, pastor of Pecan Baptist Church, officiated at graveside services Monday at 3 p. m. at Paint Creek cemetery near Edith.

Nephews serving as pallbearers were Turney Sparks, Delmir Sheppard, Buster Fields, Bob Fields, Samson Sparks, Hawley Fields, A. B. Sheppard and Carlton Fields.

Effie Fields, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Fields, was born May 2, 1875, in Benton County, Ark. When she was a small child the family moved to Brown County, Texas, and came on to Coke County in the early 90's.

On June 2, 1895, she married James Munroe Sparks in a ceremony at Edith. All of their married life was spent in the Edith community, except for the period between 1906-12 when they resided at Hobbs, New Mex. Mr. Sparks died July 2, 1927, and since then she had lived among her children, most of the time at Kermit.

Mrs. Sparks was a good wife and mother, and a kind neighbor. She and her husband were faithful members of Pecan Baptist Church.

She loved people, and retained fond memories of everyone she ever met. She was affectionately referred to as "Aunt Effie" and "Muddie." As long as her health permitted she kept in touch by letter with her numerous kinkfoks who scattered to distant places.

Survivors include the son, Cecil W. Sparks of Santo, formerly of Kermit; three daughters, Mrs. Eva Morris of Kermit, Mrs. Rita Halbardier of San Angelo and Mrs. Nell Esterholdt of Sacramento, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. Maggie Price of Fort Stockton and Mrs. Minnie Cook of Blythe, Calif.; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was a sister of the late Hubert Fields, Mrs. M. B. Sheppard and Mrs. Clyde Manning and a sister-in-law of the late Mrs. Anna Sparks Barger. She is survived by many nieces and nephews in this community.

## REVIVAL AT PECAN

At Pecan Missionary Baptist Church, west of Edith, a weekend Revival Meeting began Thursday night, March 21, and will continue through Sunday night, March 24. Services each night at 8 o'clock. Bro. R. W. Blackmon of Bronte will do the preaching. We extend everyone a welcome to come and worship with us.

## STORE IMPROVEMENTS

Baker's Grocery and Market has undergone many recent improvements. New shelving was added and the stock re-arranged for the convenience of customers. A larger frozen food refrigerator with glass over the various sections was installed.

## Wojtek Family Enjoy Reunion Here Saturday

Saturday, March 16, was the date of a happy family reunion in the home of Mr. and Mrs. V. V. Wojtek. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Wojtek and daughters of Houston, Mr. and Mrs. V. V. Wojtek, Jr. and family of Livingston, New Mex., Mrs. Troy Montgomery and children of Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Narwood and son of Plainview.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Walker Cobb and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wojtek and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Wojtek and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wojtek and family and Mrs. Gene Williams and son, all of San Angelo, and Frank and Marlow Wojtek, who reside at home.

Members of the family unable to be present were Bobby Wojtek, stationed at Smoky Hill AFB in Kansas, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Campbell of Thompsonville, Conn.

Friends attending were Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Plunk and family of Abilene, and Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Smith and family of San Angelo.

Mrs. V. V. Wojtek, Sr., who has been hospitalized, was able to return home to enjoy the occasion with her family and friends.

## Interest Lags In April 2nd Special Vote

Interest seems to be lagging in the special election April 2 when Texans will name a United States Senator to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Price Daniel.

One indication of the lack of interest is the fact that not a single absentee ballot has been cast, although they have been ready for the past week.

County Clerk J. L. (Chilly) Tinkler says the last day for voting by absentee ballot is next Friday, March 29.

Twenty-two candidates are listed on the special election ballot, but only a few of them are known state wide. The high man will serve out the unexpired term of less than two years. He don't have to get a majority of the votes.

## VISIT IN FORT WORTH

After the teachers meeting in Brownwood Friday afternoon, Supt. and Mrs. Frank Coalson and son, Derwood, motored to Ft. Worth where they visited their daughter, Mrs. Truett Rogers, and family. Mr. Rogers is a student at Baptist Seminary and is music director at Woods Chapel Church near Ft. Worth. On Saturday Mr. Coalson and Derwood attended the Track and Field meet where they saw the famous Bobby Morrow run the 100-yard dash and also perform as a member of the ACC relay teams. The Coalsons visited old friends in Abilene enroute home Sunday afternoon.

## Many Attend Sparks Rites

Among relatives and friends who came from a distance to attend funeral services here Monday for Mrs. Effie Sparks were Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Page and son, Phillip, Jr. and Miss Cynthia Schooler of Odessa; Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Fields, Wichita Falls; Miss Marguerite Murphy, Lake Arthur, N. Mex.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gardner, Junction; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Counts, Monahans.

Also Mrs. H. H. King and Mr. and Mrs. Turney Sparks, Abilene; Mrs. Maggie Price and Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Robertson, Ft. Stockton; Mrs. Marjorie Price Crawford and Hawley Fields, Midland; Mr. and Mrs. Walker Good and Mrs. Elmer Modgling, Weatherford; Mrs. W. T. Sharp, Big Spring; Mr. and Mrs. Homer Barger and Miss Nina Barger, San Angelo.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Syl Lovell, Kermit; Mr. and Mrs. James Arrott, Mrs. Sudie Brown, Mrs. Bert Cornelius and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Corley, Tennyson; Earl Chilvin dress, Brady; Mrs. Virginia Snead and Mrs. Nannie Thetford, Bronte; Mrs. Elmer Hurley, Abilene; T. K. Whitesides, Sweetwater; Bronc Sparks, San Angelo; and Dick Fields, Mertzon.

Mrs. Sam Jay, city secretary, returned to her official duties at the City Hall this week and is well improved from illness which caused her to be hospitalized two weeks.

## INJURED IN FALL

J. C. Snead, Jr. fell down a steep bank while fishing Sunday on the Colorado River above Elm Bend on the Frank Bryan place west of Robert Lee. He stepped on a stone, causing him to lose his balance and go over the bank. He fell and rolled 15 or 20 feet and landed in the mud at the edge of the water. A. J. Bilbo was farther down the river and brought Mr. Snead to the hospital. Examination failed to reveal any fractures, but he has cuts and bruises and says he is sore all over. The Snead barber shop will be closed until his recovery.

## TALENT SHOW

All of those who are going to be on the next talent show will go to KTXL in San Angelo to practice this next Saturday morning, March 23. The program will be seen on Friday night, March 29, at 6:30 on KTXL television.

All who are interested in appearing on these shows contact Mrs. Jeff Dean.

The winner of our last talent show was Mack Tubb.

## March 27 Last Day to File As School Trustee

March 27 is the last day to file names for annual school trustee elections set for Saturday, April 6.

Anyone wishing to run may file his name in the office of County Supt. Jeff Dean, or names may be nominated by a petition bearing five signatures.

Two trustees are to be chosen in the Robert Lee district, but no filings have been made. Terms of Wilson Bryan and Bryan Gartman expire this year and neither is a candidate for re-election.

Four candidates have been filed for two places at Silver. The candidates are Cecil Palmer, for reelection, R. D. Arthur, Bob Odum and W. L. (Pete) Ashmore.

County school trustees will also be elected in Precincts 2 and 4. Noah Pruitt is the present trustee in Precinct 2, and the name of Clarence Arrott has been filed in Precinct 4. L. Y. Harrell, who has served in that precinct for several years, has moved to San Angelo.

## Robert Lee FFA Exhibited At Houston Show

The Robert Lee FFA Chapter exhibited 10 lambs, one steer and one barrow at the recent Houston Fat Stock Show.

Kenneth Wink, winner of a calf in scramble, exhibited the 10th place lightweight Hereford steer and sold the steer for 40 cents a pound. Over 90 calves competed in the class. The calf Kenneth exhibited was the Grand Champion calf of the Coke County Livestock Show held Feb. 2. In the same class, James Bird Pentecost, 4-H club member from Robert Lee, placed 13th and sold for 40 cents.

Dennis Blair placed 14th in the Duroc barrow show of over 75 pigs competing. The pig was sold at the premium auction sale and netted Dennis \$66.00.

In the fat lamb department Dav- id Waldrop placed 6th in the pen of three, fed and exhibited by one boy, with his three entries of Delaines. Over 40 pens of three exhibited in this class. Bub Burson exhibited the 39th place fine wool lamb in a class of over 250 lambs competing. Other lamb exhibitors included Freddy McDonald, Bobby Cowley and Monty Trimble.

The group was accompanied to Houston by Hulan Harris and Jack Walde. Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wink of Robert Lee also attended.

## Teachers Met Here Monday

The spring meeting of Coke County Teachers Association was held Monday night at the Robert Lee school cafeteria. An excellent fried chicken dinner was enjoyed.

President Don Gressett of Silver presided over the meeting which was devoted to the discussion of current school matters, and the following officers were chosen for next year:

President, M. E. Petross of Robert Lee; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. Jeff Dean, Robert Lee; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. Vetal Flores, Bronte; Secretary, Miss Violet Brown, Silver; Treasurer, J. T. Henry, Bronte.

Next meeting of the group will be in October at Silver.