

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Obituaries



Webb

Mary Jane Powell Webb of Bronte, loving wife, mother and grandmother, went to be with the Lord, Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the age of 84.

Jane was born on July 27, 1938, in San Angelo to Gerald (Mac) and Ernestine Powell. She graduated from Bronte High School in 1956. She married the love of her life, C.N. Webb, Jr. (Junny), on December 22, 1956. They lived in a number of places before settling back in Bronte in 1969. She worked as a newspaper typesetter for the Ballinger Ledger, the Bronte Enterprise, and then the Observer/Enterprise. She spent 25 years working at Shannon Medical Center as a pharmacy technician/clerk. She loved family gatherings, shopping, traveling and square dancing. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bronte.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Gerald; her husband, C.N. Webb Jr.; and an infant son.

Jane is survived by her three children, Lana Webb of San Angelo, Shane Webb and wife Alisa of Bronte, and Kelly Barnett and husband Kris of Anderson, South Carolina; six grandchildren, Joel Webb and wife Rebecca of Wall, Cheyenne Thomas and husband Garrett of Snyder and Kenzie, Karsen, Kolt and Kassie Barnett of Anderson, South Carolina; four great-grandchildren, Addalyn and Luke Webb of Wall and Gage and Grayde Thomas of Snyder; one sister, Kay Daulong and husband Stanley of Bronte; along with other family members and friends.

Honorary pallbearers

included Joel Webb, Karsen Barnett, Kolt Barnett, Garrett Thomas, Lane Hughes, and Ladd Hughes.

Graveside services were officiated by Dr. Kris Barnett at 2 pm, Sunday, March 26, in Fairview Cemetery in Bronte. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Bronte Health and Rehab Center. On line condolences may be made at www.shafferpioneer.com.

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CCRTA meeting held

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association (CCRTA) met on Monday, April 20, 2023 for a potluck lunch and business meeting at the First Baptist Church in Bronte. There were seventeen members present.

A discussion was held regarding the legislation on the Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired teachers and voucher initiative. Members were urged to let their legislators hear from them. Texas Senator Kevin Sparks serves District 31 of which Coke County is now part of that district. Representative Drew Darby serves Texas House District 72.

President Bagwell discussed the book project and the TRTA Day at the Capitol on April 11-12. Members have signed on to ride the bus to Austin, and to

drive down for the day.



American Idol, Part 3: The Heroic Everyman

By James M. Decker

Louis L'Amour or Elmer Kelton? Which do you prefer?

For fans of the Western novel, it is a debate that has run for decades. Owen Wister invented the modern Western, Zane Grey took it to worldwide popularity, and after World War 2, L'Amour and Kelton became the anchors of the genre. L'Amour's works have sold over 300 million copies. His 1988 New York Times obituary proclaimed that L'Amour was "one of the world's most popular writers," not just limited to the Western genre. Kelton never sold as many books, but he was often lauded by his peers as the most skilled writer in the genre.

I won't make a Beatles vs. the Rolling Stones comparison here, because one of these bands is appallingly overrated (I'll leave the reader to decide which is which), but it is impossible to decide which author was better. The first full-length Western I read as a child was L'Amour's "The Daybreakers." For several years, its protagonist and narrator Tyrel Sackett became my personal hero. I consider Kelton's "The Time It Never Rained" to be one of the finest books ever written about Texas and it is powerfully influential to my views of community and rural America at large.

Elmer Kelton famously said L'Amour's characters were "7

feet tall and invincible" while his own characters were "5-foot-8 and nervous." A 2018 article in Cowboys & Indians Magazine pointed out that Kelton often repeated that line with variations on the heights and attributes, which suggests that it was a humorous comparison of their styles more than a serious value judgment on their respective works. It is an amusing illustration of style, but it also might reveal something about their own lives. L'Amour grew up amidst his parents traveling the early 20th century boomtowns of the American West. His adventures included mining, professional boxing, and traveling the world as a merchant seaman before he became a writer. The low-key Kelton grew up on West Texas ranches and edited the farm and ranch page of the San Angelo Standard-Times, Sheep and Goat Raiser Magazine, and Livestock Weekly even as he became an acclaimed novelist. L'Amour wrote about heroism up and down the frontier, while Kelton wrote about heroism in place, most especially in his beloved West Texas.

In L'Amour's works, we are inspired by heroic deeds. Sometimes his heroes are larger than life and sometimes they are ordinary people cast into heroic

situations. They face down the outlaw in the street, they rescue the damsel in distress, or they save the wagon train from annihilation. Kelton's heroes are more often ordinary people cast into difficult situations. Sometimes they rise to the occasion, sometimes they fall short in some ways. If you've ever read "The Time It Never Rained", you know it does not have a Walt Disney ending.

As I have written over the last few weeks, the cowboy ideal can be something positive to uphold or a false idol to worship for the wrong reasons. In L'Amour and Kelton, we find just that. L'Amour's heroes can push us to be the best versions of ourselves when the chips are down and adversity surrounds us. Kelton's heroes remind us that regular people can be confronted with difficult situations and they need not be seven foot tall to prevail.

The cowboy is not a comic book hero with superpowers attained from some mysterious source. The cowboy is just a human, the same as you and me. So, to the original question: L'Amour or Kelton? I'll choose both. If a person were to read a healthy dose of both L'Amour and Kelton (and I have), they would be reminded that heroic deeds are important, but also that they can come from regular

Area Churches

Invite You to Worship

Bronte

Bronte Church of Christ

PO Box 346
118 S. Jefferson • Bronte
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

Central Baptist Church

324 S. Franklin • Bronte
(325) 473-4811
Dale Patterson, Pastor

Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am & 5 pm Worship

First Baptist Church

424 S. Washington • Bronte
(325) 473-2331
firstbronte@gmail.com

Pastor George Cooper
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
10:30 am Worship
Wednesday 6 pm - 8 pm
Children and Youth

First United Methodist Church

Corner of Washington & Holmes
Bronte • (325) 650-4836
Sun. 11:00 am Worship

St. James Catholic Church

215 N. Washington, Bronte
(325) 365-2687

Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor
Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am

4C Cowboy Church

Drawer R • Bronte • (325) 895-4080
Robert Lemmond, Pastor

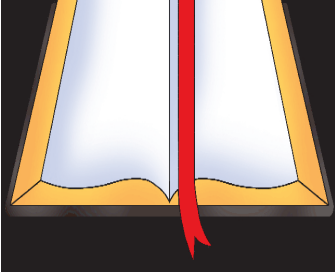
Sunday, 10:30 am - Texas Theater
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm -
4C Feedlot Youth Building

Coke County

Pecan Baptist

PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor

www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship



Robert Lee

Bible Baptist Church

PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin
Sunday 10 am Sunday School,
11 am and 5 pm Worship,
Wed 5 pm Bible Study

Emmanuel Pentecostal

PO Box 794 • 1004 Hillcrest
Pastor Brantly Robertson
(972) 841-2009

Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417
Cyndi Weidner, Pastor

Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am Worship,
5 pm Choir Practice

Iglesia Bautista Betel

101 Houston • Robert Lee
Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School
11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

Southside Church of Christ

PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
Robert Lee (325) 453-2176
Recardo Reyes, Preacher

Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6 pm, Worship

Northside Church of Christ

PO Box 508
9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee
(325) 453-2685, (325) 763-2118
or (325) 473-1053

Services: Sun. 10 am
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
(325) 365-2687

Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Mass 6 pm

Robert Lee Baptist Church

PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
(325) 453-2724
Chris Walls, Pastor

Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship
Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Victory Assembly of God

(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638
202 E. 6th Street, Robert Lee
Rev. Rocky Youngblood, Pastor

Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study

Russell Davis
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