

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.

Coke County - Center of West Texas Newest Oil Development

Robert Lee Observer

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Board To Review Cotton Appeals

Coke county farmers, who are dissatisfied with their cotton acreage allotments, are urged to file an appeal at the county PMA office. This advice comes from the Cotton Allotment Protest Committee which was organized early this spring.

Appeals will be reviewed by a board made up of farmers from outside counties and the body will start its work here May 5. Although April 28 (today) has been set as a deadline for filing appeals, it is likely that two or three days of grace will be extended.

Indications are that some of the restrictions are coming off. If farmers can show acreages which entitle them to a greater allotment than they have been given, it is understood their claims will be allowed. Some proof of the claims will be required, however.

Acreages planted to cotton and war crops for the years 1946-47-48 taken as a basis in fixing allotments. A farmer is entitled to not less than 65% of the three-year average, and cannot be cut to more than 45 per cent of his greatest acreage in any one of the three years.

Olen Cornelius, administrator of the PMA office here, says more than 100 appeals have already been filed.

P. M. Vance, state chairman of the PMA, advised on the radio Wednesday noon that any farmer who did not intend to use his allotment should turn same back to the county committee so that his acreage could be given to someone else. Such action would not effect his cotton allotment next year.

Contrary to the state chairman's statement, the Coke county PMA office is advising farmers that it will not be worth while to turn back allotments they do not intend to use. Why don't they get this situation straight?

Coke county was first allotted 4,200 acres for cotton. Then Congress amended the law and Texas received 600,000 more acres. Congressman Fisher said Coke should have its acreage increased to 8,000 acres. County PMA officials should see that we get it.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Chilly Tinkler went to Eden Monday night to spend a few hours with her grandfather, T. P. Smith. He is seriously ill. Mr. Smith is an old resident of that community and is past 90 years of age.

Mrs. E. G. Wilkerson and children, Wayne and Wanda, of McCamey are spending the week in the parental Roy Ross home.

Mrs. Coke Austin is enjoying a visit from her mother, Mrs. A. J. Roberts, of Comanche. The visitor arrived last weekend, coming from Lubbock with her son, M. G. Roberts, and wife.

Howard Varnadore received a badly bruised knee last Saturday while working on a Baker & Taylor drilling rig southwest of Silver. Because of mud and water he slipped and fell down the doghouse iron steps.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Scott of Lampasas visited over the weekend with their son, Wilton Scott, and family.

The Rev. and Mrs. Ross Welch left Wednesday morning for San Antonio to attend a pre-conference of the annual Methodist conference which is scheduled for the latter part of May. They will return

School Calendar
May 5—Junior Senior Banquet.
May 14—Baccalaureate Sermon.
May 18—Commencement.
May 24—Closing Day.

Engagement Announced

The engagement of Miss Bonita Childress and Mr. Leslie Copeland, popular Robert Lee young couple, was recently announced. Their wedding will be late next autumn. The bride-elect is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Childress and is employed as bookkeeper by the West Texas Utilities Co. Mr. Copeland is engaged in the ranching business near Sanco.

Pipe Arrives for City

A carload of water pipe purchased by the city was delivered this week by the McDonald Lumber Co. It is of various sizes ranging from 2-inch down to 3-4ths inch. The supply of pipe will be used to extend and improve Robert Lee's water service after new mains are installed.

Robert Lee Plays At Texon Sunday

Robert Lee's Rabbit Twisters journey to Texon next Sunday for a diamond encounter with Snipe Conley's Collegians. Texon bested Forsan 6 to 4 in last Sunday's league opener, indicating that old Snipe has a good outfit.

Fans are predicting the Twisters to bounce back from a licking they received from Miles here last week. In that game only one safe hit was secured by the top two-thirds of the batting list. They are all good hitters ordinarily and will give Texon a run for the money.

Clarence Tinkler is expected to start on the mound, with Tincup ready to relieve him if necessary.

Pete Hickman drove all the way from Denton to play last Sunday, and he had a poor day. Pete will be in the lineup regularly when the college term ends the last of May. He's a good young player and adds a lot of punch to the club.

Forsan returns to Robert Lee Sunday, May 7.

Concho League Schedule

Sunday, April 23—Miles in Robert Lee Forsan at Texon Sherwin-Williams at Sonora

Sunday, April 30—Robert Lee at Texon Sherwin-Williams at Miles Sonora at Forsan

Sunday, May 7—Forsan at Robert Lee Miles at Sonora Texon vs Sherwin-Williams in San Angelo

Sunday, May 14—Sherwin-Williams at Robert Lee Miles at Forsan Sonora at Texon

Sunday, May 21—Robert Lee at Sonora Texon at Miles Forsan vs Sherwin-Williams in San Angelo.

The condition of John L. Ross, Robert Lee school tax assessor and collector, remains serious at Shannon hospital. He has been conscious the past week and has enjoyed visits from friends.

Tyrus Davis came from Alpine the last of the week to join his wife and daughter, Cynthia Ann, who had spent the week in the parental A. B. Sheppard home. The Davis family returned to Alpine on Sunday.

Earl Roberts and Pete Gilbert and their wives enjoyed a few days of fishing the fore part of the week in the Pecos River. They had good success and one of their catfish weighed 20 pounds.

First Baby Born In County Hospital

The first baby to be born in the new Coke County Hospital is John Daniel McKay, who arrived at 6:22 a. m. Tuesday, April 25.

The child weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey H. McKay, who are employed on the Marvin Simpson Ranch, northwest of Robert Lee. They have three other children.

The baby was named after the attending physician, Dr. John D. McDaniel. Robert Lee merchants made up a large list of gifts and a cash purse of \$36 which were presented to the parents.

Mother and child were taken to their home Wednesday, getting a free ride in the Clift ambulance. It is understood Dr. McDaniel gave his services free and the hospital made no charges.

Dedication of the hospital will be postponed for several weeks since beds and other furniture have not arrived. A few beds were borrowed for emergency cases.

C. S. (Jim) Haselden, business manager, says formal opening ceremonies will be under direction of the Hospital Board. Local civic organizations have volunteered their services.

Steers Lose Two

Robert Lee high school's base ball team lost a pair of games on the local diamond the past week. Last Friday they were edged 6-3 by Divide and Tuesday they were victims of Norte 6-7. Bobby Hood has been doing most of the pitching, with John L. Bruton behind the plate.

Two Fine Events

The P-TA family night party Tuesday night and the Garden Club's flower show Wednesday are two outstanding events which will be covered in The Observer news columns next week.

Jack Austin came in the last of the week after getting his discharge from the Navy. For the past year he was stationed at Guam.

New Road To Edith Gets Surface Coat

Asphalt is being spread this week on the new stretch of highway between Robert Lee and Edith. State equipment was used in constructing the grade and putting on the surface coat.

Contractors who will build the three bridges are to start work at once. Their time limit is 160 days. The new highway will be open for traffic within a few days.

Tom Kelly, new district engineer, was in Robert Lee Monday and visited a time with The Observer editor. Mr. Kelly was transferred to San Angelo from Pecos. He left this district 20 years ago and was surprised to see the road progress that has been made in Coke county.

Kelly said in the old days Bronte and Robert Lee were fighting each other, and the Highway Commission didn't know what to do.

The new engineer said he tried to get the state to consider building a new bridge at the south edge of town, but funds weren't available. Hence the repair job, for which \$28,000 has been appropriated, will proceed immediately.

The bridge will be strengthened and will have a new floor of steel and concrete. A by-pass has already been constructed to cross the river a half mile below the bridge.

BCD Luncheon

President Frank Bryan presided over the Board of Community Development luncheon at the City Cafe Monday noon.

It was announced that Mrs. Lois Kannady had been employed to help the secretary in collecting membership dues and handling reservations for the bi-monthly luncheon meetings.

E. C. Davis and Buster Farris were named as a committee to solicit gifts for the first baby born in the Coke County Hospital.

County Agent Travis Hicks called attention to the spread of rabies which has been prevalent in East Texas and is now as far west as Brownwood.

The BCD voted to sponsor a Blue Cross hospital insurance drive to be open to the entire county. A representative of Blue Cross has been invited to come here at a date in the near future and meet with civic leaders from all parts of the county.

Simpson Cattle Averaged \$567

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Simpson, owners of Black Gold Angus Farms northwest of Robert Lee, were highly pleased with the results of their first auction sale held Saturday.

The event took place at the Keillor Ranch near Austin which is owned by Watson Brothers. Simpsons consigned six young bulls and 24 females to the sale, with Watson Bros. selling 35 head. Average price for the 65 head was \$506. Black Gold Farms, offering averaged \$567.50.

Simpsons sold the six top females of the sale. The best price was \$1,100 paid by Jess McGill of Paris. This was the heifer Mr. Simpson sold for \$50 to the Coke County Livestock Show in 1949. Jess Varnadore got the animal on a drawing and Marvin bought it back for \$212.

The next best heifer, a last December yearling, sold for \$800 to Seabright Farms at Austin. McGill bought the next two at \$725 each. Dr. J. B. Reneau of Munday paid \$710 for a heifer and Dr. Ben Eppright of Austin gave \$650 for another.

Breeders at the sale wanted females, Mr. Simpson said, and the bidding on bulls was not so keen. Sponsors of the sale gave a dinner to officials of the Angus Association and others on Friday night at Stephen F. Austin Hotel in Austin.

Gin Makes Record

The Robert Lee cotton gin has always had an enviable record for doing first class work. The past season it handled 1,465 bales and only one bale out of the run was reduced a grade because of bad ginning. This report came from the U. S. Department of Agriculture office in Abilene. Fred McDonald, Jr., one of the gin owners, says the one bad bale was due to poor cotton brought down from the plains.

Greenland Test

Southern Minerals No. 1 Mary Greenland, 15 miles southwest of Robert Lee, was drilling Thursday below 6,000 feet.

Sam Williams chipped a couple of wrist bones one day last week when he fell to the ground while painting the roof of his home. Sam is continuing his star route to Sanco and Silver.

Mrs. Daisy McCutchen is spending the week with relatives and friends in Dallas.

Sun Completes 2 More Producers In Coke County

Sun Oil Co. finished two more high producing wells in Coke county the past week. No. 4 G. W. Davidson, west and north of Edith, flowed 376.5 barrels of oil during its official 24-hour test. No. 5 Willie I. Tubb, southwest of Silver, gauged 410.57 barrels for its 24-hour test. Both were gauged through quarter inch choke.

Sun No. 4 Davidson was bottomed at 6,051 feet after topping the lime reef at 5,952 feet. It was treated with 5,000 gallons of acid. Casing pressure was 775 and tubing pressure 750 pounds. Gas-oil ratio was 1,126-1.

Sun No. 5 Tubb was completed naturally in open hole. It topped the reef at 6,318 feet and was bottomed at 6,492. Casing pressure was 1,325 and tubing pressure 925 pounds. Gas-oil ratio 1,475-1.

Sun Allen Jameson No. 4 is pumping about 9 barrels of oil daily.

Ray-Harris rotary equipment was moved from Tubb 5 to Tubb No. 6, a northeast offset to Tubb 4, a producer. Casing was cemented at 557 feet with 300 sacks. Plugs were drilled out Wednesday and the test was drilling Thursday morning at 1,268 feet in shale.

Sun Central Bank Unit No. 1, southwest of Silver, was drilling at 5,196 feet in shale. Baker-Taylor is the contractor.

In the Millican field west of Edith Sun No. 3 G. C. Millican was in shale at 5,743 feet. Morris & Hamilton has the contract.

Sun No. 5 G. W. Davidson was drilling in shale and hard lime at 2,030 feet.

Sun Oil News

Foundation has been poured for the new recreation building at Tubb Camp, a half mile north of the Silver school house. Don Storey, engineer in charge, says the building will have dimensions of 39 x 50 feet. It will have an auditorium 26 x 36 feet, a kitchen, two rest rooms and a large concrete floored patio. Kelley-Coppedge has the contract.

Gene Sweeney, former district superintendent with headquarters in Midland, was a visitor at Silver the first of the week. Gene now resides at Dallas and works out of the regional headquarters office.

H. D. Smith, area manager at Silver, says there will be 18 producing days in May compared with 17 this month.

Paul Gilbert, Jr., new chief clerk at Silver, is anxiously waiting to move his family from Midland. The Gilberts will occupy the new residence which is nearing completion at Jameson camp. A new home is also under construction at Tubb camp.

Construction of the gas plant addition is progressing satisfactorily. Plant Engineer John Shimer says all the concrete work is finished, and the contractor is now starting on the pipe work. A new cooling tower is also to be built.

Manager Harvey Evinger and Foreman J. D. Gilbert were in Ft. Worth this week to attend the national convention of the Natural Gasoline Association of America. James F. Pew of Philadelphia, one of the top officials of Sun, served as president of the organization the past year.

B. W. Shropshire is having a one room addition built to his home in the south part of town.