

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. 75, No. 45

Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Thursday, April 8, 1965

Single Copy 10c



## 3 New School Trustees Elected Last Saturday

Three new trustees were elected Saturday for Robert Lee Independent School District. Leading the ticket of six candidates were Douglas Gartman, D. J. Walker, Jr. and E. H. Ivey.

In the directors election for West Coke County Hospital District, incumbents Gene Baker and T. A. Richardson, who were running unopposed were easily re-

lected. However, Victor Wojtek received 34 write-in votes.

The hospital directors election will not be canvassed until April 14, but unofficial returns gave Baker 125 votes, Richardson 120 and Wojtek 34. Balloting places were set up in Robert Lee, Silver and Green Mountain.

The tally of votes for Robert Lee trustees showed Gartman re-

ceived 169, Walker 129, Ivey 122, Foy Askins 122, Raymond McCutchen 85 and Nolan Pentecost 29.

In the Silver trustee election, the incumbents, J. P. Jameson and Arch C. Mathers, who were unopposed, both received all 18 of the votes cast.

Considerable interest was shown all over the county in the election of a county trustee at large. D. K. Glenn of Bronte defeated present trustee, W. D. McAdams, 242 to 149. E. L. Champion, also of Bronte, received one write-in vote.

County trustees were also elected from precincts 2 and 4, with Noah Pruitt Sr. of precinct 2 receiving 153, and C. E. Arrott of precinct 4 getting 27, to win their respective races unopposed. Wayne Arrott was high man with 109 in a field of four running for two places on Bronte board of trustees. The other winner was A. E. Bell Jr. who received 103. Other candidates were Clyde Lee with 86 and Matthew Caperton with 73.

## High School Captures First At Literary Meet

Robert Lee High School took first place honors at the literary meet for District 67-B students in Sterling City last Saturday with 120 1/2 points. The elementary school came in third place with 34 5/8 points. Sterling City was first in the elementary division.

Bronte High School was second with 119 1/2, Sterling City had 99 1/2, Forsan 36 1/2, Water Valley 30 and Garden City 22.

In the elementary division, Sterling City had 46 1/3, Bronte 39, Water Valley 25, Fairview 13 1/2, Forsan 12 1/3, Garden City 5 and Carlsbad 0.

In the high school division the following students placed in the events indicated:

Debate: Rhea Jean McCutchen and Marla Dodson, first; poetry interpretation (girls): Kay Havins, second; poetry interpretation (boys): Charlie Vandiver, first; typing: Sherry Cole and Ferrell Fikes, second; prose reading (girls): Melinda Percifull, first; prose reading (boys): Doyle Robertson, second.

Also, number sense: C. L. Sparks, tie for second; extemporaneous speaking (girls): Linda

Heuvel, third; extemporaneous speaking (boys): James Pentecost, second; persuasive speaking (girls): Dawn Boykin, second; ready writing: Rita Tillman, third; science: Rita Tillman, first.

In the elementary division: story telling: Terry Kinsey, third; picture memory: Robert Lee and Bronte tied for second; declamation (boys): Andy Cole, second; spelling and plain writing (5th and 6th grades): Jo Adkins and Kay Cole, second; ready writing: Elaine Fikes, second.

## CRMWD Secretary Says Damsite Still Uncertain

Joe Pickle, editor of the Big Spring Herald and secretary of the Colorado River Municipal Water District told The Observer Wednesday that he can see no change in the situation regarding the Robert Lee damsite because of the death this week of Chairman E. V. Spence.

"Of course the death of a man of his stature and influence will not help us any," Pickle said. "Right now the whole thing is still in a state of suspended animation," the secretary said, "and we are still waiting on a ruling by the water board."

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Childress had as their guests Sunday three daughters and their families, Mrs. Juanice Sheppard and children of Spearman, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Braswell and family of Colorado City and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Copeland and children of Silver.

## Robert Holland Promoted To Staff Sgt. at Schreiner

Robert Vance Holland of Robert Lee has been promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant at the Schreiner Institute at Kerrville. His promotion was announced by the Military Affairs Committee. He is the son of Mrs. Pauline Holland.

Local relatives were called to Galveston Sunday to be with Frank McCabe, who is reported to be critically ill in a hospital there.

meet last Friday. They will play in the regional meet April 22 and 23 at Big Spring.



**THEY CAN SPELL** — Kay Cole and Jo Adkins, both sixth graders took first place honors in the district spelling and plain writing contest last Saturday at Sterling City.

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Tilley, Rhonda and Terry of Midland were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Slaton.

## Oklahoma Man Killed Thursday In Fiery Crash Of Light Plane

A fiery airplane crash took the life of a Pauls Valley, Okla., man last Thursday afternoon. The crash occurred about 4 p.m., 7 1/2 miles north-northeast of Robert Lee on the W. M. (Bill) McCutchen place in the Graham Valley community. Victim of the crash was Clarence E. Smith, who was alone in the Piper Tri-Pacer, four passenger craft. It crashed into a hillside.

According to J. W. Service Sr., who was plowing in a field about

a quarter mile from the crash scene, the pilot apparently was not having any trouble with the plane, as the engine was running all right. Service said the plane banked in a circle and might have been caught in a downdraft, since it kept gliding downward until it crashed into the hill.

Most of the plane remained in one section and caught fire, but some small pieces were strewn along the crash path. The plane was registered to Smith Flying

Service of Pauls Valley. Williams Funeral Home ambulance rushed to the scene of the crash, and removed the body which was completely burned. The body was shipped Friday to Griffin and Loggett Funeral Home in Little Rock, Ark. Services were held Monday, with burial following in Edgewood Cemetery in North Little Rock.

Survivors are unknown here, except for Mr. Smith's wife of Pauls Valley.

## Theodore Virgen Resigns As Baptist Mission Pastor

Rev. Theodore Virgen has resigned as pastor of the Bethel Baptist Mission here and he and Mrs. Virgen have moved back to their home in Brownwood. He had served the Mission as supply pastor for one year and as regular pastor for one year and three months.

Rev. Charles Farris of San Angelo, former pastor of the Miles Baptist Mission, was supply pastor last Sunday. He is the father of Mrs. Gorman Walker.

The work at the Mission made good progress during the Rev. Virgen's tenure here. Finances were doubled, building facilities increased, Sunday School attendance increased 15 percent and new classes added. Rev. Virgen was converted and began preaching in 1948 when he was 57 years old.

In case of fire Dial 453-4291.

**REGIONAL BOUND** — Rickey Hatch and Terry Thetford took first place in senior boys doubles at the district tennis

## UCRA HEAD REPORTS TO BCD ON DAM

G. C. Allen, Robert Lee banker and Chairman of the Upper Colorado River Authority, discussed the proposed Robert Lee dam at some length at Tuesday's noon meeting of the BCD.

Allen explained to the 16 members present that the death this week of Col. E. V. Spence of Big Spring, long time head of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, would not have any effect on the location of the dam here. Allen pointed out that letters have been sent out to neighboring counties requesting their cooperation in pushing the Robert Lee project to approval by the State Board of Water Engineers.

W. E. Jacoby, of the Soil Conservation Service, spoke briefly on a proposed program to honor outstanding conservationists and organizations which have pushed soil and water conservation in this county.

Fern Havins reported on a sale of vacant lots and W. D. McAdams spoke on the Heart Fund Drive. The BCD voted to invite Mrs. J. R. Jordan of San Angelo to speak at next week's meeting. She is an outstanding leader in the fight against heart disease.

## TO VOLLEYBALL MEET

Robert Lee high school volleyball girls beat Bronte two out of three games Monday afternoon at the high school gym.

This places Robert Lee in the district tournament play, which is to be held at Forsan today.