

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. Each week, we will include items from the archives.

Coke County - Center of West Texas Newest Oil Development

# Robert Lee Observer

Published at the County Seat

Sixtieth Year--Established June 13, 1889

Official Paper County and City

Vol. 61, No. 5

Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Friday, July 15, 1949

Published Weekly

## Will King, Former Edith Man, Is Dead

Coke county folks were shocked last weekend to learn of the passing of Will S. King, 57, last Friday, July 8, at his home near Stanley, New Mex. His death occurred suddenly at 2 p. m. following a stroke of apoplexy. He had been in poor health for some time, but had been out in the field supervising farm work a few hours prior to his death.

Mr. King was the second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sam King, Coke county pioneer family who settled in the Edith community 60 years ago. He was born July 5, 1892. Will went to New Mexico 25 years ago and made a fine success of his farming and ranch operations. He kept in touch with home ties in Coke county and was an occasional visitor here.

He married Molly Schooley of Big Lake. They were the parents of a daughter, Leota, and three sons, Sam, Bruce and Don, all of Stanley.

Besides the widow and four children he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. S. B. Plumlee and Mrs. R. Gaines of Robert Lee, and five brothers, Tom of Petersburg, Frank of Magdalena and George of Stanley, New Mex., Dave King of Edith and R. B. King of El Paso. Two sisters preceding him in death were Beulah Gaines and May Blair.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon by the Baptist minister at the high school auditorium in Stanley. All of the immediate family were present, including 18 nieces and nephews.

## Mrs. Crum Injured Again

Mrs. R. S. Crum suffered a bone fracture of her left limb just above the knee last Friday about 11 a. m. when she fell on the steps of her back porch. She had not fully recovered from a fracture below the left hip sustained last Thanksgiving and was still walking with one crutch. Mrs. Crum lay helpless on the ground until a neighbor was attracted by barking of the Crum's pet dog. She was removed to Shannon hospital in the Cliff ambulance and the injured limb was placed in a cast. Mrs. Crum is reported to be resting quite comfortably now. She has the sympathy of her many friends in her misfortune.

## School Officials To Discuss New Law

County Supt. Jeff Dean has called a meeting for next Monday night, July 18, at 8 o'clock in the district court room, for the purpose of discussing the new school law.

Recently passed by the legislature the Gilmer-Akin law brings about a number of changes which affect all the schools of Coke county, Judge Dean says. The entire school system of the state is changed to some extent.

All school trustees and administrators of the county have been urged to attend the meeting next Monday night, and any other persons interested may attend.

Mrs. Martin Casey underwent a major surgical operation last Thursday at St. John's hospital in San Angelo. She is making a good recovery and expects to return home the last of this week.

Harvey Chevrolet Co. of Robert Lee reports the sale of a new 2-door Chevrolet sedan to Alf Harmon, and a new pickup to Commissioner T. R. Harmon.



## Coke County Mourns Death of Gov. Jester

The State of Texas and the entire nation was shocked to learn of the sudden death of Gov. Beauford Jester Monday morning.

His untimely passing removes one of the state's leading political figures. Beauford Jester had made a fine record in public office and was honest and capable.

He will be succeeded by Lt. Gov. Allan Shivers, who takes the oath of office Saturday.

Gov. Jester had a number of close friends in Coke county. Leaders of the Upper Colorado River Authority, L. T. Youngblood and G. C. Allen, say he was deeply interested in the UCRA project and had given it every possible support.

Readers of the Observer will recall the Governor's letter in our recent anniversary edition, in which he sent personal congratulations for the continued happiness and prosperity for the people of Coke county.

## Sun Begins New J. B. Walker Test

Sun No. 7. J. B. Walker was re-treated with 10,000 gallons of acid Wednesday and operators were hoping to increase the flow considerably.

After using 5,000 gallons of acid a week ago the well flowed 85 barrels daily which is short of the 111 barrel allowable. The hole was bottomed at 6,269 feet in tight lime. Location is just south of the Colorado River at Silver.

Baker-Taylor's rotary equipment was moved last week to No. 6 J. B. Walker, a west offset to his No. 3, a top producer south of the river. No. 6 Walker was drilling Thursday morning at 1,875 feet in shale and anhydrite.

Sun No. 2 H. L. Bloodworth, on the north side of the river, was coring in lime Thursday at 6,170 feet and is expected to be completed in the next day or two.

West of Edith Sun No. 5 Annie Cummings was drilling at 5,543 feet in shale.

J. T. Hightower is in charge of area operations for Sun at Silver while Supt. H. D. Smith is on vacation for the next three weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Norfleet of San Diego, Calif., and Mrs. Marion Alzgary of Carlsbad, New Mex., were guests here part of last week. They also went to Cisco to visit Mrs. Norfleet's sister, Mrs. Tom Whitt.

Robert F. Laws of Dallas was a guest over the weekend in the home of his brother, Phil Laws, manager of the Adams Abstract Co.

## Fish In River Here Die By Thousands

Thousand of fish in the Colorado River below Robert Lee were killed last week, due to drugs being placed in the water.

Charges have been filed against Jack Looney, Robert Lee hardware store owner, and H. R. Cooper, who has been employed here several months on construction of the gas plant at Silver.

The men have posted \$300 bonds and are due to come up for trial in county court here in September.

The alleged offense was committed during the night of July 5. First report of the dead fish was made by Sam Spruell of Bronte, who notified Sheriff Paul Good State Game Warden Jim White of San Angelo was immediately summoned and began an investigation.

White told The Observer that dead fish were found for a distance of 4 miles below Big Rock. Analysis of the water showed that rotenone powder had been used. White said the drug affects the fins causing the fish to drown.

The Colorado River was full of fish this summer due to the big rises earlier in the year. A number of large catfish were taken from the water by hand. Charlie Bessent brought in a big yellow cat that weighed 32 pounds, while J. F. McCabe, Jr. said he pulled out one larger than that. The game warden advised people to take the fish which has been affected by the drug.

Literally thousands of small fish were killed White stated that all fish within a distance of 1-2 miles were dead.

## Drilling At Bronte

Rotary equipment has been moved in for the Rice Bros. wildcat south of Bronte on the Stephenson lease. Humble is still working on its No. 1 James Brunson south of Bronte, but has moved drilling rig back to the Ash lease where two producers have been drilled.

## Scattered Showers

Parts of Coke county received rain Wednesday afternoon, and the entire section obtained relief from a week of torrid dry weather. An inch of moisture fell at Hayrick, while more than two inches is reported up in Graham Valley and around Sanco. Robert Lee received a fourth of an inch.

## Youths Will Compete In Rodeo At Bronte

A youth's Rodeo, for boys and girls under 19, will be held under the lights at Bronte Friday night, July 22. A parade will take place at 7 p. m.

Events will include calf roping, clover leaf race, mail hack race and jackpot roping.

C. E. Arrott, chairman of the Bronte Athletic committee which is sponsoring the affair, states the trophies will be awarded to the outstanding boy and girl performer. Trophies, merchandise and cash prizes will be given for the various events.

Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Littlefield are parents of a son, Jerry Dee, born at 4:15 p. m. July 10 at Shannon hospital. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces. Mrs. Littlefield is the former Jo Ann Bilbo. Grandparents are Mrs. Mayme Littlefield and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bilbo.

Travis Roberts, wife and daughter, Brenda Sue, came over from San Angelo for a Sunday visit in the parental Ed Roberts home.

## Editorial

We have repeatedly asked why shouldn't a portion of our tax money be used in providing medical service for a large community that now has neither a doctor nor a hospital.

No person has answered this question in a satisfactory manner. The Bronte editor, with the backing of Commission Otis Smith, says we need roads. They say we can't have good schools and a hospital, too. They even had the gall to suggest we might build a court house instead of a hospital.

Coming from over that way it sounds like more hooey because everyone knows that the court house issue submitted less than two years ago got exactly five votes in the Bronte voting box.

The last time I talked to Dr. John Harris at Bronte, he was very eager to tell me that he wanted to see the county hospital built. I'm sure he is still of the same opinion. He has more work than he can handle alone and with another hospital in the county, the doctors could work together advantageously to themselves as well as their patients.

I don't think a county unit will put the Bronte hospital out of business. It isn't half large enough to take care of Coke county's needs. Mac Rippetoe built the hospital with his own money and he must have thought he would make a profit from it because he isn't a rich man. We understand he's drawing \$700 per month rental, so why shouldn't a county hospital pay its way?

They talk about the \$60,000 cost of the hospital (\$30,000 more will come from the government) making such a terrible debt around our necks, but they don't mention the great service in relieving human illness and suffering that will be provided with a county medical center. All things of value in this world aren't measured by dollars and cents.—A. J. Kirkpatrick.

## Robert Lee Plays At Bronte Sunday

Robert Lee plays at Bronte next Sunday and the winner will be tied with Miles for first place in the Concho Basin league. The regular loop schedule ended last Sunday, with Miles defeating Sonora 7 to 4, Bronte knocking off Nathan's 23 to 10, and Robert Lee winning from Veribest 10 to 5.

Following next Sunday's game the first four teams will engage in a playoff, but details will have to be worked out at a manager's meeting in San Angelo next week.

A tie is certain for the No. 1 position, but it is likely positions in the playoff will be decided by a flip of a coin in-order that the post season games can get started July 24. Definite word has not been given out how the teams will be paired.

Robert Lee is anxious to win the Bronte game to even up for the licking here several weeks ago when Bronte came from behind in the ninth inning to win by a 9-4 score.

## Concho Basin standing:

Team	W	L	Pct
Miles	7	3	.700
Robert Lee	6	3	.667
Bronte	6	3	.667
Veribest	5	5	.500
Sonora	4	6	.400
Nathan's	1	9	.100

Ed Gray returned Saturday from San Antonio where he spent a few weeks with his daughter, who is ill.

## Special Election Saturday For County Hospital

Coke county voters will go to the polls Saturday to again express themselves on the county hospital proposition. In an election 15 months ago voters favored the hospital by a majority of 162 votes.

Tomorrow the same proposition is to be settled, except that bonds are to be voted on this time, while last year the commissioners authorized to issue time warrants for the project.

It makes no difference since the cost of the hospital must be paid out of the Permanent Improvement Fund whether time warrants or bonds are issued. This fund is now and has for many years carried the maximum levy of 25 cents per \$100 valuation.

In the past three years Coke county's valuation has doubled from 4 1-2 to about 9 million dollars. That means the Permanent Improvement Fund will collect \$22,500 the coming year. The increase of more than \$11,000 is well sufficient to take care of the cost of building a hospital. That's what we mean by the statement that it won't raise taxes.

There isn't much use in taking space to argue further in behalf of the hospital. The west half the county doesn't even have a doctor, and they are not going to get one unless he has some kind of a hospital in which to take care of his patients.

The Bronte newspaper spread some vicious propaganda last week in stating that if the hospital is turned down Saturday there will be a hospital built in Robert Lee by individuals with private money. There is no such movement in sight anywhere, although we wish there was. It's a lying attempt to persuade voters.

We still maintain the county hospital plan is entirely equitable as all property will pay its just share, and about 80 per cent of the taxable property of the county is owned by non-residents.

From all indications the the hospital question tomorrow will carry by a larger majority than it did last year.

## No New Polio Cases In County This Week

No new cases of polio either in Robert Lee or Bronte have been reported during the past week, which comes as highly encouraging news to Coke county.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wink brought their 16-months-old son, Robert, home from Clinic hospital on Tuesday. The baby was treated for polio ten days and seems to be fully recovered.

Betty Tinkler, 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chilly Tinkler, is reported to be responding nicely to treatment at the same hospital. She was admitted as a polio patient Wednesday of last week.

Sarah Nell, 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Foy Askins, has been taken to Gonzales Warm Springs for treatment.

Zelda Caraway is enjoying a vacation this week and will visit in Christoval, Austin, Waco and San Antonio and with her parents in Blackwell. Her sister, Glo Caraway, is helping in the Farris drug store this week.

T. W. Farris and wife returned Monday from a weekend visit with the W. E. Millams at Midland.