

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

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Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Thursday, July 1, 1965

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Robert Lee To Take Holiday July 5th

Most downtown Robert Lee businesses will close July 5 in observance of Independence Day which comes on Sunday this year. One exception to the the downtown firms which will close is Robert Lee State Bank, which will remain open because banking laws forbid a bank to be closed three days in a row. The post office will be closed.

Mrs. Rives Honored On Her 84th Birthday

Mrs. T. E. Rives Sr. was honored June 27 with a surprise birthday dinner. Her 84th birthday was June 25. A big decorated cake and other good things to eat were on the dinner menu. Present were her daughter, Mrs. H. B. Owen, and Mr. Owen, her grandson, Elmer Owen and his wife and son, Terry, her granddaughter, Mrs. Johnny Spears, Mr. Spears and son, Johnny Lynn, all of Odessa. From Robert Lee were Mr. and Mrs. Pat Rives, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rives, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Trimble. From San Angelo were Jana and Donny Mauldin, whose birthday is the same day as Mrs. Rives'.

Roger Brown Wins Seat in Legislature

Roger Brown, Big Spring attorney, won himself a seat in the Texas House of Representatives last Saturday when he carried a special election held all over the 78th Legislative District by the narrow margin of 110 votes over his nearest opponent.

Brown had the outcome pretty well figured when he predicted that if the race was close in his home county of Howard, the smaller counties of the district would turn the tide in his favor.

Coming in second was Frank Hardesty, Big Spring drug store operator and long time Howard County Democratic leader. Harold Hall, the other candidate, who was dubbed a Republican during the campaign, came in third.

Total vote in the seven-county district was Brown, 1,376; Hardesty, 1,266; Hall, 925.

Brown picked up nearly a third of his lead over Hardesty in Coke County. He received 85, Hardesty had 53 and Hall polled 42 votes. Brown also outran his two opponents in Irion and Martin counties. Howard County, home of all three candidates, gave Hardesty the lead with 1,081, Brown 1,057, and Hall 639. Only 182 persons in Coke County bothered to vote in the special election.

Coke voting boxes balloted as follows:

	Brown	Hardesty	Hall
Robert Lee	13	28	9
Bronte	34	14	2
Tennyson	3	3	1
Divide	6	0	2
Sanco	2	0	12
Silver	3	4	13
Green Mt.	6	2	0
Olga	7	1	0
Lometa	5	0	1
Juniper	6	1	2
TOTAL	85	53	42

No absentee ballots were cast in Coke County.

as will county and city offices. Some service stations and restaurants along the highways will remain open to serve travelers as well as local residents.

Gov. John Connally has issued a plea to everyone in the state to exercise extreme caution during the long holiday weekend, and avoid fatal and disabling accidents.

Figures of the past and predicted statistics for the 1965 holiday reveal that a large number of Texans will be killed during the Saturday-Sunday-Monday holiday period from automobile accidents, drownings, and other violent causes.

No special programs or entertainments are planned for this county, and a number of local residents will be on the road attending celebrations being held in other areas.

BIG BOYS SPLIT GAMES WITH LORAINTEAMS

Robert Lee's Pony League team lost a tightly contested game Tuesday night to Loraine by a 7-6 score. Eddie Meredith and Steve Rives did the mound chores for the locals.

The Teenagers won their game with the Mitchell County lads by an 8-4 tally. Gary Sam Williams was the winning pitcher, going all the way with the tossing job. Craig Thomason and Glenn Roach led the batting with two hits each.



THE WINNER — Roger Brown, Big Spring attorney, won a seat in the Texas Legislature last Saturday when he defeated Frank Hardesty and Harold Hall for the post in a special election. The election was called by Gov. John Connally to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Rep. Ed Carpenter.



JIMMY BICKLEY

Bickley Named Superintendent

Jimmy Bickley, who has been superintendent of the Blackwell School for the past two years, has been hired as superintendent of the Robert Lee Schools.

Bickley holds a bachelor of business administration degree

and master of education degree from Sul Ross State College in Alpine. He has done additional graduate work at Sul Ross and Hardin-Simmons University. The new superintendent is a 1945 graduate of Courtney High School, now consolidated with Stanton School.

Bickley and his wife, Emma Lee, are parents of three daughters, Elizabeth Ann, 8 years old, Stella, 5 years old, and Martha Lee, 3 months old.

Mr. and Mrs. Bickley are members of Blackwell Methodist Church. He holds membership in the National Education Association, the Texas State Teachers Association, the Texas Association of School Administrators, and the American Association of School Administrators. He is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason.

This past year, Bickley has served as legislative chairman in the Nolan County unit of the Texas State Teachers Association, and was third vice president-elect for the coming year. He is a member of the board of Nolan County Library and a member of the Nolan County TB Association. The new school man has served as first vice president of Blackwell Lions Club the past year, and was president-elect for the coming year. He served as chairman of Region XII of the Texas Small School Project in 1964-65, and was elected to serve a two year term in that capacity.

Before coming to Blackwell in 1963, Bickley was high school principal at Marfa for two years. Prior to his service at Marfa, he spent seven years in Stanton School, three years as high school principal and four years as a teacher.

The Bickleys plan to move to Robert Lee July 15.

Bickley replaces Dorman Thomas in the superintendent's post. Thomas recently resigned to accept the superintendents job at White Deer.

SWIMMING CLASSES TO BEGIN MON.

Lendy DeVoll, city park caretaker, announces that Monday, July 5, will be opening day for swimming lessons to begin. Lessons will be one hour long and admission is 15c per day or \$1.50 for the complete course. This is a two week course, five days per week.

Beginners classes will start at 9 a.m. and close at 10. Advanced swimmers will be given instructions from 10:15 until 11:15.

Gary Sam Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Williams, and Robert Jameson, elementary school principal, will instruct the classes.

Those interested may contact Mrs. Lendy Devoll for more information about signing up for swimming lessons.

Pool Open Thursday Night
The swimming pool is open each Thursday night from 7 to 9 p.m. for all who wish to swim at night.

Dudley Cates of Midland is spending a week here in the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Skipworth.

Funeral Services Held Sunday for W. H. Wyatt, 91

Funeral services were held Sunday at 4 p.m. in First Methodist Church of Robert Lee for W. H. Wyatt, 91, retired farmer-stockman. Burial was in Robert Lee Cemetery and directed by Williams Funeral Home.

Mr. Wyatt died about 11:50 a.m. Saturday at his home in Robert Lee after a long illness. He was born April 7, 1874 in Henderson County. He came to Coke County in 1891. He was married to Bama Lowe Dec. 10, 1899 in Robert Lee. He was a member of the Methodist Church and served as a steward. He also for many years was an active member in the Masonic Lodge.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Roy Wyatt of Robert Lee; two daughters, Mrs. Helen Fowler of Robert Lee and Mrs. Elgene Mitchell of San Angelo, six grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and several nephews and nieces.

Pallbearers were Fern Havins, Pat Havins, Charles Fowler, Roy Fowler, Ronnie Baker and Dalwin Fowler.

PEE WEES CLIP BRONTE IN MONDAY CONTEST

Robert Lee's Pee Wees ripped the Bronte Pee Wees by a score of 9-4 here Monday evening. The win gives Dale Wojtek's mighty mites an unblemished record so far this season.

The local lads will go to Bronte for another contest Thursday at 6 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Chism Brown drove to Cisco last week and were overnight guests of Mrs. Brown's brother and family, the M. K. Youngs. Returning by way of Brownwood they visited her sister, Mrs. J. G. Dickenson.

Five Robert Lee Boy Scouts Receive God and Country Award

Five Explorer scouts were presented the "God and Country" award during the morning worship ward during the morning worship service at the Robert Lee Baptist Church last Sunday. Those receiving the high award were: Gary Sam Williams, Albert Fields, Donnie Devoll, Ronnie Devoll, and Roy Ivey.

The God and Country award is not a merit badge in scouting but is a recognition given by the church to scouts for service and spiritual achievement. Scout leaders urge boys to participate in

this service to their church.

Local Scoutmaster Gene Hinard and Explorer Advisor Sherman Williams have encouraged these boys to work on this award. The work was done under direction of the pastor, the Rev. Bill Beaty, along with other church leaders.

The boys have given much time to this project for over a year. Work was done in five principal areas: Christian faith, Christian witness, Christian world outreach,

Christian citizenship and Christian fellowship. They have tried to be faithful in church attendance, study of the scriptures and missions, being good material stewards, showing a concern for others and serving their church, their God and their fellowman.

The work consisted not only of study but of practical service projects outside of church.

A large number of scouts and explorers, in uniform, were present for the presentation.