

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.

At The Center of The Upper Colorado Valley
Robert Lee Observer

Vol. 75, No. 10

Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Thursday, August 6, 1964

Single Copy 10c

Announce Program Homecoming for 16th

Program for the annual Edith Homecoming, set for Sunday, August 16, was announced this week by the program committee, Miss Juanita Barger, and Mrs. Naomi Lee Powell.

All are invited to bring lunch and spend the day at the community center, Green Mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. Finis Harmon will be in charge of registration which, with visitation, begins at 10:00 o'clock.

Youth Camp Has Good Attendance, Make Larger Plans

The "Camp Among the Hills", Christian youth camp at Sanco, closed its seventh annual meeting Monday, with over fifty young people camping, from San Angelo, Coleman, Midland, Shamrock, and Robert Lee.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Smith led the Coleman delegation, with Rev. Smith doing the preaching and Mrs. Smith a camp sponsor and counselor. He is a pastor of Concho Baptist Church in Coleman.

Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Wright came with some young folk from Midland, where he is pastor. The Wrights, some years ago, pastored the church at Sanco now pastored by Rev. E. R. Dewitt, also pastor of the First Evangelical Methodist Church, San Angelo, founder and general director of the camp.

Mis Marcia Williamson of San Angelo, who one lived at Sanco, was singer and special worker with young people. Visiting singers and workers from four towns took part from day to day.

The girls dormitory is the community building, while the boys bunk in the Methodist church.

Swimming pool for the girls was at the N. C. Pentecost ranch home, for the boys at the I. A. Bird ranch park. Horses furnished by the two ranches provided horseback riding, and mountain climbing was a recreational feature.

A mimeograph news sheet edited by Karen Kirkland of Shamrock and Eva Gay Jarratt of San Angelo was distributed from day to day.

Pastors and other leaders present in a meeting with camp directors Friday afternoon made plans for the 1965 camp with expectation of an increasing attendance, with participation by more people from West Texas towns.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Harmon have just returned home from their vacation. They went to see two of their daughters and families, the Wayne Mashburn family (Dorene) at Pampa and the Elton Millican family of Cheyenne, Wyoming (Lawana). They went to the Cheyenne rodeo. Their oldest grandchild, Marshall Wayne Millican, returned to Robert Lee with them. On their way home they did some sightseeing at Colorado Springs, Colo. Upon their return to Pampa, their son, Jerry Harmon and family from Lewisville, Texas were there to greet them. They reported a very enjoyable trip.

Songs and music follow under the direction of Mrs. Pauline Coalson and Mrs. C. C. Millican.

R. B. King is to lead in prayer and Frank Coalson give the welcome, with response by S. B. Wallace.

Devotional is by Mrs. Bryan Yarborough. Final numbers on the program are a poem by Irma Dickey Johnson, and In Memoriam by J. B. Robertson.

The afternoon program follows "as soon as we get the fried chicken washed off."

Sweet Bunch of Daisies, Mrs. J. N. Adams.

A Pioneer Speaks — Will Millican.

Question Box — Audience Participation.

Grand Children Show Off — Audience.

Beauty and Mileage Contest.

Business meeting, with plans for next year.

LL All Stars Lose To Snyder, 7-6

The Colorado River Little League All-Star team lost out in the competition at Snyder last Thursday night by a close score of 7-6. Errors were cause of the loss, it was reported.

By defeating the local lads, Snyder advanced to play with Abilene and beat them, 12-1. This win advanced them to a contest with San Angelo which was played Tuesday night. Angelo defeated the Snyder boys, 15-1.

Home run hitters for the Colorado River boys are Joe David Key and James Fields of Robert Lee, and Joe Basquez of Bronte.

Ben Weathers of Lake J. B. Thomas, nephew of Miss Minnie Weathers of Robert Lee, came through an operation at Methodist Hospital, Houston, last week, reported doing well.

A card from a friend traveling in South Africa says that there isn't any unemployment in that country.

Announce Change Of Funeral Home Name to Williams

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Williams are announcing this week the change in name of the ambulance service and funeral home from Clift to Williams, both at Robert Lee and at Bronte.

They operate two regular ambulances and a funeral car that can be converted quickly to ambulance service. Their son, Gary Sam, athlete and leader in Scout work, also helps them. Among hands, they have saved the lives of four people from suffocation in the past few months.

Equipped with two-way radio which is tied in with sheriff and Highway Patrol radio network, and carrying oxygen tank with regulator and mask, the local firm is on call 24 hours a day in accidents, and fills a place in civil defense or disaster service.

The funeral home at Robert Lee has been refinished inside and out, and the one at Bronte refinished inside, and a new reposing room built at Bronte.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams bought the ambulance-funeral service from Mrs. W. B. Clift soon after the death of Mr. Clift, who had operated it for many years.

County Filing Suits On Delinquent Lots

The Commissioners Court has posted a number of lots in Robert Lee on the bulletin board at the court house entrance, in process of being put up for sale for delinquent taxes. More are to be posted from time to time.

This is part of a program including some 158 lots on which taxes have long been delinquent and in

CRIMINAL COURT IN 51ST SLATED FOR AUGUST 17

Criminal cases are called for August 17 in 1st District Court here. Petit jury list is to be issued next week.

Hearing of non-jury cases consumed only about an hour Monday morning.

The grand jury returned an indictment against Ronald Hester, charging car burglary.

Note: Ben Boykin got that gift package of pipe tobacco—a premium on the first bale of cotton. It was either give it to Ben or borrow Ben's pipe, so we took the easy way out. — USB.

many cases the owners lost sight of. W. A. Johnson, San Angelo attorney was employed some time ago to handle this.

A complete list of the lots involved is to be published in the Observer soon.

Mayor Robert Vaughan conferred Monday with the Court in regard to the interest of the City of Robert Lee, whose taxes are also delinquent on these lots.

Superintendent Dorman Thomas said this had not come to his attention until Thursday of last week, and that it would be taken up at the meeting of the Robert Lee school board tonight, Thursday.

Mayor Vaughan said that the lots first filed on were of little value — not enough to pay expense, but since finding the total number to be included, the city commission would look into the matter to determine what action the city might take.

BCD Talk Water; Life Scout Pin Awarded Roy Ivey

Several members of the boards of directors of Upper Colorado River Authority and of the Colorado River Municipal Water District are on their vacations, which is delaying the planned joint meeting of the two boards at Big Spring, Gerald Allen, Chairman of UCRA, told the BCD in an informal discussion Tuesday noon.

Mr. Allen expressed optimism that questions related to the big storage project would be worked out, but commented that it is a mighty big thing and, judging from what has to be done to get ready could take as much as 18 months, possibly two years to get construction fully under way.

Gene Hinard, Scoutmaster, presented Roy Ivey with the Life Scout Pin and complimented him on outstanding work as a Scout.

In the water discussion, Mayor Vaughan noted that the newly installed pump is putting more water into the system with higher pressure than both the two pumps combined had done before, and that at peak load is keeping even with the water use, whereas before on days of heavy water use, storage in the tower tank would go down considerably.

Local Scouts Crowding Front In Canoe Race

Gary Sam Williams, Donnie Devol and Jimmy Varnadore, are on the Robert Lee Scouts canoe team in the race for Austin, with Howard Varnadore and Ronnie Devoll setting up camp and helping at the shore.

The local scouts, on the river for the first time, were in eighth place Tuesday, 15 minutes behind the first place crew, which has made the race before.

They make 18 miles per day and have to be in Austin Friday — had 100 miles to go Tuesday.

Thirty-six crews were reported in the race Tuesday.

School Opens 27th

Sorry, kids, this may spoil your fun — or do you LIKE school? Anyhow, three more weeks from today, and here we go for another school year.

High School students will register August 25 and 26. There will be a general faculty meeting on the 26th, and then on Thursday, the 27th, the fall term begins.

With Mrs. Dorothy Jean Raughton hired last Thursday night to teach the Fifth grade, there are now 19 teachers, including Supt. Dorman Thomas, High School Principal Douglas Dean, and Elementary School Principal Garland Davis. Others are:

First grade, Mrs. Chanda McBroom

Second Grade, Mrs. Mary Barnhill.

Second grade, Mrs. Naomi Powell

Third grade, Mrs. Eunice Olson

Fourth Grade, Mrs. Virginia Walling

Fifth Grade, Mrs. Dorothy Jean Raughton

Sixth Grade, Mrs. Lucille Dean

Social Studies, Frank Coalson

English, Spanish, Mrs. Pauline Coalson

Social Studies, Dale Hamby

Mathematics, Russell Coalson

Mathematics, Dale Pittman.

Homemaking, Mrs. Marcia Pittman

Science, Miss Joyce Mize

Vocational Agriculture, L. R. McDaniel

English, Business, Mrs. Jo Ann Salter.

This except for band director, completes the faculty, with the same number of teachers as last year.

Says City, School Should Help

Editor's Note: The letter that follows is an expression of opinion by Mr. A. J. Kirkpatrick, the writer. Elsewhere in this issue is a news item concerning suits filed or to be filed by the county on these lots.

To the Editor:

I have just learned of a situation in our community that the public should know about. It concerns the collection of delinquent taxes. The county finally got around to do something about it, but the city and school district have failed to cooperate.

Property involved in most cases is not highly valuable, but the bad thing is that you can't get a good title to a piece of property if there are unpaid taxes. There are many vacant lots in both Robert Lee and Bronte on which the taxes have not been paid for a great number of years, and much of this property is carried on the tax rolls as "owner unknown."

These are the ones that need cleaning up and the only way to get a good deed on that stuff is to sell it for taxes. Some of the lots won't bring what the taxes and penalties amount to, but it will then be available for sale and after two years a good title can be secured.

I think most people know this and I won't go into it further. I also know there is a demand for acreage in Robert Lee, most of which would be available only in the south part of town. This property will find a buyer if the taxes are cleaned up. Why don't the city and school district cooperate. The county has already gone to great expense getting the figures on this stuff and some is already being advertised. I'm not a tax lawyer but it is my opinion that in order to sell real estate for taxes all the districts must be included. I would hesitate to buy anything at a tax sale if it

covered only the state and county taxes and not the school and city.

We have signs of growing pains here in Robert Lee and cleaning up the tax rolls is a must if we are to grow much.

It's been 18 years since I came to Robert Lee and I well remember one of the first meetings I attended was one at the school house called by our late beloved, Willis Smith, county clerk, who pointed out the importance of cleaning up the delinquent tax rolls.

But nothing was ever done and the situation has become worse. If the law don't provide that public officials shall collect delinquent taxes, it should. It's not the public's duty nor authority.

My idea is that the city and school district officials should immediately get in there and pitch with the county on cleaning up our tax rolls.

A. J. Kirkpatrick