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Robert Lee Observer

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Published Weekly

Wemple To Hear Plea For Paved Road To Sterling

Members of the Coke county commissioners court and Judge Bob L. Davis will go to Midland next Tuesday to confer with State Highway Commissioner Fred Wemple in regard to improving the Robert Lee-Sterling City road.

For some time it had been understood here that this road was already on the program and would be improved following completion of No. 18 to the Mitchell county line. However, when local authorities appeared before the Highway Commission at Austin last spring, they were given the "brush off" to the effect that paving would be considered "when funds were available."

There has been considerable agitation locally which has resulted in the conference next week with Mr. Wemple, the newly appointed commissioner from this section of the state. Wemple advised Judge Davis that he would receive the Coke county delegation Tuesday afternoon and an effort will be made to work out a new plan to lay before the commission at its next meeting in Austin. Wemple has previously signified his deep interest in seeing a paved highway constructed from Robert Lee to Sterling City.

It is understood that the highway commission has made plans to build the road east from Sterling City to within a mile of the county line later this year. Coke county is in hopes it can tie in with that program.

The new road running west through the Edith locality and on to Sterling county has been talked for many years and was surveyed by the highway commission ten years ago. Its completion would close the last gap in the county's program of highway paving which started 12 years ago and has already resulted in 87 miles of paved roads.

However, the war put a temporary stop to new road construction, but Coke county was in line when operations were resumed last year. Why the program died down this year is difficult to understand, and local authorities are determined to get a show down.

A paved highway to the west is of greater importance now because of the possible oil development. Sun Oil company is preparing to drill south of the river across from the Jameson field, and there are prospects of other tests to be made in the Edith locality. It is almost impossible to get to Sun's new location on the John B. Walker land because of the poor old bridges which will not carry heavy loads of pipe and drilling equipment.

Another important argument for the new road is that it would complete a new highway to the west and north for traffic from Brownwood and points south and east in the state, thus relieving the crowded

travel conditions on No. 80. Perhaps the proposed Colorado River dam has been a factor in keeping the Highway Commission from going ahead with the road from Robert Lee. The state probably is not inclined to spend a quarter of a million dollars on new bridges and pavement and then have them submerged by a man made lake. Of course, sponsors of the dam have pointed out that if and when the dam is built property owners will be reimbursed for any damages that arise and this should apply to highways and bridges.

And there is another solution which might suffice for the present. That is for the highway commission to designate the new road east from the Sterling line down to Edith, and pave it next year. Maybe the state would then agree to maintain the road running on into Robert Lee or decide upon a new route east from Edith if the dam proposition is still to be settled.

The Observer is sure that Fred Wemple will help the local delegation in every way he can, and try to right the injustice whereby Coke county has been ignored in its efforts to secure improvement of this important highway project.

Singing Convention

A Goke county singing convention will be held at Tennyson on Sunday, Aug 31. It will be an all day affair with dinner on the grounds. Singers are expected from a number of surrounding counties. The public is invited.

Volunteer Firemen

All men who intend to serve as members of the Volunteer Fire Department are requested to meet at the court house Friday night at 8 o'clock. Fire Chief Sam Jay says he has a list of fifteen names and all persons interested are invited to join up. The membership roll must be complete Friday night when applications will be made for the disability insurance and retirement pensions which are available under state law. A 100 per cent turnout is necessary.

Injured in Combine

B. B. (Buster) Pierce received serious injuries when he caught his hand under a V-type belt on a combine Monday afternoon. He was rushed to the hospital where the little finger of his left hand was amputated, while the surgeon hoped to save the next finger which was also nearly severed. Pierce was helping with harvest at the A. V. Hughes farm when the accident occurred.

Nora Foster of Merkel was a recent guest of Mrs. O. B. Jacobs and family.

Clifford Robertson is here for a week's vacation in the parental J. B. Robertson home. He leaves Saturday for a two weeks' training period with the naval reserve. Clifford is a student at North Texas State at Denton and is majoring in physical education. He will get his degree the coming year.



Pictured above are Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Prine and the former's sister, Mrs. Charity Morris. Mrs. Morris is standing next to her brother, whom she had not seen for 47 years.

Brother, Sister United After Lapse of 47 Yrs.

A happy reunion took place earlier this month at the J. M. Prine ranch home, northeast of Sanco, when Mr. Prine's sister whom he had not seen in 47 years, Mrs. Charity Morris, arrived from California.

They were born at Christoval, Mr. Prine being next to the youngest and his sister the baby in a family of 12 children. Their mother died while they were small and in the spring of 1900 their father moved to Arizona and on to California. Charity went with her father, who later remarried in the west, but J. M. remained in West Texas as did older children in the family.

The two youngest children were in touch with each other for some time, and then 30 years elapsed before they resumed a direct correspondence with each other last year. Mrs. Morris is enjoying the visit back to her native Texas and says she never outgrew her love for the wide open spaces. She will remain here for several weeks.

She and Mr. Prine are the only survivors of the family of 12 children. Her husband died several years ago and she has a son and a daughter living in California. Her home is at Poway, near Los Angeles.

Mr. Prine has been a resident of Coke county since 1914. He and Mrs. Prine have been married 47 years and have eight children, all of whom reside in Texas.

Democratic Radio Party

Dr. J. K. Griffith, county chairman of the Democratic party, has been advised by Gael Sullivan, national chairman, that there will be a Democratic Radio Party next Tuesday night, Sept. 2. On that date the American Broadcasting company's coast-to-coast network will carry a program in which party leaders from different parts of the country will be heard. The program will be a real demonstration of Democratic strength and will again highlight the people's disgust with the miserable failure of the Republicans in the 80th Congress. Dr. Griffith hopes that everyone will listen to the program next Tuesday night.

School Opening Set For Monday, Sept. 1

Robert Lee public school will open next Monday with first classes due to start the following morning. Supt. M. G. Hannaford says that teachers will meet with their classes during the forenoon Monday to receive books and assignments but there will be no afternoon session.

Football boys will report to Coach Jiggs Hudson Monday afternoon when equipment will be issued and intensive drill sessions will get under way at once, since only two weeks remain before the opening game at Sonora Sept. 12.

Willie Wallace, new custodian, has been busy the past two weeks getting the school building in readiness. Some plastering has been done as repair work and buildings have been thoroughly cleaned and floors oiled.

A teachers meeting has been called for 4 p. m. Saturday. Some difficulty in class assignments is anticipated since the teaching staff has been reduced to 11 this year.

The Green Mountain and Silver schools will also open next Monday, while Bronte and Tennyson do not start until Sept. 8. W. O. Carr will be in charge of the Green Mountain school this year as the only teacher and seven grades will be taught. Mrs. Evelyn McKinley of Sanco and Mrs. Opal Odum of Silver will again teach the Silver school which has eight elementary grades.

Three other common school districts in the county will not open. Walnut will send its pupils to Water Valley, while Wildcat and Sanco pupils will attend school in Robert Lee.

BULLETIN

School Opening Postponed

The Observer was advised at noon Thursday that opening of the Robert Lee Schools had been postponed until Sept. 8. This action was necessary when it was learned that one of the two new school buses purchased last spring could not be delivered on time. Both old buses were disposed of and trans-buses were disposed of and transportation facilities will have to be arranged during the coming week. All candidates for football are advised to report at the school house Monday, Sept. 1, at 9 a. m.

Going to 4-H Roundup

Travis Hicks, county agent, and Mary Pearl Bearden, home demonstrator, leave the last of the week for their annual convention at A & M College. They will be joined there the middle of next week by the following Coke county 4-H representatives who will attend the state roundup: Don Joel Schooler, Weldon Schooler, Nelda Ann Sheppard, Marlene Arrott and Eula Faye Smith.

Here's Latest Coke County Oil News

Sun Oil company's No. 2 W. I. Tubb was preparing to rathole ahead Thursday. Over the weekend 5 1-2 inch pipe was set at 6,146 feet, with open hole extending to 6,208 feet.

Drillstem tests taken last week showed a good recovery of oil and gas and it is expected to become the eighth producer in the Jameson field near Silver. No. 2 Tubb is a west offset to No. 1 Homer Jameson and is a half mile west of the discovery producer.

Sun's No. 2 Homer Jameson was drilling ahead Thursday at 5,397 feet in shale and lime. Location is a quarter mile south and a quarter west of Fred Jameson No. 3.

Sun No. 4 Fred Jameson cemented intermediate pipe Thursday at 1,680 feet. Drillers experienced considerable trouble the past week when they lost the bottom joint of surface pipe which had been cemented to 1,450 feet. It is a south offset to Homer Jameson No. 1.

Being reworked in an effort to improve production, Sun No. 1 Homer Jameson perforated casing from 6,122 to 6,225 feet. Thursday operators had drilled out the Baker retainer at 6,077 feet and was reaming cement out of casing. In a test completed Monday the well flowed 120 barrels of oil in 21 hours.

Sun has filed application for a permit to deepen No. 1 Allen Jameson, the pool opener, from 6,245 to 6,360 feet, in an effort to increase its production. The well was completed Dec. 13, 1946, only 20 feet in the pay, for a 24-hour flow of 168 barrels of high gravity oil. It recently has not been making its daily allowable of 108 barrels.

Amendment Given Scant Support Here

Only a light vote was cast in Coke county at the special election last Saturday, but voters were decidedly against the proposed amendment and the result was: For 45, Against 173.

By means of the amendment which the legislature had submitted to the people, 16 state colleges and universities would be able to begin a 30-year building program involving 60 million dollars.

It takes the unused 5-cent portion of the authorized 7-cent state property tax for Confederate pensions and assigns the revenue to a special building fund for 14 colleges other than the University of Texas and A & M college.

Latest reports indicate the amendment may carry in the state by a close margin.

The vote in Coke county;

	For	Against
Green Mountain	6	5
Silver	3	5
Juniper	2	6
Robert Lee	7	45
Ft. Chadbourne	1	14
Hayrick	0	11
Walnut	0	7
Tennyson	2	19
Bronte	21	30
Wildcat	0	4
Divide	1	6
Sanco	0	7
Lometa	0	9
Olga	2	5
	45	173

Otto Wojtek and wife visited over the weekend with her parents at Santa Anna. Her brother, Freddie Oakes, accompanied them home.