

## Robert Lee Observer

Vol. 77, No. 46

Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Thursday, May 18, 1967

Single Copy Price 25c

# 1967 Opens Era Of Progress



New Sewer System Under Construction

Robert Lee and this area have entered into what should be the greatest period of growth in the history of Coke County. Work is going ahead of schedule on the giant Robert Lee Reservoir which is under construction a short distance up the Colorado River from the edge of the townsite.

Even before work started on the dam, however, things were

looking up in Robert Lee. A large influx of new citizens started moving here from Silver more than a year ago, and houses of these people are scattered all over town.

The shot in the arm given the city when Sun closed down its camps at Silver was recently enhanced when Union Texas Petroleum announced that its camp

will close shortly.

Hardly a vacant house is to be found in Robert Lee as workers on the dam have everything occupied. In addition to filling up any vacant rental property, the employees of Clement Bros. have moved in dozens of mobile homes. Robert Lee has house trailers at various points, in addition to specially constructed trailer parks which have been put in since the rush began.

Robert Lee School has the highest enrollment in recent history, and possibly of all time. Students are thick around the school facilities, and teachers and administrators are meeting the demand for instruction by using every available space for classroom instruction.

A great deal of talk is circulating about the need for new school construction, but the board of trustees is tied until a decision is reached on the legality of the Robert Lee-Silver consolidation election which was held last year. Church attendance is reported at an all time high, as more people move into the area.

### Sewer System

Work is progressing rapidly on Robert Lee's new sewer system and water plant improvement projects. Contracts are held by W. B. Abbott of Lubbock on the water treatment and sewage disposal parts of the project and by San Antonio Construction Co. on the sewer gathering system.

Big stacks of tile are evident in all parts of town where they have not already been laid, waiting for ditching machines and crews to make way for completion of the lines.

Bids were opened last week on a new low rent housing project in the city. Apparent low bidder was Herman Bennett Co. of Brownwood. The project calls for construction of 18 units at a cost of \$191,790. The bids are under study by Housing Authority officials and no contract has been let, to date.

## Farmers To Vote On Cotton Allotment

Cotton farmers in Coke County will vote the middle of May to decide whether they want to be able to sell or lease their cotton allotments outside the county. Clarence Arrott, chairman, Agricultural Stabilization and

Conservation County Committee, has announced. The referendum on the question is being conducted May 15-18. Ballots may be returned by mail or delivered in person to the ASCS County office during that time.

The only question to be decided by the balloting is whether upland cotton allotments may be transferred during the next two years to farms which are owned or controlled by someone else and located in other counties. Such transfers may be made by sale or by lease. In no case may transfers be made outside the state. An affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of the county's farmers who vote will permit such transfers during the next two years, 1968-69.

Two similar referendums were conducted in 1965-66 throughout the Cotton Belt, and growers in 412 counties have already approved the allotment transfers. The vote this May will be held only in counties where such transfers have not previously been approved.

Arrott pointed out that voting by mail is easy and convenient and the vote therefore should be large and fully representative of the wishes of the cotton farmers in the county.

Copies of the ballot have been sent to all cotton producers of record in the county, together with information describing the program's purpose and operation. Any cotton producer who has a question about the referendum or about who is eligible to vote is urged to get in touch with the ASC County Office.

## Fire Marshal To Aid With Cleanup

Fire Marshal Gene Kilgore of San Angelo has accepted an invitation from the BCD to meet with the group next Tuesday to discuss the best method for implementing a city wide clean up campaign.

President Jim Bickley announced at Tuesday's noon meeting that he had talked with Kilgore and the fire marshal volunteered his services in helping to get the campaign kicked off.

Following a discussion in which everyone seemed to be in favor of getting started with the clean up, Bickley called Kilgore and he accepted an invitation to be here next Tuesday. Bickley urged that all members be present for the discussion next week.

W. D. McAdams reported that he attended a meeting for Robert Lee Fire Department Monday night, and members agreed that the department would help in any way possible.

Bickley also told the group that he has had no word from the school consolidation question which is under study by the Court of Civil Appeals. The court took the case three weeks ago. Thirteen members were present.

## THANKS

You will notice that your Observer is somewhat larger than usual. We have put forth no little effort to bring you in this paper some of the information which points to the bright future of this area. At the same time, we have also tried to bring you some information about several aspects of the area's history.

We are not satisfied with this paper, inasmuch as too many things which should have been run were left out because of time and space limitations.

We are particularly grateful to our advertisers whose messages to you, our readers, made this paper financially possible. We are also grateful to everyone who answered our questions and supplied information. Without your help, we could not have come up with the 28 pages in this Observer.

Particularly, we want to thank Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough, who in her generous way, wrote a number of stories for us, and supplied information for others.

We hope you like this paper, and we hope you will excuse any omissions which you may notice.

## Hospital News

May 8 — Mrs. C. E. Bell, Mrs. Germa Walker admitted. Dianna McClure, L. O. McGallian dismissed. G. E. Farris expired.

May 10 — Mrs. C. J. Brooks, Mrs. Lowell Caston, Mrs. Santos Garcia admitted. Mrs. Ora Briscoe dismissed.

May 12 — Ernest Herford, Mrs. Louis Martinez, V. V. Wojtek admitted.

May 13 — Mrs. Santos Garcia and baby dismissed.

May 14 — Don Ballard admitted. Ernest Herford dismissed.

May 15 — Mrs. Allie Childress admitted.

## School Men Have Golf Tournament

A large group of area school administrators and coaches were in Robert Lee for a golf tournament Saturday. The tourney was held at Mountain Creek Golf Course.

Jess Parrish of San Angelo took medalist honors, and Alan Berger of Wall won the Turtle trophy for having high score. A score of 366 was turned in by J. J. Massengale of Flower Grove, Pete Peterson of San Angelo, Don Dalin of Miles and Gordon Davis of Robert Lee for first place honors.

Second place team was Charles Spino of San Angelo, Lynn Spino of Robert Lee, Jess Parrish of San Angelo and Max Fly of Flower Grove. Their score was 366.

In third place with a score of 372 were Alan Berger and Jerry Spino of Wall, James Raughton of Flower Grove and Bronte.

Representative of the Robert Lee Burial and Crematorium Co., present at the tournament.



Beautiful Mountain Creek Golf Course

## Student Council Officers Named

Student Council officers for the 1967-68 school terms are Vernay Vaughan, president; Quinn Conley, vice president; Lois Heuvel, secretary; Jeannie Hatch, treasurer and Marilyn Wallace, reporter.

Lois Heuvel has been elected head cheerleader. Others are Marilyn Wallace, Dianne Baker, Jeannie Hatch and Kathy Perciull. Alternates are Robbie Smith and Donna Mitchell.

### Senior Class Officers

The 1967-68 senior class has organized and Ross Adkins elected as president. Other officers for next year include Ricky Whitaker, vice president; Vernay Vaughan, secretary; Kaye Roberts, treasurer and Craig Thomas, reporter.



**Robert Lee Observer**

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**Sweetwater Rites For Mrs. Walker**

Mrs. F. S. Walker, 58, of Sweetwater died Tuesday, May 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Simmons hospital following a brief illness.

Funeral services were held in the Cate - Spencer Chapel Wednesday, May 10 at 4 p.m. with Rev. Darris Egger officiating. Burial was in the Roscoe cemetery directed by Cate - Spencer Funeral Home.

Lizzie M. Williams was born June 9, 1909 in Fisher County. She married F. S. Walker Oct. 21, 1925.

Survivors are her husband, two sons, M. D. and Wiley Walker both of Sweetwater; one daughter, Mrs. Jane A. Pursley of Sweetwater; her mother, Mrs. Etta Williams, Loraine, two sisters, Mrs. Dival Blair, Loraine and Mrs. Pat Vine, Roscoe; two brothers, Leonard Williams, Loraine, J. Williams of Ft. Worth; and seven grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Lou Ward, Wendall Cleckler, T. A. Singleton, Roy Morris, Joe Williams and Tilbert Williams.

Relatives who attended from Robert Lee were Mr. and Mrs. Pat Rives and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rives.

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**Emmanuel Church Built Here In 1944**

In the spring of 1944, the first church building for the Emmanuel Pentecostal Church was established near the home of Mrs. May Boone. Prior to that time, the congregations met and held services in private homes with ministers from out of town officiating.

Bro. Burley Tyler of San Angelo was the first pastor. Following him, pastors have been H. S. Williams, Robert Leonard, Nathan Jones and P. E. Gowins.

During Jones' pastorate, in 1948, the present building was bought and moved to the location on the Colorado City highway. Pastors since that time have been Ray Copeland, Mark Hendrick, J. M. Allen, Arthur Thacker, Travis Starnes and the present pastor, James M. Robertson.

**FREDDUE FIELD PROMOTED TO SPECIALIST 4 IN VIETNAM**

Freddie Fields was recently promoted from Private First Class to Specialist 4.

He is serving with the 24th Medical Evacuation Hospital in Bien Hoa Province, 15 miles northeast of Saigon, in South Vietnam.

He is working as an Operating Room Technician in the Surgery Section of the Hospital.

Freddie entered the Army in July 14, 1966, and took his basic training at Fort Bliss, El Paso. He went to Vietnam in January of 1967.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Fields of Robert Lee.

**Pecan Baptist Church Organized In 1897**

The Pecan Missionary Baptist Church was organized Sept. 12, 1897 under a brush arbor. The men of the community hauled lumber in wagons from San Angelo to build the first building. The Church has always been in its present location.

Eld. John Reed was the first pastor. He was the father of Mrs. E. S. Cummings of San Angelo and the grandfather of Mrs. Frank Coalson.

Mr. Will Millican, a deacon in the Pecan Missionary Baptist Church, was present when the church was organized.

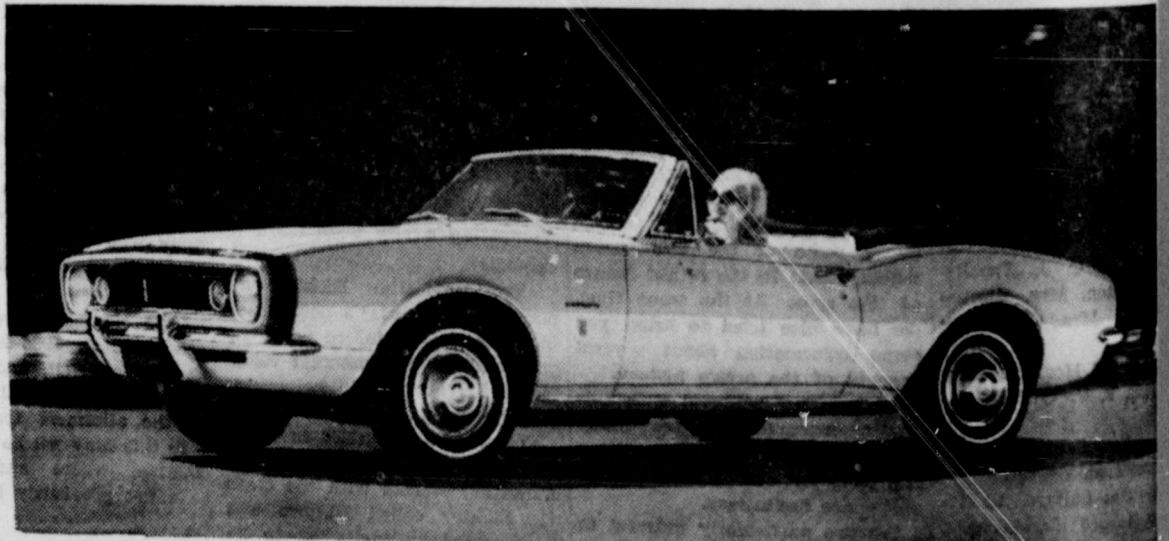
Eld. James M. Rogers is now pastor of the church and has served as pastor about 11 years.

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Miss Nancy Jacoby

**Miss Nancy Jacoby, Robert Jameson Plan Wedding For June 1**

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jacoby are announcing the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Nancy, to Robert Jameson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Jameson of Colorado City.

The couple has decided on June 1 as their wedding date. The ceremony will be read in Robert Lee Methodist Church.

Miss Jacoby, who is a senior in Robert Lee High School, has a long list of honors to her credit. She has been a cheerleader for three years, football sweetheart, Concho District FFA sweetheart, annual editor, and a member of FHA and Beta Club.

Jameson is a graduate of Colorado City High School and attended Southwest Texas State College at San Marcos. He is employed at Silver. In high school he played football four years, was a member of the Key Club and the annual staff.

Mrs. Violet Kirkpatrick spent Friday night with her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Kirkpatrick in San Angelo and attended the dancing recital of Leigh Ann, 5 year-old daughter of the San Angelo couple. It was held in the city auditorium.

**Heard At Sanco**

Mr. and Mrs. Sam McGallian visited relatives in Eunice, N. M. over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Luie Frizzell of Sweetwater visited her mother, Mrs. Lura Reid last Sunday.

Visiting Mrs. Carwile last Sunday were, J. L. Carwile, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Carwile, Robert Lee; Rev. Wilson Carwile of San Angelo.

Ulmer Bird president of Community Association presided over the last Thursday night meeting where plans for the homecoming were discussed.

**Lunchroom Menus**

**Monday, May 22**

Hot dogs with chili, buttered corn, combination salad, milk and banana pudding.

**Tuesday, May 23**

Roast and gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, celery sticks, hot rolls, butter and jelly.

**Wednesday, May 24**

Meat and cheese sandwiches, vegetable soup, lettuce, tomatoes, milk and gingerbread.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Matlock and children Madeline, Mark and Billy attended the wedding of their niece, Rebecca Ann Reyon, Saturday evening in the Methodist Church Chapel in San Angelo.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mun Crief and family of Laverne, Oklahoma were guests in the Maurice Yarbrough home Friday and Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Askin of Lubbock were weekend guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bloodworth of Silver and Mr. and Mrs. Foy Askin.

THANKS -



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**WELCOME**

Robert Lee Baptist Church  
West 11th and Chadbourne  
Bill Beaty, Pastor

Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship .... 11:00 a.m.  
Training Union ..... 6:09 p.m.  
Evening Worship .... 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting ..... 7:30 p.m.

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### McKinley Service Held At Sanco

Funeral services for Andrew F. McKinley, 69, will be held today (Thursday) at 3 p.m. in Sanco Methodist Church. Dr. Joe Temple, pastor of Victory Bible Center of Abilene and Ernest R. Dewitt, pastor of the Evangelical Methodist church in San Angelo will officiate.

His body will lie in state in the Elliott Funeral Home in Abilene until Thursday. Burial will be in the Sanco cemetery under direction of Williams Funeral Home of Robert Lee.

He died at 1:50 a.m. Tuesday at St. Ann Hospital in Abilene after a long illness. He was born Oct. 4, 1897 in Adamsville, Tex., in Lampasas County. He had lived in Abilene since suffering a heart attack in December, 1966 and having to retire from farm and stock work. They built a home in Abilene in 1960. They had lived at Sanco until moving to Abilene.

He was married to Evelyn Bird, Dec. 6, 1939 at Sanco. He was a charter member of the Evangelical Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife; one daughter, Mrs. Bobby Joe (June) Gulley of Sanco; one grandson; two brothers, Otho of Evant and Roy of Cleburne; three nieces and one nephew.

Pallbearers will be Henry Childress, Melvin Childress, Pete Davis, Bryan Gartman, Howard McCullough and D. C. Price.

Honorary pallbearers will include Chism Brown, Freeman Clark, J. T. Holley, Arthur Talent, John Walker and Robert Walker.

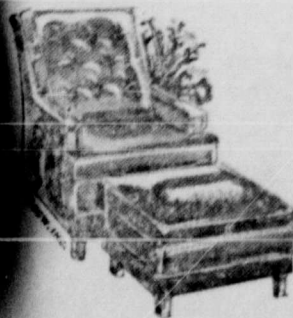
### Specialty Shop Is Help To Hobbyists

The Specialty Shop in Robert Lee was established last year by Mrs. Lela Rae McAdams to meet the needs of hobbyists in the area. Located in a building on Main Street, formerly housing Wallace Grocery, the store specializes in ceramic and other hobby items.

Mrs. McAdams is the wife of D. McAdams, local WTU manager. They have one son, W. who lives with his family at Wellington.

Prior to starting her own business, Mrs. McAdams was associated with Calvin Wallace in the grocery business.

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**HOOD'S UPHOLSTERY**

### Plans In The Making For Sanco Homecoming

In a meeting Thursday night of last week at the community center, the Sanco Community Association planned the community annual homecoming and part in the marker dedication set for Sunday, June 4.

The annual clean-up day was set for Friday, June 2, and the Secretary - treasurer, Mrs. Zoeline Reid was authorized to pay out of community funds for help needed in mowing and maintenance work at the cemetery and in work about the community building and grounds at Sanco.

Meat committee appointed for the homecoming are: Nolan Pentecost, J. M. Prine, Jr., and Bryan Gartman. Program committee is Mrs. Zoeline Reid, Mrs. Winifred Pitcock, and Mrs. June McKinley. Committee on painting tabernacle are: Harvey Reid, Henry Carwile, and Ulmer Bird.

Committee to study landscaping marker area are: Mrs. Mary Prine, Nolan Pentecost, and Mrs. Ulmer Bird.

### WANT ADS

#### CARD OF THANKS

We are most grateful to our friends for the flowers, cards, food and the many other acts of kindness shown us during our recent loss. May God bless all of you.

The family of Leo Prine

#### CARD OF THANKS

Thanks to Dr. McDaniel and the nurses for their kind attention and to all our friends for the lovely flowers, food, cards and all other expressions of sympathy. May God bless all of you.

The Family of Raphy Farris

FOR SALE — One 1966 Gregory Mobile Trailer House 8x30 feet. Real good condition. Call RA-83817, Colorado City.

FOR SALE — two formal, \$5.00 each. Phone 453-3511. 2tc

FOR SALE — Standard RC Allen typewriter. Phone 453-3834.

REPOSSESSED ZIG ZAG. Take up payments on sewing machine. Makes buttonholes, sews on buttons, overcast, darn, patch. No attachments needed. Payments of \$8 for 7 months or \$48 cash. Write credit manager, Box 3411, San Angelo. 4tp

### Rhea Jean McCutchen Gets RD Award

Rhea Jean McCutchen, valedictorian of the graduating class at Robert Lee High School, will be given the Annual Award of The Reader's Digest Association for students who by their successful school work give promise of attaining leadership in the community.

It was announced today by Garland Davis, principal.

Miss McCutchen will receive an honorary subscription to The Reader's Digest for one year and a personal certificate from the editors, "in recognition of past accomplishment and in anticipation of unusual achievement to come."

The Reader's Digest Association is presenting these awards in senior high schools throughout the United States and Canada to the highest honor student of the graduating class.

The award to Miss McCutchen, who is the daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. Raymond McCutchen made possible through the cooperation of Mr. Davis and the teaching staff. They are proud to present this award, designed to encourage scholarship, citizenship, and continued contact with good friends after graduation.

### Lions Club Has Ladies Night

About fifteen Lions and their wives held a ladies night celebration Tuesday night in the recreation hall. Lion Sweetheart Elaine Fikes entertained prior to the meal with several piano numbers.

Following the meal Doak Snead from Bronte entertained the group, playing and singing with his guitar. He also joined Lion Jack Denman for a song.

Lion Lea Salter from Greenville, S. C., was among the visitors. A new member, Earl Lindsey, was installed.

Awards were presented to Lions M. W. Farris, H. W. Keener and J. D. Mumford for the membership contest. Miss Fikes was presented a Texas Lions pen for her faithful attendance for the year and for her contribution to Lionism.

Other guests included Miss Nola Wells of Bronte and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bagley.

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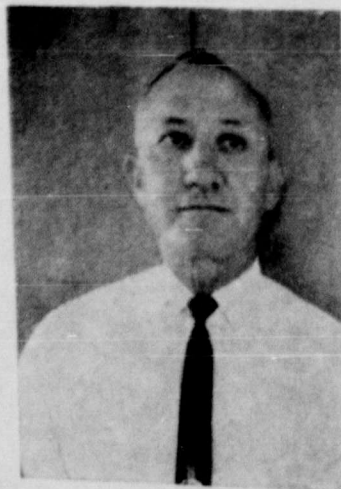
Please Bring Your Meat to Be Cooked  
By Friday If Possible

THANKS — HENRY

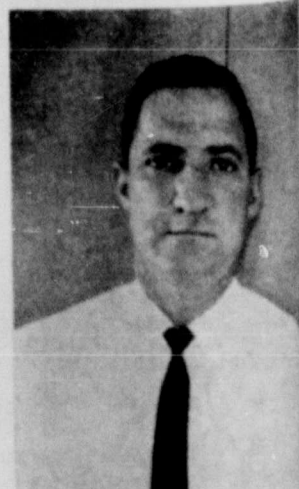
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Cumbie Ivey Jr.

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Ford & Mercury Sales & Service

**Bank Shows Solid Growth With Present Management**

Robert Lee State Bank moved into its new home in 1956, and has continued to grow steadily. Prior to moving into the new structure, the bank was housed in the building now occupied by Frank C. Dickey.

The local bank became the Robert Lee State in 1936 after a reorganization during the big depression. Before this move it was known as the Guaranty State Bank, and even back earlier it was known as First National Bank. T. A. Richardson headed the bank here before Gerald Allen took over as president.

During Allen's guidance, the bank's deposits, loans and other accounts indicative of progress have just about doubled.

Allen serves as president and chairman of the board. Other officers include Wm. H. Allen, vice president; Willis W. Smith, cashier; Gladys Waldrop, assistant cashier; Mrs. Bobby Baker, Mrs. Louise Hatch, Carolyn Parker and Mrs. Frank Hearn, tellers and bookkeepers.

Directors besides the two Allens and Smith are Victor Wojcik, Vaughan S. Davis, Cumbie Key, and Willie I. Tubbs.

THERE'S HOME TOWN NEWS IN THE HOME TOWN ADS.

**Williams Renders Vital Services**

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Williams operate funeral homes in Robert Lee and Bronte. They also have two ambulances and a funeral car which stand ready 24 hours a day to answer the call of persons in this area, who are in need of them.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams, as well as their sons, Sherman and Gary Sam, and their daughter-in-law, Judy, are thoroughly trained in first aid, and can use it when needed. The entire family works in the business as they are needed.

Williams maintains complete mortuary facilities in both the Coke County towns, and serves clients in all the surrounding communities, including Blackwell, Silver, Sanco, Tennyson and others.

Williams purchased the funeral home business from the late Bruce Clift, after spending several years as Mr. Clift's assistant.

Williams told The Observer a few days ago that operating an ambulance service is a losing proposition, but, he said "I feel that this service is needed in Coke County and I will continue to render it as long as I possibly can afford to."

**ROBERT LEE - SILVER LIONS CLUB**

**Texas BLIND SHOPS Caravan**

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1967

CARAVAN WILL BE LOCATED Westway Grocery Parking Lot

PROCEEDS FROM THIS SALE WILL BE USED FOR Lions Club Activities

Top Quality Brooms, Mops, And Other Household Items

All merchandise manufactured by Texas Blind workmen in Blind Shops or Lighthouses, which are non-profit organizations.

John Q. Conley in charge of sale

**Every Home Will Be Canvassed**

House Broom	\$1.90	Women's Garment Bag	1.50
Black Broom	.85	Skirt Hanger	1.00
Ant Brush	1.00	Pot Holders	1.00
Woolly Sweep	1.50	Miteez Dust Mop	2.25
Woolly Broom	.85	Lawn Rake	2.00
Woolly Mop	3.00	No. 1 Rubber Door Mat	2.00
Universal Refills	1.25	No. 3 Rubber Door Mat	5.25
Quick Wax Applicator	1.25	Special Order Rubber Mats	
Shell Wax Applicator	.75	Per square foot	1.15
Woolly Mop	.50	Warehouse Broom	2.30
Woolly House Mop	1.00	Floor Brush No. 619	
Rubber Plastic	.50	18" 4.75-24" 5.75	
Large Utility Sponge	1.90	Garage Brush No. 627	
Wax Holder	.25	14" 3.50-18" 5.00-24" 6.50	
Woolly Mitt	1.75	24 Ounce Mop Head	1.50
Multi Purpose Cloths	1.00	Commercial Mop Handle	1.75
Wax Cloth	.25	Warehouse Mop	1.50
Wax Towels	1.00	Commercial Dust Mop	
Woolly Board Cover Teflon	1.50	18" 4.50-24" 5.50-36" 8.00	
Woolly Board & Pad Set	2.25	Heads 18" 2.20-24" 3.00-36" 4.35	
Woolly and Iron Bag	1.00		
Woolly Bag	1.25		

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- Del-Monte Peas, 303 Size Can - - 4 for 89c
- Del-Monte Golden Corn, 303 Can - 4 for 89c
- Del-Monte Spinach, 303 Size Can - 6 for \$1.00
- Del-Monte Catsup 20 Oz. Bottle - 3 for 99c

DEL-MONTE **TUNA 3 for 89c**

- FROZEN STRAWBERRIES, 10 Oz. - 4 for 89c
- GANDY'S PURE ICE CREAM - 1/2 Gal. 69c

GANDY'S 1/2 Gal. Crt. **FROZAN 3 for \$1.00**

- LIPTON'S TEA - - - 1/4 Lb. Pkg. 39c
- LIPTON'S INSTANT TEA - 4 Oz. Jar 83c
- LIPTON'S FAMILY TEA BAGS - 24 Ct. 83c

SWIFT JEWEL 3 LB. CAN **SHORTENING 49c**

MORTON'S SALAD DRESSING - Qt. Jar 39c

CARROTS - - - - - Lb. Bag 9c **Fresh Corn ear 5c**

- HORMEL OLEO - - 6 Lbs. \$1.00
- HORMEL WIENERS - 1 Lb. Pkg. 53c
- WISCONSIN LONGHORN CHEESE - Lb. 65c

**Chuck Roast lb. 47c**

Prices Effective May 18th, 19th & 20th



**West Way Grocery**



10TH & BISHOP

PHONE 453-5151

**Miss Manuela Minjarez  
Richard Gloria Are Wed**

Miss Manuela Minjarez became the bride of Richard Gloria in a ceremony read at 2 p.m. last Saturday, May 13, in Robert Lee County Judge W. W. Thetford officiated for the wedding in the home of the bridegroom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Gloria.

Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Minjarez of Bronte.

Wedding attendants were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lopez of San Angelo.

The bride wore the traditional white wedding gown. She is a former student of the Bronte Schools.

Mr. Gloria is a 1966 graduate of Robert Lee High School and is in the US Army stationed in Germany. He is home on leave and will return to Germany May 30 for the remainder of his tour there.

A reception and wedding supper, hosted by parents of the bride, followed the wedding in the Gloria home.

Robert Wink who is a student at Texas Tech at Lubbock visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wink over the weekend.

Observer want ads are very effective and cost very little.



Mrs. Richard Gloria

**MR. AND MRS. WILKS  
ANNOUNCE NEW SON**

Douglas Greg, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. was born Friday, May 12 in a Midland hospital. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wilks of Midland. Mr. Wilks is former pastor of the Northside Church of Christ.

He has a sister, Cara who is 2 years old.

Mrs. Wilks is the former Chris Hay of Plainview. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Wilks of Alice and Mr. and Mrs. Owen Hays of Plainview.

**Frank Dickey Sold  
Out, Left In 1922**

Frank Dickey left Coke County almost 45 years ago and stayed away for a number of years. He returned in 1947 and opened a law office and assumed his present position as county attorney in 1948.

A Nov. 17, 1922, issue of The Observer has a big ad on the front page offering just about all of Dickey's earthly possessions for sale at a public sale. Purpose of the sale was to raise money to go to law school.

A long list of items for sale included such livestock as two teams of mules, a bay horse and a brown horse, several cows, all of which gave four to five gallons of milk a day, and 30 bronze turkeys, "as fine as ever seen."

The sale also included implements, wagon and buggy harness, and household goods.

At the bottom of the ad was printed: "Come and bring your skinning knife and pocketbook. Will accept terms of half cash, balance acceptable note, due Oct. 1, 1923, on amounts of \$50.00 and over. Cash preferred."

Mr. Dickey told The Observer that money obtained from the sale put him through Baylor Law School. He left Coke County after the sale in 1922. He moved back to Ballinger in 1926.

**WE'RE HAPPY  
TO SERVE  
This Progressive Area**

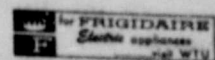
For the past three years we have supplied various store items, sewing accessories and gift items to the residents of the Robert Lee area. It's a pleasure to operate a business in busy, bustling Robert Lee. We invite all the new people in our town to come by and see us any time.

**GORDON'S VARIETY STORE**



**YOU'RE IN THE  
ELECTRIC  
GENERATION  
NO REMODELING  
JOB IS COMPLETE  
UNTIL YOU ADD  
Total Electric Comfort**

Electric living is IN—everything else is on the way out, so why not really increase the value of your home, and your personal comfort too by planning for total-electrical living when you remodel? Electric living is easy to add. Ask for WTU's handy Remodeling Plan kit, and ask WTU or your electric contractor to help you figure out the electric plans and cost. They'll be glad to do it.



Make a clean break with the past when you remodel... GO ELECTRIC!

**West Texas Utilities  
Company**



**LET US PUT  
A TIGER  
IN YOUR TANK  
For Happy Motoring**

The production of petroleum and the manufacture of its various products has shown what the research of this great era in our history can do to make things better. Humble has always been a leader in research to make our products better. Today's new Enco gasoline is a good example of this progress. We welcome you to our station to try a tank of this superior gasoline, made by America's leading energy producer.

**During This Period of Great Progress  
We Are Proud Of Our Part  
In The Community Life Of  
Robert Lee  
"Playground Of West Texas"**

**Jay Denman**  
**ENCO PRODUCTS SERVICE STATION**

Mothers' day visitors in the home of Mrs. Willie Yarbrough at Abilene Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Yarbrough and children, Mrs. Betty Prince and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Fields, and Rodney Mathers, all of Robert Lee; Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Yarbrough of Abilene, Jamie Kay of Mineral Wells and Joe Hancock of Snyder.

### County Agents News Column

By STERLING LINDSEY

The pecan nut casebearer life cycle is beginning to take shape now. We have found positive evidence to give us a basis for starting control measures.

I checked trees in eight locations Monday around Robert Lee and Bronte. Casebearer eggs were found in all eight locations and newly hatched larvae found in three locations. The peak egg deposit and hatch appears to be ahead of us, but we do have some concrete information that we can use to plan spraying schedules.

The peak egg laying appears to be one to three days away. This means the peak hatch is still three to seven days away. More cool weather could delay both one to two days.

As for the best time to spray, I would make two applications of insecticide. I would make the first one between the 17th and 20th, the second one between the 22nd and 25th.

If you plan to spray once, during the period from 18th to the 20th looks like the most ideal time. Be sure to use ample pressure to part the leaves and wet the nut clusters. Also, be sure to add zinc sulfate to your spray

to help combat rosette or die-back, the bunch growth we see on the end of pecan limbs. This is not a normal growth pattern, but a pattern caused by a zinc deficiency.

The large, gray colored bug you may see in pecan trees is known as the wheel bug or ambush bug. They are beneficial insects and feed on, primarily, lice and other insects.

The wheel bug can cause a painful sting to humans and in a few cases have made people sick with their sting. Once in awhile one will suddenly dart out from a tree to attack something. This behavior pattern led to the name, ambush bug.

A family get-together was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Bloodworth at Silver on Mothers day. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wallace, Jr. and children, Mr. and Mrs. Waymon Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Past and Mike all of Robert Lee; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bloodworth of San Angelo, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bloodworth and family and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Bloodworth and children all of Silver; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Askin and Robert Wink of Lubbock.

## Ready To Serve You...



### 24 HOURS A DAY

Pictured above is the personnel and three of our five vehicles which stand ready to serve you 24 hours a day. From left to right: Sam and Ruth Williams, Judy and Sherman Williams and Gary Sam Williams. All are well trained in First Aid. It is our desire to be of service to our friends in Bronte, Blackwell, Silver, Tennyson, Robert Lee and all other communities of the County and area.

We feel that with the personnel we have along with our modern equipment, that we can provide any service you require through our Funeral Homes at Bronte and Robert Lee.

We are always as near as your telephone to give you sympathetic and considerate service.

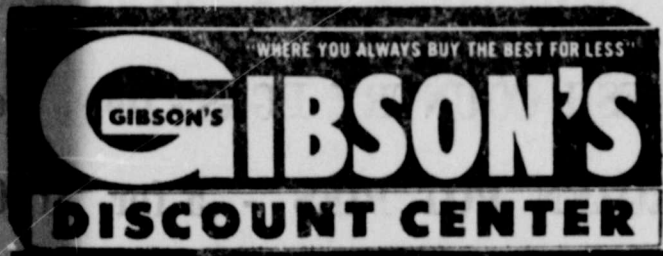
## Williams Funeral Homes

Robert Lee & Bronte

Phone 453-3221

**YOU SAVE —  
ON EVERY ITEM**  
At  
**GIBSON'S**  
**EVERYDAY LOW LOW  
PRICES**

OVER 10,000 ITEMS FOR  
THE HOME & FAMILY



OPEN TILL ?

1821 KNICKERBOCKER

SAN ANGELO

(Across From San Angelo Football Stadium)

YOU'LL ENJOY YOUR STAY  
AT THE BEAUTIFUL



San Angelo's Newest & Finest

Swimming Pool

Banquet Facilities

Appetizing Foods

DOWNTOWN—ON THE RIVER

DIAL 655-8151

222 Rio Concho Drive

San Angelo

YOU BET... WE'RE EXPECTING

## Robert Lee

To Grow And Become The  
"Playground of West Texas"

We are firm believers in the future of this community—that's why we recently opened the Robert Lee Appliance Center. We are looking forward to a long and fruitful association with the people of this area. We know we offer the best in appliances, at prices you can afford to pay.

We Handle A Complete Line Of



## Appliances

AT "LIVE AND LET LIVE" PRICES . . .  
PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD TO PAY

**ROBERT LEE  
APPLIANCE CENTER**

John Drummond, Owner

Juanico Jameson, Manager



A Whole Street Of New Houses



Gladney Field Was Moved Here From Silver

**WTU Facilities Growing With Rest Of Town**

West Texas Utilities Co. in Robert Lee has been undergoing considerable growth in the last few months, due to construction on the dam and the many new residents who have moved to Robert Lee.

W. D. McAdams is local manager of the firm, Mrs. Finis Milligan is bookkeeper and Gene Hinnard is serviceman.

The three local personnel handle all routine problems and installations which come up, and major construction jobs are handled by crews which operate out of Ballinger, district headquarters for the company. WTU main office is in Abilene.

The company has been making preparation for growth the last few years, having recently completed two huge generating plants, one at Oak Creek Lake north of Bronte and one near San Angelo.

**Students To Elect Representatives**

An election will be held Thursday in Robert Lee High School for the purpose of electing class representatives to the Student Council. Each class will elect a boy and girl to the council.

Candidates are as follows, with the girls listed first:

Seniors: Kay Roberts, Judice Counts and Bobby White. Ricky Whitaker.

Juniors: Kathy Demman, Vicki Rowland and Lynn Beal. Roy Blair.

Sophomores: Sue Weidie, Donna Mitchell and Jackie Preslar. Gary Jack Thomason.

Freshmen: Jackie Ostley, Margaret Finagan and Ernest Herford. Walter Millican.

Eighth Grade: Donna Wallace. Patty Lynn Ivey and Denny Percutt. Richard Guernant.

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Friday, May 19 — Sonora,

graduate study.  
Monday, May 22 —  
p.m., Bronte Zeta  
Tuesday, May 23 —  
p.m., Friendship H.D.  
Wednesday, May 24

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Our theatres at Robert Lee and Bronte are equipped with the latest Big Screen Cinemascope equipment for your viewing pleasure.

It will be our aim to continue giving our patrons the best in entertainment — for you know

Movies are your best entertainment

**ALAMO THEATRE**

Evening Show 7:30 — Sunday Matinee 1:30

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 19 & 20

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"RED TOMAHAWK" in color

Also Cartoon

SUNDAY 1:30 MATINEE & MONDAY 7:30, MAY 21

Rock Hudson, George Peppard, Guy Stockwell, Nigel Davenport

"TOBRUK" in Technicolor

Also Cartoon



Double Stamps Every Wednesday (excluding cigarettes) on \$2.50 or more

LARGE EARS

**Corn each 5c**

FRESH CUCUMBERS - - 2 Lbs. 25c

VAN CAMP'S PORK & BEANS, No. 2 Size - 2 for 39c

VIENNA SAUSAGE, Van Camp's - 4 for 89c

LIPTON INSTANT TEA - 4 Oz. Size 79c

LIPTON TEA BAGS - - 48 Count 65c

KIMBELL'S

**COFFEE lb. 65c**

**Crisco 3 lb. 79c**

COLORADO PINTO BEANS - - 3 Lb. Bag 29c

DOLE'S

Pink Pineapple - Grapefruit Juice, 4 1/2 Oz. - 3 for \$1.00

**BAKER'S Groc. & Mkt.**

SCOTT'S BIG ROLL DECORATED TOWELS - Roll

PUREX BLEACH - 1/2 Gal.

JERGENS LOTION MILD BATH SOAP - - 4 Bars

BISCUITS - - - 6 Cans

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FROSTY ACRES FROZEN ORANGE JUICE - - 3 for

**PRE-TRIMMED MEATS**

SEVEN BONE

**ROAST lb. 49c**

BEEF RIBS - - Lb.

LONGHORN CHEESE - Lb.

GOUCH'S THICK SLICED

**Bacon 2 lb. \$1.19**

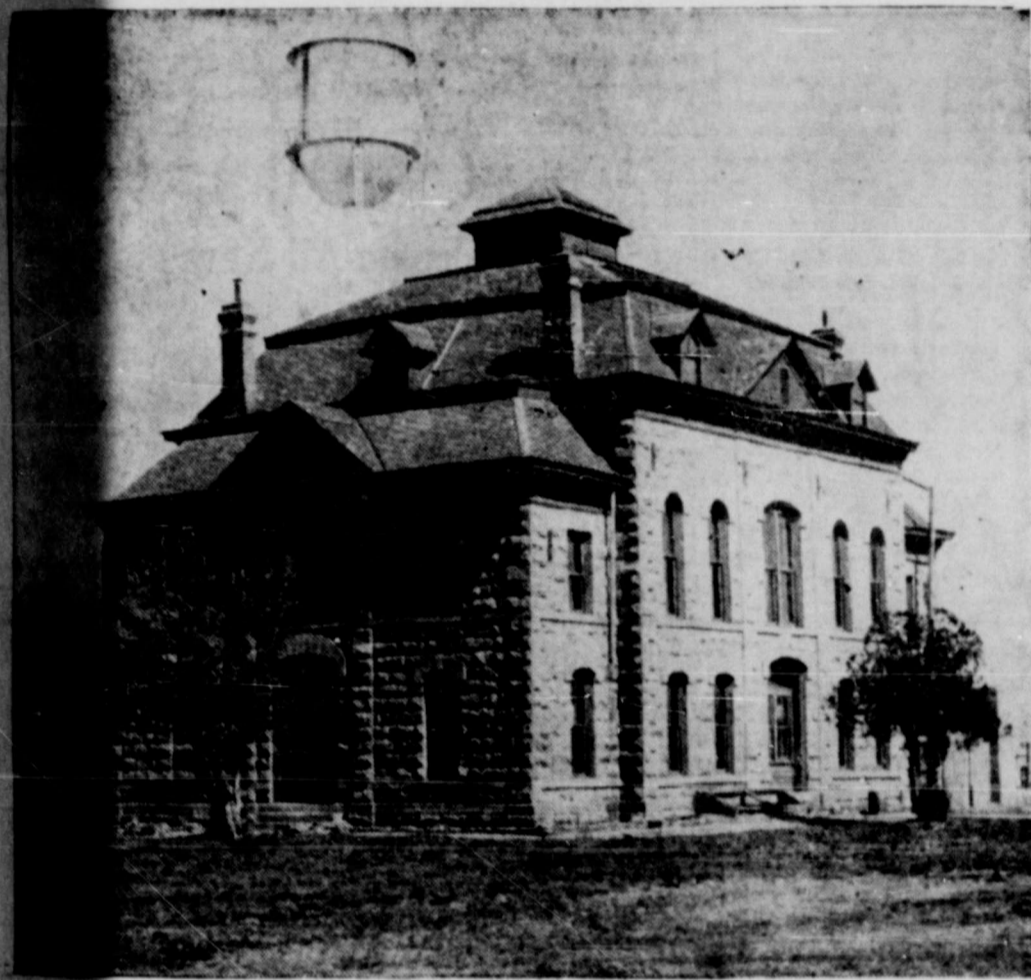


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A. J. KIRKPATRICK

### Mr. and Mrs. Roach Own Dry Goods Store Founded by the Late Will Cumbie

The present day Roach's Dry Goods Store has grown from one of the pioneer stores of Robert Lee. Its beginning dates back to 1925 when the late W. J. Cumbie opened up a combination grocery and dry goods store.

According to Observer files, ads run by the firm featured grocery specials each weekend. Dispensing both food and clothing continued until 1942, when the grocery part of the business was closed out.

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Just For Appearances -  
VISIT US OFTEN . . .

Man or woman, boy or girl, your appearance is important. The impression you make on others can have a bearing on your future, and the success of your life. Let us help you keep that well-groomed look. You'll be surprised how much difference regular and expert care can do for you. Visit our beauty shop and barber shop regularly.

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We're not exactly old timers here, but in the few short years we have lived in Robert Lee, we have learned what a blessing it is to live among the people of this town.



**Jones**

Beauty & Barber Shop

### Outstanding Roofing Service

Bonded & Insured

ROOFING &  
SHEET METAL

COMMERCIAL — INDUSTRIAL  
RESIDENTIAL

CALL US FOR  
FREE ESTIMATES

SAVE MONEY

ON

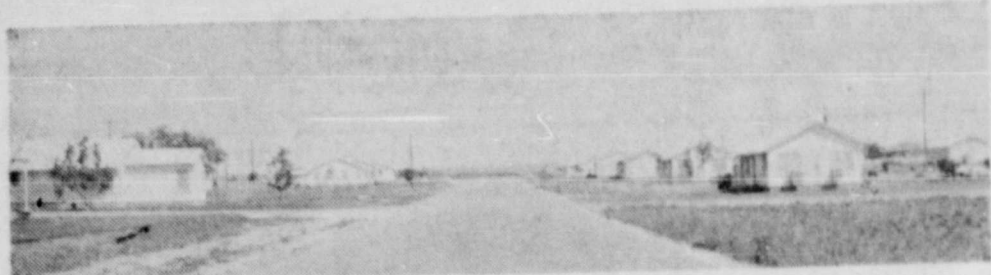
QUALITY MATERIALS  
AT

**HARRISON ROOFING CO.**

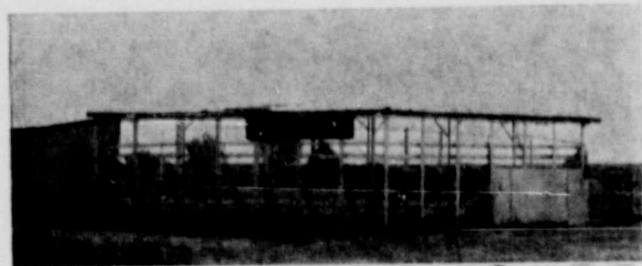
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601 N. Randolph

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# PROGRESS EDITION

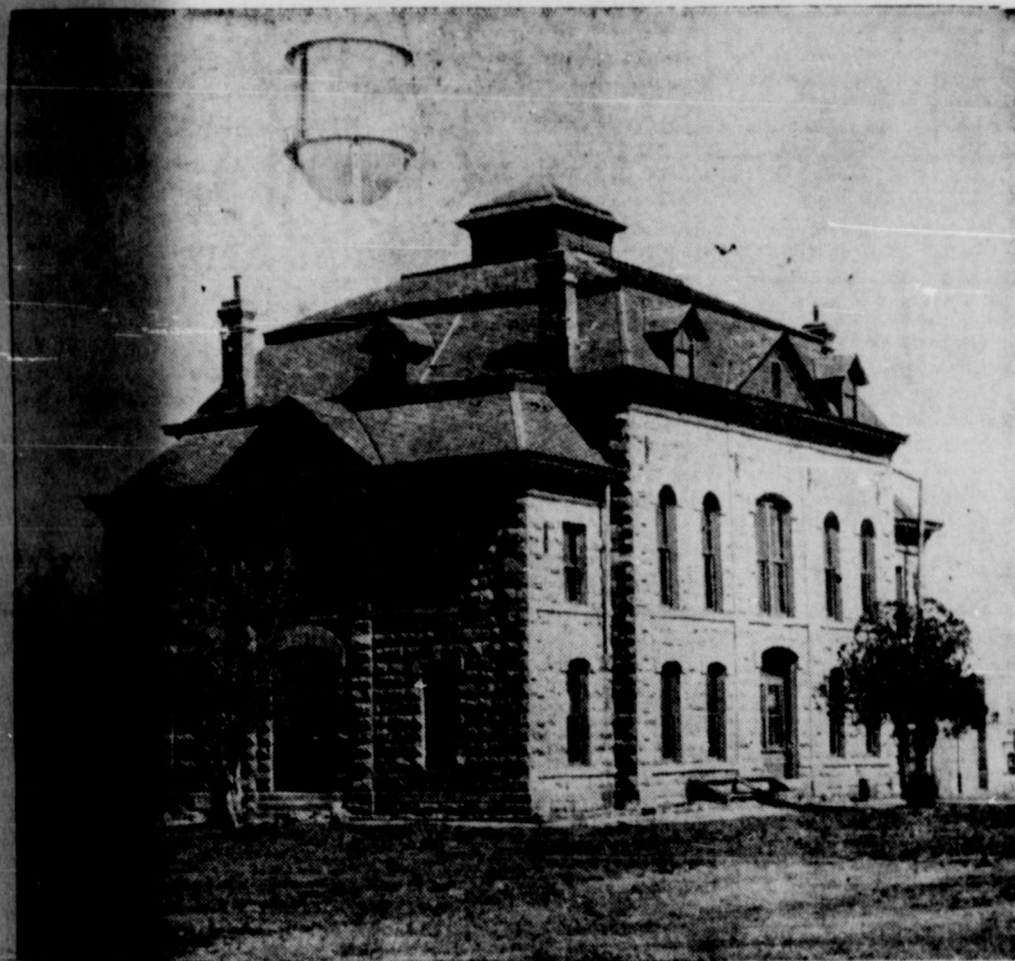
PLAYGROUND  
OF  
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TEXAS

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Beauty & Barber Shop

### Outstanding Roofing Service

Bonded & Insured

**ROOFING &  
SHEET METAL**

COMMERCIAL — INDUSTRIAL  
RESIDENTIAL

CALL US FOR  
FREE ESTIMATES

SAVE MONEY  
ON  
QUALITY MATERIALS  
AT

**HARRISON ROOFING CO.**

DIAL 653-6786

601 N. Randolph

San Angelo

# 30 School Districts Have Existed In Coke

Below is a list of the 30 schools which have existed in Coke County. The number is the one assigned to the school and bits of information follows the name when available. This list was compiled by Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough.

1. Live Oak — 1898, also 1902-03; known as Powell in 1926-27.
2. Rock Springs — 1898, became part of Ft. Chadbourne.
3. Mineral Springs — Hayrick (1900-01); also known as Indian Creek.
4. Oso — Bronte — (Indian Creek) Bronte became Independent District 1907. Indian Creek is listed as No. 3 on some records.
5. Sanco — Horse Mt. and Mea-Mt. were part of Sanco.
6. Conner — Silver, Silver Peak.

7. Lometa — Between Robert Lee and Tennyson, now used as community center.

8. Paint Creek — Edith; was old Paint Creek school near the Alf Key residence.

9. Pecan.

10. Hayrick — Robert Lee; became independent district and No. 10 assigned to Hayrick, which was its number when consolidated with Bronte.

11. Union.

12. Cow Creek — Cow Creek, Indian Creek, Mineral Springs; called "Cow Creek consolidated" at the time it was grouped with Bronte.

13. Olga.

14. Juniper.

15. Mt. Margaret — Mule Creek (1900).

16. Valley View — (1901) consolidated with Robert Lee.

17. Simpson.

18. Tennyson — County Line; some records refer to this district as County Line District, part in another county.

19. Graham Valley — District now in Robert Lee.

20. Robert Lee.

21. Wild Cat.

22. Friendship.

23. Cedar Hill — abolished in 1913 and put into Sand Springs.

24. Sand Springs — old school was up in Silver area.

25. Walnut — over toward Water Valley in Mims community.

26. Kates Creek — on upper divide toward Sterling.

27. Green Mt. — Pecan, Edith and Green Mt. were consolidated and kept Green Mt. name.

28. Silver Peak.

29. Mays — consolidated with Bronte Aug. 20, 1948.

30. Paint Creek — later school by M. B. Sheppard.

Two other schools which evidently were assigned no numbers were New Hope and Chapman (on divide).

Repeal of the Prohibition Amendment was evident in a July 1935, edition of the Robert Lee Observer. It stated: "BEER GARDEN Now Open. When in Robert Lee and you are dry as DUST and you simply MUST have a bottle of Beer, visit us. Roe & Scoggins."

Horner Rainey, candidate for governor, visited here in 1946.

## Sheriff Percifull, Deputies Stopped Bootlegger Career

March 31, 1933

Sheriff Frank Percifull, assisted by Deputy B. A. Bell and Constable Walker Good, found and confiscated another bootlegger's still Saturday. The illegal plant was found in the woodland of a farm near Fort Chadbourne. It was a crude affair, but it is supposed that it was delivering the goods — or rather the booze — as it was connected up and fire had been under one of the cans. The contraption was made of two milk cans and a copper coil. Thus far Sheriff Percifull and his force have been able to find no one who lays claim to the still.

### YOU COULD PUT SUGAR IN COFFEE AT THESE PRICES

Grocery prices advertised in the Coke County News of Robert Lee in February, 1936, included the following: Washington Wine-sap apples, 10c dozen; 16 ounce bag seedless raisins, 9c; 10 pound sack spuds, 20c; 5 pound can syrup, 29c; Bright and Early coffee, 1 lb. pkg., 19c; 6 pound pall Snowdrift, 99c; 6 giant bars P&G soap, 23c.

Robert Lee's Busiest Spot —

That's The "Y"

Where You'll Find

**McDORMAN'S**  
Premier SERVICE Station

With all the activity in the area, we would like to offer our best the fine petroleum products we sell to newcomers. It's a pleasure to have you in our city and we invite you by a

We Welcome All Newcomers

To Robert Lee —

"Playground of West Texas"

Mr. and Mrs. Linzy McDorman

THANKS and

GOOD LUCK

To Robert Lee

FROM

SIMMONS-

HUGGINS

Supply, Inc.

WHOLESALE

SAN ANGELO

# Robert Lee

PLAYGROUND OF WEST TEXAS

Has Completed 76 Years  
As the County Seat of Coke

We are proud to operate a firm which has served many of those years, and under only three owners.

A Tribute To A Pioneer

## T. W. Farris

T. W. Farris was one of the old breed of pioneer druggists. His customers always came first, and he was always ready, in his more than 50 years of being in the business, to serve his customers any time of the day or night. He was devoted to his profession, and was one of the founders of the West Texas Druggists Association in 1923. We feel that the example set by Mr. Farris will always be a reminder to us that our job is to serve the people of this area, and that is exactly what we shall continue to do.

The past 75 years have been great, and we wouldn't take anything for them and the memories of the people who made them great; but they probably won't hold a candle to the development and progress that are in store for us ahead. Medicine and pharmaceuticals, through constant research, are breaking through new horizons every day in an effort to relieve the physical suffering of mankind. We are proud to be a part of this field of endeavor.

# Farris City Drug Store

SERVING WEST TEXAS

FINE QUALITY MEATS

PORTION or FABRICATED  
CUTS

MEATS PROCESSED FOR  
FREEZERS

LET US SERVE YOUR NEEDS

HANDY PACKING CO.

DIAL 653-2808

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SAN ANGELO

SERVING ROBERT LEE SINCE 1952

# Vaughan Chevrolet Co.

AND WE'RE HAPPY

TO BE A PART OF

## ROBERT LEE

DURING THIS



Bob Vaughan at His Desk

# Year Of Great Progress

The first Chevrolet agency in Robert Lee was established back in 1925 by Simpson & Company. It was later sold to Turney Casey and Ford Hallmark, who in turn sold it to John Harvey. We bought it from Mr. Harvey in 1952.

We are proud of the service this firm has rendered this community down through the years—but we feel that the past will be dimmed by the bright future we see in store for this town and area. We believe Robert Lee is entering a new era of growth and prosperity never before seen here. We believe things are getting better all the time.



A Far Cry from Transportation 75 Years Ago—Chevy Today

## Robert Lee - Coke County

### Playground Of West Texas

# Vaughan Chevrolet Co.

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OUR MANY  
FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS  
IN COKE COUNTY



San Angelo

**Welcome**  
TO OUR PLACE OF BUSINESS

We're Fairly New In Business Here

Having lived in Robert Lee a good many years, we feel that our business has a definite place in the community. We feel that our new, modern Mobil Station is ideally located to serve the residents of this area, as well as the thousands of visitors who will be coming to our town during and following construction of the dam.

We Look Forward To The Future of

**Robert Lee**

"Playground of West Texas"

We feel that the future of Robert Lee is assured, with the many fine developments which have already been accomplished, with the many fine people who have lived here for years and the others who have come here only recently. We can see nothing for our town but a steady growth, and folks, we want to be right in the middle of it.

**E. H. IVEY**  
MOBIL SERVICE STATION

At the Y Downtown

**Farris City Drug  
Has Sold Medicine  
Over Half Century**

Farris City Drug, or its predecessors, has been dispensing drug for the aches and pains of Robert Lee area residents for more than 50 years. Inquiries into the exact date of the firm's establishment have met with some question concerning when Dr. Cowan came here from Sterling City and started the drug business.

Gerald C. Allen and his father, H. C. Allen, bought the store in 1924, and they say that Dr. Cowan had owned it 10 or 12 years at that time.

Allen in turn sold it in 1948 to the late T. W. Farris.

It is thought that Dr. Cowan began the business, and did not buy out a firm already established.

Taking over in 1924, the Allens operated the drug business for 24 years, which covered the boom period after World War I until the big depression hit in 1929. They weathered the lean 1930s and once again saw prosperity return to the country during the early 40s before they sold out to Mr. Farris in 1948.

T. W. Farris was a pioneer in drug circles of West Texas, and along with four or five others, established the West Texas Druggists Association in 1923. Mr. Farris operated the drug store with the help of his son Buster, until his death in 1966. Buster now operates the firm.

Along with their prescription business the firm sells all types of household medical supplies, first aid equipment, cosmetics, small appliances, etc. They also operate a modern fountain service.



PIONEERS IN SERVING  
THE AREA SINCE 1902  
As Wholesalers Of  
QUALITY GROCERIES  
FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

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**BARNETT**

Fried Pies

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FOOD STORE

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 Co.  
 ANGELO



**FIRST METHODIST PREACHER**—The Rev. Green Cotton Fields was the first Methodist preacher to brave the frontier of Coke County and served as first pastor of the Hayrick

Methodist Church. Beside him is his wife. Mr. Fields after leaving Hayrick, moved into the Edith area where he continued to live and raise his family.

was later transferred to the Bronte charge. It was put in the West Texas Conference in 1934, with Bronte, out of the Central Texas Conference. Later, both were made members of the Southwest Texas Conference.

The Hayrick church continued for many years, meeting in the school house, until May, 1959, when it consolidated with First Methodist Church in Bronte.

**REAL DIRTY TRICK TO PLAY ON A SHERIFF**

"Dastardly, if it is true!" Such was a headline in the edition of The Bronte Enterprise of March 28, 1913. It seems that Sheriff Hickman received an anonymous letter telling him not to run his auto between Robert Lee and Bronte because the road had been sprinkled with "tacks and horse-shoe nails." The sheriff disregarded the warning as the work of a "four-flusher" and "in driving over there Monday got only seven punctures."

"The next day Mr. Richardson got four punctures, and a drummer making the trip got down several times."

"It is clear that the motive for strewing the road with nails and tacks was to cripple and hinder the service car," the story went on to say, "and the act was the meaner if inspired or done for business reasons. Surely this is a free country and open to fair competition. . . and this proposition is not open for debate."

**Clean, Wholesome RECREATION For Adults and Youth —**

A friendly, wholesome atmosphere is what we try to provide for all our customers—both young and older. We realize that a little relaxation is good for all of us, and we invite you to visit us for yours.

We Welcome All Newcomers  
To ROBERT LEE

"Playground of West Texas"

**ROBERT LEE RECREATION CENTER**

Jack and Juanita Trimble

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

**First Sunday School Started At Hayrick**

Early in 1885, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Robbins moved to what at that time was known as Tom Green County, and settled near the Hay-

rick mountain. In a short time a small settlement was started at the foot of the mountain. The community took its name from the mountain and became the first county seat of Coke County in 1889.

In the meantime, in 1886, Mr. Robbins and a few others who were Methodists came together in the home of Charley Roe and organized a Sunday School. Mr. Robbins was the first superintendent. It is believed to be the first Sunday School in Coke County.

In 1887, Rev. J. P. Hulse, a Methodist circuit rider, was sent to the old Fort Chadbourne Mission, Abilene district, Old Northwest Texas Conference. He soon found the Methodist people in the Hayrick settlement and organized a church the same year.

Mr. Robbins and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Roe and a few others were the charter members. Robbins, the last of these pioneers to pass away, died in 1934. After the organization of the county in 1889, the Sunday school and church met in the upstairs room of the first Coke County courthouse in Hayrick.

Hayrick was put on the Robert Lee charge, after it was established in 1891, when the county seat was moved to Robert Lee.

This was the oldest church in this part of the country. It

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Store Daily

**Robert Lee . . .**

"Playground of West Texas"

Has Been A Fine Place  
For Us To Live And Operate  
Adams Abstract Co.

We started in the abstract business in 1926

**41 Years**

That's a good long time to serve the people of this community and county, but every minute of it has been a pleasure to us. And with the growth that is taking place, and is expected to continue, we are looking forward to many more years of serving the property owners of Robert Lee and Coke County.

We believe that our service has added to the development of this area, and we are pleased to have been able to help.

**Adams Abstract Co.**

MR. AND MRS. S. E. ADAMS

San Angelo

Robert Lee

**PAPERS HIGHER NOW**

An advertisement on Dec. 6, 1935, stated a year's subscription to the San Angelo Standard-Times cost \$4.85.

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For the Welder**

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Welding Supply  
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San Angelo

# Agriculture Leading Industry In County

Coke County was from its earliest beginnings an agricultural area. The economy of this area has always been based primarily on the production of crops from the soil or the production of livestock.

Agricultural activity began here with the production of cattle on the open range, but with the coming of settlers the type farming was changed to production of crops. During recent years, however, the tendency has been to swing back to the production of feed crops and livestock.

According to the History of Coke County written by Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough of Robert Lee, some of the early day cattle men who ran their herds on the open range in this country included: L. B. Harris, who owned the "OL" herds and operated in the vicinity of Robert Lee; Wylie Bros., whose activities began in 1874 and extended from near Ballinger into Tom Green county and up around Mount Margaret; T. L. and G. G. Odom, who headquartered at the old Fort Chadbourne and whose herds rambled all through that country and on into where the city of Bronte now stands.

Mrs. Yarbrough also writes that the Snyders owned "all out of doors" in Northwest Coke County, on into Mitchell, including the Spade Ranch which they sold to the Elwoods in 1890.

Some other early day ranchers who made Coke County their permanent home were E. C. Rawlings, J. Q. McCabe and W. P. Walling.

When the homesteaders began to come, there was some difference of opinion as to whom the land belonged. Fence burning of

the new settlers was a common occurrence, but they gradually won out, and transformed this country into an area of small farmers.

Cotton production probably was at its peak during the early 20s. At one time Bronte had two cotton gins in operation and Robert Lee had one. Now there is not a cotton gin in the county, even though there still is a small amount of cotton produced, mainly along the river valley west of Robert Lee. It was during the period of small farms, cotton production, and general diversification that Coke County's rural population reached a peak.

In more recent years, it has been the practice for one operator to cultivate or operate more land, and run cattle and sheep, thus cutting down on the number of people who "live in the country."

The Texas Almanac calls Coke County one of the leading sheep producing counties of the state. It also ranks high in production of goats and cattle.

Production of dairy cattle and poultry is still carried on to some extent, but has declined in recent years. At one time there were a large number of huge poultry houses in this area, which were used for production of eggs or broilers. Their number was at its height during the period soon after World War II. Turkeys were also produced commercially in large quantities a few years ago, but no big flocks are grown today.

The coming of the oil industry did much to take the spotlight off of agricultural pursuits, and many farmers cut their agricultural activities to take jobs connected with the new oil business.

In the 1960s emphasis has once again returned to agriculture, with special importance being attached to soil and water conservation and production of quality livestock.

## OLENE'S

is Robert Lee's oldest beauty shop  
under one management

For 22 years we have been serving the beauty needs of Robert Lee and Coke County women. As you are looking forward to many more years of creative hair styling to give you that well-cared-for look.

**OLENE SIMS**

## DEVELOPING WEST TEXAS —

**James B. Randa**  
OIL PRODUCER

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**ALWAYS A BOOSTER**

FOR

**ROBERT LEE &  
COKE COUNTY**

**Lipan Oil Co.**

OIL PRODUCERS

SAN ANGELO

**TAKING PART IN THE  
CONSTANT DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE AREA —**

YOUR MEMBER-OWNED

**Concho Valley Electric  
CO-OP, INC.**

**Helping Texas Grow**



# Coke Extension Service Started In 1917; J. Richardson First Agent

On Sept. 11, 1917, the Commissioner's Court of Coke County voted to set aside money, quote from the minutes of that day, "... to supplement the funds of the United States Department of Agriculture and the A & M College of Texas, in paying the salary of the County Agent of the Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work and Extension Service, in Coke County." The money was to become available on Oct. 1 that year. On Oct. 10 of that year, J. S. Richardson became the first full time County Agent. (According to the records of Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough, J. W. Butcher served Coke, Concho and Tom Green counties as part time agent for a short while during 1911.)

Since Mr. Richardson's employment, the work has been continuous except for short times between agents. Sterling Lindsey, present County Agriculture Agent, who began his tenure on Aug. 12, 1957, is the 10th man to hold the position.

Other than the County Agent, during the period from October, 1957, until July, 1959, three Farm Management Associate Agents served Coke County. Also, one Assistant-in-Training Agent served four months in Coke County in 1958.

Appropriations were made by the Commissioner's Court in October of 1944 to employ a County Home Demonstration Agent. Like the County Agriculture work the Home Demonstration work has been continuous since that time. Mrs. Fay Croslin Roe was employed on Oct. 9 of that year, serving until July 15, 1946.

The Agriculture Extension Service has seen many changes since this branch of the Land Grant College System had its inception a little over 50 years ago. The Canning Programs, the Mattress Program, Tomato Clubs, Beef Clubs have given way to their present day counterparts in Youth and Adult Extension work. The 4-H Clubs, Home Demonstration Clubs and Commodity or Interest Groups are names more familiar to our generation.

In days of old, service work constituted the major portion of the Extension Agent's program. Today, working through groups, program building committees, farm and home demonstrations, and individual contacts, Extension Agents serve far greater numbers of people. Technological advancements and the changes in the rural environment have spurred many changes on all fronts.

The "Cow, Sow, Hen" program was started during the depression years. The first exhibits or fairs were begun in the depression years in Coke County as was done in Texas and many other states. Out of the "Live at Home Fairs" where members of the "Cow, Sow, and Hen" programs exhibited their products, grew the County Show that is held annually in Coke.

The Extension Agents of today give educational assistance to groups and individuals in numerous fields related in Agriculture and Home Economics.

**County Agricultural Agents**  
The County Extension Agents serving Coke County these past 50 years are as follows:

- J. C. Richardson—1917 - 18 (served nine months, died in office)
- B. T. Withers—1918-20 (22 mos.)
- Jack Berry—1923 (12 mos.)
- C. H. Clark—1924 (12 mos.)

- B. J. Baskin—1930-33 (3 yrs. 7 mos.)
- E. R. Lawrence—1933-35 (24 mos.)
- H. E. Smith—1935-42 (7 yrs., 4 mos.)
- T. B. Hicks—1943-53 (11 yrs.)
- I. B. Waide—1954-57 (42 mos.)
- Sterling Lindsey—1957-67 (10 yrs.)

**Associate Agents**  
S. L. Mullins—1954-55 (8 mos.)  
Gerald B. Hooten—1955 (6 mos.)  
James L. Coffman—1955-59 (3 yrs., 7 mos.)

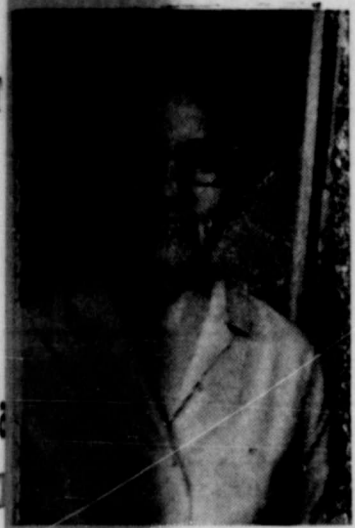
**Assistant-in-Training**  
Roy Sims—1958 (4 mos.)  
**County Home Demonstration Agents**

- Mrs. Fay Croslin Roe—Oct. 9, 1944 to July 15, 1946.
- Mrs. Mary Pearl Bearden Johnson—July 16, 1946 to Aug. 16, 1948.
- Mrs. Vernemma Freeman Barron—Feb. 1, 1949 to July 31, 1950.
- Mrs. Minnie Mae Sharp Wyburn—June 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952.
- Jonell Black—Oct. 15, 1952 to Oct. 1, 1954.
- Mrs. Roe—Oct. 9, 1954 to Aug.

31, 1958.  
Mrs. Carole Hooper Postlewaite—June 5, 1958 to Sept. 30, 1961.  
Mrs. Roe—Nov. 27, 1961—now serving.  
Mrs. Myrtle O. Le May, served as Emergency War Food Agent from March 1, 1944, to July 31, 1944.



Sterling Lindsey



Mrs. Fay C. Roe

There was a typhoid fever epidemic at Hayrick in 1890.

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MONUMENTAL  
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Markers**

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LAN ANGELO

## Fashions

**HAVE CHANGED SINCE  
THIS STORE OPENED IN 1925**

Yes, fashions, like most everything else, have changed since W. J. Cumbie founded this store in 1925. However, there is one thing that hasn't changed during the more than 40 years of our operation ... the same friendly consideration of our customers is just as it was then. They are still our most important asset, and we still feel our biggest obligation is to serve them with courteous service and top quality merchandise.



**Progress Marches On**

And we are mighty happy to be a part of the bright future that faces Robert Lee and the surrounding area. We extend a sincere welcome to all the new people in town to come by and get acquainted with us. We'd like to meet everyone of you and have you see our store.

Home of Robert Lee Reservoir  
Playground of West Texas

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### Famous Brands Sold Here:

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- Sunny Isles
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GLAD TO SERVE YOU  
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**Fran-Cilla Flowers**

MARY MAY WYLIE

453-2451

# Coke County's Golden Jubilee Held At Sanco

(The following story was printed Friday, April 28, 1939.)

The citizens of Coke County—the old time citizens as well as the citizens who have not resided in the county so long joined in a golden jubilee celebration of the county organic existence at Sanco Sunday.

And it was really a most pleasant affair from the beginning of the program until the final benediction was pronounced in the late afternoon.

The setting of the place for the golden jubilee celebration was both historic and romantic for much of the pioneer history of the county, far as the first immigrants are concerned, is associated with Sanco and Yellow Wolf creek which flows hard by this little but beautiful and sequestered village. The tabernacle in which the gathering met is on the banks of the Yellow Wolf, and the little village and its tabernacle nestle in the creek valley, with the bluecapped mountains almost surrounding the town, in the distance.

There were more than 50 of the pioneers - those who were here when the county was organized in 1889. Some of them have now grown old and came into the meeting on their crutches while others were assisted to places in the seat of honor reserved for the pioneers. The morning hours were taken up in religious services and a message from Mrs. E. P. Mead of Abilene who has just returned from Palestine. It is said that her message gripped the hearts of her auditors from the first to the last sentence.

At noon an old-fashioned lunch was spread picnic style and the old pioneers and the many hundreds of others enjoyed a hospitality that was never surpassed, which is the standard always of Coke County people, regarding hospitality.

In the afternoon the Robert Lee quartette supplied most of the music, singing appropriate songs. Each of the pioneers who had seats in the place of honor were called up to speak briefly.

Many humorous incidents of the pioneers days were told, while some were pathetic and provoked tears in the eyes of the great numbers in attendance. Judge McNeil Wylie at the outset of the afternoon program brought greetings in his usual happy style to the pioneers. At the close of his address Judge Wylie asked the audience to join him in a tribute to the memory of the pioneers who have passed on, by closed eyes and perfect silence for a moment.

Judge D. I. Durham, also, in his characteristically happy way, spoke briefly. Judge Durham having been a resident of Coke County for many years before moving away, brought a message of greetings and a eulogy to the hardihood of the pioneers and the present splendid citizenship of Coke County.

Ira M. Bird of Robert Lee, as a young man, brought a wonderfully interesting message on "The Years Ahead." Mr. Bird as a young man, proved himself an orator with a masterful flow of language with which to depict his imagery as he walked a-

cross the years to come and with the paint brush of words painted the picture of "The Years Ahead."

Ulmer Bird, born and reared at Sanco but now editor of the Abilene Times, was master of ceremonies and carried the program of the day right along without a hitch anywhere.

As the sun was fast setting Sunday afternoon, the benediction pronounced, the pioneers and the others of the large gathering, said goodbye and turned their faces toward their homes—all wondering and dreaming as to what the next fifty years of the county will mean.

**A NEW DENOMINATION**



**A NEW REASON TO BUY  
U. S. SAVINGS BONDS**

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# Robert Lee Observer

Vol. 77, No. 46

Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Thursday, May 18, 1967

Section C

## First Robert Lee Schools Began In 1891

By Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough

Robert Lee had two short-term schools in the town's first year. According to the memory of older citizens, one school was taught in the back room of the two-story house (no longer in existence) which was a hotel in Hayrick and was occupied by several different families at different times after it was moved to Robert Lee. The house stood at the corner of Austin Avenue and East 9th Street. It was at different times occupied by the families of John D. Walling, Dr. F. K. Turney, Dr. C. E. Eaton, Dr. J. K. Griffith, and Frank

Percifull.

Mrs. W. H. Wyatt remembers attending a short-term school taught in the back room of that house but she does not recall the teacher's name. That school was taught in the summer months of 1891.

Another school was a short-term subscription school taught by Miss Lucy McCarty in the spring or summer of 1891. That school was taught in a residence that later was known as the Stickney residence. It was located in Block 28, one block west of the present site of Robert Lee Baptist Church.

Equipment for those first schools was extremely meager. According to one student who attended, the seats consisted of planks laid across and held up by boxes. Books were scarce. There were no lunchrooms, and most of the students carried their lunches from home in tin, lard pails.

It is recalled that at one of the schools, the seats would be cleared away or pushed aside, and the pupils and teacher played swing games such as "shoot the Buffalo" or "Skip to-my-Lou" for their physical exercise. It is remembered that the girls would urge the boys to choose the tea-

cher for a partner lest she ring the bell sooner if she did not happen to be chosen.

**First School Building**

Robert Lee folk had high hopes for the town, and they desired educational opportunities for the children. A somewhat pretentious two-story building was soon provided. The building had very high walls. The lower floor consisted of a foyer, a corridor with a long stairway, and two large classrooms. The upstairs floor consisted of a belfry and a room below the belfry (used to store lunch boxes or buckets,) a corridor and two large classrooms. The building was located on what is now the east end of the football field.

At first only three teachers were employed here, but soon all four rooms were occupied by teachers with a roomful of students in each. Before many years, two large classrooms were added on the north with a corridor containing another long stairway between the new and the older parts of the building. Then the faculty grew to six.

Some of the teachers may not have been too well qualified, but it is recalled that some very fine and well-qualified teachers taught here in the early days. Some who were considered excellent teachers were Mr. Ol Gardner, W. T. Savage, Mrs. T. D. Evans, Edgar Lockhart (who later taught many years at the University of Texas and West Texas State Teacher's College at Canyon), W. H. Bodenheimer, who was a very fine Latin teacher and whose wife was a graduate of the Curry School of Speech in Boston, Mass., and was an exceptionally well-qualified speech teacher. Mrs. L. S. Bird was considered an excellent teacher of speech and literature and primary standouts were Mary Russell and Naomi Lee Powell.

The Robert Lee School, as most Texas schools, have been handicapped through most of its years from lack of adequate funds to operate the kind of school its patrons would like to have; however, the quality of equipment and the required qualifications for teachers have steadily improved.

A two-story brick building was constructed in 1923, with a new wing and a gymnasium being added some years later. All of that part of the building is in need of repairs and replacements are being planned. That part of the school plant built in 1955 is in good condition. The quality of instruction is being steadily upgraded.

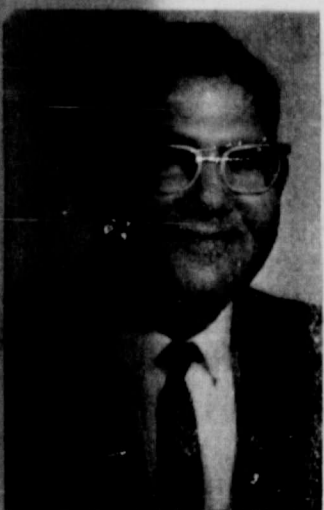
Robert Lee had 360 students in 1965-67. The enrollment at the beginning of the 1966-67 term was 427. Present enrollment is 480, an 33 1/2 percent increase over last year.

Robert Lee Schools now employ 26 certified teachers, including the superintendent and two principals who do part-time teaching, five teacher aides, one librarian, one school secretary, one tax assessor-collector, five

lunchroom cooks and two custodians.

During school months the school operates the biggest transportation system in the county and the biggest food service in the city. Its payroll rivals any payroll in the county, and with the increase in teachers salaries which is anticipated for 1967-68, the school payroll should have an increased impact on the economy of the city and county.

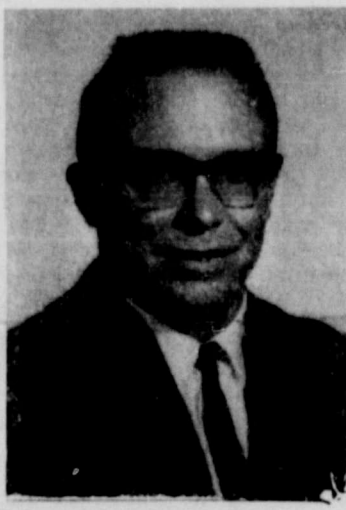
Head teachers who have taught in Robert Lee Schools include: Miss Lucy McCarty (or McCarthy), Sam Hearrell, Frank E. Thomas, S. O. Richardson, John A. Stewart, Ol Gardner, W. T. Savage, T. D. Evans, W. J. McFarland, F. T. St. John, W. L. Bishop, W. H. Bodenheimer, J. L. Hall, L. E. Crutcher, James (Jim) Tunnell, L. E. Crutcher, L. H. Rhodes, C. R. Wofford, L. S. Bird, J. L. Sullivan, L. E. Sumner, Roy Crouch, Wesley Edwards, L. C. Pyle, B. M. Gramling, George L. Taylor, M. G. Hannaford, B. C. Goodwin, Frank Coalson, Hervey Latham, Dorman Thomas and Jimmy Bickley.



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... Superintendent



Garland Davis  
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Robert Jameson  
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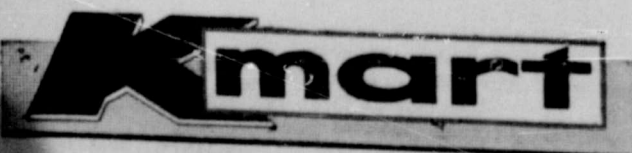
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**Sanco Plans Biggest Homecoming**

The first community established in Coke County west of old Fort Chadbourne will mark the 80th anniversary of its settlement and the 79th for its post office Sunday, June 4, in its annual homecoming.

Coinciding with this week end event, the Historical Survey Committee of Coke County will in the afternoon at 2:30 dedicate an official marker commemorating the establishment of the post office in 1888, the second in Coke County, established before the county was organized, and the oldest still in operation in the county.

With Mrs. Jessie Yarborough chairman, the committee is planning the program to place emphasis on the service rendered by the rural post offices in the settlement and development of the Texas frontier.

The committee, joined by County Judge, W. W. Thetford, has invited Congressman Omar Burleson to take part on this program. Representing the 17th District, of which Coke County is now part, the Congressman now, as in the past, has a very close relationship to the postal service.

Joined by the Sanco Community Association and the postmaster at Sanco, the Post Office Department has been invited to be represented, and all the postmasters of Coke County are being invited as special guests.

The weekend events will include a historical tour of the community area beginning at the community center Saturday afternoon before, at 2:30. Visitors and home folks will meet there to view an exhibit of artifacts that have been found in the community, and largely made here by villagers of the long ago, when stone age craft centered close to the mountains where flint abounds.

Saturday night at 8:30 homecomers and others interested will meet for an informal get together, country style, and further viewing and discussion of the artifacts and their significance.

During the tour the ancient nature of the stone age work will be shown, evidence being that man was here and had a village before the caliche deposits in the area were formed. Fitting in with some other evidences in West Texas, it is believed that man was here when prehistoric animals grazed in the Yellow Wolf Valley.

The morning program will open at 10:45, with songs and brief devotional, recognition of homecomers, announcements, and brief

review of the most recent developments in the area in the way of water and oil.

Ulmer Eird, who as master of ceremonies, has conducted the program for a number of years said in announcing this year's homecoming: "The Sanco people, a few in number, have been bravely working at bridging the gap between the past and the future. Whether the past is going to leave here only a right history before the future arrives remains to be seen."

Theme running through the observance is the part played not only by Sanco, but other rural communities, some of them growing, some of them gone into memory over what in 1888 was an open frontier.

The main speaker for the dedication will be a historian familiar with the pre - settlement story as well as the days of early development here. It will be under the big tabernacle, followed by the unveiling of the marker which stands at the center of the little village.

Noon lunch will be basket dinner style, with meat furnished, spread under the tabernacle after the morning meeting.

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## Robert Lee Baptist Church, Organized In 1904 Now Has Membership Of 460

The Robert Lee Baptist Church was organized July 26, 1904, with 14 charter members, one of whom Miss Ollie Green, is still a member. Two years later the membership numbered 14, and expenditures for the year totaled \$675.00. Today the membership is 460 (332 resident and 128 non-resident), and the current budget is \$22,000. Services began with preaching once a month, progressed in 1922 to half-time, and finally in 1935 advanced to full time preaching which has continued to the present. The church has had 26 pastors, the longest tenure being Fred Blake's five years, the shortest was three months. The church has ordained three ministers and 15 deacons, and has recognized 18 deacons moving into the membership. At present there are 11 deacons.

The first building, at the corner of Chadbourne and West 11th streets, was completed in 1907, and had a concrete porch added in 1927 and Sunday School classrooms partitioned off in 1930. This building was dismantled in 1937 to make way for a new one; the first service was held on Easter Sunday, 1938. The education annex was added in 1949, and the nursery building in 1953 during the oil boom years of peak at-

tendance. Highest Sunday School attendance on record was 286 in April 1955, and the next highest 246 in April, 1954.

Two pastor's homes have been erected through the years, the first in 1927 with the pastor Bro. James Corder, serving as chief carpenter and the present one in 1956.

The Latin - American congregation became a mission of the Robert Lee Baptist Church in November, 1949, and a building was erected the following year, with additional auditorium and educational space being added in 1964. The Mission has had three pastors, Bro. V. C. Cuellar who served from its organization until his retirement in December, 1962, and Bro. Theodore Virgen, served as pastor from December, 1963 to April, 1965. Bro. Charlie Farris, served as interim pastor from April 1965 to August, 1965. Bro. Lorenzo Silvas has been serving as pastor since September, 1965. There are 78 members at present.

From 1904 to 1966 a total of 1569 persons have united with the Robert Lee Baptist Church. From 1904 to 1954, 375 persons were baptized, and in the short period from 1954 to 1967 135 persons were baptized, making a total of 510 baptisms through March, 1967. Last year the average Sunday School attendance was 179 with the highest attendance this year of 223; this does not include Bethel Mission.

The church co-operates in benevolent and mission work with Runnels Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Southern Baptist Convention.

At present the Church is planning an extensive building program. Mrs. Gerald Allen and Mr. Weldon Fikes are chairmen of the building and finance committees, respectively. Rev. Bill Beaty is the pastor of the church.

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## Fran-Cilla Flower Shop Serves Area

Robert Lee's flower shop is operated by Mrs. Mary Mae Wylie, and is known as Fran-Cilla's Flowers. It was named for Mrs. Wylie's two daughters, Frances (Mrs. Mike Lomas of Midland) and Prescilla (Mrs. Terry Frank Bryan of Robert Lee).

Mrs. Wylie handles a complete line of floral arrangements and specializes in flowers for funerals, weddings and special occasions.

She also handles a large number of gift items.

Her husband, T. M. Wylie Jr., is a stock farmer.

Mrs. Wylie bought the flower business in 1955 from Mrs. Estelle Word. She moved to her present location on Main Street in April 1960.

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# Locals Taken From 1899 Rustler

(The following items were taken from the Coke County Rustler, Vol. 9, No. 27, dated Dec. 15, 1899. The editor was H. H. (Hubert) Pearce.)

**Married:** At the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Lowe, near Sanco, Mr. Henry Wyatt of Valley View and Miss Bamma Lowe, on last Sunday. Eld. Gid Graham officiated. This young couple have the good wishes of the Rustler and a numerous circle of friends throughout Coke.

Mr. Wyatt is an energetic and steady young man possessed of all the good qualities to make his bride happy; while the bride has grown from childhood into radiant young womanhood, in our midst, and enjoys the friendship of all her acquaintances.

May Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wyatt live long and always be happy.

Uncle Zack Boozer and wife were in town this week from their home on Boozer Creek. It is always a genuine pleasure to meet Uncle Zack and talk with him.

Robert Hagerton and wife were up to Sanco Sunday to the wedding of Miss Bamma Lowe and Mr. Henry Wyatt. (Mrs. Hagerton was a sister of Miss Lowe

and they lived at Valley View.)

F. M. Prichard, a good citizen from up on the divide was in town Tuesday.

Our friend, C. D. Martin, was down Wednesday and pleasantly remembered the Printer.

J. M. McGary, a handsome gentleman from Ft. Chadbourne, was in town Wednesday.

We learn that Dr. Toliver is just completing a new and nice home in Comanche.

H. D. Pearce of Ballinger made a successful delivery of fruit trees here this week.

Mr. Holiday Hayley was in from Hayrick last Saturday.

Mr. G. C. Lasswell made a business trip to Angelo this week.

Miss Lola Lambert, our charming primary teacher here, attended the teachers' meeting in Angelo.

Miss Ella Padgett and Miss Cofer, interesting young ladies from Silver were in town shopping last Thursday.

Mr. J. L. Durham and son, Mr. Elton, of Sanco, were in town last Saturday.

The "boys" who ate the Thanksgiving turkey were all released last Thursday.

Prof. Gardner and Prof. Savage, two of our reliable teachers, attended the teachers' meeting in Angelo.

Mr. Ed Fletcher and sister of Bronte were shopping in town Saturday.

Prof. J. L. Ross was on our streets Saturday. He is teaching the Valley View School.

Judge H. L. Adams, from above Sanco, was down last Friday and Saturday.

A nice rain fell over our country last Friday and Saturday.

J. V. Sumrall was in town Saturday and while here pleasantly remembered this paper.

Eld. R. M. Cumble was unavoidably absent from his last appointment at Cedar Hill, but will be there on Saturday night before the first Sunday in January, 1900.

Miss Amelia Caraway, one of the teachers of this county was shopping in town last Saturday.

Hon. Sam Saynor has the thanks of the Rustler for furnishing the first data received at this office from which we could give a sketch of one of Coke's many organized churches. Who will be next?

## Mrs. Roberts Runs Beauty Shop Here

Mrs. Artell (Reba) Roberts completed her beauty culture training and opened her beauty shop in November 1963. She recently employed another operator, Mrs. Helen Lovelace, and the two of them feel they can "take care of all our customers."

Mrs. Roberts is the wife of Artell Roberts, a stock farmer here. They have one daughter Kay, who is a junior in high school.

The business was formerly housed in a building belonging to Mrs. Lena Russell and was moved to its present downtown location Nov. 5, 1960.

## McGinley Offer Three Services

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. McGinley operate the Gulf Service Station, service station and automatic laundry located just out of Robert Lee on the Sterling City highway. They bought the business in 1963 from Delmir Walker.

McGinley worked in the oil field in this area before purchasing the business. The couple has four girls and one boy.

## Gordon's Variety Sells Many Items

Gordon McCutchen opened his variety store in Robert Lee in December 1963. Prior to the opening the building where it is located, from Mrs. Lena Russell, and spent some time remodeling, building counters and preparing the place for his business. He is assisted in operating the store by his mother, Mrs. Daisy McCutchen.

Prior to opening the store, McCutchen worked in the Slick Buchanan Barber Shop, Frank Grimes Cafe and for Bruce Clift.

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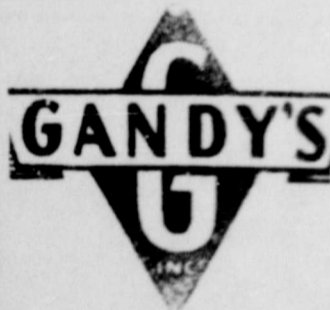
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# Water Plays Big Part In History Of Robert Lee

By Jessie Newton Yarbrough

Water has been the KEY WORD in the story of Robert Lee.

In fact, WATER has been the KEY WORD in the story of Coke County and all West Texas. Just now it is the key word in many parts of the United States—even in the Everglades of Florida.

It was the lack of an adequate water supply at Hayrick, the first county seat of Coke County, that triggered the move of the county government to the Colorado and to Robert Lee. (Of course there may have been a little politics and the financial interests of some individuals mixed with the water issue.)

At any rate, the removal election held on January 6, 1891, brought the county seat to the site on the north bank of the Colorado River that became Robert Lee.

The founding fathers felt that the move would solve the WATER problem for all time. All they would have to do was to "tap the supply in the Colorado,"

they argued.

Since that time, Robert Lee, along with most of the towns and cities of Southwest and West Texas, has learned that the water problem is never completely solved. As new water sources are found or developed, new and increasing demands for water require new and greater developments.

Many years ago, Robert Lee began to realize that the need for more water would one day become critical. Plans were made to provide water for the town, but plans have had to be revised and expanded from time to time. Much progress has been made through the years, but periodic droughts and increasing demands for water have kept the city fathers searching for new supplies.

A seven-year drought caused much anxiety in the 1950's and the early 1960's. Mountain Creek Reservoir was almost dry in late July, 1963, but the optimistic City Commission decided against rationing water. Instead,

they drilled wells and laid additional pipes. Rain fell in August, 1963 (about three days after the pipeline to the wells was completed) and almost filled the lake. Rain in June of 1964 put water over the spillway for the first time since 1957. At that time, a full lake insured a two-year water supply for the city, but with present demands it is doubtful if it would last that long.

Mountain Creek Reservoir is not large comparatively. Its total capacity is only 960 acre feet; however, that is large compared with the first city lake (near the Pecan Mott east of town) which compounded 40 to 60 acre feet. Moreover, Mountain Creek Reservoir is fed by Mountain Creek, which has a drainage area of about 45 square miles, coming out of mountains along the Callahan Divide to the north and northeast.

At present, the continued drought and the extra drain on the lake's supply for mixing concrete for the morning glory spillway at the CRMWD dam site is taxing the lake's water supply and causing the residents and some of the city fathers to scan the skies with a degree of anxiety, but they have hope that the rains will come in time. They always have.

Just now a 40 or 50-year-old dream of Robert Lee folk has promise of becoming a reality in the not-too-distant future. With construction of CRMWD's Robert Lee Reservoir going steadily forward and its completion scheduled for about March, 1969, once more Robert Lee looks forward, and a more adequate water supply appears to be in sight, but experiences of the past teach us that the quest for more and better water supplies may never end.

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**West Coke County  
Hospital Recently  
Expanded in Size**

West Coke County Hospital serves the medical needs of a wide area in the western part of the county. A formal opening of the present facility was held Sept. 11, 1966, following a building program which made it into one of the largest and most complete hospitals in a town the size of Robert Lee.

Forerunner of the present hospital was Coke County Memorial Hospital which was built in 1950. The hospital was operated by the county until the present hospital district was formed. It is made up of commissioner precincts 1 and 3.

Dr. John D. McDaniel has been in Robert Lee since the early days of the original hospital and is still the only physician practicing here.

Plans were started to enlarge the hospital shortly after the district was formed. A bond issue of \$110,000 was voted and a federal grant of \$117,000 was secured to finance the expansion and remodeling program.

Bids were opened April 27, 1965, and ECK Construction Co. of San Angelo submitted a low bid of \$224,270 and was awarded the contract. Chalko and Zentner of San Angelo were architects for the project.

The old part of the structure was completely remodeled into a nursing home and the new part is now in use as the hospital. The new construction consisted of 20 patient rooms, operating room, emergency room, doctors' and nurses' lounge, administrative offices, nursery, labor room, visitors lobby, laboratory facilities and central supply. The kitchen and dining room were enlarged and incorporated in part of the old building.

Today, West Coke County Hospital is completely equipped with the latest laboratory and patient treatment equipment, and stands ready 24 hours every day to administer to the ill of residents of this area.

Members of the hospital board during the period of construction were Fred McCabe Sr., chairman; Gene Baker, J. E. Quisenberry, T. A. Richardson and Cimbie Ivey Sr. Other members who have served more recently include Fagan Parker, Jim Herford, Clifford Wilson and Curtis Walker.

Mrs. Truman Rines is administrator for the hospital, and Mrs. Kenneth Lacey and Mrs. Ivey Eubanks are R.N.'s in charge of nurse supervision.

**Thanks Robert Lee..**

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## Southside Church of Christ Looks For Additional Growth With New Building

As the Church of Christ at 8th and Houston Streets in Robert Lee prepares to move into its new building, a cordial welcome is extended to all to come and meet with us.

No record was kept of the establishment of the congregation, but it seems to have been begun very soon after the town was settled. After meeting for a number of years in many places, primarily the court house, a building was erected on the northwest corner of the intersection of the proposed 8 and Houston streets. This building served until 1928, when it was blown away along with most of the other churches in Robert Lee. Then once more the church met in the courthouse until a new building could be erected on the original site. Membership dwindled during the de-

pression days of the '30's as people moved away from Robert Lee in search of work, but increased during the '40's to the point that expansion was needed. First an educational wing was added, then internal changes were made to increase the auditorium seating capacity; but these changes were not enough for the growing church. Much larger facilities were needed. These are now being provided by the purchase of the Silver Methodist Church. This building has been moved to the lots across the street from the old location, and is being readied for occupancy.

As the buildings which housed the church have changed, so have the people who have composed it and the preachers who have taught them. Some of the families making up the early congregation

were the M. Stroud, George and Willis McCraw, Harvey Wallace, John Warren, and N. C. Brown families. By the 1920's only the Browns and Warrens remained, but they had been joined by the Silas Conner, Ed Gray, Mattie Daniel, W. B. Shropshire, and Carl Kerley families. Population shifts during the depression, along with other influences took its toll of members again, but new ones were also being added. It was at this time that the T. A. Richardsons and the Hoods moved to town.

Since the 1940's, there has been a slow but steady growth in membership. None of the old timers are around, and only a handful of their children and grandchildren.

Only for a brief time has the church had a full time minister. During the early days, men of the congregation more or less took turns leading the worship service with scripture reading

Robert Lee Observer, May 18, 1967

Page 7C

and comments. During the summers protracted meetings were held, usually under a brush arbor—the pioneer's answer to air conditioning. For about two weeks at a time services were held twice a day and three times on Sunday. People came in their buggies or spring wagons from as far away as Silver and Edith to attend these meetings. Some of the most influential preachers in these meetings were C. R. Nichol, A. R. Lawrence, and J. W. Chism, and at a later date Roy Lanier, G. K. Wallace and Ted Norton.

It was during the 1920's that the custom developed of having a preacher from A. C. C. one Sunday a month, with Mr. Brown filling in the other three. This continued until 1942, when the preacher began coming every week. Jack Birch came and stayed full time from 1956 to 19-

58, and then the practice was resumed until Foy Moore came from Bronte, 1960 to 1963. Don Swinney taught at Silver, and preached here from 1963-1966, when Bill Roach came here to preach and to teach.

A few of the preachers who have preached regularly were Roy Lanier, G. K. and Glenn Wallace, Roy and Owen Cosgrove, Idus English, Joe Schubert, and Dave Stewart.

**O. H. (Judge) Campbell**  
LICENSED REAL ESTATE  
BROKER

Your Listings Appreciated

# 75 Years of Progress in Medicine

We salute the pioneers of modern medicine, which was still in its infancy when Robert Lee was born a little more than 75 years ago. Such men as Joseph Lister, father of antiseptics; Robert Koch, discoverer of the tubercle bacillus; and Louis Pasteur, pioneer in bacteriology and immunology, were alive and actively engaged in their work at that time. Their beginnings in conquering disease have been carried on and improved by countless thousands of doctors and scientists, even the pioneer doctors who have served our area down through the years.

## West Coke County Hospital is continuing the conquest

By providing the best in medical care for residents of this area, West Coke Hospital is continuing this great effort to provide care and comfort for the ill and injured. It is the aim of this institution to make full use of new techniques and better drugs to help you live a longer, happier and healthier life.

### West Coke County Hospital District

#### Directors

Fred McCabe  
J. E. Quisenberry  
Jim Herford  
Curtis Walker  
Clifford Wilson

#### Supervisory Personnel

Mrs. Nell Hines  
Mrs. Kay Lackey  
Mrs. Lavelta Eubanks  
Dr. John D. McDaniel

## Writer Remembers Northside Church Since Tornado Demolished Building

By Mrs. D. P. Key

(The following history was written by Mrs. D. P. Key, long time member of the Northside Church of Christ. Even though Mrs. Key does not know the date the church was established, the story contains a great deal of interesting information and we thank her for writing it.)

The writer doesn't remember what is now known as the Northside Church of Christ until the former building was demolished by a tornado some forty years

ago. Among those representing the membership of the congregation at that time were members of the families of George McCraw, J. H. Hurley, M. Stroud, Harve Wallace, Tom Pate, G. E. Davis, Harvey Lowrance, D. P. Key, Mrs. Emma Gunnels, Mrs. Elbert Higgins and Mrs. Mabel Williams. These families included some married children who were also members of the church.

The work was carried on in its earlier stages through monthly

appointments of visiting preachers with the leadership of the church doing much of the teaching. In recent years ministers have been engaged to live here and work regularly with the congregation. The leaders still have an active part in teaching and in overseeing the work.

Some of the leaders from the past until the present were George McCraw, M. Stroud, Tom Pate, Evans Gunnels, Calvin Wallace, Bill Wallace, Ernest Lowrance, J. C. Wallace, Royce Wallace, Ernest Jones and Nelan Bahlman. Others assisted these in various parts of the services.

Among many ministers who have preached for this congregation during this time have been Alva Johnson, Charles Watkins, Walker Allen, Sidney Smith, Frank Copeland, R. T. Williamson, G. B. Shelburne, Claude Lawrence, Bert Wells, Buster Mullin, Bill Gipson, Oren Holland, Billy Joe Leach, E. Shelburne, Wayne Wallace, Gene Shelburne, George Gray, Gaylon Wright, Delbert Smith, Douglas Wilks and Leo Copeland.

One project of this church has been to use young preachers, starting their work, by assisting them financially and through experience to become better workers in God's service. The preachers who have trained here with further training are, nearly all, now actively engaged in preaching for much larger congregations. One has been in Africa as a missionary for several years where he carries on a very busy program of teaching and training.

Our attendance has varied with the years. As in all congregations there are those who attend irregularly, loved members who have passed on and still others who have moved away.

A goodly number of visitors come our way. Always there are those who are working to accomplish the mission of the church and reach out and lead others to Christ.

### Joneses Serve Both Men And Women

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jones bought out one of Robert Lee's older business men in October 1962 when they purchased the barber shop of J. C. Snead Jr., who had been a barber here for 42 years. He had operated the shop they bought for more than 20 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones moved here from Abilene, and they remodeled the shop, adding the beauty shop which Mrs. Jones operates.

The Joneses have two married sons, Jimmy of Winters, and Alton of Big Lake.

Before establishing the present barber shop Snead started working for Riley Denman and then worked for J. N. Buchanan before starting his own shop.

### Trimbles' Place Offers Recreation

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Trimble opened the Robert Lee Recreation Center in December 1963, the first business of its kind in Robert Lee. The center has pool and snooker tables, as well as dominoes and game machines. Drink and candy machines are also ready to dispense refreshments, and a TV has been installed for the enjoyment of customers.

Mrs. Trimble is tax assessor-collector for the Robert Lee Independent School District, which takes most of her time. Trimble formerly worked in the oil fields before he was seriously injured in an auto accident several years ago.

The couple has one son, James Coleman of Odessa.

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## AT THE LAKE'S FRONT DOOR

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Grocery, Laundry & Gulf Station

We believe that Robert Lee is now entering the most important period of its illustrious history of over three-fourths of a century. As we pay tribute to those pioneers who first settled our great area, let us remember that the future belongs to those who take advantage of the opportunities at hand.

We Have Great Faith  
In The Future Of The

# Robert Lee AREA

"Playground of West Texas"

Mr. & Mrs. J. O. McGinley

## modern, economical STEEL BUILDINGS FOR EVERY NEED



SAVE TIME,  
MONEY,  
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## ROGERS MACHINE COMPANY

113 E. Concho

### Hood's Upholstery Serves Wide Area

Hood's Upholstery was started in 1961 as a small home business by Mrs. Keith Hood. In March of last year, she rented her present building from Robert Vaughan and moved the business to downtown Robert Lee.

The firm does all kinds of furniture upholstery work, as well as making seat covers for cars and pickups.

Keith Hood, who is a bulldozer operator for J. D. Harmon, helps his wife with the business in the evening and on weekends. They have one son, James, an eighth grader. Quite a lot of their business comes from surrounding towns, Mrs. Hood said.

### McDorman Sells Premier Products

Lesley McDorman offers a complete automotive service at his Premier Service Station located at the Y in Robert Lee. He was a stock farmer before he went into the station business March 1, 1961.

McDorman does washing and greasing and handles a line of automotive accessories, along with Premier petroleum products. Homer Carville is employed at the station.

The McDormans have three married children; Cleo McDorman of Olympia, Wash., Mrs. Geraldine Wagley of El Segundo, Calif., and Mrs. Brenda Sue Mayfield of San Angelo.

### Pauline's Beauty Shop Offers Complete Service

Mrs. Robert Vaughan is the owner of Pauline's Beauty Shop, having purchased it in June 1966 from Mrs. Terry Frank Bryan. She remodeled the business and added more room.

Pauline's has three operators, Mrs. Mike (Mona) Casey, Mrs. Royce (Frankie) Hood, and Mrs. Vaughan.

Mrs. Vaughan's husband is Robert Vaughan, Chevrolet dealer and mayor of Robert Lee. The couple has four daughters, two of whom are married and two who are students in Robert Lee School.

### Ross Station Conoco Dealer In Robert Lee

Joe Ross and his father, Roy P. Ross went into the service station business in March 1958 when they bought Conoco station at the Y from Howard Varnadore. Joe bought his father's interest last year and is now the sole owner of the station.

Gerald Allen owns the building which houses the business, having built it in 1948 and leased to Clell and Morris Varnadore, who sold out to Howard and Ernest Varnadore. Ernest ran the tourist court and cafe where Zettler's is now, and Howard ran the station until he sold out to the Rosses. The tourist court was torn down in 1966.

Joe Ross is assisted by a nephew, Ross Adkins, in operating his station. He offers complete automotive service, including Conoco petroleum products. Mr. and Mrs. Ross have four children.

### Ivey Serves Area With Ford Autos

Ivey Motor Co. is one of Robert Lee's oldest business firms, having been established in its present location in 1914 as the county's first Ford dealer. It has been owned by Cumbie Ivey Sr. and Cumbie Ivey Jr. since 1944, when they brought it from J. S. Craddock.

The local agency is authorized dealer for Coke County for Ford and Mercury autos and Ford trucks.

In addition to their sales department, the firm operates a modern repair and body shop in their building, which was completely remodeled and enlarged in 1964.

One of Robert Lee's most imposing business structures, the local Ford agency has a show room which measures 68 by 45 feet.

Both the Ivey families live in Robert Lee. However, management of the business has been turned over to Cumbie Ivey Jr., since Cumbie Ivey Sr. is now spending most of his time looking after his ranching interests.

The Iveys Jr. have one daughter, Patti Lynn, a student in Robert Lee school.

### Ditmores Own Butane Sales Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Ditmore have owned Butane Sales Co. since Jan. 1, 1967, when they purchased it from Vaughan Davis and Wesley Kinsey. They also own Ditmore LP Gas of Bronte.

Forerunners of this business are one of Robert Lee's older firms. Davis and Kinsey bought it from Jack D. Ivey who had purchased it three days before from Robert Hugh Sims. Sims bought the business from Arnold F. Ball, who purchased it in the late 1940's from Otis Smith, the founder.

They offer a complete LP gas service to both city and rural customers.

### Duncan Trailer Park Ready For Mobile Homes

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Duncan bought 36 acres of land from Mrs. Willie Yarbrough of Abilene in the fall of 1966 for use in building their trailer park. They presently have 26 acres in the park and are prepared to enlarge it if the need arises from the growth of Robert Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. Yarbrough moved their home here from Silver. They have two children, Marcia and Bubba. He is employed by Sun Oil Co. besides operating the trailer park.

## WE'RE PROUD OF ROBERT LEE --

Proud To Be A Part Of This Community  
Proud To Serve Its Citizens — New And Old

Yes, it's really great to be a part of this fine community. We are proud of the glorious history written across the pages of time by the hardy pioneers who came before us; but we don't propose to rest on the laurels of these early settlers. We are looking forward to a great future and an opportunity to serve you.

Come By Our Station For



PRODUCTS

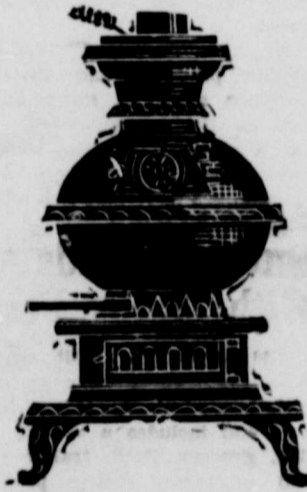
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CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

YOU CAN BEAT THIS

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# Butane



The days of the pot bellied stove over and aren't you glad? They went with kerosene cook stoves and tea kettles, when butane became available to everyone—in city and country—to heat homes and businesses, to cook our meals and to heat water. BUTANE is not only available to everyone, it's the cheapest fuel available for heating, cooling, and supplying power to your tractors and trucks. See us today if you are not taking full advantage of this inexpensive fuel.

THE FUTURE OF

## Robert Lee

"Playground Of West Texas"

Looks Mighty Bright To Us

We Eagerly Look Forward To It

# Butane Sales Co.

Grace and Doug Ditmore

Our Hair - Do's  
Are Styled To Fit  
The Personalities  
Of All Ladies Who Live

IN

## Robert Lee

"Playground of West Texas"

A growing, progressive city deserves the best, and we are proud to do our part by providing smart, up-to-date hair styling for the ladies of the Robert Lee area.

Pauline's Beauty Shop

MRS. ROBERT VAUGHAN

Phone 452-5111

### Adams Abstract An Oldtimer Here

E. E. Adams started his career in the abstract business over 40 years ago. In 1926, and he has been in business for himself almost 40 years since 1926.

Information learned by The De-

### Baker's Grocery Here Many Years

Bobby and Ronnie Baker took over the management of Baker Grocery & Market at the beginning of this year from the father, Gene Baker, who established the business at its present location in 1947.

The present operators grew up in the grocery business, since their father had been in it almost 39 years when he retired this year.

The store is located on the corner of Highways 158 and 208 and Robert Lee's main street. Featuring a complete line of all kinds of groceries, the Bakers have a large market department, frozen food displays and fresh food containers.

Bobby and his wife have three daughters and Ronnie and his wife have a son and a daughter.

Gene still helps out in the store on busy days.

INVITATIONS • STATIONERY

# Social PRINTING

Robert Lee Observer

serve reveal that three abstract companies were in business here in the early 1920s: F. W. Barnett, Merchant & Kemp, and D. I. Durman.

Shortly after Adams went into business he consolidated his firm with two others, operated by men named Walton and Gardner. He bought out Gardner's interest in 1943 and Walton's in 1945.

Adams Abstract Co. in Robert Lee was operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Ferrell from 1950, until 1960, when Mr. Ferrell died.

Adams went into business in Bullinger in 1950, and his son Stanley, now operates that plant. He also owned a company in San Angelo, from 1964 until 1966 when he sold out.

Mrs. Adams is also active in the operation of the business.

### Bahlman Cleaners Has 11 Years Under Owner

Nelan Bahlman recently celebrated his 11th anniversary as owner of Bahlman Cleaners in Robert Lee. He purchased the cleaning and pressing service Melvin, who had previously bought it from Dee Ballow of Winters.

Mrs. P. E. Mahon operates the business for Bahlman, as he and his family live in Winters where they have another cleaning business. Mrs. Mahon has worked for the firm since 1947.

Bahlman's offers a complete cleaning and pressing service to their customers in this area.

### Froggy's Began Years Ago As Short Order Place

Froggy's is one of Robert Lee's most popular eating places and has had to be enlarged twice since its establishment in the early 1960s. The business is operated by Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Davis.

Froggy's was started by Garland Davis, present high school principal here, when he was attending Robert Lee High School and his father, E. C. Davis. They specialized mainly in hamburgers and other short orders, but the business has grown until today the menu features many entrees on dinners, as well as steaks and short orders.

Davis has three sons, Garland Davis and Vaughan Davis of Robert Lee and "Butch" Davis of San Angelo. Mrs. Davis also has two school age boys.

### Mrs. Johnson Sells Phillips Products

Mrs. Addie Johnson is a fairly new resident of the Robert Lee business community, having come here Aug. 8, 1966, when she bought her grocery and station business from Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Flanagan.

The building which houses it is owned by Mrs. A. J. Kirkpatrick, and has been the site of a similar business for many years. J. D. and Drexel Black operated it during the 40's and sold to the Melvin Kralls; Calvin Wallace bought them out and operated there until he moved to main street.

Mrs. Johnson sells Phillips petroleum products and keeps a complete stock of groceries, as well as fishing equipment. She has a married son who lives in Winters and two younger children who are in Robert Lee school.

### Davis Expands With Trailer Park

Mr. Davis has built up his business to cover quite an area. It is located on the Bronte highway and includes a service station, grocery store, trailer park and wholesale Candy products distribution.

Davis bought the store in April 1964 from Mr. and Mrs. Hadley Richards who had operated it three years. They bought out the late Ben McDonald, who had it for 21 years. The building was set up in 1943 by Willard Meek.

Davis enlarged his grocery department in December 1965 and added the trailer space in October 1966. He has a large number of trailers setting space from 1966.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis operate the business with Mrs. Lee Richards helping out here. They have two school age children.

## RIGHT on the high RIGHT on our prices

### Always Ready To Serve You

FRESH STOCK GROCERIES  
FISHING EQUIPMENT  
PHILLIPS "66" PRODUCTS

It is always our aim to provide prompt, courteous service and top quality merchandise for our customers. We're always pleased to see you and invite you to come and get acquainted if you are new here.

## ADDIE'S GROCERY & STATION

ON SAN ANGELO HWY

## The Specialty Shop

Lela Rae McAdams

We established The Specialty Shop a few months ago to meet the needs of residents in this area. We specialize in all types of handicraft, both home and foreign imports. We invite you to display with us.

### We're Great Believers in the Future of ROBERT LEE "Playground of West Texas"

We're most enthusiastic about the bright future we see for Robert Lee, and we're happy to be a part of this thriving community.

## ROBERT LEE "Playground of West Texas"

Robert Lee is definitely on the move and we are proud to operate a business in this growing little city. We are looking forward to continued growth, as the dam is being built and on its completion.

### And We Are Also Proud To Serve ALL YOUR DRY CLEANING NEEDS

WE ALWAYS HAVE DONE OUR UTMOST TO SERVE YOU WITH FIRST QUALITY DRY CLEANING PROMPTLY AND EFFICIENTLY. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE YOU IN THIS MANNER.

## Bahlman Cleaners



## GOOD FOOD

is our only claim to fame... but we are proud of this and have been for the many years

### There Has Been A Froggy's

WE CORDIALLY INVITE ALL THE RESIDENTS OF ROBERT LEE—NEW AND OLD—TO DINE WITH US OFTEN. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.

MR. & MRS. E. C. DAVIS & SONS

## Duncan's Trailer Park

IT'S ALL BRAND NEW  
ALL CONVENIENCES PROVIDED

NEW AND USED MOBILE HOMES

Trailer Parks

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Mr. & Mrs. William Duncan, Owners

### Robert Vaughan Chevrolet Dealer

Robert Vaughan, who owns and operates the Chevrolet agency in Robert Lee, manages to work full time in his own business and also full time for the City of Robert Lee as its mayor. Vaughan and his family moved here in 1933 from Eastland. He bought the Chevrolet agency from Harvey. Harvey had owned since 1948. The agency was established in 1925 by W. K. Simpson Co. and operated it until 1944 when it was sold to Turney Casey, who worked for the firm since 1935. Casey and Ford Hallmark entered into partnership in the business in 1944, handling Chev-

rolets and International Harvester implements.

In 1946, Mike and Turney Casey bought out Hallmark's interest, and operated the business until 1948 when they sold to Harvey.

Vaughan operates both sales and service departments, and does all kinds of automotive repair work.

Vaughan's wife operates a beauty shop in Robert Lee and the couple has four daughters, two of whom are married and two who are students in Robert Lee schools.

### Westway Grocery Newest Here

Westway Grocery is one of Robert Lee's newest firms, even though it is operated by an old-timer in the city. Vaughan Davis operated a grocery store in Silver for some 13 years before he built and began Westway.

He and Mrs. Davis opened their store in Silver in July 1953 in the R. S. Anderson building and continued in business there until April 1966. At that time they opened their new store at 10th and Bishop, featuring a large line of fancy and staple items, along with complete market and frozen food departments.

Davis is active in civic work, being a member of the BCD and Lions Club. He is also a member of the city council and a director of Robert Lee State Bank.

Mrs. Ruby Farris and Mrs. Ruby Robertson assist the Davises in the operation of their business, along with part time help from David Roe, Danny Smith and Skipper Davis, all school boys.

### Coke County Butane Serves All Of Area

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fields have been owners of Coke County Butane since May 1961, when they bought it from Frank Wojtek, who had owned it only a short time. Wojtek purchased the business from Howard Clifton Preslar.

Preslar had been in business for himself since 1957, but had been associated with Fraley and Ward in the butane business since 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Fields offer LP gas service over this entire area, and deliver anywhere they are needed.


The Fields have two sons, James and Tooter, who are students in Robert Lee school.

### Olene Sims Longtime Beauty Operator Here

Mrs. Olene Sims has been helping women of this area with their beauty needs since June 1946 when she secured her beauty license and went to work for Mrs. Willie McDaniel.

She bought out the shop in June 1947 and operated in the building now occupied by Reba's Beauty Shop until September 1960 when she added space for the shop to her home.

Her husband, Charles Sims, is a stock farmer. Two married sons are Ronnie of San Angelo and Richard of Houston.



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Since  
**ROBERT LEE**  
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Yes, the old hand pump has gone with kerosene lamps and wood stoves. One of the products which has done so much to modernize living in rural areas is —

**LP GAS**

And we are happy to supply you with this modern day fuel which puts so many up-to-date conveniences at your fingertips. Call us next time you need gas or gas appliances.

**COKE COUNTY BUTANE**  
Bob Fields


### Way Denman Sells Enco Products

Way Denman is Enco products dealer in Robert Lee and operates modern station on the main highway through town. He has Enco or Humble products, along with washing and greasing service and other merchandise needed by motorists.

His station was built by the late T. W. Farris, who leased it to Humble, who sold it to J. F. McCabe in 1954. McCabe equipped the station and operated it for 10 years before selling to Denman in January 1964.

Denman's wife, Melba, is employed by Vaughan Chevrolet Co. They have one son, Mike, who is a sophomore in Robert Lee High School. Denman worked in the fields at Spearman before being seriously injured in an accident.

Freeman Clark is also employed at the station, along with part time employees, Mike Denman, Gary Parker and Glenn Sch.



**Congratulations**  
to growing, going  
**Robert Lee**  
and  
**Coke County**

Congratulations to the fine citizens of Coke County on the wonderful progress which is being made in your area. Robert Lee and Coke County have come a long way since the county was organized in 1889 and the city was born in 1891, and WTU with Reddy Killowatt lights up with pride as he looks back on their participation since 1926 in Coke County's growth and development. Reddy looks forward to the pages yet to be written in this area's history.

In Coke County or any place, electricity is a good bargain. In fact, residential customers serviced by WTU paid 17 per cent less per average KWH in 1963 than in 1953.

Electricity Costs  
So Little  
You Can Use  
Lots Of It

**West Texas Utilities Company**  
an investor owned company

1891 1967

OVER

# 75 Years

OF PROGRESS

FOR

# Robert Lee

"Playground of West Texas"

And We Try Constantly To Keep Up

With The Times By Providing You With

## Modern Insurance Service

Even in 1967, we're just a little bit old fashioned ourselves. For instance, we firmly believe in and practice the old-time virtue of giving a full dollar's worth of insurance protection for every dollar paid into us in premiums. On the other hand, you'll find the service we offer just as up to date as the latest space ship.

## Allen Insurance Agency

GERALD C. & WM. H. ALLEN

# RL Methodist Erected First Church Building

By Jessie N. Yarbrough

Robert Lee Methodists erected the first building dedicated as a place of Divine Worship in Robert Lee and Coke County.

The building referred to in the earliest official church records as the "Methodist Mission" was a small frame building, rectangular in shape with a large bell hung in a belfry over the entrance. The bell was rung to announce services and was tolled during funeral processions.

The unpretentious building was on the site now occupied by First Methodist Church of Robert Lee. Furnishings consisted of sturdy home-made pews, a reed pump organ and a home-made pulpit.

There had been a Methodist congregation at Hayrick from the time Coke County was organized and maybe before, but there was not a church building there at that time, services being held in private homes, the schoolhouse and courthouse at Hayrick.

According to the late Mr. Joe Field, his father, the Rev. G. C. Field (Green Cotton Field), who was a "local" Methodist minister, had served the congregation at Hayrick. He "moved with the town" and continued his services to the church until annual conference which met in November, 1891. Records at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas first mention the Robert Lee Mission in 1891. Pastoral assignments for the Brownwood district of the West Texas Conference, 1891 listed "Robert Lee Mission—D. C. Stark." The Rev. J. P.

Mussett was Presiding Elder of the Brownwood District.

About 1906-07 a larger building was erected on the same lots but facing west. The mission building was moved back and utilized for the primary department. The larger building was in use until April 12, 1927, when it was wrecked by a storm. The same storm destroyed or heavily damaged three other churches in Robert Lee: the Baptist Church and both Churches of Christ.

In a special Quarterly Conference April 28, 1927, with the Rev. A. D. Porter, Presiding Elder, a building committee was appointed. Members were J. S. Craddock, Paul Brown, W. B. Cobb, W. B. Clift and Marvin B. Simpson. Plans for a new church building were drawn up and construction of the present brick building now in use was completed in 1928.

The first Methodist Mission building was used by all denominations for about 10 years. It is remembered that the Baptist held their Sunday School in the morning, while the Methodist had their Sunday school in the afternoon. Many children, including this writer, attended both. Many itinerant preachers used the building, as any minister who wanted to preach there was permitted to do so if the church was not in regular use.

For many years the Methodist Church here was the base of a four-point circuit, composed of Bronte, Hayrick, Sanco and Robert Lee. Some of the Circuit's

hard-working pastors preached in schoolhouses at several other points — a few covered the entire county. One early-day minister covered his entire parish on foot.

The story would not be complete without the mention of the Unification of 1939, when the Northern Methodist, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant churches united, after being separated by the Civil War.

Also the mention of a few outstanding services rendered by some of its members through the years should be mentioned.

It was in the First Methodist Church in Robert Lee that Miss Lois Craddock, who became Mrs.

J. J. Perkins, dedicated her life to full-time Christian service.

Every Methodist in Texas knows that the Perkins School of Theology was endowed by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Perkins, and of their devoted attention to the Methodist Home for Children at Waco.

Another outstanding service was rendered by Mrs. R. Cortez Russell, the former Miss Lena Simpson, who served in excess of sixty years as pianist and organist, as a volunteer, and Mrs. Thomas B. Smith, who was never too busy or tired to visit and help care for any who needed her. Time and space forbid the calling attention to the services rendered by many others.

Other pastors since 1901 include J. M. Baker, Frank M. Neal, Clark, H. C. Gordon, J. C. A. Nichols, Frank Hughton, John W. Holt, P. F. Brumbecks Jr., M. L. Crawford, J. A. Turner, B. E. W. Leggett, G. E. Hoggars, G. T. Brown, Vaso Campbell, J. H. Welch, Ray Le Travis B. McNair Salter and William

## PLENTY OF ROOM FOR MORE Mobile Home

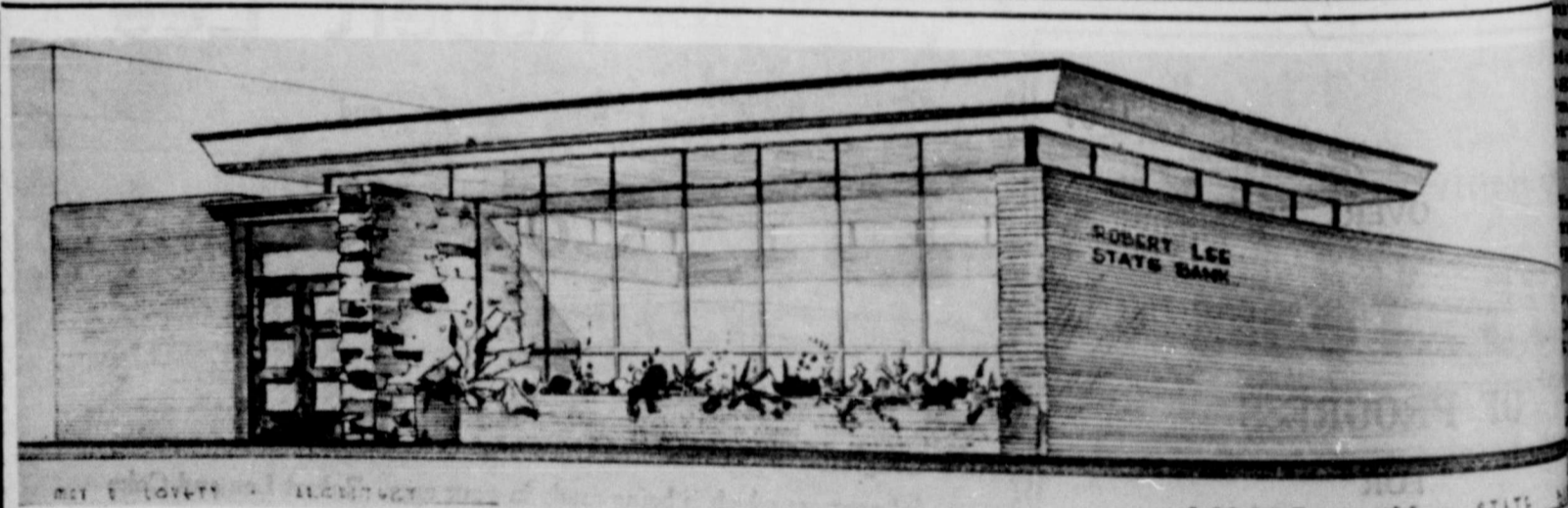
We are certainly pleased with the way our new trailer park has gone over with the many new people in Robert Lee. We still have a number of parking spaces available, and invite you to come and look around our park before you locate your trailer.

We also offer you a complete line of staple and fancy groceries and famous Texaco Petroleum products—all right here next to our trailer park. Makes it most convenient for you.

## Add Davis

### GROCERY, TEXACO SERVICE & TRAILER PARK

On Bronte Hiway



SINCE 1936 THIS BANK and its forerunners have been an integral part of

# Robert Lee

As with the early stockholders and officers, it is still the policy of the present management to provide for the financial needs of our community and always be at the service of our customers—YOU!

We have great faith in the future of this area, and can see only a continuation of the wonderful growth which has been ours for the past several years. We appreciate your business and confidence.



Gerald C. Allen

**DIRECTORS:**

- G. C. Allen
- Wm. H. Allen
- Willis W. Smith
- Victor Wojtek
- Cumbie Ivey
- Willie I. Tubb
- Vaughan S. Davis

**OFFICERS:**

- G. C. Allen, President
- Wm. H. Allen, Vice
- Willis W. Smith, Cashier
- Gladys Waldrop, Asst.

# Robert Lee State Bank