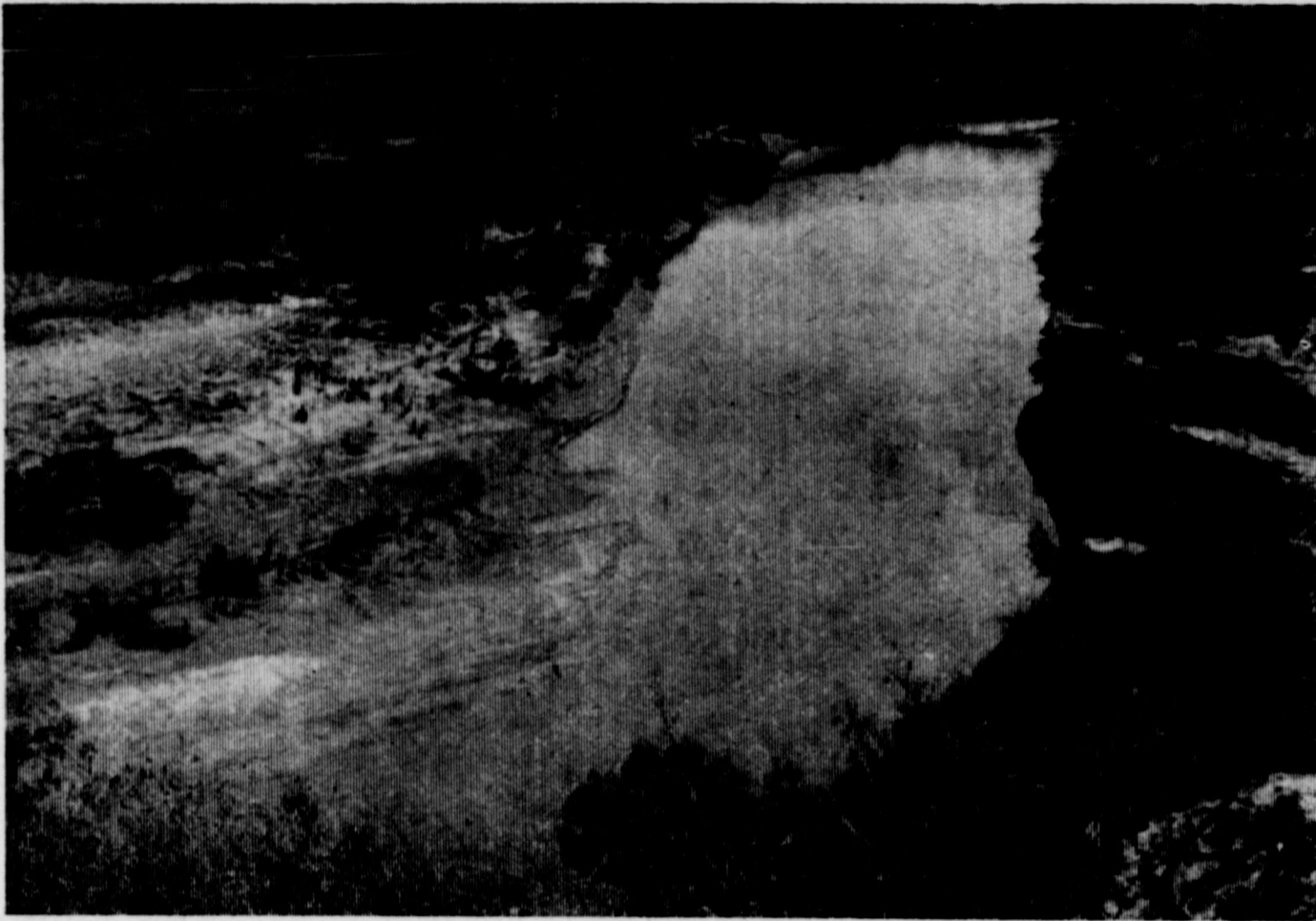


# Robert Lee Observer

## Dam Dedication Saturday



A Last Look at the River Above Robert Lee

### School Tax Valuations Due Raise

Tax valuations in the Robert Lee School District will be raised for 1969, if wishes of the board of trustees are carried through.

This announcement was made this week as a result of the defeat of a proposed tax rate increase last Saturday. The proposal to increase the maintenance tax rate for the school district to \$1.50 per \$100 valuation was voted down by a handful of persons who bothered to get out and vote. The count was 46 for and 57 against.

School officials said that additional money is necessary for the operation of the school at levels now maintained, and the election was called so the maximum \$1.50 tax rate could be used for operation and an additional levy not to exceed 50 cents per \$100 could be levied to take care of bond payments.

Since the proposal was voted down, school officials say that a

30 per cent increase in valuations is necessary to raise the additional money needed. Valuations are now placed at approximately 33 1-3 per cent of market value, and the increase will put them at about 45 per cent.

Notices are being mailed this week to taxpayers announcing the intention to increase the valuations.

A board of equalization headed by Frank Percifull will meet at 10 a.m. on June 25 in the commissioners court room to hear

matters which local taxpayers care to bring before the board. A similar meeting will be held at the same time and place on June 27 to hear from oil and other industrial taxpayers of the district.

School officials had hoped the increase in tax rate would pass, as they considered this method of increasing school revenues more desirable than raising valuations. However, they stated beforehand that a valuation increase would be necessary if the election failed.

Saturday will be a historical day for Robert Lee residents and many other West Texans, as a large crowd is expected for the dedication of the new Robert Lee Dam and E. V. Spence Reservoir. The ceremonies will be held immediately upstream from the north end of the dam.

The dedication speaker will be Representative Omar Burleson, congressman from this district. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. Prior to the program, a barbecue lunch will be served at noon. Tickets have been on sale for the lunch for more than a week at the city hall in Robert Lee. The ticket sale was closed Wednesday afternoon.

In addition to Congressman Burleson, other state and national dignitaries have been invited and are expected to attend.

Robert Lee Dam was built by the Colorado River Municipal Water District, headquartered in Big Spring. The district has contracts to sell water to a number of West Texas cities, including Odessa, Midland, Big Spring, Snyder and Stanton. In the last few months San Angelo also has made arrangements to buy water from the Coke County Lake.

O. H. Ivie, general manager of the CRMWD, said last week that he is looking for a large crowd to attend the luncheon and dedi-

cation ceremonies.

The dam was started in the fall of 1966 after Clement Bros. of Hickory, N. C., were the successful bidders with an offer to build the dam for \$8,686,440. Terry Construction Co. of Greenville, S. C., was a subcontractor and did much of the construction.

The dam is over four miles long and rises to a height of 136 feet above the stream bed. It is 28 feet wide at the crown. The lake's capacity is 488,769 acre feet, which is 159.2 billion gallons. A total of 14,950 acres of land will be inundated when the water is at spillway level, and the lake has a shoreline of 137 miles.



MISS SUZANNE McBURNETT ...on training assignment here

### Rain Falls Here

Biggest measurement reported to the Observer from the rain that fell in this area Monday night was 1.6 inches south of Robert Lee and at Silver. Sanco got almost as much, reporting 1.4 inches.

Robert Lee came up with an even 1 inch, as did the Hayrick and Blackwell areas. The Divide community had .8 inch.

### Special Edition On RL Dam, Lake

This edition of The Robert Lee Observer has been prepared in recognition of the completion and dedication of Robert Lee Dam and E. V. Spence Reservoir. It contains much information about the lake and dam, as well as about the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

We are deeply indebted to Joe Pickle, editor of the Big Spring Herald and secretary of CRMWD, for his generous help in supplying us with pictures and information for stories.

Also, we wish to thank Ulmer Bird, former Observer publisher, who did a great deal of research to write the history of the struggle to secure a dam on the Colorado. His article will be continued in next week's Observer.

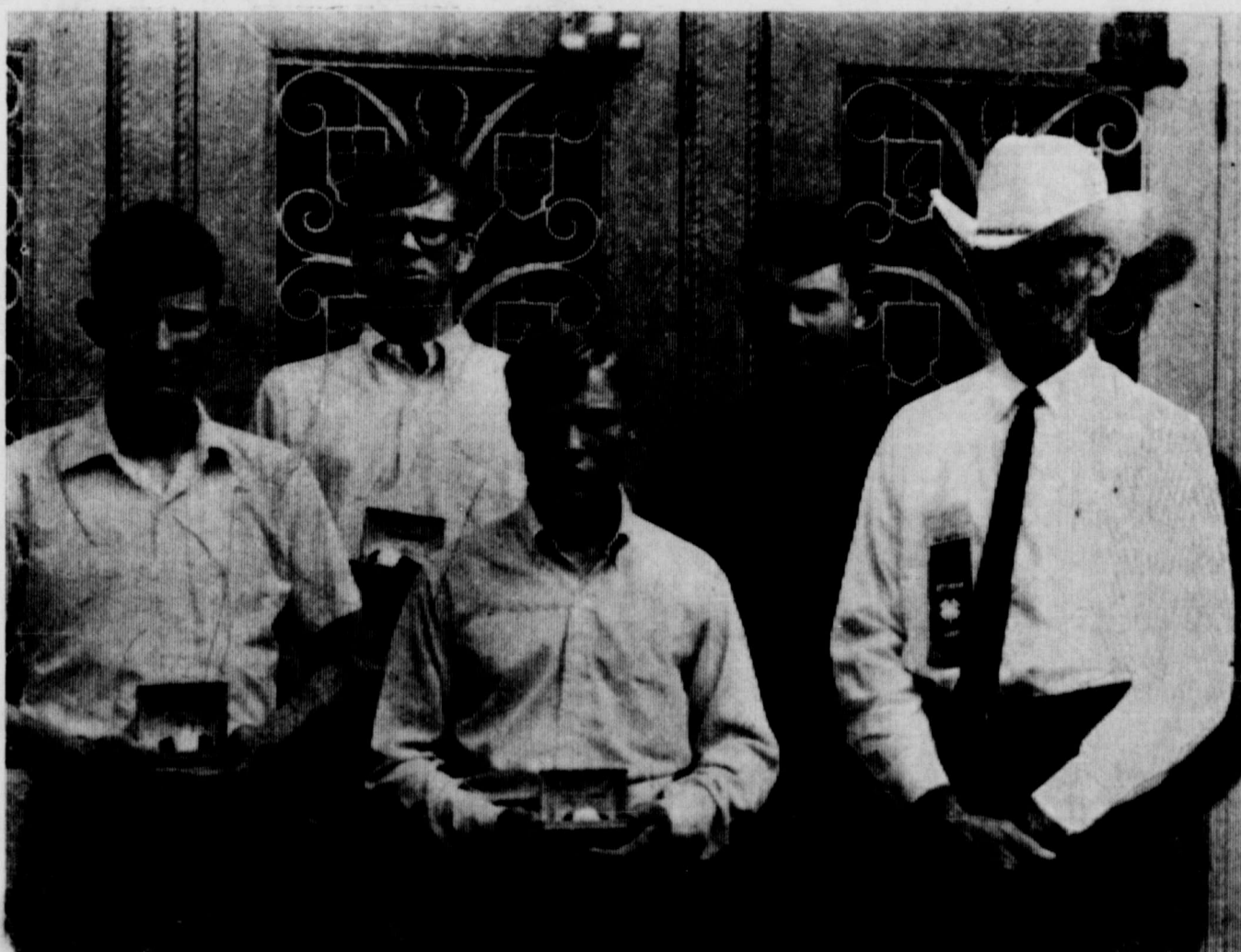
And, of course, we are indebted to our advertisers, without whose support this edition would have been impossible.

### Indians Lose Tilt To S. C. Astros

Robert Lee Indians lost a game Tuesday night to the Sterling City Astros 14-5. The contest was played here.

Four pitchers were used in the effort to slow down the visitors, including Tom Jones, Craig Bessent, Tommy Black and Tim Rowoldt. Bessent and Ricky Mashburn worked behind the plate.

Allen Rowoldt is manager of the Indians.



COKE BOYS WIN — The Coke County Soil Evaluation Team won high team honor at the 1969 State 4-H Roundup held at Texas A&M University June 3-4. Shown left to right are Edwin Lindsey, Lane Beaty, A. J. Roe III, Mark Matlock, and Sterling Lindsey, the coach and Coke County Agricultural Agent. They are all from Robert Lee.

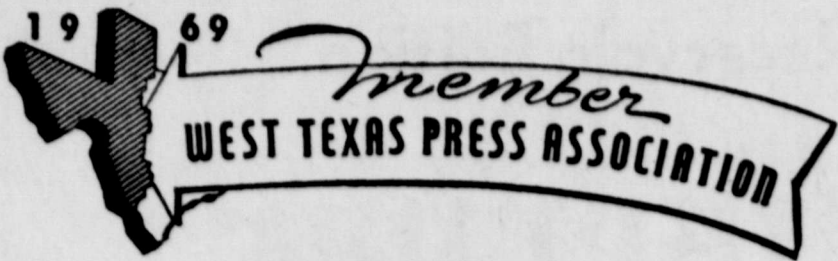
### Soils Team Tops In State Contest

Coke County entries were victorious in the State 4-H Clubs contests held in College Station last week.

The county soil judging team, led by Lane Beaty, was high team in the State contest. Lane was second high individual in the contest. A. J. Roe, III, Edwin Lindsey and Mark Matlock were the other team members.

Wristwatches are awarded the top 12 individuals that have not won a watch previously. A. J. and Edwin joined Lane in receiving one of the twelve watches awarded.

Deone Derrick, a member of the Robert Lee Future Leaders 4-H Club brought home a blue  
Continued on Back Page



**Robert Lee Observer**  
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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One Year in Advance .....	\$4.50
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**Millican Family Has Annual Reunion**

Descendants of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Millican, early settlers in the Edith community, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Young on the Christoval highway. Mrs. Young is the former Ada Mae Burk.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Millican are William M. Millican of Robert Lee, Mrs. Lon (Louisa) Linney of San Angelo, Chris C. Millican of Robert Lee and Mrs. Henry (Rachel) Burk of San An-

gelo. Deceased are Charlie Millican, Pleas W. Millican and Ada Millican Walker.

Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Millican, Beverly and Paul, Odessa; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blake, Houston; Mr. and Mrs. Cloven Walls and Ronnie, Evant; Mrs. Vera Millican Brod-nex, Stephenville; Mr. and Mrs. Duane Conger and Debbie, Zepher; Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Hop-kins and Sandy, Mrs. Lillian Millican Blair, Duane and Becky, all of Sterling City.

Attending from San Angelo were Mr. and Mrs. Allen Young and Burk, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Har-mon, Theresa and Betsy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry (Rachel) Burk, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Danford and Pat-sy, Mrs. La Rue Smith and Gary, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Burk and Mike, Mr. and Mrs. Ronny Reed and Tod, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Burk and Allison, Mr. and Mrs. Jim York, Kim and Matt, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Burk, Jr. and Paige, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Burk and John David, Leon A. Burk, Sr., and Misses Brenda and Mylyna Burk.

Robert Lee residents attending were William M. Millican, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Millican, Mr. and Mrs. Finis Millican and Sue Ann, Mr. and Mrs. Elton Millican, Marshall and Troy, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Walker, Sharon, Rebecca, Audrey and Cindy.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Millican, Jarrel, Sherry, Steven, Tim and Elaine of Water Valley. Visi-tors were Darrel and Short Pit-cock of Sanco and Mrs. Beatrice Seay of San Angelo, who is a cousin of the Millican children.

Patronize Our Advertisers

**BEST WISHES**

To  
**Our Friends**  
in  
**Robert Lee**

We Are Proud of  
Your New Lake

**E. P. Talbott Co.**

Standard Oil Products  
Butane — Propane

Ballinger

*Congratulations*  
to the CRMWD

on completion of

**ROBERT LEE DAM**

This is real progress for West Texas

**MAIN DRUG  
AND  
MAIN RADIO & TV**

Winters, Texas

**LAKE SPENCE PRESENTS  
NEW PIPELINE PROBLEMS**

Solid rock and treacherous sand have plagued pipeliners on the west end of the Colorado River Municipal Water District system. A new problem, that of terrain, has arisen on the east end.

Red Draw, a neck of the new Lake E. V. Spence, has a drop of 112 feet with 450 feet horizontal distance, then rises steeply to top a 41-foot hill, drops suddenly 43 feet, then rises again 103 feet in a distance of 500 feet.

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas

June 12, 1969

**TUESDAY BRIDGE CLUB**

The Tuesday Afternoon Bridge Club met June 3 in the home of Mrs. R. L. Flanagan. Eight mem-bers and four visitors were pre-sent. Mrs. Dale Wojtek won high, Mrs. Fred McCabe Jr., was second high, and Mrs. Sherman Williams won the bingo prize.

The club will meet next in the home of Mrs. Cumbie Ivey, Jr. on June 17.

**BE WISE, INVEST REGULARLY  
IN U. S. SAVINGS BONDS.**

**Insurance & Real Estate**

All types of Insurance: Fire, Casualty, Crop Hail & Life. Town & Rural Property, give us your real estate listings. Phone Blackwell 282-2291 or Bronte 473-3611.

**O. T. Colvin  
Martin N. Lee**

Patronize Our Advertisers

*Congratulations*

**ROBERT LEE DAM**

and

**E. V. SPENCE RESERVOIR**

Are Assets to West Texas

We Are Proud to Congratulate You

**LLOYD BAILEY FORD SALES**

Ballinger

*Congratulations*

to the

**CRMWD**

and our friends of

**COKE COUNTY**

on completion of the

**Robert Lee Dam**

**Mac Oil Field**

**COMPANY**

Winters, Texas



Big Machines Clear Out An Area

**MARY LACKEY GOING TO GIRL SCOUT CAMP**

Mary Lackey is among the Girl Scouts who are preparing to attend the first session at Camp Boothe Oaks near Sweetwater beginning June 22.

During their week at camp the girls will have daily swimming instruction, cook-out on an open fire, hike to Lake Trammel and participate in a wide variety of out door events.

Registrations are now being taken for Session II, June 29 - July 12. For further information, write the girl scout office, P. O. Box 5586, Abilene.

**LINDA HEUVEL RECEIVES DEGREE AT SAN MARCOS**

SAN MARCOS — A Robert Lee student, Linda K. Heuvel, was among the more than 900 candidates for degrees awarded in commencement ceremonies at Southwest Texas State College on May 28.

The January and May graduates receiving diplomas heard an address by Houston attorney Roy Willbern, president of the SWT Ex-Students Association.

Miss Heuvel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Heuvel of Robert Lee, received a bachelor of arts degree.

# Congratulations

Robert Lee

AND

CRMWD

The New

**ROBERT LEE DAM**

Is a Fine Asset for Our Area

BEST WISHES FROM

**DRY Manufacturing Company**

Winters, Texas

## It's New - at our Store

we now display complete — Hartz Mountain pet supplies.

### Gandy's Ice Cream

5 Qt. Bucket

**\$1.69**

GANDY'S FROZAN - - 1/2 Gal. Crt. 39c

MORTON'S TV DINNERS - - - Each 39c

Wholesun Frozen Lemonade, 6 Oz. Can - 2 for 25c

DELMONTE

Pink Pineapple - Grapefruit Drink, 46 Oz. - 3 for 89c

### Folger's Coffee lb. can 69c

Delmonte Garden Peas, 303 Size Can - 4 for 99c

Delmonte Cut Green Beans, 303 Size Can - 4 for 89c

Delmonte Golden Corn, 303 Size Can - 4 for 89c

Delmonte Chunk Tuna, Flat Can - - 3 for 89c

10 Lb. Bag

### Gladiola Flour 98c

12c OFF LABEL

SILK TOILET TISSUE - 4 Roll Pkg. 35c

REYNOLDS WRAP (Heavy Duty) - 25'x18" Roll 55c

SCOTTOWELS - - - - Large Roll 33c

Pint Size

### Coca Cola 8 bot. ctn. 79c

+ Deposit

DR. PEPPER - 6 Bot. Crt. Pint Size 59c

+ Deposit

FRESH CORN - - - - - Per Ear 5c

RUSSET SPUDS - - - - 10 Lb. Bag 49c

CARROTS - - - - - 1 Lb. Bag 10c

Bama

18 Oz. Glass

### Red Plum Jam 3 for \$1.00

TASTY CHEESE FOOD - 2 Lb. Box 73c

FRESH PORK CHOPS - - - Lb. 69c

HORMEL BACON - - 2 Lb. Pkg. \$1.39

LOIN END PORK ROAST - - - - Lb. 65c

Prices Effective June 12th, 13th & 14th



# West Way Grocery



10TH & BISHOP

PHONE 453-5151

## Education Improvement Bill Passed

Seven out of eight bills to improve Texas schools were passed in the recent session of the Texas Legislature, President Garland Davis told members of the BCD at its Tuesday meeting. Davis said the new laws should be instrumental in improving Texas' standing in the educational program of the nation.

Supt. Jimmy Bickley gave a short report on the defeated proposal to raise the school maintenance tax rate to \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. The measure was defeated by 11 votes, 57-46. More information on this matter is in another story in this week's paper.

Bickley also reported on the construction program at the school. He said the work is coming along fine and that construction of the new cafeteria and ag. shop is almost completed. Class rooms have a long way to go, he added, and school officials hope that two or more will be completed by the opening of the 1969-70 school term.

G. C. Allen asked permission of the civic group to bring a program in the near future on the Texas Water Plan which will be voted on in a constitutional amendment election Aug. 5.

The amendment would provide a \$3.5 billion bond issue to provide water for Texas. Eventually the plan calls for spending \$10 billion to achieve its purpose.

Allen attended a governor's meeting in Austin Monday, which was held to back the amendment. Attending the meeting were former Governors John Connally and Price Daniel, along with Gov. Preston Smith. They all agreed on support of the plan.

The water plan amendment is No. 2 on the ballot to be voted on Aug. 5.

Mayor Wilson Bryan announced construction will start soon on a new lakeside home near the Lakeside Estates, south of Lake Spence.

Twelve members were present for the meeting.

## PERSONALS

Juanice Jameson of Eastland was home on business two days this week. She is cashier in an Eastland restaurant.

Mr. and Mrs. Royce Wallace and children are vacationing in Arizona this week. They are also visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Copeland near Phoenix.

Martha Kinsey and her cousin, Belinda Zoet of ACC in Abilene spent the weekend here in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Kinsey.



**FOUGHT FOR WATER**—The late Robert Knierim of Bronte was one of the earliest promoters of a dam across the Colorado River in Coke County. Mr. Knierim was another Coke Countian who spent a great deal of time and money out of his pocket in his work to bring water to this area.

## Comanche Service For B. F. Beaty, 80

Funeral services were held in Comanche last Saturday at 2 p.m. for B. F. Beaty, 80, who died at 10:15 p.m. Thursday in a nursing home there. The Rev. Allen Owens and the Rev. S. J. Isham officiated. Burial was in Newburg Cemetery.

He was the father of the Rev. Bill Beaty of Robert Lee.

He was born Oct. 12, 1888, in Tennessee and was a retired farmer and veteran of World War I. He married Mattie Lee Cunningham Dec. 21, 1919, at Newburg. He was a member of the East Side Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife; four daughters, Mrs. Walter Liss and Mrs. Wanda Brown, both of Comanche, Mrs. Gerald Cozby of New Mexico and Mrs. Boyd Chandler of Fort Worth; two grandchildren and two great-sons, Melvin Beaty of Chicago, Ill., and the Rev. Beaty; 15 grandchildren.

Debra and Steve Shoemaker are spending this week at Sherman visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Shoemaker.

Mrs. Ruth Weathers of Lake Thomas, near Snyder, was a visitor in the home of Miss Minnie Weathers Sunday.

## Pee Wees Have Active Week

Pee Wee ball clubs in Robert Lee have been active the last few days.

The Bluebirds lost a contest at Bronte last Thursday, 9-6.

The Redbirds played Sterling City here on the same day and came out on the short end of a 13-10 score. Terry Ross was the losing pitcher and he struck out 13 players. Wes Sawyer was behind the plate.

Ronnie Baker and Garland Davis are managers of the Bluebirds and Bob Guiley and Tom Sawyer manage the Redbirds.

A game played May 29 between the two local teams gave the Redbirds a 30-28 win over the Blues.

On schedule for this Thursday, June 12, are games for the Redbirds at Bronte and for the Bluebirds against Sterling City on the Robert Lee field.

## High Court Says Retry Land Suit

Texas' Supreme Court refused Wednesday of last week to review the decision of the Court of Civil Appeals that a condemnation suit involving land in the basin of E. V. Spence Reservoir must be retried.

Mrs. Helen Harris Wilcockson appealed a Coke County jury's award of \$545,580 for 4,014 acres of land needed in construction of the lake, plus a flowing easement on another 442 acres.

Mrs. Wilcockson's appeal stated that the award was not big enough and did not take into full consideration the oil production on the land.

The 3rd Court of Civil Appeals ordered a re-trial, and the Supreme Court agreed.

## O.E.S. HONORS G. C. ALLEN AND MRS. BOBBY ROBERTS

The public is cordially invited to attend a tea honoring Gerald C. Allen, past Grand Patron, and Mrs. Bobby Roberts, Deputy Grand Matron, District 5, Section 1, Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star.

Robert Lee Chapter 187 will host the tea June 15, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Allen, 702 Hilcrest, in Robert Lee, between the hours of three and five p.m.

It is not necessary to be an Eastern Star member to attend. The chapter invites all friends to attend.

Weekend guest in the home of Mrs. Bonnie Robertson was her daughter, Elaine, from Odessa.

## KAYE ROBERTS HONORED AT TEA IN SMITH HOME

Miss Kaye Roberts, bride-elect of Gaylon Pitcock, was honored Saturday night at a gift tea in the home of Mrs. Finnell Smith.

About 50 guests called during the evening, including the following from out of town: Mrs. Patsy Dunn, Mrs. Glenda Fletcher, Miss Karen Pasley, and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Walker Jr., all of San Angelo; Mrs. Jake Sparks, Sterling City; and Mrs. James Eaton of Andrews.

Those serving were Jeannie Billingsley, Patty Hughes, Kathy Percifull and Marilyn Wallace. Sheri Pitcock registered guests. The bride's colors of pink and red were used in decorations.

Hostesses included Mmes. Smith, Jack Denman, Frank Coalson, C. W. Walker Sr., Lamont Scott, Perry Post, C. F. Patterson, T. M. Wylie Jr., A. V. Hughes, Lewis Heuvel, Bert Blaylock, Bill Beaty and J. L. Carwile.

Lucy and Bruce Clift, children of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Clift of Chicago, Ill., are visiting their grandmother, Mrs. Bruce Clift, this week. Wallace Clift received his Ph. D. this spring and the family is moving to Denver, Colo., where he will teach at the University of Denver. Mrs. Clift said she expects the other Clift daughter, Anne, of Austin to come this weekend for a week's visit.

# Congratulations

CRMWD

CLEMENT BROS.

TERRY CONSTRUCTION CO.

We Are Proud...

of

Robert Lee Dam

and

E. V. Spence Reservoir

WELCOME

To Coke County, Visitors

HISTORY IS MADE EVERY DAY OF EVERY YEAR

JUNE 14, 1969

is a red letter day in the history of Coke County

COKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

We Spend Our Time Crowing About Coke County

# Yes, Friends,

WE, TOO, ARE PROUD OF THE ROBERT LEE DAM

and

E. V. SPENCE RESERVOIR

# SPILL BROS. CO.

COMPLETE HOME FURNISHINGS

Phone 754-4511

Winters, Texas

Hearty  
Congratulations  
To  
Robert Lee  
and  
Coke County  
on completion  
Robert Lee  
Dam  
  
Hambright  
Drug  
Ballinger

# WANT ADS

Classified ads and cards of thanks are payable in advance unless customer carries a regular account. \$1.00 minimum charge if posted in ledger.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

1st Insertion ..... Per Word 5c  
2nd and Subsequent  
Insertions ..... Per Word 3c  
Minimum Charge: 50c  
Additional 50c for blind ads.

## CARDS OF THANKS

Per word 5c — (Minimum \$1.00)

LOST: A pair of men's prescription sunglasses between vicinity of school and county park. Phone 453-5471. Kenneth Rasco

WANTED: Planter boxes, cultivator, or any equipment for a Massey-Harris 30 tractor. Pho. 453-3501. 1tp

WORK WANTED: LVN wants full time work. Call 453-3972. 1tp

FOR RENT: Two bedroom-furnished house. See Alma Varnadore for key or call Clifford Wilsons. 453-2078. 3tp

BABY SITTING wanted. Phone 453-2791. 1tp

SEWING WANTED — Mabel Mundell. 2tc

FOR REFNT: Garage Apartment.. Mrs. Bruce Clift.

WANTED: Lady to live in home and do housework for elderly gentleman. Write J. L. Scarbrough, 85 Gillis St., San Angelo, Texas. 2tp

HAVE-A-HEART Kennels, dog and cat boarding, left 3 1/2 miles on Farm Road 2105 at 1st blinker lite when entering San Angelo. 653-1625. 8tc

## Monuments Grave Markers Lettering

Representing Birk Monument Mfg. Co.

Sam L. Williams, Phone 453-3601

ARTIC CIRCLE or Del Norte Air Conditioners, any type or size. Free estimate for new central or window installation. Have trade-ins. Also almost new CB radio rig for sale. Hambright Plumbing 453-3441. 1013 W. 11th. tn

FOR RENT — Small 2 bedroom house. \$40.00 per month. Call 453-2201.

## NOTICE OF MEETING OF EQUALIZATION BOARD

In obedience to an order of the Board of Equalization, regularly and sitting, notice is hereby given that said Board of Equalization will be in session in the Commissioners Court Room in the County Court House in the town of Robert Lee, County of Coke, Texas, at 10 a.m. Wednesday, the 25th day of June, 1969, to meet with local property owners, and will meet in the Commissioners Court Room in the County Court House in the town of Robert Lee, County of Coke, Texas, at 10 o'clock a.m. on Friday, the 27th of June, 1969, to meet with oil and industrial tax representatives for the purpose of determining, fixing and equalizing the value of any and all taxable property situated in Robert Lee Independent School District, Coke County, Texas, for taxable purposes for the year 1969, and any and all persons interested or having business with said Board are hereby notified to be present.

My order of the Board of Equalization.

Frank Percifull, chairman of the Board.

Robert Lee Ind. Sch. Dist.  
Coke County, Robert Lee, Tex.

## Hospital News

June 3 — Mrs. C. J. Brooks, Mrs. C. E. Mathers, La Donna Scott admitted. Charles R. Johnson dismissed.

June 4 — Mrs. Pauline Lofton dismissed.

June 5 — Drexel Skipworth, admitted. Mrs. C. J. Brooks, Mrs. Velma Thomason, Sloane Boone, Mrs. Roy Walker dismissed.

June 6 — John E. Terry, Cumbie Ivey Jr., Mrs. Burley Miller

admitted.

June 7 — Mrs. H. S. Lewis Jr., Joel Percifull admitted. Mrs. C. E. Mathers, La Donna Scott dismissed.

June 8 — Mrs. Burley Miller, Joel Percifull dismissed.

June 9 — Velma Thomason, Richard Marquis, Mrs. Francisco Rivera, Baby boy Rivera admitted.

Ten patients were in the hospital and eight in the nursing home Tuesday.

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas

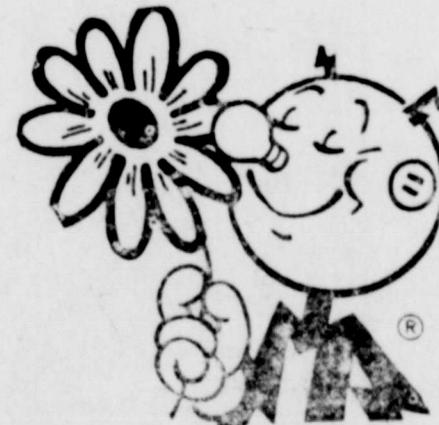
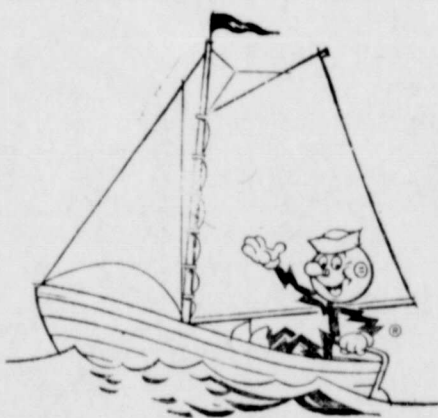
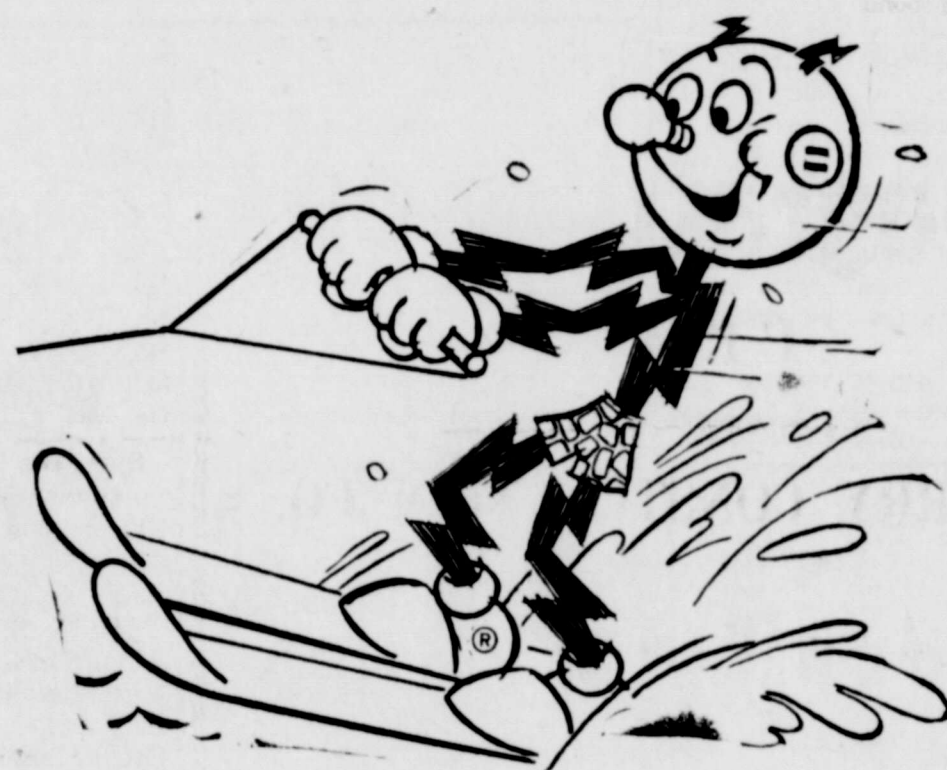
June 12, 1969

## PERSONALS

Mrs. A. B. Sheppard spent the Memorial day weekend visiting at Mission in the home of her daughter and family, the Tyrus Davis family. They attended the graduation program at Mission High School where her granddaughter, Phyllis, was a graduate. Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Bloodworth

of Silver returned home last week from a 4,000 mile trip to Key West, Florida and other points of interest. They visited in the home of his nephew, Douglas Bloodwoth at Miami and with Mr. and Mrs. John Hudson at Fort Lauderdale. At Grand Prairie and Irving, Texas, they visited with her two nieces, Mrs. Winnie Palmer and Mrs. Azalea Ferguson.

# REDDY'S FUN-TIP PLAYGROUND OF WEST TEXAS



ROBERT LEE DAM  
DEDICATION  
JUNE 14, 1969

CONGRATULATIONS!

West Texas Utilities  
Company

Equal  
Opportunity  
Employer

an investor  
owned company



Part of the Lake Basin Has Been Cleared of Brush

**MISS ROBERTS HONORED WITH KITCHEN SHOWER**

Miss Kay Roberts, bride-elect of Gaylon Pitcock, was honored Monday evening, June 2, with a kitchen shower. The party room was decorated in her chosen colors.

The refreshment table, in red linen, featured a pink and red floral arrangement.

A "kitchen tree," tied with pink and red bows, displayed various kitchen gadgets.

Each guest contributed a favorite recipe. A recipe for a happy marriage was also presented to her.

Raspberry punch, cookies and sandwiches were served to class-

mates and friends of the honoree.

Hostesses for the occasion were Mmes. O. B. Jacobs, Virgil Hendley, Fred E. Beaty, William T. Roach, Louise Hatch, Sam Powell and Delbert P. Walling.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Jeffries and Jana returned Monday from a week's visit at Batesville, Ark. in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Taylor and other relatives.

# The Key - - -

To Prosperity in  
**WEST TEXAS**  
is  
**WATER**

**BAHLMAN  
JEWELERS**

Winters, Texas

**WE ARE  
PROUD  
OF THE  
Robert Lee Dam  
and  
E. V. Spence  
Reservoir**  
and are proud to  
have had a small part  
in its construction  
as the supplier  
**OF FUEL**  
for the contractor

We greatly appreciate the patronage of all our Robert Lee customers.

**W. H. Maxwell**  
CONOCO PRODUCTS  
Bronte, Texas



# FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 15th

Gifts for HIM on this Occasion,  
with a selection from  
**ROACH'S**



The future progress, with the dam and lake, gives this area the facilities to be the Playground of West Texas. We are proud to be a part of this progress. We are happy for the opportunities and look forward to the possibilities.

When You Need Clothing Shop at

# ROACH'S



Oil Field Mounds Have Raised Pumps Above Water Level

**PROGRESS  
IS WONDERFUL**

**ROBERT LEE DAM  
AND  
E. V. SPENCE RESIVOIR**

Are Tremendous Assets  
To West Texas

Congratulations to All Our  
Friends in Coke County

**WINTERS  
Construction Company**

Well Servicing — General Construction

Contract Pumping

Winters, Texas

**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 ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship .... 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.

**ADULT PROGRAM TO STUDY  
"ANTIQUING FURNITURE"**

The Home Economics Department of Roebt Lee High School will offer an adult class next week for two days, June 16-17. It will be held from 9 a.m. until noon. Mrs. Eloise Guerrant, home economics teacher, will give instructions and demonstrations on how to antique furniture.

Women of the area who are interested are invited to be present for the two-day course.

**CANNING PROGRAM IS  
TODAY AT WTU OFFICE**

There has been a real revival of home canning throughout the nation and an increase in the number of frozen foods being processed at home. Homemakers who like to can and freeze fruits and vegetables are invited to attend a program today (Thursday) in the West Texas Utilities office in Robert Lee. The program will begin at 2 p.m.

The latest approved methods of canning and freezing will be demonstrated by Mrs. Fay C. Roe, County Home Demonstration Agent, and Miss Suzanne McBurnett, Assistant Extension Agent.

**REVIVAL MEETING**

**Pecan Missionary Baptist Church**  
June 15th through 22nd

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE— 10 o'clock  
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE — 8:30 o'clock

**BRO. J. S. SHEPPARD**  
Of Fort Worth, Evangelist  
**JAMES M. ROGERS, Pastor**

We Extend to Everyone a  
**CORDIAL INVITATION**  
To Attend These Services with Us

**BEST WISHES --**

to all our

**Coke County Friends**

The New

**ROBERT LEE DAM**

SHOWS FINE PROGRESS

**FIRESIDE RESTAURANT**

Winters, Texas

**WATER**

is the key to prosperity in  
**WEST TEXAS**

We congratulate our friends in  
**COKE COUNTY**

on completion of the

**ROBERT LEE DAM**

The Robert Lee Dam and E. V. Spence Reservoir are signs of progress in this area of West Texas, and we are happy to see the completion of this fine project. It will be a help to all the cities in this area.

We invite all our Robert Lee friends to shop our store when you are in need of furniture, carpeting or appliances. Only the best brands are stocked and prices are reasonable.

**KING-HOLT**

Runnels County's Biggest Furniture Store

Ballinger

### Norwegian Student Studying, Visiting

A Norwegian exchange student is living from June 4 to 20 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Derrick. Miss Else Joberg, 24, is a farm girl from Tonsberg, Norway, and has lived on a farm all her life.

She is having some problems with her English, but so far has been able to communicate with her hosts.

Miss Joberg is in the United States under the sponsorship of the National 4-H Foundation. She has been a 4-H member for nine years.

The young lady has two sisters and one brother.

Mrs. Fay C. Roe, county HD agent, said that everyone connected with the program is thoroughly enjoying the visit of Miss Joberg.

Her plans include attending meetings of home demonstration and 4-H clubs in the county.

Miss Joberg said that dairy cattle, hay, barley, root crops and potatoes are the main products of farms where she lives.

When she leaves Mr. and Mrs. Derrick's Sango home on June 20, she will go to El Paso, and from there she will go to Rockdale and Stratford.

Mrs. W. R. Denman returned home last week from a two weeks visit in the home of her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Prickett at Corpus Christi. Mrs. Prickett and children, Ann, Kimberly and Braden returned home with her for a visit.



Miss Else Joberg

#### SOILS TEAM WINS — Continued from Page 1

ribbon from the State 4-H Food Show held last week in College Station. Deone prepared and displayed a casserole of squash and egg plant. Her table setting carried out a Mexican theme.

Sheri Pitcock, also a member of the Future Leaders 4-H Club, participated in the State Food Show. She made and showed Whole Wheat Cloverleaf Rolls. Her award was a white ribbon.

Each participant was judged on her 4-H record of achievement and leadership, her knowledge of nutrition and the display featuring her food.

Also winning white ribbons were Janeye Kiker and Donna Sowell of Bronte. They presented a skit in the Share the Fun Contest.

The Coke County group was accompanied to Roundup by Mrs. Fay C. Roe, Miss Suzanne McBurnett and Sterling Lindsey.

#### Cemetery Assn. Holds Meeting

The Robert Lee Cemetery Association met recently with Bill Beaty, president, presiding. Other members present were Mrs. Bobby Roberts, Mrs. Billy Wayne Roe, Delbert Shoemaker, Sam Williams and Fern Havins.

It was reported that letters had been sent out to relatives of those buried here, and that people have begun to respond with contributions. Mrs. Jeffie Roberts is the secretary-treasurer and receives the funds.

It was pointed out also that individuals who were keeping their lots were urged to continue to do so in order that funds might be spent on general upkeep. The Cemetery officials commended all who have responded with labor and donations.

### BEST WISHES

on completion

of the

Robert Lee

Dam

HARRISON  
AUTO PARTS

Winters, Texas

### WE ARE PROUD--

OF THE NEW

ROBERT LEE DAM

Completion of the dam will usher in a new era of progress for Robert Lee, for Coke County and for this entire area of West Texas. We find it exciting and rewarding to be a part of this opportunity which lies ahead. It will be our pleasure to serve new permanent residents and visitors with our products and service.

McDORMAN SKELLY  
SERVICE STATION

At the Y in Robert Lee

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**Russet Potatoes** <sup>10 LB. BAG</sup> **53c**

**YELLOW SQUASH** - - - - **Lb. 10c**

<sup>MORTON'S</sup> **FROZEN MEAT DINNER** - - - **Each 39c**

<sup>SEA STAR</sup> **Fish Sticks** <sup>8 OZ. PKG.</sup> **2 for 49c**

<sup>STOKELY</sup> **FRUIT COCKTAIL, No. 303 Can** - 4 for \$1.00

<sup>STOKELY</sup> **SWEET PEAS, 303 Can** - - - 2 for 45c

<sup>DEL MONTE</sup> **CORN, Cream Style, 303 Can** - - 2 for 45c

<sup>VAN CAMP</sup> **PORK & BEANS, No. 2 Can** - 2 for 39c

<sup>DEL MONTE</sup> **SPINACH, 303 Can** - - - - 2 for 39c

**Pepsi Cola** **6 bot. ctn.** **45c**  
+ Deposit

**Mead's (Delicious) Potato Chips, 59c Bag** - 39c

**SWIFT VIENNA SAUSAGE** - - - 4 for 89c

**SUNBEAM COOKIES, 39c Pkg.** - 3 for \$1.00

**VELVEETA CHEESE SPREAD** - 2 Lb. Box \$1.09

<sup>DETERGENT</sup> **Cold Power** **gt. size** **73c**

<sup>JACK SPRAT</sup> **SLICED CARROTS, 303 Can** - 2 for 29c

<sup>FAMILY</sup> **SCOTT BATHROOM TISSUE** - - 2 Pkgs. 69c <sup>4 ROLL PKG.</sup>

## TRIMMED RIGHT MEATS

<sup>SEVEN BONE</sup> **Roast** **lb.** **59c**

<sup>GOOCH</sup> **THICK SLICED BACON** - - 2 Lb. Box \$1.49

<sup>GOOCH</sup> **GERMAN STYLE SAUSAGE** - - - Ring 59c

# BAKER'S Groc. & Mkt.



# Robert Lee Observer



The Mountains to the North of Lake Spence Loom in the Distance in This View from the South End of Robert Lee Dam

## Coke County Has Colorful Background

(The Robert Lee Observer is indebted to Mrs. Bryan Yarbrough of Robert Lee for most of the information in the following story about the origin of Coke County. She is the author of "History of Coke County" and chairman of the Coke County Historical Survey Committee.)

Indians roamed this area and the Southwest long before Columbus discovered America, according to Mary Jourdan Atkinson's "The Texas Indians." Archaeologists set the date of mankind's occupancy of the great Southwest at not less than 20,000 year preceding the arrival of the Spanish in this country.

The main Indians that lived, hunted and scouted the country of the Colorado and Conchos were Comanches, the Lipan Apaches and the Jumanos.

There are still many Indian springs and petroglyphics in the county. More than 20 Indian camp sites have been found here.

Some residents believe, and have documents to help substantiate, that in 1540, Coronado, leading his armed columns of Spanish grandees, or some of his scouting parties, crossed through this area in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola.

The first written document to mention present Coke County is a letter dated Feb. 8, 1842, from Henry Francis Fischer, Burchard Miller and Joseph Baker to Sam Houston, President of the Republic to Texas, requesting a grant of land on which to settle one thousand families of German, Swiss, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish emigrants. At the lower left hand corner of the letter appears a note, "Let the contract be made. Feb. 28, 1842, Sam Houston."

Outcome was a contract on June 7, 1842, to introduce 600 families or single men over 17 years of age, within three years of date of contract on land "beginning at the mouth of the Llano to the head of its southern branch, then due south 50 miles and north 45 degrees to the main southwest branch of the Colorado, following it back to point of beginning."

The contract was renewed in 1843 and transferred in 1845 to the German Emigration Co., John Meusebach, trustees, with all rights and claims except 250,000 acres reserved for Fischer & Miller.

The Emigration Co. ran into financial troubles because of the expense of surveying and transporting and also physical troubles with the Indians. Many immigrants were unable to reach the land for which they had "scrip" and made their way back to German settlements in Comal and Gillespie counties.

However, during that time an important treaty between Meusebach and the Indians grew out of their efforts to settle the region. Without the consent of Texas authorities, he met with Comanche and Choctaw Indians and made the treaty giving the Germans authority to settle the territory between the Llano and Colorado rivers, including approximately 575,000 acres in Coke County.

White settlers began filtering into the region in the latter half of the 19th century, the names of the first settlers unknown. Conjecture is that they were people who had passed through this area and returned to their homes, telling of this vast grazing land; that they were Confederate vet-

erans, who, returning home and finding their living gone, returned west; or that some were fugitives from the law.

The dominion of the cattlemen grew as the Indians and buffalo diminished. It was very sparsely settled during the 1860s and 1870s and settlement was slow, at first being settled by cattlemen who ran herds on the open range.

Among the earliest cattlemen whose names are known were L. B. Harris, Winfield Scott, the

Wylie brothers, T. L. and G. G. Odom, "Uncle" Jimmy Byrd and Wiley Bird; D. H. and J. W. Snyder, J. J. Austin, Bill Glass, Will and Rufus Whiteside.

Most of the range was unfenced and at first few of the cattlemen had any real or legal claim to the land grazed by their cattle, but they had a respect for each other's "range rights." The cattle were taken to good northern markets.

When the T&P Railroad ran through Abilene and Colorado

City, legal owners to the land began coming in, thus followed by many disputes over land titles, boundary lines, etc.

Nesters began to fence their watering places and the cowmen began to fence thousands of acres, leading up to the "fencing war." Pandemonium broke loose with fencing activities. Miles of fence were cut and posts were burned. A Cattleman's Association was formed and Ben Warren of Hylton was hired "to find and

Continued on Page 4

### MONTGOMERY WARD

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**ROBERT LEE**  
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**WATER PROJECT**

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Have Been Selected To Construct  
The Robert Lee Dam**

**AND**

**E. V. Spence Reservoir**

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**HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Terry Construction Inc.  
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**GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

# UCRA Biggest Water Promoter For This County

The Upper Colorado River Authority has been the prime mover of events to bring water to Coke County, particularly to Robert Lee and Bronte. Both towns were in sad shape for a municipal water supply when the UCRA financed construction of Mountain Creek Reservoir for Robert Lee and a pipeline from Oak Creek to Bronte.

And even though the UCRA did not build the Robert Lee Dam, the organization's board of directors has spent untold amounts of time and money studying and promoting a dam on the Colorado River in Coke County.

The UCRA was created by an act of the Texas Legislature in 1935 for the purpose of administering the waters of the upper portion of the river and its tributaries.

In addition to its work in supplying Robert Lee and Bronte with a good water supply, UCRA built the North Concho Lake near San Angelo and assisted the towns of Carlsbad and Christoval

UCRA directors were interested in and were promoting a dam across the Colorado in Coke County. For example, the July 6, 1945, edition carried a headline which said: "Assurance of \$12,000,000 Robert Lee Dam Project"

Continued on Back Page



Gerald C. Allen

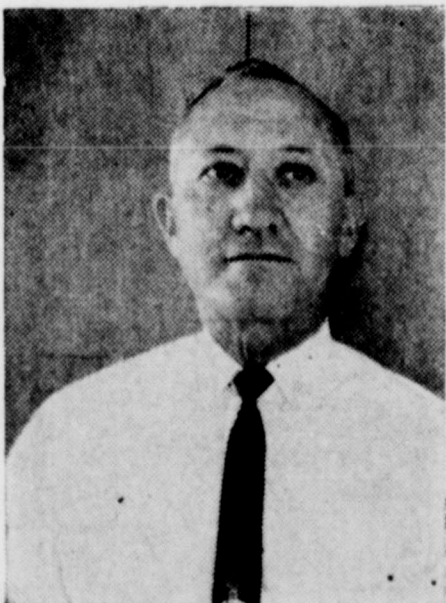


L. T. Youngblood

in securing dependable water supplies.

Three Coke County citizens are on the board of directors of the UCRA, including the president, Gerald C. Allen of Robert Lee, L. T. Youngblood of Bronte, and Cumble Ivey Sr. of Robert Lee. Youngblood and Allen have been on the board since the beginning of UCRA and Ivey was appointed in 1948. Youngblood served as chairman for 19 years, until 1964, and was vice chairman prior to that time. Allen was secretary-treasurer until 1964, when he was named chairman.

Observer files show almost from the time of its beginning,



Cumble Ivey Sr.

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& SEED**

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San Angelo

# Coke County Dates from 1889

Continued from Page 1

prosecute wire cutters."

He was sent to Austin for training, but was "killed from a shot through a window in a Sweetwater hotel, a day before the District Court was to convene to investigate the wire cuttings and he was to testify."

Then Texas Rangers were sent into the area. On Jan. 7, 1884, Gov. John Ireland called a special session of the legislature, making fence cutting a felony. The Warren killing about put an end to fence cutting in Coke County and things were settled down considerably by the time the homesteaders began to arrive.

The homesteaders came by wagon, by horseback and on foot, driving their animals, bringing all they had with them. Many lived in dugouts or half dugouts at first and others in tents. They had to live on the land for three years according to the Homesteaders Law.

## Organization

The area that is Coke County was originally a part of the Department of Bexar, eventually called Bexar County. At that time, Bexar comprised about half of the Republic of Texas. The seat of government and first county seat of the Coke area was San Antonio.

Because of great distances, the people in the far out-reaches found themselves with a legal center, but lacking in benefits to be derived from such a center. A necessary business trip to San Antonio to attend court, record deeds, etc., took weeks.

The people of the Concho country met the legal requirements and on March 13, 1874, the Texas Legislature created Tom Green County with Ben Ficklin as the county seat, and this was the second county seat for this area. The legislature failed to mention a northern boundary to Tom Green and the entire section of Texas to the north and west was in Tom Green for nearly two years. In 1876, 54 counties to the north were created out of the original Tom Green. Twelve counties to the west had also been created out of Tom Green.

Ben Ficklin was destroyed in a flood on Aug. 25, 1882, and the county government was reestablished at San Angelo, and became the third county seat for these people.

After the railroad extended into this area in the 1880s and railroad and school lands put on the market and vacant land opened to homesteaders, the population grew rapidly. People began talking about a government closer to home. A business trip to San Angelo took 3-5 days. The move for a county organization took shape.

Early in 1889, about 60 men met in a grove on the Colorado River, had a barbecue and planned the strategy. Ennis Adams rode horseback over the county, carrying the petition which was presented to the Legislature asking for the formation of the county. All legal requirements were met and on March 13, 1889, the Legislature created Coke

County, described its boundaries and required calling an election of county officers within 30 days. The county comprised 931 square miles.

The county was named for Richard Coke, former Governor of and U. S. Senator from Texas. He was the first governor after reconstruction and carpet bag rule, starting his term of office Jan. 15, 1874, and serving to Dec. 1, 1876. His administration was devoted to reforms and writing a new Texas constitution, thus scrapping the "carpetbag constitution" of 1869. The one adopted during his administration is the present Texas constitution, though it has been amended many times. He was elected to a second term and thereafter was elected to the U. S. Senate. He resigned the governorship to enter the Senate.

Indian resistance to the white man also ended during the Coke administration.

The committee to supervise the election was named by the Legislature and was made up of D. T. Fairley, Z. W. Withers and T. A. Collier.

The organization election was held April 23, 1889. Hayrick, near the mountain that bears that name, was the first Coke County seat, being the fourth one for Coke County people.

Soon a battle developed over the county seat and the election was contested by Eugene Cartledge, son-in-law of L. B. Harris. The present site of Robert Lee was about the center of the Harris Ranch. Cartledge contested on the grounds that Hayrick was more than nine miles from the center of the county.

A two-story court house had been constructed at Hayrick. Those favoring the Robert Lee site began planning a removal election, citing the water shortage at Hayrick as a good reason for the move. Harris and Cartledge offered to donate the townsite and give every citizen of Hayrick, who owned a house there, a lot on which to move it.

Those against the removal said that about 65 citizens had acquired homes in good faith; that

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A GREAT STEP TOWARD THE CONTINUING  
PROGRESS OF WEST TEXAS . . .

# Robert Lee Dam AND E. V. Spence Reservoir

CONGRATULATIONS  
On the Completion  
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SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas

June 12, 1969

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AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD

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# 1889, Has Colorful History

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas

June 12, 1969

it would be expensive and would destroy the value of their property to move; that a good 2-room school was available at Hayrick, which would be a loss; and that a "contract for a \$10,000 brick courthouse had been let, and could not be cancelled."

Cartledge got an injunction against building the new courthouse, pending the proposed election. Judge J. W. Timmins, district judge, ruled against him and Cartledge appealed. The injunction was dissolved but it had delayed enough time that nothing

could be done toward the building until the election.

H. L. Adams was opposing Judge G. W. Perryman for reelection and was pledged, if elected, to call the special election. Perryman was pledged not to call the election.

Adams was elected and his first official act was to call the removal election. Two sites were voted on, Robert Lee and Union City, which was on a flat four miles west of Robert Lee.

Before the election, the court-

house at Hayrick burned, destroying most county records. An investigation was made into the circumstances of the fire but was dismissed because of insufficient evidence.

The election was held Jan. 6, 1891, with Robert Lee becoming the county's fifth, and present, county seat. With about 400 votes, the Robert Lee site had a 48-vote majority.

After the election the process of moving began. People did not remove the contents of their houses, but rode to Robert Lee in the houses. There was no courthouse to be moved and county offices were placed in various rented buildings. The county clerk and county attorney moved into a rented small frame building with what records they had managed to salvage from the Hayrick fire, but two weeks later, Jan. 27, 1891, this building burned, destroying the remaining records.

The courthouse was built in Robert Lee in 1891, and remained in use for 65 years. On Oct. 30, 1956, a 10-1 majority of Coke voters approved issuance of \$300,000 in bonds to build the new courthouse which serves today. It was dedicated Oct. 13, 1956. A \$250,000 bond issue to build a courthouse was turned down in 1947 by Coke voters, 543-130.



Downtown, San Angelo

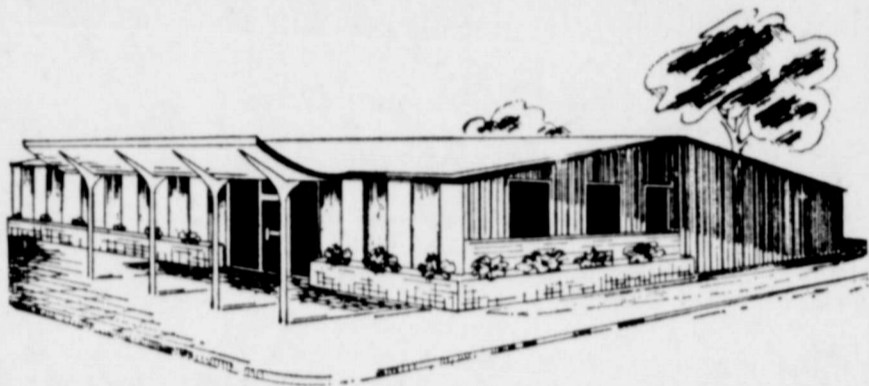
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best wishes on  
the dedication of  
the Robert Lee  
Dam and the  
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# Robert Lee Dam

and

# E. V. Spence Reservoir

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OFFICE SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

# Robert Lee Has Good Municipal Water Supply

Robert Lee owes its very existence to the need for water in West Texas. The election to move the Coke County seat from Hayrick was brought about primarily by the shortage of water supplies. The pioneers who supported the move to Robert Lee in 1891 felt their water problems would be over forever, since the new town would be located on the banks of the Colorado River, a never-ending supply of water.

Wells and a small lake furnished the city with water until 1950, when Mountain Creek Reservoir was completed. It has provided a reliable supply of water and, except for some anxious days during the seven-year drouth of the 1950s and early 1960s, has proved ample for the city's needs.

Almost concurrent with the letting of the contract by the Upper Colorado River Authority to build Mountain Creek dam, was passage of a \$65,000 bond issue on Feb. 11, 1950, to build

a filtering plant and to replace some of the larger mains in the city. The election carried 146-1.

R. B. Thornton & Son of Brady submitted a bid of \$54,088 in March 1950 to build the filtering plant and lay 4,350 feet of eight-inch line and 4,330 feet of six-inch line, plus the installation of 13 new fire hydrants.

A meeting of the city commission and the UCRA in April 1950 set up payments of \$350 per month for the city to pay out of water revenue on the Mountain Creek Reservoir. The dam is 2,360 feet long; the base is 260 feet wide and the structure has a 16-foot crown.

The following story from The Observer on Jan. 20, 1950, tells about letting the contract for the new reservoir:

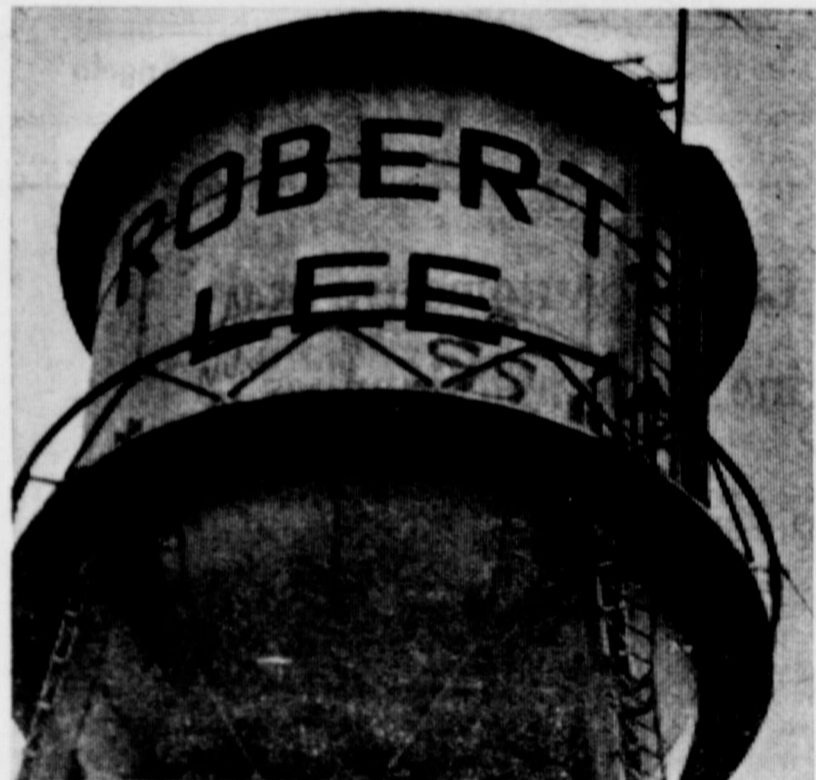
A new municipal water supply for the Town of Robert Lee was assured Tuesday of this week when a contract was let for the construction of a dam across Mountain Creek at the northeast edge of the city limits.

A low bid of \$62,727.50 secured the contract for J. W. Robertson & Son of Springtown, Texas, who stated they would start the work Feb. 1 and hoped to have the project complete within 60 days or less.

The dam is being built by the Upper Colorado River Authority and cost of the undertaking will run a trifle over the estimated \$75,000. Robert Lee city authorities will sign a contract to pay off the debt and set aside a portion of water rentals each month for that purpose. No interest will be charged on the UCRA funds invested.

A large part of the reservoir will extend over the 70 acres of ranch land purchased from D. J. Walker, while the damsite will be located on a 20-acre tract bought from Millard Meek. The dam will be nearly a half mile long and its east end will extend

Continued on Next Page



**SYMBOL OF WATER** — The standpipes of most small West Texas cities are usually the tallest structure to be seen. They not only hold the water supply for the residents, but are symbolic of the constant effort to provide the cities with a bountiful supply of good water. Robert Lee's water tower is located on a corner of the courthouse square.

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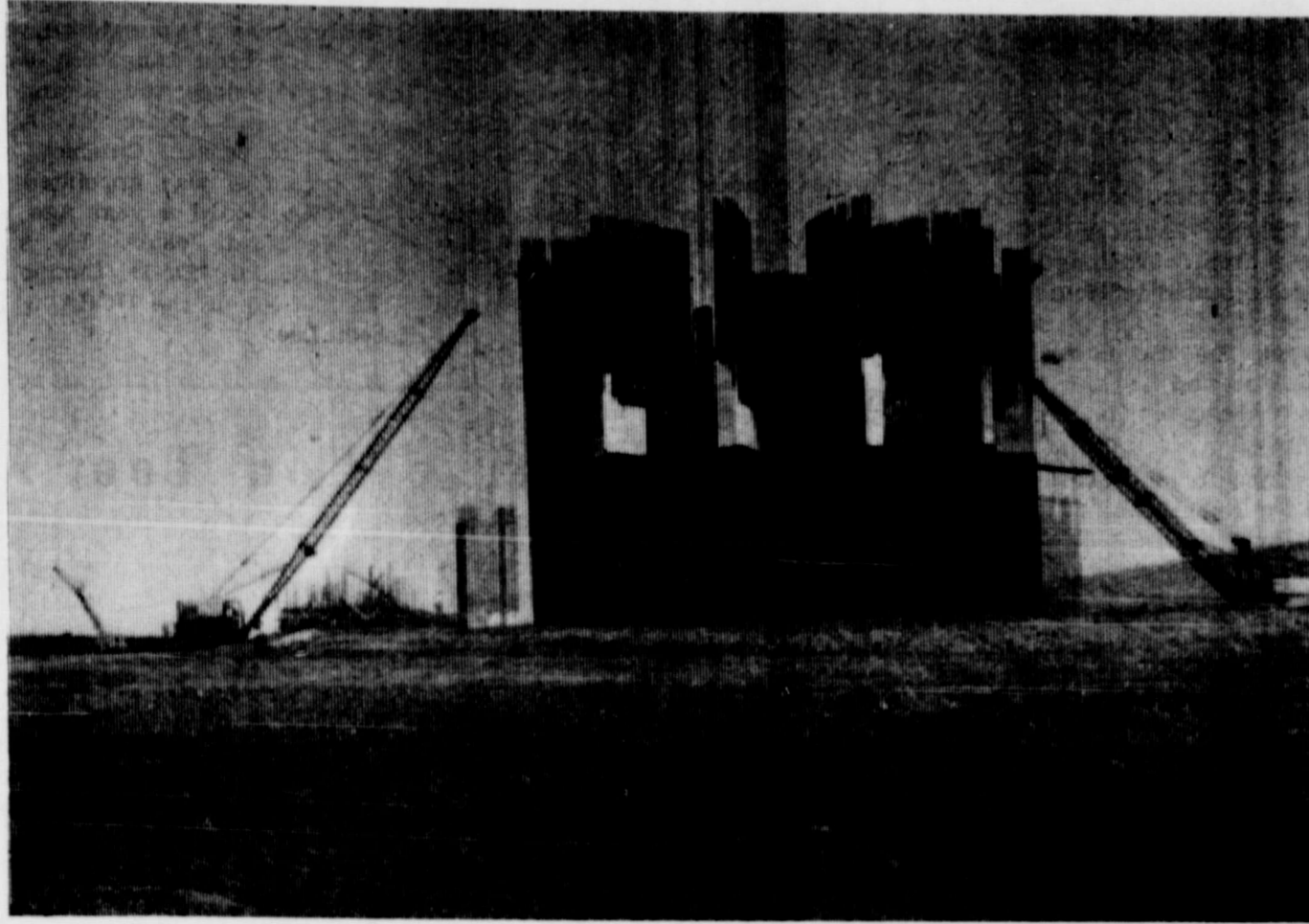
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San Angelo

## Municipal Water

Continued from Preceding Page

just below the Mexican cemetery a few hundred feet from the highway.

A watershed of 32 square miles will feed into the reservoir and an ample supply of water under the worst periods of drouth is assured for a town of at least 2,500 people. The lakesite is said to be ideal as the water will have an average depth of 13 feet and reach 49 feet in the deepest places.

Parkhill, Smith & Cooper of Lubbock are engineers on the project and will supervise construction.

Nine bids were opened when UCRA directors went into session here at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Wesley Hall of Brownwood was less than \$5,000 higher than Robertson, while three submitted figures in excess of \$100,000. Holland Page of Austin filed the highest bid of \$130,706.

At their session here UCRA directors re-elected their present

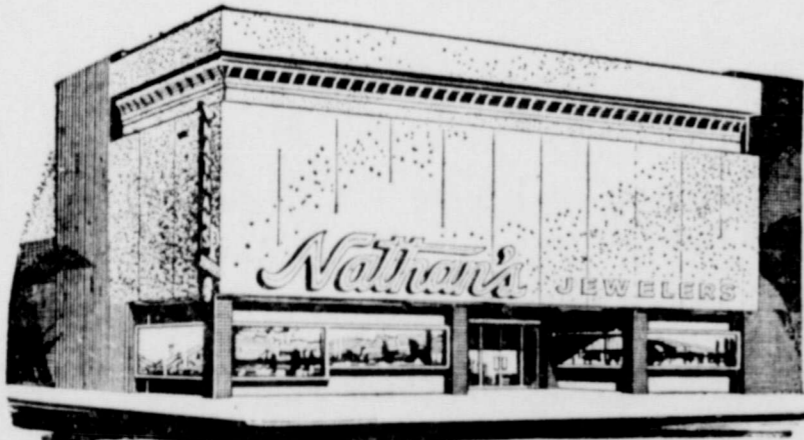
officers, including L. T. Youngblood, Bronte, chairman; Frank Cannon, San Angelo, vice chairman; and G. C. Allen, Robert Lee, secretary - treasurer. The Authority has available funds on hand to pay cash for the Robert Lee dam project.

Additional water system improvements were completed in 1967, when a federal grant was received and combined with local funds for sewer system construction and water system improvements. Approximately \$102,000 was spent on the water system, \$50,000 from the grant and \$52,000 financed by the UCRA. The water system, as of March 31, had \$32,000 in bonded indebtedness and \$160,626.11 in contract agreement indebtedness to the UCRA. The city now makes a \$575 per month payment to UCRA. This amount covers payment for the dam, plus a number of spillway repairs, and the \$52,000 spent in 1967.

## CONGRATULATIONS—

On the Completion of  
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For West Texas



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# UCRA

Continued from Page 3

ject For Irrigation Now Up To The People."

The story stated in part:

Directors of the Upper Colorado River Authority agreed with Bureau of Reclamation officials at a recent meeting in San Angelo that the easy work — the surveying and planning — has been completed on the Robert Lee dam and irrigation project.

The people of Coke, Runnels and Tom Green Counties will be the ones who have the final say as to whether the area bounded by Robert Lee, Bronte, Winters, Ballinger, Rowena, Miles, San Angelo and Tennyson shall become "West Texas' No. 1 Irrigation Project."

This story indicates that in 1945 water for domestic use was a small consideration for building the dam. The big thing then was water to irrigate a vast area of Coke, Runnels and Tom Green counties.

As it proved out, however, the discovery of oil in northwestern Coke County and other factors made the estimated cost too high for it to be feasible as an irrigation project.

Earlier studies and surveys were made under direction of the UCRA in 1939, as indicated by the following story from the Feb. 17, 1939, edition of The Observer:

The following dispatch appeared in Wednesday morning's Standard-Times:

The Reclamation Bureau notified Senator Connally (D-Tex.) today it soon would start an investigation of an irrigation project on the Colorado River near Robert Lee, Tex.

"Funds sufficient for the commencement of the work have been allocated to an investigation of the Robert Lee project," R. B. Williams, acting reclamation commissioner, wrote the senator, "and it is expected that work will be started in the near future."

The irrigation project on the Colorado is growing brighter every day, and it seems that those faithful workers who have given so much of their time to the project, are about to see their dream realized.

The crew of surveyors that are coming are supposed to be here by March 1. The crew will devote their time to the canals, etc.

This next survey will probably decide the feasibility of the project. Here's hoping.

Another story which appeared later, on March 24, 1939, told of the survey crew in the area, and stated:

Headed by R. L. Sharkey, associate engineer of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, came in Wednesday with six key men ready for their part of the surveying program of the UCRA. We understand that the crew will be enlarged as the work progresses. In company with G. C. Allen and Robert Knierim the party made a visit to the dam site Wednesday so those in charge could familiarize themselves with the geodetic surveys, etc.

The company will maintain offices in San Angelo and will be general headquarters for officials and crews. At this time it is not known just what class of work is to be done by the present crew. Official news of this character is very hard to get.

This great West Texas engineering feat has been pending for a long time, and as one of the officials said, "You people have certainly been persistent and deserve the dam, and I will say that this is the only government project that is showing any activity."

The sum of \$16,000 has been allocated for this last survey and more funds will be allocated in July. Everyone feels that this survey will decide the feasibility of the project and everyone is hopeful that our dreams will come true.

Culberson Deal will leave soon for Washington where he will devote all of his time in the interest of the dam. Those closest to the project have no doubt whatever but that the dam will be built.

Before much progress could be made on the project discussed above, World War II came along and little could be done until after cessation of the war.

Another story in the July 1, 1949, edition of The Observer tells about consideration of a lake in Coke County to supply water needs of Odessa, Midland, Big Spring and other West Texas cities. San Angelo was not men-

tioned as needing Coke County water at that time.

The story follows:

Flood waters of the Colorado River will be harnessed some day by a great dam in Coke County. This prediction is of many years standing, but its fulfillment is more certain today than ever.

Interior Secretary Julius Krug, out from Washington a few weeks, stated in Houston that the Robert Lee Dam is the only solution for the cities of Odessa, Midland and Big Spring to obtain an adequate municipal water supply.

Plans for the dam a few miles above Robert Lee have been held up by the recent oil development, since the impounded waters would form a lake over a site which now has several producing oil wells south of Silver.

Set up to utilize and conserve our natural resources is the Upper Colorado River Authority which operates under legislative enactment. Beginning two years ago the annual state ad valorem tax levied in both Coke and Tom Green counties has been diverted to the UCRA treasury.

UCRA was instrumental in promoting the Concho River flood control dam now under construction at San Angelo, and is pledged to contribute \$500,000 to that project.

Recently the UCRA directors voted to finance municipal water supplies for the towns of Rob-

ert Lee and Bronte. The Robert Lee project provides for a dam on Mountain Creek at the north-east edge of the city, while Bronte will get its water through a pipeline from a proposed Oak Creek dam below Blackwell. Both projects would be paid off from water rentals.

Coke County has three directors on the Upper Colorado River Authority Board. They include L. T. Youngblood, Bronte banker, who is president and

general manager of the UCRA, and G. C. Allen, Robert Lee banker and ranchman, secretary-treasurer. Both Youngblood and Allen have been connected with the UCRA since the beginning and have put years of hard work in its behalf. Cumbie Ivey of Robert Lee was appointed to the UCRA Board a year ago by Gov. Beauford Jester. He succeeded the late D. D. Campbell. Main office of the UCRA is in Robert Lee.

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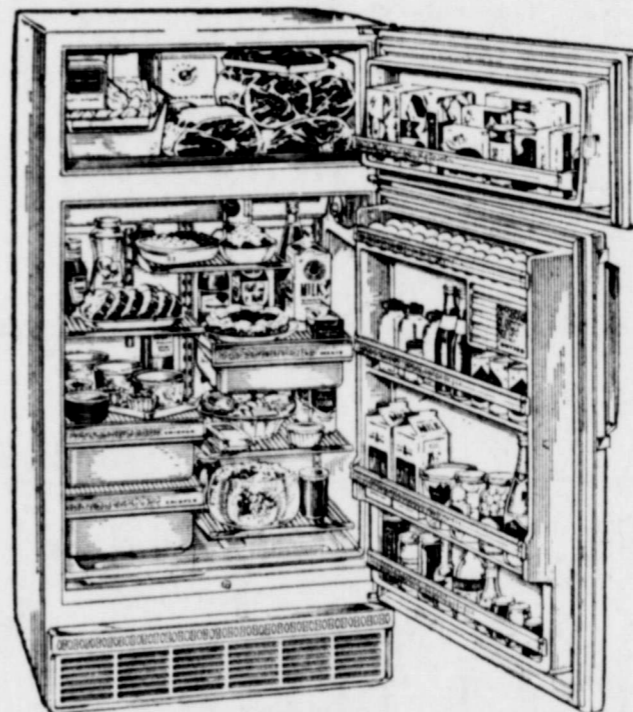
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# Robert Lee Observer

## Army of Heavy Equipment Used in Dam Construction

When it comes to moving more than 16,000 cubic yards of earth and rock, a fleet of heavy equipment is a necessity.

To accomplish this in little more than two years time, Clement Brothers of Hickory, N. C., the prime contractor, moved in

perhaps 250 pieces of equipment, most of it rolling stock. Some estimates placed the value of this at around \$5,000,000. When the job was over, the contractor held an auction sale and disposed of 249 separate items.

Included in the huge equipment were belly dumps that could transport, with a heaping load, 55 cubic yards of earth at a time. There also was a loader that could fill one of these monsters in less than a minute, and when one was loaded and pulled away, another took its place.

Over the face of the dam or in the jaws of the core trenches, huge tractors, scrapers, graders, water wagons, plows and rollers crawled like a bed of ants. At times this work went on around the clock under the glare of flood lights operated by portable light plants.

Beside the rolling stock, there were root rakes, air compressors, drills, generators, and a steam jenny, and eight pumps delivering millions of gallons of water to soften ground or wet the embankment to required compaction.

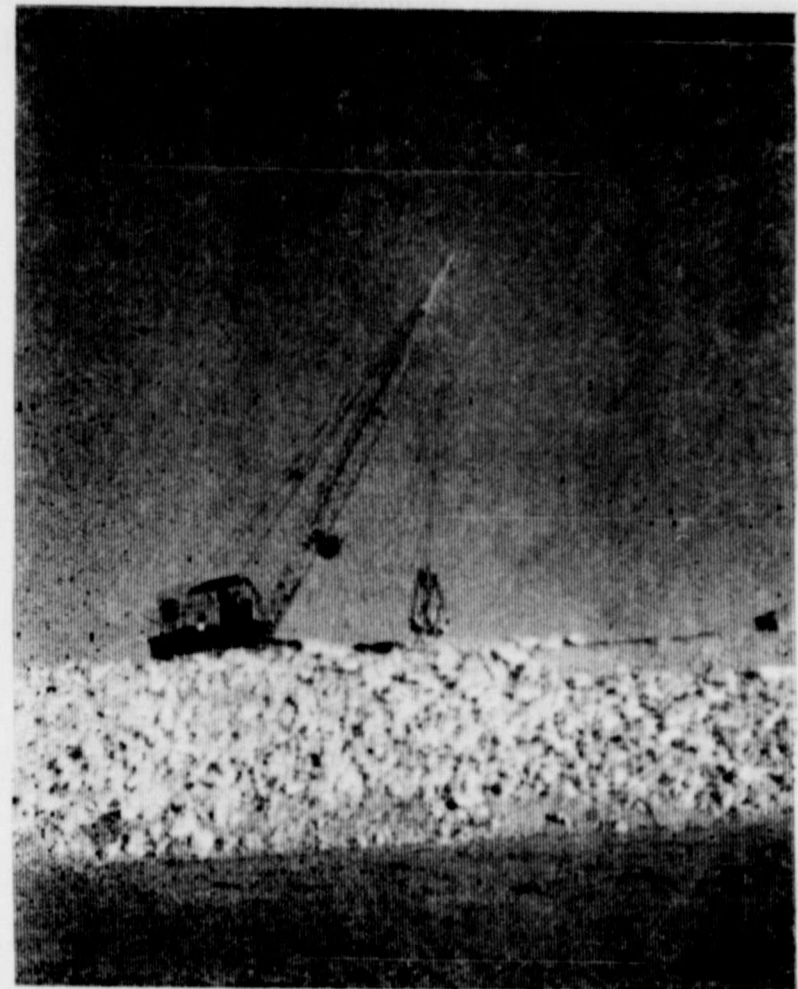
There were listed in the sale eight rollers, half of them the huge sheepfoot type; 24 heavy duty crawler tractors, four wheel type, and 14 motor scrapers.

There were eight loaders, 12 bottom dumps, eight end dumps, six graders, six screening plants, six

draglines, three drag buckets and a clam drag, two shovels, two cranes, two tampers, paving breaker, etc.



Closeup of a Big Earth Mover



A Dragline Helps with Construction

## Robert Lee . . .

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CRMWD Manager Stands Beside a Stack of Giant Tires

### Recreation Important in Development Of Lake Projects Operated by CRMWD

Water enough to assure this area of West Texas economic security for the next 20 years was the reason for creating Lake E. V. Spence. But directors of the Colorado River Municipal Water District are conscious that this volume of water creates a vast recreational potential.

So CRMWD is looking out after the public in the operation of the new lake. It is providing five park areas, one at each end of the dam, one additional location on the east side and two others on the west side.

There are 400 acres in the park area at the south end of the dam and 250 in the one at the north end. The park on the west side just north of the old SH 158 route contains 300 acres. The two others, on either side of the lake, will have about 150 acres each.

These will developed as rapidly as funds and the demand for

their use will permit. Perhaps the first improvement will be installation of boat ramps at three of the parks—one at each end of the dam and one other on the west side. Others will be added in time. So will sanitary facilities, along with pavilions, barbecue pits, shades, etc.

Concession sites will be leased so they can be developed privately.

Three of the sites are just off paved roads now, and a fourth is accessible.

No charge will be made for use of the public areas; however, those who fish and use boats will be charged a water use permit of 50 cents per day or \$10.00 per year. A \$20.00 permit will cover the holder and his boat guests.

The district will have patrolmen who will help the public, and to see that ordinances for safety and sanitation are observed.

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# CRMWD Created in June 1949

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas

June 12, 1969

The legal vehicle which makes the Colorado River Municipal Water District possible is HB757 of the 51st Legislature.

Until it was passed May 26, 1949, and signed into law June 8, 1949, the dream of a multi-city water project was touch and go. Five cities had started out three years before in quest of this vision, three had dropped out. Only representatives from Big Spring and Odessa were at Austin in March when a final draft for a bill was shaped. Representative R. E. Blount shepherded it to passage in the House on May

4, but a senator outside the district had to be found to carry it in the Senate, and Senator Pat Bullock did successfully May 26. In the meantime, the bill had got lost temporarily. Gov. Beauford Jester signed it in law. Thus the machinery upon which all else depended was finally delivered.

The act sets up the Colorado River Municipal Water District (composed of the territories within the corporate limits of member cities) as a "governmental agency and a body politic and corporate for the purpose of de-

veloping sources of water supply for municipal, domestic and industrial uses; processing and transportation of water; for recreation, and (as amended) for mining."

It provides for a board of directors named by the governing boards of each city with four each from cities of 5,000 or more. It authorizes the issuance of revenue or tax bonds (the latter only upon an affirming vote of all member cities); sets up the power of condemnation; provides for bids on purchases of \$25,000 or more; empowers the district to contract with cities, to acquire water permits from the state, to purchase same from

## IRRIGATION IMPORTANT

In constructing the Robert Lee Dam, the contractor relied heavily on irrigation.

Earth to be moved was first wet in place, which meant that 15,000,000 cubic yards of material was soaked. To this, 8 inch portable pipe was run to the borrow pit areas for wetting, and other 3-inch lines went as far as two miles to areas for moisture penetration.

Three temporary lakes were created on the river, a large one

owners or to purchase water supplies, including underground sources; police its watershed; establish parks and recreation facilities; to receive territory by annexation; to name officials.

several miles upstream as a holding reservoir and two others at convenient locations downstream. With completion of the project, the Colorado River Municipal Water District will install a permanent pipeline along two-thirds of the top of the dam, then attach laterals with sprinkler heads to irrigate the protective grass cover on the downslope of the dam.

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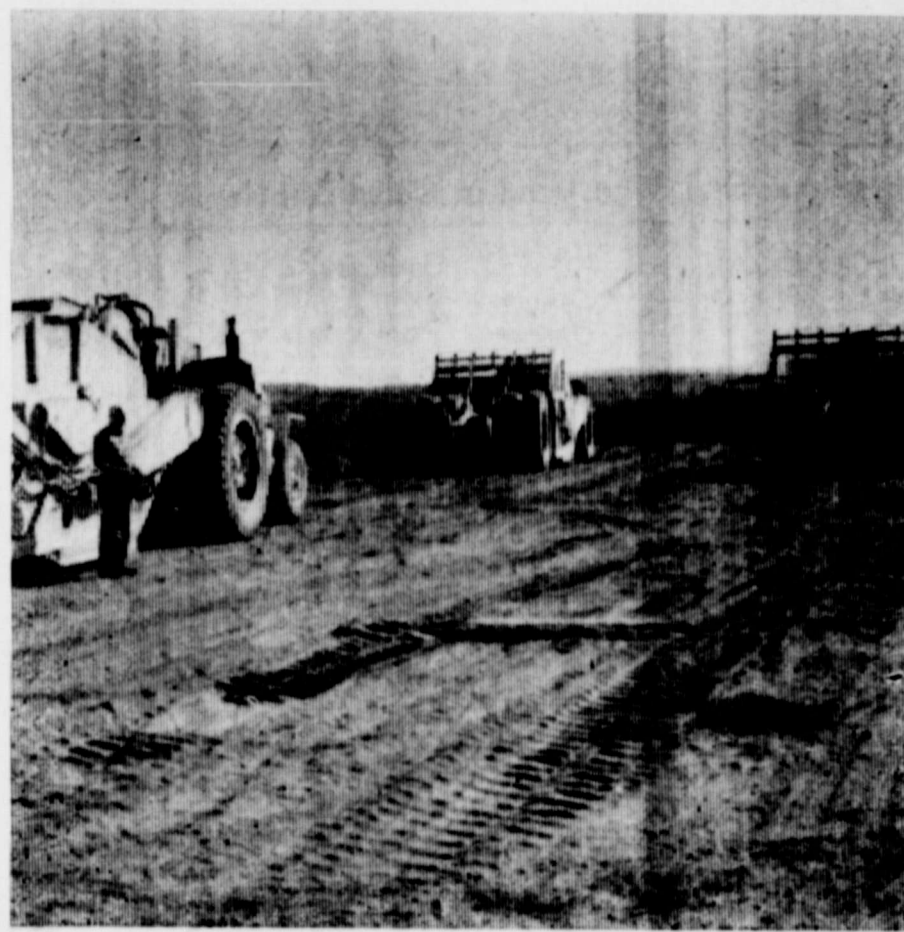
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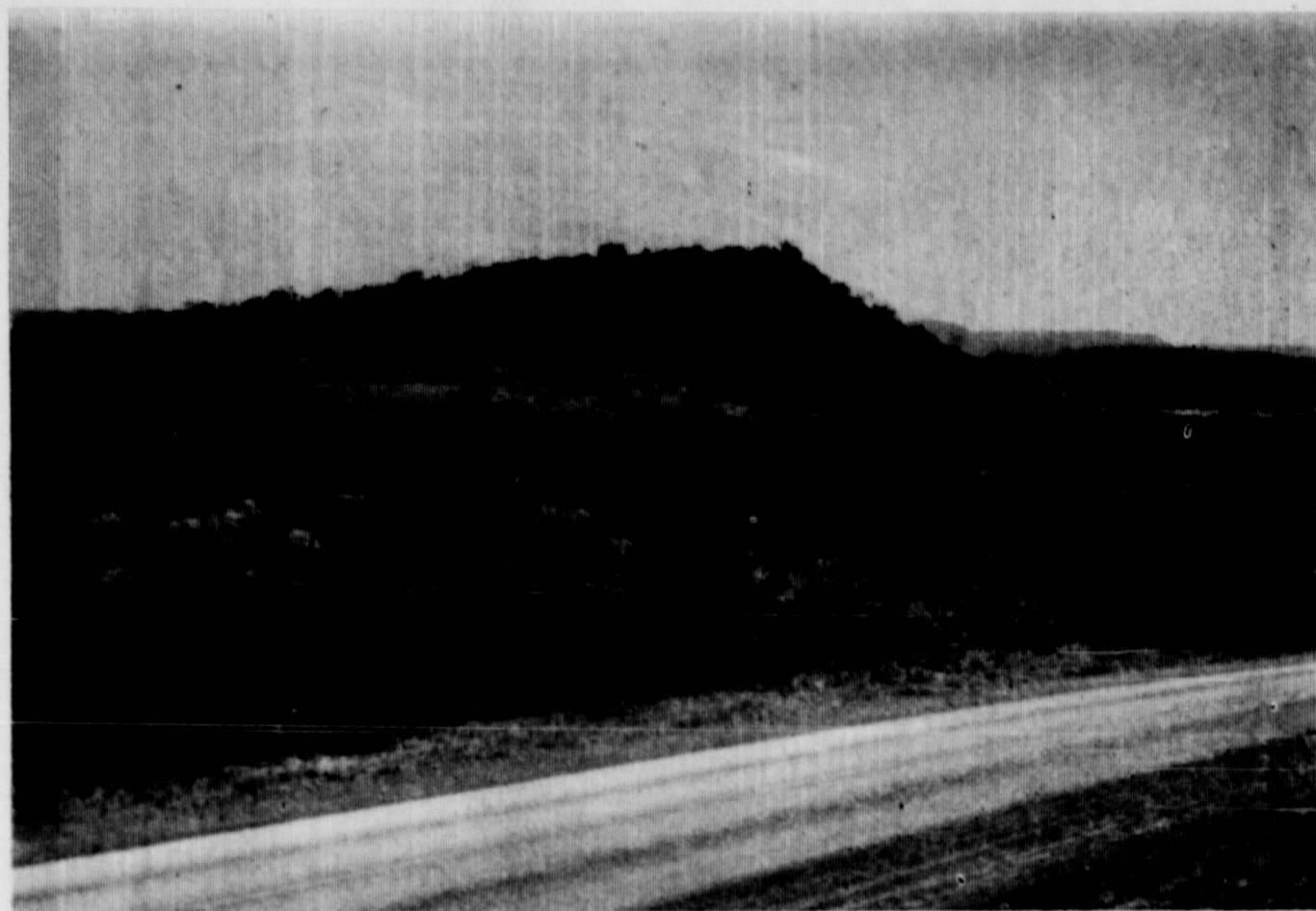
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**Half Million Invested in Robert Lee Pump Station**

Starting water from Lake E. V. Spence on its 120 mile journey uphill to Odessa calls for considerable capital outlay.

Around half a million dollars is invested in the main pump station, located about six miles upstream from the Robert Lee Dam. At that, the saving in pipeline costs, had the station been at the dam, will just about pay for the station.

CRMWD paid \$25,000 for excavations into a hillside in the bend of the Colorado River. Into this hole went a huge concrete "wet"

box which is connected to the valve tower (which controls the inflow of lake water at four levels) by a 6-foot concrete tunnel. Five 72-inch concrete casings rise from the wet box to the top of the hill. Huge vertical pumps (there will be two 170,000,000-gallon units at the outset) will draw water out of the lake and send it on its way.

Cost of the intake works amounted to \$243,000. To this will be added \$200,000 for pumps and motor controls, and probably \$275,000 for piping and structure for the station.

**Bond Issues Finance CRMWD**

Starting from scratch, the Colorado River Municipal Water District borrowed its first money 18 years ago to finance the initial increment of a multi-city water supply including Lake J. B. Thomas, pipelines, wells, etc. Three expansions and four bond issues have pushed to \$53,600,900 the amount of revenue bonds that the District has issued to stay ahead of demands for water in West Texas.

The District got its biggest break when it needed it most — right at the start. Union Securities, represented by Joe King, a former Fort Worth resident, put together a package of \$11,750,000 revenue bonds at an effective rate of 2.48, a remarkable offering even in the face of the market at that time inasmuch as the District had no operating history at all. It was not much more than an idea and a set of plans. Ironically, within 30 days of sale of the bonds, the market went up sharply.

The District came back in 1958 to issue another \$4,600,000 in revenue bonds to finance an expansion of the system on the west end, principally a pipeline to parallel the section between Martin County and Odessa. The market had changed sharply and this issue to Union Securities went at an effective rate of 4.123. (The District later retired \$1,000,000 of this issue when plans for ground water purchases did not materialize.)

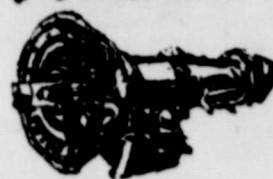
In 1963, a quickie issue for \$2,750,000 on a 6-year payout was shepherded through Eastman-Dillon, Union Securities for an effective rate of 2.4939. This was to finance the pipeline from Lake Thomas to Sun Oil Company's water flooding projects in Coke County.

The big issue to finance what has become known as the 1966 Construction Program (Lake E. V. Spence, pipelines, diversion works) came in two stages. In September 1966, the District issued \$30,000,000 at an effective rate of 4.96 to Eastman-Dillon, Union Securities. When a costly diversion works and rising costs proved this not quite adequate,

another block of \$4,500,000 in revenue bonds was issued in April 1969, also to Eastman-Dillon, Union Securities, at an effective rate of 5.453. The last issue is to be retired within 10 years. All others were 30 year issues.

The District has a BAA rating by one major rating house and an A rating by another.

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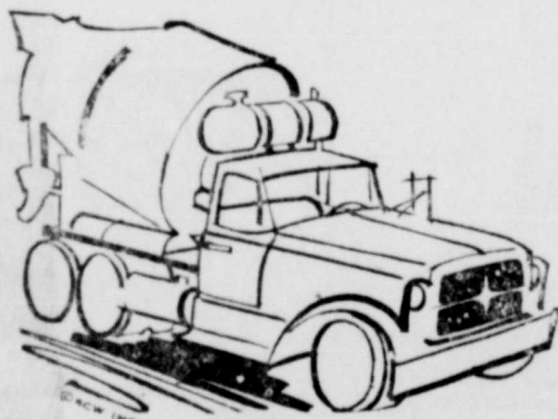


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# Solving Salt Water Problem Big Chore

Hardly had the Colorado River Municipal Water District settled down to serving all member cities from its newly completed Lake J. B. Thomas than its officials began to talk of more water.

And hardly had this speculation centered on a second lake than a problem of salt pollution was brought into focus. The initial report on surveys pointing toward a second lake revealed 161 ppm chlorides in the water at a likely site in Mitchell County. Subsequent reports, however, showed the concentration was substantially higher.

Thus, when the State Board of Water Engineers (since succeeded by the Texas Water Rights Commission) granted a permit for another lake, it was contingent upon the CRMWD demonstrating the District could control the salinity of the water so that the new lake would be within the United States Public Health Standards of 250 ppm maximum chlorides. Some experts contended privately this could never be done.

Yet, at a cost of over \$808,000, the CRMWD is going to do just that.

The solution based on the finding that nearly all of the heavy mineralization of water is in the

normal low flow of the river, and from the flushing flow when the river first begins to rise after rains. So the river is plugged about two miles northwest of Colorado City with a line of interlocking sheet piling driven (an average depth of 20 feet) to impervious material all the way across the river channel. The main portion of this is capped with a low-water concrete dam 305 feet long, six feet high and two feet thick. When flood waters of good quality come down, they flow right on over the channel dam and eventually into the new lake.

Stopping the water is simple, but what to do with brine is not. The first step was to secure a state permit for an off-channel storage reservoir and to purchase 400 acres of land for about \$60,000. This tract was somewhat like an amphitheatre in the bend of the river, so a horseshoe earth-filled levy 7,700 feet long was constructed to create a 2,500 acre foot reservoir (which with the borrow pits for the dam, boosts capacity to 3,000 acre feet). The structure averages 20 feet high, is 20 feet wide at the top (which supports a roadway on 6-inch compacted base). It is on a 3-1 slope on the inside and

2-1 on the outside. The inside is protected with rock rip rap. To prevent seepage of brackish water back into the river, a core trench with a 12-foot flat bottom was cut an average of 12 feet deep and filled with clay.

The core trench involved moving 109,000 cubic yards of earth, the wetted-rolled embankment 486,000 cubic yards, the rip rap 50,000 cubic yards. All this cost \$399,935.

The next and perhaps the biggest problem of all was how to get the water from the river into the side storage, especially when a flush flow was beginning. Here a battery of high capacity pumps came into play.

At a cost of \$365,186, the District has constructed a pump station that catches water from the river and boosts it into the reservoir. One pump with 1,500,000 gpd capacity will operate when the river is at its lowest, joined by a 5,000,000 gpd unit when the river flows somewhat more. Three pumps with capacities of 25,000,000 gallons each will come on in stages as the river rises, so that at peak, 81,500,000 gallons per day can be diverted into the reservoir.

An ingenious arrangement dictates automatically how the pumps will operate with an eye on quantity and quality. First there are water level controls which bring the pumps on in sequence. Then a salinity or conductivity meter (which accurately measures the chloride content of the water) takes over shutting down the pump when the chlorides drop as low as 500 ppm. The balance of the flood, whose quality will improve because the mineral residue in the flush has been removed, is diluted progres-

sively by non-brackish water flowing in below. By the time it gets to Lake E. V. Spence, it is good water, well below the USPH limits.

There still remains the problem of what to do with the salt water. To get around this the CRMWD has installed an intake some 700 feet away from the 48-inch input liner. Water drawn off goes through three transmission pumps capable of pushing

the water 500 feet uphill and a distance of 16 miles to oil companies which will use it in oil field repressuring. This should erase worries that the 3,000 acre foot capacity of the off channel storage would ever overflow.

A supply of water has had a profound effect on the movement of civilizations through the ages of history.

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas

June 12, 1969

## The Engineering Progress and Development of the Robert Lee Dam and Reservoir . . .

A Step Forward Towards  
Our Growth in the Area . . .

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# Morning Glory Spillway an Engineering Feat

One of the most remarkable parts of the Robert Lee Dam is the gated morning glory spillway through which excess water in Lake E. V. Spence may be dumped downstream in controlled flow.

The structure alone cost \$2,875,000 and required over 55,000 cubic yards of concrete and hundreds of tons of reinforcing steel.

Located almost midway between the ends of the dam, the spillway will let water out of the lake down under the dam in-

to the old channel at a maximum rate of 40,000 cubic feet per second, or roughly a million gallons every three seconds.

It has some imposing statistics. From the base of the foundations to the steel super structure, the upstream portion of the works is 200 feet.

The lip of the morning glory (it is shaped like the flower but with supporting piers) is 66 feet from edge to edge. This funnels down like the bell of a huge Sousaphone to an interior width of 28 feet, which crooks and arches up slightly, then lays back down toward the stilling basin on the downstream side.

The thickness of the walls of the tunnel or conduit varies from five to six and one-half feet, and at 32-foot intervals it is encircled by a massive concrete collar four feet thick. These serve as supports and also to block any possible migration of water along the line of the spillway through the dam.

From the center line of the morning glory to the end of the stilling basin is 956 feet, which means that the spillway proper covers a distance of 652 feet under the dam.

For practical purposes, the bottom of the spillway is at elevation 1770 (although its foundations go down 15 feet below that point). The elevation at bottom of the gates is 1878, and top of the spillway is 1898.

The morning glory is topped by 12 heavy steel gates, 14½ feet wide and 20 feet deep. Rising from a heavy concrete decking above the gates is a ring of steel superstructure almost 35 feet high which supports individual motor operated chain hoists for the gates.

The gates slide in steel frames with almost microscopic tolerance, and pressure of water pushes them back against a neoprene seal to prevent leaking. If, however, a gate should give trouble, the District has a stop gate to drop in the steel channel guides in front of the regular gate until it can be pulled and the trouble corrected.

The gates will be operated according to a fixed pattern of one, three, four, six, eight or twelve.

Water spilling through the gates, down the morning glory and through the tunnel emerges on the downstream side of the dam on to a hydraulic jump, or a steep concrete structure at velocities up to 40 feet per second.

At the base of the jump, the water hits three huge concrete blocks (capped with angle iron to prevent erosion). These baffles are roughly 11 x 11 x 13 feet. As water boils from this it spills into the stilling basin,

from whence it emerges at a velocity of no more than only three feet per second. Huge boulders in the bed prevent erosion of the channel.

The stilling basin is in effect a huge concrete box with walls that fan out. These walls are 167 feet long on either side, from

Continued on Next Page

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas

June 12, 1969

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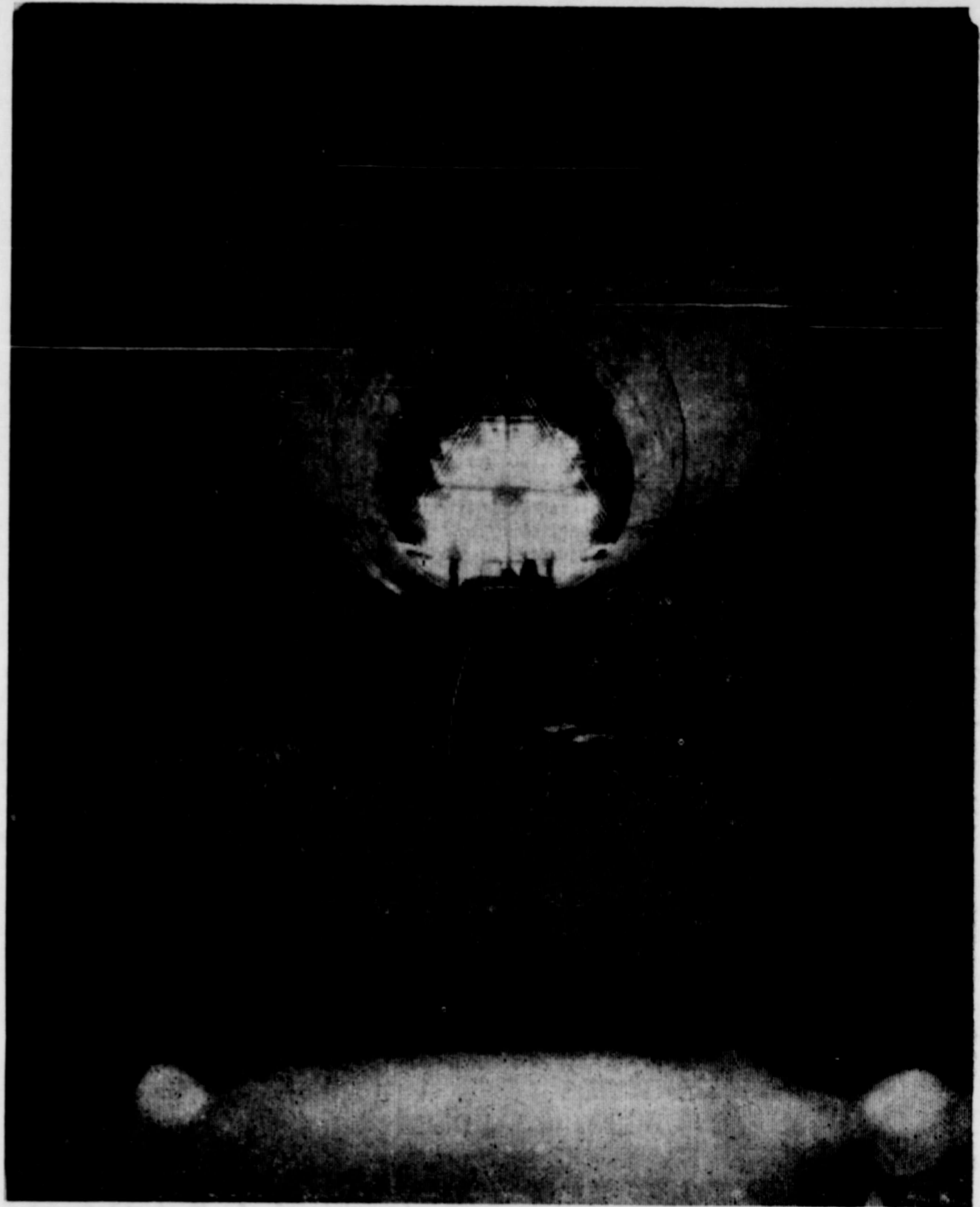
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**MORNING GLORY SPILLWAY**  
Continued from Preceding Page

2 1/4 feet at the base to 1 1/2 feet wide at the top, and 58 feet high. The concrete floor of the stilling basin is 7.92 feet thick.

**Service Outlets**

Water does not have to be 70 feet deep at the spillway before it can be spilled below to satisfy various demands.

The structure has three service outlets which could let out as much as 50,000,000 gallons per day. One is a 60-inch conduit, while two others are 24-inch pipes. The big pipe and one of the 24-inch outlets will pick up water at elevation 1815.5 feet, dump it into a valve tower half way between the lip of the spillway and the center line of the dam.

From the valve tower, the wa-

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND DRIP TRAP**

The Colorado River Municipal Water District sells only raw water, with one exception. That exception was occasioned by the rising waters of Lake E. V. Spence, which will inundate riverbank wells that supplied water for Humble's repressuring project.

The District then had to make arrangements to furnish water from the lake, but this called for a filter plant costing \$96,000. In time this will be recovered through sale of water to the operator.

A correlative structure combined the intake and drip trap facility for Union Texas Petroleum Company at a cost of \$89,000. Union's gas lines go under the lake, and the change in temperatures causes liquids in the gas to condense. These are trapped in a vessel at the installation, then pumped vertically to surface storage.

ter flows out through the main spillway tunnel.

The other 24-inch line rides on top of the main tunnel from the wet well to where the tunnel merges on the downstream side

of the dam. Here it deadends, ready to be tapped for some future customer or use. Each of these valves is controlled hydrologically from the valve tower, which also has controls which activate the gate hoists on the morning glory spillway.



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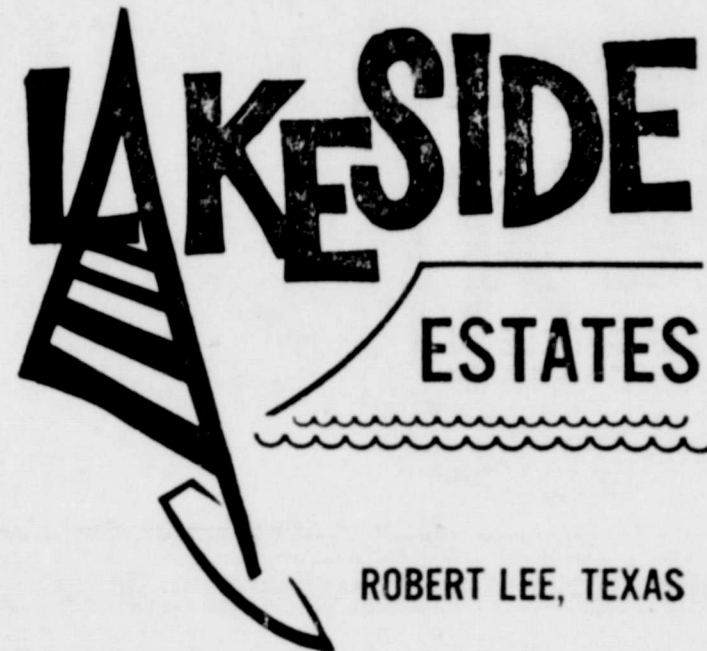
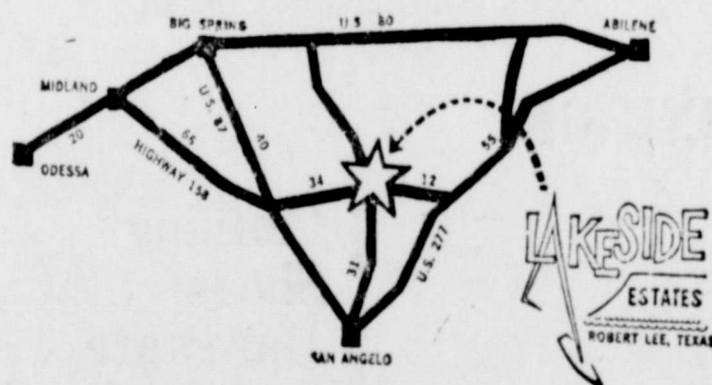
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"The new lake will be about 22 miles long and about four miles wide at the widest point and will have a 137 mile shoreline. It will have a capacity of 488,760 acre-feet of water."

Over 600,000 large mouth black bass have been put into the water at Robert Lee in the last two weeks, bringing the total number of bass stocked past the million mark. Last fall the department stocked the lake area with approximately 130,000 catfish from three to four inches long. The catfish stocking program will not be complete until late summer.

The fishing is closed now, but should be open in the early fall.

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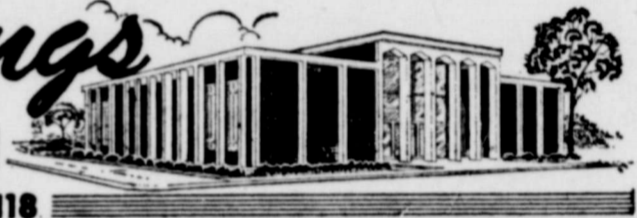


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# Robert Lee Observer

## Dam Represents Hopes, Disappointments of Many

By Ulmer Bird

For 80 years the business men and many landowners in Coke County watched red water of the Colorado River roll through their county, and they wanted it.

I knew most of the men who wanted it and tried to get it.

There were no giant dirt movers, bulldozers, or loaders when the first serious talk was made of a dam, and it was not for cities but for water on the level acres of the valley and the new town of Robert Lee.

How would they do it? With horses and mules, fresnos and

scrapers, maybe a steam shovel and as drag line, mattocks, picks and shovels.

Where would they get the money? The government was not building dams on rivers, very few were built by private capital. The Encyclopedia Britannica published in 1903, largely written in the 1890's had an American Section in which was a copious article on irrigation in the United States. But no mention was made of dams on rivers.

Private capital did not seriously interest itself until the second decade of the 1900's. Settlers had

poured in until in 1910 there were 6,412, nearly twice as many as there are today. The far sighted knew that dry land cotton farming, which had brought them would not alone keep them. Irrigation would do it if they could get it.

### Burro Pack and Trail Blazers

The late Robert Knierim of Bronte, business man who many years operated a motor company there, early in this century had foreseen the need for water on semi-arid land to shore up the economy, and worked for three decades at getting capital and government interested.

In 1913 an engineer named Stanley was interested, along with a Dr. Pierson, English capitalist, who would finance the enterprise. The late S. A. Kiker, long time county commissioner from the Bronte precinct, told me the story, which I wrote and saw published in a number of daily papers in the thirties.

Mr. Kiker said that, while riding his pasture one day, he came on a group of men camped on his land, cooking a jackrabbit. It seemed that getting permission was a formality overlooked. Ingress had been merely by crossing the fence.

They explained their mission and invited Mr. Kiker to join them, which he did, and worked on the survey some time. From near Bronte they worked their way up the river, with a well remembered burro carrying their camp pack and serving both as pet and pest.

The capital and the capitalist were far away, and the surveyors sometimes ran out of money and provisions. Then came a day when someone rode into camp with a newspaper bearing black headlines. Mr. Stanley read the story, threw up his hands and exclaimed, "O, my God!"

After that he had no heart for the work. For an ocean liner, probably the Lusitania, had been sunk in mid ocean by a German torpedo and had gone down. Going down with it was the Eng-

lish capitalist and the first Robert Lee Dam.

The crew went ahead until they were eating only the game they could kill, their provisions down to flour for bread, hoping somehow that the survey might be completed and the project eventually be built. But one of the most determined and eager spirits that ever wanted a dam on the Colorado had broken that day.

Soon the men were out of food, and trudged with their camp burro into Robert Lee, disappointed and defeated men. They had hewn trails through the big ranches that then were wild country, where now water is rising in the Spence Lake.

Some years later, one of his Coke County friends visited Stanley in ort WorthF, where he lived in a beautiful house he had

built with his own hands, alone.

### Memories Grow Misty

Many of those who took part in these early endeavors are gone now, Robert Knierim among them, and all the thought and work and planning that went into them are memories that have grown dim. But irrigation was the prime objective, private enterprise the way to attain it. Landowners were enlisted in a proposition to put water on part of their land in return for a part of their land to be deeded the builders, as one recalled it.

The torpedoes that brought us into World War I had sunk the first really serious effort to dam the river. Came the war then, and during it the most disastrous drought ever to strike this part of West Texas in 1916, 1917 and

Continued on Page 4

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## O. H. Ivie District Manager



O. H. Ivie

Not many men have stepped in to a harder job under more pressing circumstances than Owen H. Ivie, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District. When Directors named him to succeed the late E. V. Spence in the summer of 1965, he had to take up the fight for a second major lake. Then, he had to build this \$34.5 million project in time to meet commitments by January 1970.

A hard worker who earned his State Professional Engineering Certification by years of experience and hard study, he was held in such esteem by his fellows that he was chosen Engineer of the Year in 1964 by the Permian Basin Chapter of Texas Society of Professional Engineers. Through necessity he also became expert in accounting and financial affairs when he succeeded to the top job of the CRMWD.

For the past three years, the effort to impound a lake above Robert Lee had deliver its contents over a new system of 132 miles of pipeline from 10-inch to 42-inch diameter has been a consuming one, often a day-and-night affair. The end is not in sight for 47 miles of 42-inch line have to be laid and six pump stations built and made operative.

Ivie was with Freese and Nichols, Consulting Engineers, when he joined CRMWD in 1952. He was on duty when first deliveries of water were made. Soon he was brought to headquarters by Spence, who made him Assistant General Manager in 1959. Ivie helped work out much of the complicated rate formulae of the District, checked construction on expansion projects in 1958 and 1963, the latter when he pushed the "six months miracle" to get water from Lake Thomas to Sun Oil Company 55 miles away in the space of half a year. In effect, he was Director of Operations for Spence. Directors lost no time in naming him to the top post when Spence died in April, 1965. He figured prominently in securing a compromise which freed the permit and opened the way to the new lake. During his career he has pressed for numerous improvements, including automation of the system.

In assuming his duties as General Manager, Ivie said he was "personally dedicated to doing whatever is humanly possible to look ahead to supplying and protecting the future water needs of West Texas."

Born in Corsicana, Ivie graduated from Arlington High School, was in the Navy's V-12 program

Continued on Page 6

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The new dam is a tremendous asset to Coke County and to all of West Texas. New residents around the lake as well as thousands of visitors will be a big boost to the economy of this area.

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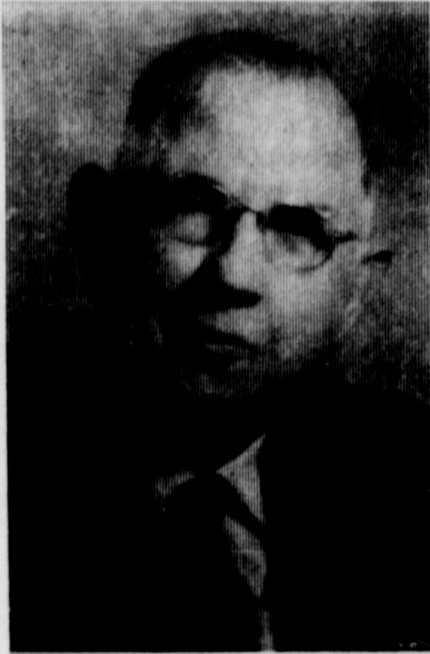
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# Lake Spence Named For CRMWD Manager

The newest and largest lake of the Colorado River Municipal Water District is named for a man who devoted much of two score years in the search for adequate water supplies in West Texas.

Lake E. V. Spence, the 488,760 acre foot reservoir just above Robert Lee, honors Eugene Vierling Spence, first General Manager of the CRMWD. He died April 4, 1965. His death may have been hastened by the al-out battle

he waged for the lake which will bear his name. A product of a South Texas ranch, he spent most of his adult life in West Texas. A 1911 graduate of Texas A & M, he served as Mayor of his home town, Alice, and as a surveyor-rancher. He served three years in World War I, emerging as a Captain. In 1918 he was married to Elizabeth Wright, and Mrs. Spence is to be here for dedication of the lake in her husband's memory.



Col. E. V. Spence

After the war, he returned to A & M in 1924 to earn a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering with a major in City Management, and immediately San Angelo named him City Manager. Later he resigned to enter private business, then served as Big Spring City Manager, 1931-1941, leaving this post for World War II service.

Colnel Spence's service as Post Engineer at Camp Swift was rated the most outstanding in the Eighth Corps area. Governor Coke Stephenson named him to the State Board of Water Engineers, Governor Beauford Jester elevated him to the Chairmanship and Governor Allan Shivers appointed him Interstate Water Compact Commissioner, from whence he came January 1, 1951, to be General Manager of the newly formed CRMWD as it prepared for a \$12 million construction program.

His years as a City Manager, as well as that at state levels, had qualified him for a continuing effort to keep this area in water. Before Lake J. B. Thomas, the first CRMWD reservoir was started, he explored possibility of diverting much of the Deep Creek shed into it. This eventually led to a proposal for a second lake in 1956, a project that took another nine years to firm into a permit and three more to build.

While pushing a state water plan for Governor Jester, Spence warned leaders in this region, "you never get up with your water." When urging a decision to file for a second lake, he admonished, "You can't fool around about tying up this water...I cannot over emphasize the need for this water for West Texas."

Although steeped in practicalities of engineering and economics, he was imaginative and perceptive. He secured an amendment to the permit when oilfield  
Continued on Page 6

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**HOPES, DISAPPOINTMENTS**  
Continued from Page 1

1918. What the citizens had feared and had looked to irrigation to prevent, came on swift, hard and disastrous.

Their pastures bare and livestock dwindled, no crops and out of credit, many small farmers sold to those slightly better established and left the county.

By 1920, the next census, the county had lost 2,000 people. In 1930 as a result of better seasons and some good cotton years there was a 700 increase, but population-wise, neither the country communities nor the towns ever recovered their 1910 figures.

Cedar Hill was gone. Sanco had dwindled, Edith also. Fort Chadbourne withered away, Hayrick passed. The farming and ranching business recovered, but with far fewer farmers and ranchmen.

Robert Knierim never gave up. During the twenties he worked at interesting companies with capital, and the late C. C. Holder worked with him in a project to combine irrigation with electric power, and as 1930 came on the Robert Lee Observer was carrying front page editorials, with A. W. Pruett, editor-publisher, lending it his own style of support.

In a front page editorial, issue of Nov. 14, 1930, was headed, "Power Plus Irrigation. The lake was thus described, — 4 miles wide, 5 miles long, 120 feet deep at the dam, and water released for irrigation would develop 400 horse power in generating electricity.

Some \$580 had been pledged in the Robert Lee area to help in preliminary work on the project. In October there had been a meeting in Robert Lee attended by J. Q. McAdams, president of the Winters bank; W. W. McCutchen, cashier of the Robert Lee Bank; Tad Richards, Robert Knierim and C. C. Holder.

"Bumbles" Pruett, the editor, rang the bell with "Let's put a

prosperous farmer on every 40 to 100 acres of land here." The Ulen Company of New York and Lebanon, Ohio, proposed to build the dam "if it would really be profitable to the farmers, but not otherwise."

Whether it did not turn out basically profitable to the farmers or else the depression coming on, perhaps a combination of both, this project was also torpedoed, the last undertaking by private capital to dam the Colorado in Coke County.

The depression, the Roosevelt administration, and the turning of an economic corner in the nation was followed by giant programs of flood control, and irrigation, the forming of authorities, districts, and there was but one place to turn for financing the Coke County dream — to Washington.

So came the Upper Colorado River Authority, authorized by the Legislature of the State of Texas to include Coke and Tom

Green counties. The advalorem tax in both counties was set aside to base its financing.

By 1937 tax revenues had come in and the Authority was implemented at a meeting in the Cactus Hotel in San Angelo.

**A Flood Dams the Concho**

In the meantime in 1936 San Angelo had been hit by one of the most devastating floods West Texas ever saw, and the flood on the North Concho joined the one on the Colorado below Ballinger and swept down through Coleman County, which I was then covering for the Standard Times.

Houses in the valley were swept away where the river had never been a threat before. I worked up the valley, making a quick reporter's estimate as I went, and wrote the paper a by-line story which estimated that financial losses from this flood equaled the sum that would be required to build an adequate flood control dam on the North

Continued on Next Page

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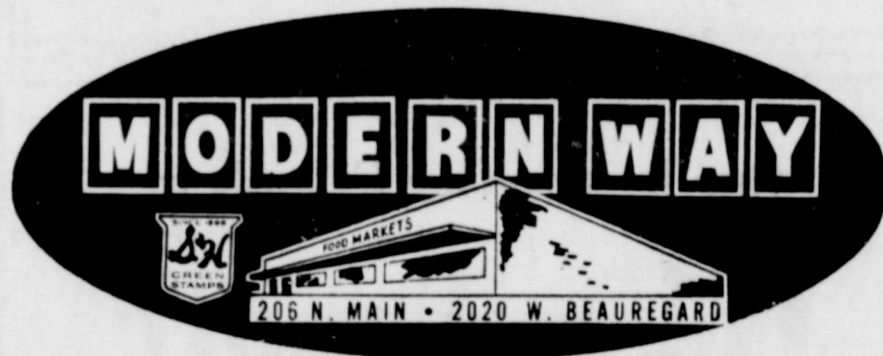
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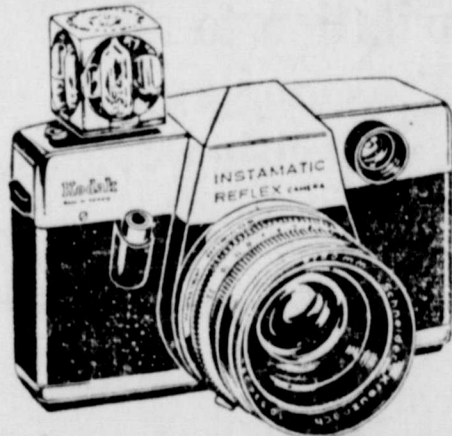
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**HOPES, DISAPPOINTMENTS -**  
Continued from Preceding Page

Concho. Of course I was not the only one figuring, and the Corps of Engineers was before many months surveying the Concho watershed.

Federal funds for flood control were allotted, and the engineers got in a huddle with UCRA. The money would build a low dam, not high enough to shunt the canals and the emergency water releases around the city. Bridges in the city would have to be raised and canal right of way provided. If UCRA would buy the extra storage, it would be built high enough to by-pass these problems.

UCRA put it up to the city of San Angelo. The city fathers couldn't see needing the water, but when faced with the bridge building alternative, negotiated with UCRA, who wrote a contract — in fact 22 contracts were written before the city finally accepted the first one offered and bought the storage to be paid from city revenue. During a prolonged lack of run-off rains, this proved San Angelo's only water available.

**Upper Colorado River Authority**  
The efforts of L. T. Youngblood, Bronte banker, and Gerald Allen, Robert Lee banker, members of the UCRA Board of directors and, in turn, chairmen of the board parallel the efforts of the Coke-Tom Green Upper Colorado River Authority.

Government would finance flood control, power, irrigation, municipal needs here and there. Perhaps it would here. But it would take many trips to Washington, conferences with engineers, meeting after meeting, much thought and concern by men already busy and working for no salary or political position.

As soon as organized the UCRA went immediately to work.

The Corps of Engineers made a survey, located a site above the Saul Ranch House on the river, and in 1939 this project was pending, evidently covering much of the present site.

Here, too, they got flood control funds, but not enough for a project that would put water on

the thirsty land, and they turned to the Bureau of Reclamation for additional funds. The Bureau approved, and the project was before Congress with a good chance, when oil development moved in, and the cost of securing land with the mineral rights, protection of the oil installations had to be figured in.

All the while the rice farmers on the lower Colorado had been throwing their influence against any sizeable project up here. Whether or not political pressures figured, the Federal powers decreed then that, with the additional cost, the water would come too high for irrigation, and the dam was again sunk either in politics or in oil, or in both.

San Angelo men all the while were involved. Culbertson Deal was the first chairman of the board of directors, L. T. Youngblood was secretary treasurer. Upon Deal's death, Penrose Met-

calf was chairman, Youngblood, vice-chairman. Eventually Youngblood became chairman, serving for some years, then Allen succeeded him and is now the chairman.

With a dam finally completed and its dedication pending, I visited Mr. Youngblood at his desk in the Bronte Bank, and Mr. Allen at his in Robert Lee. Both men could now relax in recollection of the long years and help piece in details of the story.

The man-made mountain towers just one mile from the city limits of Robert Lee. How did it get there? What will it do for us and to us? Is this what was hoped for through three quarters of a century, just before and during our time?

**Where To Get The Money?**

All that time it had awaited some way to finance it. Coke County businessmen and land-

Continued on Back Page

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# Variety of Fish Stocked in Lake

Not so many years ago West Texans, starved for fishing, had to go to rivers and lakes in Central and East Texas or head for the coast.

The Colorado River Municipal Water District has had a hand in changing that situation. Working closely with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, the District has stocked Lake J. B. Thomas from the time it began impounding water 17 years ago. It

has begun a similar practice on the new Lake E. V. Spence even before there was a lake. If all goes well, the lake may be opened to fisherman by late summer or early autumn.

The state department stocked brood black bass in three construction lakes impounded by the contractor, and many of these are up now to 3-5 pounds. In addition, there were yellow and channel cat. Recently, more

channel catfish were stocked, plus three quarters of a million fingerling black bass. The department also put in some 15,000 more brood fish from lakes and ranch ponds in the area.

Now underway is a stocking of striped bass. So far 34,500 fingerlings have been put in, and more will come. These are salt water fish that do well in West Texas surroundings. A true bass, they grow large, are often up to 20 to 25 pounds and sometimes substantially bigger in their native habitat.

Lake Spence, according to R. A. Schooling, administrative assistant, will have crappie, white bass, black bass, striped bass, channel cat, yellow cat and blue cat, in addition to the various types of forage fish.

**O. H. IVIE —**  
Continued from Page 2

and assigned to Southwestern University where he majored in math and physics. After the war he was with the Texas Highway Department as Surveyor, in bridge work and finally on a district staff. He worked on three jobs with Freese and Nichols before joining the District.

Ivie and his wife, the former Yvonne Bohannon, have three daughters. He is a past Vice President of Big Spring Band Boosters, Member of the American Business Club, a Bible teacher in his church. He also belongs

**COL. E. V. SPENCE —**  
Continued from Page 3

repressuring contracts loomed as a possibility, and again an amendment to produce, dispose or transport salt water when the pollution problem threatened. He headed Southwest Water Research Council in studies seeking to find out how to cut high evaporation losses. He encouraged experiments leading to recharge of water wells with lake water. He became a leading campaigner against water pollution. Above all, he pressed for the second lake. Perhaps his words when badgered by an attorney unmercifully at a hearing on the permit and asked just what did he know about water, Colonel Spence replied: "I know it's scarce in West Texas."



Workmen Do Repair Work on Big Machine

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas June 12, 1969

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AND

**COKE COUNTY**

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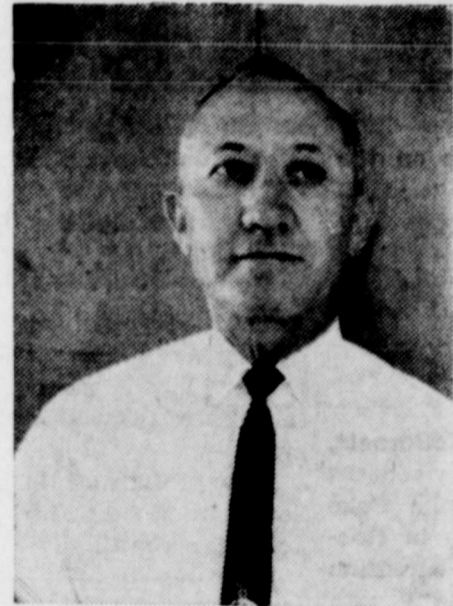
# A Tribute . . . To Three Coke Countians



Gerald C. Allen



L. T. Youngblood



Cumbie Ivey

## Workers To Bring Water To West Texas

These three members of the board of the Upper Colorado River Authority have worked for untold hours and spent money from their own pockets to develop water resources in Coke County.

These three men have served long years on the board of directors of the UCRA. They have devoted their time, money and energies to making water available to West Texas for its growth and development. Their influence as officers and directors of the UCRA should be remembered each time a citizen of Robert Lee or Bronte turns on the water tap in his home, for they are the ones who worked to provide adequate city water supplies to both towns.

L. T. Youngblood and Gerald C. Allen have served as members of the UCRA board since its beginning in 1936. Cumbie Ivey was appointed a member of the board in 1948.

During 33 years Mr. Allen and Mr. Youngblood have served and during the 21 years

Mr. Ivey has served, these men have worked to get a dam built on the Colorado River. It was their efforts that kept the water rights in Coke County and this area intact and made it possible for the Colorado River Municipal Water District to complete the dream for a dam in this area.

Of more immediate importance to Robert Lee and Bronte is the backing of these men in getting the UCRA to finance Mountain Creek for Robert Lee and a pipeline from Oak Creek Lake for Bronte.

Mr. Youngblood was chairman of UCRA from 1945 till 1964, and was vice chairman prior to 1945. Mr. Allen was secretary-treasurer till 1964 when he became chairman of the board.



**NOW UNDERWATER** — The bridge across the river on the road to Sterling City used to look like this. The past few weeks, however, have seen wa-

ter back up behind Robert Lee Dam and cover the structure. The new highway goes below the dam and skirts the lake to the south.

**SUZANNE McBurnett  
IN TRAINING HERE**

Suzanne McBurnett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete McBurnett, Odessa, is serving a two months training assignment in the Coke County Extension Office in Robert Lee. The assistant extension agent will work primarily with Mrs. Fay C. Roe, County Home Demonstration Agent. She will participate in and observe all phases of Extension work in preparation for her assignment as Concho County Home Demonstration Agent. She will assume her duties there on August 1.

Miss McBurnett is a graduate of Permian High School in Odessa and a spring graduate of Texas Tech in Lubbock. She has a vocational teaching certificate. Her practice teaching was done in

Central High School in San Angelo where Mrs. B. F. Kirk, a former home economics teacher in Bronte, is head of the department.

Miss McBurnett is making her home in Robert Lee with Mrs. Lois Mae Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. William Joe Harmon and children of Irving were weekend guests in the home of his parents for the Memorial Day weekend.

**Attend the  
Dedication  
Of the Dam  
Saturday**

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is a big industry  
for Texas



The Completion of  
**Robert Lee Dam**

will bring thousands of  
tourists to this area of

**West Texas**

We welcome the opportunity to congratulate the Colorado River Municipal Water District on the completion of their dam at Robert Lee. We feel this project will be a great asset to this entire section of West Texas and will provide water for future growth of the area.

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**Our Friends in  
COKE COUNTY**

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### Lakeside Estates Has Lots for Sale

Lakeside Estates, the first developer of living sites around E. V. Spence Reservoir, has hundreds of lots for sale in a tract on the south side of the lake.

Lots are available right on the water front, or back a ways some distance from the water. Prices vary according to location.

Some paving has already been done in the area, and more is contemplated as the area develops. An air strip has been constructed on the east side of the estates for the benefit of residents who have planes, as well as for the accommodation of the general public.

An office is open each day at the site, with a salesman on duty to show prospective buyers around the area.

### CRMWD Lists Its Employees

The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an operating history of less than 20 years, yet it has an average tenure of 10 years for its 48 employees.

The staff is directed by O. H. Ivie, who came from Freese and Nichols as an Engineer on the original project in January, 1953.

Other key personnel and beginning of their tenure with the CRMWD are:

W. P. Odom, Assistant Manager, (Sept. 1960); R. A. Schooling, Administrative Assistant (Aug. 1956); T. C. Richardson, General Superintendent of Operation and Maintenance (Jan. 1955); K. B. Stephens, Electrical Technician (June 1958); William A. Belew, Assistant Electrical Technician (Feb. 1969); Humberto Padilla, Radio and Microwave Technician (Oct. 1954); L. B. Hazlewood, Foreman-West Division (May 1952); O. J. Ingram, Foreman-East Division (May 1956); Raymond Phillips, General Foreman (July 1959); J. M. Ross, Superintendent-Lake J. B. Thomas (Aug. 1967); Douglas Robinson, Superintendent-Lake E. V. Spence (March 1968); Joe Pickle, Secretary-Treasurer (Jan. 1952); Walter Ross, Auditor (April 1953); Mrs. Helen Stewart, Secretary (Oct. 1955); and Mrs. Carol Chiavetta, Secretary (April 1963).

The District maintains a retirement plan for its employees, plus group hospital insurance.

The Observer, Robert Lee Texas June 12, 1969

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**43 YEARS . . .**

Yes, 43 years is quite awhile, and that how long S. E. Adams has been in the abstract business, going to work in 1927 for the Tom Green County Abstract Co. Mr. Adams started building his own abstract plant in Coke County in 1928. After several months of hard work the plant opened for business in 1929. In 1941 the three Coke County abstract plants owned by E. G. Waldon Abstract & Title Co., Coke County Abstract & Realty, owned by J. S. Gardner, and Security Abstract & Title Co., owned by Mr. Adams, consolidated, with Mr. and Mrs. Adams buying out the other two. Mrs. Adams joined Mr. Adams as his wife and in the business in 1932. They also operate a firm in Ballinger, and had one in San Angelo for a number of years. Mr. Adams has been active for many years with his oil interests, also.

## Our Service

is vital to progress,  
particularly as we look  
to the bright future  
which will involve many  
transfers of Coke County  
property.

# Adams Abstract Co.

ROBERT LEE

**HOPES, DISAPPOINTMENTS**  
Continued from Page 5

owners had failed in what they wanted to do on this river from the beginning — irrigate enough land to make the population of town and country secure.

The oil development had raised valuations, done much for the economy, but had not much increased the total population of the county. It had helped those already here to stay and brought in enough people to replace those leaving during that time.

Would water, plenty of water, put the towns back on their feet with enough growth to maintain good schools, build their economy?

UCRA kept trying, going down the river to get away from the oil property expense, five miles below Robert Lee to what was known as the Wendland site and started over again. Here it was estimated that a shorter dam than any other site afforded would impound more water — 680,000 acre feet, or 200,000 more than the present site.

Fifty eight thousand acres in Coke would be irrigated, a corner of Runnels, and many farms in Tom Green. This was approved by the Bureau of Reclamation,

was up before Congress for authorization, and now they had it made! Then, Wham! World War II was on and all such projects were off, and down again went the dam on the Colorado.

When the dust and smoke had settled after the war, men who had spent time not counted going to Washington, meetings, conferences again and again and again, now started over again. They reached into pigeon holes and pulled out the surveys and other documents and asked for a re-study. They got it.

But before the war it would have cost \$12,680,000. After the war it would cost thirty six million. Construction costs were up that much. But need for farm commodities had slackened off. Farm costs had risen. It would not pay.

Dams in Arizona paid. They paid around the state. Irrigation by the rice farmers paid. Pumping from wells to irrigate the South Plains paid. But Washington killed this one dead again — not feasible.

But in the meantime the UCRA could and did help towns in the district. After North Concho came Oak Creek. Sweetwater wanted to come into the district

and build a lake for municipal needs. The UCRA insisted that, to do that, they must allot 600,000 gallons per day to be used within the district.

Bronte draws from that water, using a pipeline built by UCRA, paying for all that and improvements made by UCRA to their city system by the month from their water revenue.

Robert Lee, with oil development, needed more water, and the UCRA built for them Mountain Creek Lake at a cost of \$87,000 contract price, to which was later added repairs on the spillway and considerable improvement to Robert Lee's water system, for which they pay, as Bronte does, out of water revenue by the month, at cost.

The next hope was to combine municipal needs with irrigation, and they contacted the most likely cities. San Angelo could be served. Water could be pumped to Abilene by way of Buffalo Gap. But they wouldn't buy. San Angelo built Three Rivers and Abilene built Phantom Hill.

Now we were out of the forties and into the fifties and oil development had spread all over West Texas. It had brought multiplied millions in dollars, and thousands of people to Snyder, Big Spring, Midland, Odessa, as well as Abilene and San Angelo.

Up stream and beyond the headwaters there wasn't enough water from wells and lakes, and people couldn't drink the oil. City dads looked around for water. The Colorado River Municipal Water District was formed.

The municipal district built Lake J. B. Thomas in Scurry county, with water revenue bonds. Not only did it meet its own funding, but provided credit for launching another lake. The oil fed cities were looking for industry, wanted still more water in their future, sent surveyors down the Colorado. Now we were in the early sixties.

The site chosen was a mile from Robert Lee's city limits within the Upper Colorado River Authority's two-county district. Now there was a way to finance it, for the first time since the idea started. But not for water on the fields.

But UCRA must approve when the municipalities went to Austin for the permit. Before approval, the directors stipulated that water rights for users within this district and Runnels county downstream must be protected. I attended the meeting between the directors of the two bodies.

UCRA said they would build the dam and sell water to the municipal district, or agree for the district to build it and sell to them for those who need in this downstream area, specifying at that time 50,000 acre feet.

To this CRMWD agreed and committees were appointed to meet with engineers in working out details of the arrangement. CRMWD would build the dam, and guarantee water to the people for whom UCRA spoke, on terms to be worked out.

When the hearing came up in Austin, hotly contested by the Lower Colorado River Authority, the lower river people finally consented to an agreement whereby CRMWD would be permitted to retain 297,000 acre feet for use

above Lake Buchanan, and that all over that must be released downstream to the Lower Authority if needed — that is the difference between 297,000 and 480,000 acre feet.

But the municipal district held out on writing into the permit the specific provision demanded by UCRA. Finally the UCRA directors put it straight. Either write it into the permit, or UCRA would protest the bill, which would kill it. The provision was written into the permit. San Angelo has already contracted for some of this water.

Midland, Odessa, Snyder, Big Spring, Stanton are already contractors. Each may use all it needs as long as there is plenty there, of course paying for their water as their contract specifies. If ever there should be less water than the total contracted, by reason of drouth, for example, then each will draw a pro rata percentage of the total, based on the percentage the contract is of the total contract.

Bronte, Ballinger, Robert Lee, and the village of Sanco have a fairly definite commitment that they may get water.

That involves enough customers to need enough more water than at present to furnish the revenue that will pay for pipelines and the water contracts.

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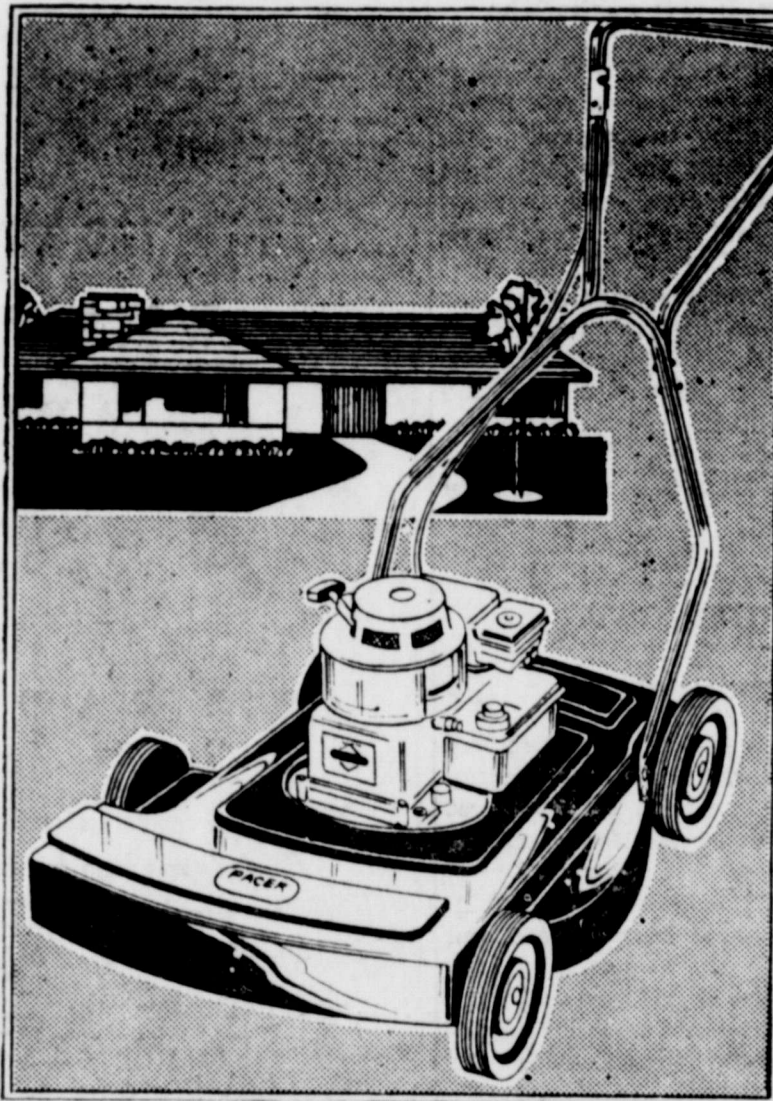
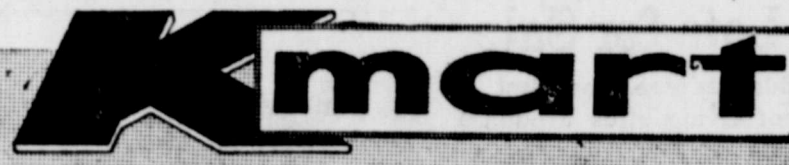


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