

# Onion Tops

Number 76

December 2018

Back in *Onion Tops* #65 (REHupa mailing 254, August 2015), I wrote about the discovery of G. W. Ervin's silver mine in New Mexico. I found the Robert E. Lee Mine in Stein's Pass, not Stern's Pass, by scrolling through microfilm of the *Lampasas Leader* at the Lampasas Public Library. Since then, much of that paper has been digitized and I've found a few more nuggets about the Ervins' time in Lampasas, where they appear to have hobnobbed with judges and doctors.

**Struck it Rich.**

STERN'S PASS, N. M.,  
R. E. LEE MINE,  
Dec. 18th, 1888.

MR. G. W. ERVIN.

Dear Sir:—I feel so good that I thought I would try and make you feel better about the mine. We are finding lots of gold in a chloride state so we are solid for a good mine now. Since Frank left we have struck it rich in gold. You have not got enough in Texas to buy me out now so you missed a big trade. I have about two tons picked ore that I think will run from \$75 to \$100 per ton.

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I feel like I was worth \$100,000 now. We are all well and plenty of snow on the high mountains.

Respectfully yours,  
J. L. DONOVAN.

Mr. Ervin owns nearly all of this mine and we congratulate him on his good fortune. Only a short while ago he offered Mr. Donovan his elegant residence in Lampasas for his, Donovan's, interest in the mine, and now Donovan says that he would not take all of Mr. Ervin's property in Texas, which amounts to some \$50,000 or \$60,000, for it. In a former letter Mr. Donovan said that they had sunk a 32 foot shaft and had gone into the drift 14 feet. There is a vein of 2 feet thick of solid ore which grows richer as they go deeper.

*Lampasas Leader*, Dec. 29, 1888

A pleasant sociable was given at the residence of Dr. Adkins on Wednesday eve, in honor of Miss Lillie Grant, of Liberty Hill, who is visiting Miss Ettie. The following were present: Mr. L. R. Sparks and Miss May Munger; T. J. Dodson and Miss Maggie Munger; Jule Monroe and Miss Hester Ervin; W. T. Munger and Miss Maud Morgan; M. Y. Stokes and Miss Gertrude McWhirter; W. H. Matthews and Miss Maggie Forbes; Tom Sparks and Miss Alice Ervin; Messrs. G. W. Bruce, H. J. McIlhany, R. Ryan, C.

*Lampasas Leader*, May 25, 1889

A very delightful and enjoyable sociable was given Wednesday night in honor of Mr. T. J. Dodson at the residence of Dr. T. J. Largen. Those present had a most pleasant time and only regreted that they did not possess Joshua's power and ability to prolong not the day but night for many hours. Among those present were the following: Dr. T. J. Largen and Mrs. Slaughter, Mr. L. R. Sparks and Miss Maggie Munger, Mr. S. S. Munger, and Miss May Munger, Mr. T. J. Dodson and Miss Alice Ervin, Mr. W. V. Ervin and Miss Lida Giffin, Mr. Robt. Ervin and Miss Lula McWhirter, Mr. Joe Townsen and Miss Hester Ervin, Mr. Jessie Minor. A well prepared supper was served, to which full justice was done; all present united in praising the charming entertaining qualities displayed by Dr. Largen as a host.

*Lampasas Leader*, July 27, 1889

Judge A. G. Walker and wife elegantly entertained a number of young ladies and gentleman at their beautiful home corner Chestnut and Fifth streets Thursday evening, in honor of Miss Pearl Bedford, niece of Mrs. P. Guilham. Among those present were Mr. T. P. Mellon and Miss Pearl Bedford, Mr. A. L. Higdon and Miss Helen Skinner, Mr. Julius Monroe and Miss Hester Ervin, Mr. Will T. Munger and Miss Maud Morgan, Mr. Mannie Millican and Miss May Munger, and Maj. J. J. Wheadon. Miss Bedford will leave Monday for Galveston. During her visit here she has made a host of friends.

*Lampasas Leader*, April 20, 1889

Col. Ervin returned Wednesday from Oklahoma and reports the boom in that country as about "busted."

*Lampasas Leader*, July 13, 1889

**"LISTEN, YOU CRUMB . . ."**

—Shamefully Sparce MCs for REHupa 272 & 273—