

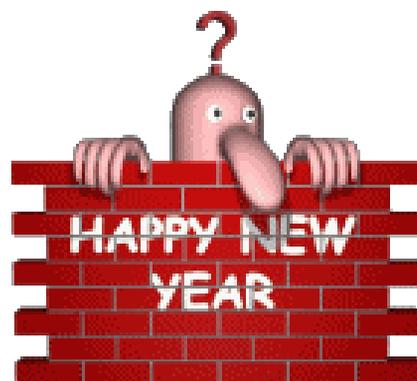
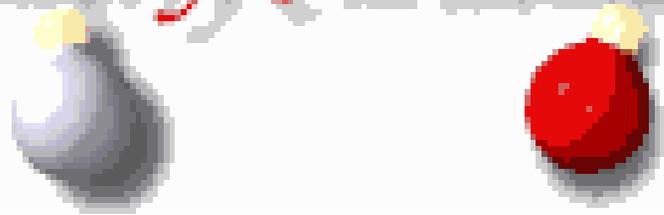
Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

December 24, 2012



Merry Christmas



Texoma Enterprise

Howe's That Recipe

by Lana Rideout

My all time favorite Christmas movie is *Miracle on 34th Street*. It is followed by several more favorites.

In no particular listing, they are *It's A Wonderful Life*, *White Christmas*, *Elf*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

Elf is a funny story about Christmas. It has only been around for 4 or 5 years. It is about an "elf" who lives with Santa. But he leaves the North Pole to find his father. A very touching and funny film.

In looking on the Internet for Christmas movies, I found out that Bruce Willis' *Die Hard* is the best Christmas movie ever. Well, Bruce is pretty good, but I will stick with *Miracle on 34th Street*.

Delightful Layered Dessert

Ingredients for Crust:

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup finely chopped pecans
1 cup flour
2 Tablespoons powdered sugar

Ingredients for Filling Layer One:

8 ounces cream cheese
1 cup Cool Whip
1 cup powdered sugar

Ingredients for Filling Layer Two:

1 large box chocolate instant pudding mix
2-3/4 cups of milk

Ingredients for Topping:

Remainder of Cool Whip
1 or more of the following Chocolate bar Heath bar chips
Chopped nuts

To Prepare Crust:

Melt butter, mix with flour, nuts, and sugar. Pat firmly onto bottom of 8 x 11 inch glass baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes in 350 degree oven. Cool well.

To Prepare Filling Layer One:

Mix softened cream cheese and powdered sugar. Add Cool Whip and mix well. Spread over cooled crust.

To Prepare Filling Layer Two:

Mix following pie directions on pudding box. Spread over layer one.

To Prepare Topping:

Spread with Cool Whip making swirls. Sprinkle with chocolate curls (with vegetable peeler shave along edge of chocolate bar), Heath bar chips, and/or chopped nuts. Refrigerate for at least 6 hours.



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Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459



Photo: Front row - Gage Hendrickson, Hayley Roper, Autumn Hobbs, Natalie Murphy, Mayor Jeff Stanley, Christopher Brady, and Technology Director Terisa O'Dowd. Back Row - Sheila Finney, Taylee Moss, Dylan Peacock, Caleb Lankford, Hannah Brown, and Library Director Becky Hogenson.



The Howe Community Library and the Howe ISD Technology Dept. honored student volunteers at the recent Howe City Council meeting. During the past summer, 30 youth served as library and technology volunteers. They contributed over 500 hours of service that included assisting with reading programs, cleaning books, making bookmarks, organizing technology equipment, and cleaning computers. Mayor Jeff Stanley presented the volunteers with certificates.

“Top Dogs” at Howe Elementary for December 3rd – 14th are: Leah Butcher, Kriston Harris, Mason Moreau, Sean Husband, Jaden Bryant, Luke Lopez, Benjamin Speed, Carson Daniels, Jeslie Toral, Ariana Ross, Bryan Crees, Riley Troxtell, Nathan Wooten, Dax Foster, Noah Fowler, and Devon Wallace.

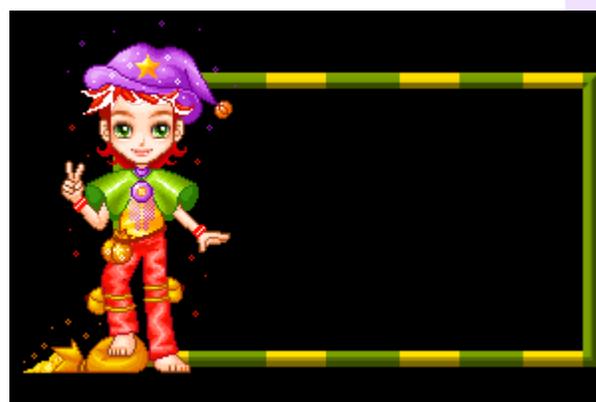
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selection.



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Howe ISD Board Meeting

Dec. 12, 2012

Board Members present: Leonard Huntsman, Pat Stewart, Greg Akins, Mark Abner, Brad Anderson, Bruce Dawsey and Scott Renfro.

The Invocation was given by Scott Renfro.

The Pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by Clay Wilson

Public Forum: No one signed up for public forum.

Reports:

Michael Smiley recognized Elizabeth Bennett as the Employee of the Month for Howe ISD for her work at Howe High School.

Kim Floyd and several high school students presented student work on the Edmodo app used with the iPads at the high school. The students were Whitney Kirby, Arianna Smith, Sophia Roberts, Tanner Stubblefield and Jake Shaw.

Ritchie Bowling provided the middle school report. He gave dates for the UIL contest and the Band concert. He also noted the abstinence program and Wal-Mart's contribution to the Garden Club.

Michael Smiley provided the high school report. He noted the Angel Tree and the school-wide lip dub along with other student activities.

Darla Williams provided the elementary report. She noted student activities and holiday programs. She also noted the Academic UIL contest in Callisburg.

Becky Hogenson provided a report on the Howe Community Library. She reported on library use and programs offered through the Library. She also noted various grants the library had received.

Leonard Huntsman provided the annual report on the Board of Trustees Required Training. He noted each Trustee's training hours they had completed during 2012. All Trustees exceeded the required training amounts for 2012.

Other: Kevin Wilson reviewed district enrollment and noted the resignation of Cari Bowling. He provided an update on facility projects and noted Board of Trustee training and updated the Board on the process for refinancing bonds.

A) The Board reviewed the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on November 15, 2012. Kevin Wilson made the recommendation to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on November 15, 2012.

A motion was made by Pat Stewart and seconded by Mark Abner to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on November 15, 2012. The motion carried 7-0.

B) Julie Snapp reviewed the Monthly Financial Report. Mr. Wilson made the recommendation to approve the Monthly Financial Report as presented.

A motion was made by Bruce Dawsey and seconded by Scott Renfro to approve the Monthly Financial Report as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

C) Kevin Wilson discussed the proposed zone change for the property located at 406 North Denny and the potential impact on the school district. He made the recommendation to authorize the Superintendent to support or protest the zoning change based on the maximum occupancy of a two family dwelling.

A motion was made by Greg Akins and seconded by Brad Anderson to Authorize the Superintendent to approve or support the zoning change based on the maximum occupancy of a two family dwelling. The motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43.





Santa Claus recently visited the Howe Community Library. The Howe Volunteer Fire Dept. gave Santa a special ride to the library front door. Santa shared his favorite Christmas stories with the children. Then each child had the opportunity to spend individual time visiting with this famous elf. Those attending also made a craft and decorated a cookie to eat. Hot chocolate was enjoyed by all.



Tom Bean Christmas Parade

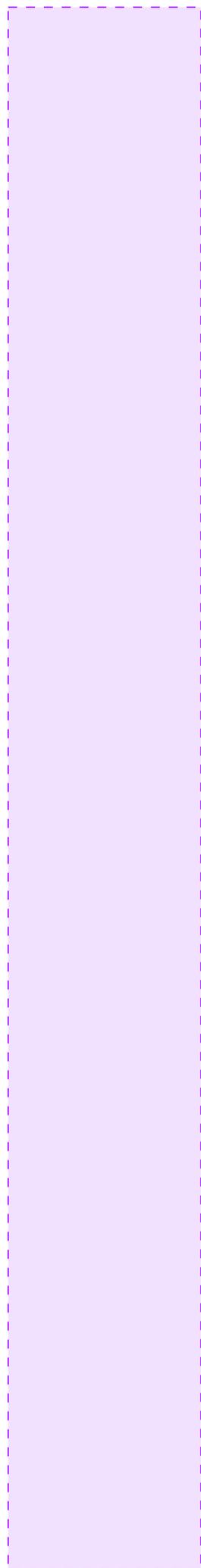
The annual Tom Bean Christmas parade was held Saturday, Dec. 8, with beautiful weather and happy children's faces as they started out the day with a Pancake breakfast at the Community Center. Santa was in attendance to greet the children and give them stockings filled with toys and candy which was provided by the Steelman family.

The Tom Bean Junior class provided the pancake meal along with the culinary class and donations will be used for their upcoming spring events. The parade got underway at 11 am with the 4-H Color Guard leading the parade along with the Tom Bean Police Department. Cars, trucks, ATV's, floats, horse drawn carriages, tractors, bands, horses and dignitaries were included in the event.

Candy was provided by several groups in the parade to the eager children along the parade route. Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand to wish all the children best wishes for the Christmas Holidays.

Judges included Maureen Kane (KXII Executive Producer), Greg Pittman (Meals on Wheels of Texoma Executive Director) and Linda Jay (Meals on Wheels of Texoma Operations Manager). 1st place award went to the local Boy Scout Troop, 2nd place to Inspiration Cowboy Church, and 3rd place to the Mighty Tom Bean Tomcat Band. Special thanks to Melinda Carrell (parade coordinator) for her time and effort that she put in to this event for the citizens along with Tammy Phillips in lining up the parade participants.

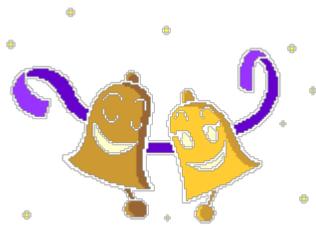
The City of Tom Bean staff want to wish all of our citizens a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Senate Passes Bill Renaming Midland Courthouse after Former Presidents Bush



WASHINGTON – Last week U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and U.S. Representative Mike Conaway (TX-11) released the following statements after the Senate passed a bill renaming the Federal building and U.S. Courthouse in Midland, TX after former Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush:

“It’s my distinct honor to help preserve the legacy of two great leaders and Texans as they continue to leave their mark on this nation, and I cannot think of a better way to do that than by memorializing them in Midland,” said Sen. Cornyn.

“In their 20 years of service in the White House, Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush distinguished themselves as exemplary American leaders. Renaming this courthouse in Midland is a meaningful tribute to these two great Texans,” Rep. Conaway said.

The bill, originally sponsored by Rep. Conaway and passed by the House of Representatives in 2011, will redesignate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 200 East Wall Street in Midland, Texas, as the “George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush United States Courthouse and George Mahon Federal Building.”



[Click Here for more Area Events](#)



Texoma Enterprise

Holiday Home Fire Safety Tips from Paul Davis

Haltom City, TX - Decorate and entertain during the holiday season with caution and keep safety in mind. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, during Thanksgiving approximately 2,000 house fires happen with 69 percent of the fires caused by cooking. During the holidays, an estimated 128,700 fires and 1,650 injuries, along with 415 deaths occur with close to \$25.5 million in property damage.

Paul Davis Restoration and Remodeling a leading provider of fire, water and mold damage restoration services for residential and commercial properties offers the following tips to make the holidays safe for you and your family.



Holiday Decorations: Be aware of toxic decorations which may be poisonous. Use non-combustible, flame-resistant materials. Never use lighted candles on a tree, evergreens or other flammable materials.

Lights: Check for loose connections, broken or cracked sockets or frayed wires. Use UL approved lighting. Fasten lights to the tree and prevent bulbs from coming in contact with the needles or branches. Turn off all holiday lights when leaving home or retiring for the evening.

Trees: Be sure a natural tree is fresh and less likely to become a fire hazard. Cut two inches off the trunk and place in a sturdy water stand, water daily. Keep the tree away from fireplaces, wall furnaces and other heat sources. Use 'fire resistant' artificial trees.

Portable space heaters: Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything combustible and operate only when you are in the room. Never leave a space heater on overnight or near children and pets.



Cooking: Avoid wearing loose clothing which can be ignited by hot burners. Turn pot handles in. Don't store items on top of the stove, they can catch on fire. Turn off kitchen appliances after use. Turkey fryers should be used outdoors and away from buildings and flammable materials.

Fire Escape Plan: Know your escape routes. Have a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen, laundry room, and garage. Never burn greens, papers, or other decorations in the fireplace. Working smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, test them monthly, replace batteries every six months.

Know who to call in case of an emergency: Keep contact numbers handy for the police and fire departments, doctors and the national poison help line. In case of emergency property damage, contact a licensed, professional fire damage clean up and restoration company.

###

About Paul Davis: Paul Davis Restoration, Inc., a subsidiary of FirstService Corporation (NASDAQ: FSRV; TSX: FSV), is a national franchisor and leading provider of restoration services for residential and commercial properties since 1966. Paul Davis Restoration also provides complete remodeling services and has franchise locations throughout North America with owners and technicians who are certified by The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). Visit the local office website at www.pdrfortworth.com.



Texoma Enterprise

Area Churches

Cannon

CANNON BAPTIST CHURCH
RFD 1, Rev. John Wade, pastor,
903/482-6761
**SOVEREIGN GRACE
BAPTIST CHURCH**
George Seevers, 903/364-2942

Cherry Mound

BAPTIST CHURCH,
6335 FM 1753, Denison
Sun School 9:45; worship, 11,
evening 6; Wednesday, 7pm

Dorchester

**DORCHESTER BAPTIST
CHURCH**
Hwy. 902W, 903/476-5525

Gunter

**COLLEGE HILL
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
304 E. College, 903/433-4835
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
300 Pecan, 903/433-3335
GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Pastor Bruce Stinson
Brooks Plaza
Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship
www.thegbf.com
VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Howe

APOSTOLIC LIFE UPC
405 S. Collins Frwy,
Jerry Pentecost, 903/821-9166; Sun.
10am & 6pm
**NEW BEGINNING
FELLOWSHIP/AG,**
912 S Denny St.
903/532-6828; Roger Roper,
S-school, 9:30, worship 10:45
BETHEL BAPTIST
Hwy. 902 E & Ponderosa Rd, Weldon
Hutson, pastor, 903/532-6032
SUMMIT CHURCH
Howe Middle School Cafeteria,
903/815-1472 ; Kcvin Bouse
CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. Collins Frwy,
903/532-6441;
Toby Socheting
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
100 E. Davis,903/532-5504;
Roger Tidwell, pastor
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**
810 N. Denny, 903/532-6718;
Tom Medley, minister

Ida

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH,
903/813- 3263. S- School
10 am, Worship 11 am
Charles Morris, pastor

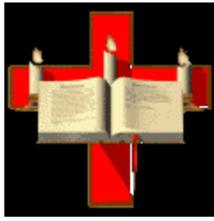
Luella

**LUELLA FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**
3162 St. Hwy. 11,
Harvey Patterson,
903/893-2252
A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP,
150 Fellowship Ln, Luella
Mike Ball, 903/870-0219

Tom Bean

CHURCH OF CHRIST
903/546-6620
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
903/546-6231
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**
903/546-6898

Church Page



Luke 2:1-7 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Christian Fellowship

This Sunday David Ellis will be speaking at A Christian Fellowship.

Come join them at 9 am Sunday morning for coffee and doughnut fellowship followed at 9:30 with classes for all ages.

The congregation celebrates The Lord's Supper each Sunday morning during worship service.

David Ellis leads praise and worship and is a contemporary style service which starts at 10:30 am.

The church has a program for the children called "Kidz in Da Zone for Jesus!" This class is for kids from ages 2-10 and is held during worship time. It features puppet shows, skits, object lessons and games. It's a fun time for the Kidz! So come on out and worship with us and have a place where the children learn about God too!

Wednesday night begins at 6:30pm with a pot-luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional. The kids also have a class for them.

Movie night is on hold until January due to all the holiday activities, but will resume in January. Movie will be announced at a later date. This is free to the public.

The church is located on the West side of Hwy 11 in Luella. The red brick building with the green metal roof on the hill. The cross will light the way for you.

For more information contact Mike Ball @ 903-870-0219 or David Ellis @ 903-815-1333.

Tom Bean Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Services begin each Sunday with bible class for all ages at 9:00am and worship at 10:00am with congregational singing. The evening worship service begins at 6:00pm. The Lord Supper is given each Sunday. Wednesday, we have bible classes for all ages beginning at 7:00pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX..

We have two radio programs each Sunday at 7:30am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn.

"A Woman's Choice" a WEB video concerning a woman's pregnancy can be seen on www.PregnancyDecisions.org.

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be found at <http://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsletter>.



Texoma Enterprise

Area Churches

INSPIRATION POINT

COWBOY CHURCH

FM 2729, 2.5 miles

South of Tom Bean

Duane Peters,

903-815-2278

PILOT GROVE

BAPTIST CHURCH

1271 Pilot Grove St.

903/450-3708

Sherman/Denison

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.

FRIENDSHIP UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450

WESTERN HEIGHTS CHURCH

OF CHRIST

800 Baker Park Dr.,

903/892-9635, Sun. 10

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE,

601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,

Rev. Mack Rogers

RED RIVER

COWBOY CHURCH

3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75);

Novice Northington, 903/463-5840

Van Alstyne

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Northwest corner Hwy 5 & County

Line Rd.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

105 Hopson,

Shannon Jackson, minister,

903/482-6033

EAST SIDE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

PO Box 141, Larry Shead,

minister; worship 11am

ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

FM 121 W, Elmont;

Jim Poole, pastor,

903/482-6356

FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH,

corner of Pearl & Nash,

Pastor Kenneth L. Price,

972/547-0243,

LIFE CHURCH,

201 W. Marshall,

Pastors – Lance/ Mary Baker

903/433-8089

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,

Jimmy Tarrant, pastor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

206 Waco, 903/482-5515,

Gary Gibbs, pastor

FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

903/482-6646,

Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH

301 S. Preston,

Rev. Jack Wallace, minister

GREYWOOD HEIGHTS

WORSHIP CENTER

On Hwy. 75 just north of Dairy Queen,

903/482-6700;

Chris Jones, pastor

HOLY FAMILY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Stephen W. Bierschenk,

972/562-0752

MORNING CHAPEL CHRISTIAN

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

103 Bowen, 902/482-5431

SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH

702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev.

Arnold Baker, pastor

Water, Water Everywhere...

On Sunday morning, April 24, 2005, Troy Driscoll, 15, and his best friend, Josh Long, 17, both high school students from North Charleston, S.C., paddled out from Sullivans Island near their home for a day of fishing in a 15-ft. boat..

They intended to put the boat between the beach and a sand bar, but they weren't out 20 minutes when a riptide pulled them out, further away from the beach. They tried to put the anchor down, but it wouldn't take hold. They drifted farther and farther away. Hours went by. They tried to wave people down, but nobody saw them. Josh said that the last thing he saw was the towers on shore that lead cargo ships in. When nightfall came, they couldn't see anything. The next morning there was no land in sight. "All we could do was pray," said Josh.

By 10 pm on Sunday night, when the boys - who left Josh's cell phone in his truck at a dock and had no radio or emergency equipment -- hadn't returned, their frantic parents called the Coast Guard. A rescue mission began which turned into a recovery mission 2 ½ days later, when the teens weren't found. Finally, on Saturday, April 30, the seventh day after they set out, two fishermen spotted them and brought them to safety. They were 7 miles off Cape Fear and 111 miles from where they had launched.

While they were lost at sea, the teens battled the cold at night, the heat during the day, extreme hunger, and severe thirst.

Josh recalled: "Far from shore, the water turns clear, like blue Gatorade. Troy begged me, 'Please, let me drink just a little.' I said, 'If you drink it, you'll die.'" * *

Josh was right. As Brett Petrillo states: "The negative effects of drinking seawater are well documented. Some of these effects include (1) dehydration and excessive thirst, (2) a spike in blood pressure, (3) physical problems like headaches, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting, (4) brain damage and (5) death. Drinking seawater is never a safe option to quench thirst." **

"Water, water, everywhere but nary a drop to drink." -- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, from The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

Trying to quench one's physical thirst with seawater can be compared to trying to

quench the deep spiritual thirst in every person with the things of this world. Neither satisfies. Both are deadly.

Consider the Samaritan woman in John 4, who had tried to quench the thirst of her soul in many (failed) relationships. But then she met Jesus by Jacob's well where he offered her "living water." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water [the water in the well] will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." – John 4:13-14

Because of His great love for us, God gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (John 3:16). He died for us so that we might drink of the Living Water which provides salvation and eternal life.

Jesus will provide "living water" to those who: place their faith and trust in Him (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to quench the spiritual thirst and keep clean by His cleansing blood, those who continue to follow Him as a way of life (1 John 1:7).

When it comes to quenching the deep spiritual thirst, all that the world has to offer is seawater. It will never satisfy. It will kill you!

ONLY Jesus offers the Living Water that will quench your thirst and give you eternal life.

Won't YOU drink of that Living Water today?

David A. Sargent, Minister
davidsargent1@comcast.net
Church of Christ at Creekwood
<http://www.creekwoodcc.org>
Mobile, Alabama 36695

Sources: "Six Days Lost at Sea" by Lori Rozsa in www.people.com (5/16/2005) and "Thirsty and Stranded at Sea" by Brett Petrillo in Daily Bread, an e-mail ministry of the Bear Valley church of Christ in Denver, CO. See www.bearvalleycofc.com

Please visit our Web site
<http://www.creekwoodcc.org> AND share a drink of "Living Water" with a friend!



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

An outspoken man

by Bob Bowman

Many towns and cities in East Texas have in their history individuals who ascended to greatness, but fell to earth when they opened their mouth at the wrong time.

Such was Medford Bryan Evans, a college professor, author and editor who was born in Lufkin in 1927, the son of Lysander and Bird Medford Evans.

With his brilliant mind, Evans graduated magna cum laude from the University of Chattanooga in 1927 and took his Ph. D from Yale University in 1933.

He taught at the University of Mississippi and the Texas College of Arts and Industries (now Texas A&M of Kingsville), the University of Tennessee, the University of the South, McMurry College, and Northwestern State.

Evans also worked for a Chattanooga radio station and the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C.

But Evans soon became a member of the John Birch Society and often wrote for American Opinion, the Society's monthly magazine.

He also wrote several controversial books, including "The Secret War for the A-Bomb" and "Civil Right Myths and Communist Realities," which reflected his belief in communist subversion in the U.S.

In writing about what American children were being taught in *American Opinion* magazine, he said:

Continue



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Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

The majority of my students at Permian High School were of the "They'll get my gun when they pry it out of my cold dead hand" persuasion. I, of course, was of a different persuasion, since I believe it does not take a rocket scientist to know that the only reason to have a pistol is to use it to kill someone.

None of my students claimed to go hunting with a pistol unless he (it was always he) was riding at midnight in a pickup with a spotlight on it taking pot shots at jack rabbits just for the fun of seeing them die. That behavior was and is reprehensible, revolting and always made me wonder what else the shooter would like to see die.

My students who hunted deer and other game harvested their kills and had them dressed and either used them for meat or gave them to food banks seemed to me to be more responsible. Some of them disagreed with me about the use of automatic weapons as hunting pieces; I think you are more likely to render a deer or other large game unusable if you put 10 or 20 or 100 bullets in it. Moreover, I did not and do not see how shooting a deer with an automatic weapon is sportsmanlike.

Most of my students who wanted everyone to have a pistol wanted those pistols for self-protection.

"What are you protecting against?" I asked.

"In case my car breaks down," they answered.

"How would you use a pistol if your car broke down?"

"He'd shoot it in the radiator," some quick witted student answered.

"No," the pistol owner replied. "I would need it in case someone stopped."

"What would you do with the pistol if someone stopped to help?"

"Awww! Ms. Fowler, you know what I mean!"

The truth is I had no idea what they meant. Not then, not now.

The worst trouble I've ever caused myself was the result of owning a gun I bought to "defend" myself. I should have

Continue



Texoma Enterprise

BOB BOWMAN'S
EAST TEXAS, continued

Dot's Dashes, continued

"It is my opinion that the average graduate of a non-elite college today knows little than the average graduate of an accredited high school knew thirty years ago ... there is not much you can depend on any of them, knowing simply by virtue of the fact that they have college degrees..."

Evans also contributed articles on educational trends to *Harper's Magazine* and newspapers. His usual topic was "What are we teaching our children?"

Evans, who died in 1989, was the father of M. Stanton Evans, an American journalist and author of eight books, including "Blacklisted by History: The Untold Story of Senator Joe McCarthy and His Fight Against America's Enemies."

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of almost 50 books about East Texas history and folklore. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com.)

left my defense to law enforcement no matter how slow or inept it might have seemed at the time.

But then, I don't see government whether state, local or national as my enemy or even as "the problem." In a representative democracy (republic as the Birch Society used to demand) government represents the collective will of the people.

The operative term is collective will, with emphasis on collective. What I fear is that the collective will of the people will be to continue to do nothing about either our fractured mental health system or the gun violence that takes between 10,000 and 11,000 lives in the United States each year.

To put it another way, the death toll from guns is the equivalent of forty 250 passenger plane crashes each year, the equivalent of Van Alstyne's entire population wiped out or Sherman with 1/4 fewer people or Denison with 1/3 fewer people.

It's the equivalent of the entire graduating classes of Sherman High School wiped out for the next 28.5 years. It's the equivalent of the football stadium in Howe empty of spectators for the next five years.

If you can imagine those things, perhaps you can also imagine reasonable, sensible ways to confront and control gun violence in the United States. Perhaps you can imagine ways to confront and deal with the growing problem of inadequately diagnosed and scarcely treated mental illness in the United States.

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Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of Step-grandchildren. It was taken at Elves Christmas Tree Farm. This farm opened to the public in 1990 when Jordan was only 2 months old and he went there with us. Every year since we have taken every grandchild with us. This year was our 20 year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.

Dale & Lana Rideout

Lana, Dominique, Rachel, Briana, Amber, "Santa"
Jordan, Caleb, Chris



"Santa" Rideout

Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007

Texoma Enterprise



Congress Passes Hall's Zebra Mussel Barrier Act

WASHINGTON, DC . . . Last week the House of Representatives passed a Senate package of bills that included H.R. 6007, the North Texas Zebra Mussel Barrier Act of 2012, sponsored by Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04). The House previously voted to pass the legislation in September, and the Senate passed the bill earlier this week as part of a comprehensive package, S. 3687. This package was approved by unanimous consent in the House last evening.

This legislation permits the North Texas Municipal Water District to pump water from Lake Texoma to the Wylie, Texas Water Treatment Plant, where the water can be cleaned of zebra mussels. An act of Congress was necessary due to a change in the Texas/Oklahoma boundary that would have triggered a violation of the Lacey Act, which prohibits the transfer of an invasive species across state boundaries.

"This is how Congress should work," stated Rep. Hall. "Our local officials and water resources experts brought this issue to my attention, and I introduced this bill along with my colleagues Sam Johnson and Pete Sessions. We were able to move the bill through the Natural Resources Committee and through the House, and worked with Senator John Cornyn to secure passage in the Senate. Passage of this bicameral effort with overwhelming bipartisan support is a testament to the merit of this bill and the work of the local water folks to make the case for this common-sense solution."

The North Texas Municipal Water District will now be able to resume pumping water to the Wylie Water Treatment Plant, where the water will be cleaned of zebra mussels. Some 1.5 million users are served by this water district and will benefit from this water resource.

Letter to the Editor

Regarding the mass murders in Newtown, Connecticut U.S.A.:

While the recent killings in Newtown Connecticut are horrific I am amazed at the profound level of shock and bewilderment from people around the globe. Many of these same people - especially politicians and members of the mass media (who are gleefully beating this story to death) - openly approve of and in some cases even partake in the mass slaughter of innocent children through abortion.

How many of these people, for example, have actually had an abortion themselves to advance their own careers? Indeed, over 1 million children are murdered through abortion each year in the good ol' U.S. of A.

So why all the shock and awe at something comparatively smaller? Do these people really think that all the state sanctioned and media supported violence we see in sports, movies, video games, abortion etc would lead to peace? As Christmas approaches let us recall how our Saviour came to save us from the shackles of sin and the dominion of darkness.

*With respectful and cordial best wishes, I remain,
Paul Kokoski, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: *Need Armed School Security Officers*

The recent tragedy at a Connecticut school shooting points out the need for stronger security measures to help prevent or mitigate loss of life at our schools.

The emergency plans implemented at schools can minimize injuries and deaths, but cannot prevent them when confronted with determined shooters. Buzzers, cameras, identification cards and sign-in books will not stop shooters from forcibly entering schools.

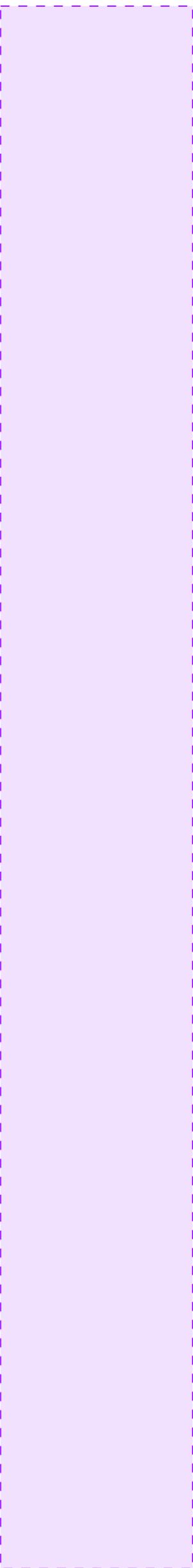
One security measure that could counter the actions of shooters is the presence of armed security officers in every school. Granted, the killers might try to shoot the officers first, but the killers could be focused on shooting the students and teachers, and the officers could take out the shooters.

Another possibility would be to have trained administrators with weapons available to them in a locked and secure location.

Mentally competent people and non-felons may purchase weapons in accordance with the Second Amendment of our Constitution which allows citizens to bear arms, and this right should continue. However, should ordinary citizens, like the Newtown shooter, be allowed to purchase a bullet proof vest? The purchase of bullet proof vests should be a huge tipoff on the purchaser planning a shooting.

We need armed school security officers.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH





Is rural America irrelevant?

By *Gene Hall*

Okay, I admit it. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack got my attention when he said rural America is becoming irrelevant.

“It’s time for us to have an adult conversation with folks in rural America,” Vilsack said in a speech at a Farm Journal forum. “It’s time for a different thought process here, in my view.”

Vilsack was once the governor of Iowa, a Democrat, and he expressed his disappointment over squabbling in the farm sector. He said rural America should pick its political fights more carefully. Citing the lack of a farm bill as evidence, Vilsack hinted that rural America, which voted overwhelmingly Republican, is losing its influence.

“There’s a huge communication gap” between farmers and the food-eating public, he said.

The secretary has a point. Getting a farm bill passed in an election year is tough, but farm interests have always been able to get it done -- until now. On the other hand, farmers, ranchers and rural America have always voted in greater numbers than their percentage of the population might suggest. Agriculture votes, and always has. This habit can yield positive results if we don’t get distracted.

Vilsack suggests a good old-fashioned soul searching. He mentions that rural America does have assets -- things like ample land for food production and recreation. Whether he’s right or not, that’s always a good idea. Let me add that agriculture has a message to sell, but not enough of us are active in promoting it. If rural America -- and rural Texas -- do not use the technology and the power of our own ideas to communicate with urban folks, relevance could become an issue.

“We’ve got something to market here,” Vilsack said. “We’ve got something to be proactive about. Let’s spend our time and our resources and our energy doing that, and I think if we do we’re going to have a lot of young people who want to be part of that future.”

Gene Hall, Public Relations Director, Texas Farm Bureau

I believe that the only hope for a food secure world is capitalism and reasonable profits for America’s farm and ranch families—that the first element of sustainability is economic survival.

[Click Here for more Editorial](#)



Texas traditions

By Jessica Domel

The inspiration for this week's blog post hit me the other day as the Texas Farm Bureau Public Relations staff gathered together in our cafeteria for a pre-holiday celebration. We were all sitting around the table discussing holiday foods and traditions when one of my co-workers mentioned "Texas trash." I have to say, it brought a smile to my face. I hadn't heard anyone refer to "trash" since my maternal grandmother passed away when I was in high school.

Each year for Christmas, she'd spend days in the kitchen making enough "trash" so that all of her kids and grandkids would get a big jar of it at Christmas time. Although we all received a healthy serving of it, it never lasted long. It was one of those holiday traditions that we all looked forward to so much that by the time we received it, we were ravenous.

The thought of the holiday favorite, which I think also can be referred to as Chex Mix, takes me back to my childhood and a warm place and time.

I attempted to make "trash" once when I was on a nostalgia kick after I graduated from college. I made up three batches and took it to the fire station in Seguin to feed the firemen and paramedics.

See a shot of me trying to protect my hands and stir at the same time:

"Texas Trash"

True to tradition, the treat didn't last long. The firemen all stood around the pan in the kitchen and ate until it was gone. It was like a little family party, right there in the firehouse kitchen.

I still haven't decided whether it's the company or the food that brings people together like that around the holidays, but either way, I say "Texas trash" is a go-to food if you're looking to bring people together.

By the way, if you're looking for the recipe, check the side of the Chex box and go from there. That's my tried and true plan, and it hasn't let me down yet.

So, from my family to yours, happy holidays!





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Medicare to End 'Improve or You're Out' Standard for Coverage of Skilled Services

In a major change in Medicare policy, the Obama administration has provisionally agreed to end Medicare's longstanding practice of requiring that beneficiaries with chronic conditions and disabilities show a likelihood of improvement in order to receive coverage of skilled care and therapy services. The policy shift will affect beneficiaries with conditions like multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, heart disease, and stroke. (See companion article, "Who Will Benefit From the New Medicare Policy Change?")

For about 30 years, home health agencies and nursing homes that contract with Medicare have routinely terminated the Medicare coverage of a beneficiary who has stopped improving, even though nothing in the Medicare statute or its regulations says improvement is required for continued skilled care. Advocates charged that Medicare contractors have instead used a covert "rule of thumb" known as the "Improvement Standard" to illegally deny coverage to such patients. Once beneficiaries failed to show progress, contractors claimed they could deliver only "custodial care," which Medicare does not cover.

In January 2011, the Center for Medicare Advocacy and Vermont Legal Aid filed a class action lawsuit, *Jimmo v. Sebelius*, against the Obama administration in federal court aimed at ending the government's use of the improvement standard. After the court refused the government's request to dismiss the case, and the administration lost in similar individual cases in Pennsylvania and Vermont, it decided to settle.

As part of the proposed settlement, which the federal judge must still formally approve, Medicare will revise its manual that contractors follow to clarify that Medicare coverage of skilled nursing and therapy services "does not turn on the presence or absence of an individual's potential for improvement" but rather depends on whether or not the beneficiary needs skilled care, even if it would simply maintain the beneficiary's current condition or slow further deterioration.

In addition, under the settlement Medicare beneficiaries who received a final denial of Medicare coverage after January 18, 2011 (the date the lawsuit was filed) are entitled to a review of their claim denial.

"The Jimmo settlement provides hope for thousands of older and disabled people with chronic and long-term conditions who will now have a fair opportunity to get access to Medicare and necessary health care," Judith Stein, Executive Director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, told ElderLawAnswers.

In an article about the accord, the New York Times notes that Medicare's coverage of skilled care for beneficiaries with chronic conditions "could also provide relief for families and caregivers who often find themselves stretched financially and personally by the need to provide care."

Although the Times quotes a trustee of the Medicare program that the change will cost Medicare more money, it could also save some money because physical therapy and home health care may help keep beneficiaries out of more expensive institutions like nursing homes and hospitals.



Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Pre-Filed Bills

Texas legislators were able to begin pre-filing bills on Monday, November 12th. As of this writing, 423 bills had been filed. In recent sessions, there have been over 5000 bills in total filed by the House and Senate. This week, I will talk about a few of the bills that have been pre-filed.

House Bill (HB) 29 would require public universities in Texas to offer entering undergraduate students, including a student who transfers to the institution, the opportunity to participate in a fixed tuition rate plan. Under this bill, a fixed tuition rate plan would fix the tuition rate for four years at the rate set by the institution for that initial academic year. A public university would not have to offer a fixed tuition rate to a student that has already been awarded a baccalaureate degree by the institution. However, a student who previously completed a baccalaureate degree program would be eligible for a fixed tuition rate if the student enrolls as an entering undergraduate in another undergraduate degree program. If this bill were to pass, it would apply only to those undergraduates entering college on or after the fall semester of 2013

House Bill 49 would require that high school seniors take a course on the United States Constitution as part of the social studies curriculum. This bill would apply to students entering the 9th grade during the 2012-2014 academic school year.

Last session, there were over 10 bills relating to texting and driving, although none of them were passed in to law. So far this year, there have been 7 bills filed pertaining to texting while driving: House Bill 27, HB 41, HB 63, HB 69, HB 108, Senate Bill 28, and SB 105.

For more information on these bills, or to review all of the legislation that has been filed, please visit the website www.capitol.state.tx.us <<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>>. You can contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.

Preparations for the 83rd Legislative Session

Over the last few weeks I have talked about bills that have been pre-filed in anticipation for the 83rd Legislative Session, which begins on January 8, 2013. Not only are legislators preparing bills to be filed in the upcoming session, they are also busy preparing their offices and hiring staff.

Members often hire additional staff to help with the increased workload during the 140-day session. Some of these new employees are college interns, while others are looking for long-term employment. I am fortunate enough to have a full-staff going into the legislative session. Sara Haenes is my chief of staff, and will be handling legislation and the administration of the office. Sara is a graduate of The University of Texas, and has worked in my office for 10 years.

Chris Tarter is the District Coordinator, and has worked for me for the last two years. Chris works with constituents and she will be attending events in my place while I am in Austin. You can contact Chris at my district office at 903/891-7297, or by writing to 421 N. Crockett, Sherman, TX, 75090.

Courtney Reid is the chief clerk for the House Committee on Transportation, of which I am currently chair. She also works in my capitol office and assists with legislation, scheduling, and committee matters. Courtney is a graduate of Sewanee University and has a masters from The University of Texas, with 5 years of legislative experience.

David Glenn is a new addition to our office. He is originally from Pottsville, but graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2011. He started with my office in October, and will be assisting with both committee and legislative issues.

My capitol office can be reached by calling 512-463-0297, or by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas, 78768. My office moved this year and is now in the original building in room 4N.5. I can also be reached by email at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. I encourage the citizens of District 62 (which now includes Delta, Fannin, and Grayson counties) to come by the office when visiting Austin.





Geese topic of Hagerman Second Saturday program

A winter flock of 5,000 geese has arrived at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge and will be the topic of this Saturday's monthly program at the refuge. The 10 am program will be held in the meeting room of the refuge's Visitors' Center and is free and open to the public. The refuge is located at 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman.

Presenting a program on winter waterfowl will be Dr. Wayne Meyer, associate professor of biology at Austin College.

"Many species of waterfowl visit Hagerman NWR each winter to take advantage of the protected waters and food provided for them in ponds and fields of the refuge," says Meyers. "Come learn about the different kinds of ducks and geese that visit each year and join us for a guided tour through the refuge aboard TAPS buses to look at them."

For more information on this or any of the activities held at the refuge, call 903-786-2826 or visit www.friendsofhagerman.com.

Greatest Comedian in the Bible

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

An Unusual Nativity

A religious education class was almost finished making their models of the nativity scene and one little boy had done a lovely job. Some animals, Mary, Joseph, three wise men, and shepherds were all there. However, the teacher noticed an extra, rather overweight man in the scene as well.

“Who is that person?” she asked.

“Oh, that’s Round John Virgin.”

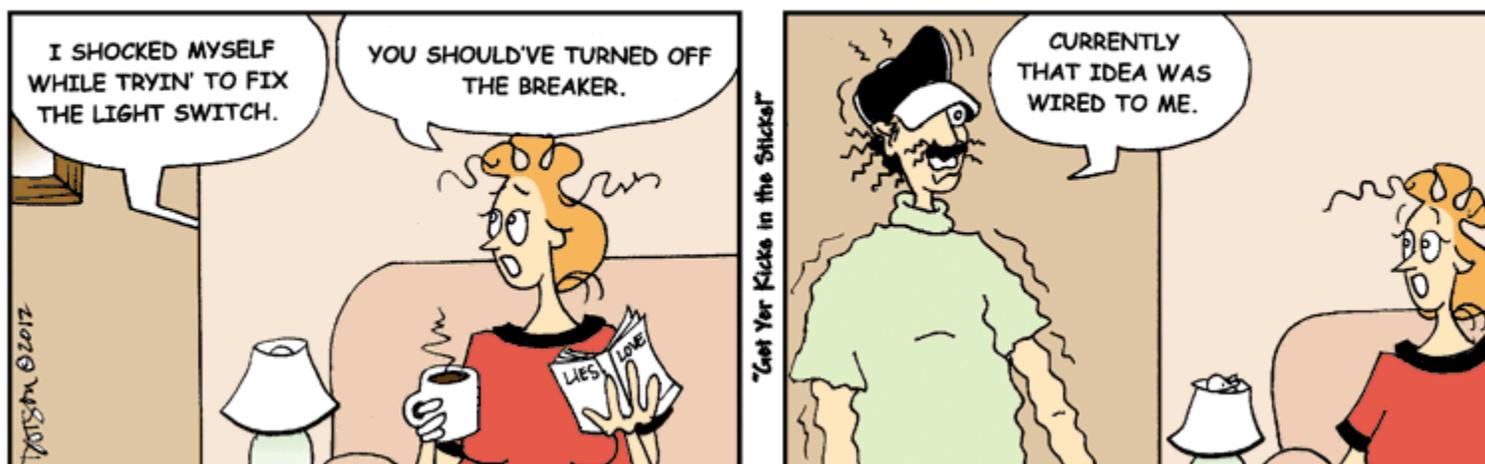
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This Page is a Work in Progress

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Howe Public Library

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Van Alstyne Public Library

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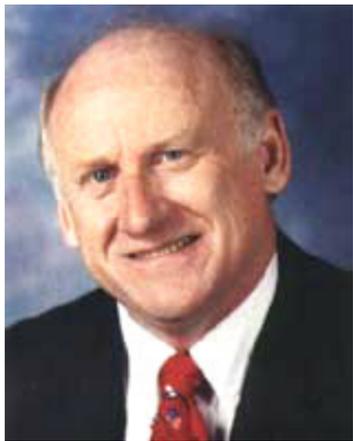
[Texas Records and Information Locator \(TRAIL\)](#) searches and locates information from over 180 Texas state agency web services.

[The Handbook of Texas Online](#) is a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin.

[Texas Online](#): The official website for the Great State of Texas and provides instant access to almost 800 state and local government services.

[Library of Texas](#): Immediately start searching multiple Texas library catalogs and other knowledge collections in one sitting.

Texoma Enterprise



LET'S REMINISCE:

What do we know about Santa Claus?

By Jerry Lincecum

This is a good time to remind ourselves that as a "melting pot" nation, we have many different traditions about Santa Claus. I have some fond childhood memories of the gifts received from the jolly bearded man in a red suit trimmed with fur.

Others, especially those from different European cultures, knew him as Kris Kringle or Father Christmas. "Santa" is a figure with legendary and folkloric origins who, according to tradition, brings gifts to the homes of the good children during the late evening and overnight hours of Christmas Eve, December 24.

Recently I learned that the version I grew up knowing about was derived from the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas, which went back to tales concerning the historical figure of a Christian bishop and gift-giver named Saint Nicholas.

In the Greek Orthodox tradition there is a nearly identical story about Saint Basil of Caesarea. Basil's feast day on January 1 is the time of exchanging gifts in Greece.

It was only in the 19th century that Santa Claus came to be depicted as a white-bearded fat man --sometimes with spectacles -- wearing a red coat with white collar and cuffs, as well as red trousers and black leather belt and boots.

This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century due to the significant influence of Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

The first images were spread far and wide by the drawings of political cartoonist Thomas Nast, whose work appeared in hundreds of newspapers. This stereotype has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, children's books and films. Think of all the Coca-Cola ads.

It was also in the 19th century that tradition placed Santa residence and toy workshop at the North Pole. He lives there with a large number of very hard-working elves, and nine (originally eight) flying reindeer. (The addition of Rudolph would require another column to explain.)

Since the 20th century, Santa Claus has been credited with making a list of children throughout the world and categorizing them according to their behavior ("naughty" or "nice").

In addition to delivering candy and presents (including toys) to all of the well-behaved children in the world, it used to be rumored that he left pieces of coal and switches for the naughty children.

He accomplishes this feat on the single night of Christmas Eve, with the aid of the elves who make the toys in the workshop and the reindeer who pull his sleigh.

Now for an update: In the 21st century, Santa Claus has been ranked at the very top of the list of richest characters in the world, and he has been criticized for forcing elves to perform in hazardous working conditions.

Annually his huge workforce makes an estimated 700 million toys worth \$14 billion dollars. The elves are subject to working in perpetual darkness for over half the year in the Arctic Circle.

I'm glad I didn't know all this when I was a child. How much did you know about Santa?

-30- Jerry Lincecum is a retired English professor who now teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any subject:
jlincecum@me.com

LET'S REMINISCE:

SMALL TOWN LIFE

By Jerry Lincecum

A single column on this subject can barely scratch the surface. Let's start with "town characters" or eccentrics. Most of the following stories were given to me by residents from towns around Sherman.

Bonham had a little old lady who was germophobic. Her groceries, ordered by phone, were brought to her front door and after the deliveryman had left, she came out and took them inside. A person of wealth, she arranged for the bank to let her in to conduct her business when it was closed to the public.

During this same era Denison had a man who felt it was his God-given task to sweep some of the downtown streets each day. Sherman had its Teddy-Bear man who rode a bicycle with numerous toy bears attached to handlebars. Were there "characters" in your small town?

Small towns had ways of welcoming new residents whose profession or status placed them among the elite. When a young attorney joined the leading law firm in Bonham around 1970, the local paper interviewed his wife at length. She was surprised when they published a long story about her, along with a nice photo.

Naturally, she commented on the friendliness of Bonham's citizens. The local merchants were very obliging. One day she went downtown to the leading men's clothing store buy a dress shirt for her husband. Lawyers were beginning to wear dress shirts in pastel colors, and she couldn't decide between two colors. When she offered to pay for both, the owner of the store said, "Oh, no. Just take them home without paying. See which one he likes and return the other one. We'll settle up then."

Now let's make a comparison here. I was a new professor at Austin College about that time, but I don't think Linxweiler's in Sherman would have extended that option to my wife.

Small town newspaper used to publish a lot of brief personal items. "Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jones spent Christmas Day visiting her parents in Oklahoma City." "Leslie Neyland's grandparents spent the weekend in town to attend her first birthday party."

Bonham had a daily paper in the 70s with a regular column that consisted of comments about well known local people: "Joe Smith said he wouldn't give up smoking today because he'd just bought a new package of cigarettes." "These double-knit suits sure aren't made for warmth," observed Jack Brown, as he sprinted to the coffee shop."

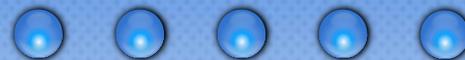
Accounts of court cases sometimes went into considerable detail. Under the headline "Jones Found Not Guilty in Drug Store Burglary," appeared this paragraph: "Attorney X said his client's basic defense was 'he didn't do it.'"

He added, "When the burglary was committed, my defendant was drunk and lying in a field in South Bonham, about three to four blocks from the Drug Store. It was proven in the trial that the burglary was committed by another party."

Another important part of newspaper coverage was the activities of civic organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club. Prominent citizens were expected to become involved in them, and being elected an officer would get your name in the paper, often with a photo. "John Blaine welcomes Senator Aiken to Whitesboro."

-30- Jerry Lincecum is a retired English professor who now teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any subject: jlincecum@me.com





Bonnie Ruth (Hestand) Smith (1929-2012)

SHERMAN - Bonnie Ruth (Hestand) Smith, 83, passed away on December 14, 2012, in Sherman, where she made her home the last 63 years.

Memorial services were held at the Western Heights Church of Christ in Sherman on Tuesday, December 18. Jim McDoniel officiated and visitation was held Monday evening at Dannel Funeral Home. The family held a private burial at Akers Cemetery.

Bonnie was born September 30, 1929, at the Hestand Hospital in Sherman to M.C. "Cliff" and Hazel (Kelsoe) Hestand, the oldest of their three children. Her parents preceded her in death, as did her sister, Nancy, and her brother, Guy.

Bonnie graduated from Howe High School and then worked for many years in the County Courthouse, in various offices, including the Tax Assessor-Collector, County Clerk, and County Attorney. She was a lifelong member of the Walnut St., Travis St., and Western Heights Churches of Christ, where she served as church secretary for 40 years.

Bonnie married Howard L. Smith Jr. on March 9, 1957 at the Walnut St. Church of Christ. Bonnie is survived by her husband, Howard, her daughter , Sylvia Smith Rivers, son-in-law Richey Rivers, grandchildren Elliot and Emily Rivers, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and a host of friends and acquaintances that will miss her.

Bonnie was a loyal friend and champion of those who were loyal in return. Very rarely did a person not know how she felt about any matter. She dearly loved to discuss and argue county politics. She loved to do little acts of benevolence and was a woman who took praying to the Lord God seriously, constantly revising her personal prayer list as life unfolded around her.





Reba Jeter (1926-2012)

HOWE - Graveside funeral services for Reba Jean Jeter were held Saturday, Dec. 22 at Akers Cemetery. Rev. Roger Tidwell of the First Baptist Church of Howe officiated. Mrs. Jeter, 86, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012 at the Meadowbrook Care Center in Van Alstyne, Texas.

Reba was born Sept. 29, 1926 in Van Alstyne to the late Lewis and Iris (Kelling) Miller. She graduated from Van Alstyne schools in 1944 and married James Francis Jeter on July 1, 1944. She and Mr. Jeter were married until his passing in 2006. Reba worked as a machinist at Texas Instruments for 20 years. She enjoyed cooking and was a longtime member of the Bethel Baptist Church.

Mrs. Jeter is survived by her daughter, Barbara Diane Jeter of Howe; son, James Jeter and wife Patricia of Howe; three grandsons, James Glen Portman of Hooker, Okla., James Brian Jeter of Howe, and Michael Dennis Portman of Howe; two granddaughters, Kimberly Ann Jeter of Howe and Robyn Jeter of Sherman; 12 great-grandchildren; and one brother, Cecil Jack Miller and wife JoAnn of Jacksonville, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and one sister, Melba Earthman.

The family received friends Friday, Dec. 21 at Waldo Funeral Home. The register book can be signed online at waldofuneralhome.com.

Viola Ann Hughes (1922-2012)

Viola Ann Hughes passed away on Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, in Southlake at the age of 90. She was born Viola Ann Banks on Nov. 29, 1922, in Dorchester to William Riley Banks III and Ritta Lucinda (Cook) Banks.

She graduated from Howe High School in 1941 and married Leonard Birton Hughes on June 15, 1942. They travelled and lived in Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Arizona, Washington and Georgia with Leonard's Air Force career until his death in 1949. Viola then returned to Texas where she raised her two daughters.

As a single mom, she built and sold three homes so that she could stay at home to provide for her children. When her daughters were older, she went to work for Piggly Wiggly Grocers and then worked in civil service until her retirement. Her single focus in life was to be a good mom to her daughters.

Viola was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Leonard, three brothers, John, Jessie, and JB, and two sisters, Mae Hall and Mildred Hash.

She is survived by her two daughters, Nancy Carol Rodgers and her husband Ron, and Linda Ann Livonius and her husband Bob. She has five grandchildren, Ron Rodgers and his wife Jennifer, Randy Rodgers and his wife Jessica, Lana Rodgers, Lisa Livonius Norby and her husband Mark, and Jeff Livonius and his wife Laura. She has three great-grandsons who were the light of her life, Cooper Norby, Hank Norby and Lange Livonius. She is also survived by two sisters, Jean Adamson and Lois Inman. She also has many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Friday, Dec. 21, 2012 at Waldo Funeral Home Chapel, with Lynn Christie officiating. Interment will follow at Cedarlawn Memorial Park.

Services are under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home..



Texoma Montage

In 2005 we began publishing a history magazine about the Texoma area, North Texas and Southern Oklahoma. We continued through 2008 with publication. Many folks really enjoyed our publication so we are now adding it to our Texoma Enterprise website. Our aim is to reprint some of the articles we used in our print issue, but we may add from time to time.

A special thank you goes to Dorothy Fowler and Jerry Lincecum for giving us permission to reprint articles they prepared for the magazine. Also thank you to both of them for their great contributions writing for Texoma Enterprise. They have been doing this for many years.

This section of the website will only be updated every other month or so. We hope you enjoy it.

Dale and Lana Rideout

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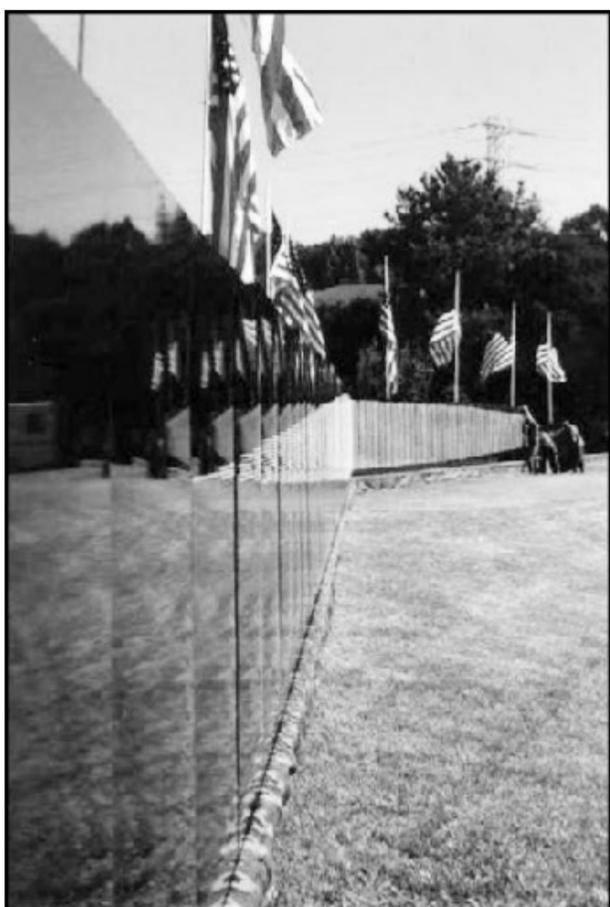
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This is the cover of
our first issue



Texoma Montage



The Wall, looking East
photo courtesy of Vietnam Combat Veterans, Inc.

Traveling Vietnam War Memorial

by Dorothy N. Fowler

The first time I saw the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., I was with my 80 year-old mother. She broke down and cried as she looked at the wall bearing the names of more than 58,000 dead and missing in action.

"Such a waste," she said through her tears. "Such a waste."

Mama had opposed the war to start with, not because she believed members of the armed services were doing anything wrong, but because she thought the policy behind it was a failed policy and that the United States had no vital national interest there.

When the war began, I was a hawk, but as it dragged on, I wanted nothing so much as to bring home the men and women whose lives were in danger every day in a cause that clearly seemed to be lost as a result of policy failures. I watched helpless every year as some of my brightest and best students were drafted, went to fight, and either came home in military caskets or terribly wounded either in body or spirit.

When I saw the wall for the first time, I visualized a baseball stadium that seats 60,000. I saw it full and then suddenly irrevocably empty. As I walked the length of the wall, seeing the gifts that had been laid beneath some of the names, watching people take rubbings of the names of their children, their friends, their husbands, brothers, sisters, lovers, I too began to cry.

I was not alone. Many of the people who were walking near me were crying. Nothing outside the sudden death of my three-year old granddaughter has ever affected me as much as that first visit to the wall.

It's a fact that the Vietnam War Memorial is the most visited National Park Service Site in Washington, D. C. It's also a fact that most Americans will never get to Washington to see the memorial.

That's why, when the replica of the Vietnam War Memorial comes to Denison on July 22, sponsors will keep the practice field at Denison High School open 24 hours a day for its three day stay.

"We want as many people as possible to be able to visit it," Horace Groff, former Grayson County Judge and one of the organizers of the wall's visit, said. "There is never any charge whatsoever to visitors to the wall."

After his retirement from political life, Groff went to work part-time for Bratcher Funeral Home, which is now part of Dignity Memorial Funeral, Cremation and Cemetery Providers. The company commissioned the traveling replica, which was completed in 1990.

"Sponsors who want the wall to come to their city put their names in and Denison got picked for this summer," Groff said. "Sponsors make contributions and sometimes individuals who visit the wall make contributions to have it come, but the wall is truly a service that the company makes possible."

At 240 feet long and eight feet high, it is sometimes hard to find a place large enough to hold it and the crowds of people who visit it. Security is also a problem. "We needed to have it in a place that was accessible and at the same time secure," Groff said. "The practice field at DHS was the best spot."

Local veterans groups will provide some of the security and other organizations and individuals will also volunteer to be on guard. Opening ceremonies will be July 22 at 9 a.m. at the practice field, located just behind Denison High School, which is at 1901 S. Mirick in Denison.

Learning that the wall was coming to Denison sent me on a quest for other war memorials in Grayson, Cooke, Fannin, Bryan and Collin Counties. I didn't find all of them, probably overlooked some that were right under my nose, but looking for them and thinking about the uncommon valor that each represented was a life affirming experience.

If you and your family go looking for the memorials described on page 14 and following, I hope you will come away from the experience with a renewed sense of the sacrifices that others have made to make it safe for you to travel freely, to speak freely, to read whatever you choose to read, to attempt any job you want to do. I hope you will think what it means to be free.



The Moving Wall - in Spencerport, NY.
photo courtesy of Vietnam Combat Veterans, Inc.



The moving wall - set up and ready for visitors.
photo courtesy of Vietnam Combat Veterans, Inc.





What's Cookin...

By Lana Rideout

Texoma Montage

Cooking During Wartime

War time is a difficult time for all involved: the soldiers on the battlefield and the family members back home.

The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 just as Americans were coming out of the Great Depression. People were used to doing without and making do with what they had. They were used to sharing with others.

The folks back home did all they could to get those American soldiers back home. They participated in scrap iron drives; they rationed gas and many food items such as sugar and eggs.

One creation of the time was a sweet treat known as the "Eggless, Milkless, Butterless Cake" also known as the Depression Cake.

Eggless, Milkless, Butterless Cake

- 2 Cups Brown Sugar
- 2 Cups HOT Water
- 2 Tablespoons. Shortening
- 1 Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Teaspoon Baking Soda
- 1 Package Seedless Raisins
- 1 Teaspoon Cinnamon
- 1 Teaspoon Cloves
- 3 Cups Flour (Sifted)
- 1 Teaspoon HOT Water

Boil together the Sugar, Water, Shortening, Salt, Raisins and Spices for five minutes. When Cold, add the Flour and the Soda (dissolved in a tsp of Hot Water). This makes two loaves--Bread Pan Size.

Bake in 325F oven for about 45 minutes. This Cake is of good texture and keeps moist for some time. Note: You can Ice this cake with your choice of Icing.

My friend Betty Weaver of Sherman was 10 when the U.S. entered WWII. She remembers her mom baking this cake usually at Thanksgiving and Christmas. She would store it in an old pressure cooker, wrapped in waxed paper and a heavy towel (trying to hide it from the children). Betty says the cake is a favorite at her family reunions and usually sells for upward of \$40. Her recipe calls for lard, but she uses canola oil which makes for a very moist cake.

In researching this recipe, I found several versions: Some use brown sugar and others white sugar. Spices include nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, and/ or allspice. One recipe said that 1 cup of nuts adds flavor to the cake.

During WWII people on farms did better than some of the city folks since farms had chickens for a steady supply of eggs. Also vegetables grown in the gardens were plentiful. On the farms and in the towns lots of folks grew "victory gardens" – vegetables they could eat or can.

Although sugar was rationed, folks on the farm who did their own canning were allowed more sugar.

My Dad served in the Army and was overseas in England when I was born just two weeks before D-Day – June 6, 1944. My Mom was living with her parents in Fort Worth; all of them were praying for a speedy end to the war and the safe return of their loved ones.

Another recipe used during World War II is the Spam and Egg Sandwich - good any time of day--breakfast, lunch, dinner, or midnight snack!

WWII Spam and Egg Sandwich

- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 2 Tablespoons finely

- chopped onion
- 1 Slice fully cooked luncheon meat (e.g. Spam)
- 1 Egg, beaten
- 2 Slices bread
- 1 Slice American cheese (optional)
- 1 Slice tomato (optional)

Melt butter in a small skillet over medium-high heat. Saute the onion in butter until soft. Mash up the slice of luncheon meat with a fork, and add it to the skillet. Cook for 2 or 3 minutes, until browned. Pour the egg into the skillet so that it covers all of the meat and onion. Cook until firm, then flip to brown the other side.

Place the egg and meat onto one slice of the bread and top with cheese and tomato if desired. Place the other piece of bread on top. Bread can also be toasted first.)

I also did a little research on recipes from the American Civil War or the "War Between the States." From some of the websites I visited, it looks like some folks are still fighting that one. While no one advocates a return to slavery, the issue of states' rights versus the federal government is a hot issue in many southern political discussions.

My great-great-grandfather on my mother's side was a plantation overseer in Tennessee. He was off serving in the Confederate Army when his daughter was born near the end of the war. I remember my great-grandmother. She died when I was six and I still remember receiving hugs from her. Her daughter, my mother's mother told me many stories about the family members.

During the Civil War, soldiers on both sides carried an item called hard tack. It is a simple cracker made of flour, salt and water. They could be very hard and some soldiers called them "tooth dullers" or "sheet iron crackers." The soldiers softened them by soaking them in their coffee, frying them in bacon grease, or crumbling them in soup.

Hard Tack

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1 Teaspoon Salt
- Water

Mix the flour and salt with just enough water to bind the ingredients. Flatten the dough to about ¼ inch thick on a cookie sheet. Cut into 3 inch by 3 inch squares. Pierce with 16 holes about ½ inch apart. Bake at 400 degrees F. 20-25 minutes.

Another popular recipe during the Civil War time is Southern Johnny Cake – a cornbread variation good with your favorite beans or stew.

Southern Johnny Cake

- 2 Cups Cornmeal
- 2/3 Cup Milk
- 2 Tablespoons Lard (Vegetable Oil)
- 2 teaspoons Baking Soda
- ½ teaspoon Salt

Mix into a stiff batter and form into 8 biscuit-sized "dodgers." Bake on a lightly greased cookie sheet at 350 degrees F 20-25 minutes or spoon batter into hot cooking oil in a frying pan over flame. Optional: spread with a little butter or molasses for a real southern treat.

As a part of this new magazine, I will be sharing recipes and stories with you. If you have recipes or ideas you would like to share, contact me at lanarideout@texomamontage.com or call 903/532-6012.



WW II Ration Book and Stamps were needed for many of the necessities.

Betty Weaver of Sherman found this one-piece metal tube cake pan in an antique store. It was made by E. Katzinger Co. of Chicago (date unknown) and printed on the bottom of the pan is the following: "Swan's Down Cake Flour Makes Better Cakes." On each side of the pan is a movable vent so the cake won't sweat and to aid with removal of the cake. Does anyone know the date it was made or have other information?



Texoma Remembers Its Heroes

Bryan, Collin, Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties all have monuments honoring their veterans who gave their lives in support of our great nation. While we know that we have missed some, we have tried to give good examples from each county.

by Dorothy N. Fowler

“This will be a lead pipe cinch,” I said to myself. “After all, this is the place where everywhere you look there is an MIA flag and there is more red, white and blue than any place you’ve ever been. You’ll be able to find dozens of war memorials in Grayson, Cooke, Fannin, and Bryan Counties.”

Thus armed, with more enthusiasm and optimism than information, it seemed to me to be good sense to start at home on the quest for photographs and information about memorials to men and women who have died serving the United States in any one of its last eight major wars. Named, those wars include the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq the First and Iraq the Second.

It seemed equally good sense to start the quest by visiting the VFW in Sherman to talk with people who had been combatants in one or more of those wars. Surely those folks would have a special interest in war memorials.

VFW Post 481-2772 Sherman, Texas

If anyone in the main room at Sherman’s VFW is watching or listening to the wall mounted television set, it isn’t obvious on this wintry Thursday night.

Nearly all the people present are men. One woman is a server behind the bar and at 7:30 or so, another woman comes in and joins a group at a large round table. It isn’t clear whether she is a member of the auxiliary or a veteran, but whatever her status, it is clear from her reception that she is well-liked. The easy conversation at the table continues, punctuated by soft, well-controlled laughter.

The men at the table with me are Henry Salisbury, Doyle Sloan and Jessie Goodman. Later in the evening, Franklin “Andy” Anderson joins us.

Salisbury is the memorial chairperson for VFW Post 481-2772 and is a past commander of the post. He’s an army veteran of the Vietnam War. He arrived there in 1968 just in time for the TET offensive. He was there through 1969.

Sloan, nicknamed “Mr. VFW” by his comrades, fought in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam. Salisbury says Sloan has held nearly every office possible in the local VFW.

Anderson, a Vietnam veteran, and chaplain of the post, is personable as he pours his Sprite. He provides snippets of information about how VFW members went about building the war memorial in Sherman’s Fairview Park.

It is clear that these men, along with the other people in the room, and the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have shared the experiences unique to war, are living memorials. But they are not interested in being living memorials. People die, they say. Families get separated. Kids either don’t remember or don’t care about the role their parents played in wars. The only way to be sure that future generations remember is to build memorials of granite and cement, to inscribe the names of the dead in stone.

“It’s a shame it took so long to get the memorial for World War Two,” Salisbury says. “I don’t think we can do enough to honor the people who serve their country, especially the ones who paid the ultimate price and didn’t come back.”

The other men nod agreement.

Doyle Sloan says the most recent memorial in Sherman is at Fairview Park. “H. K. Lyde was instrumental in getting it started. He was the Grayson County Council Commander and he wanted the VFW, the American Legion, the AmVets and the DAV to be involved in building it. About 10 years ago the veterans organizations raised about \$40,000 and combined it with lots of manual labor to build that softball field and the granite monuments.”

It’s the same with most war memorials, they say. It’s a dream that starts with one or maybe a few people and they work at raising the money for a memorial that has to be placed somewhere. Someone has to design it. Someone has to raise the money to pay for it. Someone has to navigate the myriads of red tape with local, state and sometimes the national government before the monument can be built. Someone has to plan the dedication ceremony, arrange for the speakers, the music if there is to be any.

These men have done all those things and helped others do them. Each year on special days, they visit the memorials, lay wreaths or light candles, leading the public as they remember their wars and the wars of fathers and grandfathers.

They do much more, working to improve the lives of veterans who are facing hard times, visiting veterans confin-ed to nursing homes, taking people to the nearest veterans hospitals for their check-ups, working with young people in the community.

“May I take some pictures?” I ask. There is a moment of hesitation.

“Most reporters want to take a picture of someone sitting at the bar, drinking,” Salisbury says. “But we’d like to have our picture taken with the national award the post won for its work on Poppy Day.”

“That’s just the picture we want,” I say.

“Thanks.”

“Wow! What nice people and what a treat to meet them,” I thought as I made my way through the parking lot to my maroon pickup. “They’ve given me two new ideas and the location of a war memorial that must be pretty close to brand new in Gainesville. If the weather holds, I can visit the memorials in Sherman, go to Gainesville and Bonham the next day and into Bryan County the next.

The weather did not hold. Rain and cold were the order of the day for the next two weeks. I had surgery on my right foot and the ensuing swelling kept me out of the pickup except for the brief ride to the doctor’s office for follow-up.

Undiscouraged, I went to the Internet, typing in war memorials Grayson County Texas, war memorials, Fannin County Texas, war memorials Bryan County Oklahoma, war memorials Cooke County Texas.

Texoma Montage

Doyle Sloan, Henry Salisbury, and Jessie Goodman stand in front of the VFW Post 481-2772 Poppy Project Award.

Photo by Dorothy Fowler



Texoma Remembers Its Heros, cont.

Texoma Montage

The notice that the search engine had found thousands of bits of information about war memorials in each of the counties was misleading, at best. The truth was that there was a plethora of information about the subject of war memorials and that there were a few privately produced reminiscences about coming home from WWII, but there was almost nothing about war memorials in general and nothing at all about war memorials in any of the counties included in the question.

Questions to local historians elicited interest in the project, but no new information. "I guess you already know about Ely Park," one Austin College professor said. "And there's that newer one at Fairview Park. Those are the only ones I know anything about."

"What about the statue on the courthouse lawn?" I asked.

"I thought you wanted to know about memorials for men and women who died in the service of the United States," he replied. "That's a monument to men who died in service to the Confederate States of America. If you want to broaden your search, you'll find many more monuments to the soldiers of the Confederacy than to the soldiers of the United States."

Ely Park World War II Memorial

At first glance on this almost balmy February Sunday afternoon, Sherman's Ely Park, bordered on the east by Rusk Avenue, on the north by Steadman, on the west by Austin and on the south by Moore, looks like the kind of family-friendly park one might find anywhere in the country.

There is a softball diamond on the northeast end, a big covered picnic pavilion on the south, typical playground equipment nearby and in between, a vast expanse of grass.

The abundance of crepe myrtle trees, planted at regular intervals around the perimeter of the park are a bit unusual, considering the sparse plantings in the rest of the park. Closer inspection indicates they are unique, for each of the 72 trees flanks a small white concrete marker that bears the name of one of the 72 men from Sherman who died during World War II.

Also on the markers is the birth year and the death year of the man commemorated by the marker. Most were in their late teens or 20s. A few were older. About one-third of the 72 died in 1944-45, which makes me wonder if they were part of the D-Day invasion or perhaps part of the Battle of the Bulge.

Beyond their names, which are also inscribed on a plaque placed on the west side of the park as part of an Eagle Scout project, there is no information at the park. However, people who are looking for more information might find it at the Sherman Public Library, which has a fine genealogy section and which also maintains excellent newspaper files.

On Memorial Day and Veterans Day and other national holidays, veterans groups and others place flags and flowers beside each marker.

The location of the park, bounded as it is by neat, well-kept houses that look as if they belong to blue collar workers, adds to the poignancy of the markers, for it's likely that most of the men whose names are on the stones lived in neighborhoods much like this one.

It takes about 15 minutes to walk the perimeter of the park if you stop to read the names and to think about how young were the people memorialized there.

Fairview Park War Memorial

In late winter, almost warm but not yet early spring, two of the three flags at the Liberty Memorial Garden in Sherman, Texas, crackles in the southwest wind.

The stars and stripes and the dark flag bearing the acronyms MIA and POW straight out from the poles from which they are suspended. The top of the third flag, the Texas flag, worked itself loose from the hooks that should have held it, leaving it drooping, hanging only by the lower grommets.

There is no way a passerby could repair the damage. The poles are state-of-the-art, with the mechanism that raises and lowers the flags locked behind plates in the substantial poles. People who frequent the park have no doubt that the flag will be back in its proper place before sunset.

Local veterans organizations are proud of the memorial they built with what one of them described as "an excess of sweat" after they raised \$40,000 to build the monument.

The monument is roughly in the center of a giant park complex bordered on the east by Ricketts Street and on the north by Taylor Street. It is in a place that is strangely quiet, even when families with their children are on the playground equipment across the park road and east of the monument. Soccer players, on the field immediately east and north of the monument do not make enough noise to be heard.

Two well-maintained park benches provide places for visitors to sit and examine the memorial, which consists of four gray marble stones on which the names of every man or woman in Grayson County who died in World War II, Korea, or the Vietnam War carved. There is also a list of MIA's.

Two hundred and forty men from Grayson County died in action during World War II, 26 in Korea and 26 in Vietnam. The names of the five MIA's are at the end of the list.



Ely Park



Ely Park



Fairview Veterans Stadium



Texoma Remembers Its Heros, cont.

Members of the local veterans' organizations are always on the alert for the names of men and women they might have overlooked when the memorial was first erected. Several names are obviously new, their black outlines much darker than the names that were part of the original monument.

The names of the dead are inscribed on four slabs of granite, each about five feet tall and set in concrete. The granite slabs face each other. On the north, a fifth granite slab bears the names of each branch of the United States armed forces. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard are there, along with the names of local veterans organizations that helped build the memorial. They include the Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans and the American Legion.

The monument is open every day of the year. Because it is near the park, it's a good place to bring a picnic on days when the weather is good.

Confederate Monument on Grayson County Courthouse Grounds

Thirty-one years after the United States Civil War ended 20,000 people gathered on the northeast corner of the block where the Grayson County Court house stands in Sherman to witness the dedication of the first Confederate monument erected in Texas.

An article in the Sherman newspaper, dated April 21, 1897, said "(the statue) represents not only the confederate dead who are sleeping in West Hill (the oldest cemetery in Sherman), but those who are sleeping from *Gettysburg to the Rio Grande, from Missouri to the Atlantic Seaboard.*"

The monument is 45 feet tall, including the six foot statue of a Confederate infantryman standing at parade rest and gazing toward the north east. Most of the monument is made of light gray granite mined from Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, Georgia. The blocks that bear the inscriptions came from quarries at Lexington, near Atlanta.

Ironically, the statue of the soldier, which is crafted of a material characterized as "white bronze," was created in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

In 1996, under the auspices of the Daughters of the Confederacy, the monument was rededicated.

The inscriptions on the sides of the base are typical of the prose of the Victorian age in general and Southerners in particular.

One of them reads, "*And the fame of that nameless nation on history's page shall shine as our heroes' grand oblation in our hearts has found a shrine.*"

Another reads, "*Sacred to the memory of our Confederate dead: true patriots. They fought for home and country. For the holy principles of self government—the only true liberty. Their sublime self-sacrifice and unsurpassed valor will teach future generations the lessons of high born patriotism, of devotion to duty, of exalted courage, of southern chivalry. History has enshrined them immortal.*"

Three Texas historical markers are clustered near the monument. One of them tells the story of Grayson County. Another tells of the exploits of the Ninth Texas Cavalry, which started with about 1,000 men and by war's end had only 110. The third tells the story of the 11th Texas Cavalry.

Because the soldier is perched so high on the shaft of the monument, it's not possible to see him in detail without binoculars, but you do get the feeling of just how important it still is to many people to have him there, overlooking the business at the intersection of Travis and Lamar 140 years after his war was lost.

For visitors who want to just sit for awhile, the citizens of Grayson County provided benches in honor of much-loved Grayson County Judge Horace Groff when he retired and re-entered life as a private citizen in 2002.

The Union Soldier at Fairview Cemetery in Denison, Texas

An eternal flame honoring veterans of all wars burns near Katy Depot in Denison, but the most impressive and surprising monument stands north of the city, in the northwest corner of Fairview Cemetery.

The existence of a monument honoring Union soldiers may be the best kept secret in Grayson County. A quick survey of 10 lifelong residents of Grayson County netted 10 people who not only didn't know it exists, but also doubted that it does.

The monument, which is 15 feet, six inches tall, includes a five foot square base. It appears to have been made of limestone. The statue of the Union Infantryman wears a cap, a coat, brogans and other items typical of soldiers of his era. He is carrying a rifle that may have been a Springfield rifle.

Dan Bray, who wrote a local history that included a chapter on the Union soldier, speculated that the statue itself was made of pre-cast concrete and had been cast in four separate castings.

He also noted that the gaze of the statue, which faces southeast, intersects at some point with the gaze of the Confederate soldier on the Grayson County Courthouse lawn.

The inscription on the south side of the base reads:

**G. A. R.
1906
Erected by
Nathaniel Lyon
Post No 5
Department of Texas
In Memory of
the Loyal Soldiers
and Sailors**

Texoma Montage



Texoma Remembers Its Heros, cont.

Texoma Montage

Six Union soldiers are buried just to the west of the statue. Each headstone bears the name of the soldier buried there and the federal shield. Information provided by the cemetery says that several Union soldiers are buried throughout the cemetery, each identified by a federal shield on the headstone.

After visiting and photographing war memorials in Sherman and Denison, I turned east, toward Cooke County and the monument to veterans of 20th Century wars. On the way, I stopped in Whitesboro, a small town about half way between Sherman and Gainesville on Highway 82.

In Whitesboro, at the intersection of Highway 56 and Main Street, students from Whitesboro High School maintain an informal and surprisingly touching memorial. It is nothing more than an open space on the northwest corner, but the corner is filled with American flags and tied to a post nearby are tattered yellow bows and ribbons.

“There used to be a lot more ribbons and bows,” a man who works in a nearby building says. “But they got pretty torn up and I think the kids took some of them down and haven’t put up replacements yet.”

Dozens of such monuments may exist in small towns across the nation and where you find them, it’s a good thing to stop and think about what they mean.

The War Memorial at Frank Buck Park, Gainesville, Texas

A big renovation project makes it difficult to get access to the war memorial in Gainesville.

The renovation is to the small zoo and the park that holds it and has nothing to do directly with the war memorial, but signs denying access to park roads and parking can confuse the faint of heart. But faint heart ne’er won anything much, so I went into the park on a road clearly marked “Construction Workers Only,” and found at the end of the lane, not only construction workers, but also a good many park visitors.

Where I needed to be, however, was at the entrance to the park, so I turned the pickup around, threaded my way through the traffic and parked on the shoulder of the highway so I could walk up the steps to the newest of the war memorials that I visited.

The Stars and Stripes hold center stage at the monument. To the left of the pole, a large marble slab holds the names of those killed in the service of the United States in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Like the similar monument in Sherman, there are recent additions to the original list, which was dedicated in 1996.

War Memorials in Fannin County, Texas

If there were other memorials in Cooke County, no one could tell me where they were, although everyone seemed familiar with the one at Frank Buck Park, so I turned east, to drive back through Grayson County and into Fannin County to the county seat, Bonham.

A police officer in Bonham told me the only war memorials he knew about in Bonham were on the courthouse square. “I guess there might be some out at the VA hospital, but I don’t remember seeing any,” he said.

Bonham’s courthouse square is typical of every courthouse square in North Texas, surrounded as it on four sides by businesses of almost every stripe, but it does have something that most squares don’t have: a statue of the man for whom the county was named.

The metal representation of James Butler Bonham wears boots with spurs, carries a hat and a powder horn and over his left shoulder, there’s a strap that supports a pouch. If the statue looks like Bonham, Bonham was a handsome fellow.

There are two inscriptions on the base of the statue. One of them provides a brief biography of Bonham. The other reads: “*At the call of his boyhood friend William Barrett Travis, He came to Texas in 1835 and engaged in the war for independence as aide and messenger for Travis. He was faithful unto death at the Alamo March the sixth 1836.*”

Bonham’s statue is the only one I found that made mention of Texas’ war for independence from Mexico.

The other memorial, a statue of a Confederate soldier, is on the northwest corner of the courthouse. The soldier is not nearly so high as the one in Sherman, but it is still too high to permit viewers to make out details clearly without binoculars.

Inscriptions on each face of the base, however, are for the most part, quite clear.

The inscription on the east face reads: *Battles fought, 2242. Total enlistment Confederate Army 600,000. Total enlistment United States Army 2,278,304. Federal Prisoners captured by Confederates 270,000. Confederate prisoners captures by federals 270,000. Co. E 11th/TX CAV and Co. F 11th TX CAV.*

On the south face, between crossed sabers are the words from 1861 to 1865. Below are the following words: “*They fought for principle, their homes, and those they loved. On fame’s eternal camping ground, Their silent tents are spread, and Glory guards, with solemn round, The bivouac of the dead.*”

On the west face, below the bold, black letters Confederate, are these words:

“*To the Confederate soldiers who sacrificed their lives for a just cause This monument is lovingly dedicated by the daughters of the Confederacy aided by the Confederate Veterans Association of Fannin County.*”

On the north face are the words: “*The great war/un-rivaled in history for bravery, gallantry, daring and dash. E Anderson, AD 190 (perhaps 5)*”

From the court- house square, I went to the VA hospital, but found no statues dedicated to the servicemen and servicewomen who seek treatment for their wounds and their illnesses there.

While I was looking for memorials in Bonham, my colleague Dale Rideout was in another part of Fannin County, in Leonard, where he found two memorials. Both of them are dedicated to all veterans of all wars.

One of the memorials is located near the center of town. On both front and back of a granite slab, the citizens of Leonard, who maintain both memorials, have had engraved the names of all service personnel from the town who have died in the service of their country.

Rideout says the memorials includes the names of veterans from the Civil War through Vietnam.

The other memorial is at the cemetery.



Texoma Remembers Its Heros, cont.

On the same day he visited the cemeteries in Leonard, Dale also visited cemeteries in Collin County. He found a variety of memorials, including the gravesite of John Abston (1761-1856), a soldier in the American Revolution.

Abston is buried in the Old Belew cemetery, near the city of Lavon.

Rideout also visited the cemetery at Farmersville, where he found Freedom Plaza, a memorial that includes a granite slab on which are engraved the names of "*Farmersville heroes (who died to keep the torch of freedom burning.*" The names of veterans of World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam are listed on the slab.

At the bottom are words attributed to Audie Murphy, "*The real heroes of the war are those who never came home.*"

The memorial was dedicated in 1998 by the community of Farmersville.

Pecan Grove Cemetery McKinney, Texas

In the Pecan Grove Cemetery, Dale found a granite marker engraved with the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy and the names of all Civil War veterans buried in the Pecan Grove Cemetery. A historical marker in the Pecan Grove Memorial Park "*commemorates the courageous and compassionate pioneer men and women of this vicinity.*"

It mentions in particular Dr. James Webb Throckmorton, who was a Texas legislator during the 18950's, a brigadier general in the Confederate Army, Governor of Texas from 1866-1867 and a member of Congress intermittently between 1875 and 1888.

In the same cemetery there is a medallion, dedicated in 1970, dedicated "*To those who served for freedom's just cause.*"

In McKinney, Dale found a granite marker "*Dedicated in honor the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of our country.*"

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, William H. L. Well Camp #1588, dedicated a marker to Confederate soldiers in Plano in 2000.

Fort Washita

There are probably other memorials in North Texas that we overlooked, but it wasn't because Dale and I didn't try to find them all. As soon as I was through with the Texas side of Texoma, I went looking in Oklahoma.

Lifelong residents of Durant told me they didn't know of any monuments, but directed me to Ft. Washita, about 18 miles west and north of Durant.

"It isn't really a war memorial, I guess," one man said. "There aren't any statues or anything out there. But in another way it's better than statues or plaques because you can almost hear the way it was when it was a fort."

Restoring the fort, which is on Oklahoma State Highway 199, is a work in progress. The fort office, made from a building that once was officers' quarters, is complete and so is a barracks building across the road and to the south. Several smaller buildings are also in good repair.

One of the major barracks buildings is in ruins, however. It is covered by vines with branches thick enough to be tree branches.

Two burial grounds are on the fort grounds. The post burial ground is at the north end of the road into the fort. It is an active cemetery. On the day I was there, flowers from a recent funeral were still fresh on the mound of red earth that covered the grave. A visitor told me she had "put my husband here two years ago."

The other burial ground is inactive, but it is well kept. The Stars and Bars flies from a low flag pole there and there is a marker telling visitors that 200 unknown Confederate soldiers are buried there.

Ft. Washita, which was established in 1842 to keep peace among the Indians and white settlers, was abandoned by the federals in 1861 and was used by Confederate troops until the Civil War ended in 1865.

It has a resident ghost, Aunt Jane, who is listed among the prominent ghosts of the frontier.

Each of these places is worth a visit. A little planning would make it possible to visit several memorials in the same day and get home before dark. It would be a good thing, if you're interested in history or you want to teach your kids to be proud of their heritage, to set aside a day every now and then to visit one or more of them.

Texoma Montage





Jerry Bryan Lincecum (born 1942) is a speaker and retired Emeritus Professor of English at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. He is a folklorist and specialist in Texas and Southwestern literature

Lincecum holds a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University. He earned a master's degree and PhD from Duke University.[1]

Lincecum became a member of the faculty at Austin College in 1967, and retired in 2006 as professor emeritus of English.[2] He is the director and founder of the Telling Our Stories Project in Autobiography, which has attracted international attention to Austin College. This is a program that encourages senior citizens to write their autobiographies.

Lincecum is owner of Big Barn Press which publishes autobiography and local history books by local authors. Their most recent publication in the "Telling Our Stories" series is Volume 10, entitled "20 Years of Telling Our Stories." It includes 48 stories by local writers who have participated in TOS, which began in 1990. Check out their webpage: <http://www.austincollege.edu/Info.asp?4124>

Specialties are:

- *collecting life stories from geriatric patients with early dementia
- *editing stories and books for publication
- *training Home Hospice volunteers to collect life stories and edit them for publication in booklet form
- *leading workshops for writers of autobiography and family history
- *Chautauqua programs on Dr. Gideon Lincecum (1793-1874), pioneer Texas scientist and physicist

He has served as President of the Texas Folklore Society,

Lincecum has been awarded the Silver Certificate of Merit by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Miss Ima Hogg Historical Achievement Award for Outstanding Research on Texas History. His book on the pioneer naturalist Gideon Lincecum, *Science on the Texas Frontier: Observations of Dr. Gideon Lincecum* has been reviewed by several academic journals both in history and in the sciences, as have some of his other books.

Telling Our Stories

DINNER FOR THE MINISTER

by Ruby Frizzell Draisey of Bonham

It was one of those awful years during World War II. We were all subservient to "The War Effort", and we were convinced that it would be unethical to complain, under the circumstances.

Since Betty and I had married cousins, both of whom were serving their country in the armed forces, we determined to live together "For the Duration."

Betty was a devout person, I attended the community church with her. The minister, living alone, was an admirable gentleman whom we considered to be in the category of the elderly. Betty, devoted to the church, had a wild idea. She suggested to me that we invite the minister to a Saturday, early-evening dinner. We did. Because of the "War Effort", we all worked six days a week. By the greatest happenstance, she and I expected to be free at noon on that certain Saturday.

We checked our ration books and found meat was a possibility. A trip to the neighborhood grocery market was reasonably productive. The meat looked good, and we were able to get enough for three servings. Sugar was in very short supply, but we were able to get one pound. We would be able to make a little custard or pudding. At the right time, the gentleman arrived. We were not at all embarrassed about the fact that our tiny apartment was so unpretentious. Anyone who was able to acquire more than one room during that period was happy.

After our greetings, we sat at our little table and prepared to enjoy a delightful meal. The minister politely asked us about our husbands and we told him what we knew, although the actual location of any of the military men was a secret.

I was having difficulty cutting my meat. I glanced at Betty and found her having no less trouble. At last, I hacked off a bit, but masticating it was another problem. I looked at the minister's plate.

He was pretending. The conversation continued.

The War Effort always offered subjects for discussion. I repeated the story my husband had told. In England, where there was no ice, the bartender would sally forth with the jolly admonition, "Drink 'er up, Boys, afore she gets cold!" We laughed. We tried the meat again. We were having no luck.

Betty told of an experience concerning her brother and sister-in-law. The couple wished to drive to another town 120 miles distant so the young lady could visit her ailing mother. Their tires were bald, and buying gasoline was a near impossibility, but the young man thought he could manage. Betty ended the tale by revealing that the couple had experienced six flat tires before arriving back home. She laughed. Our hesitation was hardly noticeable as we joined her.

"Well, maybe the war will be over soon," the minister offered. We were all worrying with the meat. Betty wondered aloud about it and I made a remark.

"You know what I think?" the minister said. "I think this is horse meat!"

"Horse meat!" Betty and I gasped in consternation.

"Yes. It's on the market, now, you know. It's not labeled, and it's difficult to distinguish it from steak."

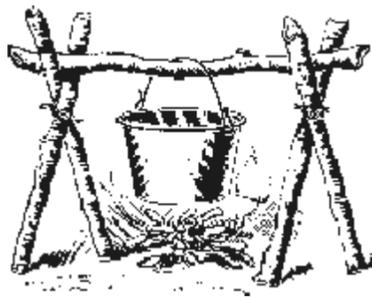
Sure enough, we had fed the minister a dinner of horse meat.



Ruby Frizzell Draisey



Cookin' Out



Dutch Ovens and Dump Cake

by Dale Rideout

I have enjoyed cooking since I was a very young boy. It is a real treat to hear others comment about my cooking, when it is a success. If it turns out to not be the success I hoped for, then I can take the heat.

Cooking outside is especially rewarding. You can cook over an open fire, over a grill, use the fancy propane cookers of various types, or just put a hot dog on a stick and roast it. My favorite is using cast iron Dutch ovens for cooking. You can prepare just about anything in the Dutch ovens, and with a collection of several sizes you can accomplish some great feats of culinary delight.

Do not start out with a brand new utensil. A new Dutch oven needs to be properly seasoned or it just won't do the job intended. A new oven is covered with a waxy type of material to protect it from rusting. This must be thoroughly washed off with soap and water. Rinse it well, and quickly dry it. Your oven will rust very quickly if you do not use care.

Now you must coat your Dutch oven with salad oil, Crisco, or lard using a cotton cloth. Make sure the entire oven, inside and out, including the lid are coated with your shortening. Now put it in your home oven, with the temperature set for 350 degrees. Be careful on you timing for this because there will probably be a slightly unpleasant odor, along with some smoke. You wouldn't want to do this when planning a formal party for friends. "Cook" that oven for one hour. Turn the oven off, and when your Dutch oven has cooled, but still warm, wipe it again to make sure the oil film covers all all surfaces. Your oven will now be a golden color, and is ready to use.

Do not wash you Dutch oven with strong soapy water, or you will need to re-season it. Clean it with a very mild soap, or plain water.

The more you use your oven the better. It will develop a dark color with use, even turning black. It will have a surface that is almost stick proof. Store you Dutch oven in a warm, dry place. Put a sheet of paper towel or newspaper in the oven to absorb any moisture that may get in, and keep the lid slightly ajar.

Cooking with your Dutch oven is easy. Temperatures are controlled by counting the charcoal briquettes used. You will need to experiment some, but a general rule of thumb is to multiply the diameter of your oven by 2 to get the number of briquettes to use for a 350 degree oven temperature. When you do your cooking use more coals on top and fewer on the bottom. This chart will help get started.

8 inch oven - 10 briquettes on top – 6 briquettes on bottom.
10 inch oven - 12 briquettes on top – 8 briquettes on bottom.
12 inch oven - 14 briquettes on top – 10 briquettes on bottom.
14 inch oven - 16 briquettes on top – 12 briquettes on bottom.
16 inch oven - 18 briquettes on top – 14 briquettes on bottom.

Two additional briquettes, one on top and one on the bottom will increase the temperature by about 25 degrees.

Dump Cake

A favorite dessert of mine is quite simple. In the Boy Scouts we call it Dump Cake, because all you need do is dump the ingredients into your Dutch oven. You will need:

¼ pound butter or margarine

1 can pie filling (any flavor you like, apple, cherry, etc.)

1 box cake mix (again any flavor, yellow or white works great.)

Do not mix. Just Dump the ingredients into your Dutch oven and cook 30 minutes to 45 minutes. You can add cinnamon, nuts, brown sugar, pats of butter, etc to the top for extra special effects. This is easily doubled or more just by adding more of each ingredient.

Texoma Montage

Southern Algebra

We are sick and tired of hearing about how dumb people are in the South. We challenge any so-called smart Yankee to take this exam administered by the University of Mississippi Engineering Department. (Well, maybe/maybe not. Who knows?)

1. Calculate the smallest limb diameter on a persimmon tree that will support a 10-pound possum.
2. Which of these cars will rust out the quickest when placed on blocks in your front yard? A '65 Ford Fairlane, a '69 Chevrolet Chevelle or a '64 Pontiac GTO
3. If your uncle builds a still which operates at a capacity of 20 gallons of shine produced per hour, how many car radiators are required to condense the product?
4. A woodcutter has a chainsaw which operates at 2700 RPM. The density of the pine trees in the plot to be harvested is 470 per acre. The plot is 2.3 acres in size. The average tree diameter is 14 inches. How many Budweisers will be drunk before the trees are cut down?
5. If every old refrigerator in the state vented a charge of R-12 simultaneously, what would be the percentage decrease in the ozone layer?
6. A front porch is constructed of 2x8 pine on 24-inch centers with a field rock foundation. The span is 8 feet and the porch length is 16 feet. The porch floor is 1-inch rough sawn pine. When the porch collapses, how many hound dogs will be killed?
7. A man owns a house and 3.7 acres of land in a hollow with an average slope of 15%. The man has five children. Can each of his grown children place a mobile home on the man's land and still have enough property for their electric appliances to sit out front?
8. A 2-ton truck is overloaded and proceeding 900 yards down a steep slope on a secondary road at 45 MPH. The brakes fail. Given average traffic conditions on secondary roads, what is the probability that it will strike a vehicle with a muffler?
9. A coalmine operates a NFPA Class 1, Division 2 Hazardous Area. The mine employs 120 miners per shift. An explosive gas warning is issued at the beginning of the 3rd shift. How many cartons of unfiltered Camels will be smoked during the shift?
10. At a reduction in the gene pool variability rate of 7.5% per generation, how long will it take a town which has been bypassed by the Interstate to produce a country-western singer?



Texoma Montage

Turkey Vultures

Turkey Vultures are plentiful here in North Texas. They make their roost in groups as the evening approaches. This tree has been serving for several years as the night resting place for this group. In the morning these birds will spread their wings to dry in the sun before departing on their day's activity of cleaning up the environment of dead and dying critters. You will often see them individually or in groups of two or three on the roadside cleaning up the roadkill that gets left behind when other animals are not quick enough to make it across the road.



One Vote

This is an election year. Just how important is ONE VOTE? YOUR VOTE? The following facts may astound you, however, they are true.

In 1645, One Vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.

In 1649, One Vote caused Charles 1 of England to be executed.

In 1776, One Vote gave America the English language instead of the German language.

In 1839, One Vote elected Marcus Morton governor of the State of Massachusetts.

In 1845, One Vote brought Texas into the Union.

In 1868, One Vote saved President Andrew Jackson from impeachment.

In 1875, One Vote changed France from a Monarchy to a Republic.

In 1876, One Vote gave Rutherford B Hayes the Presidency of the United States.

In 1923, One Vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

In 1941, One Vote saved Selective Service twelve weeks before Pearl Harbor.

In 1960, Richard Nixon lost the Presidential election and John F. Kennedy won it by less than One Vote per precinct in the United States.

Dining Out with my Grandson

By Dale Rideout

Of course every grandchild is special. Also each one is unique. Old grandpa loves them all equally but they all have their differences, too. Our experiences with each one make those differences special, as well.

Our first grandchild was a boy. His name is Phillip Jordan Roe. He was born in 1990 and took the place of just about everything of any importance in Papa's life. Jordan's Mom and Dad both worked, so we (Nanny and I) often would get to baby-sit with him. As he grew older he would go everywhere with Papa, and we both enjoyed it.

When Jordan was about two years old, his family moved to San Antonio for four years, then back to Howe. During that four-year time period, Papa did not have the opportunities to take Jordan on the outings we used to take. When he moved back to Howe, he was in school, he had a sister, and there were five other grandchildren who joined the family. All of this slowed down the Jordan and Papa routine of going everywhere together.

This brings us to the story I want to tell you, about eating out. You need the background to help understand the rest. When Jordan was about seven years old I invited him to go with me delivering newspapers. My wife and I own a weekly newspaper and every Wed-nesday it is my job to deliver them to the various stores where they are sold and to various post office locations in about three counties. Jordan liked the idea, so he took off with me for a full day in the car together.

We were getting hungry as it neared dinnertime. I began to ask what he would like to eat, and he said it didn't matter. Well, I knew that he was a little picky about what he eats and didn't want him to get hungry because he couldn't find something he liked.

Our discussion of available menus was somewhat limited because we were approaching Tioga and there were limited choices. I asked Jordan if he liked catfish and he answered with a big "Yes." I told him about the Tioga Catfish Restaurant and asked if he would like to eat there, and again received a "Yes."

Our waitress for the day was Kim Hilliard. She and her husband, James, were the owners of Tioga Catfish Restaurant, and they did an excellent job. The food was always superb, served fresh and tasty. The portions were generous and satisfying. The service was great, anticipating your every need.

I am sure Jordan felt like the "Big Man," eating out with Papa and getting to choose for himself what to order. In fact he placed his own order for the meal. I ordered the fish basket, which included a large serving of fish, lots of french fries, a bowl of red beans, and hush puppies. I chose iced tea for my drink.

Jordan's turn to order came. I tried to explain to him that there was a smaller fish dinner, more to the size of a seven year old, but I let him order what he wanted. Much to my surprise he ordered the same fish basket and iced tea that I had ordered. The little fellow was trying to be just like Papa. I felt flattered, but at the same time remembered again that we should be careful of our actions because there are little eyes watching us all the time. Often they imitate what they see us do.

We sat there enjoying our table conversation. You need to know that Jordan has a certain look when something is going on. It is a grin that differs from his usual grin but is quite unmistakable. He sat there with that grin as our food was served. We began to eat.

I certainly enjoyed my entire meal, as usual when dining at Tioga Catfish Restaurant. Jordan began sampling his fish and did a good job making it disappear. He only nibbled at the hush puppies. The french fries he really enjoyed, though like a seven year old he began to get silly and dipped some of them into his iced tea before eating them. I prefer catsup on mine.

During this whole time, Jordan had that grin on his face. I knew something was up, but just couldn't figure it out. At first I thought he was just really pleased to be eating out with Papa. Finally I ask him why the big smile.

He said, "I fooled you, Papa!"

"What do you mean?" I asked.

Jordan replied, "I've never had catfish before!"

To this day, catfish is still one of Jordan's favorites when he eats out.

Well, that was seven years ago. Jordan is now 14, nearing 15. The Hilliards have bought Clark's Outpost, a fantastic bar-b-cue restaurant in Tioga. For several years they operated both restaurants, but staffing difficulties and increasing competition forced them to close the catfish restaurant.

During our past Christmas holidays I invited Jordan to join me again for a day of newspaper deliver as we had done so many years ago. He readily agreed. The day we set off was icy and snowy. We had storms the day before, and while the weather was much nicer the roads were still a lot of "fun" to negotiate. We stopped a couple of times to help others get out of the ditch. We carefully made the trip, and Jordan served as chief cameraman taking quite a few pictures as a record of our trip.

Lunchtime arrived and we were nearing Tioga. I asked if Jordan likes bar-b-que and he answered, "Yes." Déjà vu all over again.

We entered Clark's and were showed to our seats by a very helpful waitress. The walls are covered with old west memorabilia. One wall has a beautiful mural of a wild west scene. Furnishings are rustic and you feel sort of like you are in a bunkhouse eating your main meal of the day.

Looking over the menu, which has an extensive listing of gourmet foods, we began to make our choices. I took a full rack of ribs, with the deep-fried corn on the cob, cole slaw, and french fries.

This time, Jordan was a little more selective in ordering. After asking about some of the various items, he asked if they had just meat on a bun. I directed him to the brisket sandwich. He ordered a side of french fries to go with it. Again I took iced tea, but Jordan had a soda to drink. We were both more than pleased with our meal. I shared some of my ribs with Jordan so that next time he would know what they were and could try them without worrying if he would like them.

Clark's Outpost slow smokes all their meat. Everything is cooked over hickory from eight hours to 20 or more depending what is being cooked. The meat is tender, falling off the bone and flavorful from the natural smoke. Nothing artificial is added and no shortcuts are taken in making this authentic old time bar-b-que.

Let me know if you plan to make this little trip. Maybe Jordan and I can go along. We sure enjoy the travel and eating.



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Texoma Montage

Telling Our Stories

REMEMBERING ARMISTICE DAY, 1918

by Jack Frost McGraw

The Jefferson School was located on Chaffin Street in Sherman. Students gathered in the yard, and when they heard a bell, they all ran to see which teacher was standing in the doorway. On a bright November morning in 1918, Miss Knox called her second grade class. We lined up and marched single-file up the steps, down the hall, and into the cloakroom. There we hung up our coats and carried our bookbags into the classroom.

Our opening exercise was a recitation in unison of the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Then we started our reading lesson. On this morning we were interrupted by Miss Evorie, who came in to announce that "the war was over" and we should go home to "celebrate."

I knew what "cele-brate" meant. At our house we celebrated holidays and birthdays all the time. It meant fried chicken and blackberry cobbler and all the aunts and cousins coming in to eat with us. It meant the dining room filled with grown-ups and the children waiting or being served at the kitchen table. It meant deviled eggs and pickles and, if it was a picnic, bread-and-butter sandwiches made from that delicious brown bread.

As I hurried home that morning, I disobeyed a standing rule: I cut through the park and walked by the Interstate Cotton Oil Mill.

Goodness! The whistles were stuck and they kept going off. They were awfully loud, and someone was shooting a gun! It, too, kept going: Bang! Bang! Bang! Then the streetcar came down Grand Avenue and the bell was ringing. The noise around there was really something!

But I hurried on thinking of our celebration. Then when I reached home, I stopped in my tracks. My grandmother was dressed in her Sunday clothes. She was even wearing her hat. How could she fry chicken and make pies dressed like that? What's more, she said, "Put your things away and come with me, we're going to town to celebrate the end of the war."

There was nothing to do but follow instructions. We rode the streetcar with the clanging bell and where we got off at Travis and Lamar streets downtown, we could barely get through the crowds. The big red fire truck pulled by giant horses was coming down the street and Dad Hill was trying to hold the crowd back so they would not be trampled. We work-ed our way down to the bank, where Mother was waiting for us.

She said, "We are really going to celebrate" but she took my hand and led me into a big restaurant. The man at the door took us to a table already set with napkins and silver and glasses of water.

I wondered how he knew we were coming and if he could fry chicken. He sure didn't look like he could bake pies. He wore a black suit and a white shirt and his tie was black too. He seemed like maybe he would preach or lead us in prayer. He seemed friendly, though, when he pushed my chair up to the table. Then he left and another man came with big cards. I thought surely this one was going to have a reading class; but Mother talked to him using words I didn't know, like "oyster" and "a-la-mode." I was anxious to get through with this visit so we could go celebrate with maybe a cake and candles to blow out. Pretty soon that last man returned and set some plates of food in front of us. It wasn't chicken or black-eyed peas but Mother said I should taste it and see if I liked it.

It was oysters! That was the most delicious food I'd ever eaten. I ate all of mine and was about to ask for more when Mother said, "Wait a minute! You have a surprise coming." It was pie—cherry pie, my favorite that we rarely had at Grand-mother's house—and on top of it was a big serving of ice cream.

Well, this was a celebration after all. I knew "celebrate" meant a big fancy meal. I just had never eaten fried oysters or pie-a-la-mode before. We really did celebrate Armistice Day, November 11, 1918.

Jack Frost McGraw

Jack Frost (on right) waiting with a friend and her grandmother to ride the trolley to downtown Sherman for the first Armistice Day celebration, Nov. 11, 1918



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Texoma Montage

*This was the backpage for our first issue.
Hope you enjoyed our magazine.*