

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

May 16, 2013



Congratulations to our many readers who will be graduating or whose children will be graduating in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to send a picture of your graduate along with a name we would be glad to publish them in our next issue. Please send them to dalerideout@cablone.net by May 23, 2013 so that we can include them in the next issue.



Howe Gifted and Talented



Church News





GC guitar students take second place

Four Grayson College guitar students won second place in the college division-large ensemble category at the Hill Country Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival and Competition in April. The competition was held at Texas State University in San Marcos.

The GC ensemble included Bonham freshman Jennifer Martz and three sophomores: Misty Hebert of Whitewright, Seve Mexia of Sherman, and Douglas Vanner Carr of Denison. Hebert and Mexia have been members of the ensemble for four semesters; Carr is in his third semester with the group, and Martz is in her first.

During competition, the ensembles performed 12-15 minutes for a panel of judges. The Grayson College ensemble performed three works: Sonata Op. 1 No. 12 La Folia by Antonio Vivaldi; Divertimento No. 3, Minuet –Trio by Joseph Haydn; El Gato Montes by Manuel Penella. Hebert also performed a solo piece in a Master class for guitarist Kirk Hanser of the Hanser-McClellan Guitar Duo, one of the concert's featured artists.

“The event is a chance to showcase the Grayson College Music Department’s training, talent and quality of instruction to cultivate students’ musicianship,” said Dr. David Tercero, GC’s adjunct professor of music (guitar) and director of the ensemble. “For students, competition is a great opportunity to practice stage presence, add to their performance experience, and look for opportunities to continue their music education at the university level.”



Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

My eldest grandchild called me during her lunch hour to tell me she had found my name on a Website previously unknown to me. She mailed me a link to www.topix.com/forum/city/sherman-tx, where I found a headline announcing "Dorothy Fowler is a Democrat."

This is not exactly a fact that needs to be delivered in a plain brown wrapper (only people of certain age will know about goods delivered in plain brown wrappers). The anonymous person who posted this information followed it with a short paragraph alleging that I regularly write columns for the Grayson County Democratic Party Website, support increases in property taxes, don't believe everyone who lives in the United States should speak English, and support President Obama.

If there is a Grayson County Democratic Party Website, no one has invited me to write for it; the only column I produce on a regular basis is Dot's Dashes for the *Texoma Enterprise*, which is owned and operated by good, hard-working Republicans who value free speech and civil discourse.

As for property taxes, I certainly do not support any increase because property taxes, like sales taxes, tend to be regressive, taxing less wealthy people at a higher rate than the wealthy pay. To be honest, the whole idea of property taxes as a way to finance government services (that's schools, fire department, law enforcement, zoning law, water and garbage, public health centers, to name only a few) may not be the best idea. However, since I have nothing better with which to replace property taxes, I work on the premise that it's better swim in the water you know than to launch into the deep that may well be filled with previously unnoticed alligators.

I believe it is to everyone's advantage to be able to speak, read and write in more than one language, but I also believe that standard English should be the STANDARD toward

which we all strive in our classrooms. That is the language I required when I was teaching, although many of my native English speakers never learned the difference between the verbs lie and lay and saw and seen. For some of them, writing a complete sentence, was an accident, and writing a coherent paragraph was a minor miracle. Those were the students who insisted on English as the official language, a proposition I told them I would support when they learned to read, write and speak their native language.

I campaigned for Senator Obama when he ran the first time and for President Obama when he ran for a second term. For the most part I support the policies he has supported and believe that has been faced with the impossible task of working with some people who believe the word "compromise" is on the same level with certain other obscenities. As my John Birch Society acquaintances frequently reminded me, "We are right." My reply was, "That's true; Far right." The phrase "right wing nut" had not yet been invented.

At that time, I did not know any "left wing nuts," but since I've been in Sherman, I have met some and you can go to the bank on the reality that they are as intractable and incapable of compromise as any other wing nut.

If you should look up the topix Website and read the column it makes reference to, I did indeed write it and after reading it, think it was well done. Put another way, I'm proud of it.

You, of course, are invited to comment on it either positively or negatively. That's the beauty of living in the United States and a tribute to the foresight of the men who wrote the Bill of Rights. You get to agree or disagree even if you don't know doodly about the subject!

Peace and grace to each of you and to those whom you love.



Texoma Enterprise

Howe's That Recipe



by Lana Rideout

My husband and I have 7 grandchildren. Four of them have graduated from high school and one of them is nearly finished college.

On June 7 a fifth grandchild will graduate from high school. His name is Caleb and he lives in Mansfield. So we will attend his graduation on June 7.

Next year our granddaughter Brianna will graduate from Howe High School and the following year our granddaughter Rachel (who lives in Mansfield) will graduate.

We are very proud of our children and grandchildren.

It will be nice to see Caleb achieve his high school graduation.

Fried Pies

Chocolate Filling:

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- evaporated milk

Mix the sugar, cocoa, and salt together. Add the vanilla and just enough of the milk to just moisten. It needs to be very thick, and will still be grainy.

Sugar Filling: Same as above, leave out the cocoa.

To make the pies, roll out pie crust dough to just over 1/8 inch thick. Don't roll too thin, or the filling will seep out during frying. Cut into approximately 5-inch circles or squares (squares are easier if you don't have a large round cutter.) As a rough guide, I needed approximately the same amount of pie dough as for 4 regular pies, using both types of filling.

Put about a tablespoonful of either filling into the center, and brush the edges with a beaten egg yolk. Fold the crust over the filling, then carefully and completely seal the edges with a fork.

These can be deep-fried at about 375 degrees, or pan-fried two at a time in about a quarter inch of oil. Either way, fry until brown, turning once. If I'm making both kinds, I find it better to cook the sugar ones first, in case some of the filling leaks out.

(Note: these can really be messy if the filling leaks out. Make sure the oil is hot enough, the crust is thick enough, and the edges are sealed. I fried mine in a cast-iron skillet, and some of the filling leaked out. It crystallized around the side of the skillet, but I got it out after I emptied the oil, ran hot water into the skillet, let it sit for about 10 minutes, then wipe it off with a paper towel.)



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The HES 3rd and 4th Gifted and Talented students recently enjoyed a day at the Frisco Roughriders Ball Park. Students are Jackson Adkins, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Brett Burnett, Alex Blount.



Howe Elementary School May Students of the Month

Row 1: Brynn Riley, Beau Stephens
Row 2: Kiera Robertson, Madilynn Douglass, Logan Smith, Dakota Tinker
Row 3: Pablo Segura, Katee Roper, Cierra Brussow, Colby Hopper



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selection.



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Western Interior Seaway:

A Seminar in Ancient Archaeology of Inland
Sea in Grayson Area:

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, May 19, 3 – 4 p.m.

Presented by Ed and Kathy Swiatovy, renown
researchers of ancient landforms in the western world.

Enjoy an exciting experience as you learn about the
geography, geology, plants and animals of Grayson County
in prior ages.

For a whole afternoon of fun, take a tour of

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge.

Call and reserve a seat on the tram before the class.

Call 903-786-2826

A free event sponsored by the Bluestem Chapter of Texas Master
Naturalists



Texoma Enterprise

Blown with the Wind – Don Mathis

A day remembered as Black Friday

occurred in 1896 on the 15th of May.

It was the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

Not until Galveston's storm was this much misery.

Folks had no telephones to spread the alarm

so there was no way to prevent the harm.

Tornado Alley has 100 words for a windy storm.

No one has seen a Straight-Line Wind be born.

And there's no watching out for a Downward Blast.

It can turn your barn to a splintered haystack.

So few saw the tornado arrive that delivered

destruction and death on the way to Red River.

Sherman, Texas, was the biggest town on the highway

between the Dallas area and Tulsa, OK.

Lightning and thunder rolled across the plains.

Folks sought shelter from the darkening rains.

Trees and buildings were thrown around

as the winds came in with a frightful sound

A bridge was destroyed despite its iron beam.

The chasm stopped the aid of the rescue team

West Hill Cemetery grew to hold the departed.

The bereaved grieved for years, brokenhearted.

The coast has hurricanes, the bay area earthquakes, but twisters are as deadly as coiled rattlesnakes. Today, radio can spread news to help save lives

but you better hide when there's an F5.

Don Mathis, San Antonio, TX

DPS Urges Texans to Report Suspicious Activities Through State Website

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) encourages residents to report suspicious behaviors that might indicate criminal or terrorist activity to the department's iWATCH website at www.iwatchtx.org. Created as a partnership between communities and law enforcement, iWATCH is a DPS website where citizen-sourced information is collected in an effort to help thwart illegal and terroristic endeavors.

"DPS works with federal, state and local law enforcement entities every day to combat crime and terrorism within Texas and beyond. With the help of the public, we can be even more successful in this pursuit," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Residents can join our crime-fighting efforts - and possibly save lives - by remaining vigilant and promptly reporting to iWATCH any suspicious or criminal activities they might witness."

Concerned citizens can visit the <http://www.iwatchtx.org> website to fill out a report, which includes contact information and specifics about a particular incident. A report usually takes fewer than five minutes to complete, and once submitted, each report is reviewed by law enforcement analysts.

Here are some examples of behaviors and activities to report:

- * Strangers asking questions about building security features and procedures.
- * Briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package is left behind.
- * Cars or trucks are left in no-parking zones at important buildings.
- * Chemical smells or fumes that are unusual for the location.
- * People requesting sensitive information, such as blueprints, security plans or VIP travel schedules, without a need to know.
- * Purchasing supplies that could be used to make bombs or weapons, or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials.
- * Taking photographs or videos of security features, such as cameras or check points.

DPS urges residents who see something unusual to simply speak up. Preparations for terrorist attacks are often seen, but rarely reported. When in doubt, report the suspicious activity through iWATCH. For more information on the iWATCH program or to submit a report, visit www.iwatchtx.org.

The iWATCH website is part of the DPS Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division (ICT), which serves as the central clearinghouse for the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of law enforcement and homeland security intelligence in Texas. This DPS intelligence strategy is essential to proactive, preventive and effective law enforcement operations to combat crime and terrorism.

The intelligence strategy encompasses a variety of other programs, including the multi-agency Texas Fusion Center, which provides around-the-clock analytical assistance to more than 1,500 local law enforcement agencies; Counterterrorism Analysis Program; State Intelligence Assessment Program; Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and Sex Offender programs; Operation Drawbridge border camera program; Missing and Exploited Children Unit; Interdiction for the Protection of Children Program; Gang Analysis Section; and Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource Tracking and Assessment Program. ICT also offers direct case support for Texas Rangers, and assistance in investigations involving cartel, gangs, human trafficking and sex offenders.

[Click Here for more Area Events](#)



Texoma Enterprise

Health Briefs

Protect eyes this summer

HOUSTON – Take precautionary measures to protect your eyes during the summer to prevent long-term damage to eyesight, said a Baylor College of Medicine ophthalmologist.

“Ultraviolet light, or UV exposure, has been linked to the development of macular degeneration, cataracts and other vision-loss problems,” said Dr. Elizabeth Baze, assistant professor of ophthalmology at BCM.

Baze offered tips you can practice to help protect your eyes from sun damage this summer.

-The more the sunglasses wrap around and shield your eyes and the skin around the eyes, the more protection you have.

-Sunglasses need to provide 99 to 100 percent UV protection.

-Sunblock is a must, including the skin around the eyes.

-A broad-brimmed hat can add extra protection.

If you have an existing eye condition like macular degeneration or cataracts, protecting your eyes from the sun should be a top priority during the summer, she said.

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Quality of meals should not change during summer

HOUSTON -- Students shouldn't close the door on healthy eating habits during the summer, says a Baylor College of Medicine pediatrician.

“Certainly it is just as important to eat healthy over the summer as it is any other time of the year,” said Dr. Teresia O'Connor, assistant professor of pediatrics – nutrition at BCM.

She offers the following tips for health summer eating:

-Incorporate fruits and vegetables in all meals.

-A healthy summer lunch should include a fruit, a vegetable, some form of protein and whole grains.

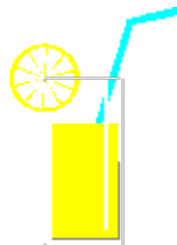
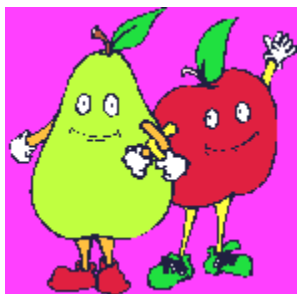
-Don't skip breakfast.

-Eat three meals a day with one to two snacks.

-Stay hydrated - water is the best and healthiest way to stay hydrated.

-Be aware of how much sugar is in beverages. While it's okay to drink a small amount of these beverages, primary drinks should be water and low-fat or skim milk.

-Encourage children and teens to help prepare their own meals so they become responsible for their own healthy eating.



Texoma Enterprise

Area Churches

Church

Page



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

Psalm 5:1-12 (KJV)

- ¹ Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
- ² Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.
- ³ My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.
- ⁴ For thou *art* not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.
- ⁵ The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.
- ⁶ Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.
- ⁷ But as for me, I will come *into* thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: *and* in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.
- ⁸ Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.
- ⁹ For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part *is* very wickedness; their throat *is* an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.
- ¹⁰ Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.
- ¹¹ But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Christian Fellowship

Angie Howery will be leading worship service this week at A Christian Fellowship in Luella. Each Sunday morning they begin with coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30.

The Lord's Supper is offered each Sunday during worship service and dress is casual.

David Ellis leads praise and worship and is a contemporary style service.

ACF offers a class for the children called Kidz in Da Zone for Jesus and is for kids from 2-10 years of age. They learn Bible verses, play games, have skits and a puppet show.

ACF will have their Vacation Bible School the week of July 22-26. This year's theme will be "You Gotta Move" by Go Fish. The ages will be kindergarten-5th grade.

Wednesday nights begin with a pot-luck dinner at 6:30 pm followed by praise and worship and a devotional.

The church is located on the West side of Hwy 11 in Luella. Look for the red brick building with the green metal roof on the hill. The cross will light the way. For more information contact Mike Ball at 903-870-0219 or David Ellis at 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 am and worship at 10: am with congregational singing. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

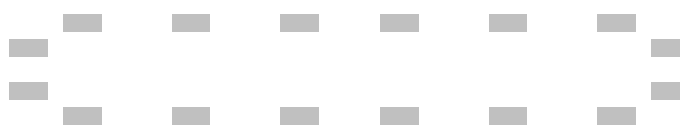
We have radio programs each Sunday at 7:30 am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn. Also there are two other programs; the North Side church of Christ is on at 8 am, and Leonard church of Christ is on at 8:30am both on KFYN 1420 AM.

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be found at <http://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsletter>. Their television program comes on CBS at 7:30am.

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

VBS information:

Church name: A Christian Fellowship
VBS Theme: You Gotta Move
Date and Time: July 22-26 @ 6:30-8:30 pm
Ages: kindergarten-5th grade
Address of church: 150 Fellowship Lane, Hwy 11 Luella (I believe it's a Sherman address though)
No Transportation Provided



Texoma Enterprise

**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



Out of the Fire

It was an October day in 1959 in Bixby, Oklahoma. Six-year-old big sister was at school. Little two-year-old sister was playing in the house. Mom was also at home working in another room. Dad was at work. A carpenter was refinishing the hardwood floors in their old house. The carpenter's wife, accompanied by a five-year-old neighbor, had just arrived to pick him up. Then it happened. There was a loud explosion. When the hot water heater came on, it ignited the freshly sealed hardwood floor and the bucket of sealer that was sitting near the furnace. Instantly, fire raged in the dining room.

Mother ran out of the back of the house around to the front. The carpenter, his wife, and the 5-year-old had made it out safely. The two-year-old, however, was trapped inside. Mother heard her daughter screaming inside the dining room. Mother went to the window, ripped off the heavy screen window, threw it aside, and climbed into the smoke-filled room with fire blazing all around. Huddled in the corner just a couple of feet from the fire was her daughter. She was trying to shield herself from the fire with her arms. Mother ripped off her own skirt and wrapped her daughter in it. Carrying her, she climbed out of the window. By this time, Dad had arrived. Seeing that their daughter was badly burned, they rushed her to the hospital in Broken Arrow. It wouldn't be long before she would be rushed to a much larger, better-equipped hospital in Tulsa.

The little two-year-old had suffered terrible burns on her legs up to the middle of her thighs, on her right arm, and the right side of her face. Over a four-month period in the hospital, the little two-year-old underwent multiple surgeries to place skin grafts on the burn sites. Doctors even had to take her to surgery in order to change her dressings.

And every day, her mother was by her side.

That little girl, Pam, is now a wife and has a daughter of her own. She has experienced success as an executive of the Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. She still walks with a limp and has scars on her legs and her right hand. But she is alive and well... and thankful for her loving mother, Helen Parham, who saved her life by pulling her out of the fire.

The love of this mother for her daughter should help us to recognize how much the Heavenly Father loves each one of us...

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). When we were doomed because of our sins, God sent Jesus to our rescue so that we would not perish in the flames of the fires of hell (Ephesians 1:7). He came so that so we might have eternal life in a glorious place called Heaven (John 14:1-6).

Jesus will save and give eternal life to those who accept His offer of salvation on His terms: placing their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turning from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse those who strive to continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

Jesus has come to save YOU from the fire. He has something FAR BETTER for you!

Won't YOU accept His offer on His terms?

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

Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and accessed from our website at: www.creekwoodcc.org



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
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Texoma Enterprise
805 N. Hughes
Howe, Texas 75459-3587
903-487-0525
dalerideout@cablone.net
lanarideout@cablone.net

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.



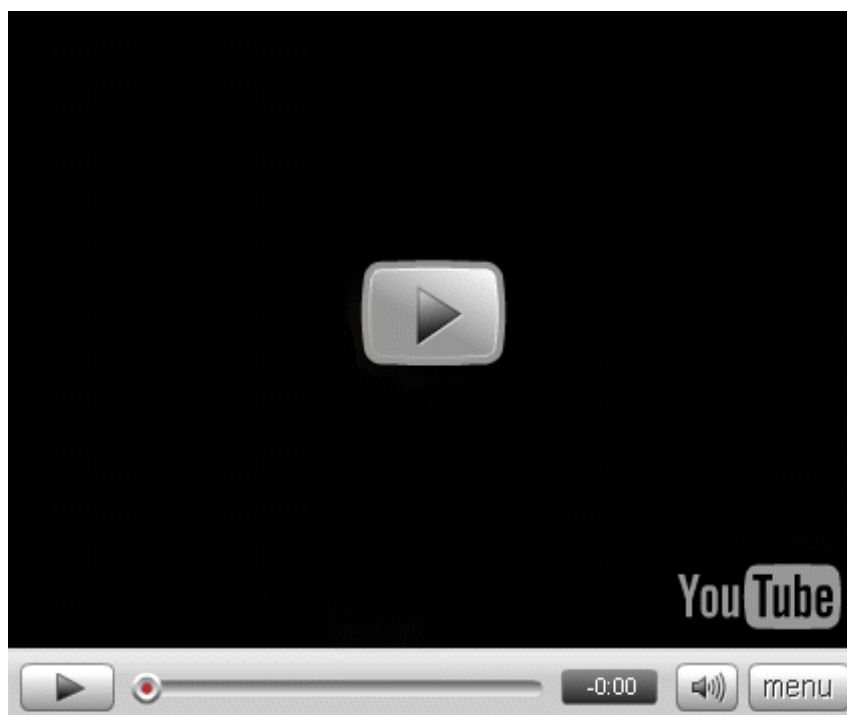
Dale & Lana Rideout



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



"Santa" Rideout



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007

Cornyn: Administration Has Credibility Gap

‘Unfortunately, so far the Obama Administration has valued its agenda more than its credibility.’

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) today called on members of the Obama Administration to begin rebuilding the American peoples’ trust by focusing on their credibility, rather than their political agenda. You can watch Sen. Cornyn’s full speech here<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx5pXwh9Zks>>. Excerpts of his remarks are below:

“Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Our founders pointed out in the Federalist Papers and elsewhere that a concentration of powers in the hands of a few is the very definition of tyranny.

“And we’ve learned from hard experience over the course of our nation’s history that when government thinks it knows best, particularly here in Washington in a country as big and diverse as ours is, that the natural tendency then in Washington is to try to suppress the voices of those who see things differently.

“Over the last week, a series of events have highlighted the Administration’s massive credibility gap. First we learned more details about the coordinated attempt to misrepresent the September 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya.

“Then we learned this last week that a senior IRS official had acknowledged that her agency deliberately targeted certain political speech and activity for harassment using the instruments of power given to the Internal Revenue Service, perhaps the most awesome, pervasive and potentially intrusive power the federal government has, in the hands of that agency.

“On top of all that, the top administrator of Health and Human Services, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, has been soliciting funds from the very industries she regulates.

“So whether the issue is a terrorist attack in Libya, political and partisan abuses by the IRS, or efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services to shake down the health insurance industry they regulate, it appears that the birds have come home to roost, that the founders warned us about, the concentration of government power invariably leads to abuse of that power and it’s the same old story of human frailties over and over again.

“If we will try to work hard to regain the public’s credibility and we will simply do our work and respect the wisdom of the ages when it comes to concentration of power and its impact on individual liberty, and the temptation when power is absolute to see that power corrupted and abuse that power when it comes to dealing with the American people.

“Unfortunately, so far the Obama Administration has valued its agenda more than its credibility. Without regaining credibility, we will never regain the public’s trust, and without that trust, it will be much, much harder to solve America’s biggest problems. That is the biggest single challenge to President Obama’s second-term agenda. And to our ability as Americans to show that this 200-plus year experiment in self-government actually works.”

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Cornyn Files Amendment to Help Address Texas Water Shortage, Engage Mexico on Treaty Compliance

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced an amendment to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reauthorization to address Mexico’s failure to take action to uphold its water obligations to the U.S. under the 1944 Treaty (Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande Treaty), contributing to Texas’ growing water shortage:

“The water debt and uncertainty about supply harms Texas farmers, ranchers, and small businesses who rely on regular, reliable sources of water.

“Unfortunately, over the past two decades, Texas farmers alone have lost hundreds of millions of dollars during these shortfalls, and the Obama Administration must step up pressure on Mexico before it’s too late.”

Background on Sen. Cornyn’s Amendment

Requires the Secretary of State to submit a report, no later than 45 days after enactment of WRDA, and quarterly thereafter, describing efforts by Mexico to meet their treaty obligations to deliver water to the Rio Grande under the 1944 Treaty.

Requires the Secretary of State to put forward an annual report describing the benefits the United States is receiving from the interim cooperative measures in the Colorado River basin that help Mexico following the 2010 earthquake.

Prevents the Secretary of State from extending benefits for Mexico from this interim agreement if the Secretary fails to comply with the report requirements.

Sen. Cornyn called on President Obama to address the looming threat of water shortages in Texas during his visit with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. In March, he sent a letter<http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=InNews&ContentRecord_id=6cf015fb-09d3-4255-95ab-df7589419ac0> to International Boundary & Water Commissioner Edward Drusina asking him to meet with his counterparts in the Mexican Section, as well as the State Department, to resolve the immediate threat of water shortages for Texas users. Sen. Cornyn also asked the Commissioner to begin direct discussions with Mexico to halt the growth in the water debt owed to the United States.

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

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Texoma Enterprise

Cornyn Op-ed: Is This America Or China?

‘Four American patriots are dead; U.S. citizens are being deliberately targeted and harassed by their government; journalists are understandably concerned about an intrusive Justice Department investigation; and a cabinet secretary is strong-arming the health industry to “voluntarily” fund a partisan, highly unpopular policy. Is this America or China?’

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn authored the following column on National Review Online:

Is This America Or China? <<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/348318/america-or-china>>

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

National Review Online, May 15, 2013

The events that have unfolded over the past week are showing big government at its worst. First we learned more details about the Obama administration’s coordinated attempt to misrepresent the September 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, which claimed four American lives. Then a senior IRS official acknowledged that her agency had deliberately targeted conservative groups for harassment. Meanwhile, the administration was forced to admit that its top health regulator has been soliciting industry funds to help implement Obamacare. Finally, we discovered that the Justice Department has cast an extraordinarily wide net to capture the phone records of several journalists who work for the Associated Press.

All of these events highlight the Obama administration’s massive credibility gap. As someone who has spent a career in public service, I want government to work. As a conservative, I want government to be as small and efficient as possible. As an American, I cannot tolerate a government that actively deceives the people it is meant to serve, whether through negligence, incompetence, or malfeasance.

In 2011, my office began receiving complaints of unfair treatment by the IRS from various conservative groups in Texas - groups such as the King Street Patriots, True the Vote, the San Antonio Tea Party, and the Waco Tea Party. They cited excessive, unreasonable, and improper inquiries from the IRS and feared that they were being targeted for their political beliefs. I sent multiple letters to then-IRS commissioner Douglas Shulman expressing my concerns and asking for an investigation. He categorically denied that the IRS was targeting specific groups.

Two years later, we learned that he was wrong and the conservative groups were right: The IRS was systematically targeting people of a certain ideology - one that happens to be at odds with the current administration. Furthermore, we have learned that senior IRS officials were aware of these accusations as early as June 2011. That is outrageous, but sadly not surprising from an administration that has chosen time and again to deceive the American people.

Indeed, whether the issue is a terrorist attack in Libya, partisan abuses by IRS agents, a potentially illegal effort to shake down health-care providers, or a questionably broad investigation by the nation’s top law-enforcement agency, this self-styled “most transparent administration in history” has consistently put politics ahead of truth, justice, and the rule of law.

Perhaps even more alarming is the total lack of responsibility assumed by the president. Americans have caught their government in multiple lies, and President Obama’s response has been a symphony of obfuscation, misdirection, and denial. At every turn, the president and his deputies have chosen not to be straightforward with the American people, and as a result they have seriously undermined both their credibility and their trustworthiness.

To review: Four American patriots are dead; U.S. citizens are being deliberately targeted and harassed by their government; journalists are understandably concerned about an intrusive Justice Department investigation; and a cabinet secretary is strong-arming the health industry to “voluntarily” fund a partisan, highly unpopular policy. Is this America or China? Any one of these issues is a “scandal.” Together they reflect an administration that is deeply flawed and has lost the faith of the public it is sworn to protect.

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.



Senator Craig Estes votes Texas Privacy Act out of His Senate Committee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Homeland Security Senator Estes sponsors HB 912 to provide needed safeguards for privacy of Texans

Austin - The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Homeland Security voted out HB 912 today. The bill would make the use of an unmanned vehicle or aircraft to take an image for the purpose of monitoring or surveillance a Class C misdemeanor. The bill also creates a misdemeanor offense for the possession, disclosure or distribution of images captured by the unlawful use of an unmanned vehicle or aircraft.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Homeland Security and sponsor of the bill, Senator Craig Estes, said, “This is an important bill to the people of Texas because the use of drones is rapidly expanding here. As drone use continues to increase, it is critical that we have safeguards in place to protect the privacy and property rights of Texans. The safety of Texans and their interests has been, and always will, be my greatest concern.”

The bill either doesn’t apply to or exempts from criminal penalties the use of unmanned vehicles or aircraft to capture images for a wide range of purposes, including executing a valid arrest of search warrant, emergencies, public safety, hazardous material spills, fighting fires, rescuing a person in imminent danger, use by the federal aviation administration or by any branch of the United States military.

Senator Estes further said, “While it is vitally important to protect the privacy and property rights of Texans from unwarranted intrusion, it is equally and crucial that those interests be balanced against public safety. As long as we have safeguards in place, I am confident that drones can be used to enhance public safety without rolling back the privacy and property rights of Texans.”

Estes serves nearly 820,000 constituents across Senate District 30 which includes all of Archer, Clay, Cooke, Erath, Grayson, Jack, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Wichita, Wise, and Young counties and parts of Collin and Denton counties.

[Click Here for more Editorial](#)



Cornyn Responds to IRS Official in Charge During Tea Party Targeting Now Running Health Care Office

Introduces Bill to Prevent IRS From Enforcing Obamacare

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) today introduced, "Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act of 2013." The bill would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury, or any delegate, including the IRS, from enforcing Obamacare.

"The official who oversaw the targeting of tea party groups is now in charge of implementing Obamacare at the IRS. Now more than ever, we need to prevent the IRS from having any role in Americans' health care.

"I do not support Obamacare, and after the events of last week, I cannot support giving the IRS any more responsibility or taxpayer dollars to implement a broken law."

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Cornyn Response to Appointment of White House Insider to IRS Commissioner

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement after President Obama appointed Daniel Werfel as Acting Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS):

"With trust in the federal government at an all-time low, placing a White House insider in charge of an agency whose leadership willfully misled Congress and targeted American people for exercising free speech does absolutely nothing to restore the public's confidence in Washington."

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Hall Votes To Repeal Obamacare

WASHINGTON, DC . . . May 16, Rep. Ralph M. Hall (TX-04) voted in favor of H.R. 45, To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health-care related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The bill passed the House, 229-195. After the vote, Rep. Hall released the following statement:

"I have always supported a full repeal of 'Obamacare,' and I continue to look for ways to cut this bad law's funding at every opportunity. Today marks House Republicans' 37th vote to fully or partially repeal or defund 'Obamacare.' While seven of these bills are now public laws that directly cut funding from 'Obamacare' provisions, 'Obamacare' remains a bad law that must be fully repealed. Even Senator Max Baucus, a designer of President Obama's health care law, believes a 'huge train wreck [is] coming down' with the law's full implementation set to begin next year.

"Family premiums have grown by \$3,000 since 2008, in direct contrast to the President's promise that families could save \$2,500. Over 30 studies predict premiums will continue to become more unaffordable once full implementation of 'Obamacare' kicks in next year. This doesn't just impact people with higher incomes – individuals earning as little as \$25,000 will pay more for insurance. Clearly, the President's promises that his health care law would lower costs are false.

"'Obamacare' is also negatively impacting job growth and our economy. On March 6, the Federal Reserve reported 'Employers in several Districts cited the unknown effects of the Affordable Care Act as reasons for planned layoffs and reluctance to hire more staff.' Many small businesses are reducing staff to under 50 employees, as well as reducing workers' hours so they can be considered 'part-time,' in order to be exempt from providing health care.

"Americans deserve responsible health care reform, which is why I continue to work to defund as much of 'Obamacare' as possible and replace it with common sense solutions: eliminating job-killing policies and regulations, lowering health care premiums through increased competition and choice, all while preserving the patient's ability to keep his or her health plan if he or she likes it."

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Storm's aftermath offers lessons on crop insurance

By Mike Barnett

Total devastation visited Fleming Grain and Cattle Company Thursday evening. The storms that rolled through Texas that day damaged and destroyed thousands of acres of corn and wheat on several farms in Bell and Falls counties and other parts of the state as well.

The year started with promise for farmers like Robert Fleming. His crops looked good. It was a bit dry, however, and he was optimistic for the moisture Thursday's cold front would bring. He didn't bargain for the pea-sized hail driven by straight-line winds that peppered the crops like a mini-machine gun.

Crop disasters are not foreign to Texas farmers this season or any other. It's part of the farming gamble. Drought-like conditions have dried up crops in parts of the Coastal Bend and South Texas. Freezes bit corn in Central Texas and were the reason many farmers had to bale a promising wheat crop. The cold weather has plagued farmers in the Panhandle as well.

But there's something about a hail storm that is just a little bit harder to take. Watching a crop go from bountiful to disaster in just a few minutes is gut wrenching.

Crop insurance makes the situation bearable. But it's in danger.

Farm bill negotiations are currently underway in Washington, D.C., and subsidized crop insurance payments are a target from both the left and the right. What critics fail to realize is, if successful, they will cut America's legs right out from under her.

Crop insurance is about the only tool left when it comes to risk management for farmers. Yes, farmers pay for it. But no crop yields enough to pay the entire premium. That's why a subsidy is required to make it work.

The purpose of crop insurance is not to make farmers whole. It gives them just enough resources to get back on their feet when it's time to plant again.

And that's good for Robert Fleming and other Texas farmers who have felt Mother Nature's sting this spring. And that's good for the food security of America as well.

Mike Barnett, Director of Publications, Texas Farm Bureau

I'm a firm believer that farmers and ranchers will continue to meet the needs of a growing world population by employing equal measures of common sense, conservation and technology.





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Do-It-Yourself Will Leads to Unwanted Result

If you choose to write your own will, you run the risk of not having your estate distributed the way you want, as a recent Pennsylvania case illustrates.

George Zeevering apparently wanted his estate to go to two of his five children. Instead of seeking out an elder law attorney to advise him on drawing up an estate plan, he decided to write his own will. The will gave his pickup truck to his daughter Diane and his summer property to his son Wayne. Mr. Zeevering also wrote in the will that he was intentionally leaving out his other three children.

The problem with the will was that Mr. Zeevering did not specify what to do with the remainder of his estate (called a "residuary clause"). While Mr. Zeevering probably intended that the rest of his estate – which totaled \$217,000 – would go to his favorite children, he didn't state that in the will. Because the will had no residuary clause, the remainder of Mr. Zeevering's estate passed under the state law that specifies who inherits when there is no will. Under Pennsylvania law, this meant that the rest of Mr. Zeevering's estate would be divided equally between his five children.

A state court confirmed this result, but only after the children had spent much more in attorney fees than their father would have paid a lawyer to have his will done properly. While you may save some money drafting your own will, you are in danger of making mistakes that can cause unneeded conflict and don't get the result you want. Always seek the advice of your elder law attorney before creating an estate plan.



Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Legislative Deadlines Approach

This week, we had the opportunity to welcome and honor more than 20 veterans of World War II to the state capitol. More than 700,000 Texans served in the military during WW II, 22, 000 of whom perished during the war. Today, there are fewer members of this “greatest generation” remaining, and it was a privilege to meet with those who made the trip to Austin.

Friday was the deadline for House bills other than local bills to be taken up and considered by the House. Senate bills can be considered until May 22. This legislative session ends on Monday, May 27th. Of the 4073 bills that were filed by members of the House, only about 1000 have been passed out of the House and sent to the Senate for consideration. With only 17 days left as of this writing, 119 bills have passed both chambers and have been sent to the governor.

The House took up and passed House Joint Resolution 62, which proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to entitle the surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. military who is killed in action to a property tax exemption for all or part of the market value of the surviving spouse’s residence homestead if the spouse has not remarried since the death of the member of the U.S. military and the property was the member’s residence homestead when the member died. Since this is a constitutional amendment, H.J.R. 62 will be placed on the November ballot for approval by the voters. If the voters approve the constitutional amendment, the exemption would apply to a tax year beginning on or after 2014.

For more information any matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by e-mailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us.



Humor

You're a sick senior citizen and the government says there is no nursing home care available for you. So what do you do? Our plan gives anyone 65 years, or older, a gun (G) and 4 bullets. You are allowed to shoot four Politicians.

Of course, this means you'll be sent to prison, where you will receive three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating and air conditioning and all the health care you need.

Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a new hip, knees, kidney, lungs or heart? They're all covered.

As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now.

And who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you they can't afford for you to go into a home.

And, you can get rid of 4 useless politicians while you're at it.

Plus, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any income taxes anymore.

Is this a great country or what?

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By: David & Doreen Dotson

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This Page is a Work in Progress

Howe Public Schools

Howe Public Library

Library information, Language courses, Student events

Van Alstyne Public Library

Library information, Library Catalog, Library Calendar, Online information, Research tools, Resume Maker

Search Engines-

Yahoo

Alta Vista

Google

Ask Jeeves

Class Tools - for classroom use - games, tests, timer, tools.

Quotations Page

Royalty Free Music

Spanish Dictionary

Selected Sites

[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.



LET'S REMINISCE: Bean Hole Beans

By Jerry Lincecum

It tickles my funny bone when gourmet chefs “discover” a primitive method of cooking and proclaim it marvelous. So I laughed out loud when the New York Times published a feature article recently on baking beans in a pit dug in your backyard.

I was amused because one of my elderwriters, Barbara Wright, had written a series of stories about hardships her family endured in the 1930s, and one of their favorite foods was “Bean Hole Beans,” baked overnight in a big crockpot buried in a fire pit outdoors. Here’s her story.

Wood was plentiful, and they frequently had a campfire burning near their cabin. On bean cooking days, one of her brothers would rake the hot coals to one side and dig a hole slightly larger than Mom’s bean crock and about six inches deeper. The hot coals were then raked into the hole, and more wood added to warm the hole and earth around it.

While this was going on, their mother was in the cabin mixing up her batch of beans. Starting with dried white navy beans (soaking all night in the crock), she drained the water off. Now molasses, a chunk of salt pork, sugar and some mustard were combined in a very large bowl and transferred to the crock. Finally, warm water was added almost to the top.

The crockpot was heavy when filled, so Mom had the boys carry it to the fire pit. By now the coals in the hole had burned to a nice glow. A shovel of dirt was scattered over the hot coals.

The crock, with its cover held on tightly with wire, was then lowered into the hole by using a homemade sling. The bottom of the sling was metal mesh with four stout wires extending up the sides, to protrude out of the ground.

Each wire had a loop at the top to facilitate lifting the heavy crockpot. With the crock placed in the hole, another shovel of dirt went over the top and around the sides. Now, my older brother would get a good fire going over the top of the hole.

Someone was designated to stoke the fire, usually my little brother or me. We knew never to let it go out. From our tree-stump stools we watched the flames dance and smelled the wood smoke, pretending to be pioneers.

It took several hours in the hole, with the fire burning constantly, for the beans to bake. At last, when Mother felt the beans were cooked to perfection, the fire was again raked to the side, and with the aid of heavy gloves and the wire loops, the crock emerged from its cozy hole.

As it was carried to the kitchen the whole family gathered for the opening of the bean crock. A few beans on the very top were often charred, but once they had been skimmed off, the baked beans were sheer delight. Having taken on a golden brown color, they swam in a semi-sweet juice we couldn’t resist. A plate of Mom’s Boston Baked Beans with a thick slice of homemade bread to sop up the juice was a perfect supper.

I hope Barbara Wright’s reminiscence will inspire some of you to write me about a special meal or food that you remember from childhood.

-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



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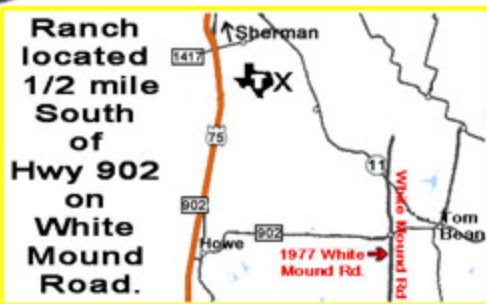
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Dr. John R Brinkley



John R. Brinkley – Millionaire, Mountebank, Medicine Man

by Don Mathis

My dad used to tell me stories about a doctor in the Great Depression who would broadcast his services on the radio. Folks from the Rockies to the Appalachians could pick up his advertisements for live baby chicks – and for goat glands. Thousands of men were swayed by the idea that a gonad graft would improve sexual performance.

Years later, I listened to the Doors' tune, "Texas Radio," as well as the ZZ Top song, "Heard it on the X." These recordings were about XER, the radio transmitter in Acuña, Mexico, that used to broadcast early rock from disc jockeys like Wolfman Jack and others. The beat of rock and roll could be said to improve sexual performance as well.

Then I learned of the connection between the powerful radio station that pushed airwaves from Arkansas to Alberta in the 1930s and laid the Big Beat across America in the 1960s. Laws in Mexico were more lenient than in the U.S in the early days of radio. More wattage could be broadcast. Less content was censored.

The Playhouse in San Pedro Park presents "Roads Courageous" (February 22 – March 17), a musical about the implanter of goat glands and the implementer of electronic media manipulation. John R. Brinkley (born in 1885 in Jackson County, North Carolina, died in 1942 in San Antonio) may be an unusual subject for a song and dance or a comedy/drama, but he was an unusual man.

Dr. Brinkley took advantage of the nebulous distinctions in professional medicine and the advent of electronic technology in the early 20th century. He made his cash registers ring. At a time when distrust in big government was at its highest and faith in corporate power was at its lowest, disapproval from the American Medical Association only strengthened his appeal.

Two reasons the AMA (or the Amateur Meat-cutter's Association, as he liked to call them) considered Dr. Brinkley a quack was for his propensity to prescribe pills over the radio and his collection of kickbacks from participating pharmacies. He had a showmanship that stretched the boundaries of professional decorum. And then there was that goat gland business.

Dr. Brinkley was an astute observer of the human psyche and he knew what people wanted to hear. He perfected the art of stroking the ego of men who had been kicked to the curb by the Great Depression. He offered better health, more energy, and increased libido. His sheer enthusiasm and promises for a better life may have helped many with a placebo effect.

But he did so much more than promote sexual vitality. Dr. Brinkley owned one of the first commercial radio stations in the country. KFKB in Milford, Kansas, broadcast regional weather reports and news of Chicago stocks – and farmers and ranchers turned in. The careers of Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and Hank Williams were also enhanced from Dr. Brinkley's broadcasts. The doctor even offered college courses over the air. Listeners could get a degree from the Kansas State Agricultural College which was every bit as valid as Dr. Brinkley's own credentials.

When State authorities finally revoked Dr. Brinkley's medical and broadcasting licenses, he ran for governor of Kansas in an effort to restore them. He pioneered the use of radio and aviation to further his political ends. Dr. Brinkley championed a message of the common man. He rejected elitism and embraced rustic values. His political rallies were a mixture of religious revival with a touch of state fair flamboyance. The crowds were huge.

We see a lot of the same attractions in today's political and health-care fields. Some candidates take pride in covert racism and anti-intellectualism. And who hasn't seen the draw for 'alternative health' zealots? A campaign for education reform, assistance to the elderly, a fair tax system, and free health care still holds appeal to a lot of voters.

Although he gathered 240,000 votes, Dr. Brinkley failed in his 1932 election attempt and his attempt to maintain his accreditation in Kansas. By the mid-30s, he was broadcasting again, this time from the powerful XER in Acuña and running a very successful hospital on this side of the river in Del Rio.

Armed with an assortment of eclectic degrees and foreign diplomas from a variety of quasi-medical schools, he attained a level of authenticity. The cost of his goat gland operation increased from \$750 to \$1,500. The signal from his radio station reached all 48 states with enough power left over (as the Chicago Daily News reported) "to light the street lights in Calgary." Whether or not South Texas ranchers could listen to XER on their barbwire fence or screen door, on a clear night the signal could be received in Europe and China.

Times were good. About 4,000 patients a year visited his facility in Del Rio for dysfunction. More visited his hospital for rectal diseases in San Juan, Texas. Dr. Brinkley's goat farm in Oklahoma was doing extremely well. He bought 6,500 acres in North Carolina, a ranch in Texas and opened up two more hospitals in Arkansas. At one time he owned three yachts, a Lockheed Electra airplane, and a dozen Cadillac cars.

It all came crashing down rather quickly. He claimed he was libeled by the editor of an AMA publication but the jury decided in 1939 he had been accurately identified as a charlatan. A 'cut-rate' competitor appeared in Del Rio, siphoning off his customers, some right from his waiting room. Dr. Brinkley filed for bankruptcy after getting hit with several malpractice suits and a government claim for \$200,000 in back taxes.

Then, in 1941, Mexico had to reallocate the wavelength assigned to his radio and the voice of the people's physician was silenced forever. The next year, on a spring day in San Antonio, Dr. Brinkley died from heart disease and complications of a leg amputation brought on by a blood clot.

His house in Del Rio still stands (512 Qualia Drive). Where he lived in San Antonio is a mystery. But for a generation, Dr. Brinkley riveted the imagination with the symbolism of the billy goat and the prowess of Pan.



Texoma Montage

Back to Enterprise

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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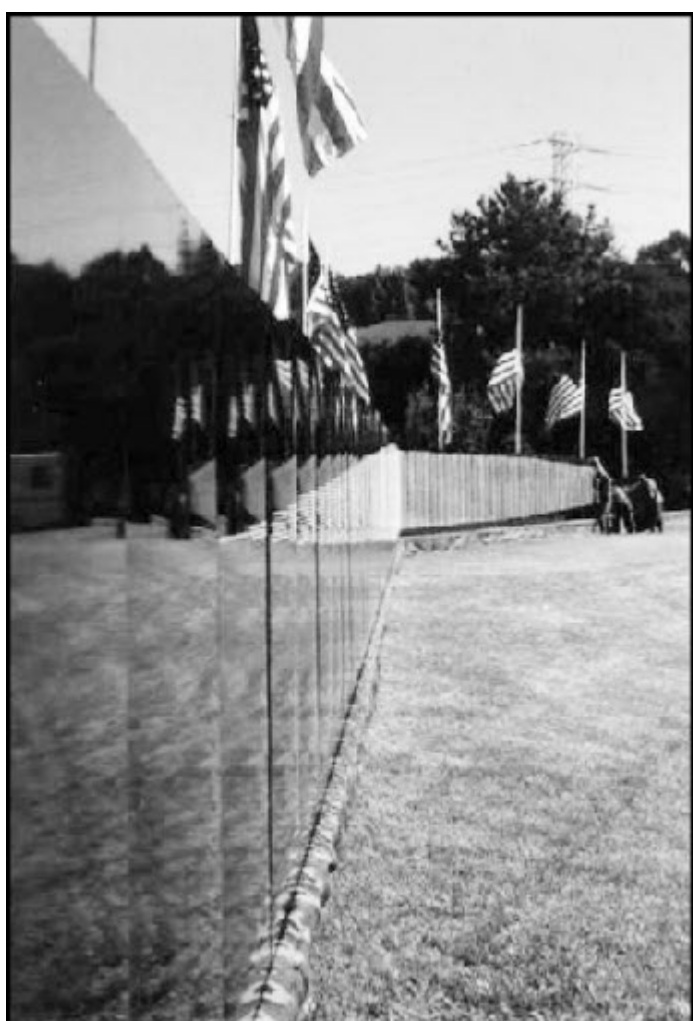
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This is the cover of
our first issue



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."

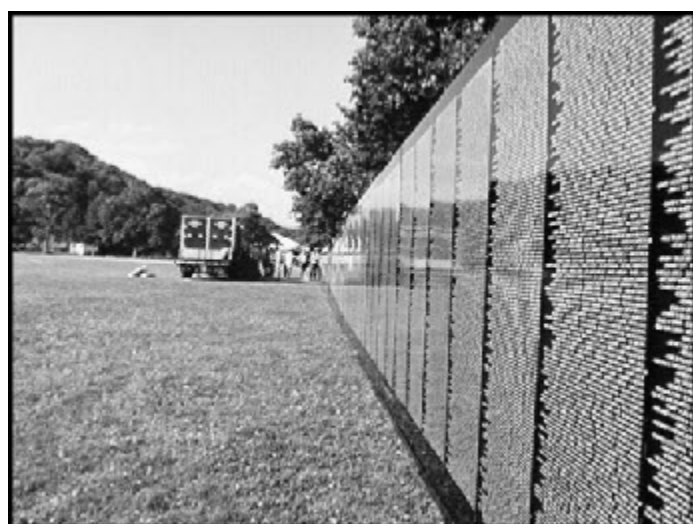
Local veterans groups will provide some of the security and other organizations and individuals will also volunteer to be on guard. Opening ceremonies will be July 22 at 9 a.m. at the practice field, located just behind Denison High School, which is at 1901 S. Mirick in Denison.

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...

Texoma Montage

By Lana Rideout

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.

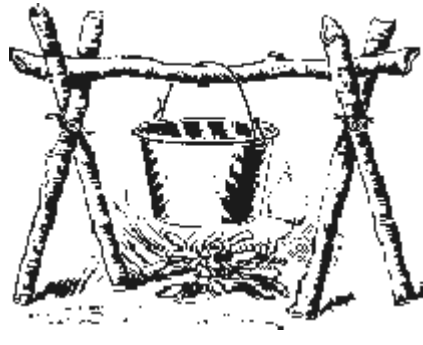
"Yes. It's on the market, now, you know. It's not labeled, and it's difficult to distinguish it from steak."

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.

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

Texoma Montage

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