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**VOL. 19 ISSUE 963, August 16, 2018**

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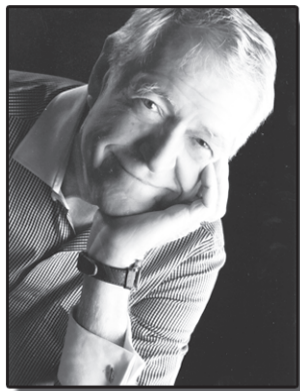
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Tumbleweed Smith

# The Sound of Texas

Radio by Tumbleweed Smith

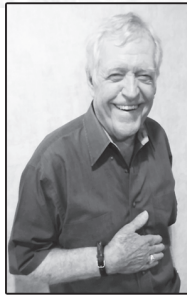
Tumbleweed Smith's radio program, THE SOUND OF TEXAS, began its 50th year on the air August 1st of this year. "It was an experiment in free enterprise to see if I could make a living doing what type of work I enjoyed most: reporting on the fun people, places, legends, folklore and history of Texas,"

says Tumbleweed. "I've interviewed nearly 13,000 characters, storytellers, musicians, writers, poets and interesting individuals so far and feel I've barely scratched the surface." Tumbleweed is a trained journalist, earning a BA in English from Baylor and a MA in Journalism from the University of Missouri. He has won several international awards for his work as a reporter. He has been recognized by both the US and Texas legislatures for preserving history. When he started the program on August 1st 1969 he wanted to report on the things that make Texas what it is, which he felt were being overlooked. For the past 32 years, Tumbleweed has written a weekly syndicated statewide newspaper column. Before starting his program Tumbleweed had worked in radio and television news in Big Spring, Houston and Des Moines, Iowa. "What I liked most about doing the news was getting the newscasts ready and putting the news items in a logical order. Late in my news career I decided that there were plenty of people doing news. I wanted to report on real life."

## WORD SEARCH

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Tumbleweed 2018

Iconic Texas is the perfect home for icons and celebrities, and some eccentrics too! There's a man who often visits Hopkins County, and if you are a celebrity of most any stature, he will be by to visit you. Tumbleweed Smith travels the state in search of interesting people with stories to tell, especially stories suited for radio listening. He celebrates the odd, the weird and the unusual residents of our state. His subjects are farmers and fishermen, historians and artists, sports figures, beauty queens, rockstars and even Presidents. He's celebrated on the Texas Trail of Fame as a broadcaster, has received accolades and awards across the state and is known in virtually every sphere of interest. Today we celebrate Tumbleweed as he begins the 50th year of his career and a half century of his radio program, "The Sound of Texas".



Enola Gay

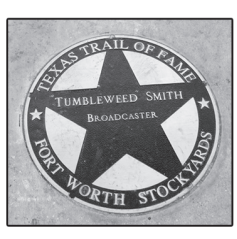
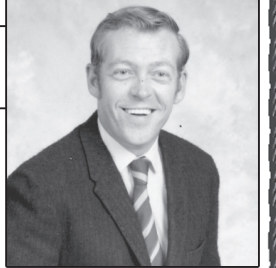
He wanted to be a broadcaster and writer. He started getting interviews with people while in college. He studied at Baylor University, attended the University of Maryland in Germany and the University of Mississippi and started law school at Drake University. His recording equipment went from reel-to-reel to cassette to digital audio as technology advanced. What never changes, though, are people. Everyone likes to talk about themselves and their interests, and he taps into that.



Now with 13,000 archived radio programs, and the largest private collection of oral history in the United States, this native Texan started small. His first broadcast aired on August 1, 1969 in Big Spring, Texas, Tumbleweed's hometown, where he was News Director at the radio station KBST.. In a short time, he had added another station, KZZN the "Country Cousin" at Littlefield, Texas, and thus his syndicate began to grow from just two stations to today's several dozen statewide. In his 50 professional years, Tumbleweed has interviewed some true Texas characters and archived them. He writes a syndicated weekly newspaper column and teaches broadcasting at the university level. As the creator and producer of The Sound of Texas, one of the longest running syndicated radio programs in Texas, Tumbleweed seeks fascinating people who embody the spirit of the lone star state and brings them into the homes and hearts of thousands.



Tumbleweed 1969  
Early career with KBST



Texas Trail Hall of Fame

According to Tumbleweed, 1969 marked the end of a tumultuous decade, but it was the perfect time to start his program as Texas was truly coming into it's own personality. "The start of the Texas Chili culture, the emerging Austin music scene, the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio and the first Texan landing on the moon were all major features that played a part in shaping the Texas phenomenon, and I have been privileged to follow and capture all that, and way beyond" mused Tumbleweed.

Bob Lewis (a.k.a. Tumbleweed Smith) and his wife Susan have been married for 55 years, have two sons and four grandchildren. He has visited all 254 Texas counties and almost every town in Texas, some numerous times. He and Susan love to travel. They have visited 40 countries and are planning a vacation to Iceland as their next trip. Locally, "Sounds of Texas" is heard weekday mornings at 8:30 on KSST 1230AM in Sulphur Springs during the Good Morning Show with Enola Gay, and his newspaper article "Tumbleweed Smith" is published weekly right here in the Millennium Shopper.

Bob and Sue Lewis



This week, I am celebrating too. On August 16, 2018 I turned 65 years old and on August 1, my Medicare kicked in. So, I am now officially a Senior Citizen, qualified for all the discounts, perks and added income that brings. I plan to experience being carefree with a life of ease like I've heard about from some of my older friends. I predict this is going to be one of my best birthdays! What's that old saying, Life Begins at 40"? Well, haven't you heard that 65 is the new 40? Til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate!

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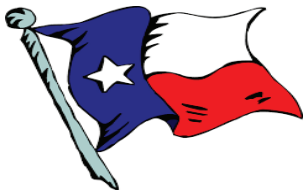
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Dan Blocker from Bonanza

Bobby Dan Davis Blocker (December 10, 1928 – May 13, 1972) was an American television actor and Korean War veteran. He is best remembered for his role as Hoss Cartwright in the NBC Western television series Bonanza.

Blocker was born Bobby Dan Davis Blocker in De Kalb, Texas, United States, son of Ora "Shack" Blocker (1895–1960) and his wife Mary Arizona Blocker, née Davis (1901–1998). The family moved to O'Donnell, south of Lubbock in West Texas, where they operated a store.

The former Blocker Store is now an abandoned building in down-

town O'Donnell.

As a boy, he attended Texas Military Institute and in 1946 played football at Southern Baptist-affiliated Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. In 1947, he transferred to Sul Ross State Teacher's College in Alpine, Texas, where he was a star football player and graduated in 1950. After two years of military service, he went on to earn a master's degree in the dramatic arts.

He worked as a rodeo performer and as a bouncer in a bar while a student. He is remembered from his school days for his size of 6 ft 4 in and weight of 300 pounds, and for being good-natured despite his intimidating size.

Blocker was a high school English and drama teacher in Sonora, Texas, from 1953 to 1958; a sixth-grade teacher and coach at Eddy Elementary School in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and then a teacher in California.

Blocker was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War. He had basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana and served as an infantry sergeant in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division in Korea, from December 1951 to August 1952. He received a Purple Heart for wounds in combat.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Blocker received the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with two bronze campaign stars, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, United Nations Service Medal, Korean War Service Medal, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

In 1957, Blocker appeared in a Three Stooges short, Outer Space Jitters, having portrayed the part of The Goon, billed as "Don Blocker". He made two appearances on the long-running Gunsmoke series: the first on August 25, 1956, in "Alarm at Pleasant Valley" and the second on October 18, 1958, in "Thoroughbreds".

He also appeared in 1957 as Will in the episode, "A Time to Die" of the ABC/Warner Brothers Western series, Colt .45, starring Wayne Preston.

In 1957, Blocker was cast in episodes of the David Dortort-produced NBC series, The Restless

Gun, as a blacksmith and as a cattleman planning to take his hard-earned profit to return to his family land in his native Minnesota. That same year, he had at least two roles as a bartender in an episode of the syndicated Western-themed crime drama Sheriff of Cochise, starring John Bromfield, and in the film, Gunsight Ridge.

Also in 1957, he appeared in the Cheyenne episode, "Land Beyond the Law", playing one of the outlaw minions (Pete). He also appeared in The Rifleman. In 1958, he played a prison guard and later had a recurring role as Tiny Budinger in the NBC Western series Cimarron City, starring George Montgomery, John Smith and Audrey Totter. He also was seen in "The Señorita Makes a Choice", a 1958 episode of Walt Disney's Zorro series, as well as an episode, "Underground Ambush", of Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, playing Mule Conklin.

In 1958, Blocker had a supporting role as Sergeant Broderick in "The Dora Gray Story" on NBC's Wagon Train, with Linda Darnell in the title role and Mike Connors as Miles Borden, a corrupt United States Army lieutenant at an isolated Western fort. That same year, he appeared in "Stagecoach Episode" of the NBC Western, Jefferson Drum, starring Jeff Richards.

In March of 1958, he also appeared as Joe, a thief, in Season 1 of Have Gun Will Travel, in the episode "Gun Shy".

Blocker was cast as bearded poker-playing rodeo performer, Cloudy Sims, in the 1958 episode "Rodeo" on the David Janssen crime drama, Richard Diamond, Private Detective. In the storyline, a rodeo performer named Ed Murdock, portrayed by Lee Van Cleef, is murdered before he can make his final performance at the annual event in Madison Square Garden.

In 1959, as Bonanza began its long network run, Blocker guest-starred in an episode of the Keenan Wynn and Bob Mathias NBC series, The Troubleshooters, an adventure program about unusual events surrounding an international construction company. Another 1959 role was as Del Pierce in "Johnny Yuma", the first episode of the ABC Western series, The Rebel, star-

ring Nick Adams.

Blocker's big break also came in 1959, when he was cast as Eric "Hoss" Cartwright on the long-running NBC television series Bonanza and played the role in 415 episodes until his death. Blocker said he portrayed the gentle-natured Hoss character with a Stephen Grellet excerpt in mind: "We shall pass this way on Earth but once, if there is any kindness we can show, or good act we can do, let us do it now, for we will never pass this way again."

In 1963, Blocker starred with Frank Sinatra in the comedy Come Blow Your Horn. He worked with Sinatra again in 1968 in the Tony Rome film sequel Lady in Cement, playing a menacing tough guy. Stanley Kubrick attempted to cast Blocker in his film Dr. Strangelove, after Peter Sellers elected not to add the role of Major T.J. "King" Kong to his multiple other roles, but according to the film's co-writer, Terry Southern, Blocker's agent rejected the script. The role went to Slim Pickens, who played the iconic scene of riding an atomic bomb down while waving his cowboy hat.

In 1968, Blocker starred as John Killibrew, a blacksmith, who had convinced a number of settlers to follow him to California and founded the town of Arkana. This TV film, Something for a Lonely Man, also featured Susan Clark, John Dehner, Warren Oates and Don Stroud.

In 1970, Blocker portrayed a love-shy galoat in Cockeyed Cowboys of Calico County, with Nanette Fabray as a love prospect and a supporting cast featuring Jim Backus, Jack Elam, Noah Beery, Jr., and Mickey Rooney. Blocker also appeared on NBC's The Flip Wilson Show comedy hour.

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**CAR SHOW**  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018

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**JUDGED AWARDS**

- ★ Nolan Cason Memorial Award
- ★ Top 16
- ★ Best of Show
- ★ Best Paint
- ★ Best Mopar-Car
- ★ Best GM Car
- ★ Best Ford Car
- ★ Best Foreign Car
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- ★ Best Rat Rod
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★ 2017 PARTICIPANTS PICK

**Vehicles Must Be 1987 Or Older To Participate.**

First 50 entries receive dash plaques. Registration Begins at 8 a.m. to 12 Noon.

**AWARDS AT 3 P.M.**  
For More Information, Call 903-885-1236 or 903-335-0487

**CASH DRAWINGS!** Registered Participants In The Heritage Square Car Show Will Be Entered In 4 Drawings For Cash Prizes Of

★ \$1,000.00 ★ \$500.00 ★ \$250.00 ★ \$250.00

**Entry Fee \$20** (Please make checks payable to SSDBA)  
Pre-registered entries must be received before October 15, 2018

**PRE-REGISTER FOR FREE T-SHIRT!**  
Mail to: Heritage Square Car Show, c/o Edwards Used Cars, 211 Gilmer, Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75482

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Year/Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

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*Brick Street Vintage Market*



Downtown Sulphur Springs, Texas

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 8 am-6pm**

Downtown Sulphur Springs is the talk of East Texas with its historic downtown renovation. The revitalized square area offers exciting new shopping venues and sixteen unique eateries. The Hopkins County Courthouse was voted one of the top three prettiest in the state of Texas.

Booth Sizes 10x10 **Cost \$35**  
Please send photos with application for approval.

Name of Vendor \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City & State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Applications available at Gourmet Kitchen, Plain & Fancy, Rooster Roast Coffee Bar, Danna's and Sass & Class.

**BRICK STREET VINTAGE** juried event accepting applications for vendors. Vendors will be selected in the following categories:  
Vintage Antique, Repurposed and Handmade Items. Vintage inspired clothing and home decor will be accepted in limited quantities. Artist and gardeners are invited to showcase their talents in this vintage style market experience.

Booth availability is on a first come, first serve basis. Applications with photos should showcase vendor's booth presentation.


**NO REFUNDS! RAIN OR SHINE, MARKET WILL NOT CANCEL DUE TO WEATHER!!**

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# Obits



## **Maria Jesus Ramires Aguilar**

Mass of Christian Burial for Maria Jesus Ramires Aguilar age 81, was held at 11:00 AM Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at the St. James Catholic Church with Fr. Juan Carlos Sardinias, Deacons Loren Seely, Buddy O'Brien and Jose Moreno officiating. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Tony Abercrombie, Mark Maxwell, Mario Camargo, Tony Murray, Larry Powers, Jack Orwosky, Rigoberto Estrada, Issac Abrego, Luis A. Merren, Jr., Jim Thompson and Jose Louis Mireles serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were her beloved Sons and Grandsons.

Rosary was held at 5 PM Tuesday, August 14th, at West Oaks Funeral Home. Visitation followed immediately at 6 PM.

Maria crossed over to her heavenly home at 6:30 AM Monday, August 6, 2018, in Cananea, Sonora Mexico with her brothers and sisters at her side. Since July 4th, Maria was on a "Trip of a Lifetime" traveling through Arizona, California and Mexico.

She was making joy filled memories with family and friends which she had not seen for many years. Maria's passing was a day after the 11th anniversary of her oldest daughter, Frances Aguilar Redding's, death. Her burial will be on the 64th anniversary of her marriage to Manuel Altamirano Aguilar.

Maria's life began in the beautiful Sonoran mountains of Mexico, specifically, the village of Bacadehuachi on the 6th of June, 1937. Maria was adopted by Antonio and Juana Ramires Moreno. Biological parents Andres Cordova and Ramona Yanez.

Maria was raised in Villa Hidalgo, Sonora Mexico and then moved to Agua Prieta, Sonora. There, she met and married the love of her life, Manuel Altamirano Aguilar on August the 15th 1954 in Agua Prieta Sonora. They had almost 30 years together when her dear Manuel preceded her in death on January 25th, 1984.

On June 22, 1969, she and her family arrived in Sulphur Springs. Maria made a lifetime of memories and has left an imprint on the city. Her legacy will live on within her natural family as well as the many lives which she impacted. The gracious ways of Maria left you feeling like a part of her family.

Her love for her Heavenly Father showed in her faithfulness and commitment to St. James Catholic Church. She played a vital role in establishing the Spanish Mass in the 1970's. She would go out into Hopkins County with her husband and young children to visit dairy workers and their families, inviting and transporting them to church on Sundays. Maria's faith was like no other.

She helped numerous families with doctor visits, school enrollments, work, funerals, and delivering children. Her services had no limits. She always encouraged and assured everyone that God would care and provide for them. Everyone knew that Maria would have an answer to their problems and if she didn't she would find it. She housed anyone in need of a home. Her words of wisdom and encouragement were sought by many. She became everyone's "Nana".

Maria was the owner operator of Café Sonora in Sulphur Springs for over 20 years. The cafe was best known for "Mrs. Aguilar's Tamales" which reached celebrity status when asked by the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas to make tamales for Hollywood actor Robert Duvall. Maria was proud and honored of that opportunity.

She was a former member of the Hopkins County Health Care Foundation, former member of the Sulphur Springs Chamber of Commerce, St. James Women's Guild, Grupo de Cursillistas de Colores, Legion de Maria, St. James Parish Council, and Eucharistic Minister. In 1997, she was awarded the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award. However, her biggest honor was being mother to her 12 children.

She is survived by a large and loving family including: Five sons: Victor Aguilar and wife Dena, of Roseland, LA; Anival Aguilar and wife Patti, of Omaha; Oscar Aguilar and wife Remedios of Sulphur Springs; Tony Aguilar and wife Pauline, of Cumby; and Christopher Aguilar and wife Tiffany, of Seguin. Five daughters: Ana Aguilar Shew and husband Andy, of Royse City; Maria Jesus "Jessie" Aguilar Redding and husband Joe, of Garland; Crimilda Aguilar McAdams and husband Johnny, of Waxahachie; Yadira Aguilar Caruthers and husband Jim, of Sulphur Springs; and Rene Aguilar of Sulphur Springs; 35 grandchildren and 43 great grandchildren; Niece, Veronica Marks Gramno and husband Doug of Tucson, AZ Aunt, Mercedes Campa of Hermosillo Sonora; 5 brothers, 5 sisters and a multitude of cousins and nieces and nephews in Mexico, Arizona and California. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Manuel Altamirano Aguilar, daughter Frances Aguilar Redding, son Manuel Francisco Aguila, brothers Antonio and Roberto "Betito" Cordova, and sisters Blanca Marks and Evelia Cordova, grandson Autry Manuel Darden, and granddaughter Millicent Dean Aguilar.

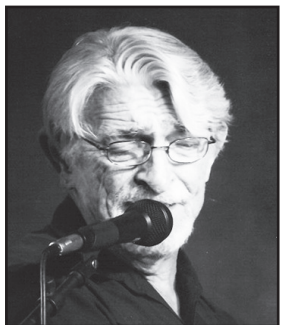
The family request that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Saint James Catholic Church Building Fund, 297 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.



## **Emma Modene Sims**

Graveside service for Emma Modene Sims, age 92, Of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at Peerless Cemetery with Phil Gold officiating, and Roger Burks, Jeremy Sims, Preston Sims, Pat McAdoo, Lucas McAdoo and Jason Cobb serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 1 to 2 P.M. on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home



## **Joe Ben Cason**

Funeral service for Joe Ben Cason, age 78, of Point, was held Tuesday, Aug. 14th, 2:00 pm at Clarks Chapel Church of God. Rev. Kevin Copeland officiated. Burial followed in Lynch Cemetery. Joe Ben died Friday, Aug. 10th, in Dallas, at the T. Boone Pickens Hospice Center. Joe Ben was born Feb. 18, 1940, in Point, to the parentage of Claude and LotaRabe Cason. He married Lena Fern Geraldson in Alba, on April 16, 1960. During his working career, he worked as a carpet man. He owned the Music Station, where he sold musical instruments. Also, he MC'd the shows at the Cotton Pickin Theater in Point on Saturday nights. He was a longtime member of Clarks Chapel Church of God. Survivors include: Wife: Lena Cason of Point; Daughter: Vickie Lynn Jacobs of Point; Sons: Richie Dewayne Cason; and Brent Allen Cason, both of Point; Sisters: Linda Childers of Grand Prairie; and Margaret Ann Lair of Emory; Brothers: Kenneth Cason (Ann) of Emory; Paul Cason (Betty) of Point; and, Jerry Don Cason of Point; Grandchildren: Kari, Stacey, Scott, Bree, and Maddison; Great-grandchildren:

Rylan, Colsten, Kaylynn, and Everett. Numerous other loving family and friends.

Preceded in death by: Parents; 2 Brothers Preston Cason, Bobby Cason and 1 Sister, Christine Hays.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Whistle-Blowers Fading Away...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

"He 'takes after' his dad," old-timers used to say about young boys in their formative years. I didn't hear the expression often, because much of whom the late T. J. Newbury was, I wasn't.

Limited to an 11-year public school education, he was a common laborer, spending most of his adult life in helping folks "stay connected" to natural gas in their rural Brown County homes. He fixed pipelines, and kept things civil even during rare service disruptions, when customers sometime threatened to forego natural gas.

He knew they wouldn't, because most of them remembered the labor involved in chopping wood the fireplace and cookstove....

Athletic in a "sandlot, makeshift and country" sort of way, he played baseball and basketball.

At least, that's what I overheard as he joked about bygone days with friends.

He never bragged or yelled, claiming early on the importance of civility and respect....

I have attempted to "take after" him, though, remembering how he handled situations that sometimes got sticky.

My pre-school memories of him in the early 1940s--when his day job paid \$1 daily--center on his "moonlighting" as a basketball official for small area high schools.

I remember his striped shirt. It had no patches that suggested he had

membership in any league of officials. Fact is, I'm not sure he had any "official" standing, except in the Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge...

In those days, he was the single official who "called" basketball games for both boys' and girls' teams, even for eight-school tournaments held on Thursdays through Saturdays. My memory of those tournaments is foggy, but I know he was proud of making \$15 for just three days of work.

Recalled are between-game conversations with coaches and fans. "I probably missed that one," he'd laugh about some call that could have gone either way.

They knew, as he did, that he was the final authority, and that he'd officiate as fairly as he could. Civility would be a high priority, and when potentially volatile calls were made, he'd soften his response to coaches with these words: "It looked to me like..."

Those five words seemed to ease tensions. They meant that he was working as hard as he could to "get things right," and that sometimes, he'd be wrong. More important than the "rightness or wrongness" of his decisions was that civility and respect WOULD be maintained.

The old striped shirt hung in his closet for years after his officiating. When I got to

college, I, too, officiated some high school games, like dad did, blowing the same whistle he handed down to me.

In the late 1950s, there were the same two officials for the boys' and girls' games, and we usually were paid \$10 each nightly, with a mileage reimbursement of three cents paid for one car. We were expected to travel together....

Things were still pretty calm, and I thought maybe I "took after" my dad as a game official. Sometimes I even used the "It-looked-to-me-like" line.

One fan in Sidney provided encouragement and validation. A few games into our friendship, however, I learned he was blind.

After a few years, I realized that basketball is a game--as one fan noted--"improbable to coach and impossible to officiate." The "it-looked-to-me-like" line takes one just so far....

Without question, sports officiating--like about everything else--has gotten out of hand. Some high school football coaches are campaigning to add two more game officials.

But, the cupboard is bare. Throughout the country, numbers are dwindling. In Texas, more officials are over 60 than under 30, and most are 50 or over. Games are being scheduled on Thursdays and

Saturdays, in addition to usual Fridays. About half of new officials hang up whistles after one season.

A survey revealed 80% leave because of abuse. When civility and respect disappear, much will have been lost....

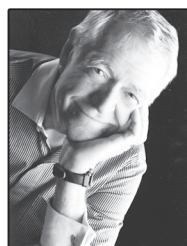
Dr. Newbury is a former educator who "commits speeches" round about. Comments/inquiries to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury.

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THE OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORIAN

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

"If there's a book I want to read and it's not out there, I write it."

Dr. Bill O'Neill knows what he's talking about. He has written nearly fifty books.

"I just had two new ones just released. One of them is FRONTIER FORTS OF TEXAS. It's a pictorial book with lots of images of these forts in Texas. The other book is a biography of John Chisum, the famous Texas cattleman. My first book is still in print. It's THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS and that thing has been translated into German twice. It sort of made my reputation. The University of Oklahoma Press published it back in 1979. It was a four-year project. There was another one called FIGHTING MEN OF THE INDIAN WARS which was a three-year project. I did HISTORIC RANCHES OF THE OLD WEST, another three-year project. But most of them have taken just one year or less to research and write. In 2012 I was asked to be the keynote speaker at the Bob Bullock State History Museum. My topic was Sam Houston. That lead to my book SAM HOUSTON; A STUDY IN LEADERSHIP."

Bill loves to write about sports. He has written about the Texas Baseball League. He has also written books in other states. One of his books is about the Arizona Rangers. I asked him what was going to be his next one.

"I want to write a book about Billy and Ollie Dixon. Billy was the one who made the famous long shot at Adobe Walls and soon after was presented the Medal of Honor for another exploit."

Bill, or Doctor O'Neill, taught history at Panola College at his hometown of Carthage for a number of years. Even though he is retired from teaching, the college provides him an office and pays his travel expenses. He has a busy speaking schedule as the official state historian. He proudly wears a shirt with his title embroidered on it.

"In 2011 I stopped teaching after forty-two years in the classroom. I lucked out and was appointed state historian the very next year. I'm only the third one. I'm the state historian with the longest tenure now. It's been six years and has been a magnificent experience, lots of fun. I speak at all types of events from one end of the state to the other in libraries, museums, at historical association meetings, all kinds of things."

When he was teaching, he offered a three credit hours course that included a Texas field trip.

"It was seven days, six nights, 2100 miles. I took eighteen students in the Panola College van. Each trip was memorable. We traveled from the coast to the Panhandle. Things developed from that and I started taking groups to Europe. For about ten years I did a traveling European History Course that carried six credit hours. We traveled to six countries and had enormous crowds. The first time I did it I took sixty-two students, adults and so forth. The last time I did it I took seventy-three."

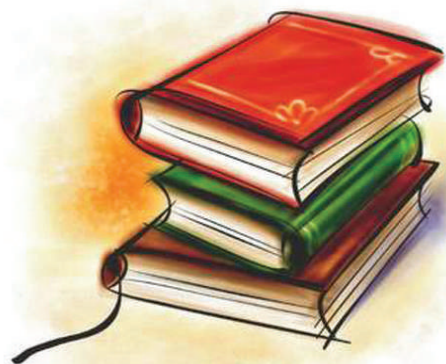
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# WATCH OUT FOR THE KIDS!

*Motorist should drive with extra caution around children going to and from school!*

- Obey signs, signals, and crossing guards in school zones.
- Slow down especially with children walking/biking to school and around bus stops and in school zones and in low light or bad weather.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws in your State.
- Drive focused and alert at all times. Avoid use of electronic devices and other distracting behaviors while driving.
- Ensure everyone in the vehicle is buckled up properly and that children are in the back seat in the proper seat.
- Drop off so the child does not have to cross the street, and then avoid U-turns.
- Look for and expect to see pedestrians and bicyclists, especially before and after school.



## School bus riders are safest when children:

- Stay three giant steps (six feet) away from the curb when waiting for the bus; and when the school bus arrives, wait until the driver says to board.
- Quickly board the school bus, find a seat, sit facing the front, and do what the school bus driver and safety patrols say to do.
- Getting off the bus, cross in front at least five giant steps (10 feet) away and look left-right-left for traffic. Wait for the driver to signal it is safe to cross

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