





THE OAK RIDGE BOYS TO APPEAR IN PARIS, TEXAS ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 26 AT WEBER AUDITORIUM IN PARIS ISD



Had a call from a radio friend, Ronnie Nutt, in Paris, Texas who wanted me to know that the Oak Ridge Boys were to appear at a benefit this Fall in Paris, and would I be interested in a phone interview with Duane Allen? That was an easy question to answer... Yes, I would! The last time I saw the group in person was about 25 years ago at the Hopkins County Civic Center when we were all younger and thinner! So here's part of the background from their website.

conversation, along with some interesting background from their website.

Everyone knows the country group The Oak Ridge Boys. Led by Texan Duane Allen, the group founded in 1973 has become one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry. The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of the Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of Country hits and a Number One Pop smash, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA, and ACM awards and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades. Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring three decades of charted singles and 50 years of tradition, and each member remains as enthusiastic about the process as they have ever been. "When I go on stage, I get the same feeling I had the first time I sang with the Oak Ridge Boys. This is the only job I've ever wanted to have" says Allen.

Born in Paris, Texas and raised at Taylortown, Duane Allen started singing gospel music with The Southernaires around Paris and Texarkana and into Arkansas and Oklahoma at age 14. He spent his early years learning the ropes and the road from the excellent musical family who first recognized his talent. He went on to college at East Texas State University studying classical music and business, putting himself through school by singing at Revivals and concerts and by selling radio advertising for KPLT in Paris. his radio show "Songs of Inspiration" aired on Paris radio. The very first recording he ever did was with JT Adams and the Men of Texas at the KSST studio, upstairs above the square in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He is proud of the area he came from, for the mentorship and the opportunities he was given at an early age, and that he was led to stay on the path of a successful career in the best "people business" of all, music.During his singing career, he became a published author with a book titled " The History of Gospel Music".

Duane Allen is also proud to say that his three singing partners, Joe Bonsall, Richard Sterban and William Lee Golden, are still The Oaks after four decades together.. Yes, they have aged and weathered over time, but have retained their voices and their reputations as an iconic American country and gospel quartet that loves their audiences. In fact, they have just recorded a new album! Their string of Country hits includes the pop chart-topper Elvira, as well as Bobbie Sue, Dream On, Thank God For Kids, American Made, I Guess It Never Hurts To Hurt Sometimes, Fancy Free, Gonna Take A Lot Of River and many others. They've scored 12 gold, three platinum, and one double platinum album, plus one double platinum single, and had more than a dozen national Number One singles and over 30 Top Ten hits.

Here's some very early history of the group. The Oaks represent a tradition that extends back to World War II. The original group, based in Knoxville, Tennessee, began performing Country and Gospel music in nearby Oak Ridge where the atomic bomb was being developed. As the Oak Ridge Quartet, they began regular Grand Ole Opry appearances in the fall of '45. In the mid-fifties, and were featured in Time magazine as one of the top drawing Gospel groups in the nation. By the late '60s, with more than 30 members having come and gone, they had a lineup that included Duane Allen, William Lee Golden, Noel Fox, and Willie Wynn. Among the Oaks' many acquaintances in the Gospel field were Bonsall, a streetwise Philadelphia kid who embraced Gospel music; and Sterban, who was singing in quartets and holding down a job as a men's clothing salesman. Both admired the distinctive, highly popular Oaks."They were the most innovative quartet in Gospel music," says Bonsall. "They performed Gospel with a Rock approach, had a full band, wore bell-bottom pants and grew their hair long... things unheard of at the time." The four became friends, and when the Oaks needed a bass and tenor in '72 and '73, respectively, Sterban and Bonsall got the calls.

Those who came to Country music later cannot possibly imagine the impact the Oaks had in 1977, when they lit up the sky from horizon to horizon with Y'All Come Back Saloon. Paul Simon tapped them to sing backup for his hit Slip Slidin' Away, and they went on to record with George Jones, Brenda Lee, Johnny Cash, Roy Rogers, Billy Ray Cyrus, Bill Monroe, Ray Charles and others. Their career has spanned not only decades, but also formats. They have appeared before five presidents. They produced one of the first Country music videos (Easy, in 1977, although not released in the U.S., it reached the 3 slot in Australia). They participated in the first American popular music headline tour in the USSR. And they have become one of the most enduringly successful touring groups anywhere. They still performing some 150 dates each year at major theaters, fairs and festivals across the U.S. and Canada. They did it with a consistently upbeat musical approach and terrific business savvy. "We always look for songs that have lasting value and that are uplifting," says Allen, who has co-produced the Oaks' last seven studio albums. "You don't hear us singing 'cheating' or 'drinking' songs, but 'loving' songs, because we think that will last". The Oaks' new album, released on vinyl in 2018, is called "12th Avenue Revival" and was recorded in the iconic RCA studios in Nashville. Reviews reveal that it's a classic-quality recording of original gospel songs which captures their four-part harmonies "flat-out beautifully".

They also proved themselves to be capable and tireless advocates of charitable and civic causes, serving as spokesmen and/or board members of fundraisers for the Boy Scouts of America, the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (now known as Prevent Child Abuse America), Feed The Children, the National Anthem Project and many more. The Oaks' high-energy stage show remains the heart and soul of what they do, and they refine it several times a year, striving to keep it fresh well into the future. "I feel like I can do what I do on stage just as good now as I could 20 years ago," says Bonsall. "I plan to be rockin' my tail off out there as long as I'm healthy. The people who come out, who bring their families to see us, deserve everything we've got. I think the reason is the love we have for what we do—the desire, the longing to actually get up there and do it. We love to sing together... to harmonize together. It's what our lives are all about."

Duane and the guys continue to prove that by returning every few years to do a benefit concert to raise money for the kids of the Red River Boys and Girls Club. The last time the Oaks were here, they put on a great concert for the public and gathered several thousand dollars for the Boys and Girls Club, They invite you to help out now! There are a few tickets left to see them in Paris, Texas on October 26 at 7pm in the Weber Auditorium of Paris ISD. I hope to see you there!





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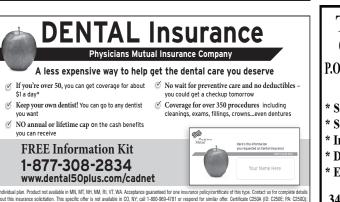
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PAGE 4

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PAGE 6





Willie Grace "Billie" Bright

Willie Grace "Billie" Bright passed away peacefully at her home in Sulphur Springs on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at age 95.

She was originally from Olney, Texas, and lived most of her life in West and East Texas.

Her 4 husbands proceeded her in death along with a son, a sister and 4 brothers.

Surviving are two daughters Enola Gay Moorman Bounds Mathews of Sulphur Springs and Peggy Doan Bullock of Ben Wheeler, Texas. She is also survived by 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

A celebration of life is pending at West Oaks Funeral Home with a private family burial in Longview, Texas.



Odie Clark

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 on Thursday, October 18, at Highland Terrace Baptist Church in Greenville, Texas. Odie M. Clark was born on April 21, 1935 in Omaha, Texas but his heart succumbed to its long battle with heart disease and COPD on October 12, 2018. As Odie was a well-known and well-loved salesman and small business owner in Collin, Hunt, and Hopkins counties, his humor and smile will be missed especially by those who loved him best. Odie's parents, Lola Matheny Clark, and his namesake, Odie Clark of Floyd, Texas, and his two brothers: Max Clark of Morton, Texas and Gerald Clark of Clinton, Texas preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his wife of 47 years Sonda Kemp Clark. As Odie had a big heart and lots of love to give, in 2005, he married Karen Welch of Greenville, Texas who he leaves behind in the wake of his passing. Odie is survived by his two sons: Randy Clark of McKinney, Texas and Jeffery Clark

of Morongo Valley, California. He was adored by his two grandchildren: Casey Clark Duckworth of Allen, Texas and Courtney Clark of Stevensville, Maryland. He is also missed by his step son Shawn Tyler of Ft. Worth, Texas, his step daughter Kim Reed of Anna, Texas, and his step daughter Kathy Kite of Lake Fork, Texas.

Mr. Clark graduated in 1953 from Bland High School in Merit, Texas. He was also born with loyalty and patriotism in his heart, and he proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1953-1957. During that time, he was stationed at the NATO headquarters in Fontainebleau, France from 1954-1957. After his time in service, Odie spent the next 60 years loving his family and serving others in a variety of small businesses and as a salesman. His smile, his jokes, and his Texas-sized heart will be missed and remembered by all those who loved him.

Instead of flowers, donations may be made to Senior Program at Highland Terrace Baptist Church at 3939 Hwy. 69, Greenville, Texas 75402.



Janice Roberts

Janice Roberts, 70, formally of Sulphur Springs, passed away Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, at her Tyler residence.

She was born Feb. 15, 1948, in Tyler to Willie "Babe" Morris and Merle Fuller Roberts. The family moved to Sulphur Springs in 1950, where she completed her education with Sulphur Springs ISD. She studied at East Texas State University in Commerce and earned a masters in English and physical education. She taught school in Raymondville before moving to Tyler to work for the U.S. Postal Service and retired in 2005. She loved to play softball and bowl and collected many trophies. She loved her dogs and cats and many pets through the years.

She is survived by sister Wilma and husband Frank Harkins of Dallas, brother Lynn and wife Janet Roberts of Terrell, and twin sister Annice Roberts of Tyler. Also surviving are nieces Debbie Genoway, Melissa Virnau, Michelle Harkins and Lori Hartgroves; and nephews Damion and Cory Roberts, and her many loving friends and family.

She was predeceased by her parents and sister, Sherry Parish.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Heart to Heart Hospice Tyler for their caring staff and support cremation arrangements are with Boren-Conner Funeral Home.

Daniel "Dan" Elwood Hinton, Jr.

Daniel "Dan" Elwood Hinton, Jr., age 76, of the Arbala Community passed away on, Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at his residence.

Dan was born on April 5, 1942 in Sulphur Springs the son of Daniel E. Hinton, Sr. and Mildred Morine Tanton Hinton. He married Joy King and she preceded him in death.

He is survived by his brother, Charles Hinton of Harrison Township, MI, step children, Jill Mays Ward and Jeff Mays, step grandchild, Jaycee Ward, along with numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife, Dan was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Ray Hinton and Roger Carl Hinton. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



