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This is the first in a series of articles describing the life of one of Sulphur Springs' most interesting residents, Billie Ruth Standbridge. Upon retiring from their jobs in Redlands, California, George and Billie Ruth returned to her hometown Sulphur Springs in 1955 where her parents, Frankie and Ann Mote still lived. Ever since she has contributed freely to the hum of activity that identifies "downtown" as a living entity. In this weekly series about a lady who never forgot where she came from, you will better appreciate why she holds the designation "Ms.Downtown".

I was sitting down for coffee with local editor Joy Wilson in one of our favorite places, the downtown balcony apartment of mutual friend B.R. It was on the eve of the May DBA (Downtown Business Alliance) meeting, and their conversation was about the meeting and various ideas and means for improvement in the City's downtown environment. As I listened to B.R, I realized her genuine interest in helping merchants market and bring customers through the door of their shops was just part of her natural business inclination. Over a 24 year span she's helped transform Sulphur Springs into a destination, as well as a place to be relished by the local citizenry.

Ever since she had a shop downtown on Main St, it was her dream to live downtown. The opportunity to do that came after a lot further down the block became available for building. Not knowing exactly what kind of design she wanted, her daughter, Mikelle, drew up a design that exactly fit their needs, especially since George was disabled by this time. It was all she ever hoped it could be. Her dream had certainly been fulfilled. Interesting enough circumstances sort of dictated the development next door. Ordinances prevented windows from being put on the east side of their apartment, so that raised the possibility of an investor building right up her west wall. Subsequently, the 2-story residential/commercial complex

Part One: Upstairs, Downtown With B. R.

By Enola Gay Mathews



next door became her answer.

A story about Billy Ruth would not be complete without the love of her life, her husband George, namesake of the new property "Standbridge House". Billie Ruth's life actually began far from town, "out in the country" in the Starr Ridge area of Hopkins County. When the family did move into town on South Davis Street, her schooling began at Austin Elementary School. Between the family leaving Sulphur Springs because of war employment, they ultimately ended up in Odessa where she graduated from high school. After completing college at Texas State College for Women in physical education and dance, her first job was at Wharton County Jr. College in Wharton,

Tx. It was from that experience that she was offered a job to become a dance instructor and physical education instructor in Redlands, California at University of Redlands. It was there that a very exciting chapter of her

they met and he asked her, "Would you like a smoke?" She replied "No, thank you, I don't smoke". He then asked her, "Could I buy you a beer?" She declined by saying "No thanks, I don't drink, but I have other vices". She couldn't imagine why she said that! But having gone to a women's university, she felt you were just considered a "goody two shoes", so she thought that was a better answer. George didn't ask her to elaborate, but they were married three months later! They also bought the Gay Nineties Pizza Parlor the day before they married. George ran the business while Billie Ruth continued working at the University of Redlands. Life was an adventure! They traveled all over the region, from mountains to beaches, mainly on George's Harley. Billie Ruth goes



difference since I didn't know how to cook anything. He answered, "chicken cacciatore". How would anybody from Texas know what that was? Since I didn't have a cook book and there were no computers to look up stuff, I went to the wife of my department chair who lent me a cook book with the recipe. I thought it looked

longer do it, I never had to cook again, except on rare occasions. One time when he was away for ten days, I bought a bunch of box dinners and my daughter Mikelle said, "See Mom, we're doing OK"! I actually dreamed that we starved!"

Long after the Gay Nineties Pizza period when B.R. was counseling at Redlands High School, one of their English teachers had attended a writer's conference at the University of Redlands and excitedly rushed back to let her know that the TV show "Cheers" had been modeled after the Gay Nineties Pizza Parlor! The creators of the TV sitcom, brothers Glen and Les Charles, had been speakers at the conference and had mentioned their many hours spent at the Gay Nineties Pizza Parlor during their studies at the University of Redlands. They'd obviously been influenced in a very memorable way!



life began, when she met a handsome guy at the Gay Nineties Pizza Parlor in 1959. She was at the pizza parlor and George was filling in the night shift when

on to describe their courtship, "When we began dating, I thought it was appropriate that I ask him up for dinner. I asked him what he would like, not that it would have made much

edible and it seemed to taste OK, but he said afterward he would never ask me to cook again. Throughout our fifty seven years of marriage, up until he physically could no

To be continued.....

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FAMOUS TEXANS

LUKE WILSON

American Actor



Luke Cunningham Wilson (born September 21, 1971) is an American actor known for his roles in films such as Idiocracy, Old School, Bottle Rocket, The Royal Tenenbaums, Blue Streak, Bongwater, and Legally Blonde. He was a member of the cast of the HBO television series Enlightened (2011–13). He is the younger brother of actors Andrew Wilson and Owen Wilson.

Early life
Wilson was born in Dallas, Texas, the youngest of three sons of Laura Wilson (née Cunningham; born 1939), a photographer, and Robert Andrew Wilson (1941-2017), an advertising executive and previously an executive at KERA, a public television station. His family, originally from Massachusetts, is of Irish Catholic descent. All three Wilson boys attended St. Mark's School of Texas.

According to Owen, Luke was voted class president the first year he attended St. Mark's.

Career
Wilson in 2003
Wilson's acting career began with the lead role in the short film Bottle Rocket in 1994, which was co-written by his older brother Owen Wilson and director Wes Anderson. It was remade as a feature-length film in 1996. After moving to Hollywood with his two brothers, he was cast opposite Calista Flockhart in Telling Lies in America and made a cameo appearance in the film-within-the-film of Scream 2, both in 1997. Wilson filmed back-to-back romantic films in 1998, opposite Drew Barrymore, Best Men, about a group of friends who pull off a heist on their way to a wedding, and Home Fries, about two brothers interested in the same woman for different reasons. He played the physician

beau of a schoolteacher in Rushmore (also 1998), also directed by Anderson and co-written by brother Owen. In 1999, Blue Streak was released featuring Wilson as detective Carlson. He later starred opposite Reese Witherspoon in the 2001 comedy Legally Blonde, which was followed by Old School and The Royal Tenenbaums. Wilson also had a role on That '70s Show, as Michael Kelso's older brother Casey Kelso, appearing sporadically from 2002 through 2005. In 2006, Wilson starred in Idiocracy, Mike Judge's first film since 1999's Office Space. He portrayed an ordinary serviceman chosen for a cryogenics project. He awakens after hundreds of years in an America which is significantly less intelligent. In early 2007, Wilson starred opposite Kate Beckinsale in the thriller Vacancy. In July 2007,

he worked on Henry Poole is Here in La Mirada, California, which was released in 2008. He starred in the film Tenure in 2009. In 2010, he appeared in films Death at a Funeral and Middle Men. From 2011 to 2013 he starred in the HBO TV series Enlightened. Wilson and brother Owen have co-written a Wright Brothers biopic, in which they also plan to star. In January 2019, it was announced that Wilson had been cast as former sidekick-turned-mechanic-turned superhero Pat Dugan / S.T.R.I.P.E. in the upcoming DC Universe series Stargirl.

Some Films He Appeared in. Film - Year, Title Role

- 1996 - Bottle Rocket Anthony Adams
- 1997 - Bongwater David
- 1997 - Telling Lies in America Henry
- 1997 - Best Men Jesse Reilly

- 1997 - Scream 2 Billy
- 1998 - Dog Park Andy
- 1998 - Home Fries Dorian Montier
- 1998 - Rushmore Dr. Peter Flynn
- 1999 - Kill the Man Stanley Simon
- 1999 - Blue Streak Detective Carlson
- 2000 - My Dog Skip Dink Jenkins
- 2000 - Committed Carl
- 2000 - Bad Seed Preston Tylk
- 2000 - Charlie's Angels Peter Kominsky
- 2001 - Legally Blonde Emmett Richmond
- 2001 - Soul Survivor Jude
- 2001 - The Royal Tenenbaums Richie Tenenbaum
- 2002 - The Third Wheel Stanley
- 2003 - Masked and Anonymous Bobby Cupid
- 2003 - Old School Mitch Martin
- 2003 - Stuck on You Himself
- 2003 - Alex and Emma Alex Sheldon / Adam Shipley

- 2003 - Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle Peter Kominsky
- 2003 - Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde Emmett Richmond
- 2004 - Around the World in 80 Days Orville Wright
- 2004 - Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Frank Vitchard
- 2004 - Wake Up, Ron Burgundy: The Lost Movie Frank Vitchard
- 2005 - The Wendell Baker Story Wendell Baker Also writer/producer/director
- 2005 - The Family Stone Ben Stone
- 2006 - Hoot Officer David Delinko From The C.C.P.D. Company
- 2006 - Mini's First Time John Garson
- 2006 - My Super Ex-Girlfriend Matt Saunders
- 2006 - Idiocracy Corporal Joe Bauers
- 2006 - Jackass Number Two Himself
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Linda Moore

Graveside services for Linda Moore, 76, of Sulphur Springs, will be conducted at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 17, at the Sulphur Springs City Cemetery. The Rev. Charles Moore will officiate. Visitation will be held Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home. She died Tuesday. Linda Gail Lloyd was born on April 28, 1943, in Sulphur Springs, the daughter of Gambrell and Frances Lloyd, who preceded her in death. She married A.E. "Sunny" Moore on October 19, 1963. A graduate of Sulphur Springs High School, she was a popular student who especially loved twirling and was involved in many clubs and organizations. She attended East Texas State University, in Commerce, where she studied business bookkeeping. Later, she moved to Dallas and worked at KRLD TV station. She spent the majority of her professional career, however, working with her husband as a highway contractor and longtime member of the Association of General Contractors, Highway Heavy Branch.

She was also an active member of First United Methodist Church, where, in later years, she chaired the Finance committee. Besides her husband, survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and David Klingler, of Plano; son, Martin Lloyd Moore, of Dallas; granddaughter, Elizabeth Blythe Klingler, of Bloomington, Indiana; brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Dena Lloyd, of Sulphur Springs; cousin, Nelda Driggers, of Mount Pleasant; niece, Amber Davisson, of New Braunfels; and nephew, Jordan Lloyd, of Kansas City, Missouri. Pallbearers: Ben Anglin, William Baxter, Warren Brewer, Alec Bridges, Charles Cromer, Charles Dawson, Paul Glover, and Pedro Gonzalez. Honorary pallbearers: Rhonda Drake, Marsha Motes, Carolyn Sidebottom, Barbara Theofiledes, and Tasha Webb.

The family would like to thank the staffs of Wesley Oaks and Legacy Hospice for their care, devotion, love, and friendship. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Ralph Eugene Casey

Graveside services for Ralph Eugene Casey, age 70, of Roanoke, TX, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 17, 2019 at Greenview Cemetery near Sulphur Springs, TX with Bro. Ryan Burchett officiating. There will be no formal visitation. Ralph passed away on May 11, 2019 at his residence. He was born on March 25, 1949 in Dallas, TX, the son of Jess Willard and Oletha Mae Alexander Casey. He married Sharon Weaver on January 11, 1980 in Irving, TX. He worked as a service technician for Thyssen Krupp Elevators for many years. He enjoyed hunting when he was able, he was a car enthusiast, he was a collector of antique clocks, and he enjoyed playing computer games. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Casey, brother, Kyle Casey, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of friends. He was preceded in death by his parents. Memorials may be made to the CHF Clinic of Baylor Scott and White at 1901 North MacArthur Blvd, Suite 360, Irving, TX 75061.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Jennifer Rose Holt

Jennifer Rose Holt, age 39, of Sulphur Springs passed away on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at Christus Mother Frances Hospital. Jennifer was born on February 26, 1980 in Denver Colorado, the daughter of David Lloyd Turnbow and Pamela Lou Williams Turnbow. She married Don Holt January 5, 2001 in Quincy, California. He survives. Jennifer was a sweet spirit and loved taking care of Don. In addition to Don she is survived by one son, Joshua Taylor Holt and daughter Ashton Rose Holt, mother, Pamela Lou Atkinson, brother, Jimi Turnbow and sister, SabrAlise Bewley. She was preceded in death by her father. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



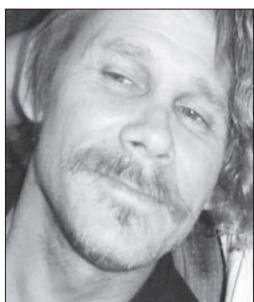
Virginia Davidson Worsham

Virginia Davidson Worsham, 68, went home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at Baylor Hospital in Plano, Texas. The service was at First Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. There was no formal visitation. Interment followed at Sulphur Bluff Cemetery with Bill Ohland, Rick Tucker, Billy Lawson, David Black, Robert Fugate and Ronny McCutchin serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Directors, Officers, and Employees of Alliance Bank and members of the Serving Six Sunday School Class.

Virginia was born to Robert Thurman Davidson and Lucille Donohue Davidson. She married Jimmy Worsham on November 21, 1972 in Dallas, Texas. Virginia retired from teaching for Sulphur Springs ISD.

She was a member of First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs, where she served faithfully. Virginia was very strong in her faith, a real fighter, and never lost hope. She always kept her sense of humor and loved her family and all her grandchildren with all her heart. Virginia is survived by her husband, Jimmy, daughter Tamara Worsham Hamill and husband Kurt of McKinney, Texas; son James A. Worsham and wife, Roxanne of McKinney, Texas; grandchildren Gunnar and Braden Livingston, Madison and Emily

Hamill, and Jordyn Worsham, who all lovingly called her Gigi; sister-in-law, Kathy Worsham Reeves and husband Wayne; siblings, Sammy Davidson, Bobby Davidson, Emmett Crone, brother-in-law Jerry Fugate and many nieces and nephews and very special friend, Veronica Dial. She also leaves behind her precious little dogs that never missed a step with her. Virginia was preceded in death by her parents and sister Sharlyn Ann Fugate. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Medical Staff for their expertise and passion: Dr. Darren Arnecke, Gina Snyder and staff, Dr. Robert Lenington, Dr. Jeff Russell, Dr. Cayce Brumley, Dr. Kartik Konduri, Dr. Jason Potter, Dr. Jeffrey Lamont and P.A. Jessica. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to First Baptist Church, 116 Oak Avenue, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.



William "Willy" Wilemon

Memorial Service for William "Willy" Wilemon, age 51, of Sulphur Springs will be held at 2:00P.M. on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at FBC – The ROC. There will be no formal visitation. Mr. Wilemon passed away on Friday, May 10, 2019, in Sulphur Springs. William Wiley Wilemon was born in Sulphur Springs, TX on May 3, 1968 to Audrey Wilemon and Ellen Cockrum. Willy enjoyed riding his bicycle around town and visiting with everyone he met along the way. His best friend was his dog, Rider and you could often find them snuggled under a blanket watching TV. He was embraced by the community and well loved. Willy is survived by his father, Audrey Wilemon; brother, Milton Wilemon; nieces, Jennifer Jeter and Charisha Wilemon; host of friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ellen Cockrum. Arrangements are under the direction of

Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com

THE IDLE AMERICAN He'll Do to Ride the River With...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Many Texans--and no doubt some abiding outside our borders--have used the expression for years: "He'll do to ride the river with."

We give little thought to its origin, but typically it is used to convey highest praise for others in whom we have confidence--whether we're fording a river, or even if we don't have a horse underneath us.

They say it originated a century and a half ago, when cowboys herded cattle to northern railheads. Obstacles included crossing rivers known for their rages, so cowboys counted on each other to get the cattle, their horses and themselves safely to the other side....

Visiting speaker at a luncheon honoring widows at New Beginnings Church in Longview, I overheard a deacon saying of a lead pastor: "He'll do to ride the river with."

With that, I figured the parson to be "A-OK."

The immediate assessment was that he's the kind of guy I'd want to be at my side--or to "have my back"--in these tumultuous times when much else has joined treacherous rivers in ever-growing currents of rage....

Chatting with him during the meal dampened my confidence--ever so little, I quickly add--in "river-riding" with him. Turns out, Todd Kaunitz is at least "one up" on me, since he and 17 others from his church had just returned from a mission trip to Brazil.

A highlight was a boat ride down (up?) the Amazon. The rickety craft was only slightly longer than an alligator. (File the word "alligator" away; you'll see it again within the next few lines.)

Todd wasn't humming "Cruising Down the River." Instead, he chose "Faith of our

Fathers" as he took his seat....

He assumed their hosts were "kidders" earlier around the campfire. Surely they weren't serious about ridding the Amazon of a few alligators. The method they described seemed like one they'd have a few centuries ago.

They spoke of paddling alongside the prey, and stabbing them with what Texas Aggies might call "giant gigs." At the risk of providing too much information, he said the pronged weapon makes the 'gators mad as "Old Billy," and they flail about greatly before being hoisted into the boat.

But the locals weren't kidding. Soon they were on the big river, ready to "gig." He wasn't sure there was room in the boat for even one alligator. Todd remained stoic, however, not wishing to offend the denizens of the jungle with whom he and his fellow missionaries hoped to engender friendships....

"Thankfully, they 'got their 'gator,' and

no one got hurt," Todd said. "But we've only just begun in sharing the message of Jesus Christ. Some other groups who have hacked their way back to the Brazilian villages have attempted to convince them that God is mad at them all the time."

Todd and his bunch presented a refreshing alternative, citing God as one who loves. And they'll revisit the area someday, whether or not they go "alligator gigging."

In the meantime, he, his staff and church leaders will continue the work they are called to do. And that calls for helping folk to lean on God for guidance in a world that grows darker by the day....

I found much to admire about this church. 'Course, they had me upon my learning that they truly wanted to honor their widows. Some two dozen showed up, and were showered by many acts of love and kindness. The church went "above and beyond" the scriptural instruction to care for the widows.

It was a day that sparkled with leaves and blossoms of re-birth in beautiful East Texas.

I hope to see Todd and his flock again, even for some "river talk." I'm confident that he is accomplished in riding rivers "crossways," too. We all need help in fording that "one more river we're bound to cross."...

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

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SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF HARLINGEN

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Harlingen has been recognized as one of the most affordable cities in the United States.

"That's one of the attractions because the dollar does go a lot further here," says Cheryl LaBerge, who formerly worked for the city of Harlingen as downtown coordinator and now conducts walking tours of downtown Harlingen. "Our climate is a big part of the reason that people are attracted here. You know

Harlingen, we like to say, is the tropical playground of Texas because you can do so many things in the great outdoors year round: birding, golfing, fishing, you name it."

The tropical landscaping is a fairly recent development in the valley because it is located in a very arid region.

"So when you drive around and see all this lush bougainvillea and tropical plants, just know that all of that is here because early settlers brought water into this dry country. That made us the "Magic Valley" at the beginning of the twentieth century and early businessmen started inviting farmers to come down and they turned it into this agricultural mecca."

By the way it's really not a valley. You don't see any mountains nearby. This is flat country. Not even a hill. That was a marketing term to attract people to come to what the Spanish called the Wild Horse Desert. That's how the area was described on early maps.

The valley is famous for citrus, but as civilization creeps into farming land it's not as important as it once was.

"The valley lemons, grapefruit, oranges, they're all fabulous, second to none. Then we have sugar cane, grain sorghum, and we always produce the first bale of cotton in the nation."

Some famous people have called Harlingen home. Howard E Butt, founder of the HEB chain of grocery stores, moved to Harlingen in the late twenties because it was such an agricultural powerhouse.

"He had a big cannery on West Jackson Street and that building is still there. He loved tennis and had a tennis court next to his house. Our tennis facility is named the HEB Tennis Center." Lincoln Borglum lived in Harlingen. He finished sculpting Mount Rushmore, a project started by his father, Gutzon Borglum. Perhaps the most famous Harlingen resident was Bill Haley the grandfather of rock and roll.

"We get people from Europe who come to Harlingen on a pilgrimage because they're big Bill Haley fans. A lot of the younger kids have no idea that in July of 1955 a world changing event occurred when ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK by Hill Haley hit the number one spot on the pop charts."

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This Organization operates in the Charitable business/industry within the Membership Organizations sector. Operating in Sulphur Springs approximately 2 years. A lot of the funds for this comes out of her own pocket and donations are desperately needed. **CASH DONATIONS** needed at this time for a better location to provide for these kids. Lot is purchased need cash for a building.

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