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HAPPY  
**FOURTH OF JULY**

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# The Millennium Shopper

(In The Shade of The Courthouse)

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VOL. 20 ISSUE 1004, June 27, 2019

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## At The Corral Gate



Thankfully, now that most of my big family is living within the broad borders of Texas, I can again submit a "travel report" on going to see the grandkids. Indirectly, these young families have taken me so many exciting places as I strive to keep up with them and their busy lives. I am certain that the majority of readers have made similar trips. This time, my route took me past some of the most historic ranches in the state. And, it was love at first sight for me Matador, Texas!

Heading out of Northeast Texas and heading West on US Hwy 82, you will pass some high-class horse farms. Gainesville, Texas has a bunch of them, and boasts a horse-country heritage that launched the career of native son Red Steagall. Red's love of the Old West caused him to seek a career combining his love of country music, horses and cattle, cowboy poetry and Western Swing music. He has been successful, and is beloved by millions of fans and listeners. If you like the music and lore of Red, be sure and tune in to Sulphur Springs' KSST Radio on the dial at 1230AM for his Saturday morning series, "Cowboy Corner", airing at 6am weekly. It's a radio show rich with songs, interviews, insights and pride in the American West. And leave your radio right there because Red's show is followed by a local program called 1230 West at 7am, hosted weekly by Benny Potter and yours truly!

Continuing West from Gainesville, you'll pass through Pilot Point and more horse country. Soon you'll come to Muenster, an interesting burg founded by German Catholic immigrants in 1887 and which retains a dominant German flavor. Back then, the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad had constructed a rail line from Gainesville to Henrietta, and it passed through what would become the site of Muenster. Prior to WW One, German was taught along with English in the Muenster public school. Be sure and visit Muenster for Oktoberfest! Sacred Heart Catholic School, built even before the first Catholic church was constructed in the town, still exists today and serves the community along with the Muenster Independent School District.



Fischer's Meat Market at Muenster, Texas

As I got close to Wichita Falls, I realized that it was the Western Swing Festival weekend there! And that our own Jack Phillips would be playing fiddle for some of the top bands! I rang up his mom while on the road, and Allison said they were also on the road. You'll never know how much I wanted to veer off and attend that Swingfest! But pressing on toward Lubbock for a dinner date with Ava, Jackson, Remington and Jonathan, I took time for one leg-stretching stop on Hwy 62 at the historic ranching town of Matador.



The county seat of Motley County, Matador is about 95 miles east of Lubbock. In 1891, it was established by and named for the Matador Ranch, which was consolidated in 1882 by a Scottish syndicate. A post office opened at Matador in 1886. Today there are fewer than 1,000 residents and about 180 students attend Motley County ISD. A charming historic hotel downtown, the Hotel Matador, is owned and operated by three retired sisters. I haven't had the pleasure of staying there yet, but plan to go back and explore. Now a B and B, the Hotel Matador has eight rooms upstairs, and a suite with jacuzzi downstairs. The lovely Victorian dining room serves continental breakfast for guests, and hosts parties and reunions booked there. The town takes pride in the high school football team. I saw this sign above the door of "Lowe's Grocery", the only store in town. It's a true "general store" with fresh produce, hand-cut meats, hardware and plumbing supplies, pet and livestock feed, beer and wine, school supplies and just about anything anybody might need. I met the manager, she's been employed there about 30 years. We will linger a little longer in the Matador area in a future issue, but til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate!

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The cost is \$20 each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that includes lunch!

"Terrific Tuesdays" meets at the First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs.

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# Obits



## WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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### ***Billy Troy Walker***

Funeral services for Billy Troy Walker, age 79, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at Tapp Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Danny Caldwell, Butch Carraway and Tommy Hall officiating. Interment followed at Caney Cemetery in Pickton. Serving as pallbearers were Kenneth Walker, Jack Walker, Jason Tully, Joshua McCoy, Johnny Walker and Jay Griner. Honorary pallbearers were Tristan Griner and Aaron Knotts. A visitation was held on Tuesday evening, June 25, 2019 at Tapp Funeral Home from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Mr. Walker passed away Saturday, June 22, 2019 in Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Plano, Texas.

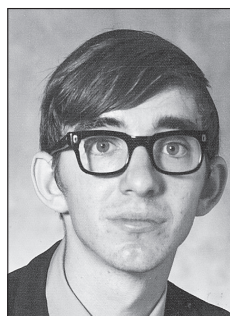
Bill Walker was born on February 24, 1940, in Como, Texas the son of Charlie Henry Walker and Dottie May Patterson Walker. Mr. Walker married Jerry Ann Gayle on August 9, 1958 in Sulphur Springs, TX. He was a milk truck driver for over 30 years. He drove for AMPI, DFA and Ballard's Trucking and was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include: wife: Jerry Ann Walker; daughters: Lou Ann Arnold (Vince Ryczek) and Gayle Lynn Walker (Donald Gene Mathis); grandchildren: Matthew Alan Peyton (Zandra Marie), Daniel Blaine Walker (Somer Gregory); great grandchildren: Zaylee Ann Peyton and Maddox Troy Glenn Peyton; sisters: Jody Griner, Mary Lou McCoy (Jimmy) and Cathey Tully (Lonnie). Mr. Walker was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Ernie Lester Walker, Edgar Rayford Walker, Royce Merrell Walker, Lester Charles Walker, Clelon Rex Walker, Paul Henry Walker, Carry Walker and Toyce Clay Walker; sisters: Luddie Jewel Walker, Violet Edith Calder, Lila Elizabeth Shermer and Gloria Mae.

### ***Loyd Cullen Tucker***

Funeral services for Loyd Cullen Tucker, age 96, of Cumby, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 29, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Zion Cemetery. Visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m., prior to service. Cullen passed away on June 23, 2019 in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### ***Ronald Lynn "Ronny" McCool***

Memorial Service for Ronald Lynn "Ronny" McCool, age 64, of the Greenview Community were held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at Greenview Church. Ronny passed away on June 17, 2019 at Carriage House Manor Nursing Home. Ronny donated his body to U.T. Southwestern Medical Center.

Ronny was born on March 10, 1955 in Sulphur Springs, TX to Charlie and Iona (Rosinbaum) McCool. He graduated from Miller Grove High School and attended E.T.S.U in Commerce. He was a Christian and a member of Divide Baptist Church.

He was survived by brothers Jack Ferguson of Sulphur Springs, Jerry and Carleen Ferguson of Sulphur Springs, Doug and Larie McCool of Sulphur Springs, Mark McCool of Texarkana, AR,; sisters, Phyllis Russell of Sulphur Springs, Judy and Jerry Pilcher of Sulphur Springs. He is also survived by numerous cousins, nephews and nieces who were very special to him.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home The online register can be signed at [www.murrayorwosky.com](http://www.murrayorwosky.com)

### ***Mollie Ellis***

Mollie Ellis, age 83 of, passed away on Thursday, June 20th, 2019 in her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on February 28th, 1936 in Yantis to the late Leonard and Esther Finn Pruden.

Mollie attended Texas Women's University, where she received a bachelor's in education and a certification to teach.

After retiring from teaching, Mollie and her husband, Frances moved to East Texas, residing in Winnsboro where she was a member of Cypress Baptist Church. She also a member of the Order of The Eastern Star.

She was preceded in death by parents and brothers, Leonard "Jack" Pruden and Marvin "Pud" Pruden.

She is survived by, husband of 63 years, Francis Ellis; son, Robert Charles Ellis; daughter, Nancy Lavone Ellis; and brothers, Raymond "Bo" Pruden of Odessa and Ted Pruden.

Visitation was held on Sunday, June 23rd, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 and funeral service followed.

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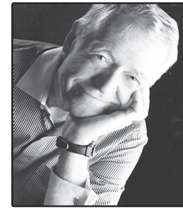
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## A BICYCLE RIDE OF 4,000 MILES

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Bill Huckabee of Sweetwater is a retired executive and a serious bicycle rider. He rode around his neighborhood, covering 100 miles every week. Gradually he increased his mileage until he was biking 50 miles a day, going to nearby towns 25 or so miles away. One day while looking at the map he discovered that Lebanon, Kansas is known as the exact center of the country. Bill, who is 65 years old, made that his destination.

"I bought a touring bike and outfitted it with camping gear, tools, clothing, a pillow and other essentials and took off. Two weeks later I was at the geographic center of the contiguous United States. This was supposed to be my turning around point. I called my wife and told her I was not through with my ride, that I was gonna keep going. She asked me where I was going. I told her she would be the second person to know because I hadn't made that decision yet.

"One evening I was studying the map and wondering how far am I going to go? There was a town called Fargo. I thought that solves how far I'm going to go. So I pedaled to Fargo, North Dakota. When I got there I knew that I would forever regret not going to the border of Canada. So I went to the Canadian border, almost straight up from Fargo. That was my turn around point but I took the long way home. I came back down to Grand Forks, North Dakota then headed east to Itasca State Park in Minnesota where the headwaters of the Mississippi river are located. Then I just followed the Mississippi down until I got to the northeast corner of Arkansas and than angled down to Dallas and on home to Sweetwater."

He says anyone who takes a trip like this needs to be a god mechanic.

"I was self-contained. There were a couple of occasions where I didn't see a town for 2 or 3 days and there was no cell phone service. Once I needed a tire and I called a big bike store and had the tire shipped to the next town on my route."

Bill had 3 flats but repaired them with patch kits and a pump. Once when it was raining friends he met let him stay in their garage. He camped out more than half the time, sleeping in city, state or national parks, once a week he stayed in a motel.

"My best day of mileage was 90 miles. My longest day of being in the saddle, which means moving time, not break time or stopping to get a drink, was 8 hours and 41 minutes. Most of the ride that day was uphill somewhere in Missouri."

He was gone 79 days, pedaled 4,000 miles and spent \$4,000. His goal was to make 50 miles a day but he averaged 59 miles a day. He kept in touch with his wife by phone most every day. One of the most common questions he got was: are you by yourself?

**Lil 4's**

**A Safe Haven for the Kids**

Ph. 903-438-0689 Cell: 214-809-1908

Located at 200 Fuller Street - Sulphur Springs, Texas

After raising a daughter homeless, Letitia Conliffe wanted to give back to her community once she got back on her feet. That's why she created Lil 4's. A place where kids can walk through the door and find a hot meal, a computer to do their homework, mentors to help them succeed in school, and activities to keep them busy. *Fifty-something kids* rely on Conliffe's space in Sulphur Springs, Tx., and every donation made to this campaign directly benefits them.

This Organization operates in the Charitable Organization 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.

- |  |                               |                     |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Latex Gloves                                       | Pots and Pans                 | Foil paper          |
| Kleenex Tissues                                    | Cooking Utensils              | Chewable Pepto      |
| Juice Products                                     | Staples (JT21 5/16")          | Tablets             |
| Small Bottles of Water                             | Cleaning Rags                 | Laundry Detergent   |
| Meat Napkins                                       | Vegetable Oil                 | Bleach              |
| Trash Bags   | Big Trash Can With Lid        | Fabric Softener     |
| Snacks (chips, cookies, fruit snacks, snack cakes) | Cordless Phone                | Batteries (AA, AAA) |
| Frozen Breakfast Meals                             | Cotton Balls                  | Paper Plates        |
| Blankets   | Alcohol                       | Bleach              |
| Foil pans  | Q-Tips                        | Printer Ink #21     |
|  | Peroxide                      | Hygiene Products    |
|  | Tylenol for Adults & Children |                     |

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