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Marie with daughters left to right, Katie Chester Patterson, Patricia Chester Dorner and Vonda Chester Nelson.



Marie with Johnny's daughter Cheyenne Thompson and family.



Marie with Patricia's daughter Karen and husband Donnie Powers and children.



5 generation photo of Marie with Vonda's son Gary Burks and family.



5 generation photo of Marie with Katie's son Donald Lynn Patterson and family.



5 generation photo, Marie with Katie's daughter Linda Henton and family.



Marie with Patricia's son Brian Dorner and family.



Marie with Patricia's son Timmy Dorner and family.

Here is one of Hopkins County's most beloved families, the Mervin and Marie Chesters of the Dike/Sulphur Bluff area. Through her adult life spent locally, Marie Cranford Chester, raised a family of Hopkins County cooks and community leaders. Her family gathered to celebrate her 95th birthday on Sunday November 10, 2019 inside the Fellowship Hall of Sulphur Bluff United Methodist Church. Dozens of friends and all her family attended. Marie was born at Paducah, Texas in 1924 but got to Hopkins County during her childhood when her family settled in the South Liberty Community where she grew up. She met and married Mervin Chester and they had four children, the late John Chester, Patricia Chester Dorner, Katy Chester Patterson and Vonda Chester Nelson. During her adult life, Marie worked at the H.D. Lee Plant, also she and Mervin had a dairy and farmed on their land at Dike. Today she enjoys cooking at the Hopkins County Stew contest as well as the John Chester Dutch Oven Cooking Contest, named for her son "Buffalo" Chester who passed away in 2004. Among her treasures are her many, many friends, three daughters, eight grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Marie is famous for her Hopkins County stew, black walnut pies and homemade ice cream which she often prepares on Sundays for whoever drops by! She loves to garden and be outside, and enjoys her large collection of vintage photographs and farm items and implements which are on display in her family room.



Marie at Stewsite: 50th Anniversary Contest in 2019 with granddaughter Karen Powers

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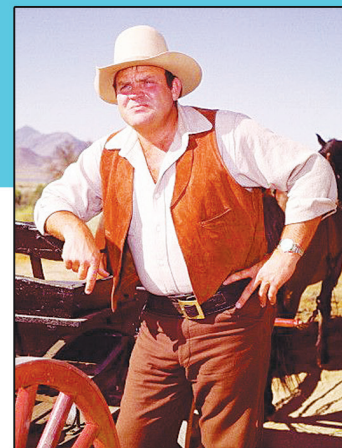
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FAMOUS TEXANS

Dan Blocker

*American Television Actor and
Korean War Veteran*



Bobby Dan Davis Blocker (December 10, 1928 – May 13, 1972) was an American television actor and Korean War veteran, who played Hoss Cartwright in the long-running NBC Western television series *Bonanza*.

EARLY LIFE

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). Weighing in at 14 pounds at birth Dan at the time was the largest baby ever born in Bowie County. The family moved to O'Donnell, south of Lubbock in West Texas, where they operated a store.

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.

U.S. ARMY

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.

ACTING CAREER

The Goon, billed as "Don Blocker". He made two appearances on the *GunsSmoke* 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 Wayde 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.

He was Dan Blocker in *Bonanza* from (1959–1972). Blocker's big break also came in 1959, when he was cast as Eric "Hoss" Cartwright[8] on the 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."

PERSONAL LIFE

Blocker is listed on the West Texas Walk of Fame in Lubbock.

Blocker was a Free Methodist. He married Dolphia Parker, whom he had met while a student at Sul Ross State University. All of their four children's names begin with a 'D': Hollywood actor Dirk Blocker, Hollywood producer David Blocker, and twin daughters Debra Lee (artist) and Danna Lynn. David Blocker won a 1998 Emmy for producing "Don King: Only in America."

Blocker was among Hollywood celebrities who supported Pat Brown's re-election in 1966 as governor of California against Ronald W. Reagan. In 1968, Blocker backed then-U.S. Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota for the Democratic presidential nomination. Blocker later supported the eventual Democratic Party nominee, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, also of Minnesota, for the presidency against the Republican Richard M. Nixon.

Blocker kept a house in Inglewood, California and a 6,000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion in the Hancock Park, Los Angeles area of Los Angeles.

On the 2010 PBS special, "Pioneers of Television: Westerns", actor Mitch Vogel, who played the young brother Jamie Cartwright, on *Bonanza*, said Blocker, "was so easy to get to know—the kind of guy you could go and have a beer with."

Blocker, a performance automobile fan, once owned a 1965 Chevrolet Chevelle SS396 "Z-16" (RPO Z16 option), as Chevrolet was the commercial sponsor of the show. He also owned a 1965 Huffaker Genie MK10 race car, nicknamed the "Vinegaroon". The car was run by Nickey Chevrolet in the 1965 and 1966 U.S. Road Racing Championship series, as well as the 1966 Can-Am championship.

DEATH

On May 13, 1972, Blocker died in Los Angeles, at age 43, of a pulmonary embolism following gall bladder surgery. The writers of *Bonanza* took the unusual step of referencing a major character's death in the show's storyline that autumn. *Bonanza* lasted another season without Hoss, and the 14th and final season ended on January 16, 1973.

Blocker's remains were interred in a family plot in Woodmen Cemetery, in De Kalb, Texas. The common grave site is marked by a plain stone with the name "B. Dan D. Blocker" engraved; three family members are buried beside him, his father, mother, and sister.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

An Imperfect World...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

This would be a terrible time for the meek to inherit the earth.

However, it would be a sobering time to acknowledge that TV revenue to major university football programs has greatly changed views on what intercollegiate athletics are supposed to be.

It would be great if our nation were swept by a burning desire to claim the oft-quoted line penned by the late Grantland Rice a full century ago....

Dubbed "the dean of American sportswriters," Rice isn't mentioned much these days. His words once viewed as immortal, but generally are disregarded these days. You probably remember the poem. If you don't--or if you need a poetic refresher--his words were these:

"For when the One great scorer comes, to mark against your name, He writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the game."...

This admonition has too often been "kicked to the curb," by coaches of teams winning by 60, 70 and even 80 points.

Said coaches contend that they have but little choice, what with point spreads viewed as big factors in national rankings.

If this be true, this is a terrible price to pay for rankings, remembrances of which--high or low--are fleeting. For emphasis, I'll add that such rationale is faulty, deserving of a response of "horse feathers!"...

I am grateful for the wisdom imparted by my late superintendent, O. B. Chambers, a World War II veteran who returned to resume his career as superintendent of then "smallish" Early Public Schools, near Brownwood.

He also taught algebra, and was "judge and jury" on campus, where, by the way, he lived in a small residence thereon.

I was a third-grader upon his return from military service, and he was immediately a larger-than-life influence. He consoled me as I wrestled with high school algebra, advising, "Don't try to change it, try to understand it."...

In retrospect, his contention is at the root of my views on keeping sports in perspective.

We had no band at the time, but upon winning home games, we students followed cheerleaders and drummers in "shirt-tail parades" through the streets of Brownwood upon games' end.

"You must maintain silence when you pass the funeral homes," he advised tersely, and we knew he meant what he said. At such points, only our shoes' contact with pavement broke the silence. Just as important was his advice concerning athletic contests. "Win modestly and lose graciously," he insisted....

His values buoyed me during a 40-year career in higher education. During my presidencies,

coaches knew I'd take a dim view of scores suggesting that our opponents were ground into the turf. (I know--as often as not--we were on the losing end, and rarely were there reasons to call coaches on the carpet for lopsided wins.)

For too many coaches for far too long, it has been forgotten that important lessons are learned from both wins and losses.

And everyone needs to apply this important truth as soon as possible....

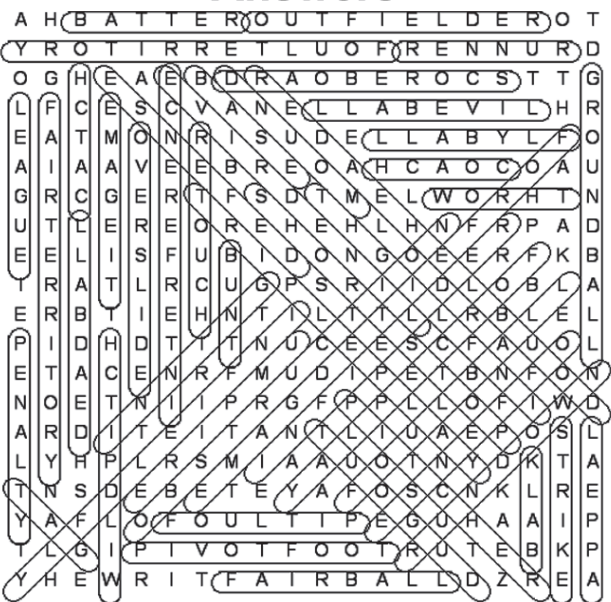
Recently, a collegiate D-III team in Texas rang up almost 100 points on a greatly outmanned opponent.

Some fans bragged that their kicker had set a school record for extra points. Duh!

Such lopsided scores recorded year after year suggest a critical need to re-visit the athletic conference's core values. One near the top of the list indicates the importance of absolute commitment to the maintenance of level playing fields....

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.

Answers



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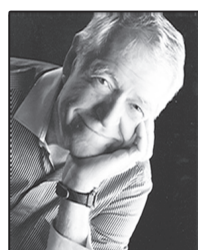
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Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Some people say Terlingua has the brightest moon in Texas. "You can read a book by the moon out here," says Bill Ivey, owner of the Terlingua Ghost Town. "At times you can almost read a book by the stars. I've seen people walking to their car at night, stop and look up. They've never seen the Milky Way."

Things are booming in Terlingua. Bill says land values are increasing. "We've become the last best place in Texas and maybe the United States. Folks have discovered the Big Bend in general. This place has its own spirit and people coming here can feel it. The

word gets out that this is a pretty cool place to be and now we're seeing an influx of folks that like it so much they want to move here."

Bill's dad, Rex Ivey, bought Terlingua in the 1940s after the mines had shut down. "It was after World War 2 and he bought it for salvage. Building materials were scarce, so he tore down a lot of the structures. Now I'm trying to put them back together. When my dad came down to see what he had bought they handed him a 3-pound coffee can full of keys and said 'it's yours.' Everything was just like they left it."

A man by the name of Howard Perry owned the mercury mine in Terlingua. "He was from up east. When he found out what he had won in a poker game he came out here and found people mining mercury. His mine became one of the largest mercury mines in the world. He built a town. There wasn't anything here before and it ended up being the largest town between Del Rio and El Paso. Terlingua had a population of around 3,000. It had the first ice cream parlor in West Texas. It had Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. It had a Cavalry Post for a while, tennis courts and 3 schools. It was very much a thriving community in the early 1900s."

Mr. Perry built a mansion on top of a hill so he could watch over the activities at the mine. The mansion is where Mr. Perry had a meeting with Bill's dad. "They sat and visited in this very room. It's what we call the Great Room. It was never closed in with windows. And sitting right in the middle of this room was a Gatling gun. Mr. Perry was scared to death Pancho Villa was going to raid his town and he wanted to protect it."

Bill, who bought Terlingua 30 years ago, has restored the Perry mansion using the same techniques used when it was originally built nearly 100 years ago. "We made the adobes right outside here and put them in place. Hauling those 40-pound adobe bricks up two stories was a tiring job. We didn't use any heavy equipment. When we started it was just a ruin. Hadn't had a roof since the 40s. No windows or doors. Never had water or electricity. One of the back adobe walls was starting to come loose, so we had to act fast to save it. We spent a year just on the outside. Some of my kids and I spent another year detailing the inside. We're building a fountain outside." The mansion opened as a bed and breakfast on March first of this year. "We had a full house last night." Terlingua has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places for 25 years. "We want to keep it a ghost town. I want to preserve the culture and the history. There are few jobs here so people live here because they want to."

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Ruby Jean Bain



Funeral service for Ruby Jean Bain, age 87, of Sulphur Springs was held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Rev. James Edge officiating. Interment followed at Rockdale Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Ronnie Berry, David Bragg, Kenny Hayes, Bo Dyer Sr., Samuel Doom, Aaron Dyer, and Robert Dyer. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 PM on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Bain passed away on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at Christus Mother Frances, Tyler, TX.

Ruby was born on September 21, 1932 in Hopkins County to Charlie and Janie Owens. She married William Jack Bain, who preceded her in death in 2007. Ruby worked for AP Green and was a member of Trinity Harvest Church.

She is survived by her sons, Mike Bain and wife, Cindy, Clint Bain and wife, Danna, Mark Bain; sister in love and best friend; Wanda Winfrey and husband Jimmy; grandchildren, Kristi Hayes and husband, Kenny, Bo Dyer and wife, Bobbie, Aaron Dyer and wife, Randee, Melissa Doom and husband, Samuel, Brian Bain; eleven great grandchildren. Ruby was preceded in death by her parents; husband; grandson, Brody Dyer; three sisters; one brother.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com

Roy Taylor



Funeral service for Roy Taylor, age 62, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, November 22, 2019 at New Beginnings Fellowship Baptist Church with Pastor Wilton McMorris officiating. Interment will follow at Rockdale Cemetery with Jimmy Foley, Wayde Taylor, Paul Laco, Jeff Bowen, Daimen Hunter and Curtis Cutrell serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 PM on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Mr. Taylor passed away on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at his home in Sulphur Springs.

Allen Roy Taylor was born on June 6, 1957 in Cooper, Texas to Elwin and Hazel Taylor. He married Mary Bernal in Sulphur Springs in 1993. He was also a member of New Beginnings Fellowship Baptist Church. Allen Roy Taylor was loved by many. He dedicated many years working for the city of Sulphur Springs. He loved his community but most important he valued his family, his wife Mary and their union of over 28 years, a son, and 4 stepchildren whom all see him not as a stepdad but a Father. He is survived by his daughters, Angelica Cardenas, of Yuma, AZ, Jessica Magana and husband, Jerry of Yuma, AZ, DeeDee Self of Sulphur Springs; sons, Toby Sires and wife, Chyna of Sulphur Springs, Roy "Pokey" Taylor of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Zachary Hunter, McKenzie Hunter, Autumn Dewitt, Alayna Self, Aydan Self, Bentley Sires, Axl Sires, Adrian Aguilar, Aaron Aguilar, Andrea Aguilar, Alicia Magana, Amberly Magana, Angelique Johnson, Nate Johnson, Matthew Johnson; brothers and sisters, Patricia Lopez, David Taylor, Joyce Campbell, Floyd Taylor, Sharon Normandeau, Wanda Godfrey, Virgil Taylor, Ann Coleman, Dorothy Easley. Roy was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Linda Campbell and Goldie Rhoades; brothers, Gene Taylor and James Donald Taylor.

Donny Autrey-Foster



A Memorial Service for Donny Autrey-Foster, age of 57, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Cremains will be scattered at later date. Serving as honorary pallbearers; Hopkins County EMS. Visitation was held one-hour prior to the service on Saturday November 16, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Donny Autrey-Foster passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 13, 2019.

Donny was born July 25, 1962 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Bobby and Mary Foster. Donny married Joe Autrey on August in 2015 and were together for 35 years. Donny worked as an EMS dispatcher for the Hopkins County EMS in Sulphur Springs, TX. Donny was also the founder of Hearts of Life Animal Rescue, he was on the Board of Directors of Texafied Jam Fest and volunteered for the Hogs for Dogs. Donny was an amazing person whose passion for people and animals was not lost to anyone who knew him. He loved with all his heart and all who had the privilege to cross his path both two and four legged became a friend and sometimes family. He leaves a void in our hearts, but we will treasure his memory and passion. Donny is survived by his husband, Joe; daughter, Shannon Autrey Foster; son, J.T. Autrey Foster; daughters, Donya West and husband Travis and Tristen Schell and husband Austin; Six grandchildren; sisters, Melanie Mollenhour and husband Chris; brothers, Billy Foster and wife Leslie, Jamie Foster; numerous nieces and nephews; many friends that he called his family.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is a public holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States. It originated as a harvest festival. Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, after a proclamation by George Washington. It has been celebrated as a federal holiday every year since 1863, when, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November.

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