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# 'Living In The Courthouse', A Story About Roger 'Tex' Maynard', The Only Living Person Who Once Resided In The Hopkins County Courthouse

By Enola Gay Mathews



Tex at his "Lonesome Dove" cabin.

This is a story about the only living person to have resided inside the Hopkins County Courthouse! I have this on good authority, because that person told me the story himself in the Autumn of 2019. Roger "Tex" Maynard, Special Texas Ranger, charter member of the Hopkins County Sheriff's Posse's mounted patrol, and former Hopkins County Constable Precinct 1, actually began his law enforcement career with the Texas Department of Public Safety, and that career quickly became much more colorful once he got to Hopkins County, where he eventually settled, made his home and raised his family.

It was December 10, 1965, when Tex arrived in Sulphur Springs after getting orders for transfer to the DPS office serving Hopkins, Wood and a few other surrounding counties. He had been serving at the DPS Driver's License office at Sherman, Texas in Grayson County, and because the re-assignment came up quickly, he arrived in Sulphur Springs without a vehicle or a place to live. He had elected to leave the family car with his wife Marie and baby daughter, and thus did not have transportation of his

own when he reported for duty, but he figured that would be alright because he would be sharing a patrol car during his shifts. At that time, DPS office 1-B7 was located on the second floor of the Hopkins County Courthouse. To Tex, the office looked really small, containing just a small red table, a chair and a filing cabinet, squeezed into a cubbyhole between the offices of Justice of the Peace DeWitt Loyd and County Attorney John Perry.

"I met my new partner, Don King and along with John Odom, that made three of us in the office to serve the large district. At that time I had no idea of the wild and woolly adventures awaiting me in this new role! As I told you, I had previously been working in a Driver's License office and I was just 25 years old, fresh out of the Army and Highway Patrol School in Austin. Well, it's true that my training had prepared me to be hired as a DPS Highway Patrol officer, but I would gain a lifetime of valuable experience while serving here over the next 28 years of my career. But for now, where was I going to stay until my family could relocate from Howe, Texas? And could we afford a place since my budget for rent would only be about \$100 a month, tops? The answer to my problem came from County Judge W.B. Kitts, to 'just bunk in the courthouse until you can find a place to live'. And so I did."

On the third floor of the drafty old building was a room with a sign on the door that read 'Jury Room'. In it were about a dozen old army-style cots. See, in the old days when citizens were called to jury duty from a distance away, let's say 15 or 20 miles or



Hopkins County Sheriff's posse with Tex at right with US Flag and granddaughter Gracie

more from the Courthouse, and they might not get back for each day's session if they had to travel by horseback or wagon, then the jurors could stay in the jury room. At this time, the courthouse used steam heat with radiators along the walls, and it had indoor plumbing, and so the jury room was fairly livable. Actually, the janitor known as "Doc" stayed up there full time and was on site in the courthouse at night. So, I just picked a cot at the other end of the room from where he had his space, and we both slept fairly well as I remember, except for the sometimes rowdy noise from people hanging out on the square! But, of course I was looking for more permanent quarters.

Well, a few nights later, my partner Don King received a late-night call at his home, and came to pick me up. We went out to a location south of Martin Springs and handled the



Tex and Smoky

call without incident. But on the way back in, Don told me about a house on Church Street he'd heard of that was for rent. He drove me by to check it out. It looked like it would do for us, and when I found out it would be only \$60 per month, I said I'd take it. That was sure good news I called Marie with, and soon enough she was ready to come to Sulphur Springs. Don came through for us again, by borrowing a cattle trailer from a friend and helping me move my family and our furniture to Sulphur Springs. We actually got settled in on Christmas Eve 1965, with just enough time before the stores closed downtown to do some quick Christmas shopping. At a store, maybe it was Babcock's, on the east side of the square, we bought a little pedal car for Tammy to play in. It sure was a good Christmas just being together, and that ended my ten days residence inside the Hopkins County Courthouse.

I was learning a lot about patrol duty, and we worked closely with county law enforcement. Back in the mid 60's, the Hopkins County Sheriff was Delphie Leewright. He had a little office in the old jail and he had 6 deputies on his staff. The Sulphur Springs Police Chief was Ernest Morton

and he had 8 officers. Others on the county payroll were Liquor Agent Wayne Woods, Game Warden John Jackson and Constable Gird Grant. The local DPS office had 3 officers, myself, Don King and John Odom, but our District Headquarters was in Mt. Pleasant with ten employees total. Between us we covered Titus and Red River Counties too, and basically everything starting north from the Red River to the Sabine River south of Rains County. Back then, everybody helped each other. Nobody

arrived on the scene, we followed the 'procedure to approach a suspected

gunfight' which means we waited outside our patrol cars, leaving the doors open to use as shields, as we were trained to do. We were crouched down with our weapons pulled when the Sheriff arrived on the scene. Deputy Joe Beville was driving the Sheriff's car and when they pulled up at the front of the house, the Sheriff bailed out of his unit on the passenger side and ran full speed toward the chain link gate. He never tried to stop



Tex is front row left in this 1965 photo of DPS Headquarters 1-B7

tried to hog the scene when we worked an accident, and there would often be numerous officers at an accident site. There was lots of co-operation and there was plenty of work for us too, which kept us quite busy enforcing the law within our counties and sometimes beyond. But I want you to know, the bravest peace officer I ever saw or worked with in person was Sheriff Leewright.

One day while out on patrol, we got a radio call concerning a man in the Pickton area who supposedly was "on his way to his home to kill his wife". We headed straight out to the location. I was driving and my partner riding with me and we followed in pursuit, using the directions and landmarks we had been given. The Sheriff was headed there too, because he knew the man and where he lived. When we

arrived on the scene, we followed the 'procedure to approach a suspected gunfight' which means we waited outside our patrol cars, leaving the doors open to use as shields, as we were trained to do. We were crouched down with our weapons pulled when the Sheriff arrived on the scene. Deputy Joe Beville was driving the Sheriff's car and when they pulled up at the front of the house, the Sheriff bailed out of his unit on the passenger side and ran full speed toward the chain link gate. He never tried to stop

and open the gate, he just knocked it off the hinges and kept running. He jumped up onto the porch and then he hit the screen door and the wooden door with his shoulder knocking both off the hinges into the living room, and went right on in. In about 30 seconds he stepped back out on the porch and said 'it's over boys'. The man had committed suicide after he killed his wife there at the home.

I mentioned the old jail that was behind the courthouse back then in the 1960's. It was connected to the courthouse by a stairway and an above-ground walk way that was two stories high. That's how we would bring prisoners back and forth from the jail to the courthouse. Very seldom would a woman ever be jailed in Hopkins County, but when that was necessary, there was one

where he lived. When we

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# Living In The Courthouse, 'Tex Maynard Story'

Continued.....

isolated cell separate from the main jail used for male prisoners. Back before drugs became prevalent, we were kept pretty busy because of alcohol, and handling calls about people who were 'rowdy' or 'under the influence of alcohol'. This was true during my days on Highway Patrol and then during my 18 years as a Constable. Times have really changed since then, but actually, people are still the same. They still break the rules and the law has to intervene. Today's GPS has really helped peace

officers and how they are dispatched to calls. Not that many years ago, we'd find a location by landmarks, like 'turn after Mitchell's haymeadow', or 'the house right after two curves in the road'. Now, computers provide indispensable support for law enforcement, but they will never replace the personal touch in this profession, because so often a situation still comes down to one-on-one. I hope officers never have to lose the human aspect of

law enforcement" As a fellow posse member with Tex, I am proud to get to tell one of his many stories about early law enforcement, and to say that this public servant is my friend and probably yours too. Roger "Tex" Maynard, originally from Smith County, Texas built his home in southern Hopkins County where today he and Marie raise cattle and hay and enjoy their horses, 12 grandchildren and the great-grandkids.

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### Early Life

Spieth was born in 1993 in Dallas, Texas, to Shawn Spieth and Mary Christine (née Julius) Spieth. He attended St. Monica Catholic School and graduated from Jesuit College Preparatory School in 2011. He learned to play golf at Brookhaven Country Club.

### Amateur Career

In 2009 and 2011, Spieth won the U.S. Junior Amateur and joined Tiger Woods as the tournament's only two-time winners.

Before turning 18 in July 2011, he was No. 1 in the AJGA Golf Rankings, which promotes the best junior golfers in the world.

He finished second in the 2008 and 2009 Junior PGA Championship. The American Junior Golf Association named him the Rolex Junior Player of the Year in 2009.

Spieth accepted an exemption to play in the PGA Tour's HP Byron Nelson Championship in 2010. It was the event's first amateur exemption since 1995. The tournament's previous exemptions had included Trip Kuehne in 1995, Justin Leonard, and Woods in 1993. He made the cut, becoming the sixth-youngest player to make the cut at a PGA Tour event. Spieth was tied for seventh place after the third round, and finished the tournament in a tie for 16th place. He was offered another exemption into the tournament in 2011, when he again made the cut and finished in a tie for 32nd.

Spieth played college golf at the University of Texas. Spieth was a member of the 2011 Walker Cup team and played in three of the four rounds; he halved his foursomes match and won both singles matches.

In his freshman year at Texas, Spieth won three events and led the team in scoring average. He helped his team win the NCAA championship, was named to the All-Big 12 Team, Big 12 Freshman of the Year and Player of the Year, and was a first-team All-American.

In 2012, Spieth earned a spot as an alternate in the U.S. Open after Brandt Snedeker withdrew from the tournament; he tied for 21st and was the low amateur. He became the number one amateur in the World Amateur Golf Ranking after his performance in the U.S. Open and Patrick Cantlay's decision to turn professional.

### Professional Career

In 2012, after failing to advance to the Final Stage of PGA Tour qualifying school, 19-year-old Spieth turned professional midway through his sophomore year at Texas. He partnered with Under Armour for sponsorship in January 2013 and with BioSteel Sports Supplements in March.

2013: First PGA Tour win

In the 2013 season, Spieth played in his first tournament in January, where he missed the cut by two strokes at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines. In March, Spieth made three cuts, finishing tied for second at the Puerto Rico Open and tied for seventh at the Tampa Bay Championship. He earned Special Temporary Member status in March, which allowed him unlimited sponsor exemptions; non-members are limited to seven exemptions per season. He notched another top-10 finish in April at the RBC Heritage, a tie for ninth.

On July 14 (about two weeks before his 20th birthday) Spieth won the John Deere Classic on the fifth hole of a three-way, sudden-death playoff against defending champion Zach Johnson and David Hearn. He became the fourth youngest PGA Tour winner and the first teenager to do so since Ralph Guldahl won the Santa Monica Open in 1931. Spieth holed out from a greenside bunker on the 72nd hole to make the playoff.

With the victory, Spieth was granted full status as a PGA Tour member and became eligible for the FedEx Cup, entering in 11th place in the standings. It also earned him entry into the next three majors: the 2013 Open Championship, PGA Championship, and 2014 Masters. Five weeks after his first victory, Spieth played the Wyndham Championship, where he lost in a playoff to Patrick Reed.

Courtesy of Wikipedia.

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# Obits



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### ***Dr. George Ashcroft Williamson***

A graveside service for Dr. George Ashcroft Williamson, 66, of Severna Park, Maryland (formerly of Sulphur Springs) will be held at 2:00 p.m., December 18, 2019 at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery, Rev. Fred Lewis officiating. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Pallbearers will be his nephews J. Cole Williamson and Cary A. Williamson and lifelong friends, Gary House, Glenn Webb, Jimmy Masters, Donny Palmer, Tommy Cross, Vic Ponder, Jay Emerson and Clay Walker. Honorary Pallbearers will be Billye Berry Foster and Rita Hamilton.

Dr. Williamson passed away on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at home while surrounded by his loving family and friends. He was born February 5, 1953 in Dallas, Texas, the son of Joe A. Williamson and Ann A. Williamson. He graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1971. He attended Texas A&M University where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in 1975. He earned his doctorate in medicine from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in 1983. Dr. Williamson completed his internship and residency at Medstar Harbor Hospital (formerly South Baltimore General Hospital) and began practicing as an OB/GYN in the Glen Burnie/Pasadena area. During his career as a doctor, he was the Chairman of the Medical Executive Committee at Medstar Harbor Hospital from 2013 through 2017. He was a mentor to countless medical professionals in training and a respected colleague.

George proudly achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America. He was an avid dog-lover and fisherman and enjoyed spending time by the water. George loved attending baseball games alongside friends and listening to music, but most of all he had a passion for his career and spending time with his girls.

George was a beloved husband of twenty-nine years to his wife Joyce A. Williamson; loving father to his daughters Olivia A. Williamson of Severna Park, Maryland, Lane M. Williamson, and Grace A. Williamson both of College Park, Maryland. He is also survived by his brother, Bill A. Williamson, and wife Cindy of Allen, Texas. Additionally he is survived by a niece Meagan A. Lee, and husband, Garrett of Sanger, Texas and nephews J. Cole Williamson of Cibolo, Texas and Cary A. Williamson, and wife, Brooke of Longview, Texas. Also surviving is sister-in-law Regina P. Williamson of Longview, Texas and numerous other nieces, nephews, and family in Maryland.

He is preceded in death by his brother John E. Williamson, and his parents. Memorials may be made to the Myra Wilson Chapel, c/o Sulphur Springs City Cemetery, P.O. Box 651, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483.



### ***Martha Stribling Johnson***

Martha Stribling Johnson, age 90, of Sulphur Springs was born November 19, 1929 to William Gamblin and Lucille Darby Stribling. She passed away Monday, December 09, 2019.

She was a longtime member of Shooks Chapel United Methodist Church. She was currently a member of Wesley United Methodist Church. She attended Park Springs School as a young girl and later went Sulphur Springs School to finish her education. In her early years she worked at Sulphur Springs State Bank and later at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital.

She is survived by her son John Wayne Moore and wife Kelly of Alaska.

Other survivors are nephews, Gary Stribling, David Stribling, Randy Stribling, Danny Stribling, nieces Charlotte Burns, Sharon Jones, and Nancy Osterberg. She is preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Chester Stribling, William (Bill)

Stribling and John Stribling and sister, Ruth Clifton and one nephew, Tom Stribling.

Services will be held Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Shooks Chapel Church. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

### ***Herman Keen***

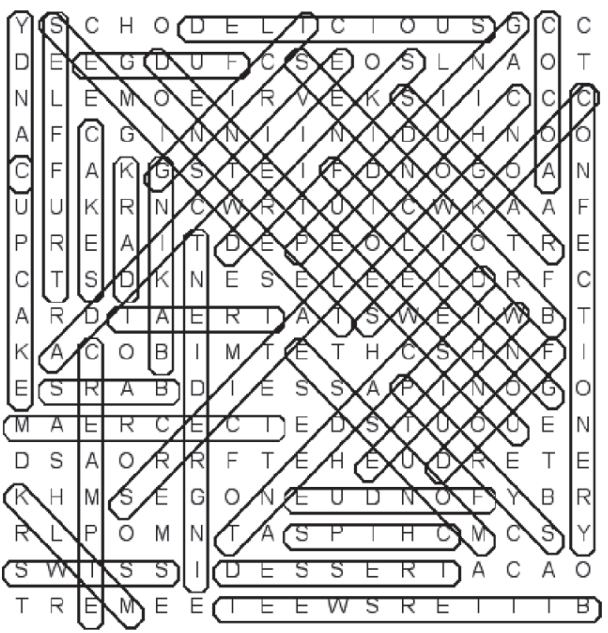
Graveside service for Herman Keen, age 87, of Sulphur Springs were held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at Restlawn Memorial Park with Bobby Buford officiating. There was no formal visitation. Mr. Keen passed away on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at his residence in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Herman was born on February 26, 1932 in Quitman to Jimmie Richard and Carrie Amanda Keen. He married Nell Keen in 1952 who preceded him in death in February 2003. He married Mattie Sue McKinney in 2007, who preceded him in death in October 2011. Herman worked as an electrician at Rockwell. He also proudly served in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his son, Charles Keen and wife, Paula; daughter, Judy Latimer and husband, David; grandchildren, Jeremy Keen, Joshua Hudson, and Ryan Brown; 4 great grandchildren.

Herman was preceded in death by his parents; wives, Nell Keen and Sue McKinney; sisters, Anna Vera Newton, Ruth Thomas, Bernice Pope, Reba Buford, and Sammie Hinton; brothers, James Lester Keen, Frankie Ray D. Keen, Roy Lonzell Keen. The online register can be signed at [www.murrayorwosky.com](http://www.murrayorwosky.com)

### Answers



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### A VISIT WITH THE PANHANDLE SANTA CLAUS

**Tumbleweed Smith**



**Tumbleweed Smith**

Rodney Watson of Plainview is an artist who paints western landscapes. He has also had careers as a museum curator and banker. The bank where he worked always had a huge Christmas event. Santa Claus was there beside a huge lighted and decorated tree. There were refreshments and customers and non-customers went to the bank around Christmastime. It was a social event. "It was hard to conduct any bank business because of the crowd," says Rodney.

Rodney sported a full red beard when he went to work at the bank, but shaved it off because bank officials frowned on their employees having facial hair. Toward the end of Rodney's ten-year tenure at the bank, the bank president approached him with two tickets to a rock concert Rodney had wanted to attend. The president said, "Take these with my compliments. When you come back from the concert, I have a favor to ask of you."

Rodney says he had trouble enjoying the concert because he kept thinking about what the favor would entail. When he got back, he found out. For several years the bank had a Santa Claus that had done a super job. Rodney says he was fabulous, looked the part and drove a red Cadillac with personalized plates that had the word Santa on them. It seems that Santa was retiring and the bank wanted Rodney to assume the role of the bank's Santa Claus.

"I'm a big guy," says Rodney. "well over six feet and around 250 pounds. When I found out I was to be Santa I started growing my beard, this time with the bank's blessing. I discovered my red beard had turned white, so much the better. I wear it six months on, six months off. My mother made me a custom Santa suit that I didn't let anyone know about until I wore it out in public for the first time."

Rodney left the bank to pursue his art, but continued his Santa work. Because of his popularity as the bank's Santa he was asked to act as Santa Claus at holiday events all over the South Plains and Panhandle. He is busy all during the month of December and has a treasure chest of memories he has made during his several years of playing Santa.

"Once this little 4th grade girl was sitting on my lap and I asked her what she wanted for Christmas. All she wanted was to talk to her brother. I knew immediately this was going to be one of those heartbreak deals. Her father had left and took her brother. She hadn't seen him or talked to him in 8 months. Me being a big old teddy bear anyway, I listened to her story, gave her a big hug and told her I would say a prayer for her. Next year that same little girl was sitting in my lap and I asked her if she ever got to talk to her brother. She looked at me with the biggest surprise on her face that I would remember her and she said yes she did. We were both in tears and she gave me a dollar bill. I told her to put it in the collection plate at church."

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