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HISTORY OF THE REILLY SPRINGS JAMBOREE AND YOUR INVITATION TO THE JANUARY 18 SEASON OPENER!

By Enola Gay Mathews

The Reilly Springs Jamboree is Hopkins County's original music venue. Since the mid-50's, the old Reilly Springs schoolhouse, now Community Center, has hosted live music under it's roof. In Spring of 1956, the Reilly Springs School District consolidated with Sulphur Springs ISD, and that's when the building began a new role; showcasing the developing genre we now know as "country" music. This style was developing, Enola Gay and Mike Shing



or self-evolving, from folk songs, cowboy yodels, work chants, **Jamboree Co-Hosts** mountain music and existing hillbilly styles. A major factor in it's evolution was the new marketability of music. Radio stations were springing up all over the country during the 1940's and creating a beehive of competition between early artists like Red Foley, Ernest Tubb, Kitty Wells and Roy Acuff, as well as a pair of brothers from Hopkins County. Hit songs were being written, and Bob and Joe "Shelton" made their mark when they recorded "Deep Ellum Blues" and "(Because) Just Because" penned in 1935. In a quote from The Smithsonian Collection of Country Music, we find, "Few Texas groups were as popular in the 1930's as Bob and Joe Attlessey, better known as Bob and Joe Shelton from Hopkins County, Texas. The Shelton Brothers were genuine East Texas farm boys who rode to fame on the strength of one widely-circulated record 'Deep Ellum Blues' backed by 'Because, Just Because'. These two popular and oft-performed songs netted them only twenty-five dollars per side, a sum that seemed pretty good for two boys fresh out of the cotton fields. The Sheltons often resembled the mandolin-and-brother duets of the Southeast with old-time songs, but like most Texas groups, moved quickly toward the adaptation of electric instruments and hot styles." The brothers toured, made television appearances and did studio recordings. They had learned to play at home from family musicians and while very young men, took their instruments and landed a studio job on radio station KWKH in Shreveport, Louisiana. The twosome teamed up with Leon Chappalear in radio segments as the Lone Star Cowboys Trio. Many radio stations which were on the air before transcripted music became abundant would employ orchestras, combos, and singers to provide different varieties of live music. In 1948, a commercial leap was made when KWKH launched a live country music stage show at the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, and the Louisiana Hayride was born. It featured the KWKH stable of performers, local talent and rising country music singers. Dallas' Big D Jamboree also started up in 1948 inside the massive Sportatorium, and the Sheltons performed there too. These shows were patterned after the Grand Ole Opry which sprang from a WSM radio show in 1925. So, it's no wonder that the Shelton Boys used their many connections in the music industry to bring a similar phenomenon to Hopkins County and onto the schoolhouse stage. From the start, these shows were broadcast over Sulphur Springs radio KSST 1230 AM. Some serious starpower was in the house when George Jones, Johnny Cash. Johnny Horton, Roger Miller, Hank Locklin, David Houston, Red Sovine, Bobby Helms, Charlene Arthur and Floyd Tillman played their hit songs with the house band. Excitement was high, kids ran around and families visited. Couples 'dated' there on a Saturday night. In warm weather, the schoolhouse windows were left wide open and the sound of the music drifted far across the countryside. Neighbors listened from their porches, and some fans listened outside the building while sipping a beverage brought from home. For people in surrounding regions, the Jamboree was truly "the place to go, to see and be seen" until the advent of television gradually lured audiences away. June Carter's sold-out night in May 1961 was one of the last major appearances on the schoolhouse stage. This era of greatness might have settled like dust had it not been for one of the regular performers, accordion player Francell Lawrence, now Burnett. The Winnsboro high-schooler got a camera and took photographs of dozens of the stars and got their autographs, too. Because of her foresight and her generosity, the lively days of the original Reilly Springs Jamboree were captured and have been archived for audiences today. Through the decades, area musicians occasionally put on Jamborees. In 1995, Enola Gay Mathews, Morning Show host at KSST Radio, got the idea of reviving the show and planned a Reilly Springs Jamboree Reunion. She held it in the spacious ballroom of the VFW Post Home in Sulphur Springs where there was standing room only that night. The show soon returned to the original historic venue, now the Reilly Springs Community Center at 109 CR 1439, and continues to be held monthly on the third-Saturday night, providing country, gospel and patriotic music in a family friendly atmosphere. In 2021, the show will observe it's 65th year. This weekend, a special in-town show is planned for Saturday January 18, 2020 in Sulphur Springs at The ROC, 115 Putman Street near downtown. Admission is \$10 person with children age 10 and under admitted free.

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2020 Essay Readers - Lindsey Hayes, Samara Clayton, Jamarion Hall, and James Winnett-Moore 2020 MLK Honorees

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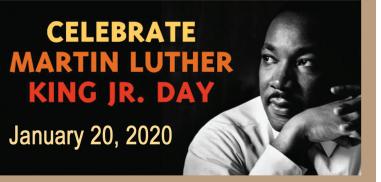
Again, the program will be held Monday, January 20, 2020, 7:00 pm, at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 208 Fuller St., Sulphur Springs, TX. This event is free and open to the public. We encourage you to bring your family, friends, and guests to this event. Dr. Mark Rudin, President and CEO of Texas A&M University - Commerce, will be the master of ceremony.

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Gene Watson

Gene Watson, 83, of Sulphur Springs passed away January 13, 2020. He was born on October 4, 1936 in Tira, Texas to Ernest Lonnie and Myrza Chapman Watson. He married Janette Rorie on August 24, 1958 in Sulphur Springs.

From an early age, he wanted to work and help his family. He went door to door selling newspapers, bought a snow cone and fireworks stand, and paid for his first car by age 14. When he got his driver's license the restriction required him to sit on three pillows so he could see over the steering wheel. During high school and college, he worked for Bridges Grocery Store, Nelson's Corner Drug, and played Wildcat Baseball.

Gene was a 1955 graduate of Sulphur Springs High School and graduated from East Texas State University in 1959 with a degree in Industrial Technology. After college, he went to work in the Engineering Department of the Texas Highway Department and later the Purchasing Department of Rockwall International before he resigned to start his own businesses. Along with his partner, Tim Kelty, they started Home Real Estate Company, Home Development Company, The Home Place Mobile Home Park,

Kel-Wat Manufacturing, Home Construction Company, Home Life Insurance, Morris Title and Abstract and Home Lumber Company. He also started Watson Construction Company and Watson Real Estate, which later became Coldwell Banker Watson Company with his son David Watson.

In 1988, Watson and a group of local business men organized First American Mortgage Company with Watson serving as Chairman. The Mortgage Company grew and became First American Bank and Mortgage Company. In 1999, it merged with Guaranty Bank. Watson served on the Board of Directors of Guaranty Bancshares, Inc. until he retired in 2015. He served his community as President of Hopkins, Franklin, Wood Counties Board of Realtors, Regional Director of the Texas Association of Realtors, President of the Sulphur Springs Board of Realtors, President of the Sulphur Springs Home Builders Association, President of the City of Sulphur Springs Industrial Development Authority, President of Sulphur Springs Crime Stoppers, Vice President of Hopkins County Industrial Fund, President of the Sulphur Springs Jaycees, President of the Sulphur Springs Kiwanis Club, President of the Hopkins County United Way, Director of the Hopkins County Economic Development Board, and President of the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce. He was named Hopkins County Citizen of the Year in 1990. He was proceeded in death by his parents, his sister Louise Fox and Clovis Fox, brother in law, Mark Rorie, niece Tracey Fox and great grandson Henry Burns. He is survived by his wife Janette, his son, and daughter-in-law David and Myra Watson, his daughter and son-in-law Gena and John Prickette, his grandchildren Megan and David Burns, Kate and Kiffer Davis, Ben Watson, and Caroline Prickette as well as three great granddaughters Rose Davis, Nora Burns, and Margot Davis. He is also survived by his sister Mary Jo and Garry Thompson of San Antonio, brother in law Joe and Sheila Rorie and sister in law Paula Rorie. Also, nieces and nephews Maleta and Ricky Reynolds, Mike Fox, Lonnie Fox, Karmen and Keith Binka, Shana and Ron Prichard, Courtney Rorie, Brittney and Ashby Spruiell, Jeff and Kensey Rorie, JJ Rorie and Gail Babitt, and Chris Rorie.

The family is grateful for the care of Dr. Darren Arnecke, Choice Hospice, and Seven Sisters Care of Sherman, Texas. If desired, memorials may be made to the Nursery Department of First United Methodist Church where six generations of the Watson family have worshiped. Memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at First United Methodist Church. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home, www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Sally McClendon

Funeral services for Salli Gayle McClendon, age 63, of Sulphur Springs, will be 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at First Baptist Church in the main sanctuary with Pastor Kenneth Goodson and Rev. Fred Lewis officiating. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park with Jared Ramey, Jarred Pickett, Brandon Booher, Tanner Ragan, Cody Weaver, and Jeff Rorie serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Tony Abercrombie, Reece Booher, Ronnie Blount, Jeff Massey, Clay Walker, Buck Booker, Quinton Suttle, Larry Blount, and Chris Diamond. Visitation will be 6:00-8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Salli went to be with the Lord Saturday, January 11, 2020, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

Salli McClendon was born to Gaylon and Peggy Price on November 25, 1956, in Dallas, TX. She married her high school sweetheart, Jay McClendon, on April 7, 1979, in Sulphur Springs, TX. She obtained her bachelor's degree from East Texas State University in Elementary Education in 1978 and began a teaching career at SSISD. She retired after 30 years of service. She was a devoted member of the Thalian Society and was employed as the Office Manager for East Texas Physical Therapy.

As an educator, she enjoyed raising and releasing monarch butterflies as an Earth Day project and coaching an elementary jump rope team named "Footloose". She touched the lives of many students throughout her years of service and was well respected by all of those that knew her. She enjoyed spending time with her five grandchildren, art, crafts and fishing.

She is survived by her husband, Jay McClendon; sons, Dustin McClendon and wife, Janiece, of Canton; BrentMcClendon and wife, Lacey, of Sulphur Springs; daughter, Cassie Maness and husband, Jason, of Sulphur Springs; parents, Gaylon and Peggy Price of Sulphur Springs; sisters, Patti Froneberger and Cindy Neighbors; grandchildren, Kate McClendon, Slayton McClendon, Lauren McClendon, Elle McClendon, Charlie Maness; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials can be made to the SSISD Education Foundation, 361 Connally Street, Sulphur Springs, TX, or www.ssisdeducationfoundation.com in Salli's honor.

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

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Texas Rep. Dan Flynn

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Gov. Gregg Abbott P.O. Box 12428 - Austin, Texas 78711

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SULPHUR SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL **City Hall**

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Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75482 903-885-7541

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Precinct 4 - Ph.: 903-438-4034 Barn: 903-582-8840 P.O. Box 288 - Sul. Spgs., Tx. 75483 Are you caring for someone with memory loss? Loin

Terrific Tuesdays" a Sulphur Springs Respite Care Program for seniors with memory loss.

This program is open to everyone with Alzheimer's or dementia. It gives the participants an opportunity to spend each Tuesday meeting new friends and participating in cooperative activities.

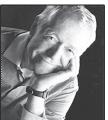
It also gives the caregiver a few hours to run errands and to take care of personal healthcare needs, etc. healthcare needs, etc. knowing that their loved one is well taken care of in a safe and enjoyable environment.

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.

Answers

THE BACK FORTY OF THE TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL **Tumbleweed Smith**



Tumbleweed Smith

I was one of the early ambassadors of the Texas Folklife Festival that started 48 years ago on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. It was designed to show off the state's diverse cultural population. Jo Ann Andera was hired as a bilingual tour guide at the start and now she is the director of the festival, a post she has held for 39 years. "The festival was all about unique characters getting together in one place," says JoAnn. "The festival became a family and participants looked forward to their annual reunion.'

The Lebanese belly dancers drew a big crowd. So did the crawfish races put on by the Cajuns from Port Arthur. So did the stage where storytellers told outrageous stories, most of them based on their own experiences. Spot Baird, Professor of Possumology, used to parade around holding a silver platter with a baked possum, sweet potatoes and various garnishes on it. Possum Queen Daisy Potter accompanied him dressed in regal attire complete with tiara. They were promoting the annual Yamboree in Gilmer. Cowboy Williams of Chappell Hill was there with his hog dogs telling about his adventures hunting wild hogs and demonstrating how he calls up his dogs. Bill Brett, former postmaster of Hull, Texas made rope from horsehair and hung out at the back forty where pioneer crafts were demonstrated. JoAnn says Bill brought moonshine to the festival. "He called it his fortified Vitamin C and offered it so people could taste real moonshine."

JoAnn went to Bill's funeral. "He built his own coffin. When he was depressed or wasn't feeling too good he'd go lie down in his coffin and just kinda think about the world. At his funeral he was wrapped in his grandmother's quilt and carried to his final resting place in a horse-drawn

Hondo Crouch of Luckenbach was a popular figure at the festival. He used to dance with the belly dancers. "One of the racing crawfish died and Hondo got a funeral together. They had this huge funeral procession complete with a couple of nuns and laid the little crawfish in a burial plot on one of our berms."

The festival takes place the first weekend in June. None of the original characters are around anymore but there are new ones to take their places. JoAnn says it was just the best time when all the extraordinary characters were there. "They were just wonderful people who had an unusual hobby or talent or love of something. We truly miss them. The festival is preserving the history of these people. I'm very proud of what this event has done. I know people who met at the Folklife Festival and have been married for 40 years. I know friendships made here that have lasted. It's a very unique event." JoAnn's office is full of festival memorabilia and photographs.

Need a unique business card?

A rubber stamp, business or personal checks, special event programs, posters, brochures, invitations?

Call Joy or Pat **903-885-3633**



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42 TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH 10:00 AM

SULPHUR SPRINGS SENIOR CENTER
150 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD

EARLY REGISTRATION - \$ 10.00

AFTER JANUARY 17TH - \$ 25.00 PER TEAM

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SS SENIOR CENTER

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CASH PRIZES

TACO SOUP WILL BE OFFERED
AT \$ 5.00 PER PERSON

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'Sentimental Journey' with the

Saturday, January 18, 2020 At The ROC - 6 PM Sulphur Springs, Texas



Dewayne Farrow

The Reilly Springs Jamboree will be held January 18, 2020 at The ROC, 199 Putman Street in Sulphur Springs, Texas at 6 pm. The monthly show will return to it's home stage at the Reilly Springs Community Center on February 15, with a lineup of great local talent. Attend the Jamboree on the third Saturday of each month at 6 pm, and bring a friend! Since 1956, offering traditional country, gospel and patriotic music and a heaping helping of country values and fun in a family friendly atmosphere! Visit reillyspringsjamboree.com, phone Enola Gay Mathews 903-438-3568 or enolagay.mathews@gmail.com and Facebook The Reilly Springs Jamboree.