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VOL. 21 ISSUE 1060, August 12, 2020

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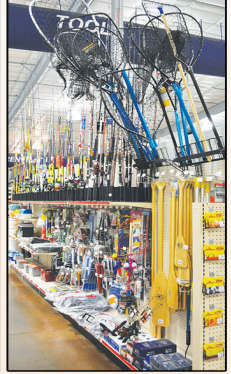
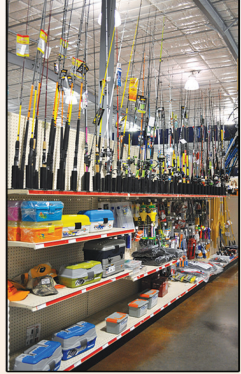
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THE IDLE AMERICAN Laundromat Short-Cuts...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Until mid-twentieth century, most American women had every right to sing "washday blues," because one day of the week--for most, the longest day--was committed to washing, hanging out, ironing and folding the family duds.

The day started with a trip to the laundromat, since most homes at the time were lucky to have indoor plumbing, much less washing machine and dryers.

I recall my mother telling my brother and I to bring books along while she "put out a washing" on an old wringer-type washer. Mostly, we were to stay out of the way, facilitating early arrival before all the machines were taken....

Duds were tub-carried back home, where mom would hang them on the clothesline, remove them a few hours later and then take on the dreaded chore of ironing.

One day, a crow with muddy feet pulled a divebombing routine, soiling sheets. Mom would have none of it, attacking the bird with her broom.

Maybe it was a sickly bird, but she learned soon after its demise that it belonged to a neighbor down the street. But that's another story....

In the early 50s, a

smattering of homes had washing machines, but dryers were still on drawing boards.

Introduced, however, was a new synthetic fabric, called "wash and wear." Ironing was no longer required. Used ironing boards could be bought for a song, and starch sales went limp.

Thanks to this modern fabric, songs of "washday blues" changed virtually overnight to "Happy Days Are Here Again."...

Advertising campaigns for clothing were restructured.

The words "wash and wear" simply had to be included when applicable.

We soon tired of hearing the words, comforting ourselves with the thought that in future decades, the "drumbeating" for wash and wear never again would dominate....

It is yet another reason to "never say never."

In recent months, there have been requests, suggestions, urgings, pleas, mandates and threats--not necessarily in that order--to "wash and wear."

This time, though, the term has nothing to do with washday. Now--and for the foreseeable future--we must remember to wash our hands and wear our masks....

With hands washed and face covered, I'm trying to "blaze new trails," albeit with limited opportunities while sheltered in place.

Here lately, I've tried to read newspaper articles heretofore pretty much skipped over.

My intention is to study other writers' skills, their points of view and their "takes" on humor. Two specific writers are Ed Wallace and Ray Magliozzi, whose columns appear each Friday in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram....

Since I don't know a carburetor from a croquet mallet, their professional expertise in the world of automobiles ignites not even a spark of interest.

Their most recent pieces particularly amused.

Ed told about designer Bill Mitchell's clash with the paint people on the 1968 Chevrolet Corvette. Mitchell managed to catch a Mako shark off the Azores, and proudly had it painted and hung on his wall....

Finally, the designers sneaked into his office one night, removed the mounted shark and painted it to match the Corvette. Then they returned the shark to his wall mount.

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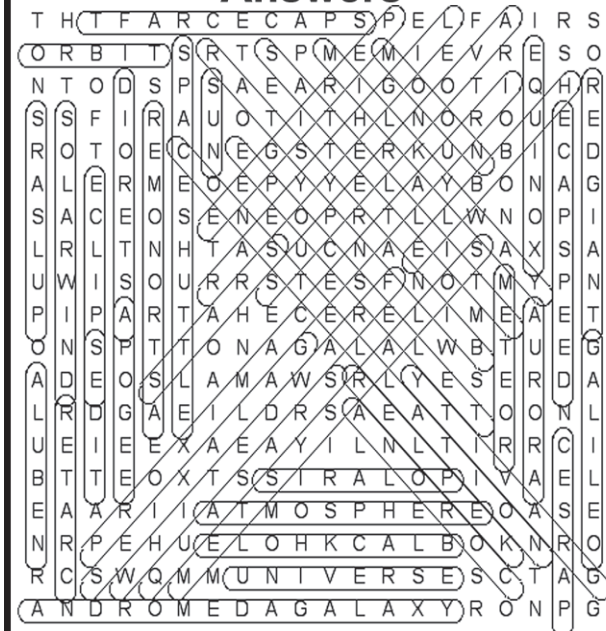
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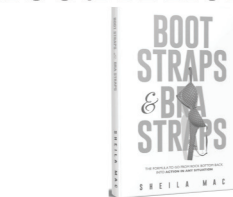
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Linda Johnson

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Enola Gay enjoys helping out at the Market each Saturday and asks you to Vote!

Shoppers at the Winnsboro Farmer's Market already know it's the best natural/fresh market in NE Texas, but we want the entire nation to know it! Please take the time to VOTE at farmland.org for this market and help them win a \$1,000 cash prize and the title of Best Market during the 2020 National Farmers Market Celebration. Already, Winnsboro's market holds 12th place nationally, so your vote can really help push them toward their goal! Voting goes on through September 20, 2020.

Stacy Finley attends every Farmer's Market and there's two good reasons why: she and her husband Jacob have a family farm, and she organizes the market as Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Winnsboro, Texas. One of the items she and her daughter

produce are flowers. Stacy raises and sells beautiful exotic flowers and frequently offers floral arrangements on market Saturdays. It was Stacy who discovered the contest online, sponsored by American Farmland Trust. What is AFT? It's the only national organization that takes a holistic approach to agriculture, focusing on the land itself, the agricultural practices used on that land and the farmers and ranchers who do the work. AFT's movement called "No Farms, No Food" was created to raise public awareness. This year during COVID-19, small local markets have at last become recognized as 'essential businesses' and that helps ensure that families have a place to access fresh,



Stacy Finley and her husband are farmers; her personal specialty is flower growing

healthy food, and farmers have a venue to sell their goods. To find out more or to vote, go to farmland.org, select your state and locate the Winnsboro market on the map.

According to Stacy, one thing that never changes for the Winnsboro Farmers' Market is that everything we offer is home grown & hand made by local folks. Most every melon, tomato, and everything in between that is offered on a Saturday morning was picked early that same morning! Customers can trust that they will find the best of the best at our market, because the produce is picked at its peak ripeness, when it is the tastiest & most full of nutrients. Plus, we have value added products like farm fresh yogurt & cheese from our community dairy, goats milk fudge and soap, gourmet bakery items, grass fed and natural beef, organic pork, pastured chickens, farm fresh eggs, raw honey, jams/jellies, pickles, relish, breads, seedlings, herbs, and more. In times of economic hardship or di-

saster, the community has access to food without relying on it to come from many miles away. You can ask questions about your food and get answers directly from its source.

WFM is alive because of small farms, and many small farms are alive because of WFM. Sustainability is the key word in our type of agriculture, large corporate farms aren't made for it. Remember, 'If you eat, you are involved in

agriculture'. Big Ag is stripping the land in such a way that we are literally killing it/ making it sterile. It's in ALL of our best interest to bring back farming...the RIGHT way. 'The care of the earth is our most ancient & most worthy, & after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it & to foster its renewal is our



Free Rooster

only hope'. At the Market, we are believers in putting the 'culture back into agriculture'... something Winnsboro does beautifully!

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Dennis Michael Cox

July 21, 1947 ~ August 1, 2020 (age 73)

Dennis Michael Cox, born July 21, 1947, in Vernal, Utah passed away August 1, 2020, at the age of 73. Dennis courageously endured frontotemporal dementia, and passed away due to complications of the disease. Dennis is the son of Nola Shannon Ellis (Mother), and Olan Lafayette Cox (Father), and spent his early years growing up in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Dennis was a proud member of the Military Corps, and a graduate of Texas A & M. After graduating from Texas A & M in 1969, he was commissioned to the US Air Force. He fulfilled his dream of being a pilot, flying the C141 Starlifter in the skies worldwide. After serving in the Air Force, Dennis became a commercial airline pilot flying for Metro Airlines (Clear Lake, Texas), the original Frontier Airlines (Denver), and US Air Ways (Philadelphia). After retiring from commercial piloting, he

flew with Net Jets until 2010. In his passing, rest assured, Dennis is still flying and loving every moment of his freedom.

Dennis married Cindy Elledge on October 25, 1982 in Denver Colorado. Cindy and Dennis resided in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, West of Denver for their 38 years of marriage and dedication to each other. Dennis leaves behind nieces and nephews in Texas, and in Colorado, a daughter, and two grandsons. In his passing we also honor his aviation family, that graced his life with so many colorful memories of a life well lived, both on land and in the skies.

Dennis' joy was going on long hikes with his yellow labs, Chipper and Buttercup. His most enduring and last memory, was of Buttercup his yellow lab.

To donate in his memory please consider the following charities: Human Society of Boulder Valley, 2323 55th Street, Boulder, CO 80301.

Safe Harbor Labs, 601 16th Street - Suite C 332, Golden, Colorado 80401. A favorite animal charity of your choosing.



Robert Mitchell Alsobrook

January 9, 1949 ~ August 3, 2020 (age 71)

Robert Mitchell Alsobrook passed away in the comfort of his own home in Como, TX surrounded by his family and friends on August 3, 2020 at 6:23 p.m. He was a beloved Father, Papa, Brother, Cousin, Uncle, and Friend. His friends would say "when this guy is your friend you can bet you truly have the best friend a person could ask for and that alone is the biggest blessing." Robert and his wife "Dyann" raised many children throughout their life. He was always proud to say he raised many children. Any child that came across his threshold whether he/she was blood or not they were his. Each and every one held a special place in his heart and has always been a part of his family. He was born on January 9, 1949 to Robert

Lee and Gladys Alsobrook. He graduated Como High School in 1968. He served 3 years in the United States Army from 1968 to 1971.

He was a proud Vietnam Veteran who loved his country. He married Mildred Dyann Smith on September 25, 1971. The two of them were married for 37 years until her death in 2008. He worked proudly as a longtime employee of Pilgrims Pride for 44 years (1971-2015) until his accident. He has always been a hardworking man who loved to stay busy on a farm. He loved animals and wherever he lived you always knew it was somewhere on a farm surrounded by animals and kids. Robert and Dyann Alsobrook had 6 children on their own. Not including the many others, they helped raise. He had 29 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Dyann

Alsobrook; mother, Gladys; father, Robert Lee Alsobrook; mother in law, Beryl; father in law, David Smith; and two nephews, Dennis and Tim Cole. In his final hours he said "he would do it all over again. He was blessed to know each and everyone of you. He thanks each of you for being a part of his life". A graveside services was held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2020 at North Hopkins Cemetery with Bro. Mike Coker officiating. Pallbearers were Joshua Alexander Sr., Justin Dixon, Randell Alsobrook, David Delgado, Andy Cockrum, and "JD"

James Dale Collins. There was a come and go visitation from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, August 5th and 6th at West Oaks Funeral Home. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Robert "Bobby" Butcher

May 11, 1929 ~ August 6, 2020 (age 91)

A funeral service for Robert "Bobby" Butcher, age 91, of Sulphur Springs, was held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, August 9, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Danny Ballard, and CJ Duffey officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 8, 2020, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Butcher passed away on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at his residence in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Robert "Bobby" was born on May 11, 1929 to Robert Butcher and Ruth Butcher-Self. Bobby married Roena Edwards Butcher on May 15th, 1980; she preceded him in death in 2019. He retired from Rockwell International and was a member of the Full Gospel House of Prayer in Sulphur Springs.

Bobby is survived by his children; Maxine Patton, James Robert Butcher, and Curtis Wayne Butcher, Shirley Titsworth and husband, Tony, Eugene Edwards and wife, Rita, and Jerry Edwards and wife, Georgia; numerous grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren; and numerous great great grandchildren.

Bobby was preceded in death by his, wife; parents; sister, Dorothy Bain; and great granddaughter, Michelle Scott.

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THE SHOW MUST GO ON. ON RADIO.**Tumbleweed Smith****Tumbleweed Smith**

Since the theater department at Sul Ross State University can't do plays on stage right now it is doing plays on radio. Listeners seem to like them.

"We've been doing Theater of the Big Bend for 54 years here in Alpine," says Bret Scott, who teaches theater at Sul Ross. "This year because of the Corona Virus we couldn't do outdoor theater the way we usually do. We needed another way to provide the degree requirements for our students. Radio drama became the solution to keep our actors acting and still keep them safe from Covid 19."

The experience was new to Bret and his wife Marjie who also teaches drama. "Radio is a fantastic outlet for creativity. It's theater of the mind. When I listen to a radio show it doesn't matter where I am or where the people creating the show are we can be anywhere together. It is so free. Students were emailed scripts and auditioned by ZOOM and used their iPhones as recording devices and emailed their parts in so we could edit the whole show together. It was easy for the students to use their iPhones because talking on an iPhone is the most natural thing in the world for them."

Marjie says as far as acting goes, it was a challenge for some students.

"They couldn't use their bodies and facial expressions to show the necessary emotions. They could only use their voices. Also, on stage in front of an audience they feel the adrenaline that gives them extra energy. On radio they were kind of in a vacuum. But they were great and we all enjoyed doing this. They didn't have to worry about costumes or makeup. It was a case of something old becoming new again."

They have done 2 radio shows, both just under an hour long. The first was ATTACK OF THE SUPER KILLER BUGS FROM OUTER SPACE, a sci-fi comedy that Bret wrote. It was aired on the Alpine radio station KVLV AM (bigbendradio.com). Marjie wrote an adaptation of ALICE IN WONDERLAND that will air August 7 and 8 at 8 PM, then August 9th at 2 PM (that's a Sunday). It also has some of the elements of THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS.

The students are creating sound effects for use in the productions.

"We handed out digital recorders to the students," says Bret. "They took them out into the world and tried to record the sounds the script called for. In some cases it was difficult, as you can imagine trying to create the sound of killer bugs from outer space. We wanted to create every sound listeners heard. We weren't entirely successful at that and there some sounds we had to pull from a sound effects library. But many of the sound effects used in both productions were recorded by students. We wanted to keep it as original as possible."

Bret and Marjie are working on another play for the fall semester concerning the effects of the virus on working people.

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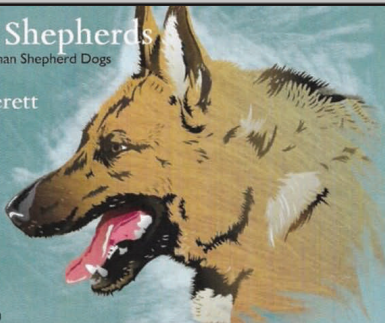
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