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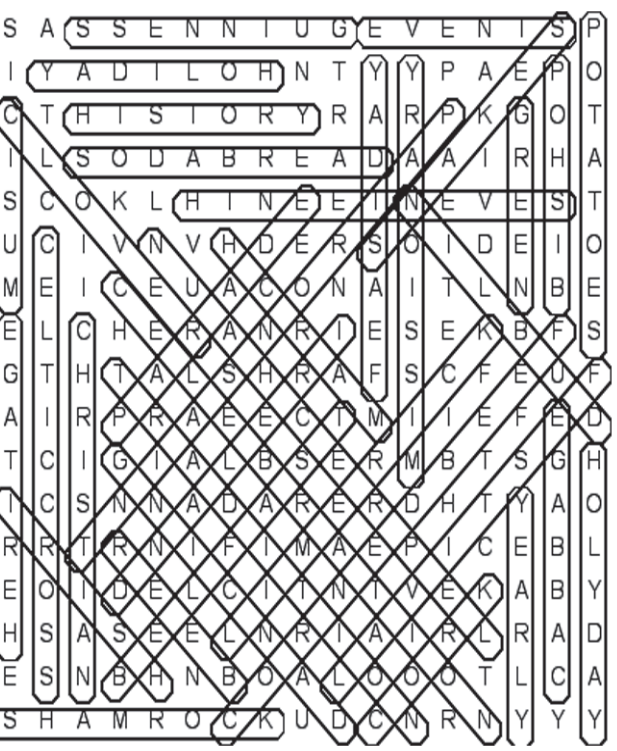


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HARRY POTTER IS ALIVE AND WELL IN LONDON

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

I almost hate to admit this, but I've never read a Harry Potter book and I've seen only one Harry Potter movie. I recently learned that I have really missed something. While we were visiting Scotland and England over the Christmas and New Year's holidays we toured the Warner Brothers Studio where the movies were made.

The large studio complex is about an hour away from London. Visitors pass a lot of countryside to get there. When the bus delivered us to the entrance around ten o'clock in the morning, the parking lot was filled and thousands of people were already there.

I thought Harry Potter was for kids. But there were many more adults, even though it was a holiday and schools were closed. Some hardcore fans wore costumes from the Harry Potter movies. In the gift shop, we saw one man with a shopping basket. He filled it with several items of Harry Potter merchandise. His total bill came to more than \$500. He and the woman with him were both dressed as wizards.

The tour took us through a series of rooms, each one big enough to hold a blimp. We saw the great hall, patterned after the great hall at the Edinburgh castle in Scotland, which we had visited before going to England. While in Scotland, by the way, we took pictures of the Elephant House Cafe, where JK Rowling supposedly wrote some of the Harry Potter books. In the hall, the actual long dinner table used in the movie was set with silverware, food, plates and serving dishes.

Perhaps the main reason we were there was so our twelve year-old grandson Caleb could see it. He is a big Harry Potter fan and has read all the books and seen all the movies. He came home with some great memories and a wand purchased at the gift shop.

There are so many things to see in every nook and corner of each gigantic room. Everything is authentic including manikins dressed and made up to look like real characters from the movie. In one area there was a new coat. Next to it was another identical coat that had been made to show wear. The latter had rips and dirt spots. Racks held hundreds of costumes. There were cauldrons of all sizes, a goblet of fire that rose out of a golden cabinet, stairways to nowhere, flying brooms, silver knives that had hand worked filigree, and an apothecary laboratory.

One room had the Hogwarts Express locomotive. At the end of the tour was a room full of snow-covered buildings used in the filming. Just spectacular. Dozens of portraits hung on the walls. Crewmembers donned costumes and posed for many of these. The place is a tribute to creativity and ingenuity.

The entire visit was a tour of fantasyland. The care that went into every phase of the productions was evident in every prop and set piece. The visit showed how the people who worked on the movies became like a family. They were together ten years.

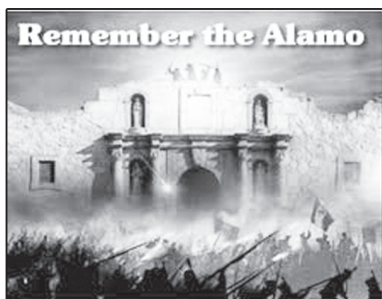
Tumbleweed Smith is never desperate for an interview, but he's always looking for a good story. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com.

At The Corral Gate



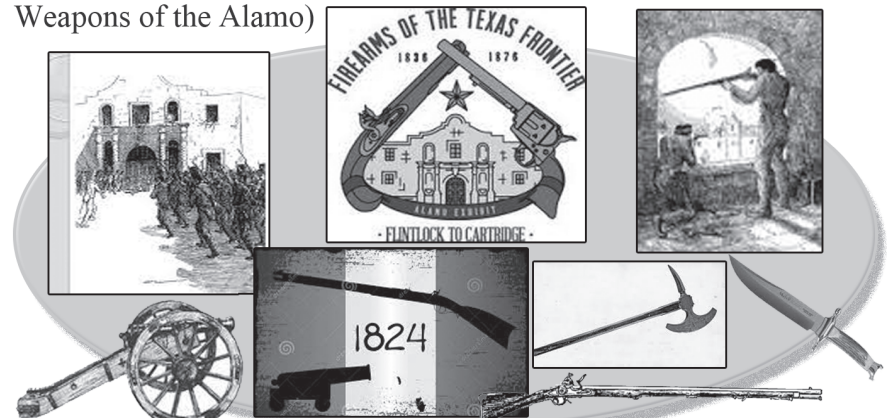
March and Spring have arrived! In Texas, that means breezes ruffling the colors of the Lone Star State and sunshine enhancing the red and brilliant blue of our flag. Let us never take our freedoms for granted, and let us never forget the bravery and determination that is our Texas heritage.

By February 1836, Jim Bowie had arrived in Texas and written to Governor Henry Smith relating his belief that the Alamo location could serve as a stronghold from which to repel Mexican forces marching toward the Sabine. In the letter, Bowie reinforced the idea of 'victory or death' at the



Alamo saying "we would rather die in these ditches than give it up to the enemy". He asked for men, money, rifles and cannon powder. His original orders were to remove the artillery (or cannon) from the fort to keep it out of the hands of the advancing Mexican army. However, the heavy guns could not be moved without draft animals, and so the Texans had no choice but to dig in and defend where they were. According to historians, here's a list of the artillery the Texans had at their disposal. (classified by the size of the projectile each could fire) One large cannon (the famous 18-pounder brought by schooner to Velasco), one iron 16-pound, one iron 12-pound, one 9-pound "pedero" which fired stone balls, two iron 8-pound, six 6-pound, three iron 4-pound, a brass or bronze 4-pound, two 3-pound, plus two small brass guns and one small iron gun, making a total of 21 cannons inside the Alamo. The Mexican army also owned cannon, and during the first week of the siege, up to 200 cannonballs per day fell into the Alamo plaza. The Texans put these to good use and later, they would use whatever they could as ammunition, including door hinges, nails and chopped-up horseshoes and chain.

During 12 previous days of siege, the Mexicans had kept up such a din of bombardment at all hours that sleep for the small army of Texans had been scarce. When the firing ceased at 10pm on the night of March 5, the exhausted men inside the walls fell into their first uninterrupted rest despite the fact that the night was bitterly cold and firewood had run out. The silent approach of four columns of Mexican forces went undetected. At 5:30am on the morning of March 6. Santa Ann's forces were at the walls when their bugles sounded, awakening the Texans. Cannonfire and gunfire gradually gave way to the sounds of hand-to-hand combat with sword, knife and rifle butt and in less than an hour, all the Texans were dead. The Thirteen Days of Glory ended in brave defeat. (from archives of Texas A and M University; Weapons of the Alamo)



If you have not visited the Alamo and re-traced the steps of Texas' fight for freedom, do so one day, hopefully in the Springtime. It is a journey you will never forget! In the next few issues, we will share more fascinating facts about Texas history.

Until then, I will watch for you at the corral gate!

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Sat, March 5, 8am - 9am - Paint the Town 5k & 10k. Buford Circle, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Paint the Town 5k & 10k is a run benefiting Sulphur Springs Work Camp. Packet pick up begins at 7:00 am with an 8:00 am race start time. Early Registration: \$30/5k, \$35/10k After February 28: \$35/5k, \$40/10k
Sat, March 12, 8am - 10am - Spring Fever Bike Rally. Celebration Plaza, Sulphur Springs, Tx. Hopkins County Chamber Bike Rally. For more information call Meredith or Kathie at 903.885.6515!
Sat., March 19, 2016 - HCSO Easter Egg Hunt. Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs, TX.
Sat, March 26, 9am - 6pm - Home & Outdoor Expo. Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. The Way Radio Group presents the 1st Annual Home & Outdoor Expo. For more information call Pip, Promotions Director - The Way Radio Group, at 903.885.7639.
Sat, April 2, 9am - 10pm - Barrels for Bryson. Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Call Dawn Elmore at 903.450.3139 or visit their Facebook page.

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CRAWFORD SMITH HOSTS NATIONWIDE TOUR STOP AS PART OF CUB CADET WELCOME TO STRONGVILLE TEST DRIVE EXPERIENCE

(Greenville, TX) A nationwide tour showcasing the strength of Cub Cadet products and technology is making a stop in Greenville. Crawford Smith, local dealer of Cub Cadet outdoor power equipment, is hosting the **FREE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE** on **Thurs., March 10th; 10am-4pm** at **2210 Lee St.; Greenville, Tx.**

Customers will be able to test the strength of Cub Cadet products by test driving them at the **EXCLUSIVE 1-DAY EVENT**, which will feature give-a-ways and special offers. Attendees can check out the latest products and technology in lawn care, including the first lawn tractor manufactured with an electronic fuel-injected (EFI) engine.



Starting this year, the new Cub Cadet 547cc EFI engine will be available on XT2 LX42 EFI Cub Cadet lawn tractors, part of the latest line of XT Enduro Series that sets new standards in strength and comfort.

Cub Cadet's new EFI engine reduces emissions and delivers excellent fuel consumption – using up to 25 percent less fuel than carbureted engines.

There's also a new line of handheld power equipment that uses sophisticated CORE™ motor technology to deliver more torque with longer runtimes – and no gasoline.

It offers zero emissions, little noise and high torque levels equal to two-cycle engines. The Cub Cadet Powered by CORE™ brings a new level of power to outdoor power equipment with a string trimmer, hedger and blower.

And now your smartphone can interact with your lawn mower. With Cub Connect™, you can connect your phone to your lawn mower via Bluetooth. It takes the guesswork out of maintenance by allowing the lawn tractor to alert its owners about needed oil changes, blade maintenance, air filter replacements and other routine maintenance.

The app's automated maintenance dashboard helps owners keep their Cub Cadet running at peak performance while also tracking total running hours over the lifetime of the tractor. The app also keeps a record of all tasks performed in the maintenance log, which can be printed or e-mailed to the dealer.

"This free event is a great way for members of the community to experience the latest equipment, learn more about how to better take care of their lawn and have a little fun, too," said Craig Pope of Crawford Smith.

Crawford Smith offers a complete line of Cub Cadet high-performance outdoor power equipment, genuine parts and accessories, and expert service and advice. Customers can stop in **Thurs., March 10th; 10am-4pm** to test drive and of the 2016 lineup of Cub Cadet products, or call 903-455-1220 to arrange for service of their current outdoor power equipment.

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William "Buck" Travis

Lt. Colonel in the Texas Army - fought and died at the Alamo



William Barret "Buck" Travis (August 1, 1809 – March 6, 1836) was a 19th-century American lawyer and soldier. At the age of 26, he was a lieutenant colonel in the Texas Army. He died at the Battle of the Alamo during the Texas Revolution.

Travis's grandfather, Berwick Travis, came to the British Colonies of North America at the age of 12, where he was placed in indentured servitude for more than a decade. A descendant of the Travers of Tulketh Castle in Preston, England, Berwick had a life that hardly resembled his ancestor's glory and wealth. After working his period of servitude, he traveled south to the colony of South Carolina, where he received a grant of over 100 acres of land in what is now present day Saluda County, South Carolina. A year later he married Anne Smallwood, and they lived out their lives there. They had seven children (four daughters and three sons), including Mark Travis and the Baptist missionary Alexander Travis.

Mark Travis married Jemima Stallworth on June 1, 1808, and she gave birth to William Barret Travis on August 1, 1809. Records differ as to whether his date of birth was the first or ninth of August, but his youngest brother James C. Travis, who was in possession of the Travis family Bible at the time of his statement, indicated that William was born on the first. Mark and Jemima had nine other children over the next twenty years.

Travis was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel of the Legion of Cavalry and became the chief recruiting officer for a new regular Texan army. Governor Henry Smith ordered Travis to raise a company of professional soldiers to reinforce the Texans who were then under the command of James C. Neill at the Alamo Mission in San Antonio. Travis considered disobeying his orders, writing to Smith: "I am willing, nay anxious, to go to the defense of Bexar, but sir, I am unwilling to risk my reputation ... by going off into the enemy's country with such little means, so few men, and with them so badly equipped." James Bowie arrived at the Alamo with 30 men on January 19, 1836. On February 3, Travis arrived in San Antonio with eighteen regulars as reinforcements. A compromise was reached between Bowie and Travis for command of the Alamo, with Bowie in command of the volunteers and Travis in command of the regulars. When Bowie's health began to fail the compromise became irrelevant, and Travis became the official commander of the Alamo garrison. On March 6, 1836, following a thirteen-day siege, Santa Anna ordered the assault on the Alamo during the predawn hours. Travis died fighting to the end, and his remains were burned along with all the other Alamo defenders.

On February 24, 1836, during Santa Anna's siege of the Alamo, Travis wrote a letter addressed "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World":

Fellow citizens and compatriots;

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual Bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country. VICTORY or DEATH.

William Barret Travis

Lt. Col. Comdt.

P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

Travis

He gave this letter to courier Albert Martin to deliver. The envelope that contained the letter was labeled "VICTORY or DEATH". The letter, while unable to bring aid to the garrison at the Alamo, did much to motivate the Texian army and helped to rally support in America for the cause of Texan independence. It also cemented Travis's status as a hero of the Texas Revolution.

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Obits



Trina Lee Hill

Born: November 25, 1969; Died: February 24, 2016

Graveside funeral services for Trina Lee Hill was held at 2:00 PM Sunday, February 28, 2016, at the Rockdale Cemetery, Debord St, Sulphur Springs with Bobby Keller officiating.

Visitation was held two hours prior to service time at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home, 1209 Live Oak St. Commerce, Texas, 75428.

Trina died Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at Baylor Medical Center, Dallas; she was 46 years of age. Born in Orange County, California, on November 25, 1969, she was the daughter of William Curtis Howard and Cynthia Howard. She married Larry Wayne Hill; and, he survives.

Trina was employed at Hopkins County Civic Center and was a Christian.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Hill of Sulphur Springs; her sons: Zack Hill, J.W. Hill, Brandon Teague and Tyler Pierce; her daughter, Lucy Rogers; and, her brother, Shannon Morris. Three grandchildren also survive.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Cynthia Howard, and her father, Ricky Morris.

William Thomas "Tommy" Wade

Funeral service for William Thomas "Tommy" Wade, age 87, of Tyler, are scheduled for 2:00 PM, Saturday, March 5, 2016, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at 1:00 PM. Interment will be in the Dunbar Cemetery. Kent Mereness and George Filpansick will officiate. Tommy passed away Monday, February 29, 2016, at ETMC in Quitman.

He was born at home in the Dunbar community, near Emory, on November 28, 1928, to Jesse James and Gussie Pauline Jones. He graduated from Emory High School. He married Edith Virginia Gammons in Edgewood on June 11, 1949. He worked for over 40 years as a salesman for meat packing companies Neuhoff and Armour. Armour being the company from which he retired. He was a charter member of the Omen Road Church of Christ in Tyler, where he served as a deacon and he was a current member of University Church of Christ in Tyler. He enjoyed raising cattle and fishing. He loved and was very proud of his grandchildren and enjoyed spending every moment possible with them. He raised his sons to be responsible men, show character and have good work ethics. He was also a very generous man to those in need.

Survivors include: Wife: Edith Wade of Tyler; 4 Sons: Tommy Michael Wade, (Angie), of Whitehouse; Robert Earl Wade, (Sheryl), of Alba; David Timothy Wade of Chapel Hill; James Stephen Wade, (Dana), of Mineola; 14 Grandchildren: Lauree, Matt, Chris, Brynn, Saralyn, Callie, Katelyn, Kerri, Amanda, David Zachary, Powell, Audra, Byron Thomas and Olivia Rose; 9 Great-grandchildren; 3 Great-great-grandchildren Numerous other loving family and friends

Preceded by: Parents, Brother: James Howard Wade

Joyce "Mack" Gilbert

Mr. Joyce "Mack" Gilbert, age 87 of Winnsboro, passed away on Saturday, February 27th, 2016 in Winnsboro. He was born on March 16th, 1928 in Franklin County to the late Lonnie Gilbert and Gladys Anderson Gilbert. Mack grew up in the New Hope area of Franklin County and graduated from Mt. Vernon High School. He was an outstanding athlete and enjoyed telling stories about his days playing football for Coach Catfish Smith. He then played football for Tyler Junior College and became a professional player in the early days of professional basketball before the NBA. He lived for over 50 years in the Houston and Pearland area as an entrepreneur in the field of oil and gas for which he owned several successful businesses. During those years he coached youth baseball and sponsored many activities for the community where he lived. In 2005 he returned to East Texas and relaxed while playing golf and telling stories with old and new friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Sybel Akin Gilbert, and sister, Doris Lynn Carter.

He is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Betty Gilbert of Winnsboro; sons, Mark Gilbert and wife Gay of Longview, Gary Gilbert of Houston and Shane Gilbert of California; two grandchildren, Officer of the U.S. Navy, Derek Chantry Gilbert and Emily Loftus; two great grandchildren, Jacob Gilbert and Arilynn Gilbert.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at First United Methodist Church of Winnsboro. Funeral Services were held immediately following at 11:00 am, Rev. Henry Suche and Pastor Mike Langdon officiating, interment will follow at Sand Hill Cemetery in Mt. Enterprize, with Bud Campbell, Joe St.Miklossy, Erice Brown, Nevin St.Romain, Joe Adams, Tim McMakin serving as pallbearers.

Bobby J. Tidwell

A funeral service for Bobby J. Tidwell, age 81, of Point, was held Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in Lone Star Cemetery. Richard Kellam officiated. Mr. Tidwell died at his residence on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016.

He was born in Point, Oct. 7, 1934, to Jesse Powell and O.B. Cason Tidwell. He served his country by serving in the U.S. Army. Bobby married Ida Ruth Horton in Dallas on Jan. 6, 1956.

Survivors include:

Wife: Ida Tidwell of Point; Daughters: Rhonda Tidwell Levinson of Point; Regina Tidwell Hightower of Point; Rheann Tidwell Stone (Gary) of Emory; Son: Randy Tidwell (Dodie) of Point; Grandchildren: (8) Kelley, Craig, Alisha, Melisa, Jerrod, Lacey, Chance, and Cassie; Great-grandchildren: (11) Tre, Ty, Kai, Kyndal, Saydie, Masen, Kade, Canyon, Addison, Madison, and Micah; Best friend: Mike Carter

Preceded in death by: parents, and brother, Jimmie Tidwell



Joe Blanks

Funeral services for Joe Blanks, age 61 of Sulphur Springs, were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Rev. Jon Nesbitt officiating. Interment followed in the Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Charles Marzek, James Doss, Edward Beaver, Harold Follis, Michael Blanks, Braden Blanks and Roger Follis serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Joe passed away on Monday, February 29, 2016 at his residence. He was born on November 5, 1954 in Memphis, TX the son of Charles and Edith (Conner) Blanks. He married Martha Sue Darlin. She survives.

Along with his wife, other survivors are his step-son, Charles Marzek of Greenville; step-daughter, Christie Darlin of Cooper; two step-grandsons, Triston Marzek and Trenton Marzek; step-granddaughter, Harley Marzek; nephews, Michael

Blanks and Chad Wood and niece, Edi Lee Havaner.

He is preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Tommy Blanks and Donnie Wood.

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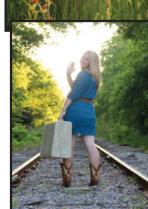
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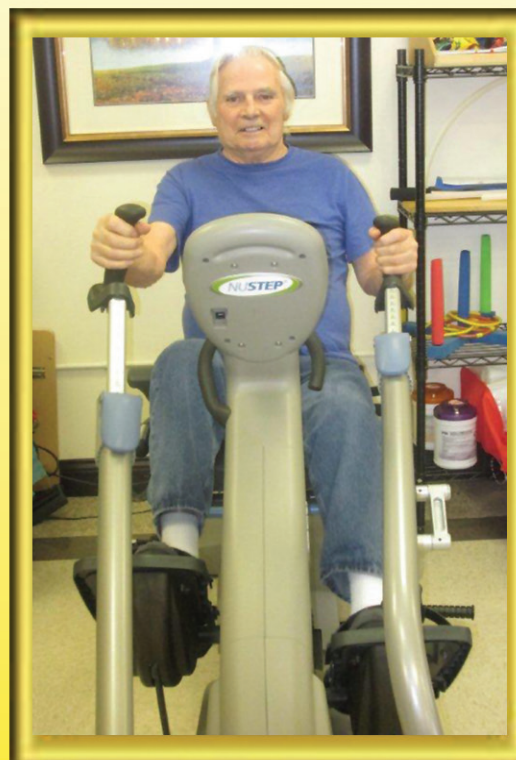
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