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Readers, I hope you noticed the spectacular orange full moon on Sunday night March 28, 2021. It was so bright it cast moonshadow on my porch. It was so large that as it rose, it looked like The Great Pumpkin in the Peanuts comedy. Actually, the moon on the Spring night of Passover marks an annual sacred time for earthlings to behold the wonders visible in the sky. Here is a fascinating explanation of 'the Astronomy of Passover' I found in a 2004 article on crosswalk.com.



Mel Gibson's stunning motion picture, "The Passion of The Christ," opens with a dramatic closeup view of the Full Moon. From there, we see Jesus and His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the subsequentevents from the Gospels are shown set against the pale brightness of the Moon's light. The Moon is shown several times in that opening scene, as if to impress upon the viewer that these events did indeed take place on the night of the Full Moon. In this astronomical way, as in so many other ways, the maker of this remarkable film accurately depicted Biblical truth. After all, Jesus was indeed crucified on the day following the Passover. And we do know from Scripture that the Passover is to be celebrated during the Full Moon of this current season. This particular Full Moon is commonly called "The Easter Moon," or more properly, "The Paschal Moon."

#### \* The Astronomy of Passover \*

The first Passover was celebrated by the Israelites in their last night in Egypt. The Israelites were instructed by the LORD to kill an umblemished lamb, and place its blood on their doorposts, so that the angel of death would "pass over" the house and not kill the firstborn of that family. In this way, the firstborn children of Egypt were killed, after which Moses led the children of Israel from slavery to freedom. The LORD commanded that the feasts of the Passover and unleaved bread be celebrated by Israel forever. And the timing of the Passover celebration is given as follows: "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even, is the LORD's Passover." -- Leviticus 23:5

In our culture, if we hear "the fourteenth day of the first month," we would think this to mean "January 14." Our modern, western culture still uses a variation of the old Roman calendar, originally established by Julius Caesar in around 45 B.C. Our calendar is strictly a solar calendar, timed around the annual cycle of the Sun through the seasons, and oriented so that the solstices and equinoxes fall on the same dates each year. In our calendar, "months" are simply arbitrary units used to divide the solar year. So the dates within our months are just numbers, with no reference to the Moon or its phases. But the Hebrew calendar used by the ancient Israelites and the modern Jews today is a lunar calendar. And in this lunar calendar, the "months" represent complete cycles of the Moon's phases. In this way, each date of the month represents a certain phase of the Moon, so that the same phases will fall on the same date from month to month. So when the LORD commanded Israel to celebrate Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month, it was understood that this day was two weeks after the New Moon, which is to say, the night of the Full Moon of the first month. The Passover is called "pesech" in Hebrew, and in the Greek of the New Testament, this word is rendered as "Pasch." For this reason, the Full Moon of Passover is called "The Paschal Moon.'

#### \* The Full Moon \*

In our generation, very few people bother to notice the phases of the Moon. We might notice the Moon when outside in the evenings. But this usually while we are getting into or out of our cars as we scurry around living our busy little lives. So most of us never bother to observe the progression of the Moon's phases. But even 100 years ago, most people lived close to the earth, and it was natural to follow the Moon's phases over the course of the month, increasing each night to the Full Moon, and decreasing in the weeks after. And this was certainly true in Biblical times. For those of us who still follow the Moon phases, we notice that



the Full Moon rises in the East just as the Sun is setting in the West. The Full Moon crosses the sky all night, and reaches its highest point at Midnight. The Full Moon finally sets in the morning, just as the Sun is coming up. So the Moon truly does "rule the night" as we read in Genesis 1:16. Here's an excellent classical description of the Full Moon: "Now God commanded the Sun to measure the day, and the Moon, whenever she rounds her disc, to rule the night. For then these two luminaries are almost diametrically opposed; when the Sun rises, the Full Moon disappears from the horizon, to reappear in the East at the moment the Sun sets." -- from the "Hexaemeron" of Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea, circa 350 A.D.

On the night of the Full Moon, after it has risen high into the sky, it casts plenty of light! You can see very strong shadows under the Full Moon. Actually, the Full Moon is only one-millionth as bright as the Sun. But our eyes have been designed by the LORD to record a light level difference of one billion! So moonlight actually appears quite bright, since we can still see in light only 1/1000 of that level! This is still another manner in which our bodies are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

As April arrives, let us remember the season we are in, of Christ's death and resurrection, and the blessed state mankind can now enjoy through faith. Til next week, I will be watching for you at the Corral Gate!

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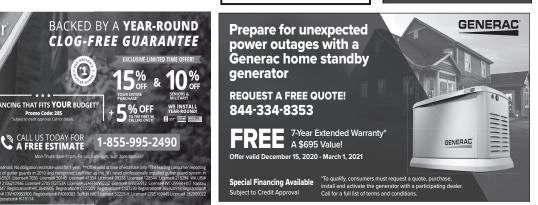
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#### Rochelle Frances Walker

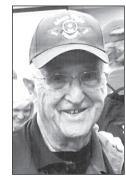
A graveside service for Rochelle Frances Walker, age 79, of McKinney, TX was held at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at Restlawn Memorial Park in Sulphur Springs, TX. Mrs. Walker passed away on March 25, 2021 at Medical City Plano.

Rochelle was born on December 14,1941 in Amarillo, TX to Bobby Price and Martha Frances Doud Russell. She married her husband Jerry Max Walker, of Sulphur Springs, on May 8, 1970 in Dallas TX. They met at the Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, TX. Rochelle studied at Texas Tech University.

She was a homemaker and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is survived by her children, Jeffrey Walker, Todd Walker and Stephanie Eades; grandchildren, Jessica Eades, Tatom Eades, Grayson Walker, Drew Walker, and Adelaide Walker; great-grandchild, Carter Eades; brother, Stephen Russell. Rochelle was preceded in death by her husband.

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



#### **Harold "Spoof" Cheatham** August 9, 1930 ~ March 23, 2021 (age 90)

Graveside for Harold "Spoof" Cheatham, age 90, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 11A.M. on Saturday April 24,2021 at Restlawn Memorial Park with Rev. Fred Lewis officiating and Rev. Tommy Johnson assisting. Serving as pallbearers will be Jones Roberts, Dan Humphreys, Johnny Motes, Larry Upchurch and Donnie Harris with William Sapaugh, Bill Hendrix, Chuck Sewell, Jimmy Dobson and Lowell Cable serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation will be held on Friday April 23, 2021 from 5:00 to 7:00P.M. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Mr. Cheatham passed away on March 23, 2021 at Memory Oaks in Sulphur Springs.

Harold "Spoof" Cheatham was born on August 9, 1930 in Ft. Cobb Oklahoma to Bill and Mable (Banks) Cheatham. He was the youngest of 6 children. Spoof married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Alta Fern, in 1952. He subsequently received his Bachelor degree in Agriculture at Oklahoma A&M University, where he was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. The completion of his college degree was delayed until 1955 while he served his country as a corporal in the Army during the US occupation of post-war Germany.

In his early years after college, Spoof pursued his love of working with cattle, and his talents gave he and Alta many opportunities for jobs living and working on ranches across the country, where he dressed and showed Shorthorn and Angus cattle. He loved to be in a show barn and made many close and lasting friendships during these years. Spoof had several national grand champion cattle and was highly regarded by his peers. After many years of moving and living in different areas of the country, Spoof and Alta eventually settled down in Ft. Worth, where he served as the secretary of the Texas Angus Association for many years and continued to travel across Texas working Angus cattle sales. Spoof was a devoted husband and father, and in 1967, he purchased the Arlington Meat and Locker Plant, in order to stop his traveling and be home with his family. In 1980, they moved on to Sulphur Springs where they bought the Hopkins County Food Locker. He loved Sulphur Springs, and he loved the locker plant and the people who worked for him. He continued to work there alongside his son Kurt well into his 80's,

laundromat. He could, on occasion, be found there calculating how many quarters it would take to pay for a child's college education. Spoof loved and took care of his family without fail. He coached many of his children's sports teams during their younger years, and never missed an opportunity to be on the sideline or in the stands for them or his grandchildren. Even into his 80's, he was still driving to Illinois multiple times throughout the year in order to watch his grandchildren compete or perform.

until his Alzheimer's disease ultimately made this too difficult. Spoof was a man with a work ethic that just wouldn't quit. He enjoyed a hard day of work, and he would often "relax" by working even more. He later coupled this work ethic with his entrepreneurial spirit and opened a carwash and

But his love wasn't reserved just for family and friends. He truly was a lover of all people, and if you have never met him, it is likely because you never came within 10 feet of him. He was always quick to offer a handshake and an introduction, "Spoof Cheatham, if you can't beat'em, cheat'em." Never too busy to help friends and family. It was his greatest joy in helping those around him.

Spoof's other passions included cheering on the Cowboys, Mavericks and Rangers and playing golf. He loved his early mornings playing golf with his buddies, and made many wonderful memories over the years at the Sulphur Springs Country Club. Despite his 'bogey' golf, he managed to make 3 'hole-in-ones', and he always loved just being there, making new friends, laughing and sharing stories. During the 'lean' years at the country club, you would often find him there after work, helping to mow the greens or feeding and caring for the stray cats.

His devotion to his wife Alta was very special. They were rarely apart, and were married for 69 years at the time of his passing. Despite his struggle with Alzheimer's in his late years, he was able to remain at home with her until the COVID pandemic struck. He spent his last months in the memory care unit at Wesley House, where he was very well loved by a wonderful staff. The whole family will be forever grateful for their care He is survived by his wife; son, Kurt Cheatham and wife, Connie; daughter, Dr. Karla Brown and husband, Dr. Treg Brown; grandchildren,

Britney Maxton and husband, Jake, Katie Brown, Jake Brown, Cooper Brown and Mitchell Brown.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Charlie Cheatham, Clyde Cheatham, Jack Cheatham and Bill Cheatham; and sister, Katy Cheatham.

Donations may be made Sulphur Springs senior citizen Center Meal-A-Day program at 150 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Sulphur springs, TX 75482 and the Lake Country CASA- Children's Advocacy at 214 Connally Street, Downtown Sulphur Springs, TX

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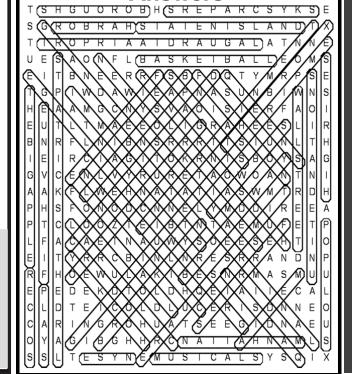
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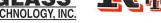
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