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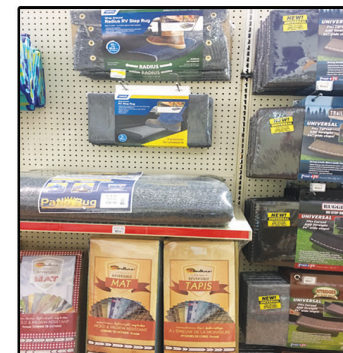
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At The Corral Gate

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"Once Upon A Time" in Sulphur Springs!



I enjoyed attending a historic enactment of a Hopkins County woman, who actually spent most of her married life just down the street from me. The presentation started out this way. "Once upon a time, Sulphur Springs had about three colleges operating, and at least one was a 'normal' college, or a school for teachers. That's how, in 1900 at age 29, Bettie Whitfield came to Hopkins County, took up residence in the Peerless area, attended the normal school and began teaching in Como.

She would later become Mrs. Sam J. King, his second wife, but that's getting ahead of the story!"

In 1903, Bettie married the widowed Sam and he started teaching upstairs in a building in town that would become home to his private school. To help pay off the debt, Bettie boarded at Como and taught in some of the many small school districts scattered throughout the county. King's Collegiate Institute and Sam specialized in young adults needing education. Many would go on to become successful, like the late Judge Grover Sellers, and other students who would become doctors, judges and other influentials after receiving their secondary education at Kings Collegiate Institute, or KCI, which alumnus lovingly referred to as Kings Collection of Idiots. After more than 20 years, at the end of 1926, Sam retired from teaching and took up lay preaching, serving anywhere he was asked. He also served in the Texas State Legislature during the 1927 Prohibition movement. A large part of the Hopkins County population was strongly for prohibition, but not everyone!



Paula Altenbaumer portrayed Bettie Whitfield King before an appreciative audience in the Winnifred Building of Heritage Park on August 26. In telling Bettie's interesting life story, she wore period dress and spoke like the people did back then. "We know that Sam King had connections! His mother was Mary Ellen Hopkins and his maternal grandfather was Eldridge Hopkins, the namesake of our county. His paternal grandfather was Civil War Captain L.D. King, who later became a lawyer, as did his dad. Sam instead found his life's work as an educator. In 1880, he married Ava Neely, and they became parents to 7 daughters at their home in the Como area. Sam taught all over Hopkins and surrounding counties, at Sulphur Bluff, Central College, and Kings Collegiate Institute of Tarrant. His wife Ava passed away in 1900".

The Kings lived on Gilmer Street near the railroad track and Sam's Institute faced South Davis Street, directly behind. The original Kings Institute property has become the site of today's Davis Street Baptist Church. Their neighbors, the Deatons, to the south of them had a tragedy in 1932. When the young mother died of tuberculosis, the father was struggling with a child and a baby to raise. Times were hard and he had to work, so he let the child go to relatives, and 'gave' the baby to childless Bettie King. "That's how we got a son. He handed him over the fence to me! We got our 'son' Edmund as a 17-month-old baby. And I was in my 60's!" Sam passed away in 1950 at age 91. Bettie got TB and passed away in 1954, with Edmond caring for her til her death.

Edmond Deaton now lives in California and is 92 years old. He was pleased about the enactment of Bettie Whitfield King, his 'mom'. A graduate of UT, his career was as a professor of Mathematics in San Diego. He made a handsome donation to the HC Genealogical Library for further research on his family, which has been conducted by library staffers. He was also sent a video of the presentation, so he could view Paula's enactment of his mom. To the community of Hopkins County, Edmund left this word, "if you have older relatives, please ask them questions about their life and family now, while you can! That knowledge can become a treasure to you!"

We have a brand new season ahead of us, one that will require us to be persistent in our personal hygiene and safety. Let's wear masks and wash our hands, treat our neighbors as ourselves, and lessen the effect of this round of Covid woes! Til next time, I will watch for you at the Corral Gate!

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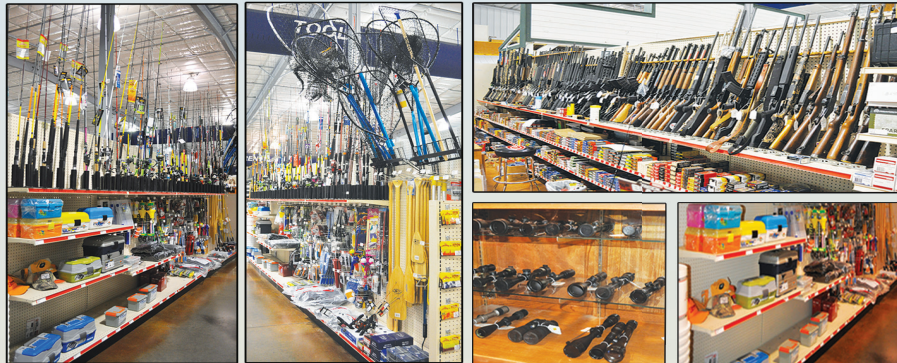


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TEXANS

Texas History

THE BEGINNING

Following the defeat of the Confederate States in the American Civil War, Texas was mandated to rejoin the United States of America. Union Army soldiers officially occupied the state starting on June 19, 1865. For the next nine years, Texas was governed by a series of provisional governors as the state went through Reconstruction. As stated by the Texas State Library and Archive Commission, in 1869, the United States Congress passed an act allowing the citizens of Texas to vote on a new State Constitution. Later that same year, President Grant approved their Constitution. Texas fully rejoined the Union on March 30, 1870, when President Grant signed the act to readmit Texas to Congressional Representation. Texas later repealed the State Constitution of 1869 and enacted the Texas State Constitution of 1876 on February 15, 1876, which remains their current state constitution though with numerous amendments.

Much of the politics of the remainder of the century centered on land use. Guided by the federal Morrill Act, Texas sold public lands to gain funds to invest in higher education. In 1876, the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas opened, and seven years later the University of Texas at Austin began conducting classes. New land use policies drafted during the administration of Governor John Ireland enabled individuals to accumulate land, leading to the formation of large cattle ranches. Many ranchers ran barbed wire around public lands, to protect their access to water and free grazing. This caused several range wars. Governor Lawrence Sullivan Ross guided the Texan legislature to reform the land use policies.

The state continued to deal with the issues of racism, with hundreds of acts of violence against blacks as whites tried to establish white supremacy. Ross had to personally intervene to resolve the Jaybird-Woodpecker War.

In March 1890, the U.S. Attorney General launched a suit in the Supreme Court against Texas to determine ownership of a disputed 1,500,000-acre (6,100 km²) plot of land in Greer County. Determined to meet personally with the Attorney General, Ross and his wife traveled to Washington, D.C., where they visited President Benjamin Harrison at the White House. Following that visit, they traveled to New York, where they met with former president Grover Cleveland. While in New York, Ross was extremely popular with journalists. He was interviewed by several large northeastern newspapers, which recounted in detail many of his exploits along the frontier. According to his biographer Judith Brenner, the trip and the resulting exposure for Ross, "excited much interest in Texas among easterners, an interest that would eventually bear fruit in increased investment, tourism, and immigration".

Racial issues

The Freedmen's Bureau was set up to help manage the transition for freedmen and oversee their labor contracts under the free labor system. During Reconstruction, incidents of white violence against blacks increased as whites struggled to reassert white supremacy. By the late 1870s, the Democratic-dominated legislature passed laws to impose legal segregation in public facilities and other Jim Crow laws. Nonetheless, freedmen organized, joined the Republican Party, and started to participate in politics.

During his second term, Ross was forced to intervene in the Jaybird-Woodpecker War in Fort Bend County. Sheriff Jim Garvey (a Woodpecker) feared that there would be armed battles between the State's Rights Democrats (the Jaybirds) and the black Federalist Republicans who had retained political power for 22 years. At Garvey's request, Ross sent two militia companies, which managed to impose a four-month peace. In August 1889, Ross sent four Texas Rangers, including Sergeant Ira Aten, to quell the unrest. Violence erupted, leaving four people dead and injuring six, including a Ranger. Aten wired Ross for help. The following morning, the Houston Light Guard arrived and instituted martial law; that evening, Ross arrived with an Assistant Attorney General and another militia company. Ross fired all the local Woodpecker and Republican civil officials and called together representatives from both factions. On his suggestion, the two groups agreed to choose a mutually acceptable sheriff to replace Garvey, who had been killed in the firefight. When they could not agree on a candidate, Ross suggested Aten; both groups finally agreed, thus halting the conflict.

Reconstruction

During the American Civil War, Texas had joined the Confederate States. The Confederacy was defeated, and U.S. Army soldiers arrived in Texas on June 19, 1865 to take possession of the state, restore order, and enforce the emancipation of slaves. The date is now commemorated as the holiday Juneteenth. On June 25, troops raised the American flag in Austin, the state capital. Following the practices of some other southern states which were executed late in 1865, Texas instituted a set of laws known as the 1866 Texas black code. As part of President Andrew Johnson's conciliatory approach toward the southern states, he did not fix precise or onerous standards for the readmission of these states into the United States. This gave the state leaders latitude in determining how to reform their systems of laws. Absent clear instructions, however, the southern states failed to extend equal rights to freedmen. These first states included Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina, all creating black codes prior to the United States Civil Rights Act of 1866. Texas convened a Constitutional Convention in 1866. The Convention failed to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, though it did grant to blacks right to person and personal property, the right to enter into contracts, and the right to sue and be sued.

With most federal troops in Texas posted along the coastal corridor, the interior of the state remained unprotected, where freedpersons were subject to general abuse, beatings, and shootings. In parts of East Texas, blacks were still held in bondage. These were the findings of General Inspector of the Union Army, William E. Strong, after his inspection of Texas late in 1865. Other Union representatives confirmed this assessment of Texas, including General Phillip Sheridan and the commissioner of the Texas Freedman's Bureau, Edgar Gregory. According to Randolph B. Campbell, a popular narrative emerged in Texas, one which asserted that northerners arrived in the state after the Civil War and dominated state government from 1867 to 1874. The "Carpetbagger-rule myth" experienced a surge in popularity during the 20th century despite the lack of support among historians, even among southern apologists. More than half of high-ranking officials in Texas were natives of the south, and almost all of them were Texas citizens before the Civil War.

U.S. President Andrew Johnson appointed Union General Andrew J. Hamilton, a prominent politician before the war, as the provisional governor on June 17. He granted amnesty to Confederates if they promised to support the Union in the future, appointing some to office. Angry returning veterans seized state property and Texas went through a period of extensive violence and disorder. Most outrages took place in northern Texas and were committed by outlaws who had their headquarters in the Indian Territory and plundered and murdered without distinction of party.

On March 30, 1870, the United States Congress readmitted Texas into the Union, although Texas did not meet all the formal requirements for readmission.

Texas passed a new constitution in 1876 that segregated schools and established a poll tax to support them, but it was not originally required for voting. In 1901 the Democratic-dominated legislature imposed a poll tax as a requirement for voting, and succeeded in disfranchising most blacks. The number of black voters decreased from 100,000 in the 1890s to 5,000 by 1906.

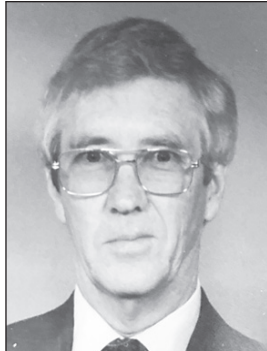
Obits



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Mack White November 17, 1941 - August 20, 2021 (age 79)

Funeral service for Glen Mack White, age 79, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 28, 2021, at Myrtle Springs Baptist Church with Bro. Fred Morrow and Bro. David Cook officiating. Interment followed at Myrtle Springs Cemetery with Wes White, Ronnie Webber, Stan Fisher, Asher Dial, Bo Bratton, and Shawn Poe serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Johnny Tate, Don Deaton, Buford Delk, Walt Mannon, Charles Simpson, Charlie Cain, Charlie Gardner, Mike Mahand, and John Bradford. Visitation was held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Friday, August 27, 2021, at West Oaks Funeral Home. Live streaming of the service was made available via the Myrtle Springs Baptist Church Facebook page.

Mack passed away August 20, 2021 at his residence. He was born on November 17, 1941 in Quitman, TX, the son of Noble White and Artie Sanders White. He was a 1959 graduate of Quitman High School. After high school Mack attended East Texas State University where he graduated with a degree in business. He then served his country in the United States Army. After being discharged from the Army he started his career in the insurance industry with the American General Insurance Company in Dallas. In 1974 he moved to Sulphur Springs where he would later become the owner of the Avinger McCorkle White Insurance Agency. Mack raised

his family in Sulphur Springs where he was active in the community. He coached many youth baseball and softball teams and served in many organizations such as the Lions Club and Sulphur Springs Wildcat Booster Club. He was also a longtime member and deacon of Davis St. Baptist Church.

He married Edee Beck on June 10, 1998 in Wood County. Following his retirement Mack and Edee moved to Lake Quitman where he became an active member of Myrtle Springs Baptist Church. He spent his retirement years fishing on the lake he loved, spending time with family, and attending as many ballgames as possible. He loved to fish, and he loved sports. He loved the Dallas Cowboys and the Sulphur Springs Wildcats, but more than that he loved his family, his church, and his God.

He is survived by wife, Edee White of Sulphur Springs, sons, Rodney Glen White and wife Wendy of Sulphur Springs, John Beck and wife Lynita of Mineola, daughters, Jami White Kammerman and husband Howard of Houston, Cindy Mannon and husband Walt of Sulphur Springs, Christy Poe and husband Shawn of Royce City, brother, Billy Wayne White of Quitman, grandchildren, Kami and Kenzi White, Kaia and Jase Kammerman, Brandy Fisher, Jennifer Bratton, Meredith Dial, Seth, Joey, Jacob, Denver, and Faith Beck, Erica, Eilish, and Erin Poe, and many great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Jason Len White. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Peggy Ann (Fowler) Cook November 24, 1938 – August 29, 2021 (age 82)

Peggy Cook, 82, formerly of Cumby, passed away in Rockwall, Texas on Sunday night, August 29, 2021. Peggy was born on November 24, 1938, in Chicota, Texas, the daughter of Doyle Sydney Fowler and Letia Mae Melton Fowler. She married Myron "Buddy" Cook on May 30, 1959. Peggy loved shopping and traveling, and enjoyed every opportunity to do so following her retirement from North Texas Title Company where she served as a Title Clerk/loan closer. She also enjoyed reading crime stories and watching the Real TV crime stories as well. Another thing Peggy enjoyed doing was attending Bible Studies at her home church, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Cumby.

Peggy is survived by her son, Micah Augustus Cook and his wife Diane of Rockwall, and her grandson, Blake Alan Cook, also of Rockwall. She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; a sister, Mamie Lee "Boots" Morgan; and two brothers, Doyle Ray Fowler and Billy James "Jay" Fowler.

A graveside service was held for Peggy Cook on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the Cumby City Cemetery with the Rev. Jim Moore officiating. The service was provided by Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home.



Cathy Jean Bryant October 28, 1955 - August 27, 2021 (age 65)

A funeral service for Cathy Jean Friddle Bryant, age 65 of Emory, was conducted at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Byron George officiating. Interment followed at Rock Hill Cemetery in Yantis with Justin Friddle, Jonathan Friddle, Jake Friddle, Rodney Friddle, Chase Friddle, Tommy Roest, and Charlie Brookins serving as pallbearers. Visitation was from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, August 30, 2021 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Cathy passed away Friday, August 27, 2021 at Rock Creek Nursing Home surrounded by her loved ones. Cathy was born on October 28, 1955 in Sulphur Springs, TX, the daughter of Dan Friddle and Patsy Utley Friddle. She married Maurice Bryant on November 30, 1978 in Oklahoma. He survives. Cathy owned and operated Merry Maids for over 20 years. Cathy was saved at the age of 9 and she was a member of Gunter Assembly of God all her adult life. In addition to her husband Maurice she is survived by her children, Jeremy Steed and wife Stormy of Emory, Jennifer Steed Adams and husband James of Sulphur Springs, Lisa Roest and Husband Tommy, Carla Brookins and husband Charlie and Steven Bryant and wife Rosie, brothers, Danny Friddle and wife Jackie, Gary Friddle and wife Jeletta and

Joe Friddle and wife Amy, grandchildren, Jordan Lewis and wife Gloria, Christian Lewis and wife Morgan, Jaden Adams and Emmersen Adams, Cassie Steed, Heagen Steed, Zoey Steed, Kade Steed, Ashley Schurwon, Heather Daniel, Savannah Benusa, Katlynn Bryant, Luke Bryant, Kaylee Burch, Austin Burch, Carli Brookins, Tyler Brookins and Colt Brookins, great-grandchildren, Henley Lewis, Sophie Lewis, Natalie Lewis, Corbyn Lewis and Mia Lewis and 11 more great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

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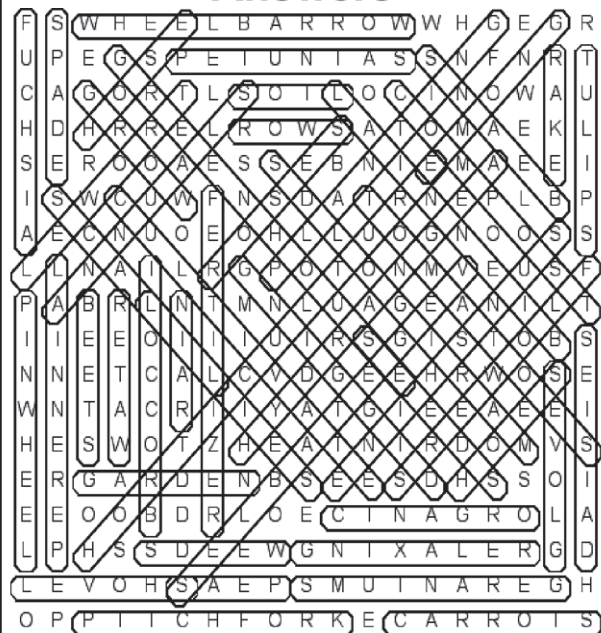
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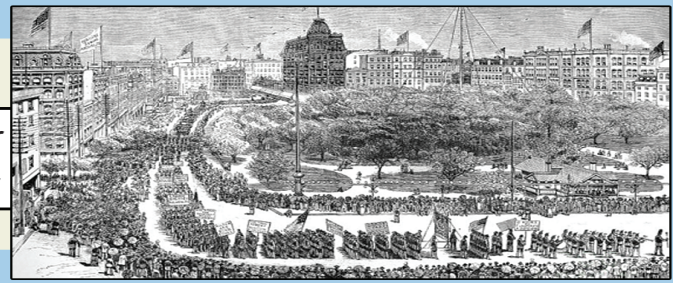
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Labor Day

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First United States Labor Day Parade, September 5, 1882 in New York City



Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September in any given year (i.e. a single day from September 1 through September 7) to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. It is the Monday of the long weekend known as Labor Day Weekend.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. "Labor Day" was promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade in New York City. In 1887, Oregon was the first state of the United States to make it an official public holiday. By the time it became an official federal holiday in 1894, thirty states in the United States officially celebrated Labor Day.

Canada's Labour Day is also celebrated on the first Monday of September. More than 80 countries celebrate International Workers' Day on May 1, the ancient European holiday of May Day. May Day was chosen by the Second International of socialist and communist parties to commemorate the Haymarket affair which occurred in Chicago on May 4, 1886.

ORIGIN

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew, different groups of trade unionists chose a variety of days on which to celebrate labor. In the United States, a September holiday called Labor Day was first proposed in the early 1880s. Alternate stories of the event's origination exist.

According to one early history of Labor Day, the event originated in connection with a General Assembly of the Knights of Labor convened in New York City in September 1882. In connection with this clandestine Knights assembly, a public parade of various labor organizations was held on September 5 under the auspices of the Central Labor Union (CLU) of New York. Secretary of the CLU Matthew Maguire is credited for first proposing that a national Labor Day holiday subsequently be held on the first Monday of each September in the aftermath of this successful public demonstration. Similar last names claim their great-grandfather was the true father of the holiday.

P. J. McGuire, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor, is frequently credited as the father of Labor Day in the United States.

An alternative thesis maintains that the idea of Labor Day was the brainchild of Peter J. McGuire, a vice president of the American Federation of Labor, who, after a visit to Toronto where he saw parades celebrating labor that May, had put forward the initial proposal in the spring of 1882. According to McGuire, on May 8, 1882, he made a proposition to the fledgling Central Labor Union in New York City that a day be set aside for a "general holiday for the laboring classes". According to McGuire he further recommended that the event should begin with a street parade as a public demonstration of organized labor's solidarity and strength, with the march followed by a picnic, to which participating local unions could sell tickets as a fundraiser. According to McGuire he suggested the first Monday in September as an ideal date for such a public celebration, owing to optimum weather and the date's place on the calendar, sitting midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving public holidays.

Labor Day picnics and other public gatherings frequently featured speeches by prominent labor leaders.

In 1909, the American Federation of Labor convention designated the Sunday preceding Labor Day as "Labor Sunday", to be dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement. This secondary date failed to gain significant traction in popular culture, although some churches continue to acknowledge it.

LEGAL RECOGNITION

The popularity of the event spread across the country. In 1887, Oregon became the first state of the United States to make Labor Day an official public holiday. By 1894, thirty U.S. states were already officially celebrating Labor Day. In that year, Congress passed a bill recognizing the first Monday of September as Labor Day and making it an official federal holiday. President Grover Cleveland signed the bill into law on June 28. The federal law, however, only made it a holiday for federal workers. As late as the 1930s, unions were encouraging workers to strike to make sure they got the day off. All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories have subsequently made Labor Day a statutory holiday.

UNOFFICIAL END OF SUMMER

Labor Day is called the "unofficial end of summer" because it marks the end of the cultural summer season. Many take their two-week vacations during the two weeks ending Labor Day weekend. Many fall activities, such as school and sports, begin about this time.

In the United States, many school districts resume classes around the Labor Day holiday weekend (see First day of school). Some begin the week before, making Labor Day weekend the first three-day weekend of the school calendar, while others return the Tuesday following Labor Day. Many districts across the Midwest are opting to begin school after Labor Day.

In the U.S. state of Virginia, the amusement park industry has successfully lobbied for legislation requiring most school districts in the state to have their first day of school after Labor Day, in order to give families another weekend to visit amusement parks in the state. The relevant statute has been nicknamed the "Kings Dominion law" after one such park. This law was repealed in 2019.



Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

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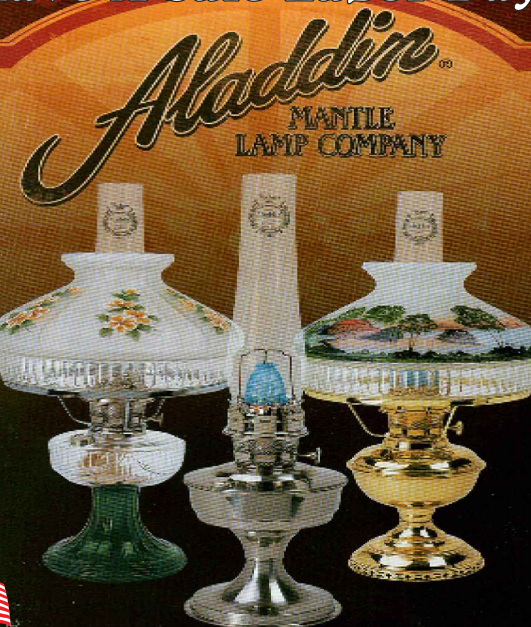
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