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Tumbleweed Smith

Hoven Riley spent ten years as a wildlife guide in Alaska. "I took people on an eight-hour tour, showed them grizzly bears, wolves, moose, elk and whatever else we were lucky enough to see, including the largest mountain in North America which is McKinley Peak."



Tumbleweed Smith He returned home to some family land southwest of Fort Stockton and started raising yucca, something he got involved with while studying landscape architecture at the University of Arizona. "I've always had a passion for yucca," he says. "I remember going out with my brother and digging up a yucca that we used as a Christmas tree one year when the family was short on money. Then we dug up some more and I just fell in love with yucca."

He searched and found a good strain of yucca in Mexico and started planting seeds. They're smaller than watermelon seeds.

"This is the yucca rostrata and it takes about eight years from the time you plant the seed until harvest."

In 2003 he planted 10,000 seeds. Then he planted 20,000 more. He took me to his yucca field and we looked over his single largest planting of 25,000 seeds. Hoven has had a wholesale yucca business for years.

"Our customers are nurseries and landscapers. They come in with big semi trucks and I load them up and send them out. I've rigged up a loading area to make it easy to put the yucca plants into the trailers. I'll do that all summer long and into the fall. November is usually when I stop harvesting the yucca."

He has just started selling yucca online to the general public through his business, The Big Bend Yucca Company.

"I will be shipping directly to customers, something I could never imagine, putting a full grown yucca in a box and mailing it. Crazy. People buy them, of course for landscaping purposes. They are planting them in Chicago now, up in New Jersey, over in Seattle. I was in Miami recently and what do I see decorating the driveway to the hotel? Yucca. They were eight feet tall and beautiful."

The leaves on his yucca plants are soft and flexible. No upward pointing sword-like leaves. He says yucca is low maintenance.

"This plant, which is native to the Chihuahuan Desert, can actually handle a temperature down to a negative 20. Of course they're heat and drought tolerant and require little water. They have a blossom that is absolutely stunning. It's a real show-stopper." Hoven has a herd of mule deer that helps with weed control.

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Nate Batchelor

Nate will be remembered at a graveside service at Restlawn Memorial Park on TX154 on Thursday, April 14 at 11 a.m., led by Pastor Perry Crisp. Honorary pallbearers are his loving neighbors, Paul Wilcoxsin, Bill Echart, J.R. Dalrymple, Joe Conaway and Jeff Delozier. Nathan Thomas Batchelor (Nate), a longtime resident of Yantis passed away on Saturday, April 9. Nate was born on February 7, 1949 in Fort Worth, Texas the son of Sam & Mary Batchelor, longtime residents of Sulphur Springs. He had a half-sister, Sammie Locke of Lawrence, Kansas, another sister, Patricia Adams of Nevada, Tx., and sister, Donna Lindeman of Wichita Falls, Texas. One Aunt, Betty Flora of Como and several nieces and nephews.

The family moved to Como, Texas when Nate was 3 and he was raised on a large dairy farm where he learned all about cows, milking and caring for cattle. He went to Como School where he graduated in 1967.

He was self-employed for many years with a dairy of his own as well as dirt work and construction projects. He worked for Thermo Mining for many years before going to Ocean Spray as the lead maintenance person. He officially retired after 30 years.

He married Rhonda Reynolds in 1968 and had two sons, Nathan Thomas Batchelor Jr. of Mt. Pleasant and Joseph Paul Batchelor of

Yantis. He had 6 grandchildren, Hailey Carswell, Tara Petty of Pittsburgh, Sabrina Perry of Tennessee, Alexis Haught, Kyle Batchelor and Wade Batchelor and 7 great grandchildren in this marriage.

He married Cheryl Summers in June 1998 and inherited a stepdaughter, Sherry Tinnin, and 2 granddaughters Ashtin Silva and Amber Little of Sulphur Springs and 6 great grandchildren.

Nate was preceded in death by his parents and dog, Spud.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Sweet Fellowship Church on Highway 2866; the Parkinson Research Foundation, or the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Jerry Moss

Graveside service for Jerry Moss, age 81 of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 2:00P.M. on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Restlawn Memorial Park with CJ Duffey officiating. There will be no formal visitation. Mr. Moss passed away on April 10, 2022 at his residence. Jerry was born on October 16, 1940 in Hopkins County, TX to Clifford L. and Sarah Elizabeth (Anderson) Moss. He married Helen Crowson on May 9, 1959. Jerry graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1959. He worked as a supervisor at Cannon Craft for many years and then later became a Real Estate Investor with his brother. Jerry was a natural born caregiver. He took care of both his mother and his wife. Jerry loved dogs and working with his hands. He was an avid sports fan and loved to watch the cooking shows.

He is survived by his brother, Joe Dan Moss and numerous family and friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Helen; brother, Clifford Lanier Moss and son, Anthony "Tony" Ray Moss.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to SPCA or Television Ministry at First Baptist Church. Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



Leo Ray Matthews September 6, 1936 - April 8, 2022 (age 85)

Leo Ray Matthews, age 85, of Saltillo, Texas went home to be with his Lord Jesus, Friday, April 8, 2022. He was born September 6, 1936, in Pine Forest to William E. Matthews and Addie Hokes Matthews. Leo was a faithful member of the Weaver Baptist Church and loved Jesus Christ with all his heart.

Funeral services for Leo were held at noon Monday, April 11, 2022, at Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home. Visitation was one hour prior, at 11 a.m., with Brother Tom Friday officiating. Pallbearers were his nephews, Richard Parris, Ronnie Parris, James Parris, Stephen Matthews, Ron Johnson, and Rodney Clinard. Honorary pallbearers were Michael Matthews, Christopher Matthews and Jordan Swindell.

Leo proudly served our country in the United States Army from December of 1959 to March of 1962 in the 3rd Armored Division, Company D, 2nd Armed Rifle Battalion, 48th Infantry at Army Base named Coleman Kaserne in Gelhausen, Germany, achieving the rank of SP4.

Leo worked for H.D. Lee Company in Sulphur Springs, Texas for 12 years. He then worked for the Mount Vernon School District as a Maintenance Technician for 19 years, before retiring.

Leo developed a love of beautiful fine antiques while stationed in Europe. He loved the simple life and enjoyed spending hours visiting with family. A devoted son and brother, he spent his entire life caring for his parents, brothers and sisters as each one struggled through their health challenges, he was there to help and walk beside each of them till they were called home.

Leo is survived by his brother, Kenneth Lollar; sister, Margie Cooper; two sisters-in-law, Cynthia Matthews and Deborah Pope; nieces, Barbara Harris, Susan Weaver, Sarah Stelzer and husband John, Kay Clinard and husband Rodney, Juanita Matthews and husband Ron Johnson; nephews, Richard Parris and wife Patricia, Ronnie Parris and wife Sharon, James Parris, Stephen Matthews and wife Gina, Michael Matthews and Faith, and Christopher Matthews and wife Sonji.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents; infant sister, Evelyn Matthews, sisters, Mollie White and Bobbie Parris; brothers, Roy Matthews, Derrell Matthews, and Benny Matthews; nephews, David Parris and Alan Parris; great-nephew, Casey Parris; brother in law, Leroy White; sister-in-law, Laquita Matthews. Services were entrusted to Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home.





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