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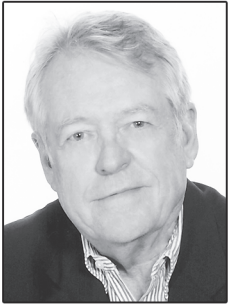
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# EULOGY FOR A TREE

## Tumbleweed Smith



**Tumbleweed Smith**

The tree was planted around 1960, the year our house was built. It was a lace bark elm and stood in a small yard all its own just below ground level. It seemed to enjoy it there and grew to be tall and spectacular. Visitors commented on its beauty and wanted to know what kind of tree it was. It gets its name from the light and gray bark patterns it produces. Research indicates it is a medium to fast-growing tree, adapts to many soil conditions and is relatively free from the diseases ravaging other elm species, making it a tough and durable tree for any situation. It is also known as Chinese Elm.

It provided a wonderful sight as we looked at it through the sliding glass doors in the dining room. In the summer it put on dark green leaves that gave plenty of shade. Its shadows on the lawn were fascinating to watch as they changed with the setting sun. In winter the tree put on a festive air as the branches were covered in snow.

Our sons climbed that tree and sat in it to read. So did our oldest grandson. We have dozens of photos of the tree in all seasons and with different family members and friends standing near it.

The bark on the tree sheds at certain times of year indicating it was alive and thriving. We took it for granted that it would always be there, a symbol of stability and permanence. We never considered it not being there. We kept it pruned and fed and watered. We loved that tree. It was more than just a part of the landscape. It was a part of us.

About the time Covid hit the tree started having trouble. Some branches failed to produce leaves and the tree seemed to go into shock. Severe drought the next two years damaged the tree. A bout of below freezing temperatures twice in one winter pretty well finished it off. As we looked at the barren dead branches, shards of bark lying all around the tree, we considered having a chain saw artist come and create some kind of artistic tribute, maybe carve some birds resting on the tips of the branches.

After a few months we decided to remove the tree. It had stood in that little yard for a long time and we regretted losing it.

The tree is gone but we're slowly getting used to seeing the canyon and the big sky that the tree had previously obscured. Where the tree once stood we can now see a dramatic vista. We have noticed that the tree's offspring are putting down roots and growing around the huge stump. They seem to be saying, "We'll take over now. You go ahead and rest." They have grown to nearly 4 feet and surround the remains of the tree trunk. Some other lace bark elms are growing tall nearby, reaching 6 feet or so.

We have half a dozen other lace bark elm trees around our house but they have a long way to go to reach the elegance of the one that used to stand just outside our dining room. But we are encouraging them.

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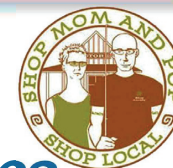
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### **H. W. Halcomb**

We honor H.W. Halcomb and rejoice that he has joined the Lord God; his grandson, Daniel Loggins; mom and dad, Nannie and Bill Halcomb; his brothers, Baby James and Ken Halcomb; and his beloved sister, Barbara Halcomb Williams. We give thanks to God for salvation that we will one day join them.

He was almost born in a cotton patch November 2, 1937, in Como, Texas. His mom was picking cotton the day he was born. He too would pick cotton and even get out of school to do so. He was a stout boy with red hair that often got him into trouble when someone commented that he was "red on the head," in addition to taking up for his little brother who he called Pete. They loved to play, fish, and cause mischief. He went to school in Como and played basketball but, moved to the city and graduated in 1956 from Sulphur Springs High School, where he was in DE, FFA, and judged cows. H.W. didn't stand for anything, and he was called H or HE by all his friends and family.

H.W. married Ann Latham in 1956 who he met at the Hopkins County Food Locker and which they later bought in 1975, updated and successfully ran for several years. He worked as a butcher for The Quickie, Wyatt Morris and Brookshire's in Sulphur Springs.

In 1962, H.W. and Ann adopted their daughter, Melinda, and soon moved to Quitman. H.W. loved serving people and, in 1984, he was elected as Precinct 2 County Commissioner for Hopkins County, where he paved dirt roads, replaced 112 wooden bridges, and served longer than anyone else until 2003. H.W. joined Masonic Lodge No. 221 in 1963 in Sulphur Springs, where he taught the 3 degrees memory work and was a Master Mason. He got his 32nd Degree and became a 50-year member in 2014.

He loved to watch sports, fish, bowl, squirrel hunt, grow vegetables, roses, and drink coffee with his many friends throughout the years.

He is preceded in death by his grandson, Daniel Loggins; parents, Raymond and Nannie Belle Williamson Halcomb; sister, Barbara Halcomb Williams; brother, Ken Halcomb; and baby brother, James Raymond Halcomb. He is survived by his wife, Ann Halcomb of Quitman, Texas; his daughter, Melinda and husband Jason of Bryan, Texas; and his many cousins, nieces, and nephews. "Remember the Alamo."

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 24, 2022, at Faith Baptist Church in Quitman. Interment followed at Como Cemetery. There was a visitation prior to the service beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Church, as well as a visitation on Saturday, July 23, 2022, from 5 to 7 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



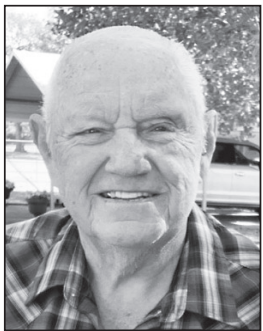
### **Gerald Walters**

Funeral service for Gerald Walters, age 83, of Pickton, will be held at 2:00 P.M on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Bryon George, Pastor Thomas and Mack McClaine officiating. Interment will follow at Richland Cemetery with Leon Gunn, Dennis Hunt, Mike Boren, Sidney Walker, Wayne Scott, Keith Monk, Blake Nolen and Richard Brown serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 1:00 P.M to 2 P.M. Mr. Walters passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2022 at Carriage House Manor.

Gerald was born on January 13, 1939 in Pickton, TX to Kiefer Cleburn and Ellen Bell (Martin) Walters. He married Sheri Jo Horne on September 29, 1961 in Texarkana. Gerald earned his master's degree. He worked as an agriculture teacher and high school principal. Gerald was a man of the Christian Faith. He is survived by his son, Joe Mack Walters and wife, Jennifer; daughter, Judy Ann Potts and husband, Matt; grandchildren, Kaci Barnhart, Dakota Watkins, Faith Watkins, Lucy Walters, Luke Walters, Ryan Potts, Jack Potts, Jackie Farrar, Jaycee Farrar and Jentry Farrar; great grandchildren, Maden Barnhart, Abigail Barnhart, Sadie Barnhart and Bradley Barnhart; brother, Freddie Don Walters. Gerald was preceded in death by his wife, Sheri and parents, Kiefer and Ellen.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Gerald Walters Agriculture Scholarship fund at Alliance Bank in Sulphur Springs.

Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at [www.murrayorwosky.com](http://www.murrayorwosky.com)



### **Ken Douglas**

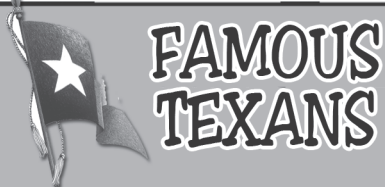
A funeral service for Ken Douglas, of Dike, Texas, was held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 22, 2022, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Travis Aven and Adam Teer officiating. Interment followed at Seymore Cemetery with Keil Kimmons, Nick Steer, Caleb Baker, Darrell Douglas, Grant Baker, Alex Mat and Colin Baker serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 21, 2022, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Kenneth Ray Douglas, age 87, passed away on July 18, 2022, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs. He was born on July 19, 1934, to Lawrence and Virginia Douglas. He married Alta Louise Robbins on March 29, 1952, at the Seymore Church of Christ. She preceded him in death July 12, 2009.

Kenneth was a project engineer, working over 40 years for Rockwell International until his retirement. He was founder and owner of Ken's Heating and Air Conditioning, which he started as a secondary job in 1964. In 1983, his son-in-law, Jerry Tramel, joined Ken's and together they expanded the company that quickly grew into a successful local business. After Jerry's death in 2015, the company was sold to new owners and still operates today under Ken's name in Sulphur Springs.

Kenneth married Beth Price, on July 11, 2010. She survives. Other survivors include two daughters and two sons, Janet Spurgeon and husband Robert of Yantis, Nancy Tramel and late husband Jerry of McKinney, Kendall Douglas and wife Deborah of Bullard, and Steven Douglas and wife Patty of Vero Beach, Florida; two stepsons, Bobby Barron of Oklahoma City and JJ Price of Dike; one brother, Norman Douglas and wife Patricia of Arlington; seven grandchildren, Amy Mata, Brenda and husband Keil Kimmons, Caleb Baker and wife Kristen, Darrell Douglas and wife Brandy, Kaitlen Steer and husband Nick, Rachel Spurgeon, and Rebekah Spurgeon; and multiple great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Services were under the direction of Murray Orwosky Funeral Home with Travis Aven and Adam Teer officiating. Interment was in the Seymore Cemetery.



# Larry Hagman

Actor, Producer, Director



Larry Martin Hagman (September 21, 1931 – November 23, 2012) was an American film and television actor, director, and producer, best known for playing ruthless oil baron J. R. Ewing in the television soap opera Dallas and the befuddled astronaut Major Anthony Nelson in the 1965–1970 sitcom I Dream of Jeannie. Hagman also worked as a television producer and director. He was the son of actress Mary Martin. He died on November 23, 2012, from complications of acute myeloid leukemia. Hagman was born on September 21, 1931, in Fort Worth, Texas. His mother, Mary Martin, became a Broadway actress and musical comedy star after his birth. His father, Benjamin Jackson Hagman, who was of Swedish descent, was an accountant and lawyer who worked as a district attorney. Hagman's parents divorced in 1936 when he was five years old. He lived with his maternal grandmother, Juanita Presley Martin, in Texas and California, while his mother became a contract player with Paramount in 1938. Hagman attended a strict academy, Black-Foxe Military Institute and briefly Woodstock Country School. When his mother moved to New York City to resume her Broadway career, Hagman again lived with his grandmother in California. A few years later, his grandmother died, so Hagman joined his mother in New York City. In 1946, Hagman moved back to his hometown of Weatherford, and attended Weatherford High School, from which he graduated. His father wanted Hagman to become a lawyer and join his practice, but he was drawn to drama classes and reportedly fell in love with the stage. He graduated from high school in 1949, and decided to pursue acting.

In 1954, Hagman married Swedish-born Maj Axelsson; they had two children, Heidi Kristina, and Preston. Longtime residents of Malibu, California, they then moved to Ojai.

In 1969, Hagman's friend, musician David Crosby, supplied him with LSD after a concert. Hagman was introduced to marijuana by Jack Nicholson as a safer alternative to Hagman's heavy drinking. In 1995, Hagman underwent a life-saving liver transplant after he was diagnosed with liver cancer, which was most likely brought on by roughly 40 years of heavy drinking. His clinical picture was further complicated by cirrhosis of the liver, which had been diagnosed three years earlier in 1992. He was also a heavy smoker as a young man before quitting at age 34. He was the chairman of the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout for many years.

In 2001, Hagman wrote his autobiography titled Hello Darlin'. In a 2007 interview, Hagman discussed his support for alternative energy. On a 2008 episode of Living With Ed, Hagman and his wife showed actor Ed Begley Jr. their solar-powered, super-energy efficient home named "Heaven" and talked about their green lifestyle. Maj Hagman was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2008 and Hagman at first took the lead in caring for her, but her condition deteriorated. By 2010, she required 24-hour nursing care.

**Friendship with Carroll O'Connor**

Hagman had a long friendship with actor Carroll O'Connor, beginning in 1959 when Hagman was starring in the Broadway play God and Kate Murphy and O'Connor was working as an assistant stage manager. Later, as the two struggled as young actors, they rented apartments near each other in New York. Over the years, they had much in common. O'Connor renegotiated his contract over his salary on All in the Family in 1974, causing him to miss two episodes and Hagman did the same during his tenure with Dallas, with similar results. Hagman's daughter Heidi, whom O'Connor had known since her childhood, joined the cast for one season of Archie Bunker's Place. Hagman directed several episodes of O'Connor's later series In the Heat of the Night. They both endured serious health issues: O'Connor underwent heart bypass surgery and Hagman received a liver transplant.

**Illness and death**

In June 2011, Hagman said he had stage 2 throat cancer. He commented, "As J. R. I could get away with anything — bribery, blackmail and adultery, but I got caught by cancer. I do want everyone to know that it is a very common and treatable form of cancer. I will be receiving treatment while working on the new Dallas series. I could not think of a better place to be than working on a show I love, with people I love." Hagman had an acorn-sized tumor removed from his tongue in 2011. In June 2012, the cancer was said to be in remission.

Hagman died on November 23, 2012, at Medical City Dallas Hospital in Dallas following complications from acute myeloid leukemia, after being interviewed for the National Geographic documentary, The '80s: The Decade that Made Us, which aired in April 2013. In a statement to the Dallas Morning News, Hagman's family said: "Larry's family and close friends had joined him in Dallas for the Thanksgiving holiday. He died surrounded by loved ones. It was a peaceful passing, just as he had wished for." The New York Times described him as "one of television's most beloved villains".

**Miscellaneous**

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### ANSWERS

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

Across: 1. WHEELBARROW, 2. PETUNIAS, 4. GARDEN, 5. SWEETZHEAT, 7. OPTIC, 8. CARROTS

Down: 1. SWEETZHEAT, 2. SWEETZHEAT, 3. SWEETZHEAT, 6. SWEETZHEAT, 9. SWEETZHEAT, 10. SWEETZHEAT

The hidden message is: Where flowers bloom so does hope.

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## Ice Cream Freeze Off

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Held Friday, July 22nd at the  
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*3rd Place Winner*

Tina Cox - Pina Colada  
Sunny Springs Nursing & Rehab



*2nd Place Winner*

Teresa Mathews - Butterfinger  
At Home Health care



*1st Place Winner*  
Shirley Brock - Strawberry Peach



5 Honorable Mentions

John and Mary Ellen Little - Cherry  
Kelly Whitley - Embark - Chocolate Malted Crunch  
Libby Daves - Family First Home Health - Cherry Cheesecake  
Donna Seamon - Wesley House Assisted Living - Vanilla  
Stacey Wetzel - Mays Home Health - Strawberry

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