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THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER August 3, 2022

THIS COWBOY CAN HELP YOU QUIT SMOKING



Tumbleweed Smith

Don Warren has recently moved from Weatherford to Hubbard, a small place near Hillsboro. He is newly retired from working on engines in the oil patch. Now he's devoting fulltime to what he has been doing the past 15 years or so on a part time basis: hypnotizing people. He is known as the Cowboy Hypnotist and has entertained audiences all over the

Tumbleweed Smith country.

"I've hypnotized close to twenty thousand people and done over 500 shows," says Don. He saw a hypnotist in Las Vegas years ago and decided right then and there that was what he wanted to do the rest of his life. He is a member of the National Guild of Hypnotists and has attended seminars on hypnosis all over the country and overseas. He loves to entertain and make people laugh.

"I enjoy it," he says. "And I hope that comes through to my crowd, that I'm having as much fun as they are." He has performed before a variety of audiences, from graduating high school seniors to senior adults. In his shows he has a dozen or so chairs on stage and asks for volunteers to come up and be hypnotized. He has never had a shortage of volunteers. He uses music in his presentations to enhance their deepening hypnosis. If people don't respond to hypnosis he taps them on the shoulder and tells them to return to their seat in the audience. He makes people do unusual things. He told one girl to look for her shoe and she had it in her hand while she looked for it. Don has used his ability to make people quit smoking.

"I have a 99 percent success rate in helping people quit smoking. I can ask them a series of questions and see how they answer them to see if they want to quit smoking or not. They have to be ready to quit. I don't want to have the reputation of not being able to help them quit smoking. I don't want to hear that someone said they came to me and I couldn't make them quit. Once I find out they really want to quit I can help them. "Some people ask me if they get their money back if I can't make them quit. I say no. I tell them if I can't get you into hypnosis I won't take your money. But if I hypnotize you and I put that suggestion in your memory bank, that suggestion is there."

I asked Don what was the suggestion?

"Make them feel like there's another person inside of them that's a smoker and the non-smoker that lives in them is taking control. They're kicking out that smoker. I have them repeat to me that they're pushing that smoker out of their body. I've had people say, 'it feels like somebody else was making me smoke those cigarettes.' They're saying that because that's exactly the suggestion that I planted in their mind, that they were not in control, somebody else was and that person was stronger. But now I tell them they are so tired of that situation and now they're stronger than that other person and they're able to push that person aside and take control of their life. The smoker inside of them is gone and the non-smoker has come forward."

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James Arlin Speed

Arlin was born at home in the small farming community of South Liberty in Hopkins County. As a boy on a farm, he had to help with the chores. He accepted Jesus as his Savior while attending South Liberty Baptist Church in April 1952. He attended South Liberty School before transferring to Sulphur Springs schools, graduating in 1955. While there he was active in FFA, participating in speech contests, and showing and judging cows. He was able to attend the National FFA convention in Waterloo, Iowa. Journalism was another interest in high school, and he was editor of the high school newspaper, Cat's Tale, his senior year.

After graduation, he traveled the Southeastern states selling Farm and Ranch Magazine so he could earn money to attend Texas A&M in the fall. Since his finances did not allow him to continue after one year, he came to the DFW area to find work. He was a draftsman/engineer for several companies such as Ling Temco, Vought, Consolidated, and Conductron in St. Charles, Mo. He often said that this work enabled him to know how to read blueprints/plans when he became an excavation contractor. (Paula called him a ditch digger.) He changed the type of excavation he did several times, but always did the work to perfection. The last few years in business, he dug fuel tank holes for several different contractors, but the work was always plumb, level, and square. He also developed a shoring system that kept the crew safe while working in the hole.

Arlin had a witty sense of humor, often calling himself Arlin the Grate or Mr. Grate. (It is spelled correctly.) Arlin was active in his church no matter where they lived, and was ordained as a deacon while attending the First Baptist Church of St. Peters, Missouri.

Arlin married Paula Arthur in 1959 and remained married at the time of his death. He is survived by wife Paula, daughters Jeanette Speed and Anita Speed, son Kevin Speed, and sister Carolyn Beasley. He was preceded in death by son James Arlin Speed II.

Verdon Raymond Graves



Verdon Raymond Graves, age 94, of Sulphur Springs, passed away in the early morning hours of July 21, 2022, with his wife by his side. He was born December 7, 1927, in the Teagarden Community, a rural area near Alva, Woods County, Oklahoma, the third son to parents Boyd Miles Graves and Elsie Armstrong McCorkle Graves.

Verdon had such a long, interesting, and happy life, from his rural hardscrabble childhood, starting first grade at a small rural one-room schoolhouse at age four, working on the family wheat farm with no electricity for many years. At age 13, he followed the wheat harvest with a neighbor through Kansas, and again at age 14, he followed the wheat harvest. After this harvest, he hitch-hiked to Colorado, where he got a job picking peaches, after which he took a bus back to Alva. At age 14, he quit the school at Farry, Oklahoma, because he wanted to learn to type, and Farry School didn't offer a typing class. He moved into town in Alva, Oklahoma, to attend his senior year at Alva High School, learned to type and graduated in 1942, while he was still only 16. During his senior year, he lived in a small one-room apartment in the basement of a drugstore, where he worked every afternoon after school. After graduating from Alva High School, he entered college at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and attended until he joined the army at age 18. While at NWOSU, he was in a few plays and fell in love with acting. He still had a job at the drugstore and decided he

would become a pharmacist. After entering the army, after boot camp, and because he had worked in a drugstore, he was deployed to Yokohama, Japan, where he served in the U.S. Army Occupation of Japan and was assigned duty as a medic in the PX on base, where he worked until his honorable discharge a couple of years later. After his stint in the U.S. Army, he returned to Alva to visit his family, and transferred to Oklahoma University in Norman, Oklahoma, where he graduated from the OU School of Pharmacy in 1948. His first job as a pharmacist was at a drugstore in Duncan, Oklahoma, where he worked until July 1950, when he was persuaded by an OU graduate friend, Bill Saunders, to take a job at a drugstore in Greenville, Texas. In July 1952, they decided to buy a drugstore, which was the Hall-Farrar Drugstore that had been recently sold to Cecil Smith, in Sulphur Springs. They named the store G & S Drugstore.

In August of 1952, he met Jerry Lemon, the cute, petite, redhead daughter of David and Susie Bassham Lemon. By Thanksgiving, Verdon and Jerry became engaged and were married on January 11, 1953. Just a few months later, Verdon bought his partner's interest and for seventeen years the store was Graves Drugstore. In 1979, Verdon sold his store to Charles Gilreath, and it was absorbed into Nelson's Pharmacy. For a couple of years Verdon worked at Gibson's Pharmacy and then at a pharmacy owned by Arkie Miller. After that, he was hired by the Texas State Department of Human Services in Austin, Texas, as a Pharmacy Consultant, where he was employed until his retirement in 1993.

He was an active member of First United Methodist Church, a member of Messengers' Sunday School Class, a member of the Sanctuary Choir, taught Sunday School, served on many church committees and was once Chairman of the Board. He donated a great deal of time to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. While serving with the Boy Scouts, he received the honor of Silver Beaver, of which he was very proud, and earned other awards from Boy Scouts. He accompanied a large group of boys from the NeTSeO Trails Council on a trip to the National Boy Scout Jamboree in Idaho; they watched live coverage of the NASA moon landing on an outdoor movie screen.

After pharmacy retirement, he and Jerry traveled the country extensively in their motorhome. He generously donated many years of time to Hopkins County Museum and Heritage Park He dearly loved to volunteer in Heritage Park and served as president of Hopkins County Historical Society. One year he was given the honor of Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce, Volunteer of the Year by RSVP, and other awards by various groups in our community. He joined the Main Street Theater and acted in several plays, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

He is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Jerry Lemon Graves; his son, David Verdon Graves, and wife, Danita Bronson Graves; his son, Boyd Miles Graves, II, and wife, Lynn Lowman Pugsley Graves; and his daughter, Elsianne Graves Horton, and husband, Darrell Wayne Horton; sister-in-law, Patsy Ann (Pat) Lemon Orwig, and husband, Richard Ralph (Dick) Orwig, II; and brother-in-law, William Rawlings Lemon, and wife, Martha (Mickey) McDonald Lemon. He is also survived by grand-children, D'Anne Graves Chaney, Dena Graves Irving and husband Brent Irving, David Bronson (Dave) Graves and wife Jennifer Duncan Graves, all of Sulphur Springs, Texas; Kristi Graves-John and husband Steve John of Arlington, Texas; William Darrell (Will) Horton and wife Abbigail (Abby) Trahan Horton of Houston, Texas; Grace Horton Lyon and husband Jared Lyon of Mount Vernon, Texas; Tiffany Horton of Round Rock, Texas; Christopher Ryan Pugsley and wife Rebecca Peck Pugsley of Ovid, MI; and Katarina Pugsley of Georgetown, Texas. Also surviving are great-grandchildren, Jaxon Chaney, Austin Chaney, Brynna Irving, Addison Graves, Duncan Graves, Devyn Pugsley, Brooke Pugsley, and Ashton Brown. He was predeceased by his parents, Boyd and Elsie Graves; his two brothers, Boyd LeRoy Graves and John Graves; one newborn son, Merrill Dean Graves Bodenschatz Hada, and husband, Harold Hada; one great-niece, Mary Lynn Graves; one great-nephew, Dustin Miles Graves; father-and mother-in-law, David and Susie Lemon; and sister-in-law, Alice Jean Lemon; plus several aunts and uncles in the Graves, McCorkle, Lemon, and Bassham families.



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