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THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER July 26, 2023

COLLECTS CARS AND BUILDINGS



Tumbleweed Smith

Dan Markman worked on his high school newspaper in Meridian.

"We're the Yellow Jackets here in Meridian," says Dan. "And I was on the Jacket Jabber staff."

His father had a feed store in Meridian. The family car was a 1951 Kaiser.

Tumbleweed Smith hand me down family 51 Kaiser."

Years later he bought a 1951 Kaiser. "After I started my family I remarked that if I ever had the chance to buy a 51 Kaiser I'd buy it. One day my 13-year-old son told me he found one in the newspaper and not only was it a Kaiser but it was a 51 Kaiser. We immediately went out and bought it and we still have that car. We've had it 35 years."

Dan has other cars.

"We have eighteen or nineteen cars. Our preference is what are called orphans. The manufacturer shut down and the models are non-existent. So we like Kaisers, we like Packards, we like Studebakers, we like Hudsons. So we've got four Kaisers, a Fraser, couple of Packards, a Studebaker. Right now I'm looking for an AMC Pacer and a Gremlin and Hudson Hornet. They're basically post war vehicles."

His cars are in two barns on his sheep farm in Meridian.

"I see us as preserving a bit of automotive history because we like the orphans."

One of his cars is truly collectible.

"It's a 1954 Kaiser Darrin. It's a sports car. They only made 287 of them. At auction it's bringing upwards of two hundred thousand dollars. That's our piece de resistance." Dan's farm is a popular place for car lovers.

"In the last year we've had the state Rolls Royce club meet here for lunch. We had 77 cars here. We have 2 Rolls Royces, a 57 and a 76. The Bentley club from the Gulf Coast also came here. We own a 2019 Bentley. Last week we had the Ford Club out of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. We really enjoy hosting the owners of these beautiful vehicles and they enjoy getting out and driving around the countryside."

Dan moved to Houston and got into the insurance business, but he returns to his hometown every month.

"I kind of have a new project. About four years ago I started buying buildings around the courthouse. I own nine of them. I'm trying to rejuvenate downtown Meridian."

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Answers On Page 3

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Myra Lynn Burns October 2, 1941 – July 19, 2023

A graveside service for Myra Lynn Burns, age 81, of Yantis, Texas was held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 22, 2023 at Restlawn Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Donald Sims, Terry Tucker, Brian Coker, Grayson Burns, Bryson Sims, Brad Armstrong. Honorary pallbearers were Jim Womack, James Chester and Yancy Mills. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Friday, July 21, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Burns passed away on July 19, 2023.

Myra Lynn was born on October 2, 1941 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Warner Lawson and Annie (Bradshaw) Coker. She married Gary Burns on August 19, 1960 in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Myra Lynn retired from Guaranty Bond Bank. She loved fishing and eating good Cajun food.

She is survived by her husband, Gary; daughter, Kelli Sims and husband, Donald; grandchildren, Grayson Burns, Parker Sims, Raven Sims, and Bryson Sims; great grandson, Bentley Price; niece that was like a daughter, Stacey Burns and children, Brandy Sharp and Brittany Jo Sharp; brother Tim Coker and wife, Ladonna; brother and sister-in-law, Phyllis Campbell and husband, Tommy, Denny

Burns and wife, Glena, Patricia Burns; nephews, Biran Coker, Jeff Coker, David Burns and Joseph Burns and family. Myra Lynn was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Wanna Lee Birdwell; brother-in-law, Jimmy Don Burns; cousin, Patricia Tucker and nephew, Ricky Moss, Jerry Campbell and nieces, Angela Campbell and Julie Vike.



Johnny Melton, Sr. June 17, 1951 – July 22, 2023

Johnny Melton, Sr., was a man that didn't waste words. Everyone instinctively knew when his iconic and soothing voice was heard you should listen for when he spoke there was a reason and a purpose. He had the skill to figure out what was going on with individuals and the innate ability to provide a story or the advice needed to guide you, teach you, direct your way, or deliver the perfect joke to lift your spirit. He was the BEST gag gift giver and it seemed that he never ran out of ideas for how he would "get you next time". Providing for and fiercely loving his family filled his heart and soul with joy.

Johnny Wayne Melton, Sr., age 72, passed away peacefully at home on July 22, 2023, after courageously battling cancer. Johnny fought cancer for the loves of his life, his wife, his son, and his grandson, Daniel. Johnny beat cancer in the way he lived and the manner in which he lived it. He is rejoicing today with Our Lord and Savior in Heaven. He was reassured of this complete promise of healing, again, when the Lord spoke to him in a dream during his last hospital stay.

Johnny Wayne Melton, Sr., is survived by his adoring wife Sue Melton of Emory, loving son Johnny Wayne Melton, Jr., and wife Jennifer of Emory, grandson Daniel Melton of Emory, and countless loving family and precious friends. All of these he loved and treasured.

He is preceded by his parents, brothers; E. W., Troy, Walter, Jim, and David Melton and sisters; Ellie Mae Gaston, Skeet Horton, and Joe Green. He will be deeply missed until we are reunited and rejoicing in Our Heavenly Home. Graveside services were held at 10:00 A.M at Emory City Cemetery on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Leta Mae Hurst-Rabe



Leta Mae Hurst-Rabe, a beloved member of the community, passed away peacefully at her home on July 21, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on June 3, 1935, to Clarence Elmo Stewart and Lura Patterson Stewart in Merit, Texas.

Leta Mae's warm heart and great sense of humor endeared her to everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. She had a deep love for her family and cherished spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Leta Mae's eyes would light up whenever they entered the room, and she would regale them with stories and laughter that will be treasured forever.

Throughout her life, Leta Mae enjoyed various hobbies and interests. She had a passion for treasure hunting at garage sales, always discovering hidden gems. Her collection became a testament to her keen eye for finding beauty in what others might overlook. Additionally, Leta Mae's talent for quilt-making was truly exceptional. She poured love into every stitch, creating beautiful masterpieces that brought warmth and comfort to those fortunate enough to receive them.

Leta is survived by her children, Steven and Sheriee Hurst, Anette and Dick Foster, Vicki and Jack Walker and Roger and Trena Hurst; grandchildren, Roger and Meagan Hurst, Derek Hurst, Brian Hurst, Kanyon Hurst, Sammye and Robert Cotton, Sara Foster and Nick, Shanda and Justin Ramm, Syrus Hurst and Stewart Hurst; great grands, Brennan, Bryce, Michaela, River, Kenneth, Berkleigh, Brayden, Dillon, Cody, Bo, Luke, Tavin, Austin, Allie, Jaycee, Carter, and Raylee; siblings, Judy and Don Cecil and Joe Don Stewart.

She is preceded in death by Husbands, Sammy Hurst and Glynn Rabe; parents, C.E. and Lura Stewart; brothers, Billy, Jerry Pat, Harold and Glen; sisters, Joyce and Syble; daughter, Anette; granddaughters, Sammye and Kayla and her beloved dog Lyda.

Leta Mae's impact within the community will be honored and celebrated during the upcoming services. A visitation will be held on July 28, 2023, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Wilson - Orwosky Funeral Home located at 803 N. Texas St., Emory, TX, 75440. This will be followed by a funeral service at the same location from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Afterward, she will be laid to rest at Lone Star Cemetery in Point, TX, during an interment ceremony from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

Leta Mae Hurst-Rabe's memory will forever live on in the hearts of her family and friends. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, laughter, and resilience that will continue to inspire generations to come. May her soul find eternal peace as her spirit watches over those she loved so dearly. Please consider making a donation to meals-on-wheels of Emory, Texas @ Emory Senior Center. Contact Stacy at 903-473-3500



