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VOL. 17 ISSUE 841, April 7, 2016

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Under 60 - \$4.00

Anyone is welcome!

Reservations would be nice – call **903-454-1444**

Location: Hunt Regional Community Hospital In Commerce, Texas

When: Every Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

Time: Noon



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**Location: Hunt Regional Community
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When: Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

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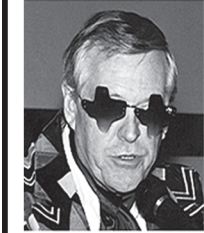
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THE PLAID PREMIERE IN ABILENE

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Movie Star Steve Martin was born in Waco while his father was studying drama at Baylor University. I was taking courses at the Baylor Theater at the time and knew Steve's father. His hair was prematurely gray, setting the precedent for Steve, who also sprouted gray hair early. Steve spent some time in Texas after he became famous.

"In the spring of I believe it was 1983, I was attending Hardin Simmons University," says Jon Langley of Midland. "Steve Martin at the time was living in Abilene. He was a member of Fairway Oaks Country Club, which had some excellent tennis courts that Steve Martin like to use. He loved tennis. He had a condo in the Fairway Oaks residential area."

The movie DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID was just out. Jon says Steve Martin thought he would create a spectacle when the movie opened at the restored Paramount Theater in Abilene.

Jon was a member of a choir at Hardin Simmons and wore a tuxedo when he performed. So he and a couple of his choir buddies decided they would put on their tuxedos for the event.

"We got student tickets for the movie and we were acting like Hollywood big shots. We crashed the wine and cheese party they were having as part of the opening. Nobody stopped us I guess because we looked like we belonged, wearing tuxes and all. We were just goofing off and being silly when a gentlemen came up to us and said, 'you boys need to get down to the garage at the Abilene Reporter-News.'"

At the newspaper, Jon and his friends saw about twenty other guys in Tuxedos. They were from Abilene Christian University.

"We just kind of stood around away from the other group and pretty soon Steve Martin came out and gave all of us buttons that said DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID.. He then told us what the gag was. We were all going to get into this one limousine, kind of like a clown car, and just start piling out of that limo in front of the theater."

When they started getting out, Jon was the first one out and because he had light hair, the crowd thought he was Steve Martin and there was a burst of applause. Then the other guys started getting out and the crowd realized it was a joke, typical of comedian Steve Martin.

"After we got out we sort of formed a human chain in front of the spectators and then Steve Martin comes up riding in an old jalopy. We crowded around him and escorted him into the theater. I ended up sitting next to him. He was asked to say something, so he got up and made a short speech and then sat back down. The lights went down and the movie started. After it was on the screen for about three minutes, Steve got up and left the theater.

John got a job in real estate in Abilene and ended up selling Steve's condo. Tumbleweed enjoys hearing good stories and sharing them with readers of his column. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com.



JOURNAL OF TEXAS' PATH TO INDEPENDENCE continued...

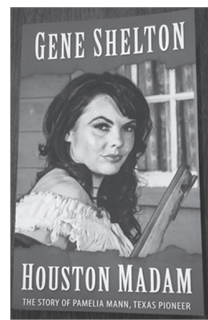


Main St. Viaduct over Buffalo River, Houston, Tx.



Houston Market House 1890

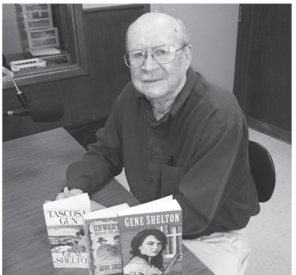
At one time, the city of Houston was the capitol of the Republic of Texas. Actually, two times! Really, between 1836 and 1844, the capitol of Texas changed 7 different times....Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Battleship Cayuga, Velasco, Columbia, Houston and Austin (also twice) just adding to the body of evidence that Texas is woven of a fabric unique and magical. I read a new book about Texas, a work of historical fiction about a woman who lived in Texas during and after it's fight for independence from Mexico. In fact, the woman did some of the fighting herself, made some very good friends in high places and secured a most colorful place of her own in the story of Texas. She was Pamela Mann, a real individual who is mentioned in accounts of early Texas. "Mentioned". Local author Gene Shelton is the first to embellish her story and bring it out of obscurity. Gene became fascinated with the woman who was a wife, mother, farmer and slave owner, influential business woman and the first female in Texas to be sentenced to hanging.



Book cover, Houston Madam

During a dangerous journey from her husband's cabin on the Brazos River (the flight known as the Runaway Scrape) with her two sons and three slaves, Pamela Mann let it be known without a shadow of a doubt that she was as good as anybody else and would not be stolen from or taken advantage of by desperate fellow-travelers. She wore men's pants, toted a pistol and served up colorful language from a razor-sharp tongue. When her spare team of oxen was requisitioned by President Sam Houston himself, she did not take kindly but agreed to a deal with Houston for the use of the animals to pull the two new cannon the Texian army had been given as a gift. However, when Houston did not keep his word about the route he would take, she went and got her oxen back at gunpoint. Her reputation as the only woman to ever back Sam Houston down was a deserved one. She eventually made it to the bold and blustery frontier village which was his namesake. In it's infancy in January 1836, there were only a dozen residents and one structure but by that summer, there were 1500 people living in Houston, some businesses and a hundred houses. According to Wikipedia, Houston's shallow port had begun to be visited by ships bringing goods and settlers. The newly-incorporated city had a bright future but it was also was plagued with drunkenness, dueling, brawls and prostitution. That's about the time Pamela Mann came on the scene, bought a hotel, turned it into a boarding house and later a brothel. For a few colorful years, she deftly managed the business of her Mansion House with a pair of pistols and a policy of free-flowing liquor, carving a place for herself in Texas history.

"Houston Madam" is the 27th novel written by Gene Shelton of Sulphur Springs, and the first of his works to be electronically published. A new game for Gene, and a renewed promise for more great stories from his pen! Find "Houston Madam" on Amazon Prime, get your copy and settle in for a good tale. Meantime, if you pass the corral gate and see me reading in the shade of the tree, just honk when you go by!



Author, Gene Shelton



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Sat, April 9, 9:30am - 12:00pm - Adult Coloring and Coffee The Sulphur Springs Library, 611 Davis St. N. It's the latest trend in relaxation. Studies show coloring has a calming effect and promotes overall wellness. Bring you favorite drink with a lid!

Fri, April 15, 1pm - 5pm - Celebration Market Meeting 201 N Davis St, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Have questions regarding the Farmers Market? Join us for a question/answer session!

Sat., Apr 16, 2016 -CANhelp Tennis Tournament Sulphur Springs High School, 1200 Connally St, Sulphur Springs, TX . Fundraiser for all ages, all skills! Double-Elimination, guaranteed 3 matches. Event T-Shirts, Silent Auction and Concession also a part of the event!

Thurs., April 21, 3pm - 4pm - Bankhead Highway Centennial Celebration. Celebration Plaza, Sulphur Springs, Tx Bankhead Highway Centennial Celebration (1916-2016) will travel through and stop at Celebration Plaza. See 50 - 60 cars from the year 1919 through 1933.

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Obits



Tony Holmes

Funeral services for Tony Holmes age 57 of Sulphur Springs were held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Rev. Doug Holt officiating. Interment followed at Conner Cemetery with Todd Holmes, Mike Tucker, Steve Eppars, Jay Eppars, Rick Harrison, Robert Romans and Wynton Lewis serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearer is Tony Giles. Visitation was from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Tony passed away on Monday, April 4, 2016 at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. He was born on July 27, 1958 in Paris, the son of Elmer Joe and Lulla Ellen (Landers) Holmes. He married Sheri Renee Eppars on December 8, 1979 in

Commerce. He was a truck driver and of the Church of Christ faith.

He is survived by his wife; daughter, Jennifer Ricketson and husband, Jason of Sulphur Springs; son, Jay Holmes and wife, Valerie of LaFayette, LA; grandchildren, Shelbi Ricketson, Colton Ricketson, Emma Holmes and Ethan Holmes; mother and step-father, Lulla Hill and husband, L.C. of Cooper and sister, Jana Choate and husband, Bill of Cooper.

He is preceded in death by his father.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Conner Cemetery Association, c/o Jimmy Duncan, 11531 FM 69 N, Sulphur Bluff, Texas 75481.



Doris Nordin Ring

Funeral services for Doris Nordin Ring, age 92 of Sulphur Springs will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, April 7, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Rev. Jim Goodwin officiating. Interment will follow at Gafford Chapel Cemetery with Ricky Williams, Gary Williams, Jerry Lucky, Keith Edwards, Dwayne Sears and Mike Lucky serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers are Mike Briley, Don Phillips, Larry Edwards, Harold Bryant, Winston Grayson and Ray Flemens. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Doris passed away on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at Sunny Springs Nursing Home. She was born on March 22, 1924 in Hopkins County, the daughter of Victor E. and Ellen (Russell) Williams. She married Elvis Nordin, who preceded her in death. She

then married Eldon Ring, who also preceded her in death. She was a retired cafeteria worker and a member of the League Street Church of Christ. She is survived by her daughter, Linda Burgin and husband, Joe Bob of Sulphur Springs; son, Johnny Nordin and wife, Cathy of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Brad Burgin and wife, Julie, Corey Burgin and wife, Teffany, Jon Eric Nordin and wife, Laura, Landon Nordin and wife, Carla, , Dannett Sears and husband, Dwayne, Keith Edwards and wife, Angie, great-grandchildren, Bailey Burgin, Zackery Burgin, Mason Burgin, Connor Burgin, Brooks Burgin, Brinley Nordin, Ella Grace Nordin, Cara Nordin, Issabella Nordin, Annabella Nordin, Pacen Edwards Dawson Sears and Dlayne Sears; son-in-law, Larry Edwards and wife, Linda; sisters-in-law, Reba Williams and Hartense Williams.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Jalane Edwards; three brothers and four sisters.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Legacy Hospice and First United Methodist Church -Terrific Tuesdays.



Arnold Combs

Arnold Combs, age 70, of Emory, passed away Friday, March 25, 2016, at his home.

Arnold was born on November 3, 1945, in Corsicana to Earl David and Irma Lee Hemby Combs. He was a self employed paint contractor most of his life.

Survivors include: 2 Daughters: Carolyn Dian Combs McFarlin of Garland and Kimberly Ruth Combs Montez of Mesquite; 1 Son: Gary Lynn Combs of Emory; 1 Brother: David Earl Combs of Corsicana; 2 Sisters: Vernell Farmer and Charlene Combs Dennis both of Corsicana; 3 Grandchildren: Michael Ray Lasly, Kymberli Camille Castilo, and Salee Nichole Scott; 3 Great-grandchildren: Damion Cash Ware, Zachary Barnett, Jr., and Ayler Carolina Lasly; 2 Nephews: Ronald Lee Dabney and Donald Ray Fitch; Numerous other loving family and friends.

Preceded by: Parents, 2 Sisters: Joann Padier and Marie Holder; and 1 Brother: Ronald Lynn Combs

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Joseph "J.C." Pace

Graveside services for Joseph "J.C." Pace, age 88 of Dike were held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 1, 2016 at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas with D.J. Wulf officiating. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 31, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Joseph "J.C." passed away on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at Carriage House Manor. He was born on November 16, 1927 in Old Boston, the son of Walter Eugene and Carrie (Campbell) Pace. He married Vela Mae Pomeroy on December 28, 1952 in Rockwall. He served in the U.S. Air Force with the 5th Air Force Unit and the 20th Air Force Unit as a Staff Sargent during the World War II and Korean War, he was a dairy farmer and a member of Junius Heights Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife; sons, Thomas Pace of Dike, James Pace and Kimberly of Thermo, John Pace of Tyler, Joel Pace and wife, Melinda of Dike; grandchildren, Brad and Misty Tittle, Jeff Pace, Kris and Alaynna Pace, D.J. and Elizabeth Wulf, Kade Pace, Krista Pace, Koey Pace, Cassidy Pace, Cogley Pace and Ashley Pace; great-grandchildren, Layden Pace, Levi Henderson, Micah Henderson, Daniel Wulf, Elisha Wulf, Brayden Tittle and Brody Tittle and sister, Audrey White.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Daniel Pace; brothers, Leonard Pace, Leslie Pace, Herbert Pace and Herman Pace and sister, Clara Grace Coleman.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

Carl Thomas Johnston

2/14/1930 - 4/4/2016

Carl Thomas Johnston, 86, of Campbell, passed away on April 4, 2016 at his residence. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Shady Grove Baptist Church with Dr. James Ralson and Mr. Ladoice Hervey officiated. Services were under the direction of Coker-Mathews Funeral Home. Visitation was at 10:00 a.m. until service time at the church.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN
Free Crosses on Church Street...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Odds are, Shrimp Boat Manny's, on Church Street in Livingston, TX, may be the ultimate oxymoron. Where else, pray tell, can diners scarf down delicious Cajun food whipped up from Southern Louisiana recipes that owners Manny and Nancy Rachal have featured since 1985... then, pick up free crosses on the way out?

The intent is for the sealed cedar crosses-weighing 2.6 pounds each, 42 inches tall and 33 inches across-to be posted in yards or wherever. Painted in white on each cross are the words "JESUS IS LORD."

They are stacked beside each entry to the restaurant, and in three months, patrons have helped themselves to almost 3,000 signs. Oh, the oxymoron mentioned earlier; how 'bout "shrimp and salvation?" For those quick to criticize unintended irreverence, perhaps propriety might suggest that patrons find satisfaction for the tummy temporarily and the soul for eternity?....

Several years ago, Rev. Vic Bass, then pastor of a non-denominational church in a rural building between Diboll and Lufkin that once housed a honky-tonk, heard of a Nacogdoches man who enjoyed making crosses. Last spring, when he retired as a pastor of Faith Family Church, he took on a cross project himself, expanding it as he could. In a single year, it has grown beyond all ex-

pectations. Between Easters of 2015 and 2016, about 100,000 crosses have been made and distributed. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous East Texas businessman, two men have been hired full-time, and volunteers have popped up to help out.

So far, it has cost the anonymous underwriter between \$10,000 and \$12,000 monthly. There is no end in sight. Project leaders say they'll keep handing out crosses at least until the national election in November. And the generous provider nodded approval....

Dale Foux, manager of Shrimp Boat Manny's and a bona fide Cajun, is something of a "straw boss" on the distribution end of the project. His pick-up has a sign "free crosses," and folks take them as they please.

Foux and his followers sometimes leave "free cross" trailers on the side of the road,

and David Landrum at "Cool Shades," a car-tinting/truck accessory place in Cleveland, also stocks them. Gary Vess, Jr., who lives in Livingston and owns a transmission shop in Lufkin, hauls completed crosses from Rev. Bass' place to Livingston on his way home most days.

Crosses are available, too, at Thomas Mercantile, a souvenir/tea room/sandwich shop on a gravel road near Livingston. Several churches also have partaken. When Bar None Cowboy Church, between Tatum and Henderson, featured historian David Barton and Duck Dynasty's Phil Robertson as speakers, they expected to need quite a few crosses. Founder Vic put 900 crosses on a cattle trailer; volunteers unloaded, and all were gone by service's end. Then, the Bar None folks ordered 500 more for their Easter worship....

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