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GREAT BIG OUTDOOR SCULPTURES

Tumbleweed Smith



Joe Barrington of Albany creates outdoor "One of my favorite metal sculptures. pieces I ever built is in Lampasas. It's a sixteen-foot catfish on the back of a 1959 Chevrolet pickup. The fish hangs over the cab and has a come along on it and looks like it's just been caught.'

He did an immense longhorn bull standing in a pasture near Highway 380 between Haskell and Throckmorton. The Tumbleweed Smith silhouette takes drivers by surprise.

"That's one ofhe more popular pieces I've built. It was commissioned by a local rancher who had me build two fourteen-foot bulls. Then he told me he wanted a larger one. We put it out there with no ceremony or anything and it got immediate attention. Lots of photographs are taken there. It's been listed as a Roadside Attraction in Texas and got a lot of publicity for me. You can see it from two miles away because it's twenty-four feet tall. I could actually stand up in the chest cavity when I was building it."

He creates large deer skulls twelve feet across that are found in pastures all over Texas. "I build a lot of giant Texas iconic things like roadrunners and horned toads. In Willow Park near Weatherford is a large gar twenty feet tall standing on its tail." His work is found in several states from North Carolina to California. He grew up in his daddy's welding shop in Throckmorton. He had his own welding hood when he was two years old.

In college he studied art. "The professor found out I did welding and when I asked what the assignment was he said 'build me something.' I built an oversize set of tools that included pliers, a screwdriver and sledge hammer. I was able to sell some things while I was in college at Midwestern. That led me to be nanve enough to think that I could built sculptures for a living after I graduated."

It took a while. He worked with his dad six years, all the time creating and showing his work at art shows. "About the time I was struggling with it I had a guy from North Carolina call me two years after I did a show up there. He said he buys ten thousand dollars worth of art a year and wanted some of my pieces. That's what I was after: getting them out there. That what I tell young artists: to keep building and putting it out there. You've just got to be determined."

His Red Star Studio in Albany is also his home. He has no plans to retire. "I get antsy if I don't work on something. I go on vacation for a week or so then I'm ready to make something. I may carve on a piece of wood or draw. I feel like if you're an artist you have that motivation. You've got the fuel and you've got to use it by creating something. If you don't have that it's not going to work. You've got to have the drive. In my dream world I could stay in my studio and make things I want to do, put them outside the studio and wait for people to come and buy them. It doesn't work that way. If you keep producing good work consistently you'll find a way to make a living with it."

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Shirley Kay Clifton

Funeral services for Shirley Kay Clifton, age 82, of Sulphur Springs were conducted at at 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 5, 2024 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Pete McNabb officiating. Visitation was held at 1:00 p.m., 1 hour prior to the service. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Paul Jones, Jerod Hill, Clayton Jones, Yoan Preciado, Connor Hill and Dylan Hill serving as pallbearers.

Kay passed away on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Wesley Oaks in Sulphur Springs. Kay was born on February 3, 1942 in Texarkana, AR, the daughter of Joseph Leslie Stinson and Eva Loretta Long Stinson. She married Joe Dan Clifton on February 18, 1967 in Dallas, TX. Kay was a co-owner and operator in the retail grocery business alongside her husband. Faith and church were important to her, she loved playing piano at church which was a lifelong passion of hers. She was a graduate of SMU where she received a business degree. She worked for Social Security and the EPA and then became a homemaker. She is survived

by her daughters, Kathryn Jones and husband Paul and Carolyn Hill and husband Jerod of Branson, MO, grandchildren, Clayton Jones and wife Allison of Allen, TX, Claire Jones of Sulphur Springs, Connor Hill and Dylan Hill of Branson, MO, great-grandson, Nicholes Edward Jones. Kay was preceded in death by her parents, and husband Joe Dan.



Chad Bradley

A visitation for Chad Bradley, age 44, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, TX. A private family graveside service was held at Arbala Cemetery. Mr. Bradley passed away on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Chad Allen Bradley was born on October 19, 1979 in Sulphur Springs, TX to Steve Bradley and Gina (Beckham) Dailey. He married the love of his life Kelly Farrar on February 20, 2009 in Sulphur Springs, TX. Chad worked for the City of Sulphur Springs for over 16 years and in recent years was the Supervisor for Parks & Recreation for the City of Sulphur Springs. He was a member of the Sulphur Springs Boys Baseball Association and the Legends Orange Baseball Team.

He is survived by wife, Kelly Bradley; daughter, Addison Bradley; son, Parker Bradley; fur-baby, Legend; all of Sulphur Springs; parents, Steve and Kathy Bradley of Bonham, TX and Gina and Wayne Dailey of Dike, TX; sister, Kristin Bradley of Sulphur Springs, TX; brother, BJ Brackett of Bonham, TX; sister-in-law, Julea Farrar; grandparents, Alice Bradley, Don and Barbara

Bradley, Wanda and Bill Vester; nephews, Jace Dixon, Jaxon Dixon, Jakoby Brackett; niece, McKenna Smith; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Chad is preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Della Gammill; grandfather, Ben Beckham, and brother, Kaleb Sewell. Memorials can be made at Alliance Bank to his children, Addison Bradley or Parker Bradley or via Venmo @packbradley.



Larry Don Deaton

Larry Don Deaton, 78, alifetime resident of Sulphur Springs, Texas, passed away early Thursday morning, February 1, 2024. He died from the complications of a recently suffered stroke.

Larry was born November 18, 1945, in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Ira Allen Deaton and Amy Myrtle Chapman. He graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1964 and married Judith Jackson on August 5, 1965. Larry and Judy owned and operated a dairy for several years. During those years, they also hosted many ropings at their arena. In 1979, they purchased a red, white, and blue eighteen-wheeler and began hauling cattle. Larry then became known as "Coal-miner." He made trips all over Texas and some into South Dakota, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. After hauling cattle, he worked for Pilgrims hauling chickens.

Larry is survived by his wife, Judy, and his children, Debbie Trucker and David Deaton. Debbie and her husband, Terry, are the parents of Larry's grandchildren, Olivia and Reece Tucker. Larry also has a surviving sister, Jo Ruth Hodge, of Sulphur Springs. Larry and Judy's Jack Russell terrier, Lucy, will be missing many treats she enjoyed with Papa.

Larry will be cremated and his ashes spread along the many West Texas roads he frequented while hauling cattle. Thank you to the many kind caregivers of Carriage House and the ICU nurses of Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.



Yvonne Dicken

Yvonne Dicken, age 88, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 31, 2024. She was born September 1 st, 1935 in Emory, Texas to Chet and Odie Fatheree. She graduated valedictorian of her class at Rains High School in 1953 and married George Truett Dicken at age 17 on January 16, 1953 in Sulphur Springs, TX. Yvonne and Truett were long-time dairy farmers in Hopkins County. Yvonne was devoted to her family and was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Yvonne was a long-time and active member of League Street church of Christ. She loved to travel as well as attend TOPS meetings with her close friends. Yvonne is preceded in death by her loving husband, Truett Dicken. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Hijuan Shao Dicken; daughter and son-in-law Jan and Kerry Taylor; grandchildren Mitchell Taylor and wife Gabbi, Kelly Dicken, Russell Taylor, Ashley Sepulveda and husband Shane, Alexandria Woodard and husband Heath; great grandchildren Colby Lindsey,

Colten Lindsey, Clay Sepulveda, Kate Taylor, Kelsey Sepulveda, Isaac Taylor, Kyle Taylor, and Briggs Woodard. Visitation was held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024, at West Oaks Funeral Home. Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 4th, 2024, at West Oaks Funeral Home. Graveside followed at Miller Grove Cemetery.

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