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The old Route 66 had 2,448 miles and stretched from Chicago to Santa Monica. It was built in 1926 to offer travelers a road to the west, giving them hope and a new beginning during the dust bowl days. went through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona Tumbleweed Smith and California. John Steinbeck called it

Mother Road in his novel THE GRAPES OF WRATH.

I became interested in the Texas portion of the highway in 2023 when I was doing some interviews around Amarillo. Someone suggested I should look into some of the sights along the 178 miles of the highway that goes through Texas. It is now interstate 40, but once you get off the main artery, you will see some interesting stores, structures, restored filling stations, old hardware stores and museums. I was actually able to drive on portions of the original highway. I recently completed covering all of the highway in Texas and doing research on things along the way. I have become a big fan of the highway and hope to drive its entire length.

Should you decide to do the Texas portion during the centennial celebration next year, I recommend going by the 66 historical association office in Amarillo and get information. If you travel from east to west, you start in the ghost town of Texola. It's actually in Oklahoma, but is considered the starting point from the east end of the Texas portion of the highway. There's not much there now. Traveling west you can stop in Shamrock and see the restored Conoco Tower station. McLean has THE DEVIL'S ROPE MUSEU M. Native Americans called barbed wire The Devil's Rope because it hurt horses and humans. The museum is all about barbed wire and has a bra made of barbed wire. Plan to spend time at the cross at Groom. It is an impressive monument surrounded by walkways, bronze sculptures, a fountain with beautiful rockwork and an impressive gift shop.

At the ghost town of Jericho we met Blanca and Blair Schaefer who own land with an old tourist court that they are restoring. Alanreed is one of the largest tiny towns along the highway. Fifty people live there.

Amarillo has been planning for the big centennial celebration of the folk highway for more than three years. The city has all kinds of things to see and do including a couple of blocks of 66 with shops, restaurants and lots of Amarillo is a good place to stay during your

trip. Go east one day, west the next. At Vega, eat some pie at Mama Jo's and see the historic museum and restored Magnolia station. Adrian is the midpoint of the 2,448-mile route and has the Midpoint Cafй, which has fried bologna sandwiches on the menu. The last stop west on the Texas portion of 66 is at the ghost town of Glenrio. Only one person lives there. An old Pontiac sits near her home. Her husband bought it new and was murdered soon after he bought it. It hasn't moved The only business in town is a store that sells marijuana, it's barely over the line in New Mexico.

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Answers On Page 3

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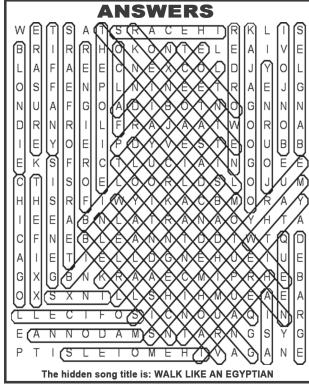
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Barbara Jo Williamson July 13, 1931 — August 24, 2025

A graveside service for Barbara Jo Williamson (Mimi), age 94 of Mesquite, Texas was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 30, 2025 at Reilly Springs Cemetery with Freddie Orr officiating.

Barbara Jo Williamson (Mimi) was born on July 13, 1931 to Wallace and Ellie Swindell in Reilly Springs, Texas. She grew up the oldest of three sisters in Reilly Springs, eventually moving to Sulphur Springs, where she graduated high school, top of her class. After graduating, she attended nursing school in Dallas, completing one of those years in Galveston, Texas, where she often visited, the last time with her daughter and grandchildren in November of 2021.

Her nursing career spanned 64 years. She served the Sulphur Springs Hospital as an overnight nurse, during which she met her husband, Billy Williamson, a Sulphur Springs police officer. They had two daughters, Joellyn and Janessa. After her overnight shifts, she transitioned as an RN at the Titus County Hospital, moved to Winnsboro to become the Director of Nursing while raising her two daughters. In 1965 Barbara moved into school nursing in Winnsboro ISD and served

there until the family moved to Mesquite, Texas in 1970. She served as a school nurse in Mesquite ISD from 1970 to her retirement in 1998. She served in many elementary, middle, and high schools in Mesquite ISD, including Tosch Elementary where she served as the nurse to two of her grandchildren, Jennifer and Alyssa. After her retirement, she continued to serve Mesquite ISD as a substitute nurse and assisted in hearing and vision screenings until 2013.

Barbara loved her community and neighbors. She had many pets along the way, but her pekingese, Private and black cat, Molly were her most beloved, keeping her company in the most recent years. She was a member of the Second Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Billy Williamson; daughter, Joellyn Durbin, sister, Karen Rosentraub; and parents, Wallace and Ellie Swindell. She is survived by her daughter, Janessa Boyett (Bill); grandchildren, Jennifer Miller (Brandon), Alyssa Boyett-Collins (William), Jeff Brickhouse; great-grandchildren, Kayla Millar-Lopez (Christian), Tyler Millar, and Bryce Miller; her sister, Myrna Pickard; and many nieces and nephews.

She was a loving wife, mom, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, and friend. She passed away peacefully at Avalon Memory Care in Garland, Texas on August 24, 2025. A special thank you to Avalon for the kindness and patience they showed Barbara during this past year.



Etna Jane Bridges Haley

Etna Jane Bridges Haley nee' Fate passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 87 on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at her homein Scroggins, Texas.

Etna was born September 25, 1937, to Emory Fate and Ethel (Griggs) Fate in Monahans, Texas. After the death of her father, her mother moved her and her sister, Minnie to Saltillo, Texas, where they resided for many years. Etna met her first husband, Charles Sanford Bridges, in high school. On October 23, 1951, at a Halloween party hosted by mutual friends, they took a walk, holding hands and gazing at the stars on a dark country road, and fell in love. He proposed to her at Stout's Creek Cemetery, and they were married on September 5, 1953. They had 4 children together and were together for 49 years until his passing on July 26,2002. She later got a second chance at love, when she met James Haley at the Life Fellowship Church in Mount Vernon and married in 2004. They were together for 10 years

until they parted in death on December 13, 2014.

She is survived by her children, James (Evangeline) Bridges, Jeffrey (Amy) Bridges, Jane Bridges (Barbara Bays), Brett (Lindy) Haley, and David Haley; her grandchildren, Kathleen (James) Bradley, Susan (Jimmy) Horn, Dustin (Ray) Bridges, Johnny (Kristy) Bays, Kelly (Austin) Haley Roth, JR Haley; her great grandchildren, Hannah Bradley and Loki Bradley; brother-in-law, Bo Wafford; sister-in-law, Norma Bridges and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Emory and Ethel Fate; husbands, Charles Sanford Bridges and James Haley; son, Joe Charles Bridges; sister, Minnie Wafford; brother-in-law, Doyle Bridges; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bobbie and Annada Worsham; step-daughter-in-law, Traci Haley.

Etna had many talents, including cooking, arts and crafts, painting, crochet, embroidery, and was a skilled seamstress. She enjoyed antiquing, garage sales, and watching hummingbirds from her front porch with a good cup of coffee.

A visitation was Friday, August 29,2025, from 6 to 8 pm at Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home. Funeral services were scheduled for Saturday, August 30, 2025, at 2 pm at Greenwood Baptist Church with burial to follow at Greenwood Cemetery, officiated by Shannon Gamil. Online condolences maybe made at www.samharveyfuneralhome.com

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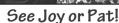
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