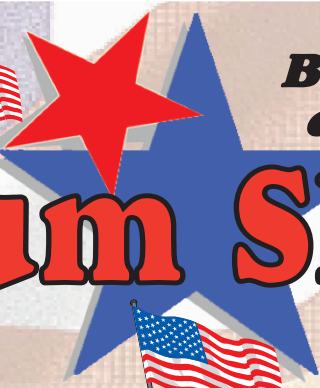


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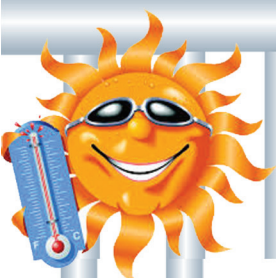
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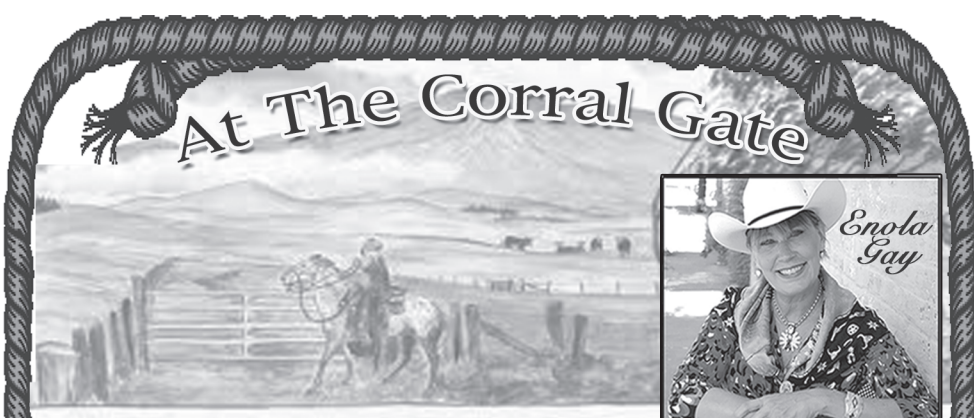
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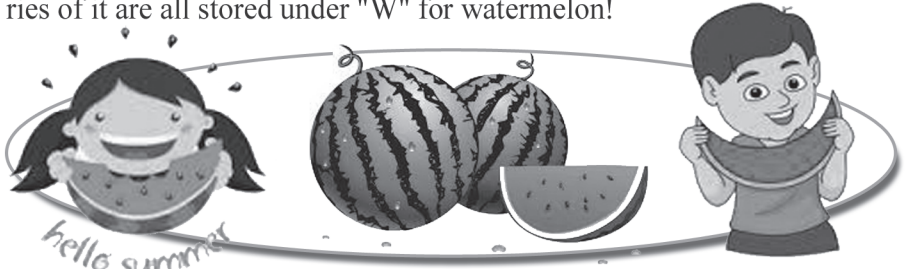
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At The Corral Gate



Sights, sounds, scents...all evoke memories stored in our subconscious. For me, the smell of ripe watermelon brings memories of my teen summers into sharp focus. That's when my adult life was just beginning, so each experience was carefully stored for future reference. Watermelon makes me think of the long, lazy evenings sitting outside with grandmother Leona under her bedroom windows in the metal lawn chairs. I was 17, and she was 71, my "new" grandmother. We would eat watermelon. Like maybe a whole melon daily, in just one afternoon and evening's time! There would be the salt shaker and a choice of spoon or fork, and of course a kitchen tea towel for each of us. (We didn't waste paper towels back then...maybe didn't even have them!) Something she liked to do was scrape the rinds after we had finished with all the red melon. She would collect the juice in a fruit jar and put it in the refrigerator, then drink it cold through the next day. She told me it battled kidney problems. I know now that it was a preventative remedy, thought of as a "folk remedy" back then. She was raised on a farm at Logansport, Texas and then she worked a farm at Deadwood, Tx with her husband during her adult life. She lived close to the outdoor environment even when I knew her in 1970. She always hung her clothes outside on the line..sheets and towels every Monday religiously, whitening them in the sun. Her house sat across from the Panola County Courthouse on Sabine Street in Carthage, Texas. It was within easy walking distance of the Carthage downtown square and banks. Also the movie theater, which still had an upstairs colored section even then. Next to her present home was the "big house" which she built on a lot in town after the farm was sold. In my time, it served as four apartments for senior citizens I lived with her for a year when my husband (her grandson) was in Viet Nam. After having raised her own family, she took the boy to raise and put through school. She was the first of his family members that I met, outside of his sister Ann, who was my best friend in 9th grade. During the year I spent with Leona, I got my first lessons in cooking in that little dog-trot kitchen. It was spotless though not very photogenic. Nothing like the dream kitchens in today's magazines! Unforgettably clear to me now was the daily transition from hot afternoon to gradual sundown, when the crickets and katy-dids began their chorus. After watermelon time was over, twilight brought loneliness. That's when I'd get the letters out. Back in those days, the only communication with military loved ones were the air mail letters. They weren't hard to spot in the day's mail, with the red and blue trim around the edges of the white envelope. Most of the time I would receive several at a time, and then experience a drought of letters for another long while. (he had the same experience in receiving mine) Those letters were the lifeline that made the year bearable, and they were read until worn thin, and until his return to the States in 1971. I know that year couldn't have been all summer, but my memories of it are all stored under "W" for watermelon!



I have been noticing that you can only buy seedless watermelons in the local grocery stores. I read about these,...seedless melons are genetically modified, either by chromosome manipulation or by use of a chemical. According to Brookshire's Store Manager Rodney Reese, today's farmers like growing them more than the old style of seeded melons, because they generate more revenue. But if you want an old-fashioned seeded melon, just ask at Brookshire's, They can order these for you, grown by Texas farmers from Palestine and Jacksonville areas. And Extension Agent Johanna Hicks says she likes buying home-grown produce from farmer's markets and local growers. To me, a yellow-meated watermelon is still a treat!

Until next week, may your summer be memorable and your watermelons sweet! I'll watch for you at the corral gate!

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I'M AN OLD COWHAND IS A SPOOF SONG

Tumbleweed Smith

Last year I was in Savannah, Georgia. Not far from our hotel was a statue of Johnny Mercer, the songwriter who was born and raised in Savannah. We had our pictures taken by the statue and really didn't think any more about Mr. Mercer until I interviewed Charlie Davis in Sweetwater. Charlie has an old fashioned chuck wagon and competes in various cooking events. After he cooks, he gets out his ukulele and sings western songs. I recorded him singing "I'm An Old Cowhand" which was written by Johnny Mercer. It was the first time I really listened to the words of the song.

I was intrigued to find that the song is a parody of the vision Mercer had of cowboys dressed in western garb riding in cars instead of riding horses. According to internet research, he wrote the song out of frustration. He had been in Hollywood for a while and didn't get the attention he thought he deserved, so he headed back to Savannah, noticing the cowboys while he was driving through the west. Singing cowboys were popular then, so in fifteen minutes he wrote the words to the song on the back of an envelope. Here are the lyrics penned during that 1936 road trip:

I'm an old cowhand from the Rio Grande. But my legs ain't bowed and my cheeks ain't tan. I'm a cowboy who never saw a cow, never roped a steer cause I don't know how. Sure ain't fixin' to start in now. Yippie yi yo kai-yay. I'm an old cowhand from the Rio Grande. I learned to ride 'fore I learned to stand. I'm a riding fool who is up to date. I know every trail in the Lone Star State cause I ride the range in a Ford V-8. Yippie yi yo kai-yay. I'm an old cowhand from the Rio Grande. And I come to town just to hear the band. I know all the songs that the cowboys know, 'bout the big corral where the doggies go, cause I learned them all on the radio. Yippie yi yo kai-yay. I'm an old cowhand from the Rio Grande. Where the west is wild around the borderland. Where buffalo roam around the zoo and the Indians will sell you a rug or two and the old Bar X is just a barbecue. Yippie Yi Yo Kai-Yay.

Bing Crosby sang the song in the movie Rhythm on the Range and launched Mercer's career. Singers from Frank Sinatra to Tex Ritter have recorded it. Members of the Western Writers of America chose it as one of the top 100 Western Songs of all time.

Mercer wrote more than a thousand songs and founded Capitol Records. He was the first songwriter to win four Oscars. The first one came in 1946 for "On the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe" sung by Judy Garland in The Harvey Girls. Next came "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening" for the 1951 film Here Comes the Groom. He wrote "Moon River" in 1961 for Breakfast at Tiffany's which won him a third Oscar. His fourth one, in 1962, was for the title song in Days of Wine and Roses.

Mercer died in Los Angeles in 1976 at the age of 67. It will probably be a long time before another songwriter creates such an archive of memorable music that runs the gamut from highly emotional to whimsical.
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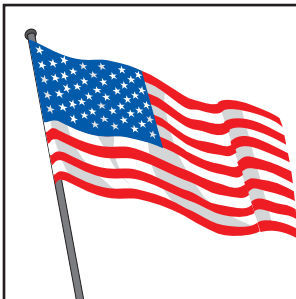
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Gale Storm

Gale Storm (April 5, 1922 – June 27, 2009) was an American actress and singer who starred in two popular television programs of the 1950s, *My Little Margie* and *The Gale Storm Show*.

Storm was born Josephine Owaissa Cottle in Bloomington in Victoria County, Texas. The youngest of five children, she had two brothers and two sisters. Her father, William Walter Cottle, died after a year-long illness when she was just seventeen months old, and her mother, Minnie Corina Cottle, struggled to raise the children alone. One of her sisters gave Josephine the middle name "Owaissa," a Norridgewock Amerindian word meaning "bluebird." Storm's mother Minnie took in sewing, then opened a millinery shop in McDade, Texas, which failed, and finally moved the family to Houston. Storm learned to be an accomplished dancer and became an excellent ice skater at Houston's Polar Palace. She performed in the drama club at both Albert Sidney Johnston Junior High School and San Jacinto High School.

When she was 17 years old, two of her teachers urged her to enter a contest on Gateway to Hollywood, broadcast from the CBS Radio studios in Hollywood, California. First prize was a one-year contract with a movie studio. She won and was immediately given the stage name Gale Storm. Her performing partner (and future husband), Lee Bonnell from South Bend, Indiana, became known as Terry Belmont.

After winning the contest in 1940, Storm made several films for the studio, RKO Radio Pictures. Her first was Tom Brown's School Days, playing opposite Jimmy Lydon and Freddie Bartholomew. She worked steadily in low-budget films released during this period. In 1941 she sang in several Soundies, three-minute musicals produced for "movie jukeboxes."

Storm acted and sang in Monogram Pictures' popular Frankie Darro series, and played ingénue roles in other Monogram features with the East Side Kids, Edgar Kennedy and The Three Stooges, most notably in the film *Swing Parade of 1946*. Monogram had always relied on established actors with reputations, but in Gale Storm the studio finally had a star of its own. She played the lead in the studio's most elaborate productions, both musical and dramatic. She shared top billing in Monogram's *Cosmo Jones*, *Crime Smasher* (1943), opposite Edgar Kennedy, Richard Cromwell, and Frank Graham in the role of Jones, a character derived from network radio.

American audiences warmed to Storm and her fan mail increased. She performed in more than three dozen motion pictures for Monogram, experience which made possible her success in other media. She became an American icon of the 1950s, starring in two highly successful television series. It was also in this decade that her singing career took shape. She appeared on such variety programs as ABC's *The Pat Boone Chevy Showroom*.

In 1950, Storm made her TV debut in Hollywood Premiere Theatre on ABC. From 1952 to 1955, she starred in *My Little Margie*. The show, which co-starred former silent film actor Charles Farrell as her father, was originally a summer replacement for *I Love Lucy* on CBS, but ran for 126 episodes on NBC and CBS. The series was broadcast on CBS Radio from December 1952 to August 1955 with the same actors.

Storm's popularity was capitalized on when she served as hostess of the NBC Comedy Hour in the winter of 1956. That year she starred in another situation comedy, *The Gale Storm Show* (aka *Oh! Susanna*), featuring another silent movie star, ZaSu Pitts. The Gale Storm show ran for 143 episodes between 1956 and 1960. Storm appeared regularly on other television programs in the 1950s and 1960s. She was both a panelist and a "mystery guest" on *What's My Line?*

In Gallatin, Tennessee in November 1954, a 10-year-old girl, Linda Wood, was watching Storm on a Sunday night television variety show, NBC's *Colgate Comedy Hour*, hosted by Gordon MacRae, singing one of the popular songs of the day. Linda's father asked her who was singing and was told it was Gale Storm from *My Little Margie*. Linda's father Randy Wood was president of Dot Records, and he liked Storm so much that he called to sign her before the end of the television show. Her first record, "I Hear You Knockin'," a cover version of a rhythm and blues hit by Smiley Lewis, sold over a million copies. The follow-up was a two-sided hit, with Storm covering Dean Martin's "Memories Are Made of This" backed with her cover of Gloria Mann's "A Teenage Prayer." That was followed by a hit cover of Frankie Lymon's "Why Do Fools Fall in Love." Storm's subsequent record sales began to slide but soon rebounded with a cover of her own labelmate Bonnie Guitar's haunting ballad "Dark Moon" that went to No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100. Storm had several other hits and headlined in Las Vegas and appeared in numerous stage plays. Amazingly, Storm only recorded for approximately two years with Dot and then gave up recording because of her husband's concerns with the time she had to devote to that career. Equally amazing, almost her entire recording career was based on her quickly recording cover versions of new hits by other artists (one, a cover of Joni James' "I Need You So," was never released). Many felt that Storm's covers often were better than the originals, and she developed a large following.

Storm was married and widowed twice. In 1941, she married Lee Bonnell (1918–1986), then an actor and later a businessman. They had four children: Peter, Phillip, Paul and Susanna. She married the second time in 1988 to Paul Masterson (1917–1996).

In her later years she struggled with alcoholism, in her own words:

During the 1970s I experienced a terribly low and painful time of dealing with alcoholism. I had Lee's unfailing support through the entire ordeal. My treatment and recovery were more than rugged. At that time, there was such a stigma attached to alcoholism, particularly for women, that it could be hazardous to your reputation and career. I thank God daily that I have been fully recovered for more than 20 years. During my struggle, I had no idea of the blessing my experience could turn out to be! I've had the opportunity to share with others suffering with alcoholism the knowledge that there is help, hope, and an alcohol free life awaiting them.

Storm was a great believer in the benevolence of God and was very much a Christian and later became an active member of the South Shores Church. She once said of this:

Life has been good and I thank God for His many blessings and the happy life He has given to me.

Storm made occasional television appearances in later years, such as *Love Boat*, *Burke's Law*, and *Murder, She Wrote*. In 1981, she published her autobiography, *I Ain't Down Yet*, which described her battle with alcoholism. She was also interviewed by author David C. Tucker for *The Women Who Made Television Funny: Ten Stars of 1950s Sitcoms*, published in 2007 by McFarland and Company.

Storm continued to make personal appearances and autographed photos at fan conventions, along with Charles Farrell from the *My Little Margie* series. She also attended events such as the Memphis Film Festival, the Friends of Old-Time Radio and the Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention.

Storm lived alone in Monarch Beach, California, near two of her sons and their families, until failing health forced her into a convalescent home, near San Francisco in Danville, California. She died there on June 27, 2009.

Storm has three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for her contributions to recording, radio, and television.



Gale Storm



Storm with Billy Vaughn. The two wrote "You're My Baby Doll" and performed it on Storm's television show in 1958.



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Obits

Billy Wayne Long

Billy Wayne Long age 85 of Wolfe City passed away on Friday, July 1, 2016 at the Texas Veterans State Home in Bonham. He was born on March 5, 1931 in Miller Grove, Texas to William Felix Long and Adelpia Burks Long.

Billy was known around the area for his musical talents, playing in several local bands. He retired from JCPenney company after many years in the warehouse department. He also served in the United State Army from February 9, 1954 till February 8, 1956.

Mr. Long is survived by his son Kevin Long of Grand Prairie, two brothers Noelle Long and Dennis Long.

He is preceded in death by his wife Kanova Lee Long, both parents, twin sister Betty Jane and sister Ina Nell Jean

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 8, 2016 at 11:15 A.M. at the Dallas Ft. Worth National Cemetery.

Elizabeth "Liz" Johnson Polk

Funeral services for Elizabeth Johnson Polk "Liz", age 76, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 9, 2016 at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Mel Haven Cemetery. There will no formal visitation. Liz passed away Saturday, July 3, 2016 at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Patricia W. Thompson

Funeral services for Patricia W. Thompson, age 68, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 7, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Terry Sparks officiating. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park with Wes Hampton, John West, Chuck King, Gerry Grafton, Jack Newsom and Gary Thompson serving as pallbearers. Visitation was from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Patricia passed away Monday, July 4, 2016 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab.

Patricia was born on August 25, 1947 in Sulphur Springs the daughter of Elbert R. Wilkins and Marylee Henslee Wilkins. She married William David Thompson on November 22, 1967 in Sulphur Springs. He survives. Patricia became an LVN after high school and then became a Registered nurse several years later. She was a homemaker and a member of Family

Life Church.

In addition to her husband she is survived by two sons, Scott Thompson and wife Pam of Sulphur Springs, Dale Thompson and wife Dawn of Sulphur Springs, sister, Robbie Newsom and husband Robert of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Robin SanGiacomo Lazarus, Anthony SanGiacomo, Garrett Thompson, Monica Harris Lane and Matthew Harris, 5 great-grandchildren and 5 nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and an infant brother.

In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made to your local church or charity of choice in Patricia's name.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Frances Marilyn Hunt

Graveside services for Frances Marilyn Hunt, age 82, of Paris, were scheduled for 2:00 PM, Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at Greenview Cemetery with Pastor John Griswood officiating. Jarrett Martin, Jantzen Martin, Donovan Mullens, Chris McClure, Dustin McNeece and Curtis Dismukes served as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour before the service in the Greenview Community Center.

Marilyn Hunt was born August 3, 1933, in Lena Mississippi, the daughter of Louie Rushing and Ida (May) Rushing. She was a retail clerk for Goodwill and of the Baptist faith. Ms. Hunt was a long time resident of the Shirley Community. Frances Marilyn Hunt passed away Saturday, July 2, 2016 at Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris.

Survivors include, two daughters; Hilda Dismukes, and husband, Neal, of Blossom, and Lori Martin of Ft. Worth; four sons: Glen McNeece, and wife, Joyce of Santa Anna, CA., Roy McNeece, and wife, Brenda, of Paris, Roger McNeece, and wife Julie, of Paris, and Robert McNeece, and wife, Pearl, of Memphis TN; a step-daughter, Cathy Weaver of Shirley, TX; a special nephew George McNeece, and wife, Linda of Powderly, TX; many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; three brothers and one sister.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clitus Hunt, her parents, three brothers, three sisters and two granddaughters, Cassandra McNeece and Velma Ruth Dismukes.

Arrangements were under the direction of Tapp Funeral Home.

Diane J. Schwertner

Diane J. Schwertner passed away Wednesday, June 30, 2016 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab. She was born in Como, daughter of James and Lavada (Collins) Johnson. She married Daniel Adolph Schwertner in Hugo, OK on October 20, 1956. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband; daughter, Jan Bain of Winnsboro; and grandchildren, Melissa Doom and Brian Bain.

She is preceded in death by two sisters, Kay Wallace and Dolores Stubbs.



Ben McGill

Memorial service for Ben McGill, age 61, of Como, were held at 11:00 am, Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory. Mr. McGill passed away Thursday, June 30, 2016 at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

He was born Jan. 10, 1955, in Como, to Jim and Dorothy Ophelia Harris McGill.

Survivors include:

Daughters: Wendy Rodriguez (Sinclair) of Greenville; and, Shalanda Laperouse of Broussard, LA;

Brothers: Roger McGill and John McGill both of Como;

Sisters: Katie McGill and Rose Robinson (John L.) both of Como;

Grandchildren: Marquise Champion, Malik Champion, Sinclair Rodriguez, Jr.,

Zabria McGill, Alexis McGill, and Sterling Laperouse;

Numerous other loving family and friends

Preceded in death by: Parents; 4 Brothers, Onnie McGill; Ess McGill, Jimmy McGill, Tomas McGill; and 1 sister, Enola Bozeman.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Assaulted by Words...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

A different kind of avalanche sure to qualify as "breaking news" may soon come crashing down. And lesser ones will follow.

Crumbling fast are some universal, rock-solid beliefs the masses have believed to be unchanging truths. To illustrate, I cite findings I didn't even know I was looking for during a recent visit to Globe Life Park, where the Texas Rangers play baseball.

At the outset, I point to an adage dating back to 1862: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Columnist Robyn Short thinks whoever originated this statement was "on the receiving end of a very kind-speaking stick thrower." She--along with millions of us in lines snaking around the world--believes words do hurt. And they crash into our senses increasingly from all directions....

Many times they hurt. They also may offend, confuse, overwhelm, distract, alarm and threaten. With their excessive range, they also can both minimize and maximize. What else can so effectively bludgeon us into submission on one hand, or bore us to sleep on the other?

If words were hail, many of us would be declared total losses.

Yep, broken bones can be fixed. Psyches? Not so fast. How much more, pray tell, can we mortals process, depending presently on mere eyes and ears?....

Much competes for our attention. We've grown accustomed to ever more sophisticated traditional media. Add heaping helpings from social media devices, and our receptors grow numb.

At Globe Life Park, three new "pitches" were noted. (Reference is to advertising "pitches"--not the ones thrown from the mound.)

Most notable is the new left field message board. With this additional square footage, much more "information" now is available, perhaps soon including players' DNA and blood types....

The new foul poles, with three huge words painted vertically, urge us to "Eat More Fowl." I like Chick-fil-A sandwiches, and freely admit that most of its ads are clever.

The ones on foul poles are not. (It is a "lousy chicken joke.") Fans are eager to know if balls smacked out of the ballpark are fair or foul. And what about the folks in the outfield seats, having to look around the "Eat More Fowl" message from the back side? Indeed, the misplaced message could lead to our eating less fowl.

I had foolishly assumed some parts of the ballpark would be spared secondary assignment as cogs in the giant advertising machine. The decision to run ads on the foul poles is as ill-advised--falling into the same tacky category as ads swinging from cross bars on goal posts, pop-ups from backboards when baskets are made, or psychedelic colors flashing from nets upon scored hockey goals....

Finally, how about ads worded to make provisions for expansion? Here again, Globe Life Park is cited.

Portal ads push Dr Pepper, "AN official soft drink of the Texas Rangers." (Bold face is mine.) Does this mean there will be more soft

drinks--like players--to be named later?

My guess is Dr Pepper got more "bang" from the opening pitch "thrown" recently by a 105-year-old woman. She credited "drinking three Dr Peppers a day" for her longevity. She said doctors had advised her against it, adding, "They died first, so I guess they made a mistake."...

Maybe there's no end to this vexing assault on our senses by words. A haunting thought mentioned years ago by somebody famous sums it up: "We can see around the world in seconds, hear around the world in seconds and be around the world in hours. But we have to use the same nervous system Moses had when he led the children of Israel from the land of bondage."

Man's inhumanity to man seems to be on a downhill slope, gaining speed.

It doesn't appear the masses will rise up, even if the next thing we know, Chick-fil-A--or another well-known corporate giant--may claim sponsorship of the National Anthem when we're taken out to the old ballgame. 'Course, this whole piece is from a guy who, at age 14, painted an outdoor sign reading: "Handguns and Snow Cones." In our small shop, another guy sold the guns; I was the concessionaire....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Columns archived at venturegalleries.com, newbury blog.

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Summer Cooling Stations are scheduled as follows: @ 2:00 p.m.

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- July 21 - Fresh Fruit & Fellowship
- July 14 - Banana Splits
- July 28 - Popsicles

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