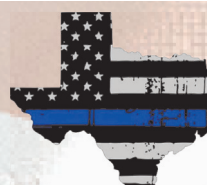


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## GUN PRANKS IN DEL RIO

**Tumbleweed Smith**



Gary Humphreys has a gun shop in Del Rio. A giant sculpture of a six-shooter stands beside his building. Gary is one popular guy. He loves history, explores old battle sites and is active in all sorts of shooting events for kids. He has a buddy named Anthony Kusenberger who is a great practical joker. They are both members of the Lions Club and when Gary was running for some office within the club, Anthony served as his campaign manager. At a club luncheon, he got up and made a speech in Gary's behalf.

"Nobody in Del Rio knows more about guns than Gary Humphreys," spoke Anthony from the podium. "He stays real busy at his shop taking care of his many customers who bring in their guns for repairs. Sometimes, though, he gets behind and is late getting the guns fixed and back to their owners. Some time ago, a twelve-year-old boy had a small rifle that needed repairing and he and his mother took it to Gary's shop. I'm glad to say I've got that rifle right here and the owner is here to pick it up. So little Jimmy Blocklinger please come up here."

Jimmy Blocklinger is a survivor of Pearl Harbor who is in his eighties. The Lions Club members had a good laugh. Gary, though, was not amused. "Back at my shop," says Gary, "I found a twenty-two that I've had there since the mid-eighties. This little teenager and his mother brought it in to be repaired. It would have cost more to repair it than what it was worth, so I called the mother and told her it'd be better to just replace it with something and she could pick up the gun. She never came to pick it up. The woman happened to be Anthony's mother and that gun belonged to Anthony."

Last fall Del Rio had its annual wild game dinner during which 125 guns were given away at a raffle. Anthony won a rifle worth about \$700 and was going to pick it up at Gary's gun shop.


"One of my employees, who had heard about the prank Anthony pulled on me," says Gary, "suggested a good way to get back at him and get rid of that old gun. He said we could take that expensive gun out of its box and put that rusty old twenty-two in it. I thought that was a good idea, so that's what we did. We sealed up the box real good to look like it had never been opened. Anthony came down, filled out the necessary paper work, picked up the gun and out the door he went."

Gary got a call from Anthony later that afternoon.

"He said he got home and opened up that box and was looking at the gun, not realizing that it was the one he had as a teenager. His wife commented that she thought the guns were supposed to be new. Anthony got the right gun and he's happy now, probably thinking about another prank to pull on me."


www.tumbleweedsmith.com

## At The Corral Gate




For Americans who hail from the South, "watermelon time" denotes an interval of time that requires nothing more of it's subjects than finding enjoyment and making memories. I hope this 1961 classic poem by John Tobias will transport you back to the "sweet bye and bye" of your summertime youth, and remind us "grown-up children" of the value and importance of the human memory.


Reflections On A Gift Of Watermelon Pickle Received From A Friend Called Felicity.




During that summer  
 When unicorns were still possible;  
 When the purpose of knees  
 Was to be skinned;  
 When shiny horse chestnuts  
 (Hollowed out  
 Fitted with straws  
 Crammed with tobacco  
 Stolen from butts In  
 family ashtrays)  
 Were puffed in green lizard silence  
 While straddling thick branches  
 Far above and away,  
 From the softening effects  
 Of civilization;




During that summer--  
 Which may never have been at all;  
 But which has become more real  
 Than the one that was--  
 Watermelons ruled.




Thick imperial slices  
 Melting frigidly on sun-parched tongues  
 Dribbling from chins;  
 Leaving the best part,  
 The black bullet seeds,  
 To be spit out in rapid fire  
 Against the wall  
 Against the wind  
 Against each other;




And when the ammunition was spent,  
 There was always another bite:  
 It was a summer of limitless bites,  
 Of hungers quickly felt  
 And quickly forgotten  
 With the next careless gorging.



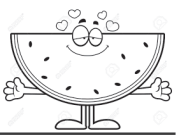
The bites are fewer now.  
 Each one is savored lingeringly,  
 Swallowed reluctantly.



But in a jar put up by Felicity,  
 The summer which maybe never was  
 Has been captured and preserved.  
 And when we unscrew the lid  
 And slice off a piece  
 And let it linger on our tongue:  
 Unicorns become possible again.



John Tobias



Until we meet in person again, I'll be watching for you at the corral gate...unless I'm off in search of a unicorn!

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Sat, July 23, 7pm – 10pm - Tony Ramey and Matt Dunn Concert 201 N Davis St, Sulphur Springs, TX. Sulphur Springs City Hall.

Sun, July 24, 2:00pm – 3:30pm - Children's Theatre Workshop Production. Main Street Community Theatres, 227 Main St, Sulphur Springs, TX.

Fri, July 29, 8pm – 10pm - Guardians of the Galaxy showing at Dark. At Celebration Plaza, 100 Church St, Sulphur Springs, TX.

Sat, July 30, 9am – 10am - Yoga on the Square. Celebration Plaza, 100 Church St, Sulphur Springs, TX. Teacher's Heather Stuckey, Melissa Stroup, Rachel Finney, Sarah Dicus will help bring calm and flexibility to your Saturday's this summer!!

Sat, July 30, 7pm – 9pm - Dynamic Duo Music & Comedy Showcase Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs, TX. Admission is \$10. \$5 for children 6yrs - 12yrs. Children 5yrs and under are free!

Sat, July 30, 7pm – 9pm - Sweet Steel. Celebration Plaza, 100 Church St, Sulphur Springs. Steel Drums

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# Obits



## Bobby Dean Crump

Graveside service for Bobby Dean Crump, age 84, of Emory, will be held Thursday, July 21, 2016, at Mr. Olive Cemetery in Timpson.. Bro. Thomas Earl Miller will officiate.

Mr. Crump passed away Sunday, July 17, 2016, at his residence. He was born October 25, 1931, in Timpson, to Pallas Oscar and Virgie Holland Crump. He served his country in the U.S. Navy, and was ranked E-3 AN. He was in the Naval Parachute Unit, stationed NAAS, El Centro, CA. Mr. Crump was a barber by trade. He married Elizabeth Ann Miller, in Emory, July 31, 2011. Survivors include: Wife: Ann Crump of Emory; Niece: Melessia Haggerton; Nephews: Dwayne Brister and Scott Brister; Step-daughter: JoAnn Steel Robbins (Malcolm) of Emory Step Sons: Thomas Earl Miller, Jr. (Connie) of Caddo Mills and Matt Miller (Sandra) of Emory;

Step-grandchildren: 13; Step-great-grandchildren: 30.

Preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Patsy Brister



## Joyce Marie Lindsey

Funeral service for Joyce Marie Lindsey, age 83, of Lone Oak, were held Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at 12:30 pm, at First Baptist Church of Point. Pastor Zack Honzell officiated. Interment followed in Mineola, 3:00 pm, at Roselawn Cemetery. Visitation was held on Tuesday evening, 6:00-8:00 pm, at First Baptist Church of Point. Joyce passed away on Friday evening at her home. She was born July 30, 1932, in Dallas, to Gordon Merrill and Beth Marie Clark Morris. She married Coy Philip Lindsey, in Dallas County on March 15, 1979. Joyce was a homemaker and a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Point.

Survivors include: Sons; Darrell Eugene Hood (Mary Lou Jones) of Lone Oak; and Barry Wayne Hood of Dallas

Sisters: Paula Wilson of Irving and Debbie Dilord of Willis

Grandchildren: Cimmeron Hood, Amber Hood, Dezirae Hartwell, and Kristopher Hood

Great-grandchildren: Bradley Hood and Avery Hartwell

Numerous other loving family and friends

Preceded in death by: Parents, Husband in 2008, and sister, Patricia McQueen



## Carolyn Dickens Shelton

Funeral Services for Carolyn Dickens Shelton, of Brashear, were held Monday, July 18, 2016 at 2 p.m. at League Street Church of Christ with Rev. Gene Glasier officiating and Rev. Emory Banker assisting. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Bill Banker, Matt Bryant, Fred McCoy, Brandon Thompson, Eddie Thompson and Danny Dickens serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Sherrel Price, Charolette Hyde, Larry Gamlin, Cami Gamlin, Alice Gamlin, Veronica Dial, the late Linda McCoy, and the late Donna Wilhite. Visitation was held Sunday, July 17, 2016 from 6-8 P.M. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Carolyn passed away Thursday, July 14, 2016 at Honey Grove Nursing Center, in Honey Grove. She was born August 31, 1944 in Petty, the daughter of William Bryan and Ethel (Scott) Thompson. She married Tommy Shelton on June 7, 2008, in

Sulphur Springs. She was a business owner, owning Klean and Brite Janitorial, and member of League Street Church of Christ.

She is survived by her husband; son, Darrin Dickens of Brashear; step-daughter, Robin Fanning and husband Todd, of Stephenville; step-son, Tommy Shelton and wife Vicky; grandchildren, Kasie Barclay and husband David, of Litchfield Park, AZ; step-grandchildren, Dondra Bedwell and husband Cody; Branda Jones and husband Shelby; B.J. Hough and husband Quincy; and Bruce Shelton, all from Stephenville; great-grandchildren Alanna and Scarlet Davis and Riley Barclay; and step-great-grandchildren Kinley and Karsyn Bedwell.

She is preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Kim Dickens and grandson Kyle Dickens.



## Joy "Joe" Campbell

Funeral Services for Joy "Joe" Campbell, of Bogata, were held Sunday, July 17, 2016 at 2 p.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Pastor Charles Rawlinson officiating. Inurnment will follow at Rockdale Cemetery, at a later date. Visitation was held one hour prior to service, Sunday July 17, 2016, at 1 p.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Joe passed away Thursday, July 14, 2016 at Regency Nursing Home, in Clarksville. He was born September 26, 1940 in Pittsburg, the son of Homer Mack and Ore Lee (Cannaday) Campbell. He married Linda Kay Taylor on January 21, 1977 in Sulphur Springs. He was a dishwasher at Burton's Restaurant and of Baptist faith.

He is survived by sons, Billy Don Campbell of Sulphur Springs and Troy Campbell of Seven Points; daughters, Linda Dyer and Joyce Elizabeth Denise Campbell; grandchildren, Zoe, C.J., Natalie, Brian, Rodney, Britaney, Zackery, and Katilyn;

brothers, Royce Campbell of Dallas and Wayne Campbell of Dyke; and sister, Beatrice Puckett of Dyke.

He is preceded in death by his wife; son, Rodney Campbell; grandson, Cayden; great-grandson Bryson; sisters, Beatrice Puckett and Ann Faye Evans; and brothers, Charles Campbell and Buck Campbell.



## Warren G. (Geedie) Gore

Graveside service for Warren G.(Geedie) Gore, age 95, of Cumby, were held 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at Cumby Cemetery with Rev. David Burns officiating. Pallbearers were Warren Joe Gore, Larry DeWayne Gore, Bo Dixon, Ryan Stracener, Jacob Cope, Brandon Freeman. A Memorial Service was held Tuesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Brashear Baptist Church. Military Honors were conducted by Hopkins County Military Coalition. There was no formal visitation.

Warren passed away Thursday, July 14, 2016 in Sulphur Springs, at Rock Creek Health and Rehab. He was born March 21, 1921 in Wills Point, son of John F. Gore and Modena Walls Gore. He married Marilyn K. Koska on July 15, 1970 in Welon, OK. She survives. Warren served in the Army, and was a retired used car dealer and horse trader. He was a member of the Brashear Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, sons, Warren D. (Buddy) Gore and wife Ina, Larry J. Gore and wife Pam, daughters, Dorothy (Sissy) Gore, all of Sulphur Springs, Cathy Haynsworth and husband Harlan of Brashear, and Janice Cope and husband Jimmy of Rockwall, step-son, James R. Landers of Como, step-daughter, Kim Gregory of Sulphur Springs, and also Vicki Dixon of Cumby, sister, Margie Harper of Mt. Pleasant, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

# A Salute to Hard Heads...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

It won't happen, because yearbooks don't "plug in," but if today's high school or college graduates decided to "go retro" for an hour or so, they should visit older relatives' homes. There, they'd be taken aback by the, uh, "quaintness" of school annuals from bygone days.

They'd joke about students' stern looks and stiff postures, wondering what their counterparts back then had against smiling.

And what about all those nicknames--usually encased in parentheses--between first and last names? Nicknames seemed to be mandated for members of athletic teams. Why, if old-time footballers didn't have nicknames, they likely played little if at all, and may have failed to get the memo about showing up for photo day....

\*\*\*\*\*

I have a theory as to why nicknames today are rare. Blame it on urbanization in general and the introduction of tractors in particular.

These powerful mechanical beasts of the field basically put mules out to pasture. Kids today would find it hard to believe that we relished a series of movies about Francis, the Talking Mule. The late Donald O'Connor starred in the 1950s movie series. Youngsters thought nothing of plunking down a dime for admission, then sitting through the feature twice.

Not only did modernization of farms signal lessening the use of rural nicknames, mules' demise stole from us the very animal we'd grown accustomed to accusations of being as stubborn as....

\*\*\*\*\*

Mules--offspring of male donkeys and female horses--were handy animals to have around for purposes of comparison back when. Mention mules in the company of to-

day's younger generation, and they think of backless shoes. Google backs them up with numerous shoe references included several headings before the animal definition pops up.

Whatever, it is best never to expect them to join in with the "sweet singing" of the donkey as he goes to hay.

The other day, my wife of almost 50 years spoke of my being--in her words--"hard-headed." I could tell by her facial expression, however, that she was sorely tempted to add, "as a mule."...

\*\*\*\*\*

It set me to thinking. Is it not often complimentary to be considered hard of head?

I cite two recent examples.

In Houston last month, Texas Rangers pitcher Colby Lewis managed a half-turn of his head before the batter's screaming line drive--estimated at a speed between 105-110 MPH--bounced off his noggin. This "hard head" stayed in the game, grateful his head and body were still attached. Further, he was glad teammate Rougned Odor helped out, making a splendid catch of the carom in shallow centerfield. (Lewis, 37 come August, was credited with an assist on the play. Back in 2014, he got an assist from doctors who performed hip resurfacing surgery, stopping "just short" of a full hip replacement.)

During Lewis' post-game TV interview, he was quick to extend birthday greetings to his wife, Jenny, back in the Metroplex. Now there's a guy clear of mind, firm in resolution and, well, a proven "hard head."....

\*\*\*\*\*

During a recent trip to the Texas Panhandle where I committed some speeches, I met a couple as mission-minded as they come, Rev. James and Dana Greer. They log hundreds of miles every week in their sprawling territory. Truly, theirs are lives of giving to others.

While enjoying a brief tour of downtown Pampa, we drove past his downtown office. Behind a bush near his corner window, he spotted someone hunkered down. He thought the man likely was a vagrant who needed help. We stopped. He approached the stranger with a "Can I help you, buddy?" offer, his hand extended for a hearty Christian handshake.

"Not really," the guy answered. "I'm just skimming me an Internet signal." James invited him to "skim away," and we continued the tour....

\*\*\*\*\*

I contend that "hard-headedness" often masks strong, passionate resolve.

Surely this compliments a major league baseball player--who, despite advancing years, a hip replacement and what could easily have been a serious blow to the head--has a life well-ordered.

And kudos to a preacher whose aim always is centered on helping others. Long live Colby Lewis and Rev. Greer. If I'm "hard-headed," I'm in good company....

\*\*\*\*\*

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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