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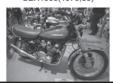
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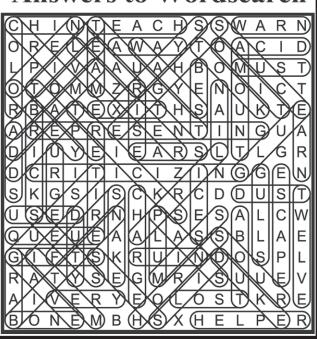
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#### **BUZZARDS IN THE HOUSE**

**Tumbleweed Smith** 



Willy Dilworth of Brenham is chief tax appraiser for Washington County. It is his job to place a value on property. "I get some strange requests," he says. "A guy from New York who owned some land here called me and asked me to raise the value on his property, even though it was under water. Very unusual, but I accommodated him."

Willy has to see the property to determine its value. Some-Tumbleweed Smith times he runs into some unusual situations.

"I went out to a friend's property, walked up to the back door, knocked on it but got no answer. I could hear music playing in the house, so I assumed they were there. Cars were there. So I knocked on the door again then went to the front of the house and knocked on the front door. Still no answer.

"So I came back to the back of the house and just as I got to the door where I had just been moments ago, I noticed a five gallon bucket turned upside down. Coiled up on the top of the bottom of the bucket was a very big rattlesnake. It took a while to register that the snake was dead. The head was missing. The people in the house had killed it the day before and put in on the bucket. It was still bright and colorful and it was still scary. The damaged part was covered up by the rest of it. Stuff like that will ruin your day. The people who owned the house thought that was real funny,"

Occasionally, when he's in a rural area he has to deal with dogs. "The owners who say 'my little Fifi won't bother you' don't know their dogs because little Fifi is the one that's chewing on your ankle."

He says he has seen a few ducks and geese that make good guard animals. "Swans are pretty bad, too. And they're big enough they can hurt you." Once, Willy had a big surprise.

"One of the local taxpayers asked me to go check a house out on his property that he had just bought. We probably had a value on it that was higher than he thought it should be. So I went out there. The guy said the house was in pretty bad shape and the door was open, so watch out for critters. Whenever the occupants moved out they left old furniture and there was trash in the floor. I'm walking around pretty carefully because we don't know what else may be in the house. And I'm looking for things like snakes, coons, possums and armadillos. I'm walking around and I turn into a hallway and just about the time I'm going to go into a room on the left, the room to the right of me just erupts with sound. It's full of buzzards. There was a hole in the roof of that room and they had been living there. There is nothing like seven or eight buzzards coming up out of the floor in the room beside you. And it was a big stinking mess. During hot weather buzzards defecate on their feet to cool them off. When they feel threatened, they throw up as they're taking off. I've never had that happen to me before or since. It was hard not to put an extra value on that house."

Tumbleweed Smith wants to interview every character and storyteller in Texas and report on all the unique events around the state. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com



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Eugene Heath pictured with Michelle Cole, COTA and Curt Mayo, PTA. Mr. Heath has worked hard and reached his goals with therapy



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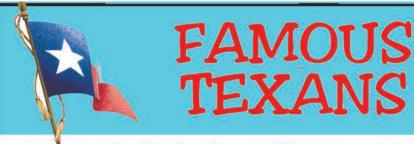
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Thomas Edwin "Tom" Mix (born Thomas Hezikiah Mix; January 6, 1880 – October 12, 1940) was an American film actor and the star of many early Western movies between 1909 and 1935. Mix appeared in 291 films, all but nine of which were silent movies. He was Hollywood's first Western megastar and is noted as having helped define the genre for all cowboy actors who followed.

Thomas Hezikiah Mix was born January 6, 1880 in Mix Run, Pennsylvania, about 40 miles (60 km) north of State College, Pennsylvania, to Edwin Elias Mix (February 22, 1854 - November 29, 1927) and Elizabeth Heistand (November 1858 - July 25, 1937). He grew up in nearby Dubois, Pennsylvania, where his father, a stable master for a wealthy lumber merchant, taught him to ride and love horses. He spent time working on a local farm owned by John Dubois, a lumber businessman. He had dreams of being in the circus and was rumored to have been caught by his parents practicing knife-throwing tricks against a wall, using his sister as an assistant.

In April 1898, during the Spanish-American War, he enlisted in the Army under the name Thomas E. (Edwin) Mix. His unit never went overseas, and Mix later failed to return for duty after an extended furlough when he married Grace I. Allin on July 18, 1902. Mix was listed as AWOL on November 4, 1902, but was never court-martialed nor apparently even discharged. His marriage to Allin was annulled after one year. In 1905, Mix married Kitty Jewel Perinne, but this marriage also ended within a year. He next married Olive Stokes on January 10, 1909, in Medora, North Dakota.

In 1905, Mix rode in an inaugural parade led by Seth Bullock with a group of 50 horsemen, which included several former Rough Riders. Years later, Hollywood publicists would muddle this event to imply that Mix had been a Rough Rider himself.

After working a variety of odd jobs in the Oklahoma Territory, Mix found employment at the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch, one of the largest ranching businesses in the United States, covering 101,000 acres, hence its name. The ranch had its own touring Wild West show in which Mix appeared. He stood out as a skilled horseman and expert shot, winning national riding and roping contests at Prescott, Arizona in 1909, and Canon City, Colorado in 1910.

Tom Mix began his film career as a supporting cast member with the Selig Polyscope Company. His first appearance was in a short film titled The Cowboy Millionaire, released on October 21, 1909. In 1910 he appeared as himself in a short documentary film titled Ranch Life in the Great Southwest in which he displayed his skills as a cattle wrangler. Shot at the Selig studio in the Edendale district of Los Angeles (now known as Echo Park), the film was a success and Mix became an early motion picture star.

On July 13, 1912, Olive gave birth to their daughter Ruth. Mix performed in more than 100 films for Selig, many of which were filmed in Las Vegas, New Mexico. While with Selig he co-starred in several films with Victoria Forde, and they fell in love. He divorced Olive Stokes in 1917. By then, Selig Polyscope had encountered severe financial difficulties, and Tom Mix and Victoria Forde both subsequently signed with Fox Film Corporation, which had leased the Edendale studio. Mix and Forde married in 1918 and they had a daughter, Thomasina Mix (Tommie), in 1922.

Tom Mix went on to make more than 160 cowboy films throughout the 1920s. These featured action-oriented scripts which contrasted with the documentary style of his work with Selig. Heroes and villains were sharply defined and a clean-cut cowboy always "saved the day." Millions of American children grew up watching his films on Saturday afternoons. His intelligent and handsome horse Tony also became a celebrity. Mix did his own stunts and was frequently injured.

Mix's salary at Fox reached \$7,500 a week. His performances weren't noted for their realism but for screen-friendly action stunts and horseback riding, attention-grabbing cowboy costumes and showmanship. At the Edendale lot Mix built a 12-acre (49,000 m2) shooting set called Mixville. Loaded with western props and furnishings, it has been described as a "complete frontier town, with a dusty street, hitching rails, a saloon, jail, bank, doctor's office, surveyor's office, and the simple frame houses typical of the early Western era." Near the back of the lot an Indian village of lodges was ringed by miniature plaster mountains which on screen were said to be "ferociously convincing." The set also included a simulated desert, large corral and a ranch house with no roof, to facilitate interior shots.

Mix played hard-to-get, threatening to move to Argentina to make films or joining the circus, but eventually, he signed with FBO, although he eventually left the studio for Universal due to salary disputes with Kennedy. He said of Kennedy that he was a "tight-assed, money-crazed son-of-a-b----".

In 1929, Mix was a pallbearer at the funeral of Wyatt Earp (during which he reportedly wept).

Mix appeared with the Sells-Floto Circus in 1929, 1930 and 1931 at a reported weekly salary of \$20,000. He and Forde were divorced in 1931. Meanwhile, the Great Depression (along with the actor's free-spending ways and many wives) had reportedly wiped out most of his savings. In 1932, he married his fifth wife, Mabel Hubbell Ward. Universal Pictures approached him that year with an offer to do talkies which included script and cast approval. He did nine pictures for Universal, but because of injuries he received while filming, he was reluctant to continue with any more. Mix then appeared with the Sam B. Dill circus, which he reportedly bought two years later (1935).

Mix's last screen appearance was a 15-episode sound Mascot Pictures serial, The Miracle Rider (1935), for which he received \$40,000 for four weeks of filming. Outdoor action sequences for the production were filmed primarily on the Iverson Movie Ranch in Chatsworth, Calif., on the outskirts of Los Angeles. The site was known for its huge sandstone boulders, and one of those boulders became known as Tom Mix Rock in later years after it was discovered that the rock had been used in a sequence in The Miracle Rider in which Mix was filmed descending from the top of the rock, with bootholes carved into the rock to assist the actor in making the descent. The rock and the bootholes remain in place today, and, although they're unmarked, they can be found at the Garden of the Gods park in Chatsworth.

Also in 1935, Texas governor James Allred named Mix an honorary Texas Ranger. Mix went back to circus performing, this time with his eldest daughter Ruth, who had appeared in some of his films. In 1938, Mix went to Europe on a promotional trip, while his daughter Ruth stayed behind to manage his circus, which soon failed. He later excluded her from his will. He had reportedly made over \$6,000,000 (approaching \$400 million in early 21st century, inflation-adjusted values) during his 26-year film career.

Postcard sent in response to an entry for a radio program contest in 1941In 1933, Ralston-Purina obtained his permission to produce a Tom Mix radio series called Tom Mix Ralston Straight Shooters which, but for one year during World War II, was popular throughout most of the 1930s through the early 1950s, well after Mix's death. Mix never appeared on these broadcasts (his voice, damaged by a bullet to the throat and repeated broken noses, was not fit for radio) and was instead played by radio actors: Artells Dickson (early 1930s), Jack Holden (from 1937), Russell Thorsen (early 1940s) and Joe "Curley" Bradley (from 1944). Others in the supporting cast included George Gobel, Harold Peary and Willard Waterman.

The Ralston company offered ads during the Tom Mix radio program for listeners to send in for a series of 12 special Ralston-Tom Mix Comic books available only by writing the Ralston Company by mail.

Very little of the radio series survives to the present day; recordings of only approximately 30 scattered episodes, and no complete story arcs, survive.

Tom Mix memorial is near Florence, Arizona

On October 12, 1940, after visiting Pima County Sheriff Ed Nichols in Tucson, Arizona, Mix headed north toward Phoenix on U.S. Highway 80 (now Arizona State Route 79), driving his 1937 Cord 812 Phaeton. He stopped at the Oracle Junction Inn, a popular gambling and drinking establishment, to call his agent, and then continued toward Phoenix. About eighteen miles south of Florence, Arizona, Mix came upon construction barriers at a bridge washed away by a flash flood. He was unable to stop in time. The car swerved twice and then rolled into a gully, pinning his body underneath. He had placed a large aluminum suitcase containing a substantial sum of money, traveler's checks, and jewels on the package shelf behind him. It flew forward and struck Mix's head, shattering his skull and breaking his neck. The actor was killed almost instantly. Eyewitnesses said Mix had been traveling at 80 miles per hour. He was 60 years old. It was rumored that alcohol may also have been a factor.

The funeral of Tom Mix was held at the Little Church of the Flowers in Glendale, California on October 16, 1940, attended by thousands of fans and Hollywood personalities. He was interred nearby in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

A small stone memorial marks the site of his death on State Route 79, and the nearby gully is named "Tom Mix Wash". The plaque on the marker bears the inscription: "In memory of Tom Mix whose spirit left his body on this spot and whose characterization and portrayals in life served to better fix memories of the old West in the minds of living

Tom Mix was "the King of Cowboys" when Ronald Reagan and John Wayne were youngsters and the influence of his screen persona can be seen in their approach to portrayg cowboys. When an injury caused football player Marion Morrison (later John Wayne) to drop out of USC, Mix helped him get a job moving props in the back lot of dios. Courtesy of Wikapedia

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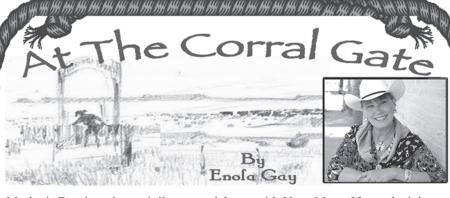
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Mother's Day is truly a privilege to celebrate with Your Mom. If you don't have your mom, there are extras around, and it's not too late to bring a smile and make a sweet memory. I personally think the old-fashioned kind of mom is the best, the kind who sacrificed for her family like the one portrayed in this excerpt of a 1976 million-seller recitation:

Mom, I owe you for services as a nightwatchman...listening for coughs and cries, creaking floorboards and a son (or daughter) coming in too late. You had the eye of an eagle and the roar of a lion, and a heart as big as a house! I owe you for services as a short-order cook, chef and baker. I owe you for cleaning services... for the daily scrubbing of faces and ears, all work done by hand. And for washing and ironing no laundry service could ever do....for drying the tears of childhood and ironing out the problems of growing up. And, for services as a bodyguard! protecting me from the terrors of thunderstorms and nightmares. I owe you for medical attention...measles, mumps, bruises and bumps, spring fever, and for healing the pains of puppy love. And for entertainment! You kept a household together during some pretty rough times...for wonderful productions at Christmas and Fourth of July and birthdays....for making make-believe come true on a very limited budget. I owe you for construction work, for building kites and confidence, hopes and dreams, and somehow making them all touch the sky. And for cementing a family together so it could stand the worst kind of shocks and blows... and for a strong foundation to build a life on. And one thing I will never forget, Mom, was when there were three hungry people and only two pieces of pie, you suddenly decided you really didn't like apple pie after all. Mom, you worked very cheap, by making do without a whole lot of things that you needed yourself.

My IOU's add up to much more than I could ever hope to repay. But the nicest thing about it all is that you'll mark the entire bill paid in full, for just one kiss and 4 little words, "Mom, I Love You".

Jimmy Dean, I.O.U.

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I spent Mother's Day in Elk City, Oklahoma at a couple of TEXAS-SIZE celebrations with the neatest people on the planet, my family!



Jackson Glover's first birthday!

Angela Bounds Barnes, Mom-to-Be, Bobbi Bounds Rowland, Graduate Mom, Jessi Bounds Glover, Mom of two.

On Friday night, we held a low-key graduation party. On Saturday afternoon, we did my grandson's birthday party. Then on Sunday morning after our Mother's Day breakfast, I took off for Texas. The trip home was uneventful until coming down the Indian Nations Turnpike near Clayton, Oklahoma, I ran into a hailstorm with lots of marble-size hail. It forced me onto shoulder of the road to wait for it to pass. Right after that, the skies cleared and brightened as if in apology for the brief, violent out-

Cancer is a well-known enemy for most of us. Hopkins County Relay for Life shows cancer our fighting spirit! The 2015 theme is "Lights...Camera...Cure!" and you can

still be part the excitement! Come to Celebration Plaza downtown Sulphur Springs starting at 7pm on Friday May 15 and stay as long as you like, or all night. For 12 straight hours, there will be music, fun, games, food and fellowship as teams take to the track and walk all night. Wear comfortable shoes and join them! At 9pm Friday, the Luminaria Ceremony will be held. It's not too late to honor someone with a luminaria for just \$5. Just contact Amber Henry at amber.henry@hcmh .com.



Amber Henry, 2015 Relay for Life Events chair.

Til next week, let's keep an eye out for sunshine, and I'll watch for you at the corral gate.



Jane S. Glover

Jane S. Glover, age 67 of Sulphur Springs, TX, passed away Sunday, May 10, 2015 at Carriage House Manor. Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home



#### Jack Dempsey Oxford, Sr.

Military graveside funeral services for Jack Dempsey Oxford, Sr., age 91 of Mt. Vernon were held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at Posey Cemetery with Rev. Tommy Hall officiating. Serving as pallbearers were his grandsons and great-grandsons. No formal visitation was held.

Jack, Sr. passed away on Sunday, May 10, 2015 at Mission Manor Nursing Home in Mt. Vernon.

He was born on March 30, 1924, the son of Charlie and Mattie (Dixon) Oxford in Hopkins County. He married Nadine Dodd and Annie McQueen, who both preceded him in death. He then married Laura Pool, who survives. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was the retired owner of Jack Oxford, Sr. Paint & Body Shop.

Survivors include sons, Jack Oxford, Jr. and wife, Nita of Sulphur Springs, David Oxford, Sr. and wife, Leisa of Sulphur Springs and James Carr of Saltillo; daughters, Suzi Miller of Jacksonville, Becky Sparks of Mt. Vernon and Jean Gee of Houston; sister, Valerie Harry of Cumby; grandchildren, Jimmy Oxford, Jason Oxford, Jodi Bradford, Jake Morrill, Laura Flournoy, David Oxford, Jr., Ryan Clements, Aaron Clements, Amber Sparks, Cassie Weatherford and C.J. Sparks; great-grandchildren, Meagan Oxford, Tanner Oxford, Jaclynn Oxford, Makenzie Fyke, Kylie Clements, Taylor Morrill, Lucas Flournoy, Matthew Flournoy, Logan Oxford, Tate Tyce, Georgia Bradford and Kolbe Cook.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Betty Newsome; two grandsons, Rodney Oxford and Josh Morrill; great-grandchild, Cash Reneu; three brothers and one sister.

Memorials can be made to Cypress Basin Hospice.



#### Edith Hooker Leonhart

Funeral services for Edith Hooker Leonhart, age 92 of Yantis were held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Rev. Larry Baxley, Kimberly Moyer and Rocky Hooker officiating. Interment followed at Yantis Cemetery with Jonathan Hooker, Lennie House, Joshua Toledo, Justin Toledo, Jarrod Hooker, Paul Stahlberg, Hunter Reppond and Josh Hite serving as pallbear-

Visitation was held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Edith passed away on Saturday, May 09, 2015 at Sunny Springs Nursing Home.

She was born on June 3, 1922, the daughter of Forest C. and Mae Frances (Kerr) Ray. She married Euzeal V. Hooker, who preceded her in death. She then married Garland F. Leonhart, who also preceded her in death. She was a homemaker and a profound lover of all animals,

nature, gardening and dancing.

Survivors include daughters, Helen Reppond of Yantis, Linda A. Colvin of Fleetwood, PA, Mennie M. Flannery of Auburn, PA and Deany Cameron of Mt. Penn, PA; sons, Clint Hooker and Rocky Hooker, both of Yantis; sisters, Louise Starrett of Dallas and Olivia King of Yantis; brother, Vernon E. Ray of Tyler; twenty-one grandchildren; thirty-eight great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Henry Hooker; daughter, June Stahlberg, sister, Pauline King; grandchild, Tracy Stahlberg and great-grandson, Tyler Reppond.



#### Ruth McFarlin

Funeral services for Ruth McFarlin, age 83 of Pickton will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Rev. Ken Goodson and Danny Christenberry officiating. Interment will follow at Greenwood Cemetery with Shane McFarlin, Tyler Mc-Farlin, Steven Dolive, Bryan McFarlin, Dylan Smith, Dalton Smith and Evan Andrew serving as pallbearers.

Visitation was held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Ruth passed away on Monday, May 11, 2015 at her residence.

She was born on December 6, 1931, the daughter of Jesse Thomas and Leita Mae (Walker) Hinson. She married Jessie McFarlin on February 22, 1947 in Mt. Pleasant. He preceded her in death in 2001.

She was formerly employed by H.D. Lee as a seamstress and also worked for the Como-Pickton School District.

Survivors include daughter, Carolyn Mobley of Pickton; sons, Johnny McFarlin of Scurry and Randy McFarlin of Scroggins; brother, Charles Hinson of Mt. Pleasant; nine grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Ronnie McFarlin and brother, Jesse T. Hinson, Jr



#### Betty Jean Goodman

Funeral services for Betty Jean Goodman, age 85 formally of Sulphur Springs were held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 11, 2015 at League Street Church of Christ with Buddy Wiggins officiating. Interment followed at Conner Cemetery.

Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church.

Betty Jean passed away on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at Northern Louisiana Medical Center in Ruston, LA.

She was born on December 27, 1929, the daughter of Noah W. and Ona C. (Philpot) Skaggs. She married Gene Goodman in Sulphur Springs. He preceded her in death in 2010.

Betty Jean was a retired seamstress from Lou Nell's fashions and was a member of the League Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include one daughter, Pam Medders and husband, Jimmy of North Carolina; one son, Chip Sims and wife, Sonja of Athens, Louisiana; one granddaughter, Breanna Sims; three sisters, Erma Dodd of Garland, Evyonne Smith of Waxahachie and Ollie Patterson of Dallas and one brother, W.L. "Bill" Skaggs of Sulphur Springs.

Along with her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.





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