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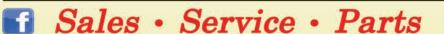
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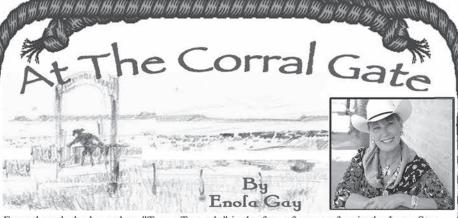
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Even though the legendary "Texas Tornado" is the fear of many of us in the Lone Star State, I think that Oklahomans actually live with a greater threat of the destructive monsters! Now I know that they take the phenomenon seriously, but they also take it in stride, some even "dodging" a tornado path while going about their business. During my Memorial Day weekend visit to Elk City, Oklahoma to visit my trio of daughters there, I got a close-up look at a couple of storm shelters that families have on their property. The good folks of Central/Western Oklahoma apparently stand ready for a "tornado day" just about anytime, and that readiness calls for knowing where the nearest shelter is!

Bobbi and Travis' home does not have a storm shelter of it's own, but there are several in the neighborhood. Only two weeks ago, Bobbi and my granddaughters scampered underground and stayed there briefly while a small tornado touched down a half-mile away. Then they went right back to whatever they were doing before that! I saw the touch-down area on this last trip, right at the bottom of an exit ramp from I-40. Road construction crews had left a series of barricades and lane switches, and the tornado re-arranged the congested area, resulting in a wide swath of improvement!







Here's a large shelter located in Angela and Ben's neighborhood. It is constructed in an older in-ground style, and can comfortably accommodate 20-30 persons inside. The door is a metal flap weighted by a suspended concrete block...when the door is lifted open, the block goes down to the ground, and when the heavy door is closed the concrete block rises about five feet into the air. (I think that even without the block, the door could be easily lifted from below by a couple of strong guys) You go down about 20 concrete steps, then turn 90 degrees into a large cinder-block room that is completely underground. There's an assortment of chairs and benches down there, and storage space for emergency supplies. It had been painted in a light gray, was non-scary and well-lit with electric lights in the ceiling. I think it would be quite cool to have a safeguard like that in the backyard!



The selection of Jessica and John's new home was swayed by the fact that it had a storm shelter in the garage. This type of shelter was put in when the slab was poured. It is flush with the garage floor, and is an all-metal unit that can seat a family of four or five. Here's my grandson Jonathan sitting on the edge of their shelter. You could drive that second car into the garage right over it when the shelter isn't needed. Just slide the heavy door back, get your family inside and slide the door closed above your heads. Also, the latches on the door can be opened from the inside or outside. It's functional, with no frills

Here's Jessica's next door neighbor's house during the heavy rains on Memorial Day weekend. From our dry vantage point, we watched the homeowner sandbag the front of his house which already had some seepage of water in it. His home is the last house on

the street as it dips down and intersects with another street. Seeing this fast-flowing and rapidly rising water first hand made me a little fearful that Jessica's garage-floor storm shelter could become flooded if water were to rise much higher. Heaven forbid a family have to choose between the danger of floodwater or high winds



Here's a couple of bad-news stories about storm shelters. An elderly woman near Oklahoma City purchased a clam-style in-ground shelter in 2012. This spring it filled with water because the concrete wasn't sealed properly when it was installed. Another family near Tulsa saw their in-ground shelter "pop out" of the ground in the back yard and gradually become swept away during heavy rains. Later it was found that the shelter hadn't been properly anchored into place. Their new above-ground shelter is made of bullet-proof material chained down and fastened with a couple dozen bolts. And good news, a grandmother near Yukon, Oklahoma was thrilled when she learned she'd won a "Thunderground Storm Shelter" during an OKC TV station promotion. She says she and her family will feel much safer now!

Here in Texas, we are not yet past the danger season on weather. We've had a wet spring and with June just days away, we're starting a soggy summer. The South Sulphur River is above flood stage, again. More heavy rain can still affect us. Debbie Young at Brashear says she is developing webbed feet. The old-time saying "drought is always followed by a flood" has proven true this year! Til next week, I'll pray for your safety and watch for you at the corral gate!





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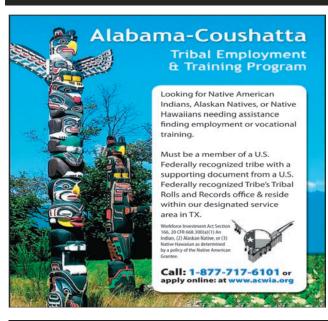
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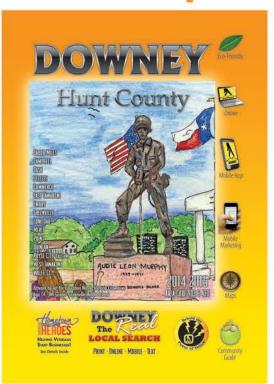
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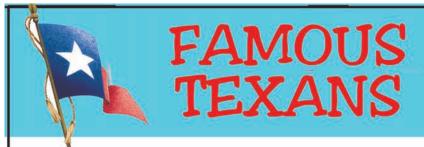


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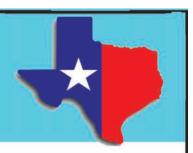
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Gale Storm (April 5, 1922 – June 27, 2009) was an American actress and singer who starred in two popular television programs of the 1950s, My Little Margie and The Gale Storm Show.

Storm was born Josephine Owaissa Cottle in Bloomington in Victoria County, Texas, United States. 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 Native American word meaning "bluebird." Storm's mother Minnie Cottle took in sewing, then opened a millinery shop in McDade, Texas, which failed, and finally moved her 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.

Storm had a role in the radio version of Big Town.

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, threeminute 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?

Storm with Billy Vaughn. The two wrote "You're My Baby Doll" and performed it on Storm's television show in 1958. 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. In 1988, two years after she was widowed, she married 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. She later became an active member of the South Shores Church. She once said: Life has been good and I thank God for His many blessings and the happy life He has given to me. Storm was a registered Republican and campaigned for U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater in the 1960s.

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 rancisco in Danville, California. She died there on June 27, 2009.

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

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Answers to Wordsearch

THE PALO DURO CANYON'S OUTDOOR PRODUCTION IS 50

Tumbleweed Smith



those residents was Margaret Harper, who brought up the idea of having a play in the canyon. People thought she was crazy at first, but soon decided there might be some-

thing to that suggestion. Mrs. Harper contacted Paul Green, a Pulitzer Prize-Tumbleweed Smith Winning playwright, who came down and wrote a play about pioneers coming to the panhandle. Residents got

Fifty years ago some residents of Canyon were trying

to find ways to utilize the Palo Duro Canyon, One of

excited and built an amphitheater with eighteen hundred seats. Within a couple of years the production of TEXAS! hit the huge stage with bright costumes, singing, dancing and dramatic special effects that make it a multi-media extravaganza.

Chris Miller was a dancer in some of those early productions. Now he's the executive director and plays the part of prospector Tucker Yelldell.

"We have the fire ballet," says Chris, "with female dancers representing the flames on stage while we have actual flames on the mesa, which serves as a backdrop for the production. It looks like there's a prairie fire going on up there. We have a stunt in that scene that's kind of exciting. A man catches fire, twirls around and runs off stage. We hired a Hollywood stunt coordinator to come help us put that magic on stage."

A band accompanies the performers on stage. "About ninety percent of our music is live. We do have recorded tracks if something happens. Part of the grand finale is recorded music synched to the fireworks.

A streak of lightning cascades down the side of the mesa. "The lightning bolt is probably the number one icon of the show. The accompanying thunder sets off car alarms in the parking lot. Another piece of drama is the opening scene when a horseback rider carrying a Texas flag crosses the top of the canyon."

The play has seventy performers, all paid professionals and at least that many people working as a support crew. Auditions take place in half a dozen places around the country.

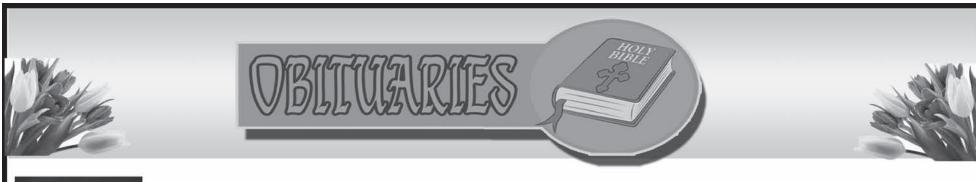
The season begins the second of June and runs Tuesdays through Sundays until August fifteenth. Four million people have seen the production, which has been designated the official state play. Chris says more than four thousand people have been a part of the show over the years. "Several marriages have resulted among the cast members and their children have been in the play. Some families have worked in the production for three generations."

Since this is the fiftieth year of the production, there will be special tributes during the season. The souvenir program will have commissioned art on it and a golden anniversary coin has been created. One night former cast members and their families will be in the audience. Reservations are recommended. The box office is on the square in Canyon. Contact: www. texas-show.com.

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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Clara Elizabeth Young

Memorial services for Clara Elizabeth Young, age 94, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 28, 2015 at Wesley United Methodist Church. A private family internment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park. There will be no formal visitation. Mrs. Young passed away Sunday, May 24, 2015 at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Ileta Lavon Ward

Funeral services for Ileta Lavon Ward, age 81, of Greenville, formerly of Brashear were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Monday, May 25, 2015 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. C J Duffey officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with grandsons and nephews serving as pallbearers.

Visitation was from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., prior to service time at West Oaks Funeral Home. Mrs. Ward passed away Saturday, May 23, 2015 at her residence.

Mrs. Ward was born on February 13, 1934 in Cherry Valley, AR, the daughter of John Albert and Hazel Bernice Henderson Sifford. She married James W. Ward on January 24, 1953 in Memphis, TN, and preceded her in death on January 7, 2003. Mrs. Ward worked in shipping and receiving for Ocean Spray for many years. She was a member of Beckham Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, James Michael Ward of Sulphur Springs, Barry Keith Ward of Greenville, daughters, Debbie Kay Walker of Ecru, MS, and Pamela Renee Nordin of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Chris Walker, Tesha Walker, Jeremy Ward, Michelle Ward, Ricky Ward, Michael Ward, Alicia Morgan, Ryan Morgan, Matthew Nordin, Barry Ward, Brian Ward, 8 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, and granddaughter, Carrie Walker.

Services were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Velva Diane Perdue

Velva Diane Perdue, 54, passed away on Saturday, May 9th.

She was born on January 31, 1961 in Pueblo, Colorado. She is the daughter of Robert H. Perdue and Velva Darlene Perdue.

She is survived by her son Coby Lee Robert Perdue, her father, Robert Perdue, and two sisters Belinda Perdue and Mary Townshend and husband David. She is also survived by her nephew Justin Townshend and her niece Kayla Townshend.

She was proceeded in death by her mother Velva Darlene Perdue and her loving step-mother Eva Mae Perdue.

Diane was a 1979 graduate of the Sulphur Springs High School. She served as a LVN for many years. Her heart was working in nursing home with older adults and the disabled. She was a member of Central Baptist Church.

Diane became a resident at the Courtyard Garden Home in Wichita Falls where she did volunteer work for Hospice. She also served as the Resident Council president for several years. She was very involved with the activities and helped to plan many of the events. She was loved and admired by many of the residents and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.



Mozell Lyod

Funeral services for Mozell Willey Loyd, age 88, of Sulphur Springs were conducted at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, May 24, 2015 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Perry Johnson officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Zach Loyd, Bridger Loyd, Kason Scroggins, Shaun Carter, Chuck Shelton and Nathan Smith serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Jay Watkins and Bobby Parkinson.

Visitation was from 3:00 to 4:00 one hour prior to service time at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Mrs. Loyd passed away Friday, May 22, 2015 at Carriage House Manor.

Mrs. Loyd was born on December 27, 1926 in Story, AR, the daughter of Willis Carroll and Mattie Lee Qualls Willey. She married Dewitt Loyd on February 18, 1944 and he preceded her in death on June 6, 2005. Mrs. Loyd was a homemaker and a member of Lake High-

land Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children, Caroline Jordan and husband Marvin, Rickey Loyd and wife Phyllis, Paul Lee "Slick" Loyd and wife Susan and Ala Scroggins and husband Scott all of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Leigh Anne Watkins and husband Jay of Weatherford, Michelle Shelton and husband Chuck of Sulphur Springs, Shana Parkinson and husband Bobby of Irving, Lynnette Smith and husband Nathan of Longview, Zachary Loyd and wife Angie of Sulphur Springs, Jessica Carter and husband Shaun of Bullard, Bridger Loyd of Sulphur Springs and Kason Scroggins and wife Ashley of Sulphur Springs, 12 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Travis Wiley, and sister, Avo Castleberry.

Memorials may be made to Legacy Hospice, The Hope Foundation P. O. Box 131030, Tyler, Texas 75713.

Rodney Campbell

Memorial services for Rodney Campbell, age 51, of Sulphur Springs were held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, May 25, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with C.J. Duffey officiating.

Mr. Campbell passed away on Thursday May 21, 2015 at his residence. He was born the son of Joy D. Clyde Campbell and Tommie (Cathey) Haines on August 12, 1963 in Dallas. He was a painter by trade.

Survivors include his mother, Tommie Haines of Sulphur Springs; father, Joy D. Clyde Campbell of Bogota; sons, Rodney Morris and Aaron Morris, both of Gun Barrell City; brothers, Joe Cathey of Dayton; Troy Campbell and Billy Campbell, both of Sulphur Springs.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon Morris.

Lillia Anne Miller

Private services for Lillia Anne Miller, age 73 of Sulphur Springs will be held at a later date.

Ms. Miller passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at her residence

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