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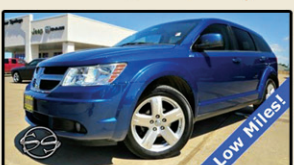
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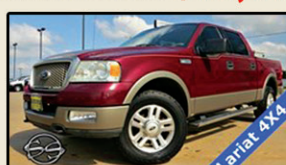
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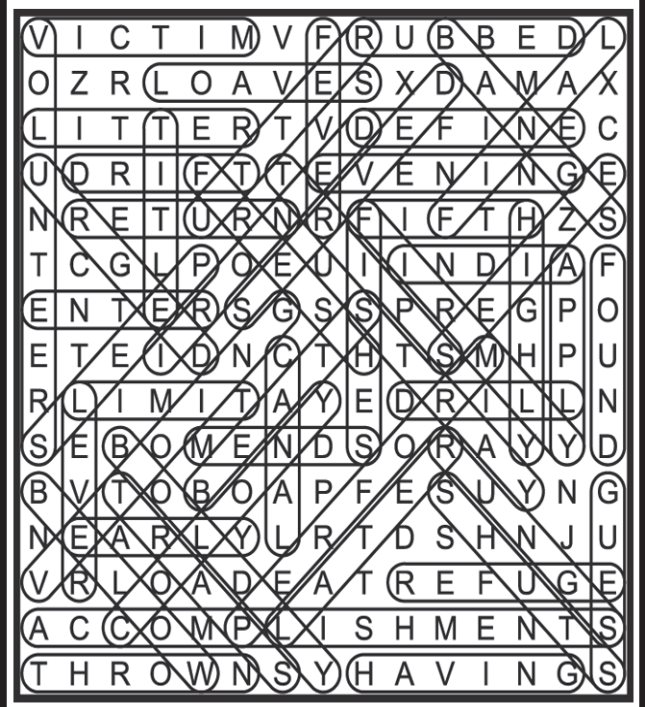
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THE TRAVEL SAGA CONTINUES

Tumbleweed Smith



In the previous column I mentioned some of the problems we encountered getting ready to go to Alaska with our grandsons (our bags didn't arrive with us, but we picked them up later). The trip itself was perfect. It couldn't have been better. The boys, 12 year-old Max and 9-year old Aiden chose which excursions they wanted and enjoyed them all.

We wrote down what Alaska is: boats, seaplanes, salmon, totem poles, lumberjacks, fishermen, panning for gold, sourdough, forests, eagles, starfish, whales, snow-covered mountains wrapped in clouds, fjords, sled dogs, glaciers, northern lights, general stores, souvenir shops, mining, cool weather, bears, seals, jewelry, native clans, remote, magical, cruise ships, fur, parkas, beautiful, boardwalks, flowers, frontier, Iditarod, lakes, streams, waterfalls, summer jobs for students, friendly, artists, adventure, history, relaxing, vibrant, legends, otters, music and much more.

We left Seattle on the Ruby Princess and took the inside passage to Ketchikan. It's an island and the only way to get there is by plane or boat. Once a week a loaded barge brings in supplies for the stores, items ordered by mail, and all things necessary for life on a remote island. The barge leaves with the island's garbage and takes it to Seattle. Ketchikan has the second smallest Wal-Mart in the world.

We went to totem pole parks, a native village and saw a lumberjack show that featured logrolling and axe throwing. The next day we cruised the Tracy Arm Fjord then headed for the state capital of Juneau. The four of us got off the cruise ship and got on a smaller ship that took us to see whales. We must have seen fifty of them turning flips in the ocean, blowing water into the air and putting on a good show. We also saw dolphins, otters and eagles.

We had our best time in the beautiful city of Skagway. We visited with an Iditarod racer, petted sled dogs, held their puppies and panned for gold. We all found gold. The boys put theirs in small cases. Skagway was where prospectors left for the Klondike gold fields in the 1890's and still has some of that frontier atmosphere.

The trip was relaxing. Max and Aiden explored the ship and enjoyed getting sandwiches, ice cream, pizzas and drinks without having to pay for them. We docked back in Seattle and took a tour of that city before catching a plane back to the boys' home in Oakland, California.

The number one tourist attraction in Seattle is a fish market. Don't waste your time with it. Most visitors stand around waiting for something to happen. Clerks are supposed to throw fish. They throw one about every thirty minutes and it's not all that interesting or fun. The views from the space needle were spectacular.

We delivered the boys to their parents and headed home. Our bad luck with luggage continued. One bag didn't make it, but Southwest delivered it the next day. A wheel was missing.

When Tumbleweed Smith is not on the road looking for characters or having adventures in some far away place, he lives in Big Spring with his wife Susan. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com

At The Corral Gate



By Enola Gay

August 6, 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan in the final stages of WW II. It's historic because it was the first time an atomic weapon was used in combat. The plane which carried the bomb was Boeing B-29 'Enola Gay'. The pilot was Paul Tibbetts and co-pilot was Robert Lewis. Two other B-29's also went on the mission to photograph the dropping of the bomb. No one knew exactly what to expect. The pair in the cockpit forgot to put on their sunshades and thus experienced the brilliant flash. The crew did not know what the impact would feel like either, exactly. The co-pilot's notes to the log reveal there were a couple of "slaps" to the plane in the aftermath of the explosion, and as they banked away, they looked back and could see only smoke and the rising mushroom cloud. Lewis noted, "My God, what have we done?" Three days later, a second bomber carried our message to Japan at Nagasaki aboard the plane "Bock's Car", with Enola Gay sharing the mission as advance weather reconnaissance. After this second blow, Japan surrendered and subsequently, the war came to an end.

Where is the Enola Gay today? At first, only the nose section of the plane was on display at the Smithsonian, however you can now view the fully



restored, polished aluminum superfortress on a gleaming hangar floor at the National Air and Space Museum in Virginia. Many people already know that the plane was named for the pilot's mother, Enola Gay Tibbetts. However, I recently read that Mrs. Tibbetts was named for the central character in a novel published in 1886 entitled "Enola: Her Fatal Mistake" written by Mary Young Ridenbaugh. Curiously, the opening poem and other passages from the book refer to horrors coming from above and cryptic phrases about destruction from the skies.

Music and celebrations go together. Celebration City will host a benefit concert this weekend, called "Rockin C.F. to Sleep". Local musician and Cystic Fibrosis victim Seth Welborn is producing it, and has invited Delta County band "Southern Soul" as well as Sulphur Springs' own "Tyler and the Tribe. The free concert begins at 6pm. There will be collection jars around the stage for donations that anyone would like to make to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Come enjoy the music and cool vibes!



Music pals Jordan Owens and Seth Welborn.

Hated to miss this! Kristyn Harris and Jack Phillips played a gig in Mt. Vernon last Saturday August 1 at the BBQ Corral. Thanks, Allison, for the photo and report! Some great food, friends, country fiddling, cowgirl yodeling and Western Swing was enjoyed by all! Watch for these kids, they are star quality!



"Jack and Kristyn at the BBQ Corral"

Plan your chance to see and hear Miss Sadie Evans, a SSSH Jr. She's bringing her love for singing country music to the Reilly Springs Jamboree on Saturday August 15. She will have Roger Reed and friends backing her up, so come enjoy the fun! The music starts at 7pm, and admission is \$10 person. Also come for an old-fashioned "flea market" sale going on during the show in several rooms of the Reilly Springs Community Center where the Jamboree is held, from 8am til 9pm.



Whether we're going or just getting back, vacation is supposed to be restorative, not stressful! Here's something to make us stop and think, written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Thank you, Brenda Payne!

**There's one sad truth in life I've found while journeying East and West...
the only folks we really wound are those we love the best.
We flatter those we scarcely know, we please the fleeting guest,
and deal many a thoughtless blow to those who love us best.**

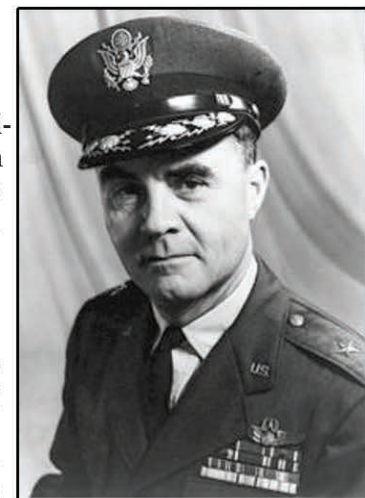
Thinking of that old saying "Horses sweat, men perspire and women glow".
Seems more romantic than accurate to me!
Til next week, I'll watch for you
at the corral gate.



WWII PILOT

Paul Warfield Tibbets

Pilot of the Enola Gay plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Japan.



Paul Tibbets

Paul Warfield Tibbets, Jr. (February 23, 1915 – November 1, 2007), was a brigadier general in the United States Air Force. He is best known as the pilot who flew the Enola Gay (named after his mother) when it dropped Little Boy, the first atomic bomb used in warfare, on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

Tibbets enlisted in the United States Army in 1937 and qualified as a pilot in 1938. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor he flew anti-submarine patrols over the Atlantic. In February 1942, he became the commanding officer of the 340th Bombardment Squadron of the 97th Bombardment Group, which was equipped with the Boeing B-17. In July 1942 the 97th became the first heavy bombardment group to be deployed as part of the Eighth Air Force, and Tibbets became deputy group commander. He flew the lead plane in the first American daylight heavy bomber mission against Occupied Europe on August 17, 1942, and the first American raid of more than 100 bombers in Europe on October 9, 1942. Tibbets was chosen to fly Major General Mark W. Clark and Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower to Gibraltar. After flying 43 combat missions, he became the assistant for bomber operations on the staff of the Twelfth Air Force.

Tibbets returned to the United States in February 1943 to help with the development of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress. In September 1944, he was appointed the commander of the 509th Composite Group, which would conduct the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After the war, he participated in the Operation Crossroads nuclear weapon tests at Bikini Atoll in mid-1946, and was involved in the development of the Boeing B-47 Stratojet in the early 1950s. He commanded the 308th Bombardment Wing and 6th Air Division in the late 1950s, and was military attaché in India from 1964 to 1966. After leaving the Air Force in 1966, he worked for Executive Jet Aviation, serving as its president from 1976 until his retirement in 1987.

Paul Warfield Tibbets, Jr., was born in Quincy, Illinois, on February 23, 1915, the son of Paul Warfield Tibbets, Sr., and his wife, Enola Gay Tibbets. When he was five years old the family moved to Davenport, Iowa, and then to Iowa's capital, Des Moines, where he was raised, and where his father became a confections wholesaler. When he was eight, his family moved to Miami, Florida, to escape from harsh midwestern winters. As a boy he was very interested in flying. One day his mother agreed to pay one dollar to get him into an airplane at the local carnival. In 1927, when he was 12 years old, he flew in a plane piloted by barnstormer Doug Davis, dropping candy bars with tiny parachutes to the crowd of people attending the races at the Hialeah Park Race Track.

In the late 1920s, business issues forced Tibbets's family to return to Alton, Illinois, where he graduated from Western Military Academy in 1933. He then attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, and became an initiated member of the Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Sigma Nu fraternity in 1934. During that time, Tibbets took private flying lessons at Miami's Opa-locka Airport with Rusty Heard, who later became a captain at Eastern Airlines.[3] After his undergraduate work, Tibbets had planned on becoming an abdominal surgeon. He transferred to the University of Cincinnati after his second year to complete his pre-med studies there, because the University of Florida had no medical school at the time. However, he only attended for a year and a half as he changed his mind about wanting to become a doctor. Instead, he decided to enlist in the United States Army and become a pilot in the United States Army Air Corps.

When General Henry H. Arnold, the Chief of United States Army Air Forces, requested an experienced bombardment pilot to help with the development of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress bomber, Doolittle recommended Tibbets. Tibbets returned to the United States in February 1943. At the time, the B-29 program was beset by a host of technical problems, and the chief test pilot, Edmund T. Allen, had been killed in a crash of the prototype aircraft.

Working with the Boeing plant in Wichita, Kansas, Tibbets test flew the B-29, and soon accumulated more flight time in it than any other pilot. He found that without defensive armament and armor plating, the aircraft was 7,000 pounds (3,200 kg) lighter, and its performance was much improved. In simulated combat engagements against a P-47 fighter at the B-29's cruising altitude of 30,000 feet (9,100 m), he discovered that the B-29 had a smaller turning radius than the P-47, and could avoid it by turning away.

After a year of development testing of the B-29, Tibbets was assigned in March 1944 as director of operations of the 17th Bombardment Operational Training Wing (Very Heavy), a B-29 training unit based at Grand Island Army Air Field, Nebraska, and commanded by Armstrong. Its role was to transition pilots to the B-29. Tibbets taught two Women Airforce Service Pilots, Dora Dougherty and Dorothea (Didi) Moorman, to fly the B-29 as demonstration pilots.

On August 5, 1945, Tibbets formally named his B-29 Enola Gay after his mother. Enola Gay had been personally selected by him while it was still on the assembly line at the Glenn L. Martin Company plant in Bellevue, Nebraska. The regularly assigned aircraft commander, Robert A. Lewis, was unhappy to be displaced by Tibbets for this important mission, and became furious when he arrived at the aircraft on the morning of August 6 to see the aircraft he considered his painted with the now-famous nose art. Lewis would fly the mission as Tibbets's co-pilot.

At 02:45 the next day, the Enola Gay departed North Field for Hiroshima, Japan, with Tibbets at the controls. Tinian was approximately 2,000 miles (3,200 km) away from Japan, so it took six hours to reach Hiroshima. The atomic bomb, code-named "Little Boy", was dropped over Hiroshima at 08:15 local time. Tibbets recalled that the city was covered with a tall mushroom cloud after the bomb was dropped.

Tibbets was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Spaatz immediately after landing on Tinian. He became a celebrity, with pictures and interviews of his wife and children in the major American newspapers. He was seen as a national hero who had ended the war with Japan. There were, however, no parades or testimonial dinners for him or any of the other Enola Gay crewmen, although Tibbets later received an invitation from President Harry S. Truman to visit the White House. The 509th Composite Group was awarded an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 1999.

Tibbets was interviewed extensively by Mike Harden of the Columbus Dispatch, and profiles appeared in the newspaper on anniversaries of the first dropping of an atomic bomb. In a 1975 interview he said: "I'm proud that I was able to start with nothing, plan it and have it work as perfectly as it did ... I sleep clearly every night." "I knew when I got the assignment," he told a reporter in 2005, "it was going to be an emotional thing. We had feelings, but we had to put them in the background. We knew it was going to kill people right and left. But my one driving interest was to do the best job I could so that we could end the killing as quickly as possible."

After his retirement from the Air Force, Tibbets worked for Executive Jet Aviation (EJA), an air taxi company based in Columbus, Ohio, and now called NetJets. He attempted to extend the company's operations to Europe, but was unsuccessful. He retired from the company in 1968, and returned to Miami, Florida, where he had spent part of his childhood. The banks foreclosed on EJA in 1970, and Bruce Sundlun became president. Sundlun lured Tibbets back to EJA that year. Tibbets succeeded Sundlun as president on April 21, 1976, and remained in the role until 1986. He served for a year as a consultant before his second and final retirement from EJA in 1987.

Barry Nelson played Tibbets in the film The Beginning or the End (1947). Above and Beyond (1952) depicted the World War II events involving Tibbets, with Robert Taylor starring as Tibbets and Eleanor Parker as his first wife Lucy. Tibbets was also the model for screenwriter Sy Bartlett's fictional character "Major Joe Cobb" in the film Twelve O'Clock High, and for a brief period in February 1949 was slated to be the film's technical advisor until his replacement at the last minute by Colonel John H. deRussy. Enola Gay: The Men, the Mission, the Atomic Bomb, a 1980 made-for-television movie, somewhat fictionalized, told the story of Tibbets crew. Patrick Duffy played Tibbets and Kim Darby played Lucy.

In other fictional portrayals, Nicholas Kilbertus was Tibbets in the film Day One, David Gow played him in the 1995 TV movie Hiroshima, and Ian Shaw played the part in the BBC's 2005 TV docudrama Hiroshima, for which Tibbets was also interviewed on camera.

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Legendary Producer Billy Sherrill Dies

Hopkins County Ties



As a producer, songwriter, and A&R man, Billy Sherrill was one of the most influential non-performing figures in country music of the '60s and '70s. Sherrill was responsible for shaping the lush countrypolitan sound that helped change the production styles of country music during the '70s. Instead of relying on standard country instruments like steel guitars and fiddles, he recorded with string sections and vocal choruses, often overdubbing parts to give the music a grandiose, epic sound; in essence, it was the country version of pop producer Phil Spector's famous Wall of Sound. Some critics complained that his style wasn't pure country, yet there is no denying that he helped bring country music to a pop audience with the recordings he made with George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Charlie Rich, and Johnny Paycheck, as well as many, many others. Sherrill also helped build up the Epic artist roster during the '60s, making it into a formidable country label. Furthermore, he wrote and co-wrote many songs that have since become country classics, including "Stand by Your Man," "Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad," "I Don't Wanna Play House," "We Can Make It," and "The Most Beautiful Girl."

For someone with such an important place in country music history, Sherrill ironically wasn't interested in the music at all as a child -- initially, he was attracted to blues, R&B, and jazz. Born and raised in Alabama, Sherrill was the son of an evangelical preacher, Clyde Sherrill. He learned how to play piano when he was a child, and he often played at revival meetings and funerals his father held. When he was a teenager, Sherrill learned how to play saxophone and led a jump blues band that played R&B and jazz. Soon, he was touring the South, playing in R&B and rock & roll combos. Eventually, he was signed as a solo artists by a small independent label in the late '50s, but none of his singles made any impact.

In 1962, Sherrill discovered that an unknown Nashville country artist cut one of his songs when a royalty check arrived in the mail. Encouraged by the royalties, he moved to Nashville to pursue a career in the country music industry. Upon his arrival in Nashville, Sherrill was hired by Sam Phillips to oversee Sun Records' Nashville studios. After Sun and Phillips went bankrupt the following year, Epic Records' Nashville hired him as an in-house producer, and he was assigned to record. Before he moved to Nashville, Sherrill paid no attention to country music, and by the time he was hired by Epic, he was still unfamiliar with many of its production techniques and musical conventions. Instead of heeding the advice of the studio musicians he was working with, Sherrill forged ahead and created his own style, telling the professional musicians what to play.

Sherrill's first major hit arrived in 1965, when he overhauled the sound and career of David Houston, who had a hit two years earlier with "Mountain of Love." Houston hadn't had another big hit since that single, but Sherrill gave him "Livin' in a House Full of Love," which reached number three late in 1965. The following year, Houston recorded the Sherrill/Glenn Sutton song "Almost Persuaded," which spent nine weeks at number one. "Almost Persuaded" quickly became a standard, winning the Grammy for Best Country & Western Song and becoming the subject of cover versions by artists as diverse as Louis Armstrong, Louis Prima, and Etta James.

Throughout 1966, Sherrill continued working with Houston, and later in the year he discovered Tammy Wynette, an Alabama hairdresser and waitress who entered his office, unannounced, early that year. Wynette had previously approached several other record labels but had been rejected. Sherrill signed her, co-writing "Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad" with Sutton with her specifically in mind. The single became a hit upon its early 1967 release, launching a very successful career for Wynette. Over the course of 1967, Sherrill turned out several number one singles by both Houston ("With One Exception," "You Mean the World to Me," which both were number one hits) and Wynette ("I Don't Wanna Play House"), plus "My Elusive Dream," which was a duet between the two vocalists. Also in 1967, Sherrill released the instrumental Classical Country under the name the Billy Sherrill Quintet.

The following year, Sherrill continued to work on recordings by Houston and Wynette, and he signed Charlie Rich, who he had previously worked with at Sun, to Epic. Sherrill's most successful artists for 1968 remained Houston and Wynette, as David's "Have a Little Faith" and "Already It's Heaven" and Tammy's "Take Me to Your World," "D-I-V-O-R-C-E," and "Stand by Your Man" all reached number one. Not only did he produce those tracks, he wrote or co-wrote the majority of the songs. Sherrill's success with Houston and Wynette continued through 1969 and 1970, with both artists racking up several more number one hits.

Sherrill signed Barbara Mandrell to Columbia in 1969, and the next year he wrote and produced her first Top 40 single, "Playin' Around With Love." Mandrell's career continued to build momentum for the next four years, before she left Columbia, and Sherrill had a hand in producing or writing most of her hits for the label. Though Mandrell would later emerge as a star, the most significant addition to Sherrill's roster of vocalists was George Jones, who left Musicor for Epic in 1971. At first, the producer and signer didn't hit it off -- Jones was accustomed to Pappy Daily's loose, nearly lazy production technique, and it took some time for him to feel comfortable with Sherrill's painstaking, demanding style -- but the relationship would prove to be the most fruitful collaboration either artist would have. Sherrill expanded Jones' classic ballad style, bringing an epic sweep to his ballads while remaining close to George's honky tonk roots. Their first hit single, "We Can Make It," arrived in early 1972, a year after Jones and Wynette's "Take Me" became a Top Ten hit. For the next five years, Jones not only recorded solo singles with Sherrill, but he also made a series of duets with Wynette, and their hits often reflected the turbulent nature of their romance.

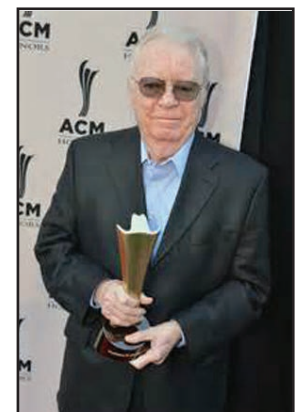
Jones wasn't the only artist to occupy Sherrill's time in 1972. In addition to Jones, Wynette, Houston, and Mandrell, Sherrill worked with a wide variety of other singers, including Jody Miller, Sandy Posey, Freddy Weller, and the teenaged Tanya Tucker. Sherrill's career continued to gain momentum over the next two years, as his regular stable of artists continued to have hits, and Rich finally began to chart with singles from the album Behind Closed Doors. Rich's title track and "The Most Beautiful Girl" became huge hits.

By the time Stampley joined the Epic roster in 1975, Sherrill had become the most reliable hitmaker in Nashville, and both established and developing artists clamored to work with him. Over the course of the latter half of the decade, he not only worked with his old favorites like Wynette, Jones, Rich, Mandrell, and Stampley, he also produced or wrote songs for Johnny Paycheck, Marty Robbins, Ronnie Milsap, Janie Fricke, Ray Charles, David Allan Coe, Johnny Duncan, Bob Luman, David Wills, and Kenny Rogers and Dottie West. As the '80s arrived, Sherrill's hitmaking skills began to slip somewhat. Though he was invaluable in Jones' early-'80s comeback -- producing and/or writing hits like "He Stopped Loving Her Today," "I'm Not Ready Yet," "If Drinkin' Don't Kill Me (Her Memory Will)," and "Same Ole Me," among others -- Sherrill's songwriting wasn't being covered quite as frequently. Nevertheless, his songs continued to reach the charts, as Moe Bandy, Johnny Cash, Johnny Rodriguez, and Lacy J. Dalton made his songs into hits. In addition to his Nashville connections, Sherrill produced Elvis Costello's country album, Almost Blue, in 1981.

By 1980, Sherrill had been named Vice President/Executive Producer of CBS in Nashville, and he stayed in that position for the first half of the decade. In the middle of the decade, he left CBS to become an independent producer, working on Charles' country duets album, Friendship, but he returned to the label in 1986.

Sherrill has many friends in Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County having joined his father while preaching in tent revivals and in church at Greenview. His father was joined in his preaching with J.O. (Orville) Walker. The families spent summers in revivals in Alabama and Texas.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Charlene, and his daughter, Catherine Lale and husband, George, and two grandchildren, Samantha and Matthew. Funeral arrangements are pending.



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Answers On pg. 4

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- August 8th - Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser with Tyler and the Tribe Band
- August 15th - Hot August Nights - BBQ Cookoff and Live Music
- August 21st and 22nd - 120th Anniversary of Hopkins County Courthouse

Friday Night Movies On The Square

- August 7 - 101 Dalmatians (1961)
- August 14 - Hook
- August 21 - Annie (2014)
- August 28 - Box Trolls

Arts & Music

- August 8 - Tyler and the Tribe on Celebration Plaza
- August 15 - Ducado Vega & Zenya Vi on Celebration Stage
- August 15 - Hawk Nelson/The Afters at Hot August Night BBQ Cookoff
- August 22 - Monty Tipps on Celebration Plaza
- August 29 - Nicholas Altobelli

More Celebrations

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Obits



Billy Sherrill

See Obit Page 8.

Genevieve Ann "Jenni" Strain

Genevieve Ann (Jenni) Strain age 71 of Sulphur Spring, Texas passed away at Sunny Springs Nursing Home on Friday, July 31, 2015. She was born on October 11, 1943 in White Plains, New York to Alfred and Rose Massaro Askey. She married Ralph Edward Strain in July of 1969 in New York.

Jenni was of the Baptist Faith and attended Calvary Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. She worked for 18 years at Kmart and later at EZ Mart and Family Dollar.

Survivors are sons Ronnie Allen Strain and wife Maggie of Michigan, David Alfred Strain and wife Dana of Dike, three grandchildren Colby Strain and wife Cristen, Dustin Joslin and wife Chesley, and Dylan Strain, two great-grandchildren Kinsler and Khloe Strain.

She is preceded in death by her late husband of 28 years Ralph Strain, grandson Colton Strain, and brother David Askey.

Visitation was held on Monday, August 3, 2015 from 6:00 till 8:00 P.M. at New Richland Baptist Church 1 mile south of I-30 on FM 69.

Funeral services were at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at the church. Interment followed at Mt. Sterling Cemetery with Tommy Jenkins, Scott Burgin, Jim Thompson, Robert Newsome, Bryan Newsome and Burt Slaughter serving as pallbearers.



Morris W. Abercrombie

Funeral service for Master Sergeant Morris W. Abercrombie, 82, of Sulphur Springs were held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Pete Adrian officiating.

Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Military honors by The Hopkins County Military Coalition and with Jay McClendon, Reece Booher, Larry Godfrey, Shem Ray III, Jacob Landers, Keith Ashmore, and Harlan Hammond serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were General Charlie Wilson, Robert Carpenter, Bill Hodge, Dan Hinton, Rex Flippin, Joe Harry, Sam Sevier, Winston Perkins, Doreen Bryant, Vicky Latimer, members, of The National Guard and the Class of 1950.

Visitation was held Monday, August 3, 2015 at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Mr. Abercrombie passed away Sunday, August 1, 2015 at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. He was born December 23, 1932 in Cartwright, TX to Edgar Milo Abercrombie and Jessie Sarah Francis Morris Abercrombie. He married Barbara Gideon on April 25, 1954 in Hugo, OK, she survives. Master Sergeant Abercrombie was a member of The National Guard for 43 years and 7 months, with 35 years of that time as full time at the National Guard Armory. During this time he earned several medals and commendations such as, the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with 13 hour classes), which he taught at the National Guard Academy in Little Rock, AR, Austin, TX, and LaCrosse, WI, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, Adjutant General's Individual Award, Federal Service Medal, The Minute Man Award (one of the highest awards given in the Texas National Guard), Texas Faithful Service Medal (with 2 bronze acorns and 1 silver acorn), He worked at the Pentagon in Washington DC on special assignments for six weeks, and was on the National Guard Association of Texas board of directors for six years representing the 3rd Battalion. Mr. Abercrombie was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Tony "Abbo" Abercrombie, and wife Martie of Sulphur Springs, sisters, Edna Carrow of Hideway Lake, Francis Landefeld of Phoenix, AZ, brother-in-law Bob Gideon and wife Ann, sister-in-law Gilda Landers and husband Larry of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Adam and Jennifer Abercrombie of Mineola, Shannon and Aaren Adams of Frisco, Brad and Holly Abercrombie of Arlington, Crystal and Bryan Sparks of Royse City, Brandon and Emma White of Saltillo, and James McBrayer of Denton, great-grandchildren Parker Abercrombie, Madison and McKynlee Adams, Brailey and Rylan Sparks, Amberley, Hallie, and Hannah White, many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Terry Abercrombie, brothers, Loyd, Dennis, and Weldon, sisters, Lonie Pittman, Mozelle Jones, and Ruth Harrington.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Hopkins County Veterans Memorial Fund or The Dinner Bell of First United Methodist Church.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Ruby Alline Causey

Funeral services for Ruby Alline Causey, age 97 of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, August 1, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Judge Robert Newsom officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Sterling Cemetery with James K. Bassham, Leroy Cox, Matthew Smith, Roy Herman, Jr., Billy Joe Dorner and Mike Smith serving as pallbearers. There will be no formal visitation.

Ruby passed away on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at Carriage House Manor.

She was born on February 26, 1918 in Dike the daughter of Reginald Mohun and Allie (Hoover) Johnson. She married A.J. Causey on December 15, 1936 in Hopkins County. She was the former secretary of Conner Cemetery Association, member of the Sulphur Bluff Baptist Church and a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one son, Gary Causey; five brothers, Noble Johnson, Claude Johnson, Alvie Johnson, Marlin Johnson and Coris Johnson; six sisters, Murriel Hunt, Velma Holt, Blanch Johnson, Zella Sanders, Joyce Johnson and Gay Jones.

Ray Allen Roberts

Private services were held for Ray Allen Roberts, age 56 of Dallas, formerly of Sulphur Springs.

Ray passed away on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

He was born on May 18, 1959 in Sulphur Springs the son of Raymond R. and Ruby Nell (Mosher) Roberts.

Survivors include his son, Sean Lee Roberts, daughter, Crystal Roberts, sister, Mary Ann Darlin of Sulphur Springs and brother, Randy Roberts of Bossier City, LA.

He was preceded in death by his parents

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