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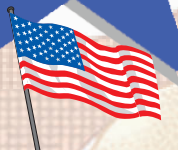
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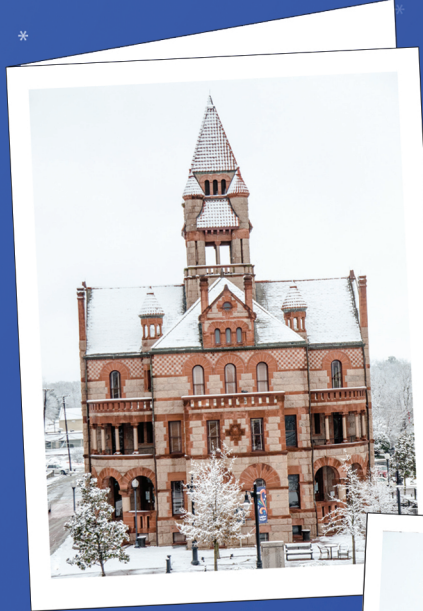
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**24 Days To CHRISTMAS**

# THE IDLE AMERICAN Memories of 'Roughing It'...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Reflections at Thanksgiving abound, and participants gaining most from the season are of one accord--filling their hearts with precious memories of loved ones and friends. We cherish warm remembrances, including those that made us laugh then--and make us laugh now.

For many, there are happy thoughts of times in the great outdoors, perhaps now decades old. Some are memories of "roughing it" by folks whose daily lives are far more akin to "smoothing it."

Such are the memories of Dr. and Mrs. Lanny Hall of Abilene. The couple has made life smoother for the masses--he as a three-term state legislator who later served 27 years as president or chancellor of universities, and she as a wife, mother and community leader. (He served at Wayland, Howard Payne and Hardin-Simmons. He was twice president of HSU, where he now is chancellor.)...

was 1990; the place, a Ruidoso, NM, camping site. A small victory upon arrival was finding space for their small tent between half-million dollar motor homes. It was at eveningtide, when coyotes were making a wail.

The Halls, then from Plainview, were ready for a weekend under

the stars, sheltered from the elements by an 8x10 foot tent the Good Doctor finally "pitched." (There was no "Google" back then and "pitching instructions" were in small type on flimsy paper that might just as well have been in a foreign language. And, it was pitch dark.)

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O S N A O F R H A A N S S W V R I  
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## FAMOUS TEXANS

# J.D. Tippit

Dallas Police Officer killed by Lee Harvey Oswald



★ Historical marker on northeast corner of East 10th Street and South Patton Avenue in Dallas. Dedicated November 20, 2012

J. D. Tippit (September 18, 1924 – November 22, 1963) was an American police officer who was an 11-year veteran with the Dallas Police Department. On a Dallas street, about 45 minutes after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, Tippit was shot to death in a residential neighbourhood in Oak Cliff. Lee Harvey Oswald was initially arrested as a suspect in Tippit's murder but later also became a suspect in the shooting of President Kennedy. Oswald was charged with both crimes shortly after his arrest. However, Oswald denied involvement in either of the cases. Before Oswald could be prosecuted for either crime, he was shot and killed, while in police custody, by strip club owner Jack Ruby on November 24, 1963.

### EARLY LIFE

Tippit was born near the town of Annona in Red River County, Texas. He was one of seven children (two girls and five boys) to Edgar Lee, a farmer, and Lizzie Mae Tippit (née Rush). The Tippit and Rush families were of English ancestry, their ancestors having immigrated to Virginia from England by 1635. It is sometimes reported that J.D. stood for "Jefferson Davis", but in fact, the letters did not stand for anything in particular. Tippit attended public schools through the tenth grade and was raised as a Baptist, a faith he practiced for the rest of his life. He entered the United States Army on July 21, 1944, and was assigned to the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the US 17th Airborne Division. He saw combat in Operation Varsity, the airborne crossing of the Rhine River in March 1945, earning a Bronze Star, and remained on active duty until June 20, 1946.

Tippit married his high school sweetheart, Marie Frances Gasway, on December 26, 1946. The couple had three children: Charles Allan (born 1950), Brenda Kay (born 1953) and Curtis Glenn (born 1958). That same year, he went to work for the Dearborn Stove Company. He next worked for Sears, Roebuck and Company in the installation department from March 1948 to September 1949 when he was laid off. The couple moved to Lone Star, Texas, where Tippit attempted to farm and raise cattle.

### CAREER

In January 1950, Tippit enrolled in a Veterans Administration vocational training school at Bogata, Texas. He left the school in June 1952. After facing several setbacks as a farmer and rancher, Tippit decided to become a police officer. The Tippit family then moved to Dallas where Tippit was hired by the Dallas Police Department as a patrolman in July 1952. During his time with the Dallas Police Department, Officer Tippit was cited twice for bravery.

At the time of his death, Tippit was assigned to Dallas Police vehicle #10, had badge #848 and was earning a salary of \$490 a month as a Dallas police officer. He was also working two part-time jobs; he worked at Austin's Barbecue restaurant on Friday and Saturday nights and at the Stevens Park Theatre on Sundays.

Murder and investigation: Main article: Assassination of John F. Kennedy: Murder of J.D. Tippit: Part of Assassination of John F. Kennedy

Location: East 10th Street and South Patton Avenue, Dallas, Texas, Coordinates: 32°44'50"N 96°49'06"WCoordinates: 32°44'50"N 96°49'06"W

DateNovember 22, 1963, 1:11 –1:14 p.m. (CST): Attack type - Shooting; Weapon - .38-caliber revolver; Perpetrator - Lee Harvey Oswald

On November 22, 1963, J.D. Tippit was working beat number 78, his normal patrol area in south Oak Cliff, a residential area of Dallas. At 12:45 p.m., 15 minutes after the President's assassination, Tippit received a radio order to move to the central Oak Cliff area as part of a concentration of police around the center of the city. At 12:54 Tippit radioed that he had moved as directed. By then several messages had been broadcast describing a suspect in the Kennedy assassination as a slender white male, in his early thirties, 5 feet 10 inches (1.78 m) tall, and weighing about 165 pounds (75 kg). Oswald was a slender white male, 24 years old, 5 feet 9 inches (1.75 m) tall, and an estimated weight of 150 pounds (68 kg) at autopsy.

At approximately 1:11–1:14 p.m., Tippit was driving slowly eastward on East 10th Street — about 100 feet (30 m) past the intersection of 10th Street and Patton Avenue — when he pulled alongside Oswald. Oswald walked over to Tippit's car and apparently exchanged words with him through an open vent window. Tippit opened his car door and as he walked toward the front of the car, Oswald drew his handgun and fired five shots in rapid succession, two bullets hitting Tippit in the chest, one in the stomach, another in his right temple (one shot missed altogether). Tippit's body was transported from the scene of the shooting by ambulance to Methodist Hospital where he was examined by two physicians, then pronounced dead at 1:25 pm by Dr. Richard A. Liguori. Oswald was later arrested after "acting suspiciously" by appearing nervous as police sirens neared him and by ducking into the Texas Theatre without buying a ticket.

The Warren Commission identified twelve people who witnessed the shooting, or its aftermath. Domingo Benavides saw Tippit standing by the left door of his parked police car, and a man standing on the right side of the car. He then heard shots and saw Tippit fall to the ground. Benavides stopped his pickup truck on the opposite side of the street from Tippit's car. He observed the shooter fleeing the scene and removing spent cartridge cases from his gun as he left. Benavides waited in his truck until the gunman disappeared before assisting Tippit. He then reported the shooting to police headquarters, using the radio in Tippit's car. Helen Markham witnessed the shooting and then saw a man with a gun in his hand leave the scene. Markham identified Lee Harvey Oswald as Tippit's killer in a police lineup she viewed that evening. Barbara Davis and her sister-in-law Virginia Davis heard the shots and saw a man crossing their lawn, shaking his revolver, as if he were emptying it of cartridge cases. Later, the women found two cartridge cases near the crime scene and handed the cases over to police. That evening, Barbara Davis and Virginia Davis were taken to a lineup and both Davises picked out Oswald as the man whom they had seen.

Taxicab driver William Scoggins testified that he saw Tippit's police car pull up alongside a man on the sidewalk as he sat in his taxicab nearby. Scoggins heard three or four shots and then saw Tippit fall to the ground. As Scoggins crouched behind his cab, the man passed within twelve feet of him, pistol in hand, muttering what sounded to him like, "poor dumb cop" or "poor damn cop." The next day, Scoggins viewed a police lineup and identified Oswald as the man whom he had seen with the pistol. But "Scoggins admitted he did not actually witness the shooting and his view of the fleeing killer was obscured because he ducked down behind his cab as the man came by."

The Commission also named several other witnesses who were not at the scene of the murder, but who identified Oswald running between the murder scene and the Texas Theater, where Oswald was subsequently arrested. Four cartridge cases were found at the scene by eyewitnesses. It was the unanimous testimony of expert witnesses before the Warren Commission that these spent cartridge cases were fired from the revolver in Oswald's possession to the exclusion of all other weapons.

Upon his arrest and during subsequent questionings by police, Lee Harvey Oswald denied any involvement in Tippit's murder. Based on eyewitness' statements and the gun found in Oswald's possession at the time of his arrest, he was formally charged with the murder of J.D. Tippit at 7:10 pm. on November 22. During the course of the day, police began to suspect that Oswald was also involved in the shooting of President Kennedy. At approximately 1 am on November 23, Oswald was also charged with assassinating President John F. Kennedy. Oswald continued to maintain his innocence in connection with both murders. In the late morning of November 24, while being transported from the Dallas City Jail to the Dallas County Jail, Lee Harvey Oswald was fatally shot in the abdomen by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby. The shooting was broadcast throughout the United States on live television.

As Oswald was killed before he was tried for either crime, President Lyndon B. Johnson commissioned a committee of U.S. Senators, Congressmen and elder statesmen to investigate the events surrounding the deaths of President Kennedy, Officer Tippit and Oswald in an effort to answer questions surrounding the events. President Johnson also hoped to quell rumors that arose after Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby that the assassination and subsequent shootings were part of a conspiracy. The committee, known as the Warren Commission (named for the commission chairman, Chief Justice Earl Warren), spent ten months investigating the murders and interviewing witnesses. On September 24, 1964, the Warren Commission released an 888-page report that concluded there was no evidence of a conspiracy and Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President Kennedy and Officer Tippit. The report also concluded that Jack Ruby acted alone in the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Some researchers have alleged that the murder of Officer Tippit was part of a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. Jim Marrs hypothesized that "the slaying of Officer J. D. Tippit may have played some part in the scheme to have Oswald killed, perhaps to eliminate co-conspirator Tippit or simply to anger Dallas police and cause itchy trigger fingers." Researcher James Douglass said that "...the killing of Tippit helped motivate the Dallas police to kill an armed Oswald in the Texas Theater, which would have disposed of the scapegoat before he could protest his being framed." Harold Weisberg offered a simpler explanation: "Immediately, the flimsy police case against Oswald required a willingness to believe. This was proved by affixing to Oswald the opprobrious epithet of 'cop-killer.'"

Despite the fact that eyewitnesses to the shooting identified Oswald, some critics doubt that Tippit was killed by him and assert he was shot by other conspirators. They allege discrepancies in witness testimony and physical evidence which they feel calls into question the Commission's conclusions regarding the murder of Tippit. According to Jim Marrs, Oswald's guilt in the assassination of Kennedy is placed into question by the presence of "a growing body of evidence to suggest that he did not kill Tippit". Others say that multiple men were directly involved in Tippit's killing. Conspiracy researcher Kenn Thomas has alleged that the Warren Commission omitted testimony and evidence that two men shot Tippit and that one left the scene in a car. Sterling Harwood suggests that Tippit must have had a role in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy or to silence Oswald, since there is no other reason for an experienced officer like Tippit to fail to call in to his dispatcher his spotting of a suspect fitting the description of Kennedy's killer before engaging the suspect.

### AFTERMATH

On the evening of the assassination, both Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, called Tippit's widow to express their sympathies. Jacqueline Kennedy wrote a letter expressing sorrow for the bond they shared. The plight of Tippit's family also moved much of the nation and a total of \$647,579 was donated to them following the assassination.

A funeral service for J.D. Tippit was held on November 25, 1963, at the Beckley Hills Baptist Church, with the burial following at Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas. His funeral was held on the same day as those of both President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald.

In January 1964, Tippit was posthumously awarded the Medal of Valor from the American Police Hall of Fame, and he also received the Police Medal of Honor, the Police Cross, and the Citizens Traffic Commission Award of Heroism. A state historical marker to Officer Tippit was unveiled November 20, 2012 at the location where the shooting occurred.

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# Obits

## Kay Morrison

Funeral arrangements for Kay Morrison, of Sulphur Springs, are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Morrison passed away Tuesday, November 28, 2016.



## Jerry Bob Caddell

Graveside services for Jerry Bob Caddell, age 77, of Como were held Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 2:00 P.M. at Como Cemetery with Jeffery Caddell, Randy White, Ryan Caddell, Logan Caddell, Reece Caddell and Steve Sheedy serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Bunky Hill and Freddy Rowell. Visitation was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Mr. Caddell passed away Sunday, November 27, 2016 at his home. He was born October 12, 1939, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, the son of Reba and Orlean (Sanders) Caddell. He married Glenna Hopson, May 23, 1959 in Como. He was a retired Dairy Farmer.

He is survived by his wife Glenna of Como, son, Alan Caddell and wife Missy of Sulphur Springs. Grandchildren; Jeffery Caddell and wife Crystal of Como, Lyndsi White and husband Randy of Sulphur Springs, Ryan Caddell of Houston, Logan Caddell and wife Brandi of Sulphur Springs and Reece Caddell and wife Kim of San Antonio. Great grand-children: Jaiden Carpenter, Quentin Carpenter, Raelynn Caddell, Luke White, Jude White, Jake White, Ky Caddell and Jaylee Caddell. He was preceded in death by his parents, and one son, Randy Caddell.



## Waulinda Dortch Downs

Funeral services for Waulinda Dortch Downs, age 94, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday December 1, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Steve Cook officiating. Interment will follow at Shooks Chapel Cemetery with Brad Mann, Seth Downs, Dustin Downs, Dallas Downs, Derek Downs, Keith Downs and Troy Downs serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Thursday December 1, 2016, 1 hour prior to service.

Waulinda passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at Carriage House Manor. She was born on April 20, 1922 in Hopkins County, the daughter of Newman Dortch and Willie Martin Dortch. She married Earl Downs in Sulphur Springs at Shooks Chapel Methodist Church on August 31, 1947. He survives. She was devoted to her family, her faith, Shooks Chapel Methodist Church, and her work at the church. She graduated from Baylor Nursing School as a Registered Nurse and was the school nurse for many years in the Sulphur Springs School District.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by sons, David Downs and wife Doris of Highland Village, TX, Mark Downs and wife Rosa of Austin, TX, and Randy Downs of Sulphur Springs; daughters, Dennie Mann and husband Joel of Lantana, TX, Marilyn Nixon and husband Jerry of Willis, TX; grandchildren, Sarah Smith and husband Michael of Bentonville, AR, Seth Downs and wife Molly of Miami Springs, FL, Brad Mann and wife Jolene, Lauren Heath and husband Brett, of Lantana, TX, Amy Garcia, Christi Muhle and husband Kyle, of Conroe, TX, Dustin Downs, Dallas Downs and wife Brandi, Derek Downs, Devon Mpondo and husband Johann, of Austin, TX, 26 great-grandchildren, and sister, Mary Dortch White of Winnsboro, TX.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



## Patsy Jean "Pat" Romack Harry

Patsy Jean "Pat" Romack Harry, 78, wife of the late Eroy Harry of Arlington, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016, in her home. Pat was born in Sulphur Springs on Aug. 21, 1938, the daughter of Ardist and Freda Romack. Pat and her brother, Art, grew up on a dairy farm in Hopkins County. She attended Sulphur Springs High School and East Texas State College (now East Texas A&M) where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Education. Pat married Eroy Harry, also of Hopkins County, in 1959. They moved to Arlington in 1960 where both Pat and Eroy accepted teaching positions with the Arlington ISD. Over her career with the AISD, Pat held teaching, administrative and counseling positions. She and Eroy resided in the Arlington area from 1960 on. Pat earned a master's degree in education from TCU in 1975; she

then completed postgraduate work in marriage and family therapy to obtain her state license as a professional counselor (LPC). As a counselor, Pat focused on families and children in the North Texas area. She earned several professional certificates and honors and was widely recognized as an authority on family relationships. Pat was a longtime member of the Fielder Road Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and served in other leadership positions. Pat served in many community service organizations, but none more earnestly than Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex. She was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, Eroy Harry. Survivors: She is survived by her daughter, Debra Purvis of Arlington (husband, Burton Purvis); son, David Harry of Mansfield (wife, Lisa Keever Harry); grandchildren, Courtney Kelly, Crystal Kelly Johnson (husband, Jordan Johnson), Mason Harry, Miranda Harry, Marissa Harry; great-grandchildren, Kinsley Johnson and Kambry Johnson; and her brother, Art Romack of Southlake (wife, Cathy).



## Steve Melton, Sr.

Funeral service for Steve Melton, Sr. were held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 27, 2016, at Believer's Baptist Church. Bro. Jason Rolan officiated, along with several speakers. Visitation was Saturday evening, 6:00-8:00 pm, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Mr. Melton passed away unexpectedly, Sunday, Nov. 20, in Dodson at his son's ranch.

He was born March 3, 1950, in Fairfield, AL. to George Ernest and Charlotte June Capps Melton. During his working career he was self-employed working in process piping. He married Eula Mae "Smiley" Henderson in Alabama on Feb. 8, 1969. Survivors include: Son: Steve Melton, Jr. (Amy) of Emory, Daughters: Nikki Fields (Danny) of Wills Point, and, Stephanie Melton of Marshall, Brother: Ricky Melton (Diane) of Hueytown, AL., Grandchildren: Leslie, McKenna, Hannah, McKlane, Landon, Brian, David, Dustin, and Taylor, Great-grandchildren: Lane, Everlee, and Carson.

Preceded in death by: Parents; Wife; Son, Michael Shannon Melton; and, Grandson, Austin Fields; Brothers: Joey Melton, Robbie Melton, Marty Melton, Jerry Melton, and Eddie Melton

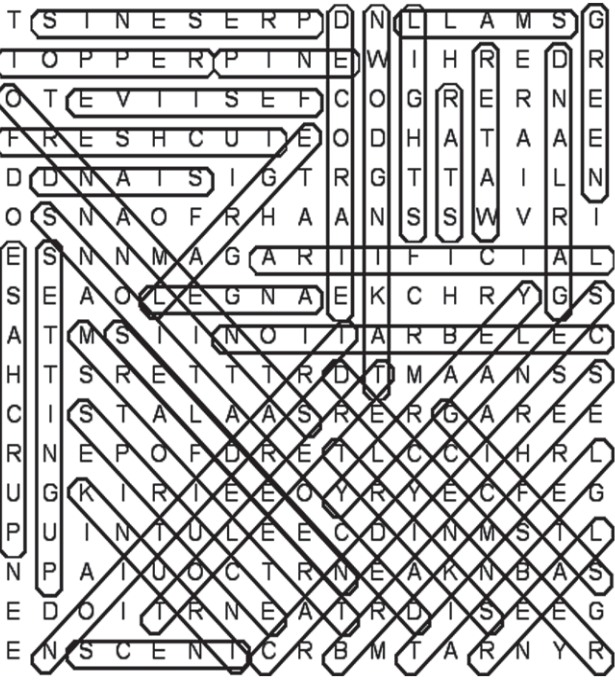
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## A WEDDING CEREMONY TO REMEMBER

### Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

I have written more columns about my grandson Jackson than anything or anybody else. This will be a biggie. He was married last Saturday to Erika Davidson, a girl he met while they both were attending Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. The wedding took place in Oak Lawn, a suburb of Chicago.

Erika planned the entire weekend from the wedding rehearsal, rehearsal dinner, the wedding ceremony and reception. In the plans she sent to family members, they included a timeline of who was supposed to be where and when. For instance, Rehearsal Dinner: Time: 6:30 PM. Location: Palermo's Restaurant (4849 95th Street). Who needs to be there: Full bridal party, parents, grandparents and invited guests.

She did a wonderful job. At the rehearsal dinner, the food was plentiful and drinks were consumed conservatively, even though a dozen or so of Jackson's fraternity brothers were at the event. Jackson's little brother, father and grandfather made toasts. Most impressive was the one by 13 year old Caleb, who expressed his love for his big brother while wishing the bride and groom a long and happy life together.

Prior to the wedding, photos were taken of the groom's party at Hickory Hills Country Club, site of the reception after the wedding. The ceremony took place at 4:30 PM at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. Jackson and Erika wanted the groomsmen, father and grandfather to wear grey tuxedos with blue argyle socks. It was a sight to behold. I teared up more than once during the ceremony; the first time was when Caleb, wearing his charcoal tux and patent leather shoes, took his place along with the other groomsmen. Roses were presented to mothers of the bride and groom to symbolize their importance in raising Jackson and Erika.

A fraternity friend was the officiant who performed the ceremony. His words were meaningful and from the heart because he had known both the bride and groom for years. Jackson and Erika wrote their own vows that contained words of love and friendship and pledges to work together to build a solid future.

It was a textbook wedding, one that all weddings should follow. My wife said it was the most beautiful wedding she had ever seen and made her reach a state of happiness almost beyond measure. I'll go along with that. Jackson was with us twelve years before we had other grandchildren, so he was with us a lot.

The wedding reception featured food and drink for 130 people, toasts by the best man (Jackson's friend since high school) and father of the bride. A fabulous disc jockey played just the right kind of music for such a gathering. Mostly it was for young people in their late 20's. Jackson is 26, the same age as his fraternity brothers. He is only the second of his fraternity class to get married, so many of his SAE buddies came for the wedding. At the reception there was lots of dancing and visiting. Wine flowed freely. Jackson makes his living as a writer, so he has already been asked by some friends who are engaged to help write their vows. Everybody felt good after the wedding.

www.tumbleweedsmith.com

## At The Corral Gate



Enola Gay

A Heritage Park event is always a good reason to leave the corral gate! I went to 'Christmas in Heritage Park' on the Thanksgiving weekend along with eight family members and had an unforgettable time. Here's some photos for you, along with a personal invitation...DO NOT miss your last chance at this holiday tradition! It's Saturday December 3 from 5:30 til 8:30 pm. Go ahead and take your crowd, it won't blow your wallet up, just \$3 person and kids under 7 years old get in free! And if you want to buy some peanuts, popcorn or Christmas gifts, it's all very reasonably priced, and all provided by the Hopkins County Historical Society.

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New in Grist Mill...a Records Cabinet from the original Old Tarrant courthouse, dated 1850's. The county records were moved to Sulphur Springs courthouse in 1854.

Can't miss a family photo op!  
Five of my grandkids!



May the peace and love at Christmas-time be your gift to enjoy! Til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate!

# END OF THE YEAR!

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