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# At The Corral Gate

By  
Enola Gay



## Aaahh....They Came Out Swingin'!"



A friend of mine, Jack Phillips of Sulphur Bluff, spent Spring Break differently than most 9-year-olds. He rounded up a bunch of Western Swing musicians and packed the house at the Reilly Springs Jamboree on Saturday March 21, 2015. Jack, a fiddling student and performer for the past four years, decided it was time to hold his own show for Hopkins County fans.

20-year-old Kristyn Harris Of McKinney headlined the show with Jack. In 2014, Kristyn was the first performer ever to win the title of Western Female Performer of the Year in both the Academy of Western Artists and the Western Music Association. Other performers were Abby Henry, Candace Lewis of Mesquite, Abby Payne of Prosper and Caroline Grace Wiseman of Leon County. Musical back-up was provided by Mel Whirley, Chuckwagon Chuck and Devon Dawson. You may know Devon as the singing and yodeling voice of Jessi the Yodeling Cowgirl in the Toy Story 2 CD with Riders in the Sky. She is also Talent Co-ordinator with the Cowtown Opry, mentoring children and adults in Western performance skills in the Ft. Worth Stockyards National Historic District. You may also spot Miss Devon on RFD-TV and Encore's Western Channel. Co-emcees were DJ's Tom Perryman of The Ranch in Tyler and myself, Enola Gay of KSST, Sulphur Springs.



"Aaahh...They Came Out Swingin'!"  
The Jack Phillips and Kristyn Harris Western Swing Round Up packed the house at the Reilly Springs Jamboree on Saturday March 21, 2015. Western Swing, The Official Music of Texas, is alive and well in the hands of these youth and adult performers, many of whom are associated with the Cowtown Opry, a music performance mentoring program headquartered in the Ft Worth National Stockyards Historic District.



"9 yr-old fiddler Jack Phillips of Hopkins County"

Jack Phillips and his parents Mark and Allison Phillips and extended family want thank everyone who have supported Jack's quest to bring Western Swing, the Official Music of Texas, to Hopkins County. Jack and I have a similar dream.



"20-yr-old Kristyn Harris, Western Female Vocalist of the Year in WMA and AWA"

Though I've still got strains of twin fiddles playing in my head, it's time to get come back to Planet Earth because Spring has arrived! And seasoned Texans will remember what Spring really means around these parts.... Unpredictable Weather! Next week, I'll be watching for you at the Corral Gate!

### Autos Wanted

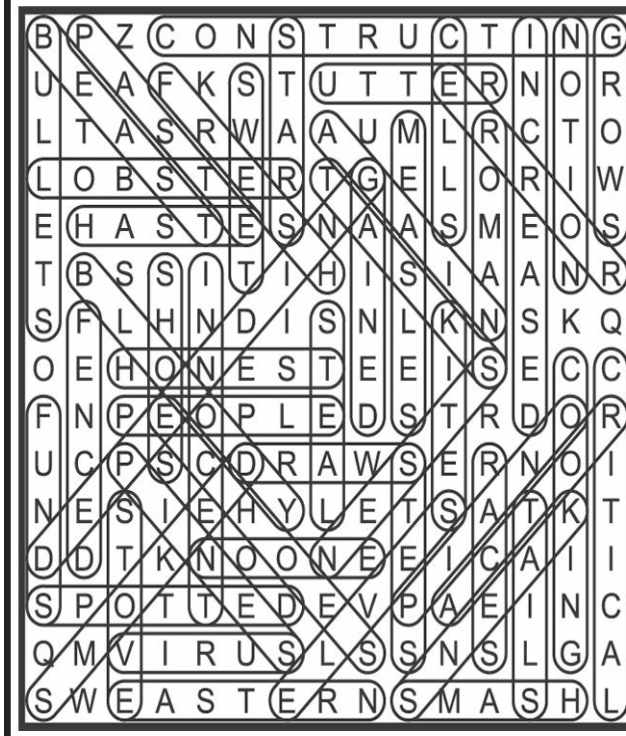
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### Miscellaneous

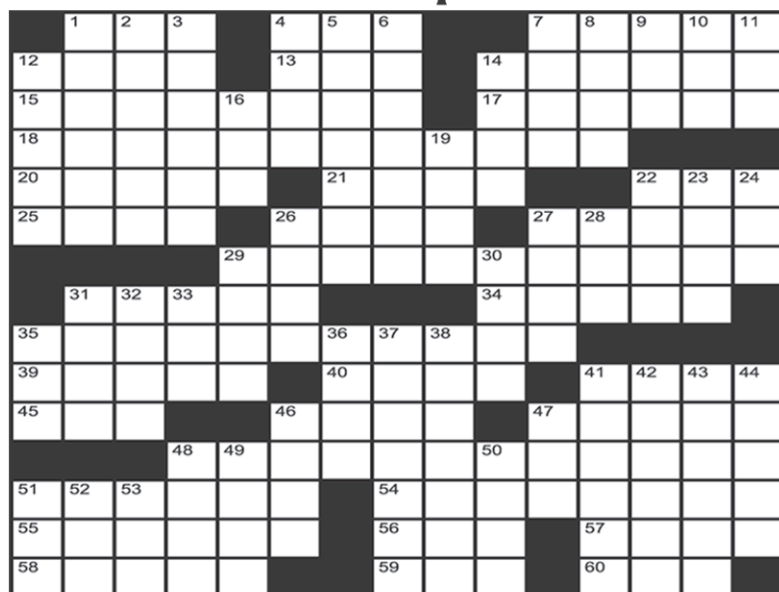
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### Answers to Wordsearch



### Crossword puzzle



#### Across

1. "Spy vs. Spy" magazine
4. "The \_\_\_ Daba Honeymoon"
7. Avalanche
12. Tree trunk
13. Greyhound, e.g.
14. One who is in charge
15. Shoulder ornaments on military uniforms
17. Chant
18. Judge incorrectly
20. Cockeyed
21. "Aquarius" musical
22. Cousin of a crow
25. Certain herring
26. Stages of a journey
27. Nonpoetic writing
29. Advance consideration
31. One who works diligently at a trade
34. Anxious
35. Soft cotton fabric with a nap
39. Pub order
40. \_\_\_ vera
41. Secretary, e.g.
45. "That's \_\_\_ ..."
46. Digestion aid
47. Magical wish granter
48. Partook excessively
51. Like slander
54. Van Gogh's "The Starry Night," e.g.
55. Rained heavily
56. Anger, e.g.
57. "Green Gables" girl
58. Essential oil from flowers
59. \_\_\_ Grove Village, Ill.
60. Caribbean, e.g.

#### Down

1. Sulky
2. Panhandle site

3. Mild expletive
4. Biblical shepherd
5. Meat retailer
6. Quiet
7. Cast
8. Cracker spread
9. "Much \_\_\_ About Nothing"
10. Big \_\_\_ Conference
11. "... \_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
12. Areas around churches' altars for the clergy and choir
14. Pinocchio, at times
16. Police, with "the"
19. "Schindler's \_\_\_"
22. Nudges
23. Far from ruddy
24. "Are we there \_\_\_?"
26. Elders' teachings
27. Corn \_\_\_
28. Same old, same old
29. Manage
30. "Unimaginable as \_\_\_ in Heav'n": Milton
31. Slog
32. Extol
33. Setting for TV's "Newhart"
35. Away
36. Animal house
37. Certain conic section
38. Pedicure's painted object
41. Some river mouths
42. Car's mechanical energy source
43. Reddish brown
44. Move by means of a light anchor
46. Curve
47. Portable firearm
48. Creole vegetable
49. Swerve
50. Softly hit tennis ball that falls just over the net
51. Marienbad, for one
52. Ale holder
53. Away



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# And Hannah Continues.....

"The Voice" knockout rounds continued Tuesday with Sulphur Springs Hannah Kirby taking the stage!



Hannah Kirby and Caitlin Caporale from Team Pharrell faced each other in the final Knockout matchup of the night. Pharrell worked with Caporale to get her to really push her voice to its full potential. We've seen Caporale hit some huge Aguilera-esque notes, but as the stakes increase in the competition, she has to find ways to continue to make herself stand out and show growth based on her coach's notes. Singing "Higher Love," Kirby gave a strong and energetic Knockout performance. Caporale followed with a very beautiful and vocally impressive performance of "Warrior". They're very different singers, and Pharrell had trouble picking a winner, but he chose Caporale. But Shelton, who originally had Kirby on his team before Pharrell stole her away in the Battle Round, went in for the steal, bringing Kirby back to Team Blake. It was a straightforward night of Knockouts, and even though most of the pairings were pretty evenly matched, the coaches made the right decisions, going for artists who really show potential to win the whole thing.



Kirby's parents are very supportive of her musical aspirations, but they also want to ensure she stays in college and has a backup plan, so she is currently majoring in psychology at Texas A&M Commerce. Hannah learned to play the violin at age eight, but singing has always been her first love.

*The live rounds will start in two weeks and the watch parties will continue on Monday and Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Sulphur Springs.*

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The cost is \$20 each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that includes lunch!

"Terrific Tuesdays" meets at The First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs.

Contact Joyce McDonald at 903-243-5620 for more information.

Answers To Crossword

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12	B	O	L	E	13	B	U	S	14	L	E	A	D	E	R		
15	E	P	A	U	L	E	T	S	17	I	N	T	O	N	E		
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20	A	S	K	E	W	21	H	A	I	R	22	J	A	Y			
25	S	H	A	D	26	L	E	G	S	27	P	R	O	S	E		
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39	R	O	U	N	D	40	A	L	O	E	41	D	E	S	K		
45	O	D	D	46	B	I	L	E	47	G	E	N	I	E			
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51	S	P	O	K	E	N	54	P	A	I	N	T	I	N	G		
55	P	O	U	R	E	D	56	S	I	N	57	A	N	N	E		
58	A	T	T	A	R	59	E	L	K	60	S	E	A				

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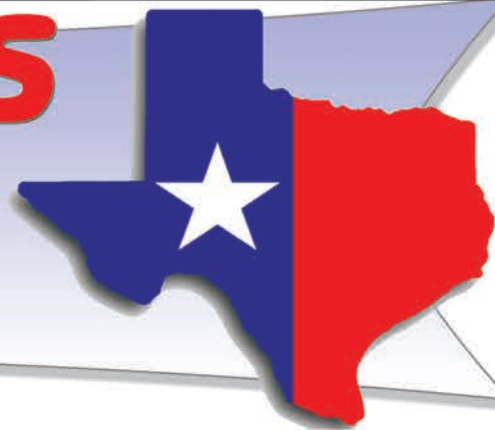
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# FAMOUS TEXANS

## Frank Hamer



Former Texas Ranger who "got" Bonnie & Clyde - Born Francis Augustus Hamer - (1884-03-17) March 17, 1884 - Fairview, Wilson County, Texas  
Died July 10, 1955 (1955-07-10) (aged 71) - Austin, Texas

Francis Augustus Hamer (March 17, 1884 – July 10, 1955) was a Texas Ranger, known in popular culture for his involvement in tracking down and killing the criminal duo Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow in 1934. In a career that spanned the last days of the Wild West well into the automobile age, Hamer acquired legendary status in the Southwest as the archetypal Texas Ranger. He is an inductee to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.

Frank Hamer was born in Fairview, Wilson County, Texas, where his father operated a blacksmith shop. He was one of five brothers, four of whom became Texas Rangers. His family moved to the Welch ranch in San Saba County, where he grew up. Hamer later spent time in Oxford, Llano County (now a ghost town), which formed the basis of his joke about being the only "Oxford-educated Ranger." In his youth, Hamer worked in his father's shop, and as an older teenager worked as a wrangler on a local ranch. He began his career in law enforcement in 1905 while working on the Carr Ranch in West Texas when he captured a horse thief. The local sheriff was so impressed that he recommended that Hamer join the Rangers.

Like the cowboys of earlier generations, Hamer was at home on the open Texas prairie and understood the signs and patterns of nature. He interpreted men in terms of animal characteristics: "The criminal is a coyote, always taking a look over his shoulder; a cornered political schemer is a 'crawfish about three days from water'; it reminds him of a sandhill crane walking up a river-bed." He savored the challenges of investigating and solving crimes. Describing his method in tracking Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, Hamer said that he learned their statistics, but "this was not enough. An officer must know the habits of the outlaw, how he thinks and how he will act in different situations. When I began to understand Clyde Barrow's mind, I felt that I was making progress."

Hamer refused substantial money on principle to tell his life story; *I'm Frank Hamer* is a posthumous biography by Texas historians H. Gordon Frost and John Holmes Jenkins and was assembled thirteen years after Hamer's death from his notes and personal recollections to his family and associates. In the book, Hamer was quoted as saying corrupt politicians did not sit well with him, and he had little patience for those who broke the law. This attitude had tended to cause problems for him with local political establishments during his career. After a place was cleaned up, he would change jobs on a fairly regular basis.

Hamer was a Ranger off and on throughout his life, resigning often to take other jobs. He first joined Captain John H. Rogers's Company C in Alpine, Texas on April 21, 1906, and began patrolling the border with Mexico. In 1908 he resigned from the Rangers to become the City Marshal of Navasota, Texas. Navasota was a lawless boom town, wracked by violence: "shootouts on the main street were so frequent that in two years at least a hundred men died." Though he was only 24, Hamer moved in and created law and order. He served as marshal until 1911 when he started working as a special investigator in Houston, then as an officer for Harris County.

Hamer rejoined the Rangers in 1915 and again was assigned to patrol the South Texas border around Brownsville. Because of the constant unrest in Mexico, the Rangers dealt most seriously with arms smugglers, but also more ordinary bootleggers and bandits who plagued the border. On October 1, 1917 Hamer was wounded in Sweetwater Texas by Gus McMean who was shot and killed. During this period, Hamer left the Rangers again to accept a position as a federal agent in the Prohibition Unit, where he served for about a year. Returning to state service in 1921, Hamer transferred to Austin, where he served as Senior Ranger Captain.

In the 1920s, Hamer became known for bringing order to oil boom towns such as Mexia and Borger. Records from that time indicate that there were complaints about some of Hamer's methods, but the same sources said the area was so lawless extreme measures may have been needed. In *I'm Frank Hamer*, Hamer was quoted candidly discussing the restrictions that upstanding citizens would seek to put on a lawman, not understanding that they were in effect asking him to fight with one hand tied behind his back.

In 1928 Hamer put a halt to a murder-for-reward ring, and his extraordinary means of accomplishing this made him nationally famous. The Texas Bankers' Association had begun offering rewards of \$5,000 "for dead bank robbers — not one cent for live ones." Hamer determined that men were setting up deadbeats and two-bit outlaws to be killed by complicit police officers; the officers would collect the rewards and pay the men their finder's fees. But his investigation hit a stone wall: the police refused him support and the Bankers' Association's position was that "any man that could be induced to participate in a bank robbery ought to be killed." Spurred by urgency to thwart the next set of killings as well as personally infuriated, Hamer wrote and signed a detailed exposé of the racket, which he termed "the bankers' murder machine," then went to the press room of the State Capitol and handed out copies. A firestorm of public outrage led to indictments.

Hamer retired in 1932 after almost 27 years with the Rangers. He left one week before Miriam "Ma" Ferguson "and her husband" recaptured the governor's office. At least forty Rangers resigned rather than serve again under Ma, who in her first term as governor of Texas had proven herself brazenly corrupt; indeed, one of the triumphant Ma's first acts of her second term was to fire all the remaining Rangers and replace them with her own appointees. A year later Hamer flatly summarized his reason: "When they elected a woman governor, I quit." The commander of the Texas Rangers allowed him to retain a Special Ranger commission even after his official retirement as an active Senior Ranger Captain. The special commission is listed in the state archives in Austin.

### Ambush of Bonnie and Clyde:

In the early 1930s, Bonnie and Clyde's crime spree had generated vast media coverage that embarrassed law enforcement and government officials across half a dozen states. Perhaps the last straw, at least for Texas officials, came on January 16, 1934, when Barrow, Parker and associate Jimmy Mullens raided Eastham prison farm, freeing Raymond Hamilton, Henry Methvin, Hilton Bybee (substituted for Clyde's friend Ralph Fults) and Joe Palmer. Hamilton's brother Floyd wrote that Methvin was not part of the original "invited" group but fled with them during the general confusion. Though the hand he drew disappointed Barrow — he had particularly wanted to free Fults and another prisoner, Aubrey Skelley — the raid was the retaliation against the prison system that historian John Neal Phillips says was the driving force behind everything Clyde Barrow did: to pay back the Department of Corrections for abuse he had received there. The Texas Department of Corrections received national negative publicity over the jailbreak, which delighted Barrow, who thought he finally had his revenge.

During the breakout two guards were shot and wounded by the escapees, guard Major Crowson fatally. Legend has it that as Crowson lay dying, Texas Department of Corrections chief Lee Simmons promised him that every person involved in the breakout would be hunted down and killed. In reality, just before Crowson died in the hospital on January 27, Simmons took his formal statement and assured Crowson he would send his killer, Joe Palmer, to the electric chair. He then turned his attention to restoring the reputation of the Texas prison system.

On the go-ahead from Governor Ferguson, Simmons persuaded Frank Hamer to accept a commission to hunt down the Barrow Gang as a special investigator for the prison system. Hamer accepted the assignment but balked at the compensation — just \$180 a month, less than half his current pay. Simmons reiterated that Hamer would collect his fair share of the reward money, then sweetened the deal by authorizing Hamer to take whatever he wanted from among the Barrow Gang's possessions when he caught them. As they were taking leave of each other, Simmons said he wouldn't presume to tell Hamer how to do his job, but his suggestion for getting Barrow and Parker would be to "Put 'em on the spot, know you're right — and shoot everybody in sight."

Hamer set to the task. A smart and meticulous investigator, he examined the pattern of Barrow's movements, discovering he essentially made a wide circle through the lower Midwest, skirting state borders wherever he could, to take advantage of "state line" dictums (i.e., that officers from one state could not pursue suspects across the border of another state). The circle had as its anchor points Dallas, Joplin, Missouri and northwest Louisiana, with wider arcs outward for bank robberies. It was a busy couple of months for hunter and quarry: banks in Lancaster, Texas; Poteau, Oklahoma; and Rembrandt, Knierim, Stuart and Everly, Iowa all fell victim to Barrow, Parker and Henry Methvin, one of the Eastham escapees who was now Clyde's protégé. Hamer was always following close behind.

The push-pins on Hamer's mental tracking map weren't all bank jobs — there were murders as well. The killing of two Texas Highway Patrol officers at Grapevine, Texas on Easter Sunday (April 1, 1934) inflamed public sentiment against Barrow and Parker, even though it was Barrow and Methvin who were the two shooters.

Popular perception turned even further against the fugitives when just five days later Barrow and Methvin killed sixty-year-old single father Constable Cal Campbell near Commerce, Oklahoma. They kidnapped Commerce Chief of Police Percy Boyd, drove him across the border into Kansas, and when they released him, he had what he needed: their names to top the Campbell murder warrants, which were issued against Barrow, Parker and John Doe (Methvin) later that week.

Nevertheless, Hamer knew that Clyde did not intend to be taken alive, and the Barrow Gang's history made it practical to assume that Bonnie would not voluntarily part from him.

Desolate road deep in the piney woods: the trail for Bonnie and Clyde ended here. At 9:15 a.m. on May 23, 1934, after 102 days of shadowing, hunter and hunted finally met on a desolate rural road near Gibsland, Louisiana. Barrow stopped his car at the ambush spot and the posse's 150-round fusillade was so thunderous that people for miles around thought a logging crew had used dynamite to fell a particularly huge tree. Accounts of the last instants before the gunfire vary widely: Sheriff Jordan said he was calling out to Barrow to halt as the shooting started.

Although state, local and other sources had pledged monies to the Barrow reward fund that brought the pre-ambush total to some \$26,000, most reneged on their pledges and when checks were finally cut for the posse members, a six-way split was all of \$200.23.

Courtesy of Wikipedia.



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# OBITUARIES



## Don McCool

Funeral services for Don McCool, age 67, of Sulphur Springs were held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at South Liberty Baptist Church with Bro. Ronnie Miller and Rev. Tim Potts officiating. Interment followed at South Liberty Cemetery with Shane Hartman, Michael Russell, Brad McCool, Curtis Mayo, Jack Nelson, Richard Crouch and Harold Bryant serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were numerous cousins and friends.

Visitation was held at 6:00 to 8:00 PM Tuesday at Tapp Funeral Home.

Don passed away Monday, March 23, 2015 at Carriage House Manor in Sulphur Springs. He was born March 26, 1947 in Sulphur Springs to Andy and Melodine Woods McCool. He was a dairy farmer and was very active in various ag organizations while growing up. He taught in public schools and had formerly served on the school board in Cumby, Texas. Don was a former employee of Home Lumber and Lowe's. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by an uncle, Octave Woods and his wife Linell of Point, Texas; an aunt, Sue Shawbell of Ardmore, Oklahoma; and several McCool cousins and Woods cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, numerous aunts and uncles, and a special uncle and friend, Freddy Woods.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Legacy Hospice, Heart to Heart Hospice and the staff and nurses and nurses aides at Carriage House Manor Cottages.

The family requests memorials to the American Cancer Society at [www.cancer.org/donate](http://www.cancer.org/donate) and the American Diabetes Association at [www.diabetes.org/MonthlyDonations](http://www.diabetes.org/MonthlyDonations).



## Odell Baxley

Odell Baxley, 90, a life-long resident of Hopkins County, left his earthly home to rejoice in his eternal home with Christ his Savior on March 23, 2015. He passed peacefully from this life surrounded by his family at Carriage House Manor.

Odell, "Papa," was born on August 31, 1924 in Sulphur Springs to Leonard and Lillie Ann Owens Baxley. He would fondly recall times he spent coon hunting or looking for arrowheads in the creek with his brothers growing up. His family lived in the Union community and would make the trip to Sulphur Springs by wagon only twice a year when he was young.

He attended elementary school at Park Springs and Union Schools. He graduated high school from Sulphur Springs. He left with a talent at spinning tops and playing marbles that he later enjoyed showing his grandkids. Following his graduation, Papa bravely and dutifully answered the call to serve in World War II.

He served two years as private first class in the 87th Mountain Infantry Division, Company D in Italy, Yugoslavia, and Austria during World War II, earning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He rarely wanted to share the heartache he experienced during the war, but he will always be our hero. And the best birthday he ever had was his 21st because he got to celebrate it back at home after the war.

Always a hero, he stopped to help some stranded motorists in Reilly Springs and met the love of his life, Ima Jean Hurley. They married on May 28, 1949 in Sulphur Springs. He worked at TEMCO Aircraft Co in Greenville and was a career dairyman. Odell was a faithful member of Union Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, since 1939.

Papa said his greatest goals in life were to be a good daddy, a good grandfather, and most of all, a good Christian man. He had a "quiet and gentle spirit, which in God's sight is very precious" (1 Pet 3:4). And the legacy he leaves with seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren is a testament to God's blessings in his life. His greatest happiness came from spending time with his family.

Odell Baxley leaves to cherish his memory daughters; Charlotte (Kenneth) Baxter, Sheila (Arvis) Tanton, and Lesa (Larry) Knotts, all of Sulphur Springs; his grandchildren; Kenny Baxter, Joey Baxter, Sharla Tanton Campbell, Shandra Tanton Dunn, Larissa Knotts, Lance Knotts, all of Sulphur Springs, Landon Knotts of Austin; and sister; Arlene Dollar of New Boston, brother; Rev. Larry Baxley of Sulphur Springs.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ima Jean Baxley, in 2014; his parents Leonard and Lillie Baxley; four sisters, Esther Dickey, Maurine Baxley, Wilma Baxley, Cleo Acker; five brothers, Arville Baxley, Murrell Baxley, L.C. Baxley, Ray Gene Baxley, Thelbert Baxley.

Funeral services with military honors were held at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at Union Baptist Church with Rev. L.D. Baxley officiating. Interment followed at Reilly Springs Cemetery. Pallbearers were James Paul Baxley, Joey Baxter, Kenny Baxter, John Campbell, David Dunn, and Landon Knotts. Visitation for Odell Baxley was held Tuesday, March 24, 2015, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

## Jean Funderburk

Jean Funderburk departed this life on March 21, 2015. She was born on June 21, 1925, in the Mt. Zion Community to Oscar and Ruth Vaughn Cameron. She married W.C. (Dub) Funderburk on December 23, 1945, in Commerce, Texas. He preceded her in death on August 17, 1983.

Jean graduated from Commerce High School in 1942. She was the secretary for Commerce High School for several years. She worked for Cameron Butane Service and Automatic Gas for eight years. In 1983 she became the office manager for Dr. Robert Cozart, Sr and Dr. Robert Cozart, Jr. until her retirement in 2005 at the age of eighty.

Jean was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Even though she worked, she always found time to enjoy her grandsons. During her retirement years, she enjoyed working crossword puzzles and keeping her grand-dog, Heidi, everyday.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and the Dough Rollins Sunday School Class. She served on the Rosemound Cemetery Board for several years.

She is survived by son, Bill Funderburk and wife, LaVerne of Hamilton, Texas; and daughter, Luann Huffman and husband, David of Commerce. Also surviving are grandsons: Brian Funderburk of Carrollton, Kyle Funderburk of Houston and Clint Funderburk and wife, Karri of Kennedale; niece; Barbara Shields and husband, Jim Hamilton of Georgetown; and nephew, Jimmy Cameron of Commerce.

Preceding her in death were her parents; brother, Dale Cameron and wife Jessie; brother, Deryl Cameron; sister, Marie Shields and husband, Paul; and two nephews: Johnson Shields and Johnny Cameron.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Commerce. Visitation was held on Monday, March 23, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Brian Funderburk, Kyle Funderburk, Clint Funderburk, Dr. Robert Cozart, Jr., Jim Peek and Joe Mangual.

Honorary pallbearers were Gene Casselberry, Dr. Robert Cozart, Sr., Charlie Smith and Randy Manning.

The family expresses deep appreciation for the loving care given by Dr. Rick Selvaggi, 1st Choice Home Health Care and Briarcliff Health Center.

Memorials may be given to the First United Methodist Church, 1709 State Highway 24, Commerce, Texas 75428 or Rosemound Cemetery Association, P O Box 408, Commerce, Texas 75429. Funeral services are under the direction of Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home of Commerce, Texas.



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- |              |           |         |         |
|--------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Actor        | Elves     | Measles | Sneak   |
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| Draws        | Innocent  | Shoes   | Virus   |
| Eastern      | Kites     | Smash   |         |
| Echoes       | Lobster   | Smoked  |         |

Answers on pg. 4

**HOW 'BOUT A TASTY LONGHORN STEAK**

**Tumbleweed Smith**



Tumbleweed Smith

James Gentz of Winnie used to show longhorn cattle. "We started in 2002 and showed for about ten years," he says. "We've got all different types of the longhorn and at one time we had four saddle-broke steers that we rode in parades and people took pictures sitting on them. Then in 2004 we decided to start selling the longhorn beef. It's kind of a specialty product and has been good for us. We've had continual growth."

He says longhorn beef is ninety percent lean.

"I tell everybody to cook the steak low and slow because it doesn't have as much marble. The ground meat has very little fat, very little runoff. You get almost pure meat.

He sells all cuts of meat just like you would find in a butcher shop. In addition, he'll sell you a whole or half a cow. And if you like he'll sell you the tail and the head.

"Our calves on the property aren't big. They're about fifteen to eighteen months old. Sometimes I'll butcher them when they're twenty-four months. Their horns are not real long and so they don't have a problem at my processor. I don't raise longhorns for the horns. I can't grind them up and eat them."

He doesn't sell in stores because he is not sure he could meet the demand. He offers his products every Saturday at a Beaumont farmers' market from March to November. He also sells at his ranch where he has a big refrigerated box.

"They usually call me first. I tell people not to drive up because I have a ranch and a rice farm. If they give me thirty minutes I could probably arrange for me or my wife to be here at the office, which by the way is on the site of my grandparents' house."

He does a big Internet business. His website is gentzlonghornbeef.net. His price is competitive. He had his first price increase this past year and went up fifty cents a pound on everything. He has some loyal customers who don't seem to mind the extra cost. He says they like knowing the meat is produced locally and is free of antibiotics and hormones.

"When we first started, we were probably two dollars higher across the board than what you could buy at the local market. Right now with beef prices the way they are, I'm right there close. Sometimes on things like ground meat, the local stores are higher than I am."

He says most people buy steaks, briskets, roasts or ground beef. His processor is 120 miles away.

"I go to a state-inspected facility in Bellville, Texas. That's why I can sell individual cuts of beef. They cut it and package it the way the customer wants it. Everything is vacuum sealed except the ground beef."

Tumbleweed Smith loves to listen to Texans tell their stories. Contact him at [ts@tumbleweedsmith.com](mailto:ts@tumbleweedsmith.com)



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