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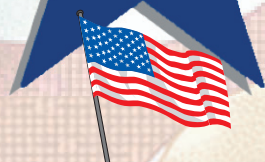
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At The Corral Gate



Enola Gay

Hopkins County has a new Sheriff, Lewis Tatum. He was elected during 2016 and sworn in on January 1, 2017 upon retirement of former Sheriff Butch Adams. Tatum's law enforcement career began 19 years ago as a member of the Hopkins County Sheriff's Posse. Following completion of Law Enforcement Academy, Tatum spent his career as an employee of the Hopkins County Sheriff's Department, and served as Chief Investigator prior to taking the office of Sheriff. His father Sam Tatum is a long-time Posse member, having served in numerous posts and as a Platoon Corporal for 2017.



The Hopkins County Sheriff's Posse was formed in 1987, sworn in under Sheriff Bill Dierks. The organization will observe it's 30th anniversary in October 2017. Seventeen of the 21 members of the Posse were present on January 10, 2017 for a swearing-in ceremony under the new Sheriff. The group also held election of officers for 2017.

They are: Captain Lisa Hooten, Lt. G.W. Moon, Platoon A Sergeant Joe Hooten and Corporal Earl Martin, Platoon B Sergeant Steve Huffman and Corporal Sam Tatum.

The Posse is a volunteer auxiliary to the Sheriff's Department. Originally a mounted patrol, Posse members have assisted in manhunts, crowd control and other city and county needs. You will still see members on horseback in Dairy Festival and Fall Festival parades, and assisting with security at rodeos, concerts and other local events. New members are being recruited for the Posse. For information, inquire at the Hopkins County Sheriff's Department.

Strong south winds have plagued us for days during January! We've dodged flying trashcans and picked up runaway Christmas decorations from neighborhood yards (is it just us or does the entire South leave their decorations up til after New Years?) This windy season reminds me of one year when the wind took part of my favorite pantsuit off the clothesline. That Christmas, I'd been given this soft, warm sweatsuit in a pretty lavender color. Because it was so cold, I'd worn it a number of times through the holiday. Then, at last a week of warm and windy weather arrived, and I decided I could finally wash the children's coats and air all those blankets we'd been using. I also washed the pantsuit, hung it on the line, and went to work. When I returned, only the top was still on the clothesline. I searched the yard but the pants were gone. I thought the loss might be a childish prank played on Mom, but it wasn't. Next day at my job at KSSST, I mentioned that the purple pants probably had gone airborne and that it was a joke around the house. A day or two later, I got a phone call for the Trading Post. The gentleman said "Ma'am, I live at Sulphur Bluff and I know this sounds unusual, but I found something in the pasture that's got to belong to somebody. It's a pair of ladies purple pants. Can I put this on the Trading Post?" Well, I immediately knew it had to be the (late) prankster Jimmy Bassham, and we had a big laugh. Another time, Jimmy had called pretending to be a representative of the FCC (Federal Communications Commission which regulates radio communications in the U.S.) following up on a report that the names of certain offices (like Comptroller) were being mis-pronounced by our radio announcers. He actually had me going for a minute on that one!

I miss the old-time jokesters, practical and otherwise, who were part of the personality of Hopkins County. Sadly, good-natured humor has given way today to malicious mockery. And about those missing pants, they got far more mileage by being lost than they ever would have by going back into my closet!



Remember, the 121st annual Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo opens mid-January and runs through February 4, 2017. It starts out with an All-Western Parade on Saturday January 14 at 11am. It's something to see, because no autos are allowed!! More than 200 riding and equestrian clubs will participate along with horsedrawn floats. During the Livestock Shows, the best of youth in agriculture will be given the spotlight. Rodeo performances are frequently held twice a day. Traditionally, the indoor winter rodeos are held during the worst weather weeks of the year! So, if it seems like it's always drizzly, freezing, windy or all three when you make the trek to Ft Worth, then you are not the only one who's noticed. Maybe I will see you there!

Til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate.

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George Strait

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George Harvey Strait (born May 18, 1952) is an American country music singer, songwriter, actor, and music producer. He is known as the "King of Country" and is considered one of the most influential and popular recording artists of all time. He is known for his neotraditionalist country style, cowboy look, and being one of the first and main country artists to bring country music back to its roots and away from the pop country era in the 1980s.

Strait's success began when his first single "Unwound" was a hit in 1981. During the 1980s, seven of his albums reached number one on the country charts. In the 2000s, Strait was named Artist of the Decade by the Academy of Country Music, was elected into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and won his first Grammy award for the album Troubadour. Strait was named CMA Entertainer of the Year in 1989, 1990 and 2013, and ACM Entertainer of the Year in 1990 and 2014. He has been nominated for more CMA and ACM awards and has more wins in both categories than any other artist. In 2009, he broke Conway Twitty's previous record for the most number-one hits on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart when his 45 number one singles surpassed Twitty's 40. Counting all music charts, Strait has amassed a total of 61 number-one hits, breaking a record also previously set by Twitty, and giving him more number one songs than any other artist in any genre of music.

Strait is also known for his touring career when he designed a 360-degree configuration and introduced festival style tours. For example, the Strait Tours earned \$90 million in three years. His concert at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, TX in June 2014 drew 104,793 people, marking a new record for largest indoor concert in North America. Strait was successful innovating country music and in numerous aspects of being a part of popular music.

Strait has sold more than 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time. His certifications from the RIAA include 13 multi-platinum, 33 platinum, and 38 gold albums. His best-selling album is Pure Country (1992), which sold 6 million (6x platinum). His highest certified album is Strait Out of the Box (1995), which sold 2 million copies (8x Platinum due to being a box set with four CDs). According to the RIAA, Strait is the 12th best-selling album recording artist in the United States overall.

Strait married his high school sweetheart, Norma, in December 1971. Ten years later, George and Norma's son, George Strait, Jr., known as "Bubba", was born. Their daughter Jenifer (born October 6, 1972) was killed in an automobile accident in San Marcos on June 25, 1986, at the age of 13. The family set up the Jenifer Lynn Strait Foundation, which donates money to children's charities in the San Antonio area. Bubba, who is a graduate of Texas A&M in College Station, is pursuing a career as a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) team roping competitor. Strait was able to watch his son compete at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in 2006 shortly before taking the stage for his own performance.

Strait enjoys hunting, fishing, skiing, playing golf, and riding motorcycles. Along with his son, he is a member of the PRCA and partners in team roping competitions. George and his elder brother John Jr., known as Buddy, hosted the annual George Strait Team Roping Classic, in which they competed against some of the best team ropers in the world. Strait has also said that he very seldom picks up a guitar when not in the studio or touring. He and his wife live in northwest San Antonio in a master-planned community known as The Dominion, as well as on a ranch near Cotulla in La Salle County between San Antonio and Laredo. Strait is a fan of the NBA's San Antonio Spurs and can be seen court-side at many of the Spurs' home basketball games.

Since 2010, Strait has served as spokesman for the Wrangler National Patriot program, a campaign designed to raise awareness and funds for

America's wounded and fallen military veterans and their families. Strait states, "I've been a part of the Wrangler family for a long time... when they came to me with the idea for supporting fallen and wounded American veterans and their families. I knew I wanted to get involved." In February 2012, Strait became a grandfather.




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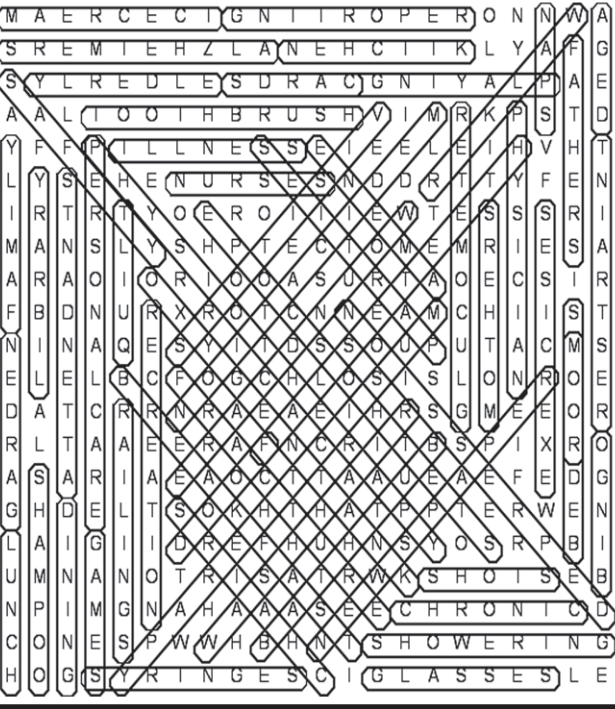
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Answers to Word Search



THE IDLE AMERICAN

Make Way for Uncle Mort...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Most folks in the thicket were surprised to learn that an "uppity lady from up north" had become owner of the crossroads general store on New Year's Day.

Finding her name--Sadie Ladarovich--tough to pronounce, my Uncle Mort slapped a nickname on her that'll likely stick. "Sadie the Lady" from the outset, she announced several changes for the store.

Patrons applauded her daily breakfast specials. However, clapping slowed con-

siderably as she posted "No Loitering" signs. Uncle Mort, who'll be 105 come July 4, figured the signs signaled warnings for him and his buddies. Sooner than later, he would try to convince Sadie that he and his buddies are "guests" who live up the place, and--on occasion--are paying customers, too....

Exhibiting more poise than most folks thought he had, Mort joined friends in taking seats around THE table. It's the one they've claimed for decades for domino-playing, conversation-starting, problem-solving and opinion-offering, sometimes all during the same day.

They discuss topics ranging from Adam's rib to web pages and fibs. With such a vast expanse of history, they find it hard to follow rabbit trails that "don't wander too far off the main road of popular topics," they say.

"Hey, now, Sadie," Mort said. "Remember we guys will be ever alert, even during breakfast. If a robber gets lost out here and tries to take your cash, we'll manhandle him for you." (Later, they'd break the news to her about "toning down" her entrance. Her new Lexus stood out, as did her sleek after-five dress--and her diamond ring with enough sparkle to blind an entire time zone.)...

Mort added an addendum to his break-

fast order: "Make sure you use a clean plate." When Sadie brought breakfast for the foursome, she asked, "Okay, who gets the clean plate?"

They brought out the dominos after chowing down, but soon "football talk" reduced the game to a slow shuffle.

At the one-hour mark, Sadie was still refilling their coffee cups. Mort told Sadie that his wife Maude would be "powerful pleased" to stitch up a nice, flour sack dress for her--one far more practical for wearing at work....

The men agreed the Dallas Cowboys will make it to the Super Bowl, the one big game remaining after a glut of college bowl games.

Overhearing, Sadie admitted she's a fan of Ohio State. "I expected the Buckeyes to make a strong statement from the git-go. Instead, they pattered around for 60 minutes, and never got around to saying anything."

Everyone laughed. Maybe Sadie would fit in after all, they decided....

They wanted to do what they could to make this Yankee woman feel good about her move down South.

Mort promised to "make a list" of suggestions. It would include advice to park the Lexus out of sight in back, place the diamond ring in a bank lock box and wear "everyday"

clothes. Sadie pondered things, but didn't speak: If these guys were Christmas tree lights, she wondered, would there be enough juice to light up the whole string?...

Upon arriving home, Mort told Maude about the new store owner. "I think she'll adjust to life in the thicket, but it'll be gradual. First off, I'm hoping you'll make her a nice everyday dress. Folks around here won't cotton to buying groceries from a woman who looks like she's dressed for a New Year's Eve ball."

"Reckon what size she wears?" Maude asked.

Mort suggested she use a pattern Maude follows when making a dress for herself. "She's a perfect size, too," he beamed. He's been working the compliment angle for the almost 85 years they've been wed. It works almost every time. Before taking another breath, Maude sat down at her Singer treadle sewing machine, ready to turn out a new frock. It would be made from sacks earlier filled with flour when purchased down at the crossroads store....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. For inquiries/comments: email to newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

THE AMAZING RAYE VIRGINIA



Tumbleweed Smith

Tumbleweed Smith

People told me about this fascinating woman who lived in Temple. I'm immediately suspicious when someone brags to me ad infinitum about a potential interviewee. My thought was that she couldn't possibly live up to the hype that I had heard. So I called this woman named Raye Virginia Allen.

Her voice on the phone let me know I was talking to a fire ball, someone who gets things done. We made arrangements to meet at her home on the outskirts of Temple.

Her house was a surprise. I guess I was expecting a mansion. It is an ordinary farmhouse built in 1882. Her parents bought it in 1939. "They restored it," she said. "It was a wreck. The previous owner had been raising chickens inside here. My parents filled the house with custom furniture built by fine craftsmen in San Antonio."

Raye Virginia and her husband H.K. Allen spent 12 years working with architect Zale Logsdon, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, designing a house just down the road from the farmhouse. "I live in both of them," she says. Both are filled with books.

She is 87 now, but has a life of accomplishment and still sits on a number of boards and advises artists, writers, historians and scholars.

She is a land steward among other things and has created Friar Creek Preserve on her 60-acre Green Oaks Farm. She takes groups on tours free of charge, but by appointment only, and points out archeological sites and plants native to central Texas. "I take every type of group from Boy Scouts to the Red Hat Ladies of Killeen."

Her Texas roots are deep. "I was reared in a family that it was just part of our blood to care about Texas history and traditions," she told me. Raye Virginia was a cheerleader when she attended Temple High School. Her parents encouraged her to study and it paid off. She was in the Plan II Honors Program at the University of Texas. "That's a very small program," she reminded me. "We studied Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas and all the great thinkers from all over the world. But I got interested in women's history, especially women artists who had been ignored."

Raye VA, as some people call her, spent 13 years writing an illustrated biography of Gordon Conway, a prominent artist and social icon of the 1920's jazz age whose drawings appeared in Vanity Fair and Vogue Magazines, in newspapers, on posters and in costume and set design for 119 stage productions and 47 films. The book, published in 1997, is a classic and won several awards. She gave me a copy of it and it is something I treasure. It has more reference pages than a dissertation.

Raye VA did graduate studies in folklore. She has been involved in folklore on both state and national levels. "It was a great honor for me when I was appointed by the Congress of the United States to be on the founding board of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress." She was later elected chairman of the board.

Raye VA lived up to her hype.

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Obits



Glenna Caddell

Graveside services for Glenna Caddell, age 76, of Como will be held Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. at Como Cemetery with Richard Teer, Lyndsi White and Jeffery Caddell officiating and Jeffery Caddell, Randy White, Ryan Caddell, Logan Caddell, Reece Caddell and Steve Sheedy serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Bunky Hill, Freddy Rowell and Richard Teer. Visitation was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Caddell passed away Sunday, January 15, 2017 at Wesley House in Sulphur Springs. She was born October 10, 1940, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, the daughter of Edgar and Bernice Hopson. She married Jerry Bob Caddell, May 23, 1959 in Como. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her 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.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and one son, Randy Caddell.

Dr. Grady Sellers, DDS

Dr. Grady Charles Sellers, DDS passed away Sunday, January 8, 2017 at the age of 66. Memorial services will be held Saturday, January 21 at 11:00 AM at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel in Sulphur Springs, with Dr. Jimmy Henry officiating.

Born and raised in Sulphur Springs, Dr. Sellers was an active member of the community for much of his adult life. He practiced dentistry from 1979-1998, and in his free time Dr. Sellers served on the board of the First United Methodist Church. He was scout leader for Boy Scouts of America Troop 69 and also helped establish the food bank. In his later years, he relocated to Dallas and then Denver to be closer to family.

Dr. Sellers was a beloved son, brother, father, grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his mother, Veda; siblings Susan, Richard and Mary Jo; son, Nathan; daughter, Lauren; and his three adored granddaughters, Hannah, Natalie and Tabitha.

His spirit of generosity - and love of restaurants - will not be forgotten.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Doris Herman

Funeral services for Doris S. Herman, 90, of the Nelta community were held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, in West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Paul Bailey and the Reverend John Ginn officiating. Burial followed at Old Tarrant Cemetery with Garrett Glass, Mike Baker, Fred Fielden, Benny Deaton, Erick Coffman, and Mark Lacek serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Bruce Fielden, Albert Clark, Gary Stevens, and Dr. Charles Jones. Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Mrs. Herman died Monday at her residence. She was born in the Pine Branch community of Red River County on December 14, 1926, to Lee Allison and Maudie Jane Northcutt Smith. She married Roy Herman on September 22, 1956, in Allen, Tex., with Roy's first cousin, the Reverend Harold Weir, officiating. Her husband preceded her

in death on December 22, 1990. After graduation from Bogata High School, Doris worked as a telephone operator before being hired as a stenographer by the Texas State Department of Public Welfare. She was then promoted to area secretary, a position she held until shortly before the birth of her first child. She subsequently devoted her time and attention to her family. She was a devoted and supportive wife to her husband in his job as superintendent of the Sulphur Bluff ISD. She also supported the school and her children by serving as a room mother and working in the PTA. A talented seamstress, she made many clothes for herself and her children, even creating her own patterns and altering commercial patterns. She was also a wonderful cook who served her family three home-cooked meals a day, usually concluding with one of her delicious pies. Mrs. Herman is survived by a daughter, Gail Herman; a son, Roy Herman, Jr., and wife Gina Lynn; and a daughter, Gina Wilder and husband Bill, all of Nelta. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Emily Glass and husband Garrett of Sulphur Springs, and Everett Wilder and wife Jenny of Bangs, and two great-grandchildren, Katherine and Grant Glass. She is also survived by a sister, Wilma Ledford of Bogata and Sunnyvale, two nieces, and three nephews. She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Bonita Kennedy Rothera and Mary Catherine Stafford; three nephews and a niece. Mrs. Herman joined First Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs in 1948. Following her marriage, she attended Nelta United Methodist Church and later Birthright United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Sulphur Bluff Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. If desired, memorials may be made to the Arthritis Foundation. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com.

Thomas Boyd

Funeral arrangements for Thomas Boyd, age 61, of Longview are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Boyd passed away Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at Good Shepherd Medical Center, Longview.



Patricia Diane Beam

Patricia Diane Beam of Sulphur Springs passed away Monday January 16, 2017 at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. She was born November 18, 1938 in Chicago, Illinois. She was married to James Isaac Beam. She was a former PBX Operator. Patricia believed in the power of laughter and spreading joy through humor. The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date.

Mrs. Beam is survived by her husband; daughters Tammy Griffin and husband John of Whittier, California, Patricia Ortega of Oceanside, California and Donna Barnhouse and husband Randy of Anza, California; 10 Grandchildren and 9 Great Grandchildren.

Elizabeth McLaughlin

Mrs. Elizabeth McLaughlin, age 86 of Winnsboro, passed away on Monday, January 16th, 2017 in Winnsboro. She was born on August 1, 1930 in Wood County, TX to the late Marvin Allen and Bessie Jones Allen. She was retired from First National Bank of Winnsboro, and was a member of First United Methodist Church of Winnsboro. She was preceded in death by her parents, and husband Ray McLaughlin.

Mrs. McLaughlin is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Steve Davis of Winnsboro, and two grandchildren, Daniel and Dustin. Visitation was held on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, January 19th, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 at 2:00 pm, Rev. Henry and Linda Suche conducting, interment will follow at Harmony Cemetery in Winnsboro.

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