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## At The Corral Gate



How much does it actually cost to be nice? How much time does it take to give a smile or a kind word? I think the rewards far outweigh the cost or effort. The reason I say that, is because I have gotten to know so many nice people in this part of N E Texas, and they seem happier than the others.

One lady that stands out as a nice person lives in an assisted living facility in Sulphur Springs. She has been there for a few years, and seems quite happy there. In fact, she just seems delighted with every day that she is privileged to live, always dressed nicely and with her hair fixed. Her smile and welcoming attitude make you feel like a friend for life. But, as I recently found out, she could have taken the road to bitterness. When you meet her, you'll notice she is confined to a wheelchair. Her speech is not clearly understandable, but so much better than the months that she could not speak. Her handwriting is shaky therefore she uses a typewriter, but still the letters she writes require some close study. But that doesn't stop her! She must have help doing the daily necessities like dressing and eating, but she goes forward with a modest and thankful spirit. Many years ago, when she was a 40-year-old working woman with children and extended loving family she was involved in a car accident and was dealt devastating injuries. On top of that was the worry that her family would not be taken care of due to the loss of her income and their vehicle. I do not know the details of how she lived each day of that anguishing time, but I have witnessed how she came out on the other side, determined to not let that awful moment in time color her whole life. And she doesn't! Liz McKinley finds ways within her limited abilities to reach out to others and communicate with them, sharing her faith and her joy in living. I know, because I have been a recipient of some of her letters. Recently, Sulphur Springs radio station KSST honored Liz with a "Nice People Award" and a box of Valentine candy because she was recommended by Peggy Pullen, one of Liz's vast crowd of friends. I wanted her picture to appear in this week's issue of The Millennium Shopper, so their many readers could see what the power of simple kindness can do for others, and for ourselves.



Liz McKinley

Another way that kindness is showed is with food. How many times have you delivered or received a covered dish or a dessert baked by a friend or neighbor because of illness or loss, or "just because"? Here is a group of people that do a massive work like this every week. The Dinner Bell Ministry celebrated the 5th anniversary of the local food service, and starting their 6th year is offering a "good, hot meal to anyone in need". The Dinner Bell is served free each Wednesday between 11:45 and 12:45 in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church in Sulphur Springs. During that one hour, persons are satisfied not only food, but with basic medical check-ups and spiritual encouragement. They sit down to a "gourmet" meal prepared and served by volunteers. Who are these volunteers? Doctors, lawyers, preachers, retired individuals and more. This is so much more than a soup kitchen! So much good is being done through the Dinner Bell that area business and agencies clamored for an opportunity to share, and have become Community Partners. They can help serve the meal if they like, or can just donate money towards that week's menu needs. The Community Partner feature has become so popular that Wednesdays are filled for weeks ahead! On February 15, 2017, Hopkins/Rains County Farm Bureau is the Community Partner. This is fitting because this group stands for America's farmers and ranchers who feed us all, every day. Did you know that the United States of America produces 16 percent of the world's food on just 10 percent of the world's land? Did you realize that it is our privilege as Americans to be able to buy affordably-priced foods from fully-stocked grocery shelves at any hour of the day or night, something that is not the case for scores of people in other countries. How often do we count our blessings when it comes to our food supply? For the partakers of the weekly free Dinner Bell, it's every Wednesday. Here's a big Thank You to every helping hand that makes this kindness possible.



Til next week, let's count our blessings and share a smile for someone who needs one!

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A O B C G L A R A X T U N V I B C R D M  
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# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## A Commotion at the Cemetery....

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Sounds at the general store in the Thicket tend to be predictable. Most likely heard after weekday refills of coffee are consumed is the shuffle of dominoes. Four geezers usually are seated at the game table by 8:30 or 9:00. Menial chores--described as pressing upon arrival-- suddenly become trivial.

As the game begins, they laugh about threats of bodily harm to be inflicted if any player is caught cheating. Further, they agree that if a pesky fly becomes a bother, the "high domino" drawn will determine who has to fetch the swatter.

They are, you see, clustered purposely in their own little world, as if cares and chores are put away in "one of these days" files....

The convivial mood shatters, though, when one of the old-timers asks, "Did you guys hear about the commotion out at the cemetery the other day?" The question penetrates like Cupid's ar-

row on a junior high playground. For the moment, the game stops. There is much head-scratching; none in the trio had ever heard of such. Announcement of the landing of a space vehicle from a far-away planet would not have piqued curiosities more.

My Uncle Mort, now nearer to 105 than 104, shows particular interest. Every time there's a funeral--three, sometimes four times a year--he avails himself of opportunities to remind folks of his family's donation of 10 acres for the cemetery almost a century ago. Every year since childhood, he joins others in the Thicket annually for what they call "decoration day." Participants bring yard tools to spruce things up. After their toil, there's dinner on the ground and hymn-singing under the old tabernacle as the sun gives way to twilight.

No, the other three

players have NOT heard about any cemetery commotion. It is, after all, a secluded place far out on the dirt roads that nobody passes on the way to town. Mouths agape, the trio seems transfixed in a momentary "tell us more" state of mystification....

\*\*\*\*\*  
 "As he gets out of the car," the speaker continues, "he accidentally hits the panic button on his ignition key, and the car horn blasts away. The befuddled guy pushes every button in sight, but nothing works.

Minutes pass. The widower prays no one was in hearing distance and that no motorist will pass. His prayers are answered.

He scrambles to open the glove compartment to peruse the operator's manual. He rips into the envelope, still sealed after nearly almost a decade of car ownership."....  
 \*\*\*\*\*

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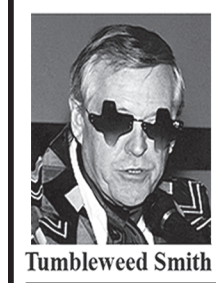
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A	R	E	K	O	J	E	H	T	R	I	C	H	G	I	R	L	T	H	G
L	M	B	V	I	E	A	R	E	Y	H	Y	W	A	D	Y	E	T	L	N
Y	L	A	O	I	N	B	S	O	S	O	A	O	A	A	N	E	K	W	I
A	O	B	C	G	L	A	R	A	X	T	U	N	V	I	B	C	R	D	M
L	S	B	I	A	E	A	W	O	E	A	C	R	K	N	O	I	D	R	A
B	U	E	W	R	R	R	N	R	W	I	N	L	S	R	O	B	O	I	E
M	P	O	G	O	A	T	L	I	N	N	A	N	E	O	O	C	O	B	R
A	E	N	Y	C	C	O	H	G	Y	T	S	L	E	F	N	R	L	E	D
G	R	O	R	N	O	E	Q	U	E	A	I	U	K	I	U	G	B	E	S
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M	T	G	N	R	D	R	O	L	M	S	D	R	T	L	D	T	U	E	M
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C	R	A	C	K	L	I	N	R	O	S	T	E	Y	H	L	H	S	A	I
A	K	I	S	L	A	N	D	G	I	R	L	T	V	R	R	T	I	S	I
F	A	M	E	S	S	A	L	G	F	O	T	R	A	E	H	O	M	E	E

## THE PANHANDLE PIPE ORGAN FIXER

Tumbleweed Smith



Norman Goad of Amarillo repairs and tunes pipe organs. "I take care of forty to forty-five pipe organs in the Texas panhandle, over into Eastern New Mexico and Western Oklahoma, then down to Lubbock and Midland."

Not many people do this kind of work. "I think the closest companies would be in Fort Worth and Denver. Other than that, I'm pretty much it in this part of the state."

He works on fine, expensive pipe organs in churches and universities. I interviewed him in the sanctuary of Amarillo's St. Andrews Episcopal Church. The pipe organ there was built by the same people who built the pipe organ in the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.

"There are people from around the world that actually play this organ. Many of them call the organist and choirmaster here and ask if they could do a concert at the church. They have to get on the list to do that."

The organ at St. Andrews is in the twenty-four hour temperature and humidity controlled sanctuary that resembles something you would find in Europe. "This organ has six thousand, sixty-six hundred pipes. Most of them are behind a screen, mounted on architecturally designed shelves and enclosures. Some are eight feet tall and others are a quarter of an inch. To get to them, you have to climb stairs and ladders. I tune about twenty-four pipes to the electronic tuner. Everything else is tuned pipe to pipe, all by ear. I don't tune every one, just the ones that need tuning."

Some of the largest pipes are a foot across at the openings. Tuning them is a problem. "As you get close to the pipe the heat from your body adds length to the pipe. So as you get closer, the pitch goes lower. I have to sneak up on those big pipes to tune them."

He'll spend four days tuning the organ, and then he plays it to make sure everything works right. "It's a huge joy to play this organ. It has features that not many pipe organs have."

Norman demonstrated the full range of sounds the organ produces, including the chimes, flutes, strings, harps and trumpets. Then he played one of his favorite organ numbers. It was a joy to hear him play. "The control center of this organ is all computer-based, controlling 6,600 pipes and telling them exactly when you want them to play or not play."

Norman has worked on organs nearly thirty years and has played organ since he was fourteen. He feels it is his responsibility to add to the spirituality of a religious service. "Sometimes the organ plays so soft it fills the sanctuary with reverence. Other times the wave of sound sweeps over the audience and they feel the awesome power of belief."

Norman is organist and choir director at the First Presbyterian Church in Amarillo.

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# Obits



## Paula Grace Hudson

February 16, 1942 - February 11, 2017

As their only surviving child, Paula's childhood was filled with exploring nature and nurturing others. Whether she was helping an elderly relative, sewing and gardening with her mother, or tagging along with her father's Boy Scout troop, Paula found wonder and joy in her earthly world. As she grew up, her parents made sure that she could manage a tractor and prepare a savory meal. Her love of collecting cookbooks began at this early time in her life and continued until her departure. As a mother, she instilled qualities of knowing the names of flowers, trees, birds and butterflies, as well as the appreciation of an interesting recipe. Her lifelong love of reading was a constant force as she always had a novel, biography or inspirational book within reach. This dedication to learning has been one of many lasting gifts that she encouraged in her children.

Paula graduated from Commerce High School in 1959 and immediately enrolled in what was then East Texas State University where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi. She majored in Home Economics and Secondary Education and graduated from college when she was barely twenty years old. Paula continued on to complete her Masters of Education, and she later received another degree in English. Paula's teaching career began in 1963 in Dallas. She later taught at Celeste High School, but took a break to rear her seven children. In 1985, Paula reentered the teaching profession at Commerce ISD as a reading teacher, and she finished her career as she began it, teaching Home Economics at her beloved Campbell ISD. She retired in 2015 having touched countless lives.

On February 6, 1965, Paula married the love of her life James Guy Hudson in Durant, Oklahoma, and they settled in Commerce. Their union of fifty-two joyful years served as a model of how marriage should endure. Together they brought seven children into this world who will continue her legacy of love and grace. Her happiest times were when she was surrounded by her children and grandchildren. She knew that if she threw together one of her scrumptious meals, there would always be a cheerful crowd to enjoy it. Paula and Jim took parenting as their most important contribution to their children and grandchildren. Spending time together in God's glory and helping others are attributes that her children owe back to her. If you were ever a student in Paula's classes, you knew that you were one of her children too. Love had no boundaries with Paula.

Paula is survived by her husband Jim Hudson and her seven children: Jeffrey Paul Hudson (Tamie) of Grandview, Jennifer Elaine Hudson Martin (Andy) of Commerce, James Robert Hudson (Denise) of Aledo, Jason Guy Hudson (Emma) of Cumby, Jeanette Maryanne Hudson Burnett (Philip) of Ladonia, Jon Thomas Hudson of Little Elm, and Janna Beth Hudson of Dallas. She is also survived by her eleven grandchildren: Jonathon Hudson, Amelia Martin, Hanna Hudson, Lauren Hudson, Sarah Martin, Hope Hudson, Ashlyn Hudson, Abby Hudson, Halle Hudson, Katie Burnett, and Jaxon Hudson.

She was preceded in death by her parents and infant sister Mary Ann George.

Paula's family received friends and loved ones on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, from 5-8:00 pm at Jones-Walker Funeral Home in Commerce, Texas. The celebration of Paula's life was Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 1:00 pm at the First Baptist Church in Commerce. A graveside service followed at Rosemound Cemetery.

## David Michael White

Graveside service for David Michael White, age 77, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at Weaver Cemetery with Rev. Paul Pogue officiating. Visitation will be from 6-8 P.M. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. White passed away Monday, February 13, 2017, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

## Troy Laverl Brimer

Funeral service for Troy Laverl Brimer, age 59, of Emory, will be held on Friday, Feb. 17, 2017, 2:00 pm, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. Bro. Rick Childers and Bro. Homer Morgan will officiate. Burial will follow service in Oak Hill Cemetery in Edgewood. Visitation will be on Thursday evening 6:00-8:00 pm at the funeral home.

Mr. Brimer passed away suddenly mid-morning on Monday, the 13th, in Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

Troy was born March 30, 1957, to Alfie Laverl and Ada Joan Kerby Brimer. He worked as an assembler/installer at L-3 in Greenville. Troy married Ruth Ann Weatherford in Point on June 27, 1981. Troy was a Christian and loved the Lord. He and his family were members of Holy Ghost Central where he served as a deacon and was a member of the board.

His survivors include: Wife of Emory, Daughters: Amy Wheeler (Randy) and Meagan Brimer, Son: Michael Brimer (Jerica), Grandchildren: Andrew and Raylee Wheeler; and Taylor, Taytum, and Lilly Belle Brimer Brother: Roy Brimer (Tammy), Sister: Joy Beard (Robert).

Everyone in the family is from Emory. He was preceded in death by his parents.

## Elias Silva Jr.

Elias Silva Jr., age 76, of Houston, TX passed away on Monday, February 13, 2017 at Christus Mother Frances Hospital-Sulphur Springs. Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.

## Wanda Louise Fairchild Collins

Funeral Service for Wanda Louise Fairchild Collins, age 80, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, February 17, 2017 at Cavalry Baptist Church with Reverend Lee Huff officiating. Interment will follow at Emblem Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 P.M. on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Collins passed away Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at her home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

## Alicia Medina

Funeral Service for Alicia Medina, age 73, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Murray-Orwosky Chapel with Pastor Miguel Zelaya officiating and Pastor Robert Velazquez assisting. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-8 P.M. with speaking starting at 7 P.M. on Friday, February 17, 2017 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Medina passed away Monday, February 13, 2017, at her home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

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