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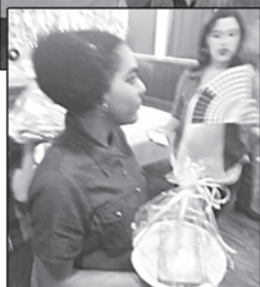
Whew! Spring Break 2017 was the ultimate fun at my house. I spent very little time at the corral because with seven teenagers (ages 13-18) visiting at Maw's for the week, I was busy keeping them busy! At age 13, "the younger ones" favorite activity is still the trampoline, but surprisingly even the teens put down their phones and jumped in for some good ole country fun like participating in a cake walk fundraiser and fishing in Mr. Chapin's pond. Even more shocking, two of them asked to perform an original song onstage at the Jamboree! For you, I share some of my fondest memories of "the Spring visit". Next, I'm looking forward to June when the kids come back to celebrate the summer birthdays!



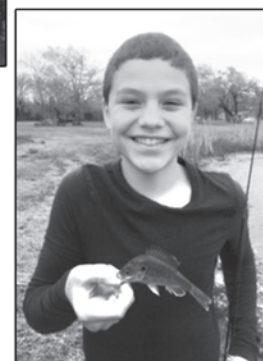
## Reilly Springs Jamboree



## Cake Walk At The Jamboree



## Time For Fun!!!!



The horses and chickens have forgiven me for being away last week, and things have returned to normal at the barnyard. Still awaiting eggs from the new hens!

Til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate. P.S. I guess Spring is really here! Please watch for snakes...several sightings already!

## WORD SEARCH

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S W L U L C V O T N F B A C O N T  
F S A T S A A T N M E N O M A D S  
O B A H E S E J R U M L P P E D O  
R L D W L N E E F L A D L O T O C  
D A I C T B E L K B H U S Y H U S  
R C C R A V E C L D T N E E G G E  
T K A H E I A R O L A C N R I L G  
N H P S A S N O G O T A O R O A D  
A S R T U N W E U G S N J A V S I  
R U I C Y E H G U A N O C C M N R  
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DEPP, Johnny  
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JACKMAN, Hugh  
JONES, James Earl  
LAW, Jude  
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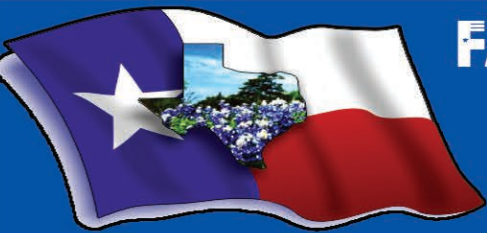
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**FAMOUS TEXANS**

**Johnny Bush**

Country Music Singer, Songwriter.....



Johnny Bush (born February 17, 1935 as John Bush Shinn III in Houston, Texas) is a country music singer, songwriter, and drummer. Bush, nicknamed the "Country Caruso," is best known for his distinctive voice and as the writer of "Whiskey River," a top-ten hit for himself and Willie Nelson's signature song. He is still popular in his native Texas.

Born John Bush Shinn III in the blue-collar neighborhood of Kashmere Gardens in Houston, Texas, Bush listened to the western swing music of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys and the honky-tonk sounds of artists like Ernest Tubb, Lefty Frizzell, and Hank Thompson. Thanks to a disc jockey uncle, Bush got a taste for performance. In 1952 he moved to San Antonio, Texas, where he began solo career in area honky-tonks like the Texas Star Inn before switching to drums. It was during this period that he earned his stage name, when an announcer mistakenly introduced him as "Johnny Bush." As a drummer he worked for bands like the Mission City Playboys, the Texas Plainsmen and the Texas Top Hands.

In 1963, Bush joined Ray Price's band, the Cherokee Cowboys along with a young Willie Nelson and Darrell McCall. His association with Price led Bush to Nashville and a contract to sing for record demos. He also played in Nelson's band, the Record Men. With Nelson's financial backing, Bush recorded his first album in 1967, *The Sound of a Heartache*.

**Stardom and vocal problems**

A series of regional hits on the Stop label, including Marty Robbins's "You Gave Me a Mountain", "Undo the Right", "What A Way To Live" and "I'll Be There", soon followed. Rock critic Robert Christgau said that Bush's version of "You Gave Me A Mountain" "brings a catch to the throat and a tear to the eye." These songs did well in Bush's native Texas, and reached the national top twenty. In 1972 he was signed to RCA Records, whose Nashville division was helmed by legendary guitarist Chet Atkins. His first RCA single, "Whiskey River," was climbing the charts with airplay on countless radio stations when his voice began faltering. Bush even felt he was being punished by God for his sins. Bush has since said: "I thought because of my promiscuous behavior and bad choices and being raised as a Baptist, that it was a punishment from God."

Bush lost half of his vocal range and was sometimes unable to talk. RCA dropped him in 1974 after three albums, he developed a drug habit, and was often stricken with performance anxiety when he was able to perform at all. After several misdiagnoses, doctors diagnosed the cause in 1978, when they discovered he had a rare neurological disorder called spasmodic dysphonia. Although this did not prevent him from recording, Bush's career began to take a downturn. He worked with a vocal coach in 1985, and was able to regain seventy percent of his original voice.

**Renaissance in Texas**

In 1986, Bush teamed up with Darrell McCall, recording a successful honky-tonk album *Hot Texas Country*, and began assembling a large country band (as did Willie Nelson), performing around south Texas. In 1994 the band released *Time Changes Everything*, the same year that RCA released a greatest hits album. A major tour soon followed. Johnny Bush continues to tour regularly, often performing with Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard.

Several albums on local Texas labels soon followed. His renewed visibility made him a mentor figure to younger Texas musicians who revered the honky-tonk/hardcore country sound that Bush has done so much to keep in the public eye. Austin musicians like Dale Watson and Cornell Hurd sought him out to play on their albums. In 2003, he was inducted into the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame with his lifelong friend Willie Nelson on hand to induct him. In 2007 he released his autobiography, with the aide of Rick Mitchell: *Whiskey River (Take My Mind): The True Story of Texas Honky-Tonk*, published by University of Texas Press. A new album, *Kashmere Garden Mud: A Tribute to Houston's Country Soul* was released on the Icehouse label at the same time.

With the success of his recent Botox treatments for his vocal condition, and his successful career revival, Bush is a spokesman for people afflicted with vocal disorders. In 2002 he was honored with the Annie Glenn Award, named for the wife of the John Glenn, by the National Council of Communicative Disorders for his work in bringing attention to the condition of spasmodic dysphonia.

**Discography**

**ALBUMS**  
 1968 *The Sound of a Heartache* - 1969 *You Gave Me a Mountain* - 1970 *Johnny Bush* - 1972 *Bush Country* - *The Best of Johnny Bush*, sold 35 Million - *Here's Johnny Bush* - 1973 *Whiskey River/There Stands The Glass* - *Here Comes The World Again* - *Texas Dance Hall Girl* - 1979 *Johnny Bush and the Bandoleros* - *Live at Dance Town, U.S.A.* - *Whiskey River* - 1982 *Live from Texas* - 1994 *Time Changes Everything* - 1998 *Talk to My Heart* - 2000 *Lost Highway Saloon* - *Sings Bob Wills* - 2001 *Green Snakes* - 2004 *Honkytonic* - 2006 *Texas State of Mind* - 2007 *Texas on a Saturday Night*.  
**SINGLES:** 1967 "You Oughta Hear Me Cry" - 1968 "What a Way to Live" - 1969 "Each Time" - "You Gave Me a Mountain" - "My Cup Runneth Over" - 1970 "Jim, Jack, and Rose" - "I'll Go to a Stranger" - "Warmth of the Wine" - "My Joy" - 1971 "City Lights" - 1972 "I'll Be There" - "Whiskey River" - 1973 "There Stands the Glass" - "Here Comes the World Again" - "Green Snakes on the Ceiling" - 1974 "We're Back in Love Again" - "Toy Telephone" - "From Tennessee to Texas" - 1977 "You'll Never Leave Me Completely" - 1978 "Put Me Out of My Memory" - "She Just Made Me Love You More" - 1979 "When My Conscience Hurts the Most".

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Uncle Mort on Facebook...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

The new owner of the thicket's general store has "hit the ground running" on her promise to introduce changes, one of 'em featuring "bait and grab." (When dealing with clientele like my 104-year-old Uncle Mort, grabbing is easier than switching.)

Anyways, she's got him "hooked" on the Internet's Facebook site, and as far as he's concerned--a shorter distance than he admits--she can delete all the other websites.

Maybe Mort is a distant relative of late comedian Grady Nutt, who said when radio airwaves rocked with the sounds of gospel singing, his dad dared anyone to mess with the

frequency knob on his radio. All he wanted to hear was the Stamps-Baxter quartet's daily show. To make sure, he sawed the knob off so no one could change stations when he wasn't looking....

Her plan to bring Mort and his domino-playing buddies into the 21st century--the "bait part" of the formula--is in place. A Facebook devotee, she whiled away downtime recently while the guys shuffled dominoes and argued, with occasional threats thrown in.

None have home computers, so she is offering a "special" for the week. There's no charge for 30-minute computer access; she thinks it will be a "soft place" for losers to find solace after games.

Mort asked about Facebook, and soon wanted to know more. Much of the "more" centers on the owner's

promise to add some computers she'll have for rental soon. The "grab" part begins....

Mort was "much obliged" for the access she granted to her list of FB "friends." Now, he's "hooked" on the "ponderables" (as well as "imponderables") posed online.

This, he thinks, is his kind of place. The FB bunch seems always bent on topics that cause his mind to whirl.

He cited several questions begging answers during a recent session, including these: "What if a person comes down with amnesia and déjà vu at the same time?... If one uses spot remover on his dog, will he be able to find him again?... Why do they have a 'permanent press' setting on irons?... When people mention life being difficult, is it okay to ask them, 'Compared to what?'"...

"Some are claims that deserve to be mulled over," my uncle said. I didn't have to ask for examples. They came at me like West Texas flood waters after a long drought. (Sudden thought: If it is a short drought, would it even be a drought?)

Here are some declarations Mort passed along: "I had the right to remain silent, but being Irish, I guess I was too stubborn.... I live on a one-way, dead-end street; not sure how I got here.... Everywhere is within walking distance if you have time. Depression keeps the jukebox playing.... And how about this chiller left on an answering machine: "I got rid of the body; now what do you want me to do?"

Whatever, now Mort has more reasons than domino or "42" playing to wander into the general store....

## Answers to Word Search

## THE CAF IS ALIVE AND WELL IN MIDLAND



**Tumbleweed Smith**  
 The other night I was privileged to entertain at a Commemorative Air Force event in Midland. It was sponsored by the High Sky Wing of the CAF and took place inside the huge CAF hangar near the Midland airport. The hangar looked like a big airplane shopping mall. It was full of newly polished war birds ready to go into action. They glistened like giant pieces of jewelry.

Some people have the misconception that the CAF moved from Midland. No such thing. The headquarters squadron, a couple of airplanes and some artifacts went to the metroplex, but most of the planes stayed right where they were.

"They left a lot of items specific to the Midland Army Air Field and they've helped us maintain the facility and keep things going," says Brent Collins of the High Sky Wing. Our mission is to keep these planes flying and that's what we do."

The facility is open on Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. There is no admission charge.

"The local High Sky Wing of the CAF is comprised of about 150 local Midland, Odessa and surrounding area people," says Brent. "We're here to stay. Our planes are here, our events are here and we've put together a really great museum in the hangar."

The list of events includes the big air show in the fall, night flights during the 12 days before Christmas and all patriotic holiday events throughout the year. You can even take a ride in one of the plans for \$75 the second Saturday of most months, weather permitting. The group recently went to Andrews and spent the entire day giving people rides in the vintage planes.

"This area was once known as Sloan Field," says Brent. "A rancher set up a small airfield with a dirt runway in the 20's. As World War II became imminent, city officials approached the federal government to put a base out here. It became the largest bombardier training base."

The event I attended was to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first graduating class at the Midland Army Air Field. It was amazing. Fifteen World War II veterans were on hand and were recognized to thunderous applause. The Victory Belles, a singing trio from the World War II Museum in New Orleans also performed.

The museum has artifacts from the old bombardier school including two Norden bombsights. One exhibit is about the military days of President George H. W. Bush.

"We have video footage of his rescue after his plane was shot down. Two of his crewmates were killed. He was rescued by a submarine off the coast of a Japanese-occupied island. We have actual footage of him stepping up on the submarine with a quick glance to the camera, showing his face."

You can see a list of events at [highskywing.org](http://highskywing.org), the group's primary website

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# Obits

## Billie Lois Sartin

Funeral arrangements for Billie Lois Sartin, age 97, of Sulphur Springs are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Ms. Sartin passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at her home.



## Ruby McQueen

Graveside Services for Ruby McQueen, age 93, of Sulphur Springs will be held at Peerless Cemetery on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. with Pastor Bruce Stinson officiating. There will be no formal visitation.

Ms. McQueen passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at Rock Creek Nursing Home. She was born on October 26, 1923 in Cumby, TX, the daughter of Floyd and Linnie May Fouse. She married Allie McQueen and was a homemaker.

Ruby is survived by her granddaughters, Christy Boyer and husband Rudy, Michelle Martin and husband Joey and Joanna McQueen; great grandchildren Kayle McQueen, Dakota Martin, Dawson Martin, Gillan Boyer and Gracie Boyer; great great grandchildren, Maybree and Nixon Tedford; brother, Arthur Fouse.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; son, Joe McQueen; grandson, Kevin McQueen; sister, Maggie Holder; brother Olie Fouse, Houston Fouse and R.E. Fouse.

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

## William Frank Rettman Jr.

Funeral arrangements for William Frank Rettman Jr. of Sulphur Springs are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Rettman passed away Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at Sunny Springs Nursing Home.

## Gerald Cooper

Funeral arrangements for Gerald Cooper of Sulphur Springs are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Cooper passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at VA Medical, Dallas, TX.

## Clyde Alexander

Funeral services for Clyde Alexander, age 68, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 24, 2017 at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Interment will follow at St. Luke Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 23, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Mr. Alexander passed away Sunday, March 19, 2017 at the VA Hospital in Dallas.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

## Jane Byers Alfaro

A Memorial service for Jane Byers Alfaro, age 66, of Eustace, TX, was scheduled for Sunday, March 19, 2017 at Grace Fellowship Outreach at 5:00pm. No visitation was scheduled. Jane passed away Thursday, March 16, 2017 at her son's residence.

Tapp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



## Rachel Mae Recer

Graveside service for Rachel Mae Recer were held 2:00 pm, Monday, March 20, at Dunbar Cemetery. Mrs. Recer passed away Wednesday, at Senior Suite Care and Rehab.

She was born Jan. 7, 1947, in Allen, to Albert and Janie Elizabeth Latham Fischer. She married Charles Douglas Recer in Greenville on April 22, 1961. They shared almost 56 years of marriage. Mrs. Recer retired from Texas Instruments in Richardson. Only later, to retire, again, from Rains ISD.

Survivors include: Husband: Charles Recer of Emory; Daughter: Tina Hicks (Joey) of Sachse; Son: Brian Recer (Christi) of Emory; Grandson: Joseph Hicks (Kimberly) of Rowlett; 2 Sisters: Mary Neighbors of Lucas, and Peggy Buss of Slidell, LA. Numerous other loving family and friends



## Mary K. Barnhart

Funeral services for Mary K. Barnhart, age 87, of Como were conducted at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 19, 2017 at Como Methodist Church with Rev. Beverly Olson officiating. Interment followed at Como Cemetery with the grandsons and great-grandsons serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were the Barnhart Farming Employees. Visitation was from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., prior to service time at the church. Mrs. Barnhart passed away Thursday, March 16, 2017 at Carriage House Manor.

She was born on July 25, 1929 in Dover, NJ, the daughter of John Kuchta and Julia Czarnogurszky. She married James Joseph Barnhart on December 26, 1951 and he preceded her in death on January 18, 2015. Mrs. Barnhart was a homemaker and a member of Wesley United Methodist Church. She is survived by her children, Babs Clark and husband Danny

of Poteau, OK, Bonnylee Barnhart Walker of Como, Jamie Humphrey and husband Mark of Como, Jimmy Barnhart and wife Krista of Como, grandchildren, Samantha Parkhill and husband Jason, Josie Burchfield and husband Kevin, Lisa Clark, Mandi Garhartt and husband Dustyn, Mitchell Walker and fiancé Shelby Sutton, Kathryn Kuchta Humphrey, Clayton Humphrey, Rebecca Hicks and husband Bryan, Sheala Barnhart, Kason Barnhart and wife Kaci, Jurnee Hayward and husband Buster, great-grandchildren, Jenna Parkhill, Colton Clark, Jalyn Burchfield, Auston Burchfield, Hunter James Potter, Halee Potter, Easton Hicks, Jaci Hicks, London Hicks, Javen Barnhart, Joslin Barnhart, Jenesis Barnhart, Sienna Garhartt and Madden Barnhart.

In addition to her husband she was preceded in death by her parents, grandson, Denton Joseph Barnhart, great-grandson, Dawson James Hicks, one brother and three sisters.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org) or Como Cemetery Association, 5693 FM 69, Como, TX 75431.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



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