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VOL. 18 ISSUE 900, June 1, 2017

**Business Page on page 8!**

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 A I R T I I P O M I P E L R A N E A W U B  
 L C E E A E N A N Y D I N I F U I O G O U  
 S T S U S R N I T W D G N I C I R D O H O  
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 A R D O A R L U C E O A L R L N E G T G O  
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 R S D M M C A S B T K S R N H C O I A A A  
 L S N E E S T E U N S O G P K T H O I C G  
 I E U I L S E S C U A L O S H R I M P K N  
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Answers on Pg. 7

At The Corral Gate



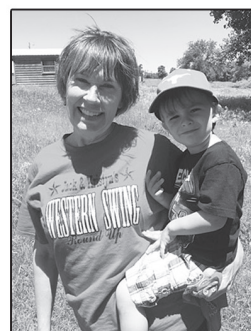
Among the fun I had over the Memorial Day weekend was an "Escape to the West" at the Flying W Guest Ranch just outside Elk City, Oklahoma. At an exclusive invitation, I took my Elk City grandchildren along, hoping to discover some "cowboy" in these city kids. We explored the frontier town that is part of the 2,300 acre property owned by Mr. Don Whinery, now being leased by a local businessman who is anxious to get folks back in the saddle at the Flying W. Our tour guide was Garland Hays, manager of the trail ride portion of the business.

**FLYING W GUEST RANCH**

Along main street there's a real steakhouse restaurant, plus storefronts of saddle shop and saloon along the wooden boardwalks. If you wear boots, your footsteps sound like you are in a western movie! In the blacksmith shop, there are hundred-year-old horse-shoeing implements plus a buggy and harness left there by a long-ago four-footed customer of the shop. A big haybarn stores a colorful carriage used in weddings at the Flying W.



Just beyond the front drive is this high bluff overlooking a small pool which makes an interesting view of rugged country. However, there's another bluff on the property you'll really want to see. Accessible by horseback, a historic marker identifies it as "the largest buffalo kill site on the southwest plains". The remarkable site was used for over 600 years by Plains Indian hunters who, using the primitive method, harvested buffalo meat and hides for their families by driving herds over the cliff onto the rocks below. Flying W trail rides are being organized to visit the kill site and the natural fishing, hunting and camping areas on the property.



Maw & Jackson



Angela & Ava looking at the pond.

Pony rides are a must for the youngest visitors. Near the horse barn, a working windmill makes it's authentic creaking sounds in the ever-present wind, adding to the atmosphere of the frontier town. Also present is a full roping arena, an outdoor amphitheater with concert-size stage as well as a separate banquet hall that will seat 500. Luxury cabins and RV hookups are ready. The property is ripe for re-development, and progress is going forward in planned stages by the new management. Watch for changes at flyingwguestranch.com and plan to visit in the future!



Ava astride 'Shorty' the Shetland



Ava and Jackson are city kids after all! Their idea of a wagon ride is going around the block pulled by Maw!



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"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.

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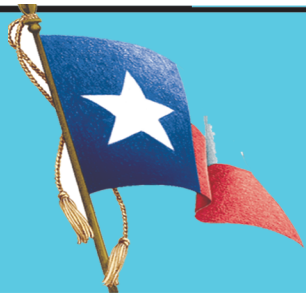

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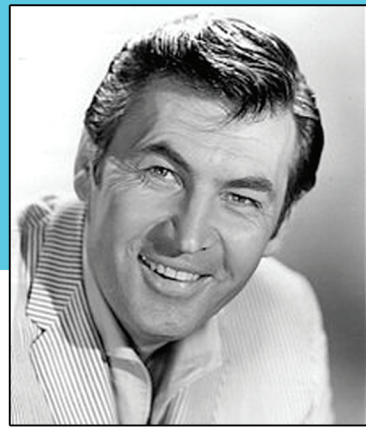
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# FAMOUS TEXANS

## Fess Parker

Television Actor



Fess Elisha Parker, Jr. (August 16, 1924 – March 18, 2010) was an American film and television actor best known for his portrayals of Davy Crockett in the Walt Disney 1955–1956 TV mini-series and as Daniel Boone in a television series from 1964 to 1970. He was also known as a winemaker and resort owner-operator.

The Fess Parker Winery is one of the wineries along the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail.

### EARLY YEARS

Fess Parker was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and raised on a farm in Tom Green County near San Angelo. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in the latter part of World War II, hoping to become a pilot. He was turned down because he was too tall at 6 feet 6 inches (1.98 m). He then tried to become a radioman gunner, but he was found too big to fit comfortably into the rear cockpit. He was finally transferred to the Marine Corps as a radio operator and shipped out for the South Pacific shortly before the atom bomb ended the war.

Discharged in 1946, he enrolled at Hardin-Simmons University on the GI Bill. After an automobile collision, he was stabbed in the neck by the other driver during an argument. He was an active member of the H-SU Players Club and transferred to the University of Texas in 1947 as a history major and continued to be active in drama. Parker graduated from UT in 1950 with a degree in history. He had been initiated into the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Having one year remaining on his GI Bill, he studied drama at the University of Southern California, where he studied for a master's degree in theater history.

### CAREER

Parker began his show-business career in summer 1951 when he had a \$32-a-week job as an extra in the play *Mister Roberts*, although he is credited with the voice of Leslie, the chauffeur, in the 1950 film *Harvey*. Within months, he was on location with a minor part in *Untamed Frontier* with Joseph Cotten and Shelley Winters.

Parker became a contract player with Warner Bros., appearing in small roles in several films such as *Springfield Rifle* (1952), *Island in the Sky*, *The Bounty Hunter* and *Battle Cry*. In 1954, he appeared as Grat Dalton in the Jim Davis syndicated Western anthology series *Stories of the Century* in the episode *The Dalton Brothers*.

According to Parker himself, when the Walt Disney Company was seeking an actor to play Davy Crockett, James Arness, later cast as Marshal Matt Dillon on CBS's *Gunsmoke*, was first considered for the title role. Parker had recently graduated to being a contract weekly actor, but listened to his agent and appeared in a Warner Bros. science fiction film about giant ants called *Them!*, which required only one day's work. He had a small scene as a pilot put into an insane asylum after claiming his plane had been downed by giant flying insects. Arness appeared in a larger role in the same film.

During the screening of this film, Walt Disney looked past Arness and discovered Parker. Disney was impressed by Parker's portrayal of a man who was unswerving in his belief in what he saw despite the forces of authority against him. Parker was asked to drop by the Disney Studio. When he did, he brought his guitar, met Disney, sang a song, and then said goodbye. Several weeks later, Parker was informed that he had been selected over Arness and several others for the role, including Buddy Ebsen, who eventually played Crockett's sidekick, George Russell.

Disney's three-episode version of Crockett depicted his exploits as a frontiersman, congressman, and tragic hero of the Alamo. The episodes have been called the first television miniseries, though the term had not yet been coined. *Davy Crockett* (1954–55) was a tremendous hit and led to a merchandising frenzy for coonskin caps and all things Crockett.

Parker became a contract star for Disney and appeared in *The Great Locomotive Chase*, *Westward Ho, the Wagons!*, *Old Yeller*, and *The Light in the Forest*. He complained that they were all basically the same role. Disney refused to loan Parker for roles outside that persona, such as Jeffrey Hunter's role opposite John Wayne in *The Searchers* and Marilyn Monroe's leading man in *Bus Stop*.

Parker was dissatisfied with Disney's proposal to only use him in a small role in *Tonka*. He was put on suspension for refusing the role, and subsequently left Disney.

### AFTER WALT DISNEY

Parker made guest appearances on many television programs, and composed and sang. He performed the occasional role of Tom Conrad, editor of the *Diablo Courier* in the syndicated western series, *Annie Oakley* (1954–1957), starring Gail Davis, Brad Johnson, and Jimmy Hawkins.

Parker was contracted to Paramount Pictures from 1958 to 1962. He appeared in a small assortment of Paramount movies, including a cameo as an unnamed frontiersman in Bob Hope's Western comedy *Alias Jesse James* and supporting roles in *The Hangman* (1959) with Robert Taylor, *The Jayhawkers!* (1959) with Jeff Chandler, and *Hell Is for Heroes* (1962) with Steve McQueen.

In 1962, he starred in the title role of the TV series *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*, portraying the same idealistic character that James Stewart had played in the 1939 film. Parker took to the stage in 1963, in a traveling production of *Oklahoma!* as *Curly*. The movie roles he sought were elusive. In 1966, Parker starred in the movie *Smoky*, directed by George Sherman where he played the role of Clint Barkley, who finds a black stallion named *Smoky* a wild stallion who eventually becomes a wonderful cutting horse and the best friend an old cowboy could ever want.

Parker's *Daniel Boone* television series portraying another historic figure of America's frontier days began filming in 1964. Over its six years (1964 to 1970) as one of the highest-rated shows of its time, Parker was not only the star of the series, but also the co-producer and director of five of its most popular episodes.

Parker became interested in opening a Davy Crockett-themed amusement park. In the late 1960s, he optioned land in northern Kentucky at the confluence of Interstates 71 and 75, with the intention of building *Frontier World*. However, when the Taft Broadcasting Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, began building *Kings Island Amusement Park* in nearby Mason, Ohio, less than a 2-hour drive from Parker's site, financing for Parker's venture dried up.

Turning down the title role of *McCloud*, Parker retired from acting at the age of 49 after a sitcom pilot called *The Fess Parker Show* was broadcast on March 28, 1974, but was not subsequently picked up by the network.

### AWARDS

Fess Parker was nominated for best new personality Emmy in 1954, but lost to George Gobel. He was never nominated again, nor was his show *Daniel Boone*. In 1991, he was named a Disney Legend. In 2003, Parker received the Texas Cultural Trust's "Texas Medal of Arts Award", established only the year before. For his work with Disney, Parker was honored in December 2004 with his own tribute window on a façade in the Frontierland section of Disneyland.

After his acting career, Parker devoted much of his time to operating his Fess Parker Family Winery and Vineyards in Los Olivos, California. The winery is owned and operated by Parker's family, and has produced several different types of award-winning wines. Parker's son, Eli, is President and Director of Winemaking and Vineyard Operations, while daughter, Ashley, is Vice President of Marketing and Sales.

The Parker operation includes over 1,500 acres (610 ha) of vineyards, and a tasting room and visitor center along the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail. In addition to wine, the winery is known for selling coonskin caps and bottle toppers inspired by Parker's Crockett and Boone characters, and for its appearance under another name in the movie *Sideways*.

In reminiscence of his acting days, Parker's wine labels have a logo of a golden coonskin cap.

Courtesy of Wikipedia.

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The Six Flags of Texas

# Obits

## Ronda Smith

Funeral service for Ronda Smith, age 45, of Sulphur Springs, TX are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Ronda passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2017 at her residence in Sulphur Springs.

## Tony Cooper

Tony Cooper, 60, of Sulphur Springs, passed away on Friday, May 26, 2017 at his resident.

## Delores Louise Kimmel

Delores Louise Kimmel, 81, passed away on Monday, May 29, 2017 at The Hospice of East Texas in Tyler.



## Gerald "Sparky" Ledbetter

Graveside service for Gerald "Sparky" Ledbetter, age 88, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at North Hopkins Cemetery. Informal visitation will be held at the cemetery, prior to the service. Gerald passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2017 in Tyler, Texas.

Gerald "Sparky" was born on June 12, 1928 in Granite, OK, the son of Esker Washington and Roxie G (Willis) Ledbetter. "Sparky" was a retired truck driver and Dispatcher. He worked for Hollie Swatsell for more than 40 years, whom was also a very close friend.

He is survived by his sister, Sarah Elizabeth Williams as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

"Sparky" was preceded in death by parents; sisters Bessie Lee Winningham, Claudia Ruth Cypert, Carman "Billie" Brookey, Georgia Mae Winningham; brothers, Johnnie William Ledbetter, Hubert Ledbetter, Thomas Leo Ledbetter, Smith Willis Ledbetter.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home, for funeral expenses.

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

## Shirley Ann Hankins

Graveside service for Shirley Ann Hankins, age 80, of Sulphur Springs, have been scheduled for 11:00 AM, Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at Como Cemetery in Como, Texas. Shirley was born in Como on February 17, 1937, the daughter of Walter (Jack) Seawright and Mary Kate Smith Seawright. Ms. Hankins passed away Saturday, May 27, 2017 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab.

Shirley was a waitress for 35 years for K-Bob's Steak House and Lone Star Truck Stop and was a member of the Cedar Crest Christian Church.

Survivors include: daughter, Sherri Sims and husband, Harry of Sulphur Springs; son, Michael Gibson and wife Sherry of Clinton, Oklahoma; grandchildren Staci Moore and husband Jeff, Kaci Hankins, Lance Hankins and wife Misti, Sarah Holm and husband, Josh, Gillian Gibson, Thomas Gibson and Danny Gibson; great grandchildren: Bre'asia Ivery, Trysten Ivery, Daydriyun Berry, Maci Hankins, Miley Hankins, Makenzi Hankins and Lane Hankins; Cousin: Tammy McTurff

Ms. Hankins was preceded in death by her parents; son: David Hankins; brothers: Jackie Seawright and Donald Seawright; Sisters: Mary Sue Brumfield and Wanda Jo Seawright.



## Belinda Kay Renshaw

Funeral services for Belinda Kay Renshaw, 63, of Whitehouse, TX were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at First Baptist Church of Point, with Bro. Billy Smith officiating. Interment followed at Miller Grove Cemetery with Mr. Kevin Douglas, Mr. Jerry Redfern, Mr. Norman Dickey, Mr. Ted Williams, Mr. Bryan Anderson, and Mr. Toby Rebmman serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Mr. David King, Mr. Dale Golden, Dr. John Norris, Dr. Joseph Zasik, Dr. Neelan Doolabh, Dr. Luis Fernandez, and Dr. Royal Becker. Visitation was held Tuesday, May 30, 2017 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home. Belinda passed away Saturday, May 27, 2017 at Baylor University Medical Center of Dallas.

She was born on May 11, 1954 in Greenville the daughter of Leon Murriel Renshaw and Geraldine Fatheree. Belinda was a Registered Nurse at Christus Trinity Mother Frances Heart Hospital as Charge Nurse in Cardiac ICU-Heart Recovery. She was also a Daisy Award Recipient and a member of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler.

Belinda is survived by her sons, Shawn Armstrong and wife Jennifer of Point, and Ryan K. Armstrong of Point, brother, Darren Renshaw and wife Shelia of Emory, sisters, Paula Brown and husband Dan of Sulphur Springs, and Karan Coleman and husband Mike of Emory, grandchildren, Hunter Armstrong, and Lauren Armstrong. Many nephews, nieces, cousins, and countless friends. She is also survived by her "Sister Girls", Janis King, Denise Harmon, Sharon Block, Jill Roberts, and Carol Belongie.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Flowers don't last, but memories live on. Please consider donating to one of the following or charity of your choice: Christus Trinity Mother Frances Hospital Foundation-Heart Hospital <http://www.tmfhc.org/donate/>, Baylor University Medical Center-Dallas <https://give.baylorhealth.com/oncology>, or Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation <https://www.themmr.org>.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



## Lacey Hitch Speed

Graveside service for Lacey Hitch Speed, age 30, were held at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at Winterfield Cemetery with Brother Steve White officiating. Visitation was held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Lacey passed away on Thursday, May 25, 2017 in Reform, Alabama.

Lacey Allison Hitch Speed was born on June 4, 1986, in Dallas, Texas, the daughter of Renee Rushing Barner and William Hitch. She married Roger Speed in Sulphur Springs, on February 17, 2014. She was a homemaker.

Lacey is survived by her husband, Roger of Reform, AL; daughters, Marisia and Layla Speed; parents, Renee and James Barner of Balch Springs; father, William Hitch of Commerce; sisters Leanne Stengel and Lauren Nicole Smith.

She was preceded in death by her son, Taylor Speed.

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

THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Leg-Pulling Long Gone...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Back in the 20th century, kids--as well as adults who sometimes acted like them--seemed destined to "make their own fun." Not too much in the way of "time-passing" was in play if it cost anything, thus fertile minds were often in "creative mode," if only in the sharing of jokes and stories.

Many times conversations began with, "Did you hear the one about...?" Sadly, these words rarely are heard anymore.

My old daddy could tell stories with the best of 'em, and he'd laugh as heartily as hearers at "punchline time." Clearly, such banter lessened the cares of the day....

Much "fun-poking" came at the expense of youngsters. They took most everything seriously from adults who'd "been there, done that."

Carpenters took advantage of apprentices, often asking them to retrieve make-believe items. Such requests seemed legitimate to the eager-to-please, wide-eyed youngsters. A carpenter, sawing away, exclaimed, "Dad blame it, I sawed this board an inch too short. Would you please run down to the lumber yard and borrow their board-stretcher?"

The youngster immediately headed downtown. He returned empty-handed, telling the carpenter that the man at the yard had "loaned out the board-stretcher, and it's not due back until tomorrow." (The guy was, of course, in on the joke, and played along.)...

There was a whole 'nother category for the military, what with a steady inflow of recruits to send hither and yon on aimless tasks.

Many wandered around military bases seeking keys to the parade grounds.

Not every installation had parade grounds, and those that did rarely had fences. And if they had fences, the gates were never locked....

Ask locals in resort areas if you'd like to be regaled by dumb questions they've fielded from

tourists on first visits to distant locales. One "flat-lander," amazed upon first seeing mountains, asked, "Reckon where they came from?"

When the local answered that the glaciers brought them, the visitor countered, "Where are the glaciers now?"

The local's answer: "They've gone back for another load."...

Lonn Taylor, a recognized author/historian/columnist who traded in life in Washington, D. C. and Austin, TX to reside in the Big Bend area of Texas, wrote recently about a Marfa hotel clerk who fields questions regularly about the mysterious Marfa lights.

Many ask him about the best time to see the lights. "We don't turn them on until after dark," he answers.

I've heard about these lights since Hector was a wee pup, and saw them in the 1960s. (Theories abound, including Taylor's mention that some folks believe the lights can be traced to the glow of radio-active jackrabbits.)...

Sometimes real life occurrences are funnier than made-up stories. Another from the Big Bend is an account of the late Hallie Stillwell,

a crusty ranch woman, peace justice and columnist for the weekly Alpine Avalanche.

Pad in hand, she was among journalists and broadcasters invited to a Davis Mountain press conference for America's first astronauts prior to their first moon mission.

Present were nationally-recognized figures from TV networks, wire services and major newspapers. Hallie

asked just one question: "Now you fellows don't really think you're going to walk on the moon, do you?"...

Much has been made lately of "fake news." It has been around for quite a spell. As a lad, I wondered about blaring claims that seemed largely unsubstantiated.

For several years, an over-the-counter elixir called Hadacol was heralded as a cure-all for everything, as were "uranium-sitting" emporiums that attracted sitters from far and wide to claim the magical cures. Two centers where ailing folks sought magical sand in which to sit were in Marlin and Mineral Wells. (In the latter city, many "sitters" also soaked in the mineral water for which the community is known.)

I never knowingly swallowed Hadacol, or

sat in sand beyond the boxes, but many friends did. Bottom line, there may not be much truly new under the sun....

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

### Answers to Word Search

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

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## THE LANGUAGE OF TEXAS WILDFLOWERS

### Tumbleweed Smith



During March and April of this year I was able to travel the entire state for speeches, interviews and meetings. Everywhere I went the wildflowers were spectacular. It all started in early March when I was in Brenham, one of best places in Texas to see wildflowers in the spring. Bluebonnets were just beginning to burst with color. Later in East Texas the dogwoods and redbuds brightened the woods with color.

I've never seen such a display of Indian paintbrush and primrose like I saw between Sweetwater and Fort Worth. There were blankets of them along the Interstate where you usually don't find many wildflowers.

On the way to and from San Antonio in late April the bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, winecups and gaillardias decorated the fields and pastures. I saw more types of yellow flowers than I can name. Vines, shrubs and trees were also displaying their spring colors.

When we went to California to visit our son and his family in mid April, our daughter in law gave us a book titled THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS by Vanessa Diffenbaugh that is all about what different flowers convey (ranunculus: you are radiant with charm). Now I know what the advertising slogan SAY IT WITH FLOWERS means.

I began thinking about what meanings some of our Texas wildflowers might have. I went to the internet and various floral dictionaries to discover that primrose conveys childhood, bluebell conveys constancy. Here are others: cactus-ardent love, daffodil-new beginnings, daisy-innocence, dandelion-rural deity, lady's slipper-capricious, moss-maternal love, nettle-cruelty, Indian paintbrush-friendship, bluebonnet-imagination, buttercup-ingratitude, foxglove-insincerity, scarlet geranium-stupidity, gladiolus-you pierce my heart, grapevine-abundance, hawthorne-hope, honeysuckle-devotion, broom-humility, coreopsis-always careful, goldenrod-encouragement, marigold-grief, sunflower-false riches, yellow rose-infidelity, sage-good health and long life, verbena-pray for me, forsythia-anticipation, wisteria-welcome, oleander-beware, bird of paradise-magnificence, heliotrope-devoted affection, lavender-mistrust, mimosa-sensitivity, pansy-thinking of you, phlox-our souls are united, queen Anne's lace-fantasy, trumpet vine-fame, zinnia-I mourn your absence, rosebud-betrayal, dogwood-love.

Knowing all this, I'll be careful the next time I choose a bouquet. I probably won't have any scarlet geraniums, yellow roses, buttercups, foxglove, lavender, rosebud or nettles. I prefer dogwood, bird of paradise, grapevine, hawthorne, phlox, heliotrope, and honeysuckle, with maybe some verbena and forsythia mixed in.

Anyway, it was a great time to enjoy the beauty of spring. Texas writer Jack Maguire once said bluebonnets are to Texas what tulips are to Holland, what the shamrock is to Ireland. That beautiful lupine has been our state flower since 1901. Not all are blue. Some are pink, purple, red and maroon.

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# Three Killed In Greenville Auto Dealership

Two men who are believed to have been bounty hunters died in a shootout Tuesday evening at a Greenville auto dealership, officials say. The man they were looking for was also killed. The shootings occurred about 7:15 p.m. at the Nissan of Greenville along Interstate 30 near Joe Ramsey Boulevard. Officers responding to calls about the gunshots found the three men dead, city officials said in a written statement.

Hunt County Scanner has identified the shooter, and victims, as Ramon Hutchinson Jr. who's last known address is Minneapolis, Minnesota, was a wanted fugitive. Hutchinson, 50 years old, failed to show up for a felony court case in early April. Ramon Michael Hutchinson was wanted on felony charges of disarming a police officer, fourth-degree assault of an officer and felony first-degree narcotics possession in Minnesota. He absconded on a \$50,000 bond. One of the bounty hunters was a licensed private investigator, Felix Garcia, Jr. out of Corpus Christi, Texas, though it appears his license had expired. The second man is Gabe Verbal, also from Corpus Christi, and is not a licensed private investigator. Witnesses state the two men initially identified themselves as Federal Agents. In the State of Texas, a bounty hunter must be a state licensed private investigator.



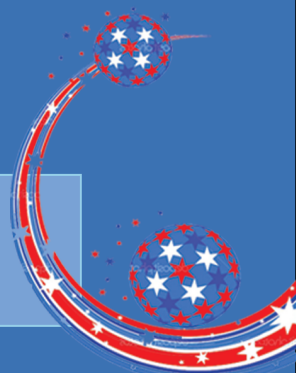
Evidently, Bernal and Garcia tracked Hutchison to the Greenville area, where he was believed to be with a girlfriend. It was there they learned the woman was in the process of trading in a vehicle at the Nissan dealership. Peters said the bounty hunters used a ruse to get the woman back to the car lot. Their hope was Hutchinson would come with her – and he did.

The dealership owner, Rick Ford, said the men, now known to be Bernal and Garcia, waited at the dealership for several hours for the woman and Hutchison to arrive. When Hutchison walked in the pair again made claims that they were federal agents and attempted to arrest him.

The shootout between the trio began when Hutchison resisted, pulled out a gun and started firing. Ford said, "I've been told that the two gentleman approached him with handcuffs and were going to try to arrest him and that's when the shooting started."

The dealership was open for business when bullets went flying, so people were running for cover. "We did have employees and customers in the dealership," Ford said. "I can't tell you a number, but there were several." When the smoke cleared all three men were dead. No one else at the dealership was shot or injured. Ford said the dealership will be closed today and possibly tomorrow, as they make repairs, meet with employees and provide any necessary counseling and support.

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