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Up in western Oklahoma, a trail ride and chuckwagon supper took place on the Flying W Guest Ranch during the July Fourth holiday. I saddled a horse or two and stirred the stewpot a few times, but mostly I was onboard as photographer. All the event organization was carried out by Hopkins County's own Garland Hays, trail boss at the Flying W. Fifteen horses carried riders on an hour-long discovery tour of red-dirt hills and valleys and along the banks of a couple of the lakes on the property. There are some very nice views of the countryside to capture from the tops of the inclines, which create a bit of work for the horses. But there's nothing better than seeing the country from between the ears of your trusty trail horse!



Here's a young lady you may know. Kristyn Harris from McKinney, Texas is now appearing internationally as a Western Music performing and recording artist. She has earned recognition in major music associations including Ameripolitan Western Swing Female Artist of the Year 2017, Western Music Association Entertainer of the year 2016 and WMA Female Performer of the Year 2015 and 2014. She will be appearing in Italy and in France this summer and in Durango, Colorado later this week. Pictured here, she was ready to ride in the Wright Oklahoma Fourth of July Rodeo. Trick-riding is her other professional passion which she shares with Velvet, her American Mustang she trained herself.



The Independence Concert brought one of the largest audiences ever to the downtown district of Sulphur Springs. The fireworks and the music are what you can see and hear...and the atmosphere of fellowship and of sharing pride in our country are just as real if not as tangible. Many concert-goers take away a larger share of personal enrichment than they expected to. This year marks the 26th annual free public concert put on by the Northeast Texas Symphony League. A bow to Kelley Fletcher, a member of the orchestra's brass section, whose trumpet playing was showcased in a medley of beloved war-era tunes. Kelley brought the house down and got a Standing O!



I hope your Fourth of July memories are real keepers, too! Til I see you next, I'll await you at the corral gate!

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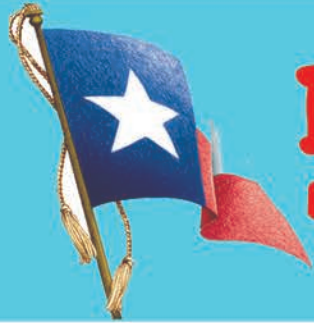
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FAMOUS TEXANS

Charlie Pride

Country Music Singer, Musician/Guitarist, Recording Artist, Performer & Business Owner.



Charley Frank Pride (born March 18, 1934) is an American country music singer, musician/guitarist, recording artist, performer, and business owner. His greatest musical success came in the early to mid-1970s, when he became the best-selling performer for RCA Records since Elvis Presley. During the peak years of his recording career (1966–87), he garnered 52 top-10 hits on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts, 29 of which made it to number one. He has appeared with country music star Brad Paisley and was featured in the 2016 CMA Awards.

Pride is one of the few African Americans to have had considerable success in the country music industry and one of only three (along with DeFord Bailey and Darius Rucker) to have been inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2000.

In 2010, Pride became a special investor and minority owner of the Texas Rangers Major League Baseball club.

EARLY LIFE

Pride was born in Sledge, Mississippi, one of 11 children of poor sharecroppers. His father intended to name him Charl Frank Pride, but owing to a clerical error on his birth certificate, his legal name is Charley Frank Pride. Eight boys and three girls were in the family. He married Rozene Cohan in 1956.

CAREER

When Pride was 14, his mother purchased him his first guitar and he taught himself to play. Though he loved music, one of Pride's lifelong dreams was to become a professional baseball player. In 1952, he pitched for the Memphis Red Sox of the Negro American League. He pitched well and in 1953 signed a contract with the Boise Yankees, the Class C farm team of the New York Yankees. During that season, an injury caused him to lose the "mustard" on his fastball, and he was sent to the Yankees' Class D team in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Later that season, while in the Negro Leagues with the Louisville Clippers, another player (Jesse Mitchell) and he were traded to the Birmingham Black Barons for a team bus. "Jesse and I may have the distinction of being the only players in history to be traded for a used motor vehicle," Pride mused in his 1994 autobiography.

He pitched for several other minor league teams, his hopes of making it to the big leagues still alive, but the Army derailed this. After serving two years in the military, he tried to return to baseball. Though hindered by an injury to his throwing arm, Pride played three games for the Missoula Timberjacks of the Pioneer League (a farm club of the Cincinnati Reds) in 1960, and had tryouts with the California Angels (1961) and the New York Mets (1962) organizations, but was not picked up by either team.

Pride's singing ability soon came to the attention of the team manager, who also paid him to sing for 15 minutes before each game, which increased attendance and earned Pride another \$10 on top of the \$10 he earned for each game. He also played gigs in the local area, both solo and with a band called the Night Hawks, and Asarco asked him to sing at company picnics. His job at the smelter was dangerous and difficult; he once broke his ankle. He routinely unloaded coal from railroad cars, shoveling it into a 2,400 °F furnace while keeping clear of slag, a task which frequently gave him burns. In a 2014 interview, Pride explained, "I would work at the smelter, work the swing shift and then play music," said Pride. "I'd work 11-7. Drive. Play Friday. Punch in. Drive. Polson. Philipsburg."

Between his smelter job and his music, he made a good living in the Helena area. He moved his wife and son to join him and they lived in Helena until 1967, purchasing their first home there, and with their children Dion and Angela being born at the local hospital. The Pride family moved to Great Falls, Montana, in 1967, because Pride's music career was taking off and he required quicker access to an airport. The family ultimately left Montana and moved to Texas in 1969. In a 1967 interview with the Helena Independent Record, Rozene commented that the family encountered minor racism in Montana, citing an incident where they were refused service in a restaurant and another time when a realtor refused to show them a home, but she felt that the family endured less racism than she saw leveled against local Native American people, whose treatment she compared to that given to black people in the South. Pride has generally spoken with fondness of the near-decade he spent there. "Montana is a very conservative state...I stood out like a neon. But once they let you in, you become a Montanan. When the rumor was that I was leaving. They kept saying, 'we will let you in, you can't leave.'"

ers, with whom he has had a long affiliation, and the Colorado Rockies took his brother.

RISE TO MUSIC FAME

While he was active in baseball, Pride had been encouraged to join the music business by country stars such as Red Sovine and Red Foley, and was working towards this career. In 1958, in Memphis, Pride visited Sun Studios and recorded some songs. One song has survived on tape, and was released in the United Kingdom as part of a box set. The song is a slow stroll in walking tempo called "Walkin' (the Stroll)".

He played music at clubs in Montana solo and with a four-piece combo called the Night Hawks during the time he lived in Montana. His break came when Chet Atkins at RCA Victor heard a demonstration tape and got Pride a contract. In 1966, he released his first RCA Victor single, "The Snakes Crawl at Night". Nashville manager and agent Jack D. Johnson signed Pride. Atkins was the longtime producer at RCA Victor who had made stars out of country singers such as Jim Reeves, Skeeter Davis, and others. Pride was signed to RCA Victor in 1965. "The Snakes Crawl at Night" did not chart. On the records of this song submitted to radio stations for airplay, the singer was listed as "Country Charley Pride". At this time, country music was a white medium. Jack made sure that no pictures of Charley were distributed for the first two years of his career, to avoid the effects of Jim Crowism. Pride disputes that the omission of a photo was deliberate; he stated that getting promoters to bring in a black country singer was a bigger problem: "people didn't care if I was pink. RCA signed me... they knew I was colored.

Soon after the release of "The Snakes Crawl at Night", Pride released another single called "Before I Met You", which also did not chart. Soon after, Pride's third single, "Just Between You and Me", was released. This song finally brought Pride success on the country charts. The song reached number nine on the US country chart.

HEIGHT OF HIS CAREER

The success of "Just Between You and Me" was enormous. He was nominated for a Grammy Award for the song the next year.

In 1967, he became the first black performer to appear at the Grand Ole Opry since harmonica player DeFord Bailey, who was a regular cast member of the Opry from 1925 through 1941, and made a final appearance in 1974. Pride also appeared in 1967 on ABC's The Lawrence Welk Show. In 1975, he was one of the stars of Bob Hope's Stars and Stripes show emceed by John Davidson and filmed in front of a live audience in Oklahoma City to celebrate the United States Bicentennial.

Between 1969 and 1971, Pride had eight single records that simultaneously reached number one on the US Country Hit Parade and also charted on the Billboard Hot 100: "All I Have to Offer You (Is Me)", "(I'm So) Afraid of Losing You Again", "I Can't Believe That You've Stopped Loving Me", "I'd Rather Love You", "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone", "Wonder Could I Live There Anymore", "I'm Just Me", and "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'". The pop success of these songs reflected the country/pop crossover sound that was reaching country music in the 1960s and early 1970s, known as "Countryopolitan". In 1969, his compilation album, The Best of Charley Pride, sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc. Ultimately, Elvis Presley was the only artist who sold more records for the RCA label than did Pride.

Pride sang the Paul Newman-directed film Sometimes a Great Notion's main soundtrack song "All His Children" in 1970. The film starred Newman and Henry Fonda and received two Oscar nominations in 1972, one being for the song that Pride sang.

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Obits

Helen Adams

Graveside service for Helen Adams, age 82, of Pickton were held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at Pine Forest Cemetery with Robert Brown officiating. There was no formal visitation. Mrs. Adams passed away Sunday, July 2, 2017, at CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

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

Sarah Smith

Graveside service for Sarah Smith, age 91, of Sulphur Springs was held at 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at Shooks Chapel Cemetery with Paul Bailey officiating and Tommy Hall assisting. There was no formal visitation. Mrs. Smith passed away Monday, July 3, 2017, at Rock Creek Health and Rehab in Sulphur Springs.

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

George Lemoyne Mason

George Lemoyne Mason, 97, of Winnsboro went home to be with the Lord on July 1, 2017.

He was born on December 2, 1919 in Walters, OK to the late Alonzo Leon and Maggie Mae Mullins Mason. George served in the U.S. Navy and was a WWII Veteran. He was a life time member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Eula Lucille Courtright Mason; daughter Eula Mae Watson; and 4 brothers and 2 sisters.

He is survived by his two sons, Robert L Mason and wife Linda of Onalaska, TX; Author L Mason and wife Dorothy of Deer Park, TX; one sister; 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Survivors also include long time special friends; the Woodle, Ryan and Trevathan families who affectionately called him Porgy.

Graveside service will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2017 at Harmony Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Ronny Spence conducting, visitation will be held at 12:00p.m till service time at the Beaty Funeral Home, 816 W. Broadway, Winnsboro, Texas 75494. In lieu of flowers, family has requested donations be made to American Cancer Society.



Mark Steven Kluna

On Sunday, June 26, 2017, Mark Steven Kluna left us all to go Home to be with his Lord, at the age of 56. Mark was born in Garland, TX on June 13, 1961. Mark grew up in Houston, TX and eventually moved to Sulphur Springs, TX where he found life with God and amazing friends.

Mark will always be lovingly remembered by his Mom, Billie "Jo" Kluna of Houston, TX; Sister Kathleen (Kathi) Kluna of Houston, TX; brother Charles (Chuck) Hill Kluna, III and sister-in-law Susan Fontenot Kluna of Magnolia, TX; daughter Stormy Kluna Ghobity and son-in-law Josh Ghobity, his Grandsons Eli and Ethan of Oklahoma City, OK; and many loving nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mark is predeceased by his Father, Charles Hill Kluna, Jr.

Mark enjoyed fishing, camping, sports, especially baseball (Astros) and football (Texans), as well as movies, but most of all spending time with his family and friends.

A Memorial Service honoring Mark is being held at Wildwood Methodist Church, 8911 FM1488, Magnolia, TX on Thursday, July 6, 2017 at 3:00 pm .

A Celebration of Mark's life will take place at Chuck and Susan Kluna's home immediately following the Memorial Service.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that you donate to Mark's Church that he loved so much, The Way Bible Church in Hopkins County, 674 FM 2560, Sulphur Springs, TX, 75482; (903) 438-2363.



Carl A. Smith

Carl A. Smith, age 73 of Winnsboro, passed away on Sunday, June 25th, 2017 in Winnsboro. He was born on February 24th, 1944 in Lillie, Louisiana to the late John Smith and Delma Wall Smith. He was a retired executive VP with Monsanto Chemical Company and a member of Hopewell Baptist Church. He loved restoring BMW micro cars and was a graduate of Louisiana Tech University. He was preceded in death by parents, two brothers, Winford and Vernon Smith and wife, Nancy Barron Smith.

He is survived by, wife, Susan Smith of Winnsboro; son, Bryan Smith and his wife Allison of San Antonio; daughters, Vikki Migoya and her husband, David of Denver, Sondra Gates of Newhall, Iowa and Kari Manning and her husband, Shawn of St. Louis, MO; step-son, Andrew Vaughn and his wife, Valerie of Canton; step daughter, Heather Gilbreath and her husband,

Jason of Sulphur Springs; brother, Lyle Smith of Fayetteville, AR and twelve grandchildren, Aiden, Alexander, Claire, Andrew, Harrison, Emersyn, Chloe, Caleb, Jessica, Sam, Kate and Bella.

Visitation was held on Thursday, June 29th, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home, 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services were held on Friday, June 30th, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home at 11:00 am, Bro. David Harrell conducting, interment followed at Hopewell Cemetery in Winnsboro, with Bryan Smith, David Migoya, Shawn Manning, Gary Williams, Joe Dan Coe, and Randy Harrell serving as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Christian Family Services in St. Louis.



James E. McVay

Mr. James E. McVay, Sr., age 80 of Winnsboro, passed away on Wednesday, June 28th, 2017 in Tyler. He was born on April 18th, 1937 in Dallas to the late Walter McVay and Gladys McVay. He was a member of Harmony Assembly of God and was preceded in death by parents; wife, Mary Lou McVay; brothers, Troy McVay, Roy McVay and Doyle McVay and sister, Gloria Gilbert.

He is survived by, sons, James E. McVay, Jr. and his wife, Pamella of Gilmer, Brent Wade and his wife, Amy of Melissa; daughter, Valinda Marquis and her husband, Tony of Mead, Oklahoma; sisters, Walterine Faulk of Rockwall, Glenda Sissel of Holly Lake Ranch and Brenda Gates of Rockwall and seven grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Saturday, July 1st, 2017 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services were held on Saturday, July 1st, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home at 12:00 pm, Rev. Vince Hicks conducting.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

When Life Gets Serious....

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Commencement exercises, like holiday movies watched countless times, usually are fairly predictable. After all, printed programs get us back on track in case of the wandering of minds. Some of the best "mind-wanderers" are faculty members who know the sub-plots--some of them winding and tangled--that are unique to certain graduates.

One such recent program was at First Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, where 22 candidates received graduate degrees from B. H. Carroll Theological Institute. Towering over them was the commencement speaker, Dr. Darin Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church in Midland.....

He revealed a "sub-plot" keenly remembered from his doctoral pilgrimage, and it made Dr. Bruce Corley smile. Corley, whose seminary teaching career spans 41 years, was Carroll's first president. He served a decade in the presidency, but most of his teaching and writing occurred during his long tenure at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. (He has authored some 25 books to date, with plans for many more.)

Of course, Corley and the commencement speaker were considerably younger back in 1991, during Wood's pursuit of a Master of Divinity Degree.

"I wasn't terribly serious about Dr. Corley's

class in Romans," Wood admitted. "And Dr. Corley realized it before I did."...

That they are both baseball fans may have hastened a meeting of minds. Upon returning a marked paper to Wood that failed to impress, the mentor questioned, "When did you write this assignment?"

Wood responded, "I think it was during the sixth inning of the third game of the World Series last week."

Corley, barely smiling, answered, "If you decide to get serious about this class, let me know."...

The words stung, of course; Wood soon realized his teacher was 100% correct.

He got serious about it, and eight years later, when he applied for the Ph.D. program, he asked Corley to be a reference. Corley, of course, agreed.

The rest, as is said, is history....

I mentioned Wood's towering.

"To lessen whispering and wondering, I'm 6-10," he said. "Someone said I missed my calling, and that I should have been a power forward."

As he dissected hope and faith, he discussed how changes in plans can loom unexpectedly. He spoke of tackling a new challenge less than four months ago upon his being diagnosed with

Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. He smiled confidently at the prospect of his final treatment to be administered soon.....

The triumphant evening was marked by brevity. Wood's 15 minutes were as effective as any I've ever heard, so was the invocation.

It was offered by the Rev. Matt Killough, pastor of Sonora First Baptist Church and a 2008 recipient of a Master of Divinity Degree from Carroll. The prayer, no more than a minute in length, presented a powerful challenge. He prayed that God would lead graduates to "lean in to the misunderstood, to walk alongside the emptied, to run toward the forsaken and to sprint to the feet of Jesus."

Would that all of us take his prayer to heart....

During the recession-al, graduates exchanged smiles with loved ones who have cheered them on, and with mentors whose sharp focus continues to be on "getting serious." One set of smiles was between Corley and Dr. Gene Wilkes, who succeeded him as president. During his student seminary years at Southwestern almost four decades ago, Wilkes sat in Corley's classes.

Corley, and others who believe in Carroll's mission, are cheering for Wilkes in a world where Christians feel greatly outnumbered by folks

who aren't. Isn't that one of the most important lessons Jesus had for His disciples? In effect, He told them to "get used" to being outnumbered, but always to show others His ways.

Another theologian of another era--cut from the same cloth as Wood and Killough--likewise was concise. "Let's all remember, all of the time, that the same God who has intervened in the affairs of humankind throughout history, is still in charge."....

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TAKING CARE OF TECH BEAUTY
Tumbleweed Smith



Some people told me I ought to interview Jack Moreman of Clarendon. They said he was a character and did lots of stuff, including making compost from feedlot manure. So I called him on a rainy morning and asked him to come to the motel where I was staying. "Might as well," he said. "I can't get any work done in this rain." When he walked into the motel wearing a yellow slicker, he spoke to everybody and called the people behind the registration counter by name.

My room was on the second floor and I asked him if he needed an elevator and he said, "I'd rather walk." So we climbed the stairs.

Jack was born at Hedley, a small place just east of Clarendon. "I was born at home. We didn't have any hospitals in Hedley." His family was in the hardware business. "My granddad had a hardware store in the old town of Rowe, which is no more. The railroad missed Rowe and people moved to Hedley. So granddad put in a hardware store there. He also owned a hardware store in Estelline and one in Lelia Lake."

Back then, hardware stores sold funeral supplies. "I was in the store at Hedley one time and I was probably doing things I shouldn't be doing and my granddad said 'Jack if you don't sit down and behave yourself I'm gonna lock you up in the casket room.' That just terrified me. I behaved from then on."

After graduating from Texas Tech with an agricultural degree, he managed ranches and farms, including the famous JA ranch. He spent a few years at TCU teaching in the ranch management program, then set up a similar program at Clarendon College and headed it for 20 years. He started a feedlot in Hereford and ended up owning a company that turns feedlot waste into compost, serving farmers in 7 counties. "When I had that feedlot in Hereford somebody said something needed to be done with the piles of manure, that they were interfering with TV reception."

Somewhere along the way, Jack ended up in charge of the Texas Tech horse that the masked rider rides around the stadium during football games. The horse's name was Tech Beauty. "We were going to play A & M and I got word that some of those Aggies were planning to break into the horse barn and paint Beauty maroon. I knew that was not going to happen while I was in charge of that horse. When the Aggies hit town I went to the horse barn, put a padlock on Beauty's stall and parked my pickup in front of it. I had my shotgun with me and it was fully loaded. Sure enough, the night before the game some people entered the barn. I knew they didn't belong there. I fired off a couple of rounds just to scare them. I didn't want to hurt anybody. Sure enough, they skedaddled out of there without doing anything to the horse. That paint would have caused serious damage to the horse. Years later somebody did manage to paint a Tech horse and the horse died."



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