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VOL. 18 ISSUE 925, November 23, 2017

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Answers On Pg. 3



This week, I wanted to share that old-time poem about counting your blessings and naming them one by one, so I finally found time and "went hunting", tracking it down on Google. And you know what? I ended up with much more than I went out for, and stumbled upon an overflowing spring of poems and free verse about counting blessings from authors both known and unknown. Please enjoy these, and if you discover a favorite, pass it along to someone else, sharing as freely and generously as you share your Thanksgiving bounty.



Give Thanks to the Lord,
 for He is good.
 Psalm 107:1

Count your garden by the flowers,
 Never by the leaves that fall.
 Count your days by golden hours,
 Don't remember clouds at all . . .
 Count your nights by stars, not shadows,
 Count your life with smiles, not tears.
 And all throughout your lifetime,
 Count your age by friends, not years.
 --Anon.

And know this truth of the human breast,
 That, wanting little, is being blest.
 - Hannah Flagg Gould
 The Old Elm of Newbury

My heart gives thanks for many things;
 I know not how to name them all.
 - William Stanley Braithwaite
 Thanksgiving -

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
 Count your gains instead of your losses.
 - Anonymous
 How to Observe Thanksgiving

Rev. J Oatman, Jr. (Copyright 1897 E.O. Excell). Words taken from Great Revival Hymns for the Church, Sunday School and Evangelistic Services, edited and compiled by Homer Rodeheaver and B.D. Ackley (Chicago: Rodeheaver Co., 1911), no. 92; available on Google Books. Listen to the hymn and learn more on NetHymnal.

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
 When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
 Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
 And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Count your blessings,
 Name them one by one;
 Count your blessings,
 See what God hath done;
 Count your blessings,
 Name them one by one;
 Count your many blessings,
 See what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
 Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
 Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
 And you will be singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
 Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
 Count your many blessings, money can not buy
 Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
 Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
 Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
 Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.



One of my most enduring blessings is the Reilly Springs Jamboree and the love and good will that the show continues to generate. Plan to be in the audience as the New Year brings a big gospel show on January 20, 2018! Til then, may your blessings of family and friends continue to multiply through the season ahead.

I'll watch for you at the corral gate.

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I A A E R R P I N E (A P P L E S)
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The Gift Wrapping Station will be accepting donations of t-shirts, underwear, and socks to benefit the American Legion.





Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is a public holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States. It originated as a harvest festival. Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, after a proclamation by George Washington. It has been celebrated as a federal holiday every year since 1863, when, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in 1621. This feast lasted three days, and—as accounted by attendee Edward Winslow—it was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims. The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "thanksgivings"—days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.

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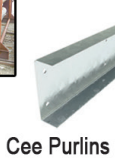
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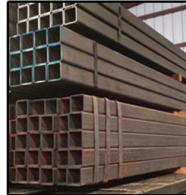
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SURFING IN TEXAS

Tumbleweed Smith

Ellis Pickett of Liberty is a surfer.

“Well there were all those beach movies way back in the sixties and in 1963 my buddy and I went to Galveston for a few days and surfing was already a big craze at that point. I rented a surfboard for six dollars for half a day and had so much fun I went back the next day and gave ‘em ten dollars for a full day surfboard rental. I was thirteen years old at the time. The next year I got my driver license at age fourteen, the dumbest law ever, and I’ve been surfing ever since.”

He has surfed in a lot of places.

“I’ve surfed all over Texas, from High Island down to South Padre. I’ve surfed on the east coast, west coast end down to Central America. I’ve never been to Hawaii. Most of my surfing has been in Texas.” I told him Texas is not known for surfing.

“That is absolutely true. But it is a common misconception. And when people ask me ‘where do you surf in Texas’ they follow up with the comment ‘there’s no surf in Texas.’”

He says surfing in Texas is seasonal.

“You go to the beach in the summer, right? You don’t surf then. Surfing in Texas is from September to the end of May. During the summer months there is no surf in Texas. The Gulf of Mexico is flat and great for fishing, but the only time there’s any surf is when it storms. There was even a movie made about ten years ago and the title was There Ain’t No Surf In Texas and it plainly shows that there’s plenty.”

Ellis estimates there are about 200,000 surfers in Texas.

“It kinda depends on how you define a surfer. It could be someone who has a surfboard in his garage or someone who surfs on a surfboard every week. You’re not going to see that many people in the water with surfboards in Texas. However during a storm that’s another story. Now we don’t surf during the hurricane. We surf when the hurricane is two hundred miles away and the waves are coming up here. They’re very good when they travel that far.”

He knows the best surfing spots along the Texas coast.

“You start at High Island and go south. The more south you go the better it gets. By the time you get to the coastal bend it’s great and it’s also great on South Padre Island. If you go into Mexico by the time you get to Vera Cruz there’s beautiful blue water and the waves are huge down there. When northers blow through Texas and blow the surf flat, five days later there’s fantastic, beautiful surfing in Vera Cruz, Mexico. I surf every chance I get.”

Ellis has worked for years to prevent erosion on Texas beaches.



Tumbleweed Smith

Cbits



Quinn Stanford

Mr. Quinn Stanford, age 43 of Scroggins, passed away on Saturday, November 18th, 2017 in Tyler. He lost a quick battle with a horrible cancer. He was born on April 26th, 1974 in Clayton County, Georgia to Virgil and Barbara Stanford. He was a railroad conductor for Union Pacific and broiler farmer for Pilgrims Pride. He was a Mason and member of Smyrna Baptist Church. He graduated from Elysian Fields High School in 1992 as the President of his class. He graduated from Stephen

F. Austin University in 1996 with a BS in Animal Science

He is survived by his wife of eighteen years, Tree (Erika) Stanford of Scroggins, son, Dalton Stanford; daughter Jordan Stanford both of Scroggins; parents, Buddy and Barbara Stanford of Pittsburg; sisters, Ronza Fouch with Wayne and Austin Rogers of Wilmington, Ohio, Makala Burrow and her husband Rodney of Pittsburg; and their daughters Marandy, Sadie, Sarah, Melody and Carolina, grandmother Dorothy Lee Stanford of Americus, GA, mother and father-in-law, Jim and Cindy Larned of Paradise, TX; mother-in-law, Joy Larned of Haslet, Texas and brother-in-law Brad Larned also of Haslet as well as many other aunts, uncles and cousins.

Quinn was foremost a family man. He strived to be the best husband and father he could be. He was his family’s best friend. Though Quinn was a jack of all trades and excelled at everything he did: from welding ranching, farming, rigging, fishing, hunting, conducting a train and multiple other things. He would most want to be remembered as a family man who loved unconditionally, and that he became and will always be the best father to his children and the most beloved husband to his wife. “His master replied, ‘ Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” Matthew 25:21

Visitation was held on Tuesday, November 21st, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, November 22nd, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro at 11:00 am, and Rev. David Hendricks conducted, interment followed at Clearwater Cemetery in Scroggins.

Raymond William Brown

Raymond William Brown, 54, of Commerce passed away on Sunday, November 19, 2017, at his residence.

Raymond was born in Madesto, California, on March 21, 1963, to Elizabeth McGowan Brown and Everett Lloyd Brown. He was married to Donna Huneke Brown. He was a Machinest.

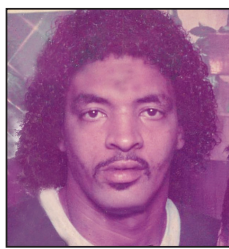
Survivors include his wife, Donna, His son, Raymond Brown of Stephenville, his daughter, Mary Brown of Commerce, his brother, Everett L. Brown Jr. of Campbell, his sisters: Karen Brown Narvaez (Lorenzo) of Grand Prairie and Sharon Brown Davis (John) of Longview, his parents, Elizabeth and Everett Brown, his mother & father-in-law, Nelda and Larry Huneke of Detroit, TX., his brother & sister-in-law, Scott and Chris Evans, of Hughes Springs, his brother-in-law, Roger Huneke of Detroit, TX. his aunt & uncle Ella and Jim Dickman, of Sulphur Springs. Raymond is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews: Ariem Solis, Josh Evans, Sarah Solis, Lee Narvaez, Katherine Narvaez, Jana Blakely, Tiffany Brown, Collin Huneke, Linda Narvaez, Braxton Evans and Emmett Evans.

He was preceded in death by his son, Chad Ray Brown, and, his sister Linda Brown. A memorial service for Raymond was held on Wednesday, November 22, 2017, at 2:00 P.M. at Cross Trails Cowboy Church in Fairlie, Texas, and Bro. Greg Horn officiated.

Visitation was held one hour prior to service time.

In lieu of flowers the Brown family is requesting donations be made to a charity of your choice.

Funeral arrangements under the direction of Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home of Commerce.



Melvin Williams

Funeral services for Melvin Williams, age 60, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 25, 2017 at New Beginnings Fellowship Baptist Church. Interment will follow at East Caney Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Melvin passed away on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, TX. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

David Michael Bass

David Michael Bass, age 66, died suddenly Sunday morning November 19 at the hospital in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

David was born May 23, 1951 in Corsicana, Texas and spent most of his life in East Texas. He served in the Army and was stationed in Germany and Korea. He became a truck driver and expert diesel mechanic.

David was married to Sandy Hardin and they had 3 children: David Jr, Melissa, and Danny. Davy preceded him in death.

He is survived in Sulphur Springs by his brother, Al, and sister-in-law, Hillis. David was a loving, kind, thoughtful, and considerate man who loved the Lord and always would give you one of his smiles or the shirt off his back. The family thanks Terrific Tuesdays for their help this past year – David really looked forward to going there. He also loved his Aggies. Gig-Em!

A Celebration of David will be held Saturday, December 30 at 1pm at the home he shared with his brother.



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017

Small Business Saturday is an American shopping holiday held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. It is a counterpart to Black Friday which feature big box retail stores. By contrast, Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick and mortar businesses that are small and local.

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