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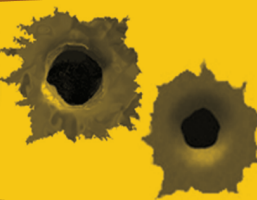
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At The Corral Gate



Traveling the Thanksgiving trail to spend it with family in Western Oklahoma, I saw Christmas lights going up in neighborhoods and towns along the way. Because I had plenty of time behind the wheel to think and to reflect on my many blessings, an appreciation for the concept of "community sharing" began to take root. I aimed a long-distance look at the many things my own town does for it's residents, and my eyes began to open to the abundance of heart-felt "community sharing" that goes on right here! Here are a few examples, and you probably know of plenty more!

The Lions Club Christmas Parade through downtown Sulphur Springs on Friday December First...different because it's at night, starting at 7pm. There will be plenty of well-lit floats, some with holiday music on board. Watch for Santa Claus and hopefully Mrs. Claus too! Parade-goers are asked to bring new, unwrapped toys to place on the Blue Santa float. An added feature is the lighting of homes and businesses along the route that you can enjoy all through the holiday season.

The Sulphur Springs Downtown Business Alliance fun night and Community Christmas Tree Lighting is also Friday December First. Make sure you are there when Santa Claus flips the lights on! Families also love the added attractions of the Snow Slide and the White Tiger display.

On Saturday morning December 2, Boy Scout Troop 69 will host an all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church, downtown. Hours are from 6 am til noon. Cost is \$7 adult, and \$5 for kids under age 12,

Heritage Park will be open for Christmas in the Park on Saturday December 2 from 5:30 til 8:30pm. Once a well-kept secret, this little downtown treasure is now growing in popularity among new families moving in who like a "step back in time" and the nostalgic glow this celebration sheds on the holiday. Stroll around, enjoy the music and period costumes and shop at the Country Store. Admission isn't free, but at just \$3 per person, it's practically free, offering lots of free snacks inside.

The Northeast Texas Choral Society's Christmas Concert "A Feast of Favorites" will celebrate the choir's 20th year of concerts. There will be two performances, Saturday December 2 at 7 pm and Sunday December 3 at 2 pm in the Sulphur Springs High School Auditorium inside the Civic Center. Tickets are \$12 and \$5 for kids.

The Blue Santa Drive puts on it's final push to collect toys on Monday and Tuesday December 4 and 5 with all-day donations on the parking lot of the Lowe's store. New, unwrapped toys for kids newborn through age 16 are requested. Grilled hamburger plates will also be sold as a fundraiser for Blue Santa.

The Reilly Springs Jamboree brings a country dance to town on Saturday December 9 at the Sulphur Springs Senior Citizens Center, at 150 MLK Drive. Plan to enjoy the country sounds of Roger Reed and the Sunshine Band, plus guests Don Woods and Shanna Carter. Admission is \$10 person or a donation of your choice, with all proceeds going to the Building Fund for a new Senior's Center. The current Center is too small to properly handle the needs of the Senior Citizen population here. Groundbreaking is anticipated in 2018 for a larger center with expanded space for Meal-a-Day preparation. Currently, the Building Fund has \$20,000 and the deed to a plot of donated land for a building site.

Seeing angels fly? See "A Celestial Christmas" at Mt. Vernon's First Baptist Church on December 8, 9 and 10 at 7pm. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited. This is a musical and theatrical presentation of the Good News, with a cast of over 200. According to Music Minister Fred Randles, flying angels have not previously been seen in this type of quality musical production east of Dallas.

Thanks and appreciation are sent out along with gratitude for the many caring individuals and organizations making their home in Hopkins County. Your large and small gifts for others do not go unnoticed! Til next week, let's count our blessings and share with our neighbors. I'll watch for you at the corral gate.

Are you caring for someone with memory loss? Join "Terrific Tuesdays"

a Sulphur Springs Respite Care Program for seniors with memory loss.

This program is open to everyone with Alzheimer's or dementia. It gives the participants an opportunity to spend each Tuesday meeting new friends and participating in cooperative activities.

It also gives the caregiver a few hours to run errands and to take care of personal healthcare needs, etc. knowing that their loved one is well taken care of in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The cost is \$20 each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that includes lunch!

"Terrific Tuesdays" meets at The First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs.

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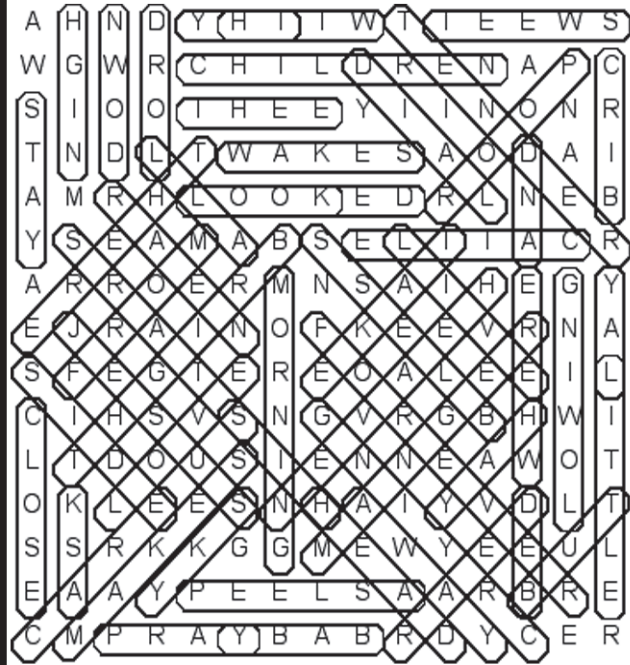


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Miscellaneous

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Answers



ELVIS IS STILL IN THE BUILDING

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

"I was always a big fan, as you might expect. As a teenager I watched his movies listened to his records."

Harvey McFadden of Hawley, a small place north of Abilene, spent twenty years in the Navy, then taught for eleven years. Along the way he started imitating Elvis Presley. He did it so well he quit teaching and started doing it fulltime in 2001. He manages to stay busy performing at fairs, rodeos, nursing homes, retirement centers, church banquets, birthday and anniversary parties, car shows and all kinds of events.

"I do fifteen or twenty shows a month on average," he says. "Sometimes I do two shows a day. December is my biggest month and then I often do three shows a day. Last December, my record-breaking month, I did forty-two shows and only two of them were after Christmas."

When Harvey sang in a church choir, people told him he sounded like Elvis. He liked that, even though he was not trying to imitate the icon. Elvis had a repertoire of seven hundred songs. Harvey can sing three hundred of them. He is often invited back to the places where he performs, so he has to have fresh material for his audiences.

"However, they expect to hear Blue Suede Shoes, Love Me Tender and certain songs. I recently had my three thousandth performance on August fourteenth of this year so I have a pretty good idea of what they expect to hear and what they want to hear."

He gives his audiences a full show, both in length and breadth. When I saw him at a birthday party for an older woman in a retirement center, he got down on his knees in front of her and actually crooned to her while he held her hand. She thought that was special.

"I do an hour and fifteen minutes for my retirement and nursing homes. At fairs and festivals I do two hours."

When he's learning a new song he studies a video of Elvis performing it.

"When I'm driving I listen to a new song and sing along with it. I do a lot of driving. That's my practice time."

Harvey has eight Elvis suits. He also has four children and eleven grandchildren. He's sixty-two.

"I know of three or four who are older than me, and they're still singing. I'm keeping an eye on them. The bottom line is I want to do this as long as I can feel I'm doing a quality job."

Harvey has won awards for his Elvis impersonation.

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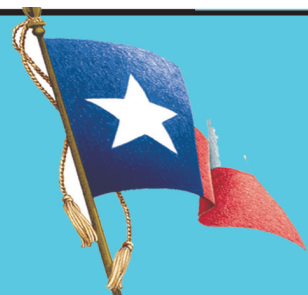
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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to this in thirteen short years!

Happy birthday to McCleary and Noelle!



FAMOUS TEXANS

A.J. Foyt

Race Car Driver



Anthony Joseph "A. J." Foyt, Jr. (born January 16, 1935) ("Super Tex") is a retired American auto racing driver who has raced in numerous genres of motorsports. His open wheel racing includes United States Automobile Club Champ cars and midget cars. He raced stock cars in NASCAR and USAC. He won several major sports car racing events. He holds the USAC career wins record with 159 victories, and the American championship racing career wins record with 67.

He is the only driver to win the Indianapolis 500 (which he won four times), the Daytona 500, the 24 Hours of Daytona, and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Foyt won the International Race of Champions all-star racing series in 1976 and 1977. In the NASCAR stock car circuit, he won the 1964 Firecracker 400 and the 1972 Daytona 500. Foyt survived three major crashes that caused serious injuries, and narrowly escaped a fourth. Foyt's success has led to induction in numerous motorsports halls of fame.

Since his retirement from active racing, he has owned A. J. Foyt Enterprises, which has fielded teams in the CART, IRL, and NASCAR.

Midget car career

Foyt began racing midgets in 1953 at age 18 in a car owned and maintained by his father. He started his USAC career in a midget car at the 1956 Night before the 500 in Anderson, Indiana. His first midget car win was at a 100 lap event at Kansas City in 1957, and finished seventh in the season points standings. He left midget cars after the 1957 season to drive in sprint cars and Championship Car. He did occasionally compete in midget car events. He won the 1960 and 1961 Turkey Night Grand Prix, the first two years that it was held at Ascot Park. He won the 1961 Hut Hundred after starting last, and finished seventh in National Midget points that year. He won the 1970 Astro Grand Prix, an event that he promoted in his hometown of Houston. He ended his career with 20 midget car feature wins. Even after he had reached the pinnacle of his sport, Foyt was known to make occasional appearances in small, local events as a way of thanking promoters who had supported him in his struggle up the ladder.

SPRINT CAR CAREER

Foyt began his sprint car career in 1956, at age 21, driving the Les Vaughn Offy with the International Motor Contest Association. On August 24, 1956, Foyt outqualified a field of 42 drivers at the Minnesota State Fair and, the following day, he won his first sprint car race, running away with the IMCA feature at the Red River Fair in Fargo, N.D. On June 16, 1957, on the high banked asphalt track at Salem, Indiana, Foyt came out on top in a race long battle with Bob Cleberg. That victory put Foyt on the radar for USAC car owners and he switched from the IMCA to USAC later that season. Foyt eventually won 28 USAC National sprint car feature races and the USAC Eastern Championship in 1960. Foyt continued to race sprint cars long after he was firmly established as one of the top drivers at the Indy 500.

In 1961, he became the first driver to successfully defend his points championship and win the Indianapolis 500 race. Late in the 500, Foyt made a pit stop for fuel, but a refueling malfunction meant that he returned to the race without enough fuel to finish. Eddie Sachs, unaware that Foyt's now-quicker car was light on fuel, pushed hard to keep up—and Sachs had to pit from the lead with just three laps remaining to replace a shredded right rear tire. Foyt pitted again also but only for enough fuel to finish. He took over the lead and beat Sachs by just 8.28 seconds—the second-closest finish in history at the time. He raced in each season from 1957–1992, starting in 374 races and finishing in the top ten 201 times, with 67 victories. In 1958, Foyt raced in Italy in the Trophy of the Two Worlds on the banking at Monza.

Ford-powered entries were widely expected to dominate the 1964 Indianapolis 500. Discussions between Ford officials and Foyt (who had a stock car contract with Ford at the time) took place early in the month of May about the possibility of Foyt taking over the third Team Lotus-Ford, a team reserve vehicle. Foyt wanted the use of the car for the entire month, but Lotus team owner Colin Chapman was reluctant to promise him the reserve car, in case something happened to cars driven by team drivers Jim Clark and Dan Gurney.

So discussions ended and Foyt stayed with his reliable, well-sorted Offenhauser-engined roadster. In the 1964 season, Foyt won a record 10 of 14 races en route to his championship, including the Indy 500. When the two fastest Lotus-Fords, driven by Jim Clark and Bobby Marshman, fell out of the race with mechanical problems, and Parnelli Jones was knocked out when his fuel tank exploded during a pit stop, Foyt was left alone at the front of the field, and cruised home to win his second Indianapolis 500. The race is remembered for the fiery second-lap crash that claimed the lives of Dave MacDonald and Eddie Sachs. Foyt did not learn of the fate of his two friends until he reached victory lane, and was handed a newspaper with a headline announcing the tragedy.

In August 1965, at the Milwaukee 200-mile (320 km) Championship Car race, Foyt's rear-engined Lotus pavement car was not at the track. So Foyt unloaded the Offenhauser-engined dirt track car he had won the 100-mile (160 km) race with at Springfield the previous day. He sprayed the mud off the car, installed pavement tires and a set-up for the one mile (1.6 km) oval. Foyt received permission to take two extra warm up laps during qualifying, as he had no time for practice. He then qualified the car on the pole, led the race for 18 out of 200 laps but then had to stop for a new rear tire, and finished second to Gordon Johncock, driving a rear-engined Gerhardt-Offy Indy car.

In the 1967 Indianapolis 500, Parnelli Jones' STP-Paxton Turbocar was expected to easily defeat the field of piston engines. Jones lapped the field, but his car expired with three laps remaining, and Foyt inherited the lead. As Foyt moved through turn three on the 200th lap, he slowed down. A few hundred yards ahead of him, Carl Williams spun out as he exited turn four, triggering a five-car front-stretch accident right in front of Foyt. Traveling at no more than 100 mph, Foyt threaded his way through the wreckage and safely took the checkered flag. The race took two days to complete when rain stopped the race on the 18th lap on the first day.

In the 1977 Indianapolis 500, Foyt ran out of fuel, and had to make a pit stop. He had to make up around 32 seconds on Gordon Johncock. Foyt made up 1.5 to 2 seconds per lap by turning up his turbo boost, which risked destroying the engine. Johncock's own engine expired just as Foyt had closed to within eight seconds back after both drivers' final pit stops, and Foyt passed for the win.

In 1981, Foyt was involved in an accident at the Michigan 500 and nearly lost an arm. It took him a while to get back to full fitness; and at the Indy 500 the following year he qualified third.

Foyt won the Indianapolis 500 four times, in 1961, 1964, 1967 and 1977. He is the first driver to have done so. The feat has since been matched by Al Unser (1970, 1971, 1978, 1987) and Rick Mears (1979, 1984, 1988, 1991). Of his 67 career Championship Car race victories, twelve were won at Trenton Speedway. Foyt also won the Indycar Series seven times, a record that still stands.

In the 1982 Indianapolis 500, Foyt started on the front row but on the pace laps he was victimized by a controversial wreck when rookie Kevin Cogan suddenly spun out for no apparent reason. Cogan wrecked seven cars in the incident including Foyt and Mario Andretti. Foyt was livid with Cogan and famously said "That damn Coogan," on live radio, and when asked by Chris Economaki who wrecked him in an interview, Foyt shouted "Coogan". Foyt repaired his car during the red flag, and led the first quarter of the race but dropped out due to damages linked to the Cogan crash.

In a 1990 CART race at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, Foyt was involved in a serious crash that injured his legs and feet severely. He returned the following year for the 1991 Indianapolis 500 and qualified second.

SPORTS CAR RACING

Foyt is famous for winning the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans race in his first and only attempt, in 1967; Foyt drove a Ford GT40 Mk IV, partnered with Dan Gurney and entered by Carroll Shelby's team. Prior to the race, he had angered the French fans and press by remarking that the notoriously fast and dangerous tree-lined course was "nothin' but a little old country road." Also, he reportedly only got 10 laps of pre-race practice. But when Gurney overslept and missed a driver change in the middle of the night, Foyt was forced to double-stint and wound up driving nearly 18 hours of the 24-hour race. While being sprayed with champagne on the victory podium, he is reported to have asked, "Do I win rookie of the year?" Foyt also later won the 12 Hours of Sebring and 24 Hours of Daytona in 1985 driving Porsches, making him one of only 12 drivers to complete the "triple crown" of endurance racing.

USAC STOCK CAR

He was the champion in USAC's stock car in 1968, 1978, and 1979. He finished second in 1963 and 1969, and third in 1970. Among his wins in USAC stock car racing was his 1964 win at the Billy Vukovich Memorial 200 at Hanford Speedway in California. He also was a multiple winner in USAC stockers at Milwaukee, Texas World Speedway, and Michigan International Speedway.

Courtesy of Wikipedia.



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DECEMBER 1st

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A M R H L O O K E D R L N E B
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ALL	CATTLE	HEAVEN	LOWING	STAY
AND	CHILDREN	HIS	MAKES	SWEET
ASK	CLOSE	JESUS	MANGER	TAKE
ASLEEP	CRIB	LAI	MORNING	TENDER
AWAY	CRYING	LAY	NEAR	THEE
BABY	DEAR	LITTLE	NIGH	THERE
BED	DOWN	LIVE	POOR	THY
BLESS	FOREVER	LOOK	PRAY	WAKES
BRIGHT	FROM	LOOKED	SIDE	WHERE
BUT	HAY	LORD	SKY	WITH
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Answers On Pg. 2

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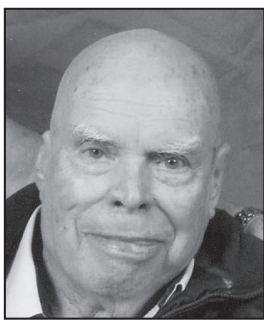
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Obits



Joe Bell Sr.

Memorial Service for Joe Bell Sr., age 87, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at Hope Family Fellowship with Rev. Rusty Posey officiating. Mr. Bell passed away on Friday, November 24, 2017 at his residence.

Joseph William Bell, Sr. was born in Worland, Wyoming on September 4, 1930, the son of William Lee and Marion Ina (Stewart) Bell. He married Judy Ann Freestone on April 11, 1975 in Coppell, Texas. He proudly served his country in the Army and Marines and went to Korea. He worked for the City of Grapevine, Public Works Dept. Joe was a member of Hope Family Fellowship.

Joe is survived by his wife, Judy; sons, William Bell and wife, Nina of Springtown, TX, Joe Bell Jr. and wife, Kathy of Sulphur Springs, TX, Allen Freestone and wife, Deidre of Bridge City, TX; daughters, Sandy Simmons and husband, Stan of Owassa, OK, Kenney Freestone of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Joe Bell III, Daniel Bell, Susan Bell, Chris Bell, Amanda Dent, Chrystal Bell, Ashley Cole, Jason Hale, Beth Young, Isiah Oakes, Michael Freestone, Joshua Freestone, Emily Freestone; numerous great grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter, Tara Freestone; 15 brothers and sisters.

Memorials can be made to the Joe Bell, Sr. Memorial Fund, in care of Judy Bell.

Johnie M. Ferguson

Johnie M. Ferguson, of Miller Grove, passed away on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at his residence.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Bobby Ray Shaw

Bobby Ray Shaw, age 81 of Winnsboro, passed away on Monday, November 27th, 2017 in Winnsboro. He was born on September 9th, 1936 in Venus, TX to Vernon and Alma (Blackwood) Shaw. Bobby was a member of the Baptist faith and retired to Winnsboro in 1996 after founding and managing a very successful courier service in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

Mr. Shaw was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Vicki Shaw; two brothers and four sisters. He is survived by his wife, Katherine Marine (Allen) Shaw of Winnsboro; son, Richard A. Brewer and his wife Arline of Winnsboro; daughters, Linda C. Brewer and Paula K. Brewer, both of Winnsboro; sister, Opal Sutton of Kaufman, TX, 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Visitation was held on Wednesday, November 29th, 2017 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro, 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 followed by a Graveside Service at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park at

3:00 pm, and Pastor Carla Chitsey officiated.

Jayla Jo Friddle

Funeral services for Jayla Jo Friddle, infant daughter of Joel and Karmon Coke Friddle, will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 2, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Gafford Chapel Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 1, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Jayla passed away on November 27, 2017. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Brenda Joyce Rogers

Brenda Joyce Rogers, age 65 of Winnsboro, passed away on Friday, November 24th, 2017 in Mount Pleasant. She was born on November 24th, 1952 in Franklin County to Charlie Peckham and Bennie Ruth (Sparks)Peckham.

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents and, a son David Ray Tabor; sister, Bonnie Kay Bearden; sister, Ruth Jane Peckham; brother, Buford Gene Peckham.

Surviving family includes, husband, James W. Rogers; daughter, Vivian Tish Tabor of Dekalb, TX; brother, Charles Ray Peckham of Mt. Pleasant, TX; brother, Howard Peckham of Seagoville, TX; sister, Virginia and her husband Raymond Tabor of Mt. Vernon, TX; daughter-in-law, Lynette Tabor of Mt. Pleasant, TX; granddaughter, Ashley Tabor of Mt. Pleasant, TX; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A Visitation will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm followed by a Funeral Service at 2:00 pm all at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro, 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 with Bro. Daniel Ledford officiating. Interment will follow at Bethel Cemetery in Scroggins, with CoDee Morgan, Billy Crowston, Nick Geffers, Thomas Ellison, Dustin Wesson and Jason Watson serving as pallbearers; honorary pallbearers are John Allen, Todd Tabor, Luke Allen, Raymond Tabor, and Charlie Russell Peckham.



Truitt Loy Sewell

A funeral service for Truitt Loy Sewell, age 93, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel, with Rev. Paul Pogue officiating. Interment followed at Martin Springs Cemetery with great grandsons, Perry Swindell, Tyler Washburn, Dillan Colfax, Cohner Colfax, Caleb Williams and Brandon Washington serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 from 6 to 8 PM at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Mr. Sewell passed away on Saturday, November 25, 2017 at his residence.

Truitt Loy Sewell, born June 3, 1924, in Sulphur Springs TX to O.C., Sr. and Lillian Sewell. Truitt married Laura Ann Buckner in Dallas, Texas on December 8, 1945. Truitt was of the Baptist faith. He proudly served in the US Navy in WW II and was a retired truck driver. He was co-owner of Reflections and Gifts.

He was a man full of generosity and had an ability to touch the lives of so many. His kind, generous nature and his belief in the abilities and value of others whether they be family or complete strangers gave him a quality very few possess. He was a true friend, a devoted loving husband, father and a cherished grandfather. His positive outlook on life was infectious and his desire to encourage, support and add value to the lives of those he touched was never ending and the effects will be everlasting. He left this world in peace surrounded by an abundance of love, leaving behind friendships and memories that will be cherished forever. He will be missed and always remembered. We take solace in the fact that he's reunited with the love of his life, his wife, Laura; his mother and father whom he adored; his sons Larry and Charles; the brothers he has missed and long to be reunited with and so many friends gone but not forgotten.

He is survived by his sons Loy and his wife Felisa, Roger Sewell; grandchildren, Bill Sewell, Mikki Sewell Koon, Misti Sewell Williams, Angie Sewell Swindell, Ricky Sewell, Grandison Leano, Sarah Leano, Shannon Sewell Colfax, Grant Sewell, Dusti Sewell Darnell, Ashlie Sewell, Jake Sewell; numerous great and great great grandchildren; brother, Carlton Sewell; numerous nieces and nephews.

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