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VOL. 18 ISSUE 928, December 14, 2017

(In The Shade of The Courthouse)

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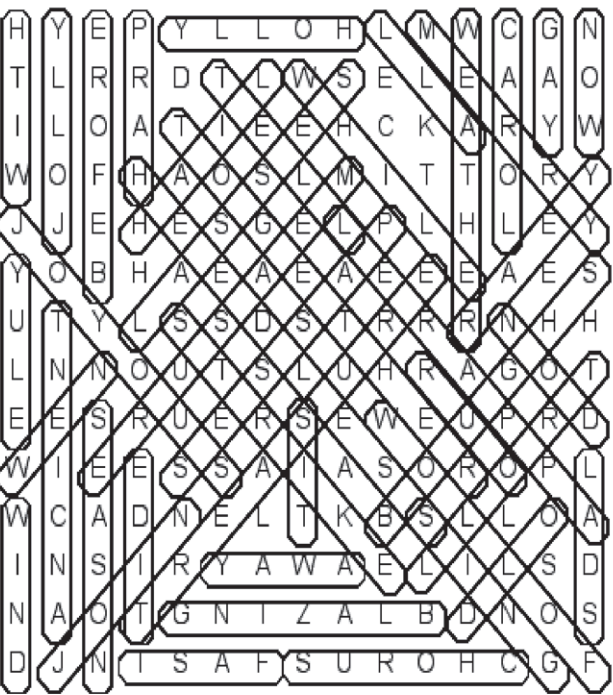
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## THE HOG KILLERS OF DRAW

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Ricky Barnes lives at Draw, a small place southeast of Tahoka. He loves to kill ferrell hogs. "It's an addiction. I could make excuses like it's good for the environment, it's good for my farming and ranching neighbors, but even if it wasn't all that, I would still love killing pigs."

He and his wife Diana shoot hogs a lot in the 75 miles of ranchland and Caprock country between Post and Gail. They started doing it 17 years ago just before Diana was going in for major surgery. "She mentioned that she was not going to be able to use her rifle for a while and that we ought to go out and kill a hog. So we did. We made a game out of it and called that hog number one. Since then, seventeen years ago, we've killed 978 wild hogs." After getting that first hog, Diana checked into a hospital in Lubbock for surgery at 6 AM the next day. They both use single shot weapons. Ricky uses a pistol; Diana uses a rifle, both Thompson breakover guns. They had the barrels custom made because they take an unusual 375-caliber shell. They make their own bullets and save their shell casings. "My pistol has been shot 5,300 times."

They get around on 4-wheelers. Ricky drives while Diana sits behind him. They put 18,000 miles on their first one, then traded it for another one. This second one has 20,000 miles on it. They do take chances. Both have had wounded hogs run right toward them. Once Ricky, hunting by himself, had to stand up on the seat of the 4-wheeler and shoot down at a wounded hog that was mad and getting blood all over the side of the vehicle.

Ricky will actually walk into a sounder (that's what a bunch of hogs is called) that has about 30 animals in it and start shooting. "I get in the middle of them, put myself in harm's way, and I pick out the biggest boar and I bust him. After that, all these pigs are going nuts because they have figured out that something is not right. I killed 7 of those pigs in less than a minute with a singleshot breakover pistol. I had to shoot, unload, reload, re-aim and fire 7 times before the sounder got away. I've done that 4 times."

Ricky travels with a camera and has a dozen thick albums with pictures of the hogs he and Diana have shot. Ricky tries to hit a pig in its ear. "Shoot them in the ear and they'll drop like a sack of flour. Of if they're running away from you, shoot 'em in the butt." Some of these hogs are more than 5 feet long and weigh hundreds of pounds. He used to give the hogs to his neighbors until they got tired of eating them. He hunts a lot. "On a 30-day month I'll hunt 25 days."

He says hogs are tough. "A wild pig will eat anything but a caliche rock to survive." A pig can have 3 liters a year. The normal life span is 8 years. "One male and one female and their offspring can be responsible for 24,000 pigs in 8 years." Ricky has not been hurt. "Knock on wood and praise the Lord, not yet."



## At The Corral Gate



Enola Gay

It's been a busy December and I've had to lock up the gate and go to town more often than usual! A rare Reilly Springs Jamboree/Dance was held in town and I was privileged to be part of the Christmas fun and music! Classic country music ruled the evening as Roger Reed and the Sunshine Band's Gary Jones and Bill Langley kept the couples dancing. Guest singers Shanna Carter and Janet Reed performed favorite Christmas songs, Don Woods Jr. delivered traditional and redneck country, and Enola Gay sang the blues. There was also more than a little comedy and laughter. Center Director Karon Weatherman and volunteer Jan Massey spread good cheer with punch and cookies amid the beautiful holiday decorations throughout the center.



Roger Reed and Enola Gay present Senior Center Director Karon Weatherman with a building fund donation of \$450 from the Christmas Jamboree Dance

About forty persons attended the dance and others stopped by with checks to donate to the cause. At the end of the evening, the Jamboree was able to donate \$450 to further the plans for building a more spacious building to better serve the needs of the Senior Citizen community in Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County.

Plan to follow the Reilly Springs Jamboree back to their home stage in the New Year, with a country music stage show on the third-Saturday night of every month at the Reilly Springs Community Center, Hopkins County's original music venue. The January 20, 2018 Jamboree will be a Gospel Extravaganza featuring Psalms 100 and Dallas artist Mary Fay Jackson.



Senior Citizens Dance!!



Retiring lawyers Joel Sheffield and Tommy Allison share some humorous memories

Two local lawyers have announced their retirement plans. Joel Sheffield whose office is at 113 Jefferson Street (right next door to this publication's home!) has announced that he will wrap up his final client list in December and move to College Station. Joel is hankering to return to the exciting, busy atmosphere near his alma mater. Before Joel graduated A & M Law School in 1974, his summer job was sweeping up at Craver Brothers Hardware downtown. Local lawyer Johnny Ramey discovered him there and suggested he finish out the summer working in the law office. Joel then joined the Ramey and Allison Law Office the next summer after he made the Bar. His has been largely a transactional law practice during recent years. We will miss Joel and his staff. Tommy Allison plans to continue a small segment of his practice from his home on the lake. He's already sold his building and held a retirement reception. Nell has been his secretary for over 30 years, and she is retiring too. Tommy joined Johnny Ramey at the Jefferson Street offices after he graduated University of Texas in 1965. in the late 60's, when it was Ramey, Ramey and Neal Law Office. Tommy served his country in Viet Nam before beginning his practice. Prior to coming to Sulphur Springs, he served as a briefing lawyer for the Texas Supreme Court. He has many colorful stories about our town and the characters who made up the local leadership back in those days, which he might share with you when he comes into town on Mondays in the New Year.

The Hopkins County Sheriff's Posse has served as an auxiliary of the Sheriff's Department for 30 years. In 2018, the Posse will have a new Captain, Frank Tieman. Frank joined the Posse shortly after he moved to Hopkins County a few years ago and graduated law enforcement academy. A CPA during his career, Frank has been Treasurer for the Posse for a couple of years. He will be sworn in as Captain in January 2018.



Hopkins County Sheriff Lewis Tatum and Sheriff's Posse Captain Lisa Hooten with Frank Tieman, newly appointed Posse Captain for 2018/2019

As I think of the role that the beasts played on the night of the most important birth of humankind, I realize that the gentle, humble beasts were the first to behold Him.



Might we learn a lesson and become more gentle and humble as the Christmas season sheds it's light into our lives? Could we let that new attitude carry into the New Year? Til next week, I'll ponder that and watch for you at the corral gate.



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# Obits



## Sharon Dunn Brown

Memorial services for Sharon Dunn Brown, age 55, of Yantis were conducted at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at Triumph Christian Center with Bro. Kevan Brown officiating. Visitation was at 1:00 p.m., prior to the service at the church. Honorary pallbearers were Mike Comer, Joshua Dunn, Dustin Dunn, David Pool, Kyle Newman, Chad Brown, Blake Weir, Payton Hammons, Ryan Hammons and Colby Suggs. Sharon passed away on Monday, December 4, at her residence. She was born on September 6, 1962 in Commerce, the daughter of W. G. Dunn and Lou Nell Nabors Dunn. She married Brent Brown on July 15, 2017 in Sulphur Springs and he survives. Sharon worked as a bank teller and is a member of Triumph Christian Center. In addition to her husband Brent, she is survived by her mother, Lou Nell Dunn, sons, Chad Brown of Sulphur Springs, Josh Smith of Hawaii, daughters, Angela Robb and husband Michael of Tyler, Rachylle Hammons and husband Russell of Caddo Mills, Chelsea Radney and husband Patrick of Lawton, OK, brother, Michael Dunn and wife Angie

of Sulphur Springs, sisters, Kerry Suggs and husband Joe of Sulphur Springs, Gina Smith and husband Keith of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Ethan and Ellie Robb, Ben and Bri'elle Brown, Payton, Ryan, Laney, Aubree Hammons, Aniston and Lachlan Radney and her sweet dog Fletch. She was preceded in death by her father and one daughter, Chelsea Townsend. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



## Annie Ruth Eaton

Annie Ruth Eaton, age 93, of Mount Vernon, passed away in the late evening hours of Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at Mission Manor Nursing Home, with her beloved daughter by her side. Ruth was born on August 7, 1924 in the Lakeview Community of Franklin County, Texas to the late Sanford "Mellie" Melkigah, Sr. and Addie May Elliott Little. Ruth worked as a switchboard/PBX operator at Laurel Land Funeral Home in Dallas for 23 years.

Ruth was a devoted member of Lake Chapel House of Prayer. Those who ever had the chance to meet her will always remember her sweet spirit and the living testimony she was to her Lord and Savior. Ruth enjoyed sewing and working in her yard but her purest joy came from spending time with her daughter, Kathie, and witnessing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ruth leaves behind a legacy of dedication and love to her daughter and her Lord for all to follow.

Ruth is survived by one daughter, Kathie Lavonne Eaton, of Mount Vernon and by a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and very special friends.

Ruth was also preceded in death by the father of her child, John Arthur Eaton; brothers, Alvis Little, and wife Johnnie Lee, S.M. Little, Jr., and James Little; and sisters, Nettie Nowlin, and husband Raymond, Lera Mauldin, and husband Weldon, Jessie Attaway, and husband B.J., and Elsie France. Funeral services for Annie Ruth Eaton will be held at 1:00 P.M., Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Lake Chapel House of Prayer with Brother Gerald Hood officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Lake Chapel House of Prayer. PO Box 67. Mount Vernon, Texas 75457.



## Wanda Reith

Funeral service for Wanda Reith, age 91, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 2 P.M. on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Interment will take place at Ft. Sam Houston. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Reith passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at Hopkins Place, Sulphur Springs, TX.

Wanda June Tomlinson Reith was born on November 25, 1926 in Oklahoma City, OK to Woody and Leola Tomlinson. She married Richard T. Reith on December 4, 1954 at Ft. Hood Texas, whom preceded her in death on May 5, 1998. Wanda was US Army Veteran and a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX.

She is survived by her children, Rick Reith and wife, Connie of DeSoto, TX, Barbara Rogers and husband, Randy of Greenwood, LA, Sandra Click and husband, Larry of Huntington Beach, CA, Michael Reith and wife, Hui Son of Fresno, CA, Kimberly

Rivers and husband, Jim of Brashear, TX, Jeff Reith and wife, Marla of Hutto, TX; ten grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

Wanda was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brothers, Leo Tomlinson, Elmo Tomlinson and Lloyd Tomlinson; sister, Lavon Crawford.

Memorials can be made to Our Savior Lutheran, 11503 Vance Jackson Rd, San Antonio, TX 78230



## Patsy Ann Gamblin

A Memorial Service for Patsy Ann Gamblin, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at Trinity Harvest Church, 1150 Shannon Road East on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 11:00 AM with Pastor Ray Evers officiating. No visitation has been scheduled. Mrs. Gamblin passed away on Saturday, December 09, 2017 at her home in Sulphur Springs. She was born on July 14, 1935 to Horace Hart and Grace Williamson Hart in Plainview, TX. Mrs. Gamblin was a homemaker. She had also worked at Lou Nells, K-Bobs and as an aide at Austin Elementary school. She was a member of the Trinity Harvest Church in Sulphur Springs.

Survivors include: her husband, Gayle Gamblin; grandchildren, Nicole Lowrance of Sulphur Springs and Remy Gedrose of Georgia; uncle, Raymond Hart of Tennessee.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Trish Gamblin; son, Gregory Debs Gamblin; sister, Mary Jo Hart; niece, Lori Brzeski.



## Donald Wayne Gumm

Memorial service for Donald Wayne Gumm, age 57, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Triumph Christian Center, Sulphur Springs with Judge Robert Newsom officiating. Mr. Gumm passed away on Friday, December 8, 2017 in Dallas, Texas.

Donald Wayne Gumm was born on March 7, 1960 to Don Willard Gumm and Mary Edwards Blankenship. Donald served in the US Army from 1979 to 1983. He married Margaret Mitchell on July 30, 2006 in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He was the owner of Advanta Air-conditioning services.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Gumm; sons, Jason Wayne Gumm and wife, Jessica of Centerville, Ohio, Brandon Scott Gumm and wife, Courtney of Milwaukee, WI; daughters, Crystol Lockwood and husband, Joshua, Dejah Quinn of Shawnee, OK; son, Quinton Ewalt and wife, Amber of Pottsboro, Texas; grandchildren, Lilly Ann Gumm, Addison Joyce-Cooper Gumm, Michael Arrington, Shane Woodfin, Jady Quinn, Josiah Quinn, Tucker Ewalt, Caleb Ewalt and Wyatt Ewalt; mother, Mary Blankenship of Glendale, AZ; sister, Jackie Groves and husband, Bill of Glendale, AZ; sister-in-law, Leanna Stroup; niece, Melissa Stroup; nephew, Randall Stroup.

Donald was preceded in death by his father and brother, Karl Stroup.

Memorials can be made to the Don Gumm Memorial Fund in care of Margaret Gumm.

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



# THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Anchored in Galveston...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Surely, the passing of 75 years knocks the edges from the fib of a 15-year-old, as well as a military doctor who ignored height and weight requirements for a youngster on his second try to join the US Navy.

Eddie Janek, reared by his widowed mother during the Depression in West, TX, stood 5'1" and weighed 98 pounds. He had "enlisted" several months earlier, but when authorities learned he was underage, he was sent home.

Soon, though, he hopped a train to Galveston--his home for the past 75 years. There, he "re-upped," this time bolstered by "doctored" Catholic confirmation records. During four years in the Pacific, he landed at both Leyte and Peleliu, where he saw death "up close." He distinguished himself during both WWII and the Korean War....

\*\*\*\*\*

He has long treasured a sealed, glass-covered box of Presidential Unit Citations, and other medals from the US, Philippines and Korea. Presumably lost when Hurricane Ike ravaged the first floor of his home in 2008, his prized awards were returned a few weeks later.

Texas A&M students, helping with storm clean-up, found the muddied box across the bay from Janek's home. They reported it to President R. Bowen Loftin, who then notified Janek of the students' undamaged "find."

A man whose ever-present faith and unbounded optimism share a double harness, Janek credits many folks who have helped him along the way....

First and foremost was his beloved wife Doris, who was claimed by Alzheimer's disease in January,

2015--14 years after diagnosis. Comatose for more than seven years, Doris had Eddie at her side almost 24/7.

He left her from time to time to attend mass, but only when a trusted person could maintain the vigil.

He's "Mr. Eddie" to most Galvestonians, and he's clearly beloved on the island. Eddie has long been a colorful community figure. He coached youth baseball for 34 years and served 16 years as a County Commissioner until Doris' disease took hold. "When citizens called his office, he didn't invite them to come to the courthouse, he drove out to their place," a friend said....

\*\*\*\*\*

Janek has survived two wars, a stroke and a heart overhaul. He has also gotten hit by trains and caught under barges. Not until military service did he have access to toothbrushes, telephones and bathrooms. (Returning

home a second time would have meant cotton-pickin', and he "didn't 'cotton' to that!")

Much has changed. Seemingly a "kid again," he recently made a tandem jump from an airplane, tumbling (with a professional) from 12,000 feet above his beloved Galveston Island. He made the jump on his 90th birthday. (Helping him celebrate was his friend, State Senator Larry Taylor, who joined him for the jump.) "I'll jump again on my birthdays as long as I can walk," Janek beamed. His three sons and their wives fear that he'll do just that, and his six grandchildren

are hoping he will....

\*\*\*\*\*

Janek, who dutifully looks after his roses, keeps his 1964 (and a half) Ford Mustang convertible in spic-and-span condition. He drives it from time to time, and before you ask, it is indeed red.

Attending a social event recently, he spotted a group of women "in their 60s."

Interrupting, he said, "Ladies, I'm a widower, and I'm lonely. Do any of you have mothers or grandmothers who might go out with me?"

He claims three of them quickly said they weren't busy....

\*\*\*\*\*

His honors continue to stack up.

When the state authorized high school graduation for WWII veterans, he crossed the stage with youngsters nearly 70 years younger. Recently, county commissioners renamed what was formerly the West County Annex Building in Janek's honor. Now, they're building a Galveston sports complex spanning several city blocks. Come April, they'll name it for Eddie Janek, who loves his community as much as it loves him.

As you might expect, Janek claims his cup continues to "runneth over."...

## WORD SEARCH

H Y E P Y L L O H L M W C G N  
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