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VOL. 18 ISSUE 930, December 28, 2017

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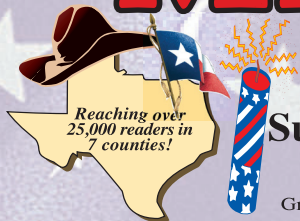
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Trombonist selected for national competition



Colton Wilson

“Colton is a wonderful student that has distinguished himself as a great musician through work ethic and talent. It is great to see him benefit from all of his hard work.”

Jason R. Smith,
NLHS associate band director

audition recording and learning how to perform in a competitive environment is invaluable for musicians of any age or performance level. The ever-growing number of entries received is evidence that the National Solo Competition continues to be one of the workshop’s most exciting and anticipated events. In addition to the National Solo Competition, there is the National Jazz Solo Competition, the National Jazz Ensemble Competition and the National Trombone Quartet Competition.

NLHS Associate Band Director Jason R. Smith said, “Colton is a wonderful student that has distinguished himself as a great musician through work ethic and talent. It is great to see him benefit from all of his hard work. Colton is the grandson of Joy and Jim Wilson of Sulphur Springs and Peggy Wilson of Paris.

STAFF REPORTS

editor@theparis-news.com
North Lamar High School (Paris, Texas) band student, Colton Wilson, has been selected as a finalist in The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own” National Trombone Soloist Competition hosted by the American Trombone Workshop. He is in the top three of the nation. He will compete March 7-10 at Brucker Hall, The U.S. Army Band’s headquarters and performance center, located on historic Fort Meyer in Arlington, Virginia. Each year the ATW hosts its Na-

tional Solo Competition giving students and young professional trombonists the opportunity to compete against their peers as well as others from around the world. During the process, recordings are sent to ATW for review in November. From this semi final round, up to three entrants per division are invited to compete in an open public recital of judges. The judges select winners and provide valuable comments to the competitors. The experience gained through making a quality



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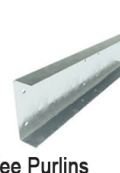
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It's been about ten years since I began writing "At the Corral Gate" for this publication, and that has remained a big thrill! The weekly article allows me to reach out to the "Western side" of readers as well as to satisfy myself that the glorious West lives on. I grew up in the 1950's when Roy Rogers and Dale Evans (and Trigger, too!) through their music, movies and TV appearances had a part in shaping our tastes and values as we grew toward adulthood. We carry that with us, and I'm still a sucker for a well-worn hat and boots and a dusty dance floor energized by steel guitar and fiddle. But today I want to tell you about another side of my life which is local radio.

I'm a radio announcer at KSST 1230AM in Sulphur Springs, Texas, and have been for 28 years. For most of that time, I have been host of the Morning Show from 6-9am, weekdays with a promotional phrase of "Start your Day with Enola Gay". When I started in this line of work, I spent a couple of years working at the old KDXE in Sulphur Springs and at KBUS in Paris doing sales. I went to work at KSST in the summer of 1989, hired by radio pioneer Bill Bradford who was also a former military pilot. I understand that I was most likely hired because of my name on the application, "Enola Gay". That was also the name of the historic B-52 superfortress which dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima in August 1945, effectively ending WW II. Although I had no on-air experience, I was put on the air the next day and so began attendance in the hands-on school of broadcasting. This effective and lively training had prepared many others before me, including a passel of high-schoolers during the KSST Radio Workshop years. Out of Radio Workshop have come business and industry leaders, ministers, doctors, lawyers and politicians, but very few career-radio people. I guess that places me among the group who didn't progress any further. That's because I happen to love what I do.

In the first years, I used to say I got paid to play records, talk on the phone and drink coffee. Oh, and do a little advertising sales, too. Although that was basically true, it also involved helping take care of "the listener", a collective term for the local population which makes use of a station as a source of news, weather, information, entertainment and at times, comfort. It's actually a very personal kind of business. After a bit, you realize your voice and presence is part of the listeners' daily routine, marking when they usually shave or put their shoes on, or get the kids out for the schoolbus. Mornings shared this way eventually become pleasant memories. If you are honest and reliable, then your word becomes truth for them, and in turn, a responsibility you wisely handle with care. It took me awhile, but after the first ten years or so and I was in my mid-forties, I had come to realize that I was as much a part of the listeners' lives as they were of mine, and so it felt like family. I've never wanted to move on or leave that embrace. The listeners allowed me to share on the air their milestone anniversaries, vacation memories and joys in the accomplishments of kids and grandkids. Radio was personal, and just about everybody was tuned in daily! I had other duties too, including getting the obituaries ready for the noon news. A funeral home would call and dictate the details and I would fill out the blanks by hand on a long form, then hurry to get it typed for a live read. Back then, there were four phone lines in almost constant use. Today, most news is received through e-mail while the phones rarely ring more than a few times a day. From back in the days of postal mail, I still treasure the cooking recipes given to me by listeners who liked to share the things they loved. Often recipes would be included in a chatty letter or delivered in person along with a homemade cake or pie. This was great interaction, but today would be described as old-school.

Change is inevitable and local radio has changed everywhere for everyone. Back in the days before widespread cell phone and internet use, the radio was a handy means of quick communication. In reporting news, we depended on the Associated Press, our own news director and local input from listeners. From my chair in the control room with both a telephone and a microphone within arm's reach, I was allowed to be accessible. With the approval of the boss, I've informed listeners of blockages and slowdowns on the Interstate, helped owners locate strayed livestock and lost dogs, and a couple of times, assisted in community-wide searches for persons who had become lost. Those phone calls from listeners were sometimes colorful and interesting, and through them I got to share fun things like blimp sightings and celebrity sightings, the best places to pick blackberries or plums or to catch fish, and when migrating geese were heard high overhead heading north or south. Valuable storm-related listener reports have played a crucial role in diverting drivers from areas with fallen lines or trees, where water was rising over the roadway, and in relaying assistance for stranded motorists. I still feel that the work of any caring, attentive radio host has the potential to be helpful in countless moments, large and small, in the daily lives of people who depend on the radio. Being in that favored position has been of utmost importance and satisfaction to me over my career.

During those years, I also got to participate in a few "celebrity" events like being guest talent on several Jerry Lewis Telethons with Tyler TV weatherman Mark Skirto, and as a presenter for a number of years at the Academy of Western Artists annual awards ceremonies in Ft Worth. For involvement in music, I received the AWA DJ of the Year award in 2005 and was inducted into the Cowtown Society Western Swing Hall of Fame in 2012. For involvement in the local community, I received the Yantis Mason's Community Builder award in 2013, and both the Hopkins County Woman of the Year award and the Community Pride Award at the Chamber of Commerce banquet in 2011. During these years I often sang with a country band and later performed light jazz and pop with an accompanist.

Let me go back now to some of the old-school ways we used to do things in local radio. Instead of today's easy-breezy digital recording, we had a reel-to-reel recorder in the production room, and when recording your advertiser's commercials, any errors or mis-pronounced words have to be spliced or cut out with a special little knife, and patched with special adhesive splicing tape. Recording just one 30-second commercial could take up to an hour, especially if you were being creative with voices or sounds effects. You just listened to determine the sounds you wanted to keep and the sounds you didn't, far more rudimentary than today's visible recording file. Of course, you wanted a meticulous splice with no little "pop" sound where you'd patched the tape.

KSST had the first computerized control room I'd seen, and the computer took up an entire wall. "Mother" was about twelve feet long and seven feet tall. This computer drove the music on large reels as well as the commercial carts for one day's programming, and it had stop tones for joining networks. "Mother" is now in the KSST/Channel 18 TV museum which you ought to visit sometime.

As a rule, radio announcers worked three-hour shifts between 4:30am and 12 midnight. Since KSST had no such thing as auto-pilot yet, a real live person was required during every shift, so there was a number of employees. I first had the 9-11am slot, and came back on from 1-4 in the afternoons. After a few years, the early-morning shift came open, and I asked for it. I was the first female employee to be given the responsibility of unlocking the building, turning on the transmitter and signing on each morning, six days a week. That's when we turned on the transmitter prior to 4:30am, and shut it down at midnight. I had a couple of scares while working alone in the building. While recording, I saw someone dressed in all white come silently behind me into the production room, then saw them leave. Another time I was on the air, again it was early morning, and out of the corner of my eye, this image in white rushed from the front entrance into Bradford's office. I worked awhile longer, thinking the boss had come in super early. Later when I checked, no one had been there except me. I brought these sightings up to my program director, and he said it might be "Don" meaning the late Don Scrimsher, a long-time announcer and host of the 1230 Club. I still wonder about that.

During the 1970's the day the radio station was stolen made an interesting true story. A couple of former employees broke in, cut the wires on every piece of equipment and loaded it all into a trailer parked at the back door of the station. The transmitter and other equipment made a heavy load. The truck bogged down into the soft ground, and realizing they were in a fix, they departed on foot. When Don Scrimsher arrived at 4:30am to open up, he found an empty studio and alerted Bradford. Being a kind of genius, Bradford used his daughter Kelley's new 8-track/record player and other items on hand and got the station back on the air in a partial sense by noon. The dozens of small dairies whose barns all had radios tuned to KSST reported that their cows gave little milk due to dead air instead of the music they were accustomed to during milking time. Also, the thieves did prison time. Another announcer, the late Dick Caldwell, the "voice of the Wildcats" was on the noon board shift on November 22, 1963. Bradford was in Dallas awaiting the press conference luncheon for President Kennedy, and Dick was going to put the call on the air live. The AP, or Associated Press machine suddenly came to life printing out something like "Urgent Bulletin for Immediate Broadcast...the President has been shot". Dick tore it off the machine and after a moment's hesitation, went to the microphone and did what he had been trained to do. He continued making those announcements until Bradford finally called in and Dick broke the news to him, too. I lived through a likewise historic moment. During my Morning Show on September 11, 2001 at about 8:50am, the ABC network assumed control of our airwaves. They announced the breaking news of the attack on the Twin Towers, continuing non-stop as details trickled in. We all stared at the TV screen realizing we were in the grip of a national, even global emergency. Since then, the experience continues to impress me how professionally the news reporters and announcers handled what was most likely their first time, too, for something like that. They were well-trained and delivered their reports in a reputable, sound and trustworthy manner.

I like helping others, and it's gratifying to find out when this happens through the radio. Back in the 1990's, a lengthy ice storm paralyzed NE Texas. A couple were trapped in their home in Hopkins County Precinct Four by trees across their road and icy conditions. They had a fireplace and could burn wood for heat, but had no electrical power and no phone service. They heard the news by listening to KSST in their pickup, and that way kept up with the weather situation. After about three days when they were able to make it out, they came by the radio station to thank me personally for not just news and weather but companionship, entertainment and caring concern during those dark days. That may be old-school, but it illustrates the power of local radio.

Though I am no longer live with listener reports, my recorded Morning Shows sound live, I am told. I feel that my work is still personal, friendly and tailored for the listener, a little like the Old Farmer's Almanac slogan, "Useful, with a pleasant degree of humor". If you're not already a KSST listener, please tune in to 1230 AM from 6-9 mornings, and start your day with Enola Gay, or listen anywhere in the world at ksstradio.com! For Sulphur Springs and Como residents, catch the show on Cable Channel 18 TV and on Cable Channel 2.

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Obits



Darrell W. Harris

Graveside services for Darrell W. Harris, age 71, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 30, 2017 at Forest Academy Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 29, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Darrell passed away on Monday, December 25, 2017 at Rock Creek Health and Rehab.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Danna Rubi Mesinas

Danna Rubi Mesinas, age 11 of Winnsboro, passed away on Friday, December 22nd, 2017 in Winnsboro. She was born on March 28th, 2006 in Mount Pleasant to Nicolas Mesinas and Ruby Navarro. She was a student at Memorial Middle School and was deeply loved by her teachers and fellow students.

She is survived by her mother, Rubi Navarro; father, Nicolas Mesinas; grandmother, Paullete Craddock and sister, Elya Jaimes. Visitation will be held on Thursday, December 28th, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, December 29th, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home at 1:00 pm, Mr. Bobby Davidson conducting, interment will follow at Smyrna Cemetery in Winnsboro.



Gerald "Jerry" Glen Callan

Graveside funeral services for Gerald "Jerry" Glen Callan, age 92, of Sulphur Springs, were scheduled for 12:00pm on Wednesday, December 27, 2017, at Cumby Cemetery with Pastor Deidre Maples officiating and Jim Peugh, Keith Hale, Tanner Smith, Billy Mason, Shane Russom, and Ronny Moreland serving as pallbearers. A visitation was held from 10:00 am to 11:40 am prior to the service at Tapp Funeral Home.

Jerry Callan was born in Killeen, TX on November 7, 1925, the son of C.C. and Cleo Callan. He married Twihla Yvonne Hale in Sulphur Springs on May 30, 1947 and she preceded him in death in 2006. He was a retired dairyman and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cumby. Mr. Callan served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He passed away Saturday, December 23, 2017 at Oak Manor Nursing Home in Commerce.

Survivors include, Daughters: Kay Moreland and husband Ronny of Cumby, and Martha Messer and husband Mark of Augusta,

KS; seven grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; seven great-great grandchildren and brother: Billy Parmer.

He was preceded in death by his wife; parents; daughters: Jeannie Sue Callan and Deborah Callan

Jeanne Suzette Romack Vaughn

Jeanne Suzette Romack Vaughn passed away during the early morning hours of Sunday, Christmas Eve, at Senior Suite Care and Rehab in Emory. Jeanne was born in Dallas, on Sept. 11, 1952, to James Elbert and Maureen Patricia Everitt Romack. During her working career, she was employed on the production line with a communication company.

Survivors include: Son: Robby Stibbens (Deanna) of Waxahachie, Daughters: Suzette Bridges of Mesquite; and, Hope Nation (Casey) of Quinlan, Mother: Maureen Romack of Austin, Sister: Jan Romack Turley of Princeton, Brother: James Romack (Carrie) of Austin, Grandchildren: Casey Stibbens; Jordan Burdick; Tristin Stibbens; Brittany Stibbens; and Ashlyn Nation, Great-granddaughter: Corey, Special Nephews and Nieces and other friends, Preceded by: Father; and oldest Sister, Jae Romack.

There is no service planned at this time. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Randal Lawrence Bouldin

Randal Lawrence Bouldin passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2017 at a Dallas hospital. He was born July 17, 1946 just outside the Sulphur Springs city limits to Cora Lee (Hughes) Bouldin and Lawrence Truman Bouldin, the third of three children. Randal was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by a sister Nina Gregg and husband Dan of Houston, a brother Ronnie Bouldin and wife Peggy of Flint, TX, three nephews, Pitney Gregg, Brian Bouldin, and Brad Bouldin.

Randal was a 1964 graduate of Sulphur Springs High School. After high school he attended East Texas State University in Commerce for about a year before joining the Marines. After serving two tours of duty in Viet Nam and being discharged he returned to East Texas State University and completed his degree. Randal held several jobs in his working career with the most time being spent at E-Systems in Greenville, TX.

West Oaks Funeral Home of Sulphur Springs is in charge of the arrangements. Visitation will be at 1:00pm Saturday, December 30th and service will follow at 2:00pm Saturday at West Oaks with Dr. James Henry officiating. Pallbearers will be Pitney Gregg, Brian Bouldin, Brad Bouldin, W.R. Clayton, Joe Dan Moss, and Benny Johnson.

Interment with military honors by the Hopkins County Military Coalition will be in the Sulphur Springs City Cemetery following the service. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to a charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral home.



Shirley Ann Schuster

Funeral services for Shirley Ann Schuster, age 80, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 3:00 p.m., Friday, December 29, 2017 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Interment will follow at City Cemetery. Visitation will be held at 2:00 p.m., one hour prior to service, at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Shirley passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2017 at her residence.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Marcell L. Ward Stroud

Marcell L. Ward Stroud, age 90, of Sulphur Springs passed away at Carriage House Manor on Tuesday, December 26, 2017.

Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.



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Answers On Pg. 2

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Champions on Parade...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Others may choose to “paint the town red,” but not Houston. There, they lean heavily toward another hue. In the bayou city, orange paint is in high demand. Since their Astros won the World Series, some humans--as well as a few animals--sport dyed orange hair. And, the city’s nighttime glow seems Sunk-

ist. We were in H-Town on parade day, when the Astros waved from firetrucks to an estimated half-million fans jamming the streets to honor their heroes’ first-ever world championship. We viewed it on our hotel TV, noting “all things orange” as a common theme.

Except for the parade and an unusual convention in Galveston, we’d have motored down to the cruise port. However, Galveston--a city of some 50,000--was engulfed by the nation’s largest bike rally, and I don’t mean Schwinn. The annual four-day event attracts some 250,000 motorcyclists; there was no room at any inn. Such were the rates that at choice hotels, the price of a night’s sleep was equal to half of our fare for two on a five-night

cruise. The former offered no free breakfasts. The cruise, however, featured 15 meals and on-board entertainment at no additional charge, not to mention a visit to beautiful Caribbean waters....

 This is not to say there wasn’t “free” entertainment in Galveston. The historic city is replete with many points of interest. Plus, folks into “people watching” could pretty much see whatever, particularly if they were interested in the ‘cycles, which abounded in all sizes and types. Some were painted in flaming orange, and, predictably, the paint seemed fresh. Baseballs hanging from handlebars were another giveaway.

With six bikers to every Galveston resident, it’s little wonder that conversations occurred mostly indoors for 100 hours or so. “Vroom-vrooms” echoed throughout the city, and out to sea.

Galvestonians feel, in general, that the cyclists are a thoughtful, law-abiding and courteous group of conventioners who are welcomed back each year. After we boarded Carnival’s Valor, we wondered how the depart-

ing vessel’s whistle could be heard above all the “vroom-vrooms.”

Maybe it was orchestrated, but there seemed to be a mass silencing of the cycles as the ship’s whistle signaled our departure....

 Cruising, we’ve long believed, provides a respite; most “land-lubbing” concerns are left behind. We learned on this cruise, however, that one does well to remember “what day it is.”

For example, we forgot to “fall back” from daylight saving time. We filled out our “breakfast card” menu, asking for 8:30 a.m. room service delivery on Sunday.

At 9:20, my body ached for coffee, and I thought I’d caught Carnival in a minor mistake. (After 20 years of cruising, we’ve noted few miscues, and even those have been miniscule.) Just as I called room service to complain that our breakfast was an hour late, there was a knock at the door. The knock meant, of course, that our ON TIME breakfast had arrived....

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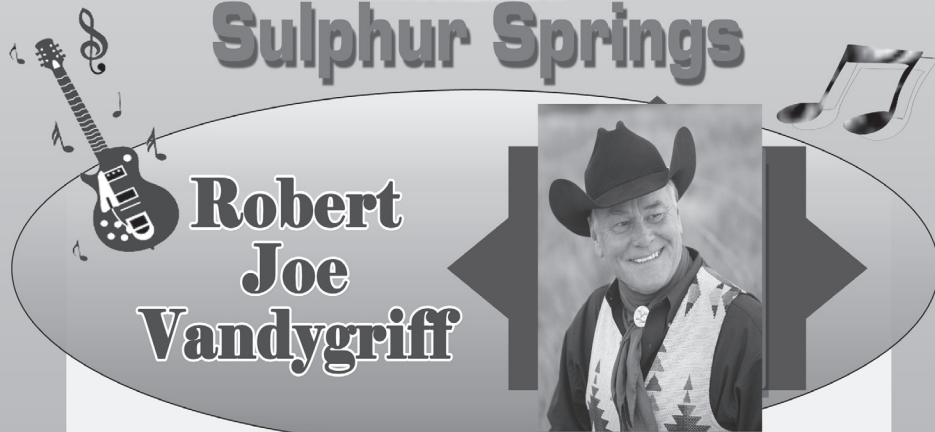
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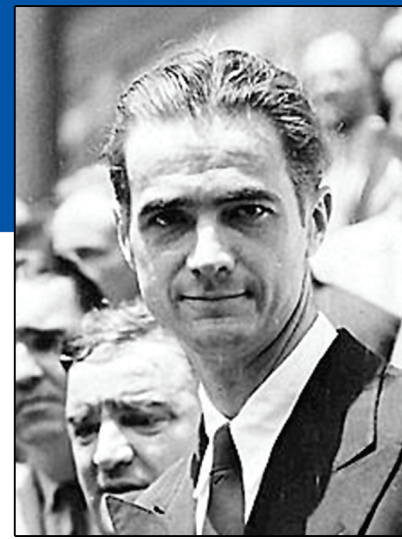
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FAMOUS TEXANS

Howard Hughes

American Businessman, investor, pilot, film director, and philanthropist



Howard Robard Hughes Jr. (December 24, 1905 – April 5, 1976) was an American businessman, investor, pilot, film director, and philanthropist, known during his lifetime as one of the most financially successful individuals in the world. He first made a name for himself as a film producer, and then became an influential figure in the aviation industry. Later in life, he became known for his eccentric behavior and reclusive lifestyle—oddsities that were caused in part by a worsening obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and chronic pain from a plane crash.

As a maverick film tycoon, Hughes gained prominence in Hollywood beginning in the late 1920s, when he produced big-budget and often controversial films like *The Racket* (1928), *Hell's Angels* (1930), and *Scarface* (1932). Later he controlled the RKO film studio.

Hughes formed the Hughes Aircraft Company in 1932, hiring numerous engineers and designers. He spent the rest of the 1930s setting multiple world air speed records and building the Hughes H-1 Racer and H-4 Hercules (the Spruce Goose). He acquired and expanded Trans World Airlines and later acquired Air West, renaming it Hughes Airwest. Hughes was included in *Flying Magazine's* list of the 51 Heroes of Aviation, ranked at No. 25. Today, his legacy is maintained through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Early years

The birthplace of Howard Hughes is recorded as either Humble or Houston, Texas. The date remains uncertain due to conflicting dates from various sources. He repeatedly claimed that his birthday was on Christmas Eve. A 1941 affidavit birth certificate of Hughes that was signed by his aunt Annette Gano Lummis and Estelle Boughton Sharp states that he was born on December 24, 1905, in Harris County, Texas. However, his certificate of baptism recorded on October 7, 1906, in the parish register of St. John's Episcopal Church in Keokuk, Iowa, listed his birth as September 24, 1905 without any reference to the place of birth.

Hughes was the son of Allene Stone Gano and Howard R. Hughes Sr., a successful inventor and businessman from Missouri. He was of English, and some French Huguenot, ancestry, and was a descendant of John Gano, a minister who allegedly baptized George Washington. His father had patented the two-cone roller bit, which allowed rotary drilling for petroleum in previously inaccessible places. The senior Hughes made the shrewd and lucrative decision to commercialize the invention by leasing the bits instead of selling them, and founded the Hughes Tool Company in 1909. Hughes' uncle was the famed novelist, screenwriter, and film director Rupert Hughes.

At a young age, Hughes demonstrated interest in science and technology. In particular, he had great engineering aptitude and built Houston's first "wireless" radio transmitter at age 11. He went on to be one of the first licensed ham radio operators in Houston, having the assigned callsign W5CY (originally 5CY). At 12, Hughes was photographed in the local newspaper, identified as being the first boy in Houston to have a "motorized" bicycle, which he had built from parts from his father's steam engine. He was an indifferent student, with a liking for mathematics, flying, and mechanics. He took his first flying lesson at 14, and later attended math and aeronautical engineering courses at Caltech. The red brick house where Hughes lived as a teenager at 3921 Yoakum St., Houston today serves as the headquarters of the Theology Department of the University of St. Thomas.

His mother Allene died in March 1922 from complications of an ectopic pregnancy. Howard Hughes Sr. died of a heart attack in 1924. Their deaths apparently inspired Hughes to include the creation of a medical research laboratory in the will that he signed in 1925 at age 19. Howard Sr.'s will had not been updated since Allene's death, and Hughes inherited 75% of the family fortune. On his 19th birthday, Hughes was declared an emancipated minor, enabling him to take full control of his life.

From a young age, Hughes was an excellent and enthusiastic golfer. He often scored near par figures and played the game to a three handicap during his twenties. He played frequently with top players, including Gene Sarazen. Hughes rarely played competitively and gradually gave up his passion for the sport to pursue other interests.

Hughes withdrew from Rice University shortly after his father's death. On June 1, 1925, he married Ella Botts Rice, daughter of David Rice and Martha Lawson Botts of Houston. They moved to Los Angeles, where he hoped to make a name for himself as a filmmaker.

Business Career

Hughes enjoyed a highly successful business career beyond engineering, aviation, and filmmaking, though many of his career endeavors involved varying entrepreneurial roles. The Summa Corporation was the name adopted for the business interests of Howard Hughes after he sold the tool division of Hughes Tool Company in 1972. The company serves as the principal holding company for Hughes' business ventures and investments. It is primarily involved in aerospace and defense, electronics, mass media, manufacturing, and hospitality industries, but has maintained a strong presence in a wide variety of industries including real estate, petroleum drilling and oilfield services, consulting, entertainment, and engineering. Much of his fortune was later used for philanthropic causes, notably towards health care and medical research. During the 1940s to the late 1950s, the Hughes Tool Company ventured into the film industry when it obtained partial ownership of the RKO companies which included RKO Pictures, RKO Studios, a chain of movie theaters known as RKO Theatres and a network of radio stations known as the RKO Radio Network.

Round-the-World Flight

On July 14, 1938, Hughes set another record by completing a flight around the world in just 91 hours (3 days, 19 hours, 17 minutes), beating the previous record set in 1933 by Wiley Post in a single engine Lockheed Vega by almost four days. Hughes returned home ahead of photographs of his flight. Taking off from New York City, Hughes continued to Paris, Moscow, Omsk, Yakutsk, Fairbanks, Minneapolis, then returning to New York City. For this flight he flew a Lockheed 14 Super Electra (NX18973, a twin-engine transport with a four-man crew) fitted with the latest radio and navigational equipment. Hughes wanted the flight to be a triumph of American aviation technology, illustrating that safe, long-distance air travel was possible. Albert Lodwick of Mystic, Iowa provided organizational skills as the flight operations manager. While he had previously been relatively obscure despite his wealth, being better known for dating Katharine Hepburn, New York City now gave Hughes a ticker-tape parade in the Canyon of Heroes. In 1938, the William P. Hobby Airport in Houston, Texas—known at the time as Houston Municipal Airport—was renamed after Hughes, but the name was changed back after people objected to naming the airport after a living person. Hughes also had a role in the design and financing of both the Boeing 307 Stratoliner and Lockheed L-049 Constellation.

He received many awards as an aviator, including the Harmon Trophy in 1936 and 1938, the Collier Trophy and the Bibesco Cup of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale in 1938, the Octave Chanute Award in 1940, and a special Congressional Gold Medal in 1939 "in recognition of the achievements of Howard Hughes in advancing the science of aviation and thus bringing great credit to his country throughout the world". According to his obituary in the *New York Times*, Hughes never bothered to come to Washington to pick up the Congressional Gold Medal, which was eventually mailed to him.

Death

Hughes was reported to have died on April 5, 1976, at 1:27 p.m. on board an aircraft owned by Robert Graf and piloted by Jeff Abrams. He was en route from his penthouse at the Acapulco Fairmont Princess Hotel in Mexico to the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. Other accounts indicate that he died on the flight from Freeport, Grand Bahama, to Houston.

After receiving a call, his senior counsel, Frank P. Morse, ordered his staff to get his body on a plane and return him to the United States. It was common that foreign countries would hold a corpse as ransom so that an estate could not be settled. Morse ordered the pilots to announce Hughes' death once they entered U.S. airspace.

His reclusiveness and possible drug use made him practically unrecognizable. His hair, beard, fingernails, and toenails were long—his tall 6 ft 4 in (193 cm) frame now weighed barely 90 pounds (41 kg), and the FBI had to use fingerprints to conclusively identify the body. Howard Hughes' alias, John T. Conover, was used when his body arrived at a morgue in Houston on the day of his death.

A subsequent autopsy recorded kidney failure as the cause of death. Hughes was in extremely poor physical condition at the time of his death. He suffered from malnutrition. While his kidneys were damaged, his other internal organs, including his brain, were deemed perfectly healthy. X-rays revealed five broken-off hypodermic needles in the flesh of his arms. To inject codeine into his muscles, Hughes had used glass syringes with metal needles that easily became detached.

Hughes is buried next to his parents at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston, Texas.

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