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VOL. 19 ISSUE 931, January 4, 2018

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Joy Wilson



At The Corral Gate



COWBOY PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, we pause at this time, mindful of the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. We ask, Lord, that you will be with us in the arena of life.

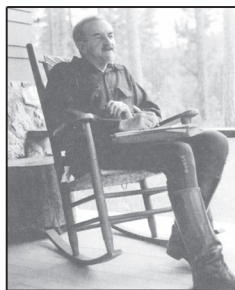
We as cowboys do not ask for special favors. We don't ask to draw around the chute fighting horse, the steer that won't lay, or to never break the barrier.

We don't even ask for all daylight runs.

We do ask Lord, that you will help us live our lives here on earth as cowboys, in such a manner, that when we make that last inevitable ride, to the country up there, where the grass grows lush, green, and stirrup high, and the water runs cool, clear, and deep, that you'll take us by the hand and say -

"Welcome to Heaven cowboy, your entry fees are paid."

This poem was written by Charles "Badger" Clark in 1883. It is read at Rodeo performances all over the country, and it's language and sentiment still ring true today among cowboy folk everywhere.

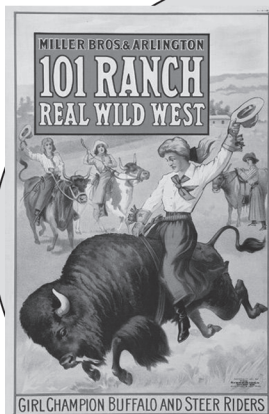


Charles "Badger" Clark
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Poster From 101 Ranch



Poster From 101 Ranch



Medal for 101 Ranch
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Cowboy Dan Dix from
Ranch 101 in the 1920s

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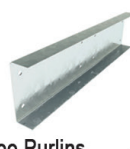
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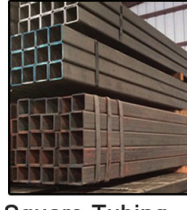
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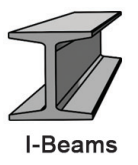
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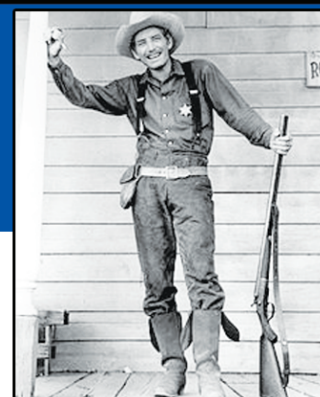
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FAMOUS TEXANS

Morgan Woodward

American Actor In Several Westerns



Morgan Woodward (born September 16, 1925, in Fort Worth, Texas) is an American actor.

He is probably best known for his recurring role on the soap opera Dallas as Marvin "Punk" Anderson. He also played the silent, sunglasses-wearing "man with no eyes", Boss Godfrey (the Walking Boss) in Cool Hand Luke (1967), and has the most guest appearances on Gunsmoke, according to "Gunsmoke" by Barabas.

The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp

One of Woodward's longest television roles was in forty-two episodes between 1958 and 1961 in the ABC television series The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp, as the deputy/sidekick "Shotgun" Gibbs. The series stars Hugh O'Brian. In that series, Woodward played a tall, cantankerous, shotgun-toting backwoodsman who eventually became the trusted deputy of lawman Wyatt Earp in his days as a Kansas and later Arizona lawman. Several episodes have comedy scenes about Gibbs and his beloved and supposedly highly intelligent mule, Roscoe. Though often overshadowed by the cool menace of Douglas Fowley's Doc Holliday, Woodward portrayed Gibbs as a solid, trustworthy, and more pragmatic partner to Earp, making Gibbs a character who, though ostensibly rough around the edges, would gradually come to share many of the qualities demonstrated over the years by another trusted television deputy, Ken Curtis' world-weary Festus Haggen on Gunsmoke, who like Shotgun Gibbs also rode a mule. He also made multiple guest appearances on Wagon Train between 1958 and 1965.

Star Trek

Woodward guest starred in two different episodes of the original series of Star Trek as two different characters. In the first-season episode "Dagger of the Mind" (1966), Woodward plays Dr. Simon van Gelder, a deputy director of a facility for the criminally insane. Van Gelder himself becomes a victim of these experiments and is confined as one of the patients. Escaping to the orbiting USS Enterprise, the deranged and incoherent (due to his condition) Van Gelder eventually recovers enough to be able to divulge the nefarious goings-on at the hospital. (This is with the aid of Mr. Spock's "mind meld", which is used for the first time in this episode.)

In articles in the magazines Starlog and Entertainment Weekly, Woodward called the role of Dr. Simon Van Gelder the most physically and emotionally exhausting acting job of his career. Desperate to get out of Westerns and expand his range, he was cast against type for this episode and was so well regarded that he was cast in "The Omega Glory" in the series' second season. Playing Van Gelder did take its toll on his personal life, as he confesses that for three weeks afterwards he was anti-social towards friends and family. He is grateful that this episode opened up whole new opportunities for him.

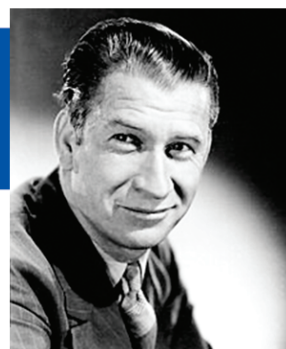
In the second-season episode, "The Omega Glory", Woodward portrays Captain Ron Tracey, the commander of the starship USS Exeter, a sister ship to the USS Enterprise. Tracey is arrested for violating the United Federation of Planets "Prime Directive", but not before taking Captain Kirk and his landing party hostage in an attempt both to avoid arrest and secure more phaser guns needed to defeat a native group hostile to a second group which Tracey now leads. The commander believes until his arrest that he remains infected by a disease that killed the rest of the Exeter crew but for which he seems to have immunity so long as he remains on the planet, and is convinced a serum for this disease will be able to provide virtual immortality for humankind, as planet natives are able to live for hundreds of years disease-free, despite Doctor McCoy later finding that the cause of their longevity is evolutionary and not pathogenic.

Dallas

Woodward was a familiar face on the television drama series Dallas from 1980-1989. His recurring role was Marvin "Punk" Anderson, a friend of Jock Ewing's, and a member of the "cartel" of oil barons. As the series progressed, Woodward's role became that of an advisor to the Ewing sons, and a voice of reason. His character's wife Mavis was played by character actress Alice Hirson. Hirson and Woodward were written out of the show during the 1989 season for budgetary reasons although the characters were mentioned in the following last two seasons of the show.

Chill Wills

American Actor and Singer



EARLY LIFE

Wills was born in Seagoville, Texas on July 18, 1902.

CAREER

Wills was a performer from early childhood, forming and leading the Avalon Boys singing group in the 1930s. After appearing in a few westerns, he disbanded the group in 1938 and struck out on a solo acting career.

One of his more memorable roles was that of the distinctive voice of Francis the Mule in a series of popular films. Wills' deep, rough voice and Western twang were matched to the personality of the cynical, sardonic mule. As was customary at the time, Wills was given no billing for his vocal work, though he was featured prominently on-screen as blustery General Ben Kaye in the fourth entry, Francis Joins the WACS. He provided the deep voice for Stan Laurel's performance of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" in Way Out West (1937), in which the Avalon Boys Quartet appeared.

Jack Kruschen, John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, and Wills in McLintock! (1963)

Wills was cast in numerous serious film roles, including that of Uncle Bawley in Giant (1956), which also features Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean. Wills was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1960 for his role as Davy Crockett's companion "Beekeeper" in the film The Alamo. However, his aggressive campaign for the award was considered tasteless by many, including the film's star/director/producer, John Wayne, who publicly apologized for Wills. Wills' publicity agent, W.S. "Bow-Wow" Wojciechowicz, accepted blame for the ill-advised effort, claiming that Wills had known nothing about it. The Oscar was instead won by Peter Ustinov for his role as Lentulus Batiatus in Spartacus.

Wills was a poker player and a close friend of Benny Binion, the founder of the World Series of Poker and former owner of Binion's Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Wills participated in the first World Series, held in 1970, and is seated in the center of the famous picture with a number of legendary players.

In 1960, Wills appeared on Rory Calhoun's CBS western series, The Texan in the lead in the episode entitled "The Eyes of Captain Wylie". Lane Bradford was cast as Spike Taylor.

From 1961 to 1962, Wills starred in the short-run series Frontier Circus which aired for only one season on CBS. In 1966, Wills was cast in the role of a shady Texas rancher, Jim Ed Love, in the short-lived ABC comedy/western series The Rounders (reprising his role in the 1965 film The Rounders), with co-stars Ron Hayes, Patrick Wayne and Walker Edmiston.


In 1963-64, Wills joined William Lundigan, Walter Brennan and Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., in making appearances on behalf of U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater, the Republican nominee in the campaign against U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1968 Wills refused to support Richard M. Nixon for the presidency and served as master of ceremonies for George C. Wallace, former governor of Alabama, for the California campaign stops in Wallace's presidential campaign. With Walter Brennan, Wills was among the few Hollywood celebrities to endorse Wallace's bid against Nixon and Hubert H. Humphrey.

In 1968, he starred in Gunsmoke episode "A Noose for Dobie Price", where he played Elihu Gorman, a former outlaw who joins forces with Marshal Matt Dillon, played by James Arness, to track down a member of his former gang who has escaped jail. His last role was in 1978 as a janitor in Stubby Pringle's Christmas. Death.


On December 15, 1978, Wills died of cancer in Encino, California, aged 76. He is interred in the Grand View Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendale, California.

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Obits



Bettye Sue "Suzy" Chancellor

Funeral services for Bettye Sue "Suzy" Chancellor, 89, of Austin will be held at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, January 6, 2018 at Myra Wilson Chapel. Interment will follow at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Mrs. Chancellor passed away Friday, December 29, 2017 at St. David's South Austin Medical Center in Austin, TX.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Don J. Bussell

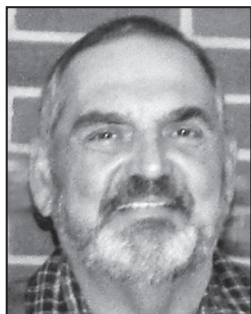
Funeral service for Don J. Bussell, age 91, of Yantis, TX will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, January 5, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Rev. Samuel Glenn officiating and Rev. Jimmy Tarrant assisting. Interment will follow at Yantis Cemetery with Roy Bell, Zachary Bell, Jessee Hooker, Kenneth Starrett, Jay Johnson and Marty Bussell serving as pallbearers and Steven Coker, Garrett Coker and Gary Johnson serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 P.M. on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Bussell passed away on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at Briarcliff Health & Rehab in Greenville, Texas.

Don J. Bussell was born on February 9, 1926 in Yantis, Texas, the son of Andrew and Velma (Thornhill) Bussell. Don was married to Bernie Jo, whom preceded him in death in 2005. Don served in the Air Force, was a member of the Highland Terrace Baptist Church and Don was a retired dairyman.

He is survived by his son, Don Mark Bussell and wife, Sheilah of Greenville; grandsons, Cory Coker and Nathan Coker; brothers J.L. Bussell of Lovington and A.A. Bussell of Yantis.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Bernie Jo Bussell; daughter Sheila Coker and grandson, Jeremy Mark Bussell; infant brother, William Bussell; sisters, Lurene Winston, Imogene Allman, LaJoy Hrobak, Velma Jane Starrett, Patricia Johnson.

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



Ricky Lynn Gregg

Memorial service for Rickey Lynn Gregg, age 62, of Avinger, TX will be held at Fellowship Baptist Church, Como, TX at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 with L.D. Baxley officiating. There will be no formal visitation. Rickey passed away suddenly on Sunday, December 17th, 2017 in Avinger, Texas.

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



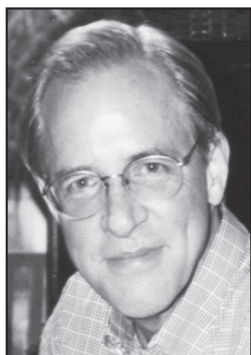
Sherrill Carroll

Mr. Sherrill Carroll, 85, of Winnsboro, TX passed away on December 31, 2017, in Winnsboro. He was born on October 13, 1932 in Midland, TX, to the late Floyd and Artie Carroll. He was a charter member of the College Baptist Church in Big Spring, TX where he served for 39 years. After moving to Winnsboro, he and his wife became members of First Baptist Church, Winnsboro where he served as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher.

Sherrill is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Morris Carroll.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Dorothy; sons, Mike Carroll and wife Sharlyn of Coppell, TX, Patrick Carroll of Lubbock, TX, Ken Carroll and wife Darlene of Nichols Hills, OK; seven grandchildren, Bethani Smeaton, Kristina Dean, Jeremy Carroll, Chase Carroll, Braden Carroll, Hope Pacheco, Christian Carroll; 8 great-grandchildren.

Memorial Service is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Beaty Funeral Home, Winnsboro at 2:00 PM with Patrick Carroll and Mike Carroll officiating.



Tim Norman McKendry

Tim Norman McKendry, 74, of Mineola, TX passed away on December 27, 2017 in Tyler, TX. He was born on September 27, 1943 in Corvallis, OR to the late Norman and Mary Lee McKendry. Tim graduated with a BA in Business from the University of Arkansas in 1966 where he met his wife of 46 years. He worked for First City National Bank in Houston as a Municipal Bond salesman. He would go on to retire in Mineola in 2004. Tim loved purchasing exotic cars and traveling.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn McKendry; son, Travis McKendry and wife Molly of Winona, TX; grandchild Kolbie; sisters-in-law, Cherry Bradshaw, Joan White, Emma Summers, Elizabeth DeLaune; brothers-in-law, Carl Befeld and Edward Bradshaw.

Visitation was scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2017 from 10 – 11 am at Beaty Funeral Home Mineola. Service followed visitation at 11:00 am officiated by Rev. Reggie Day. Interment will follow at Lee Cemetery.

Bill Branstetter

Funeral service for Bill Branstetter, age 88 of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 3:00 pm Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Tapp Funeral Chapel with Bro. Robert Taylor officiating. Visitation will be from 2:00 pm until service time. Interment will follow at DFW National Cemetery at a later date. Mr. Branstetter passed away December 29, 2017 at Carriage House Manor, Sulphur Springs, TX.

He is survived by daughters, Pamela Ruth Branstetter-Mausser and husband, Brian of Sulphur Springs, Peggy Branstetter-Zanolli and husband, Michael of Tracy, CA; son, William T. Branstetter and wife, Beverly of Hattiesburg, MS; grandchildren, Scott Zanolli and wife, Cori, Sara Zanolli, Margo Branstetter, Lacy DeVaul, Cody Branstetter, Esther Felix and husband, Enrique, Laura Galvan and husband, Andrew; great-grandchildren, Bella, Linda, Ermosa, and Joaquin Felix; brothers, Ernest Branstetter of Duncan, OK and Earl Branstetter of Kansas; and sister, Dena Wilson of Boise, ID.

Mr. Branstetter was preceded in death by his parents; wife; daughter, Penny Angel Branstetter; sisters, Maxine Edwards, Irene French, and Berneice Knight; and twin brothers, Troy and Coy Branstetter.

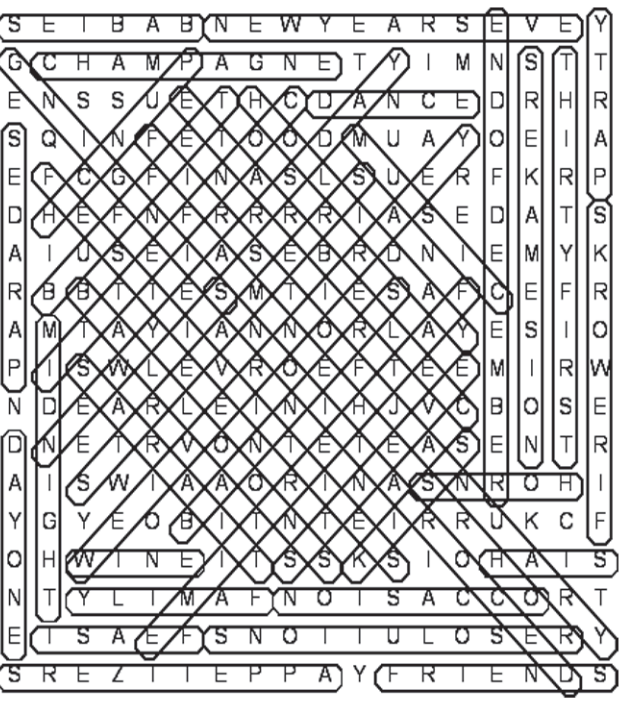
In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made to the Hopkins County Animal Protection League, 468 Shannon Rd. W #6B, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482 or Bright Star Veterinary Clinic – Animal Shelter Account, 744 Gilmer St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN Anchored in Galveston...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Surely, the passing of death “up close.” He distinguished himself during both WWII and the Korean War....

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

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 cleanup, 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 air-

plane, 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....

THE NEW BIG SPRING

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

“We’re so proud of the way our spring looks now. It’s great to see people enjoying it.” – Debbie Wegman, Big Spring Visitors Center.

Big Spring resident Aubrey Weaver has a friend who wrote a song about Big Spring and wanted a photo of the city’s namesake for the album cover. Aubrey took his friend to the spring and was disappointed in the way it looked. “I was struck by the fact that it was not attractive,” says Aubrey. “It did not make a good first impression.”

Aubrey, a student of architecture and design, went to the Convention and Visitors Bureau and told Debbie the spring needed some attention. He gave the CVB board a power point presentation. “I pointed out that we should hire the best landscape design firm we could find to make improvements.”

Debbie took it to the city council. “Everybody seemed excited about the prospects,” says Debbie, who became project manager. The firm chosen to do the renovation was KDC Associates of Midland. Kelly Cook was the architect in charge. “From the beginning we felt a very strong sense of urgency to make sure it was done right,” says Kelly. “A lot of spirits inhabit this place and we wanted to honor those.”

The cost of making improvements to the spring was just under 2 million dollars, which came from hotel/motel taxes, grants and donations. The area around the spring now has an amphitheater, three overlooks, a pioneer dugout, a large stone and steel patio, and a series of steel monoliths depicting eight time periods. “On those monoliths we did artwork which replicates some of the elements of each period,” says Kelly. A tall steel shaft on the amphitheater stage contains names of explorers and others who were historically significant in the development of the city.

A walking path is shaped like a turtle. Debbie says the turtles represented water and good fortune to the Native Americans. Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca first recorded the spring in 1533 and he found Indians living by the spring then. It was the largest body of water in a one hundred mile area. Use of the spring dried it up, but it is flowing once again. Water streams through two ponds before reaching the big body of water. One of the smaller ponds used to be a good swimming hole. “There are three areas where there are waterfalls,” says Debbie.

The grand opening of the spring took place last November. Dignitaries made speeches and a Comanche chief performed a blessing ceremony. “To me it’s like an open air cathedral,” says Aubrey. “I had a lot of fun going through this process,” says Debbie. “It was a lot of work but it was very rewarding and to see the final outcome was just more than I could have ever imagined.” Architect Kelly Cook says it wasn’t just a design or construction project. “This one was special.” The city council has approved phase two of the renovation, which includes a pavilion and parking area. Something old has become new. The spring is an oasis of calm.



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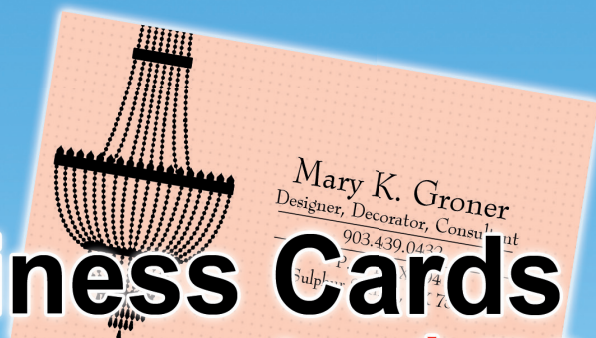
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