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VOL. 17 ISSUE 829, January 14, 2016

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At The Corral Gate



I hope your New Year is starting off as briskly as mine! I've been busier than the cat on a hot tin roof, or the one-armed paper-hanger. Busy as the proverbial bee and beaver! But, it's all my own doing, as I like to be busy! Here's a few things I've found on my busy rounds.



Little Jack Phillips hosted a "Watch Party" on the 8th of January so his family and friends could watch him on TV! Jack's appearance on RFD TV's "True Country" program was filmed in late 2015 when he was a guest fiddler with the Jody Nix and the Texas Playboys band. Jack played and sang both his selections in the Bob Wills style! He is the most famous 10-year old Hopkins County kid I know!

Jack with Roger Reed and fans.

Here are a couple of ladies who keep a crowd of us going. These two happy ladies are P-31 instructors who love what they do. They teach (in tandem) the P-31 evening classes at Bowie Elementary gym in Sulphur Springs. Brooke has been an instructor since 2012 and Sunni got her teaching certificate in 2015. P-31 is a Christian-based exercise course based on the Proverbs 31 woman, who is not only wise and faithful but fit.



Brooke Doughtie and Sunni Chester



MLK Awards promoters from Texas A and M Commerce: Noah Nelson, Dr. Dan Jones, Lavelle Hendricks, Tim McMurray.

The MLK Awards are coming up next week. Organizer Lavelle Hendricks and his team have selected 75 local persons based on the good they do in our community. They will be honored on MLK Day, Monday January 19, 2016 at 7pm at Morning Chapel Baptist Church, 208 Fuller Street. It is a free event, open to the public. This is the 25th annual celebration.

Rock Creek Health and Rehab is doing good things in the community...in addition to the quarterly "Basics at Brunch" elder-care seminar, they are planning a Bingo Bash, and a "Marketing at Breakfast" series of networking opportunities for caregivers. If you can catch her, Christine Jackson will tell you more about what's new at Rock Creek. Administrator is Rod Smith who is a great guy as well as a David Bowie look-a-like. Don't you think?



Enola Gay with Rod Smith, Rock Creek Administrator.

Last of all, don't forget to come to the Reilly Springs Jamboree on Saturday January 16 to catch Tony Ramey appearing with his entire musical family. Tony, who is 40-something, makes his home now in Hunt County, and is quite busy with writing country music, recording and appearances. Follow him at tonyramey.com.

Of course, the Jamboree will also feature Roger Reed and the Sunshine Band AND Yippee!! we are having a ribbon-cutting by the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce that evening, so please come and help us jam the place! The Reilly Springs Jamboree is held monthly at 109 CR 1439 in the quiet Hopkins County community southeast of Sulphur Springs. Hope to see you there!

Looking back on the months gone by, we've accomplished a lot! Here's a wish for you to stop frequently to take a breath and pat yourself on the back. Be your own fan and best friend!

Til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate!

Miscellaneous

FREE TO GOOD LOVING HOME one male rat terrier. He will be seven weeks old Jan. 14th. Good natured, likes to play. Call 903-951-6265, text for pics if interested.



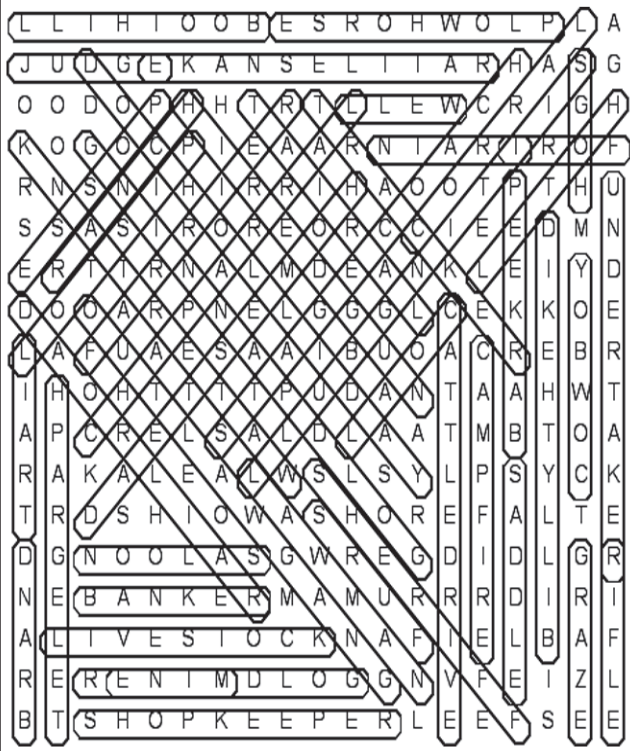
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DOUG SMITH PLAYS AGAIN

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

I first interviewed Doug Smith and recorded his playing piano when he was fourteen. It was at his parents' home in Kermit. It has been amazing to watch his career blossom. He has played piano concerts in some of the major cities in America. He composed music for photographer Wyman Meinzer's video titled WEST TEXAS.

Doug is 52 now and living in Lubbock. "My music is very dynamic for piano music," he says. "It's loud and rambunctious, not your soothing type of piano. Some of my songs are soulful, though." Doug has played piano since he was two. His first concert was at age six. "I played for the whole elementary school there in Kermit and I knew right then what I was going to do the rest of my life."

PBS did a documentary of Doug and it played on television stations across the country. "I went from playing 20 dates a year to playing 80 to 90 dates a year. All of a sudden I was playing in St Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. I'd walk out on stage wearing a cowboy hat looking like a hayseed and play concert piano. I never have a playlist; just play what I think the audience wants to hear. It's all my original music. Yamaha picked up sponsorship and made sure I had a piano wherever I went."

In 2007, during his 25th year as a concert pianist, Doug was getting ready to perform on the Austin City Limits television program when he had a wreck in his pickup, resulting in a spinal cord injury. "When it happened I couldn't move from the neck down. Therapy has brought me to where I am today. That's a long way. Nobody ever thought I'd be up in a wheelchair playing piano and recording music again and doing what I do. It's just been a God-given determination not to stay in bed. I can't use the fingers on my left hand so I use the old karate chop method and I'll play with the side of my hand."

Doug is confined to his wheel chair and has to have help to get up and get around. He was in bed two years before he could get in a wheel chair. His wife left him a few years after he was injured. But his spirit is as bright and healthy as ever. He plays every day and has made one album since the accident. That brings his total albums to 14. "My daddy used to fuss at me for making so many albums, but I'm glad I did when I could because I make my living with them now." He has composed 200 songs not yet released. Occasionally he makes a motivational speech.

He had his therapy at Craig Hospital in Denver. "That's where Superman went for his therapy," says Doug. "I figured if it was good enough for Superman it was good enough for me." When hospital personnel learned about Doug's speaking, they invited him to come up there and make a speech. "After I spoke I wheeled up to the grand piano and played Amazing Grace. When I finished, the two thousand people who were there stood straight up and it was the most fulfilling ovation that I've ever had in my life."

I heard a recent recording of Doug playing Amazing Grace. There are significant pauses between musical phrases but the recording is dramatic and makes the listener feel and understand what it took to play that song.

Tumbleweed Smith loves to hear stories. Contact: ts@tumbleweedsmith.com

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Saturday, January 23, 6pm - Sunday, January 24, 12am. 10th Annual Lights of Life Gala - Hopkins County Regional Civic Center. Sponsorship tickets required.

Sat, February 6, 1pm - 4pm - The Bookworm Box, Sulphur Springs - The Bookworm Box presents a signing with Anna Todd, Tarryn Fisher, Dina Silver, RS Grey, Caroline Kepnes, Kendall Grey, Renee Carlino, KA Tucker and Colleen Hoover. Limited tickets available.

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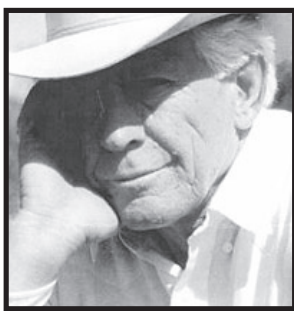
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Obits



Mel Panter

Funeral services for Mel Panter, age 88 of Sulphur Springs, were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at League Street Church of Christ. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with his sons and grandsons serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church.

Mel passed away on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at Trinity Mother Frances in Tyler. Melvin Thomas Panter was born on September 17, 1927 in Albion, OK, the son of Boss and Elma (Wall) Panter. Mel married Merle Tolbert on May 26, 1948 in Van Buren, Arkansas. She preceded him in death in August of 2014. Mel served in the Air Force. He was a member of League Street Church of Christ serving as an elder. He was a member of the Choctaw Indian Tribe. His passion and past time was oil painting.

Survivors include his sons, Gary Panter and wife Helene of Brooklyn, NY and Tommy Panter and wife, Gwen of Sulphur Springs; daughter, Linda Panter of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Caleb Panter and wife, Addi; Adam Panter and wife, Jenni, Luke Panter and wife, Janae, Andrew Panter and Olive Panter; great-grandchildren, Bennett Panter, Beau Panter, Penny Panter, Charli Panter, Griffin Panter and Boss Panter.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife and one brother, Jacky Panter.



Erlene Kennimer Counts

Funeral services for Erlene Kennimer Counts, age 72 of Yantis, was held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Tim Gibbs officiating. Interment followed at Arbala Cemetery with Marcus Dobbs, Kent Mitchell, Michael Cheairs, Shyne Bright and Kenneth Burney and Billy Sartin serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Erlene passed away on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. She was born on August 12, 1943 in Sulphur Springs, the daughter of Earl Dewitt Kennimer and Sammie Robnett Petross. She married Billy Ray Counts in 1979 in Longview. He preceded her in death. She retired from the healthcare industry and was of the Church of Christ faith.

Survivors include her daughters, Kerri Gae Goodson and spouse, Kris of Wylie and Tonya Rae Craig of Hugh Springs; parents, Sammie and Roy Petross; sister, Elvira Browning and husband, Lonnie; grandchildren, Amanda Kae Troy and husband, Dustin, Shyne Bright, Kortne Craig, Sarah Craig and Stephanie Nolan; great-grandchildren, Rhiannon Troy, Justin Troy, Connor Craig and Dayne Parsons; nieces and nephews, Lisa DeLoach, Brad Browning, Michael Cheairs and Kent Mitchell and wife, Lisa.

She is preceded in death by her husband, father, one son, Lester Hobbs and one sister, Joyce Kennimer.

Peyton Joe Pilkinton

Funeral service for Peyton Joe Pilkinton will be held Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, 2:00 pm, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory. Burial will be in Emory City Cemetery. Bro. Jerry Tadlock will officiate.

Peyton Joe was born on Friday, Jan. 8, 2016, to Christopher and Misty Pilkinton of Wolfe City at Baylor Medical Center at McKinney.

Survivors include: Parents: Christopher and Misty Pilkinton, of Wolfe City, Siblings: 2 sisters, Delaney Dawn Pilkinton, Dalal Hazaymeh, and, 1 brother, Tyler Edward Pilkinton, Grandparents: Jarrett and Debra Lambert of Dallas, Michael Anthony Pilkinton of Melissa, and, Jackie and Lanell Milner of Wolfe City, Great-grandmothers: Treva Fisher of Point; and, Frances Pilkinton of Melissa, Great-father: John Shipp of Merit, Numerous other loving family and friends.

Preceded in death by: Great-grandfathers, Gerald Fisher; and, Kenneth Pilkinton, and Great-grandparents, Herman and Dalaine Quirl.

Elwin Paul Cannon

Funeral service for Elwin Paul Cannon, age 86, of Emory, will be held 2:00 pm, Friday, January 15, 2016, at House of Prayer in Emory. Bro. Kenneth Ishmael and Bro. Matt Miller will officiate. Burial will follow at a later date at DFW National Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to service, 1:00 pm, at the church. Paul was born Nov. 25, 1929, in Butler, Ok, to William L. and Cora Alice Campbell Cannon.

He was an electronics engineer with several different companies. Paul proudly served his country during WW II. After discharge from one stint, he reenlisted for a second service time with the U.S. Army. He married Maxine Ava Clements, in Loveland, Co on July 28, 1979.

Survivors include: Wife, of Emory, 3 sons: David P. Cannon (Tanya) of Temple; Billy D. Cannon (Robin) of Greeley, CO; and, Tim Cannon, 2 daughters: Gloria Parker-Partain (Pete) of Euleess; and, Sylvia McCoy of Temple, 2 step-sons: Les McAlevy (Anita) of Gill, CO; David E. McAlevy of Gill CO; 2 step-daughters: Cynthia M. Rogers (Jim) of Big Piney, Wyoming; and, Hazel C. Jenson, of Johnstown, CO, 1 brother: Herschel Cannon (Amelia) of Denver, CO, 1 sister: Ann Cannon Spears of McKinney, Numerous other loving family and friends.

Preceded in death by: Parents; 1 step-daughter, Irene S. Moreno, 2 brothers, Billy Cannon, and Tim Cannon, 1 sister, Rhea Jenkins.

Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Allen Lynn Chamness

Memorial services for Allen Lynn Chamness, age 52, of Yantis, will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 14, 2016, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Travis Aven and Rev. Jim Goodwin officiating. Honorary Pallbearers will be David Pool, Tim Powers, David Randolph, William Burkhalter, Troy Ridling, Josh Chamness, and Heath Hammond.

Visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m., one hour prior to service time at West Oaks Funeral Home. Allen passed away Sunday, January 10, 2016, in Yantis, TX.

He was born July 16, 1963 in Sulphur Springs, the son of Allen Ray Chamness and Mattie Slatter Chamness. Allen was a dairy farmer for many years and worked for Walt Mannon at A&A Appliance Service. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and trapper. He was of the Baptist faith. Allen is survived by his mother, Mattie Slatter Chamness, daughter, Mary Dickey and husband Mark of Sulphur Springs, brother, Freddy Chamness and wife, Donna Kay of Yantis, sisters, Paula Hammond and husband, Harlan, of Sulphur Springs, Donna Lewis and husband, Larry, of Sulphur Springs and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Memorials may be made to: Texas Wildlife Association, 3660 Thousand Oaks Drive, Suite 126, San Antonio, TX, 78247. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Larry Milligan

Larry Milligan, of Sulphur Springs, TX, passed away on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at UT Southwest Medical. Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.

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**Ann
Miller**

Dancer, Singer
& Actress



Johnnie Lucille Collier

Johnnie Lucille Collier (April 12, 1923 – January 22, 2004), known professionally as Ann Miller, was an American dancer, singer and actress. She is best remembered for her work in the Hollywood musical films of the 1940s and 1950s.

Johnnie Lucille Collier was born in Chireno, Texas to Clara Emma (née Birdwell) and John Alfred Collier, a criminal lawyer who represented the Barrow Gang, Machine Gun Kelly, and Baby Face Nelson, among others.

Her maternal grandmother was Cherokee. Miller's father insisted on the name Johnnie because he had wanted a boy, but she was often called Annie. She began to take dance classes at the age of 5, after suffering from a case of rickets. Her mother believed that these classes would help strengthen her young daughter's legs.

She lived in Texas until she was 9, when her mother decided to leave her unfaithful husband and move to Los Angeles. Because Birdwell was deaf, it was hard for her to find work; however, because Miller looked much older than she was, she began to work as a dancer in nightclubs so that she could support the both of them. About this time she adopted the stage name Ann Miller, which she kept throughout her entire career.

She was considered a child dance prodigy. In an interview featured in a "behind the scenes" documentary on the making of the compilation film That's Entertainment!

At age 13 in 1936, Miller became a showgirl at the Bal Tabarin. She was hired as a dancer in the "Black Cat Club" in San Francisco (she reportedly told them she was 18). It was there she was discovered by Lucille Ball and talent scout/comic Benny Rubin. This led Miller to be given a contract with RKO in 1936 at the age of 13 (she had also told them she was 18) and she remained there until 1940. In 1941, she signed with Columbia Pictures, where, starting with Time Out for Rhythm, she starred in 11 B movie musicals from 1941 to 1945. In July of 1945, with WWII still raging in the Pacific, she posed in a bathing suit as Yank magazine pin-up girl. She ended her contract in 1946 with one "A" film, The Thrill of Brazil. The ad in Life magazine featured Miller's leg in a large, red, bow-tied stocking as the "T" in "Thrill." She finally hit her mark in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer musicals such as Easter Parade (1948), On the Town (1949) and Kiss Me Kate (1953).

Miller helped popularize pantyhose in the 1940s as a solution to the continual problem of tearing stockings during the filming of dance production numbers. The common practice had been to sew hosiery to briefs. If torn, the entire garment had to be removed and re sewn with a new pair. At Miller's request, hosiery was manufactured for her as a single pantyhose.

Miller was famed for her speed in tap dancing. Studio publicists concocted press releases claiming she could tap 500 times per minute, but in truth, the sound of ultra-fast "500" taps was looped in later. Because the stage floors were waxed and too slick for regular tap shoes, she had to dance in shoes with rubber treads on the sole. Later she would loop the sound of the taps while watching the film and actually dancing on a "tap board" to match her steps in the film.

She was known, especially later in her career, for her distinctive appearance, which reflected a studio-era ideal of glamour: massive black bouffant hair, heavy makeup with a splash of crimson lipstick, and fashions that emphasized her lithe figure and long dancer's legs.

Her film career effectively ended in 1956 as the studio system lost steam to television, but she remained active in the theatre and on television. She starred on Broadway in the musical Mame in 1969, in which she wowed the audience in a tap number created just for her. In 1979 she astounded audiences in the Broadway show Sugar Babies with fellow MGM veteran Mickey Rooney, which toured the United States extensively after its Broadway run. In 1983, she won the Sarah Siddons Award for her work in Chicago theatre.

Miller appeared as a dance instructor in Home Improvement episode "Dances with Tools" (1993).[10] Between 1995 and 2001, Molly Shannon parodied Miller several times on Saturday Night Live in a recurring sketch entitled "Leg-Up!"

Miller married three times, to Reese Llewellyn Milner in 1946, to William Moss in 1958 and to Arthur Cameron in 1961, and in between marriages dated such well-known men as Howard Hughes, Conrad Hilton, and Louis B. Mayer. During her marriage to Reese Llewellyn Milner, while pregnant with daughter Mary in her last trimester, Miller fell and went into early labor. Baby Mary lived only three hours on November 12, 1946.

Miller died, aged 80, from lung cancer, and was interred in Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, California, beside her infant daughter Mary.

For her contribution to the motion picture industry, Miller has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6914 Hollywood Blvd. In 1998, a Golden Palm Star on the Palm Springs, California, Walk of Stars was dedicated to her. To honor Miller's contribution to dance, the Smithsonian Institution displays her favorite pair of tap shoes, which she playfully nicknamed "Moe and Joe".

WORD SEARCH

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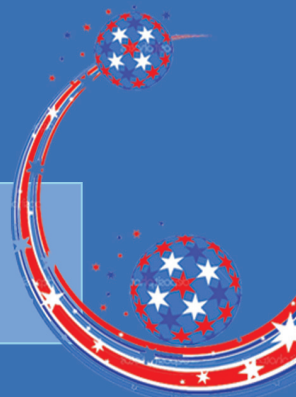
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