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I made my annual trek to the National Cowgirl Museum in the cultural district of Ft Worth during January's Stock Show and Rodeo. The Cowgirl Museum is a delightful place which continues to open up more avenues for recognition and honor to the "cowgirl spirit" alive in women who contribute to the culture of the United States. Among their newest inductees to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame are Reba McEntire and her mother Jacqueline Smith McEntire.

You may remember that Reba was first brought into the spotlight by Western entertainer Red Steagall when he heard her sing the National Anthem at the 1974 National Rodeo Finals, still being held in Oklahoma City back then. He took her to Nashville where she signed with Mercury then later MCA Records. twenty-eight of her twenty-nine studio albums have gone "gold" or "multi-platinum" in record sales. She was married for about ten years to rodeo champ Charlie Battles and was later married to Narvel Blackstock. In the 1990's Reba turned to movies and in 2001 to the Broadway stage starring in "Annie Get Your Gun" about the life and love of Annie Oakley. Reba was quoted as "It was the hardest work I've ever done!". After two successful TV series, Reba will be seen in 2018 as a female Colonel Sanders for KFC and reportedly in a new dramatic TV series called "Red Blooded".



Reba's Mom  
 Jacqueline Smith McEntire

Now, as for Reba's mom, Jaqueiline's first brush with fame came at an early age, when she often led her fellow classmates and teachers in "The Star Spangled Banner" during school assemblies. Her parents didn't have the extra funds for her to pursue a singing career, so she earned her teaching certificate from the state of Oklahoma and began riding her horse every morning to the Tipperary School to teach grades one through eight. In 1950, she married future three-time world champion steer roper and ProRodeo Hall of Fame member Clark McEntire. They had four children - Alice, Pake, Reba and Susie - in five years. Jackie put her educational career on hold to help build the family ranch. She spent her days working alongside the men on the ranch, cooking supper for everyone, taking care of the kids, and doing it all over again the next day. She also proved essential to her husband's rodeo career, as well as her children's burgeoning ones. McEntire returned to education in 1962 as the librarian and secretary at Kiowa High School, all while caring for her children, hauling them and their friends to and from school, football, basketball, 4-H, rodeo, FFA and FHA. Working with Clark Rhyne, she was responsible for the school board's approval of the Kiowa Cowboy Band, which held school benefit concerts, performed at football games, and nurtured future music sensations like Kelly Rhyne, Carol Johnston, Dianna Kay Smith, Gary Raiburn, Roger Wills (Alan Jackson's bass player/bandleader) and three of her own - Pake, Susie, and Reba McEntire.



1978 Reba McEntire age 23 with Sonny on the home ranch near McAlester, Oklahoma



Reba's gown worn in "Annie Get Your Gun" displaying replicas of medals given to Annie Oakley by dignitaries and cities when performing around the world

Please take your chance to go see the National Cowgirl Museum, it is a rare jewel! Til next week, remember "Always Saddle Your Own Horse" and I'll await your visit to the corral gate!

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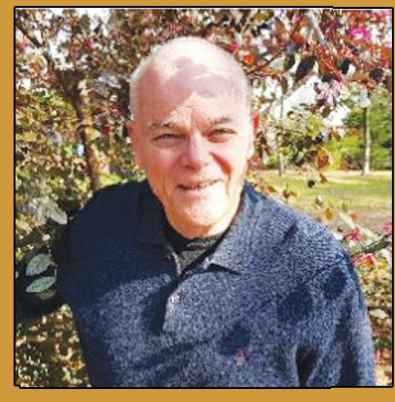
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**FAMOUS TEXANS**

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Jeffery Todd Banister (born January 15, 1964) is an American retired professional baseball player and current manager of the Texas Rangers of Major League Baseball. Before joining the Rangers, Banister spent 29 years within the organization of the Pittsburgh Pirates as a player and coach in both the Pirates' major and minor league system.

Banister played baseball at La Marque High School in La Marque, Texas. He developed bone cancer in his sophomore year, which almost necessitated the amputation of his leg. While playing college baseball for Lee College, he suffered a home plate collision that broke three vertebrae in his neck, leaving him paralyzed for ten days. After rehabilitating, he was named a Junior College All-American the next season, and received a scholarship to the University of Houston, to play for the Houston Cougars baseball team. He was then drafted by the Pirates in 1986. After playing in Minor League Baseball, he appeared in a major league game on July 23, 1991, recording a hit in his only plate appearance. He did not appear in another major league game, and ended his playing career after the 1993 season.

Following his playing career, Banister remained with the Pirates. He served as a manager for their Minor League Baseball affiliates from 1994 through 1998, and then as a minor league and major league field coordinator until 2010. The Pirates considered him for their managerial vacancy before the 2011 season, but hired him as their bench coach. He served in the role through the 2014 season. The Rangers hired Banister as their manager during the 2014–15 offseason, and he was named the American League Manager of the Year for 2015.

Banister attended La Marque High School in La Marque, Texas. At La Marque, Banister played for the school's baseball, basketball, and American football teams. During his sophomore year of high school, Banister injured his right ankle while playing baseball. During an examination of his ankle, which was slow to heal, he was diagnosed with bone cancer. He had developed cysts that required skin grafting to treat. An infection in his leg led to the development of osteomyelitis, which spread from his right ankle to just below his knee. Doctors recommended amputation in order to save the rest of his leg, but Banister refused, as he hoped he would be able to continue his baseball career. Doctors performed seven operations on his leg, which saved it from being amputated. In his senior year, Banister suffered a knee injury playing American football, which nearly led to him being cut from the baseball team due to his decreased mobility. His father suggested he change positions and become a catcher, which allowed him to remain on the baseball team.

At a tryout conducted by professional scouts, Banister was noticed by the coaches at Lee College, a junior college in Baytown, Texas. They recruited Banister to play college baseball at Lee. While catching in a 1983 game, he suffered a collision at home plate, where the baserunner attempted to jump over him, and hit Banister in the head with his knee. The collision broke three of the vertebrae in his neck. Banister was not originally scheduled to play in that game; a scout for the New York Yankees of Major League Baseball (MLB) told Lee's coach that he hoped to see Banister catch, which resulted in Banister being added to the starting lineup in a last-minute change. As a result of the collision, Banister was paralyzed from the neck down for ten days. Doctors initially warned him that he may never walk again. He had another three operations performed on his back and learned how to walk again during the 1984 season. Entering the hospital weighing 225 pounds, he weighed 139 pounds when he was discharged. Banister recovered and played another season for Lee in 1985, and was named a Junior College All-American. He transferred to University of Houston after the season to play for the Houston Cougars baseball team on a scholarship in 1986

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

The Pittsburgh Pirates selected Banister in the 25th round of the 1986 Major League Baseball Draft; he was the 621st player chosen in the draft. Playing in Minor League Baseball, Banister made his professional debut as a member of the Watertown Pirates of the Class A-Short Season New York–Penn League in 1986. He had a .145 batting average in 46 games played. In 1987, he played for the Macon Pirates of the Class A South Atlantic League, and batted .254 in 101 games. Banister then played 71 games for the Harrisburg Senators of the Class AA Eastern League in 1988, batting .259. He returned to Harrisburg in 1989, when he batted .238 in 102 games. He was named an Eastern League All-Star in 1989. He returned to Harrisburg for the 1990 season, and recorded a .269 batting average in 101 games. During the 1990 season, he received a promotion to the Buffalo Bisons of the Class AAA American Association. In 12 games for the Bisons, Banister batted .320.

Banister began the 1991 season with Buffalo. The Pirates promoted Banister from the minor leagues on July 23, 1991, when catcher Don Slaught was injured and placed on the disabled list. Manager Jim Leyland used Banister as a pinch hitter for pitcher Doug Drabek in the eighth inning of that day's game against the Atlanta Braves at Three Rivers Stadium. Using Cecil Espy's bat, Banister hit a ball from Dan Petry and just beat shortstop Jeff Blauser's throw to first base. Banister is one of only 15 batters (excluding pitchers) in baseball history to record a hit in his only major league plate appearance.

**OVERVIEW**

After retiring as a player, Banister remained with the Pirates' organization. From 1994 through 1998, Banister served as a manager in the Pirates' minor league system. He served as the manager of the Welland Pirates of the New York–Penn League in 1994. A year later, he managed the Augusta GreenJackets of the South Atlantic League, and led them to win the league's championship. Banister managed in the Hawaiian Winter League in the 1995 and 1996 offseasons. From 1996 through 1997, he was the manager of the Lynchburg Hillcats of the Class A-Advanced Carolina League. Midway through the 1997 season, he was named the manager of the Carolina Mudcats, a position he held through the 1998 season. Banister had a 299–330 win-loss record (a .475 winning percentage) as a manager from 1994 through 1998.

From 1999 through 2002, Banister worked as Pittsburgh's Major League Field Coordinator on the coaching staffs of managers Gene Lamont and Lloyd McClendon. He was then assigned the job of Minor League Field Coordinator, and served in that role from 2003 through 2010. In 2004, he served as the interim manager of Lynchburg when Jay Loviglio resigned from the position due to personal reasons. Banister became the interim pitching coach for Lynchburg in 2008 when Bob Milacki resigned from the position. Mike Steele then took the job from Banister in 2009. Banister managed the Scottsdale Scorpions of the Arizona Fall League (AFL) in 2009.

On August 8, 2010, Banister was named the Pirates' interim bench coach after Gary Varsho was fired by the organization. At the end of the 2010 season, the Pirates fired manager John Russell. Banister and Clint Hurdle were the two finalists for the position. The Pirates named Hurdle as their manager, and Banister was named their full-time bench coach. As the Pirates bench coach, Banister learned about sabermetrics from a quantitative analyst who traveled with the team. Banister learned to use quantitative data to inform his decisions on when the Pirates should employ defensive shifts in the field. He was initially chosen to manage Scottsdale in the AFL after the 2014 season, but he was replaced by Pirates' special assistant Frank Kremblas due to the possibility of the Pirates reaching the MLB postseason.

After the 2014 season, Banister interviewed with the Houston Astros as a candidate to fill their managing vacancy, following the firing of Bo Porter. The Astros instead hired A. J. Hinch. He also interviewed with the Texas Rangers, and was a finalist for the position along with Rangers' interim manager Tim Bogar and pitching coach Mike Maddux. On October 16, 2014, the Rangers named Banister their new manager. He signed a three-year contract with an option for a fourth season. Jon Daniels, the Rangers' general manager, indicated that Banister will help the Rangers to incorporate analytics into their baseball decisions.

As Banister and Daniels began to discuss the coaching staff for the 2015 season, it was decided that Bogar, who had a 14–8 record after Ron Washington's resignation, would not return to the Rangers under Banister. Banister retained Maddux and hitting coach Dave Magadan on his coaching staff, but third base coach Gary Pettis left for the Astros and first base coach Bengie Molina did not return to the team in that role. Banister guided the Rangers to the American League West division championship with a record of 88 wins and 74 losses. The Rangers would end up losing to the Toronto Blue Jays in the American League Division Series. Banister was named the American League Manager of the Year after the season.

**PERSONAL LIFE**

Banister was born on January 15, 1964. He is originally from Weatherford, Oklahoma. At the age of six, the Banisters moved from Weatherford to La Marque. His father, Bob, coached Jeff at La Marque High School on both the American football and basketball teams. His mother, Verda, was an algebra teacher at La Marque. He has a sister, Carey. In 1988, his father died at the age of 48 due to a heart attack. His grandfather died of a heart attack three weeks later.

Banister met his wife, Karen, while they were students at the University of Houston. Karen worked as a teacher at Clear Lake High School in Houston. The Banisters have two children: Alexandra and Jacob. Alexandra is a college volleyball player. The Banisters reside in Keller, Texas.

Banister won the inaugural Gilda Radner Courage Award. In 2011, Banister won the "Pride of the Pirates" award for demonstrating his "sportsmanship, dedication and outstanding character".

Courtesy of Wikipedia

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## GOOD MEMORIES OF A GOOD FRIEND

**Tumbleweed Smith**

I'm gonna miss my buddy Tom Cox who passed away Dec 31. I didn't know Tom very well at Baylor. He was in psychology and journalism. I was in English and drama. I knew him, of course. Everybody knew Tom, that little guy from Arkansas who had a mischievous look and always appeared to be cooking up some kind of big deal.

We became close friends in the Army. We were both students at Fort Devens, home of the Army Security Agency School. We were standing in line at the chow hall on Thanksgiving Day when we saw each other for the first time since leaving Baylor. We decided to forego the military on that special day and went into Boston. We picked out a restaurant, sat down and ordered a Thanksgiving meal. The waitress yelled out, "Two Turkey Dinners!" We were expected something a bit more refined.

Somehow Tom ended up with a Kaiser automobile and we often took it to New York. Sometimes it made it all the way. One night Tom was hauling some of his fellow ASA students into the big city and he let us out somewhere around Times Square, saying he had a date and would meet us in a few hours. Later, the guys and I were walking near an intersection and saw a commotion. A crowd had gathered around a car that was spewing steam out from under the front of the car. Sure enough, it was Tom and his date. Tom yelled out at us, "say could y'all help push us over to the side of the road?" Somehow Tom finished his date and got the car fixed enough to get us back to Ft Devens. Tom is an extremely resourceful person.

Another time we were in the Kaiser headed home for the Christmas holidays when somewhere in Pennsylvania the Kaiser gave up the ghost. There were 3 of us this time and we piled up all the money we had and bought a B42 Oldsmobile. That lasted nearly 100 miles and we ended up at a mechanic's garage in some small town. The B42 was going to require some time to repair, so we hitchhiked home.

During the holidays I acquired a 52 Chevy 4-door sedan, and we headed back to the post in it. We couldn't remember the name of the town where we had left the B42 so I took Tom to an airport and he rented a plane and had the pilot fly over small towns in Pennsylvania to see if he could spot the garage where he had left the B42. As it turned out, Tom left the car there, gave it to the mechanic and we continued our trip back to Ft Devens.

After training we were both stationed in Germany. Tom bought a Volkswagen. He dated a gal in Frankfurt who was an underwater stripper. She worked at a club that featured a big fish tank behind the bar. But instead of fish, it had disrobing girls. Once Tom and I double dated in his Volkswagen. I sat in the backseat with a girl I had just met. She was a friend of Tom's girl. Of all things we ended up parked somewhere and before I knew it the couple in the front seat were getting it on pretty heavy. The couple in the back seat just kind of looked at each other.

Every time with Tom was a unique experience.



Tumbleweed Smith



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# Obits



## Jerry Dale Mathews

Jerry Dale Mathews, age 73, of Como passed away on January 29, 2018 at the V.A. Hospital in Dallas, TX. A visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Jerry was born on April 25, 1944 in the Brinker Community, the son of Joseph Edgar Mathews and Sarah Gribble Mathews. Jerry was in the United States Army Military Intelligence and received the National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. Later he was a small business owner in Sulphur Springs. He was also a small business owner. He is survived by his children, Barry Mathews and wife Sheryre of McAlistier, OK, and Connie Mathews of Commerce, sister, Jo Ann Cross and husband Ben of Fairlee, grandchildren, Hunter Mathews, Tyler Mathews, Kinsey Mathews and Trace Mathews. Family request memorials be made to Richland Cemetery Association, 455 FM 1563, Wolfe City, TX, 75496 and to the Disable American Veterans at [www.secure.dav.org/donate](http://www.secure.dav.org/donate). Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



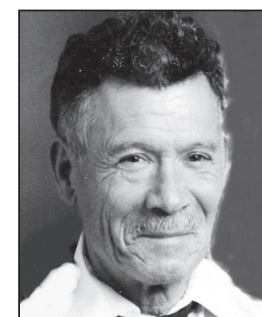
## Valine Dillard

Funeral Service for Valine Dillard, age 89, of Sulphur Springs, TX were held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at League Street Church of Christ, Sulphur Springs with Jim Thompson officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Cemetery. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 P.M. on Monday, January 29, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Ms. Dillard passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at Hopkins House, Sulphur Springs, TX.

Katrina Valine Dillard was born in Sulphur Springs, TX on April 23, 1928, the daughter of A.J. and Ida Pearl Tanton. She married Gordon Ray Dillard, who preceded her in death. Valine was the owner of Valines Beauty Salon and a member of League Street Church of Christ.

She is survived by her son, Delayne Dillard and wife, Kim; daughters, Sheila Dillard, Tanya Tull and husband, Frank; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; brothers, Norwood "Nip" Tanton, Milas Tanton.

Valine was preceded in death by her son, Shawn Dillard; sisters, Ann Hicks and Velma Skelton; brothers, Ned Tanton, Troy Tanton, Bob Tanton.



## Leobardo Sanchez

Mass of Christian burial for Leobardo Sanchez age, 89, of Sulphur Springs was held at 2:30 PM Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at St. James Catholic Church with Father Juan Carlos Sardinias officiating. Burial followed at the Sanchez Cemetery with his sons as pallbearers.

Mr. Sanchez laid in state on Monday, January 29 for visitation and 5:00 PM Rosary at his residence at 502 FM 2560 Reilly Springs road.

Mr. Sanchez passed away on Friday, January 26, 2018 at his residence.

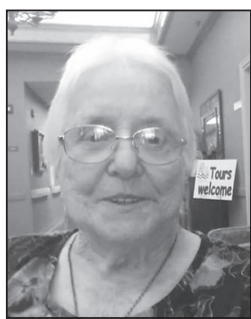
He was born on September 30, 1929 in Las Palomas, Michoacán, Mexico the son of Juan and Crispina Rayas Sanchez. He married Maria Celerina Arreola in 1952 in Michoacán and she preceded him in death on May 18, 2005.

Mr. Sanchez was a lifelong farmer and a member of the St. James Catholic church.

He is survived by his eight sons; Javier Sanchez, Rosalio Sanchez, Geraldo Sanchez, Heriberto Sanchez, Felipe Sanchez, Leobardo Sanchez all of Hopkins County; Jose Sanchez of Spring, TX and Juan Sanchez of Detroit, Michigan. Six daughters; Bacilia Sanchez, Angela Sanchez, Raquel Sanchez, Imelda Sanchez, Jacoba Sanchez and Maria Sanchez all of Hopkins County. One brother Manuel Sanchez Rayas of Chicago and sister Marcelina Sanchez of Chicago. Fifty-two grandchildren, thirty-four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife and two brothers.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



## Trudie Pearl Cantrell

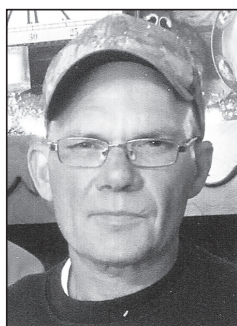
Funeral Service for Trudie Pearl Cantrell, age 97, of Sulphur Springs, TX, will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Buddy Wiggins officiating. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery with Bill Lockwood, Josh Lockwood, Chris Cota and Blake Moore serving as pallbearers and VFW Post 8560 and Auxiliary serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Mrs. Cantrell passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

Trudie Pearl Cantrell was born on September 1, 1920 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, the daughter of Thomas Henry and Pearl Thompson. She married Grover Cantrell, whom preceded her in death. Trudie was a seamstress at HD. Lee's, a member of League Street Church of Christ, VFW Auxiliary Post 8560 and Hopkins County Extension Club.

She is survived by her daughter, Marlene Lockwood; grandsons, Bill Lockwood, Josh Lockwood and wife, Crystol; granddaughters, Lyrae Reece and Dani Moore; great grandchildren, Michael Arrington, Shane Woodfin, Chris Cota and wife, Yuki, Keely Chester, Tyer Daehn, Jessica Wright, Blake Moore; great great grandchildren, Stetson Sampson, Shaelynn Sampson, Maverick Chester, Bentley Cota, Aston Cota, Allison Wright; sister, Rose Bain; numerous nieces and nephews.

Trudie was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Grover; one sister; two brothers.

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



## Jeffrey Lynn Burkett

Funeral services for Jeffrey Lynn Burkett, age 53, of Saltillo will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 1, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Jimmy Don Goldsmith officiating. Interment will follow at Weaver Cemetery Rick Garmon, Allen Chester, Jamie Goldsmith, Dale Goldsmith, Jeff Wilson and Jimmy Carl Crone serving as pallbearers. Visitation was from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Jeff passed away on Friday, January 26, 2018 at his residence.

Jeff was born on August 18, 1964 in Sulphur Springs the son of Paul Burkett and Edwinna Chester Burkett. Jeff was a fence builder by trade who loved hunting and fishing. He was a member of Weaver Baptist Church.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Paul and Edwinna Burkett of Saltillo, son, Justin Burkett and wife Amanda of Weaver, brother, Brent Burkett and wife Denise of Smithville, OH, sister Paula Sulsar and husband Jerry of Burleson, TX, grandchildren, Hunter and Kaycen Burkett, aunts, Glenna Spencer and husband Charles of Sulphur Springs, Frances Haggard and husband Wayne of Cooper and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Babe and Norena Chester and Ben and Floy Burkett.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

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