

Cherokee County Informer

May 1995

Serving Rusk, Alto, and Cherokee County

Vol. 1 no. 1

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Features

Elm Grove Baptist Church is celebrating 137 years of existence. Read more about the history of the church on page 8.

When selecting a daycare center for your child one should use care. We offer a few tips on page 5 to help in making the right selection.

On page 2 we offer a few ideas on how to become your on best friend. If you really want to know of ways to like yourself, then read "Be your own best friend."

God has a plan for your family and we tell you what it is on page 11.



Larry Walker is going to the house for good after 32 years as an educator and coach in the Rusk Independent School District. We profile Coach Walker on page 2.

On the cover

Coach, educator retiring after 32 years of service

Not too many men are fortunate enough to be able to mix business with pleasure or sports with work, but Larry Walker is able to, and has been for many years.

For the past 32 years, he has spent many days educating and playing with students in the Rusk School District. As a coach of all sports and science and history teacher, Walker has been able to have his cake and eat it, too.

Before Texas schools fully integrated, Walker enjoyed entering the classroom each day at G.W. Bradford High School, the school provided for black children.

He saw it as an opportunity to give African-American students what they truly required, and, in Walker's opinion, still need.

"You'll never believe how nice it was. The students were able to have a lot more in the way of culture back then," said Walker, who graduated from Butler College in Tyler with a bachelor's degree and received a master's in physical education and science at the University of Tyler.

"When the schools became integrated, I wasn't against it at all, but I think our kids miss out on a lot of cultural things, now," Walker said.

Integration was a challenge in Rusk, but, for the most part, confusion was kept to a minimum. Walker said the male students seemed to fit in better at the integrated schools than the female students did.

Sports helped the young men move into the new school system with far less trouble, according to Walker.

"Many of the guys had athletics on their side, since they played sports, which probably helped them to fit in a little better than the girls, he said.

Though 57-year-old Walker still teaches at Rusk High School, his more than three-decades of service to youth is about to come to an end. In May, he will retire.

Well, sort of retire. Walker said he's not quite ready to jump full-swing into the retirement scene. He'd much rather ease into it, slowly.

"I'm not ready to totally retire...not just yet. I think I'm good for at least another five years; then, I'll do all the retirement-type things, such as fishing," Walker said.

Walker said he hopes to acquire a job with the State of Texas after leaving his present job.

Growing up and living in the Summerfield Even after being drafted into the U.S. Army and serving in Kansas, Louisiana and overseas in Japan and Korea for a total of three years, Walker still returned to his hometown.

According to Walker, everything he loves and needs is right at his fingertips in Rusk.

"Life is good here. I have a house, a ranch, a farm and I raise, ride and breed horses and cattle. I've thought about moving a few times, but this is really where I want to be," Walker said.

Walker lives in Rusk with his wife, Betty Jo, and three adult children, Djuana, Larry Jay and Barry.

community, which is just outside of Rusk, has been such a rewarding and enriching experience that Walker has only thought about relocating

Be your own best friend

Today's world is filled with financial dilemmas, deadlines, difficult people, and negative attitudes. It stands to reason living in the 90's can be rough. But you don't have to let stress get the best of you. Sometimes we forget to notice what a beautiful world we live in, or to say "I love you" to a loved one friend. By taking care of yourself you can turn stress into energy.

- * Get enough sleep
- * Avoid tight fitting clothes
- * Clean out one closet
- * Ask a friend for a hug
- * Don't know all the answers
- * Practice breathing slowly
- * Memorize a joke
- * Plant a tree
- * Learn the words to a new song
- * Believe in yourself
- * Unclutter your life
- * Throw away things you don't use
- * Exercise daily
- * Stop saying negative things to yourself

Remember stress is an attitude. Relax and take each day at a time. You have the rest of your life to live.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

WHILE IN COMMAND OF THE AMERICAN ARMY, SHARED HIS BED WITH A NEGRO SERVANT NAMED PRIMUS HALL. WASHINGTON HAD VISITED THE CAMP OF COL. PICKER FOR THE NIGHT. PRIMUS, THE COLONEL'S SERVANT, HAD PREPARED TWO BEDS OF STRAW BUT WITH NO BLANKET TO SPARE, HE GAVE WASHINGTON HIS OWN. LATER THAT NIGHT WHEN WASHINGTON SAW PRIMUS SHIVERING IN THE COLD HE INVITED HIM TO COME AND SHARE THE BLANKET. PRIMUS HESITATED BUT OBEYED ON WASHINGTON'S INSISTENCE. WASHINGTON, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL ACCOUNTS, SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN FREE FROM COLOR PREJUDICE. IN ANY CASE HE HAD SEEN THE DEVOTION OF THE NEGROES TO THE CAUSE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.



IN 1790 THERE WERE 195 NEGRO SLAVEHOLDERS OF WHOM 9 WERE IN NEW YORK AND 84 IN MARYLAND. IN 1830 THERE WERE 4,500 IN THE UNITED STATES. IN 1860 THERE WERE 132 OF THEM IN CHARLESTON, S.C. ALONE. SOME OF THESE NEGRO SLAVEHOLDERS BOUGHT WHITE PEOPLE UNTIL LAWS WERE PASSED AGAINST IT.

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LEADERSHIP By Kevin Johnson

Where are the great leaders who are supposed to deliver us to higher ground, to more profitable existence, and towards better civilization? The question resounding in the African American community concerns the whereabouts of the Black leaders.

Leaders are always with us yet many times we may fail to see them or we may neglect to hear them. Everyone who takes the initiative to promote positive growth and support in the community is a leader although

many of these same individuals may never be recognized for their contributions. This is partially due to our tendency to place greater credence upon those leaders who are romanticized by the media and relegated to almost super-human status. We see leaders as only being those who can withstand the blast of a high pressure water hose or the viciousness of an attack dog or the rage of a mad mob of racists. We see the leaders as only those who have been shown on TV or who have a movie named after them or who have been martyred by an assassin's bullet. Ultimately, we see leaders as only who are dead and have crossed into the eternal spirit world. If we consider all of our leaders to be

dead then we must surmise that there are no leaders left amongst the living.

African Americans may have lost confidence

in leadership because there is yet to be developed any form of leadership which can withstand the bullet test. African Americans long for bullet-proof leadership which can deliver our destiny no matter what obstacles and obstructions are fabricated by evil minds. That leadership which transcends the cycle of life and death known to mortal man/woman is the power into which we must tap. That same power which created the known universe is still everpresent.

Every week or several times every week we are reminded that our leader is very much alive. With that reassurance how dare anyone be afraid? We silently hope for a leader to shield us from the constant attacks upon our self-esteem, to comfort us in time of strife, and to give us understanding of that which our leader should have us do. Turn to the leader not to hide yourself from the task you must do; not to excuse yourself from doing your part with the talents you have been granted; but follow the leader in absence of fear and apathy along the path to destiny.

As long as we are convinced that we do not have a leader to answer to, we will gather that we don't have to do anything. Recognizing our true "bullet-proof" leader means that we KNOW that OUR actions or inactions are very much held accountable.

Publisher's Corner

In November of 1994 when visiting "BLACK IMAGES" bookstore in Oakcliff I found three African American published newspapers. The articles in all three were just great! They were filled with interesting positive news about local people. News that while building self-esteem, was also providing useful information about self-help and community improvement. Right away I felt that a news publication such as this could be an asset to Rusk and Cherokee County. I began at that time to search for information and people who would help make this possible. I wrote Dallas, Tyler, Austin, and every place else looking for help. No one responded to my letters and phone calls. In February I was in Longview, Texas when I accidentally discovered the "South Longview Monthly," also an African American publication. Upon returning home, I called Dr. Joseph Glover, publisher. Well, to make a long story short, he was willing to help, thus we welcome you to the first publication of the "Cherokee County Monthly Informer." Our primary goal is to strengthen families, communities, and build business. With the support of you the reader and the business community of Cherokee County our goal will become a reality.


Statement of Policy

The Cherokee County Informer is a report of civic, social and service organization news, sports, fashion, features and religious news of Longview and the surrounding areas. In the greatest and oldest tradition of journalism, the Cherokee County Informer establishes itself in order that both sides of every issue may be learned, in order that citizens of our community as voters and taxpayers may learn the truth.

In order to learn the truth, we promise to demonstrate the courage necessary to report all issues accurately, to unveil all the facts. It is our promise that you can read it here the way it is.

In order to get the full story of our community, it is necessary to hear from you and we therefore open our pages to your comments, criticism and contributions. In our quest for the truth, we will not omit the reporting of any man's voice. This is our promise to you.

Vote for Walter Session



Please vote May 6th for Walter Session, City Councilman District II. His record speaks for itself:

- * Two terms as mayor-protem
- * Additional paved streets
- * Additional and improved water lines/fire hydrants
- * HUD homes and renovations
- * Landlord property renovations
- * The naming of MLK drive
- * The I. C. Conley Park
- * Destruction of many dilapidated houses
- * Obtained first African American policeman
- * Obtained first African American city secretary
- * New sewage treatment plant
- * Main street city status
- * Civic Center
- * Increased retiree pay
- * Trash dumpsters for cleanup
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What's Cooking

Soul food

Soul food was originally nothing more than leftovers. In the old South, slaves made do with meat and vegetables considered waste by their masters. Forced to live on odds and ends from the 'big house', Negro slaves—many poor whites as well—learned to make substantial meals out of unwanted meats and vegetables.

Turnips went to the whites, turnip greens to the blacks. Sweet potatoes went to the slaves, while white potatoes went to the masters' tables. Barbecued pork was a plantation delicacy—

whites slaughtered pigs for hams, loins, spare ribs and bacon. Blacks settled for pigs feet ('trotters'), knuckles, tails, ears, snouts ('snoots'), neckbones, hocks stomach ('hog maw') and other innards.

sweet potato pie, smoked ribs, and greens cooked with bacon rinds, salt pork or ham hocks are soul food essentials. But, today, as two hundred years ago, the classic of soul food is chitterlings, pronounced 'chitlins'.

Chitterlings ('chitlins') are small intestines of pig, boiled

sometimes marinated, then doused with tongue searing hot sauce, served with collard greens, black-eyed peas and hot cornbread. The perfect conclusion to a soul food meal is sweet potato pie.

So, out of a simple southern fare of long ago, came dishes blacks now eat by choice, not by necessity. Soul food, cheap and filling, has stayed a way of kitchen life.

A good business manager hires optimists as salesmen and pessimist to run the credit dept.

Colonial Chicken

1/4 c buttery flavor oil
1/2 t seasoned salt
1/4 t lemon-pepper seasoning
4 whole chicken breasts, split
1 pkg (4 oz) sliced boiled ham
1 can (10-1/2 oz) chicken gravy
1 can (3 or 4 oz) sliced mushrooms
1 T lemon juice

Combine oil, salt and pepper seasoning in a cup. Wash and dry chicken breasts; brush both sides with part of oil mixture. Cut ham slices into wide strips. Broil chicken breasts, skin side down, for 15 minutes; turn; brush again. Broil chicken 10 minutes longer. Arrange ham strips on chicken; brush with oil mixture. Broil 5 minutes longer, or until chicken is tender and ham is lightly browned. Heat gravy, mushrooms with liquid and lemon juice until bubbly-hot in a small saucepan. To serve, arrange chicken and ham on small platter; spoon some of gravy mixture over. Serve remaining gravy separately.

Send us your favorite recipe

Send us those favorite family recipes you've been keeping in the family. Why not share your culinary masterpieces with our readers. Let us publish your favorite recipe in our food section and we'll give our readers a taste of East Texas. Each issue we'll select a couple of recipes, publish them along with the name of the contribution cook.

Please send original recipes only and a little background on the recipe's origin.

Send to:
Cherokee County Informer, What's Cooking? P.O. Box 332, Rusk, TX 77585.

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Family and School Reunions

Relatives and friends are invited to attend:

Simmons Family Reunion

April 28-30, 1995 at the home of the late Mr. & Mrs. Roosevelt Simmons, Shady Grove Community.

Hart Family Reunion, May 12, 13 & 14, 1995 at the home of Mrs. Laura Ann Hart, Shady Grove Community.

Denman Family reunion, June 24th and 25th, at the Conley Park, Rusk, Texas.

The **Booker T. Washington School Reunion** has been set for the weekend of June 16, 17 & 18, 1995 at the Alto High School gym. Registration fees: \$10.00 - senior citizens, and \$30.00 per

person all others. The Alumni Association met Saturday, April 22nd in Alto. For information contact: Agnes Tilley at 409/858-4227 or Linda Skinner 409/858-4692.

The **G.W. Bradford School Reunion** has been set for the weekend of June 16, 17, 18, 1995 at the Rusk Junior High Cafeteria. Fees: \$25.00 per adult. Registration and inquiries may be sent to Bradford Reunion 1995. Reunion Committee, P.O.Box 900, Rusk, Texas 75785.

All former students and faculty are invited to attend a **Bradford Reunion** planning meeting at 1:00 pm, Saturday May 6, 1995 Mt. Pleasant Church, Rusk, Texas.

Use care in day-care selection

When your child starts day care, you and your family join your child in new experiences and relationships. You, the day-care director, child-care staff, and other people in the day-care center have a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and well-being of your child. Your role as a parent is to make responsible, wise choices in selecting a reputable, licensed day-care center that will provide your child with the best care deemed possible. There are several things that you should keep in mind when making this choice and below are

some procedures that you may follow to make the best decision.

Each day-care facility is responsible for meeting minimum standards that are set forth by the Licensing Branch of the Texas Department of Human Services. Many day-care programs exceed these requirements. Licensing does not regulate day-care fees, collection policies, or the kind of learning program the day-care facility offers. Each facility has its own special personality and approach to educating and caring for children. Parents can choose the kind of program that

best meets the needs of their child and family.

When you visit a day-care facility, ask to see the license. The license means that the day-care facility has met the minimum licensing stands the last time it was inspected for such things as fire, sanitation, and safety; the number of child-care staff required; staff qualification; and requirements for special services.

After choosing a potential day-care, you should establish a good relationship with the day-care facility. Spend time at the day-care facility before you enroll your child. Ask

questions about the program and observe the activities. Make sure the day-care facility has the information needed about your child and family to provide good care.

Helping Hands wants to construct center

City help is sought

Members of the HELPING HANDS organizations of Rusk attended a recent Rusk City Council meeting to request help in constructing and establishing a multi-cultural center in Rusk. The council approved acting as sponsoring agent for the group in order to provide assistance in seeking funds. Hard work is still ahead for the group as they must now raise funds to purchase property in Dickinson's First Addition on which to construct the facility.

The purpose of the facility is to: utilize a host of community-based youth programs which offer children alternatives to the streets, to coordinate prevention efforts with the schools, police, community, civic leaders and healthcare providers. Prevention efforts will be focused on alcohol and drug abuse, violence, dropout, and teen pregnancy.

The purpose of the multi-cultural is to also provide a drug/alcohol free environment with supervised activities/programs to build self-esteem. Members attending the meeting were: Carl & Dianne Foreman, Maryland Cleaver, Joyce Shed, Jimmy & Shirley Foreman, Sheryl Jackson, Jackie Jackson, Dorothy Barnett, Kay Morris, Mary powers, Floyd & Terri Franklin, Kathy & Eddie Harris, Evelyn Foreman, Connie Foreman, Barbara McDuff, Glenn Cummings, and Barbara Foreman.



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Style

Health

Braids add a new dimension

Health Update

Black hair is the most incredible hair there is! It can be worn naturally or relaxed permanently, temporarily, or just partially. Whatever you decide to do, it's not because of imitations, but because you have no limitations.

Braiding, cornrowing and wrapping are just some of the more contemporary styles that lend themselves to today's woman. They are ways of adorning and decorating your hair. Intricate braid patterns and diagonal twists create long-lasting styles that are as practical as they are pretty.

Cornrowing is an ancient African living art form. Even today, it's easy to identify an African woman's age, marital and social status just by the way her hair is cornrowed.

Individual braids are braids that are not attached to the scalp in rows. You can make them as long as you like by adding artificial hair, called extensions, to your own as you braid. This style is versatile, too, because you can begin with cornrows, then make individual braids, or you can wear the braids loose one day and tattered in a ponytail the next.

To extend the braids, use artificial or human hair or extensions that match your own color and texture. Begin by using an extension-the thickness one hank of hair. Bend the extension with the short end as the center hank and the long end blending in with your own hair. Braid until



it's secure. Then add a second extension to another hank of your own hair, braid, and then add a third. Continue braiding until hair is the length you want. Trim the ends.

Extensions look natural if you braid neatly and evenly. This may take a little practice so be patient. Once you've mastered the art, you can vary the styles, choosing more intricate patterns. For individual braids that are not attached to the scalp at all, add all three extensions as close to the scalp as possible.

More magic from vitamin C: according to studies at Duke University Medical School in Durham, North Carolina, high doses of the vitamin in lotion form seem to protect the skin against damage from UV rays.


Phenylbutyrate, a drug used for rare metabolic diseases in children, may be effective as nontoxic treatment for sickle-cell anemia. The drug produces a high level of fetal hemoglobin.

Doctors in Santa Barbara report upper body exercise works as well as insulin to curb gestational diabetes, a complication of pregnancy. The women worked out 20 to 30 minutes, three times a week.

Good-for-you bran isn't so good for sufferers from Parkinson's disease. It seems that the pyridoxine in bran interferes with the drugs used to control the disease.

New babies do better if allowed to stay with their mothers for an hour or so, and attempt breast feeding, than if they are whisked away for weighing and bathing, the British medical journal *Lancet* reports.

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Business

McGowan celebrates first anniversary in business

Ronnie McGowan of Rusk celebrates his first anniversary as proud new owner of McGowan Funeral Home of Kilgore. For him, the long awaited dream of wanting his own business came true in May of 1994. The 1978 Rusk High School graduate attended Dalla Institute of Funeral Science where he became a licensed mortician. He gained experience at Mercy Funeral Home in Jacksonville by working in all phases of the business, including director and mortician, from 1984-1994.

In his spare time Ronnie is a trainer and sparring partner for fighter Michael Baggett, who made his professional debut on April 21, 1995 at Maude Cobb Acitivity Center in Longview, Texas.. He also works with eight young boys, training them to become boxers.

Mr. McGowan in owner/manager of McGowan Funeral Home assisted by his wife Vivian and Percy Jackson. The McGowans have two children, David who is an attendant, and Yolunda.



Ronnie McGowan is shown here with wife Vivian and son David.

New Orleans first black-owned riverboat casino

Bally's Casino will make it's first voyage in April. The first casino or gaming operation in the country to have black majority ownership will accommodate 2,350 passengers and 400 crew and staff, is 350 feet long and 83 feet wide.

The riverboat features close to 2,000 gaming positions within 30,000 sq. ft. of casino space. It will be located on the Mississippi River in New Orleans. Norbet A. Simmons an African American 46 years old investment

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Elm Grove Baptist Church celebrates 137 years

Sunday, April 16, 1995 Elm Grove Baptist Church celebrated 137 years of existence. Sis. Ray Jean McDuff read detailed history which has been gathered through the years from community pioneer settlers and organizers of the church, such as Sis. A.A. Hampton, Rev. N.H. Lamb and Sis. Ollie Hooper. A small portion of this history is printed as follows.

Many of the pioneers came to the community as property of their masters with no freedom of religion. The grandmother of the Lamb family was brought to the community by Greenberry Jenkins. There was also brought a Rev. Larkin Williams who was granted the privilege of standing by the window and listening to white church services. Later he was allowed to preach to white congregations.

Following the Civil War the first church meetings were held in the home of Simon Mitchel and his wife Mariah, the grandparents of the present church clerk, Sis. L.V. Stafford. From these meetings the church was organized. Chartered members included Austin Kennedy and wife, Sol Lamb, the father of Rev. N.H. Lamb and Rena Smith, Jim Bolden and wife, Judy Copeland, grandmother of Elzie Hooper, Rubin Woods and wife Caroline, and the parents of Sis. A.A. Hampton who served many years as church mother.

The church grew and prospered over the years building three frame buildings before building the present concrete brick and tile building in the present location. The following names are Ministers and members who played

great roles in the history of the church. Ministers: Frank Roberts, Lewis Moss, Matthew Johnson, Bob Robertson, Nelson Brown, Moss Gipson, Turn Brown, Alex Salter, Guss Williams, T.B. Johnson, Jeff Brown, Eli Wheeler, C.C. Quarrels, Jefery Finley, B.F. Houston, J.C. Delly, George H. Adams, F. M. Dews, B.W. Ward, and the present Pastor, Rev. George McDuff.

The first place of worship was a brush arbor located two miles from the present location on the Jim Jenkins Survey in a swamp surrounded by a grove of elm trees. The church was named from the location.

Members and officers: Mr. & Mrs. Wade Johnson, Georgie Williams Ruben Woods, Charlie White & wife Margie, Abe Hooper, Steve Hooper, Elzie Hooper, Bob Chambers, C.D. White, Albert Christopher, Odie Williams, B.F. Hunter, and Matthew Price.

Elm Grove Baptist Church continues to make great strides of improvement under the leadership of the present day official staff: Ruby Christopher-Chairman of the Deacon Board, Tobbie Session-Deacon, L.B. Stafford-Clerk, Betty Christopher-Asst. Clerk, Paul McDuff-Deacon Board Asst. Chairperson & Treasurer, Irene Hunter-Pre. Mission, Ray Jean McDuff-Sect. of Mission, Sunday School and Choir Pres., Melba Bradley-Treasurer of Mission, Willie Bradley-Supt. of Sunday School and Secretary of Deacon Board, Billy Whitaker-Sunday School Asst. Secretary, Elnora Collins-Choir Treasurer, Homer Young-Deacon Board Treasurer.

Former employee is new owner of business

Arthur J. Rhodes better known as A.J. is the new owner of Community Funeral Home. He has been with Community Funeral home seventeen years, serving for the past six as manager and director, and the eleven years prior to that as embalmer and assistant funeral director. Mr. Rhodes, a licensed embalmer and funeral director is a graduate of E.J. Campbell High School of

Nacogdoches, Texas, Alvin Jr. College and Common Wealth College of Mortuary Science and San Antonio College. He also attended Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Tex where he majored in theater art. A.J. also served a four year hitch in the Air Force where he was honorably discharged.

He and his wife O.V. have three children, Michelle, Byron and Dexter. He is very active in his church, Benson Memorial C.M.E. where he serves as recording steward, trustee, head usher and treasurer. A.J.'s civic duties include local NAACP president, Cherokee County Crimestoppers Board member, American Heart Association member, Citizens Advisory Home Healthcare Committee, founder of the Unity Committee which sponsors a yearly Juneteenth parade and celebration and Martin Luther King Day March and celebration.

A.J. stated that he has concern that young people in the area express no interest in the mortuary field. He would like to offer apprenticeship training by teaching what he knows to any young person who expresses an interest in hopes of attracting new people into the field.

Linwood Baptist Church

Rev. H. C. Whitaker, Pastor

Mission program "Ladies in Red"

Sunday, May 7, 1995 at 2:30 pm

Speaker - Rev. K. B. Clater

Vacation Bible School

May 29 - June 2, 1995

Contact: Gracie Morrison or Mildred Brown

Youth Revival

June 4 - 9, 1995

Rev. Q. T., Pastor of the Hour of Power Church of Lufkin, Texas will be the evangelist.

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Arthur J. Rhodes

Mt. Pleasant CME Church

Rev. Billy Burnett, Pastor

Annual April Men's Day program was dedicated to longtime Steward, Irvin C. Conley who is presently recovering from surgery. A certificate in appreciation for fifty-plus years of dedicated service to the church was presented for Mr. Conley. Stanley Johnson of Houston, Texas was also recognized for outstanding service to the church. Other men recognized for service to the church were: Donald Dickerson, William Watson, Walter Session, Leroy Ballard, James Johnson, James Rivers, Herman Bradley, and Eddie Harris. Rev. Brazzle, Pastor of Bible Teaching Ministries of Longview, Texas was speaker for the occasion. He was accompanied by about 25 members of his choir and congregation.

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Education

Student teacher exemplifies qualities youngsters need

Student teacher Shiela Bradley of Rusk, Texas lamenting the few number of fellow blacks in teaching, says black students need to see black teachers to realize they can have accomplishments no matter what their background or color.

Mrs. Bradley is an example of a black youth who overcame circumstances. She is on the verge of achieving her goal of becoming a teacher.

Mrs. Bradley married while still in high school, but went on to finish high school in Alto and pursue a college degree at the University of Texas at Tyler despite having two children. She also attended Tyler Junior College.

Mrs. Bradley is close to receiving a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with specialization in speech and early childhood education. Her husband received his degree in 1993.

"If we can give children the basic background they need in early childhood, then they will be prepared when they become secondary students," Mrs. Bradley said, citing the reason for wanting to become an elementary school teacher.

In the early grades, teachers need to focus on teaching students to read, recognize colors and shapes, how to share and how to be willing to work together, Mrs. Bradley said.

"I feel there are so many children not getting the attention and help they need," Mrs. Bradley said. "If I can make a difference in one child's life, that's one more that might go on and become a teacher, lawyer or whatever and that child can

go on and make a difference in one more life."

Currently student teaching in kindergarten at Cain Elementary, Whitehouse, she will start student teaching third grade in March at Brown Elementary, Whitehouse, Texas.

After graduation, she hopes to obtain a teaching job in Whitehouse or Rusk, Texas.

As a student teacher, Mrs. Bradley said she stresses helping children to have healthy self esteem. "I know my students very well; several I feel as if I'm helping them to make a change," she said.

Mrs. Bradley added, "I work with a few of them individually in small groups and I can focus on those that need extra attention.

"I personally believe in bringing joy into the lives of children. I have the willingness to work and a determination to be successful in the life of a child; I want to help them obtain the knowledge necessary to overcome the hardship and trials that they will face as they grow and mature."

Many children need extra attention, someone with whom they can confide in and believe in and who will believe in them no matter what their background and they need someone to show them love, Mrs. Bradley said.

"I want to teach children to believe in themselves and to be proud of who they are," Mrs. Bradley said, adding she wants to get across to children that they determine their future, not their background.

Principal sets school climate to respect cultural differences

As instructional leader of Rusk Elementary School, Charles Horton, principal, sets the climate to build the self-esteem of all students there. Each year a Multicultural Fair is held on the campus. The 1995 Multicultural Fair was a success just as those held in the past. Students, parents, teachers and the community participated photo albums, food, posters, clothing, videos, and displays of any kind which depict culture.

The excellent staff of teachers did an outstanding job of coordinating themes with curriculum units that students were currently studying. Themes chosen were: third grade

Cowboys, fourth grade "Texas", and fifth grade "African American Culture". Other cultures and countries presented were: European, Asian, Indian, Hispanic, Japan, China, Croatian, Mexico, Germany and Australia. All students actively participated. They learned that even though we may have differences, the differences make our world rich. Mr. Horton stated that Rusk Elementary has 415 students from culturally diverse backgrounds, twenty-seven professional personnel and seven support staff all working to provide the best possible education for all the students.



Charles Horton principal of Rusk Elementary is shown here with some of his students.

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The Cherokee County Informer is eager to share your news with the rest of the community. Club news, social events, charitable activities and service organization news are welcome. We publish your news or announcements at no cost to you. Contributions should be typewritten, if possible. Photos will also be published at a charge of \$7.50 per photo in

Community

Reunion planned

Members of the Dallas and Rusk Chapters of the G. W. Bradford School Alumni Association met recently at the Mount Pleasant Church Fellowship hall to plan for this year's reunion. The reunion has been set for June 16, 17, 18, 1995. This year's theme is "Together Again". The schedule is Friday night reception and registration, Saturday breakfast, business meeting following breakfast, family picnic, Saturday night banquet, family picnic, Saturday night banquet, social gathering and Sunday morning Christian Fellowship. The Christian Fellowship could possibly be altered from previous years by asking one of the local churches to host the service with plans to chose a different church for each future reunion.

Those attending the meeting were Travis and Carrol Mathews, Frazier and Carrol Foreman, Shirley Freney Jones, Marie Simmons Bennett, Johnny (Billy) Thompson, all of Dallas, and Doretha Session Johnson of Grand Prairie. J. W. Carter, Sarah Johnson, Joe Nelson, Winona Johnson, and Maxine Session all of Rusk, Texas.



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ENGLAND'S MOST BRILLIANT MUSICAL GENIUS OF THE 20th CENTURY. BORN IN 1875 OF AN AFRICAN FATHER AND A WHITE MOTHER IN LONDON, HE SUFFERED MUCH EARLY PRIVATION BUT LATER WON GREAT ACCLAIM AS A COMPOSER AND A CONDUCTOR OF SOME OF BRITAIN'S LEADING ORCHESTRAS. CERTAIN CRITICS PLACED HIM IN THE "SUBLIME CLASS WITH BEETHOVEN, BRAHMS, AND WAGNER." HE DIED OF OVERWORK AT 37, LEAVING 82 WORKS, NOT INCLUDING ORGAN AND VIOLIN MELODIES AND PIANO SOLOS. HIS BEST KNOWN WORK IS PERHAPS "HIAWATHA."

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It is now easier for people in Cherokee county to find health and human services.

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H.O.P.E. Help Line will keep up with the changes in health and human services in the area, providing a good front door for people in need.

In most and more counties, the Texas Information and Referral Project, under the auspices of the Texas Health

and Human Services commission, helps local health and human service providers select their Hub. By calling Fran Daniel at the H.O.P.E., Inc. HOPE Help Line, at 903/586-2144, you can find the health and human services you need.

Voter's Register

Local school and city elections will be held May 6th from 7 AM to 7 PM. The city election will held at city hall and the Rusk ISD Schoolboard election will be held at Southwestern Electric Service Company. Jessie's Place was the site recently of voter's who decided to register to vote in the upcoming elections. If you are not registered you may pickup a voter registration application at the Cherokee County Courthouse in the Tax Assessor Collector's office.

Lois Johnson named Worthy Matron of the year

Mrs. Johnson, a retired public school teacher, has been named Worthy Matron of the year by the Mary Conley Chapter #147 of Rusk, Texas. She has been a

member of the chapter more than thirty years. She is a member of Mount Pleasant CME Church, where she has served as Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School



Secretary, member of the Missionary Society, and Stewardess Board.

East Texas Family Services, Inc.

14th annual awards and appreciation banquet

The East Texas Family Services, Inc. Head Start Program will observe its 14th annual appreciation and awards celebration with a ban-

quet Friday night, May 5, 1995 at 7:00 PM at the Sheraton Hotel in Tyler, Texas.

Community and parent volunteers from

Cherokee, Rusk, Anderson, Henderson, Hunt, Van Zandt, and Smith Counties will be recognized for outstanding services given

the Head Start centers. Staff achievements will also be recognized.

Entertainment by the Head Start choir will be provided.

Public Service Announcement

Our parks are in trouble. You can help! Do you want to help protect a park you love here in Rusk? Then join us for March For Parks!

March For Parks is a national walk event involving tens of thousands of Americans in all 50 states.

Here in Rusk, March For Parks will take place on April 22, 1995 beginning at 9:00 AM. The three-mile walk begin at the Rusk Elementary.

The money you raise through March For Parks will help remodel the park dining hall.

To find out how you can become involved, call 903/683-5126.

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Religion

Baptist Convention Session

March 21-23, 1995 citizens from around the state of Texas gathered at the Texas State Baptist Convention building in Jacksonville, Texas for the Semi-Annual Session of the Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention. The host pastor was Dr. Charles Walls, of Greater Mount Zion Baptist of Jacksonville. The Convention theme was: "The Black Church Facing New Responsibilities In The Nineties," Matt. 28:16-20. Dr. Walls and Rev. Carl Hockenull presented a short program of welcome for the Tuesday evening session which was followed by a panel discussion centered around the church facing

responsibilities "In The Home, In The Community, and In The Government." Mini-workshops and lectures were held throughout the three days. Local churches participating along with Greater New Zion were Sweet Union and Calvary Baptist. Convention president is Dr. A. Doyal McCraw, General Secretary Harold L. Bruton, and Rev. Hockenull is Assistant General Director. The Fifth Annual Texas State Missionary Baptist convention will be held in October here in Jacksonville. Please call Harold Alexander or Rev. Hockenull for registration information for the October Convention.

Black Religion In America

Black religion in America, conceived against a background of slavery and segregation, gave black man and opportunity to be free while in chains. Blacks produced a gospel of future hope and a theology of the suffering servant. Black religion is unique to the Negro folk and it ties them to each other in times of stress by a racial bond which cuts across all other variables.

A chronology of black religion links it with the coming of Christianity to Egypt, 354-543 A.D., thus to the West Coast of Africa and on to America by way of slave ships. Early colonial law decreed only christians, the law was changed.

At first, benevolent slaveowners permitted slaves to practice religion, baptizing those who had not been baptized. Slaves generally worshipped in a segregated section of the white church attended by owner. This pattern of segregation prompted many blacks to form their own congregations. During the American Revolution, and prior to the great slave rebellions which later put a ban on the formation of black churches, several large Baptist congregations were established. The first was founded in Silver Bluff, S.C., in 1773.

Between 1776-1786, Baptist churches were organized in Va. at Petersburg, Richmond and Williamsburg. In Savannah, Ga., George Liele founded a baptist congregation for blacks in 1779. Under the pastorphism of Andrew Bryan, a slave, the first Baptist church was built for black worshippers in 1796.

Negro churches grew out of the expulsion of black worshippers from the white churches. Without schools or social centers, the black churches became focal points for community activities, and from the churches emerged distinguished leaders.

Richard Allen and Absalom Jones founded the Free African Society- forerunner of present institution of black insurance companies. Allen also founded the African Methodist Eppiscopal Church (1787) and made the black church into and institution in 1816.

Black church members expanded greatly after the Civil War. The greatest growth was by Baptist who had 500,000 members by 1870.

God has a plan for your family

According to Ephesians 5:22-27,

V. 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

V. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is head of the church and is the Savior of the body.

V. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husband in everything.

V. 25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ love the church and gave Himself for it;

V. 26 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

V. 27 That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Your continued reading through verse 31 will enlighten you even more. Ephesians 6:1-4 gives direct instructions for our children.

If only you would look, you would see that God's plan is a complete plan for your family. Most of the existing family problems in our society would not exist if we would dare to follow God's instructions.

God made man the head of the family. This does not give him the free hand to hit, beat, abuse or neglect his family. The man is to love his family according to the scripture. Men have choices to make concerning our families. But we must not neglect the word of God in order to do

the truth and feel the spirit of God. Whatever the problem is, Jesus is the answer. The word of God is just like the seat belt in your car. IT ONLY WORKS WHEN YOU USE IT.

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Editorial

First Blacks in Texas

Blacks have been in Texas for 400 years. And they have done what no other group has had to do. From the first known instance of Europeans on Texas soil they have played an important role in shaping our land and history.

From the first black in Texas history recorded by name, Esteban, until today, there have been blacks who were 'standouts' 'exceptional'.

Even now, an Anglo in college is an exception. The truth is, all blacks, not just the 'standout' in history, have been remarkable for overcoming prejudice, for fighting long and hard against great odds and winning.

Esteban was one of the four survivors of the disastrous Navarez Expedition of 300 men which was ship-

wrecked twice in 1528. He was a Moorish slave of the Spanish Captain Andrew Dorantes who, with Alonso del Castillo an Alvar Nunez, Cabeza de Vaca made their way from Galveston Island in 1528 to the Spanish town of Culiacan on the Pacific coast of Mexico in 1536. Their survival through eight years of incredible tribulation was due largely to Esteban, who seemed most readily adaptable not only to physical hardship but to the varied Indian languages they encountered on their journey.

The four spent much of their time being slaves to the Indians, as they moved down the coast. De Vaca and his companions had enough medical knowledge to be hailed as healers; Esteban was presented

a gourd for his talents.

Upon their arrival in Mexico, Esteban related stories he had heard from the Indians, of rich cities north of the rout, assumed to be the seven cities of Cibola. Dorantes sold Esteban to the Spanish Vicory of Mexico in 1539. The Vicory ordered him to guide a new expedition that year. The expedition ended when Esteban entered a Zuni village and was slain.

Blacks in bondage accompanied many other expeditions in Texas-Pineda in 1519. Garay in 1520, Coronado in 1540, but most were not recorded. Many blacks today with Spanish surnames are probably descended from the early explorers.

As migration of blacks continued, many arrived free and many as slaves. By 1795, Texas, population was 24 percent black and remarkably, only about one in 10 were slaves. The blacks were skilled craftsmen in many areas.....farmers, blacksmiths, teachers, carpenters, shoemakers, miners and merchants.

For a short while in the early 19th century, Texas was a haven for blacks. That was after the united States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. Spain declared any slave who crossed the into Texas a free man. Many escaped slaves fled into east Texas, acquiring land and wealth.



Esteban, a Moroccan slave who accompanied Cabeza de Vaca and his shipwrecked companions across the Southwest in 1528, was the first known Black to have probed the region above the Rio Grande. He led the search for legendary seven cities of gold.

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