



Cherokee County Informer

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July 1997



Serving Rusk, Alto, Jacksonville, Wells, Cherokee County

Volume 3 No. 3

CIRCULATION AUDITED BY

C · P · V · S

Community Papers Verification Service

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July 1997



Mrs. Doris Hardeway Finley grew up in Ponta, Texas, graduated from Bradford High School (then called Rusk Colored School) in the class of 1943 and taught at Fred Douglass High School. Read about her and her husband B. T. Finley on page 3.

EDITORIAL



Maxine Session

This beautiful summer has been filled with busy people vacationing and attending reunions. Whether by plan or coincidence the Rusk and Alto reunions for G. W. Bradford and Booker T Washington schools were held on the same weekend in June. That was convenient for people from the two reunions to get together between events. Fred Douglas High School reunion will be held July 25th, 26th, and 27th. If you need information about it call Hallie Peoples at (903) 586-2007.

We salute all three schools during our June, July, and August issues by interviewing former faculty from the schools and printing the histories. Fred Douglas history will be printed in next month's issue.

If you are still in high school hopefully the articles will make you aware of the importance of this time in your life. If you are out of high school and college five, ten, fifteen years and so on..... maybe this will stir good memories from your past.... maybe make you want to pull out that old yearbook if you can find it.

For those of us who are middle -aged and past we can plainly see that we are products of our past.

most especially childhood. I graduated Bradford high with the senior class of 1965. We held some reunions in the seventies. Since 1987 they have been held regularly every two years.. Many local former students and others who live near by have never attended. I've often wondered if its because they are trying to avoid painful memories of school or of childhood.

We are products of our past. When the memories have been painful we simply choose to forget them. That's not easy to do. Our past is a part of our today. We model what we saw, heard and experienced as children. Avoiding painful memories is no way to relieve them. We must go back, even if it is to a school reunion, and relive them before we can erase them.

If you are willing to deal with the past, you can make the moment you are in rich.

-Oprah Winfrey

Thank you
Elnora Colston & Laura Hicks
for the Mission Circle reports each month and for the care and comfort you and the Mission Circle give to the sick and shut-in.

Announcing
The Elm Grove Homecoming
Saturday, August 16, 1997
Hiway 110 S. Rusk

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to share this blessing with you and your readers. One day this week Callie Lee Dearman stopped by to see us. She said she stopped to check on James and me because our yard was so overgrown and she had never seen it that way. After working all day, she went home, got her lawn mower and her sister-in-law Veronica Dearman, helped our son Donald mow our yard. Her reason for doing such a wonderful deed was "I just wanted to do my christian duty. I explained to her that we are moving out of our house so that it can be torn down and another one built. It brought tears of thanks to my eyes. I just wanted to share this blessing and say "Thank you." to Callie and Veronica.

Thank You,
Elizabeth Rivers



Irene Colston Joyce

Congratulations upon your retirement, Irene Colston Joyce!
Thirty-Two Years of Teaching Alto I.S.D
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Mrs. Doris Hardeway Finley Shares Memories of the Past

Mrs. Doris Finley was chosen as this month's cover story because she and her husband Booker T. Finley were a great part of Fred Douglas High School for more than twenty years. The school was in existence from 1922 through 1970. The Fred Douglas Reunion will be held this month, July 25th, 26th and 27th.

Time, love and energy were invested in little Doris Hardeway by her parents Horace and Joella Hardeway during her growing-up years in Ponta, Texas. This time, love and energy enabled her to give back to the many others whose pathways she has been blessed to cross in life.

The following story is told in her own words given in a private interview at her home in Jacksonville, Texas.

" I am Doris Hardeway Finley, member of the Rusk Colored School graduating senior class of 1943. It was a full and wonderful life that I lived on the way to becoming a senior."

" I am Doris Hardeway Finley, member of the Rusk Colored School graduating senior class of 1943. It was a full and wonderful life that I lived on the way to becoming a senior."

" Although, as I recall, life for me was no different from any other child growing up in Ponta in the thirties," Says Mrs. Finley. " My brothers Horace and Curtis, and my sisters Carol, Ella Mae, and I, use to walk three miles from home to Bolling's grocery store there in Ponta, to catch the bus to Rusk each day. Those rides were exciting to us even though the bus was not much more than a covered over truck. Mr. Jack Madkins was our driver.

We attended Rusk Colored School, as George Washington Bradford School was called then. It was first located on highway eighty-four west of Rusk and moved to William Street in 1938 when the Black population began to shift there.

The Mansel kids, Erma Ruth and Rose Mary were our neighbors and playmates.

The Mansel kids, Erma Ruth and Rose Mary were our neighbors and playmates. I saw a letter to the editor from Erma Ruth a few months ago, and I see she is in Los Angeles. Homer Young, who lives here in Jacksonville now, Hubert Kiles and Gayle Gilmore were also our neighbors and playmates.

When I was in school we only had four teachers, George Bradford, principal and teacher, Lela Mae Vinson, J. P. Allen and another whose name was Wickware. We were given a superior education and most of us went off to college.

There were about four popular Black colleges to choose from, Mary Allen College in Crockett Prairie View, Butler College and Texas College. I went to Texas College. I lived in the dorms for awhile then moved in with my uncle and aunt Raymond and Annie B. Hardeway who lived at 1010 North Grand Avenue at that time.

After graduation I taught at a community called Redland, then Central Heights north of

Nacogdoches. Back then there was a white Central Heights and a black Central heights.

In 1952 I began teaching second grade at Elberta Street School. There was a Cherokee County School Board that ran the schools then. One board member's name was Williamson. He owned a furniture store here in Jacksonville, so I went to the store and talked to him.....I asked for more challenge. The next year I was moved to fifth grade, then finally ninth grade World and American History at Fred Douglas. Oh, and I loved it! It was my challenge! We related so well to the students and they and the parents related so well to us. We all went to church together. We knew each other so well that there was a closeness there. Those were some of the happiest years of our lives! We didn't have that after integration.

That's when I met my husband. He was at Fred Douglas teaching seventh grade science and math, and coaching seventh & eighth grade basketball, football, and track.

We related so well to the students and they and the parents related well to us..... Those were some of the happiest years of our lives! We didn't have that after integration.

The choral group.....the band.....it all had a different meaning. The curriculum included the basic courses plus typing, music, homemaking, agriculture.....

Homecoming at Fred Douglas was always an exciting time. There was the decoration of floats, election of kings and queens, a huge gathering of former students, a big parade downtown with all the hoopla..... Then finally the big football game followed by a social held in the gym. Now, the homecoming games are no different from any other.



Wellington Scott introduced me to my husband Booker T. We were married soon after that.

His parents were Thomas and Lucille Finley. He was born in Nacogdoches, Texas. His parents were good friends with the Colston family. They all moved from Nacogdoches to Shady Grove Rusk about the same time. The Colstons stayed in Rusk, but after a few years the Finleys moved to Jacksonville."

When Fred Douglas integrated in 1970, Mr. & Mrs. Finley both began teaching at Jacksonville High School. He also worked as a counselor there eleven years. They both retired in 1986 and still reside in Jacksonville where they are both active members of Benson Memorial CME Church.

Continued on page 4

American Heart
Association
Fighting Heart Disease
and Stroke

Medical miracles
start with research



Elberta Street School, second grade classroom of Doris Finley. Some of the students pictured here are Mary Sanders, William Tilley, L. D. Jones, Odell Hinton, Winfred Tennison, Linda Green, Benny Ray Session and Earnest Gates



Fred Douglas boys championship basketball team- L. To R. Steven Scott, Michael Fry, Bobby Hicks, Roger Cox, Johnny Wallace, Aaron Session. Coach B. T. Finley. Front L. To R. Robert Polk, Willie Howard, Edward Harvest, Jow Brown, and Marshall Johnson.

POETRY CORNER

Think About It

God looked down from Heaven
 one day.
 "Something is missing" an angel
 did say.
 The Lord said, "Yes, and I know
 what-
 The earth needs a touch of what
 heaven's got-
 It needs more laughter, love, and
 charm-
 More honesty, too, wouldn't do
 any harm."
 So as He looked down from
 Heaven and smiled,
 God gave us a gift, and he called
 it "a child."

*One Hundred Years
 From Now*

One hundred years from now,
 It won't matter what kind of
 car I drove,
 What kind of house I lived in,
 How much money I had in my
 bank account,
 Nor what my clothes looked
 like...
 But the world may be a little
 better
 Because I was important in
 The life of a child.

Happy Birthday
Travis Porter Jr.
 July 9th

July
BIRTHDAYS
 Monica K. Blanton, July 13th, from Mom, Dad,
 and Brothers.
**Carl C. Tudman & Timothy C.
 Tudman,**
 Sixteen years old July 27, from Mom, Dad, and
 Sister.
Steve Blanton,
 July 8th, from Betty with Love.

**Safety Tips While
 I'm Home By
 Myself.....**

1. While at school, don't wear your house key on a necklace or bracelet. This lets others know that you go home alone. Keep the house key in your pocket or shoe.
2. Learn how to work the locks on the doors or windows and keep them locked while you are home by yourself.
3. Never open the door to a stranger. Ask who is there or look through a window or peep-hole in the door. Tell them they will have to come back but do not tell them that you are home alone. If they do not leave, call you parents or a neighbor.
4. When answering the telephone, do not tell the caller that you are alone. Tell them your parents are busy and you will take a message. Keep a pencil and paper by the telephone.
5. Keep a list of telephone numbers by the telephone to call your parents at work or wherever they might be, a neighbor or relative, The police, the fire department, and the poison control center.
6. Call your parents or a neighbor on the telephone whenever you get home to let them know that you are there and everything is alright.
7. Set rules with your parents on who can come over or where you may go. If you help make the rules then you should obey the rules. Call your parents if you are going to be gone longer than you thought.
8. Set up an escape plan in case of fire. Practice it.

For advertising information
 call 683-5743

**Sergeant William
 L. Warren
 Promoted**



William L. Warren was promoted to the rank of Technical Sergeant. Sgt. Warren is enlisted in the United States Air Force. He is in his fourteenth year of service, and is a material management specialist. Selection is made through testing 55,000 eligible applicants only 8000 selected Air Force wide, his career field 2900 eligible, 326 selected. Sgt. Warren credits God and his wife for allowing him the study time to make rank competition. To make rank is tough, and it is not given to you. You need every bit of study time to make it. To God be the glory. Sgt. Warren and wife give him all the credit, because truly all promotions comes from God.

Sgt. Warren is married to Gwendolyn Rena; the son of A.C. and Ethel Warren of Poynor, Texas; son-in-law of Ruby and Betty Christopher.

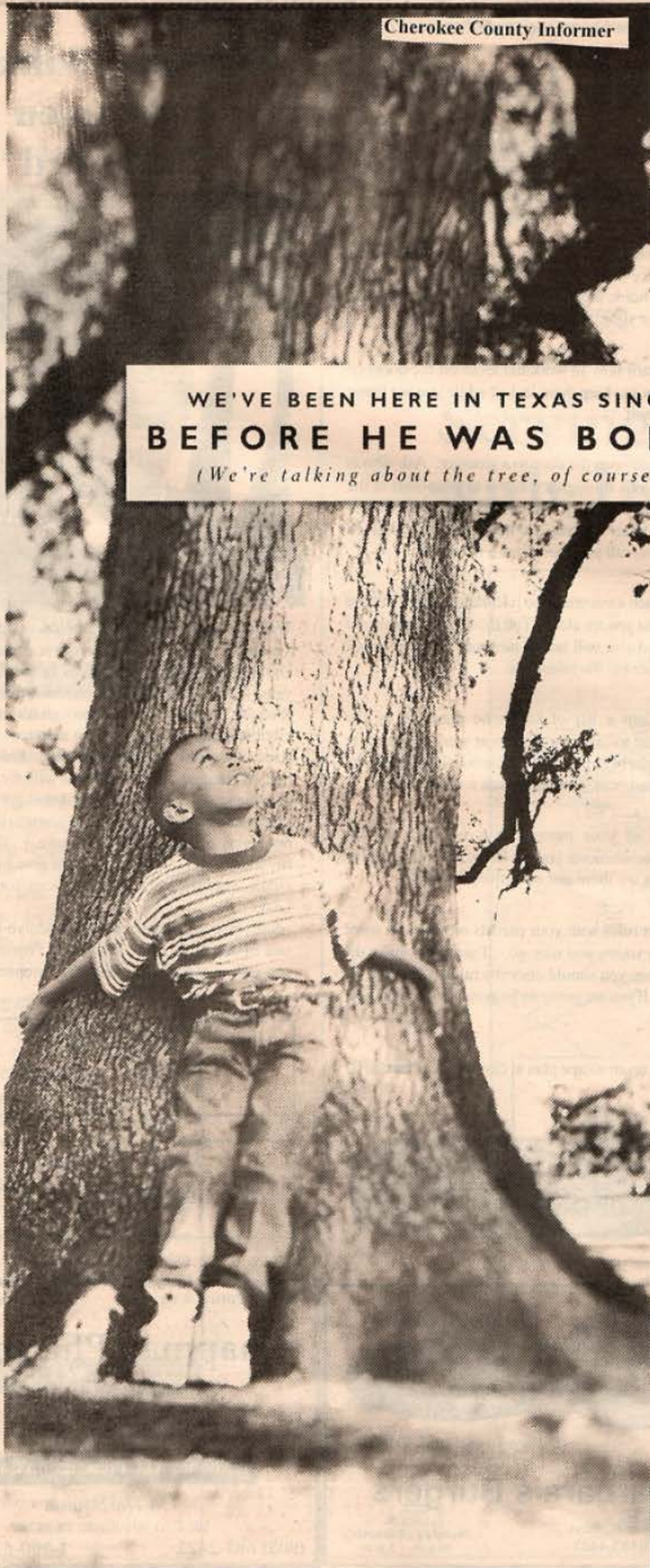
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Bellen Calhoun
 July 2nd

Happy Anniversary
Louis and Travis Porter
 32 years

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hard to meet the challenges for generations to come. Like that old tree, you can expect us to be there whenever you need us.



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**TEXAS
LOTTERY**

Ask A.J.

Who first taught the principle that "Black is beautiful"?

Malcolm X (who believed that self-reliance is the means to success)

Carl T. Rowan headed the U.S. Information Agency in 1964 and 65'. Was he a noted journalist or business executive?

Journalist (He wrote for the *Minneapolis Tribune* and was a syndicated columnist for the *Chicago Daily News*.)

Moneta Sleet, Jr., was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his photograph taken at what tragic event on April 9, 1968?

The funeral of Martin Luther King Jr. (The photograph portrays Coretta King and her daughter.)

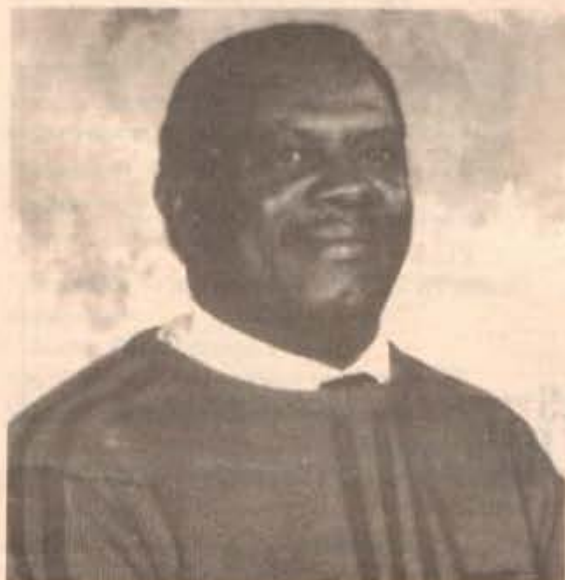
Was America's first black Catholic Community established in Georgia or Florida?

Florida (Formed by escaped slaves, the community was located in St. Augustine.)

Of the fifteen jockeys who rode in the first Kentucky Derby in 1875, how many were black?

14 (including Oliver Lewis, who rode the winning horse, Aristides)

In 1989, President George Bush appointed him Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Who is he?



Lightening strikes tree



Mrs. Ada Lenzy and daughter Junita Lenzy Simmons point to section of tree struck by lightening.

Rusk -East Texas is known for unusual weather. During a June thunderstorm lightening struck this beautiful old Oak tree which stands in Mrs. Ada Lenzy's backyard. The lightening struck the tree and ripped a four inch wide section of bark from the tree in a straight line that went from the bottom to the top and about twenty feet out one branch. The force was so powerful that splinters were found sticking out of the back wall of the house and loose bark was found scattered as far as seventy-five feet away.

Travis July

Born: July 4, 1988

Passed away: June 22, 1995

To some
you will be forgotten,
To others
just part of the past;
But to us
who loved and lost you,
Your memory
will always last.
Your loving family,
Felicia, Ferlich & Travon

Legislation to Protect Churches from Arson, Insurance Redlining Signed into Law

AUSTIN, TX - New measures to protect churches from arson and insurance redlining were signed into law today by Governor George W. Bush at the State Capitol in Austin. Senate Bill 78 and 79 by State Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) and State Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon (D-San Antonio) increase penalty for burning a church or place of worship to a first degree felony and prohibit insurance redlining of churches because of a proven case of arson.

"The tragic trend of church burnings in Texas and across the nation challenges us to do more to protect our sacred houses of worship," said Ellis. "An attack on a place of worship is an attack on all people of faith and the fundamental religious values which unite us as Americans."

More than 318 churches across America have victimized by arson since 1995. In Texas, the Commission on Fire Protection has identified 63 suspicious church fires since 1995. Senate Bill 78 increases the penalty for church arson from a second degree felony. Under the new law, those convicted of burning a place of worship would face five to 99 years in prison and as much as a \$10,000 fine.

"I think it sends a clear message to criminals that we are not going to allow them to indiscriminately burn down our places of worship," said McClendon.

The two lawmakers said that other states such as Florida, North Carolina and California already consider the burning of a place of worship with a higher degree of severity. The Texas' arson law will be the strongest in the nation.

"I am proud that Texas will have the strongest law in the nation to protect our houses of worship and punish the criminals who seek to destroy them," said Ellis. "I think ninety-nine years in jail is ample time for a church arsonist to find religion."

Les Brown and Gladys Knight Are Divorcing

It's true, they are divorcing. Les Brown, the 52 year old motivated speaker, who was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer cited irreconcilable differences between him and famed singer, Gladys Knight. Knight 53, and Brown were wedded in August 1995.

"I will always love her," says Brown, "but we have decided to go our own separate ways." Brown made the statement from his Wichita Kansas office. Miss Knight' manager said the singer had no comments.

For advertising information
call 683-5743

Tree holds Borden's Ice Cream and Royal Crown Cola signs from the fifties



Jacksonville-This old Sycamore tree has performed an important task since the early fifties. It still holds the Borden's Ice Cream and Royal Crown Cola signs that were hung on it in the fifties and have since grown into it. This unusual tree stands in front of Cook's Store on North Main Street in Jacksonville. The store run by Rev. Ples Cook and his wife Rose was run previously by W. D. Anderson and Fred Ross.



Here we are again standing on the promises of God, 1996 to 1997. The Lord has blessed us giving us

strength to carry on. Our pride and joy is working in our flower garden. I have a Father who can.

- Amsden and Josie Johnson

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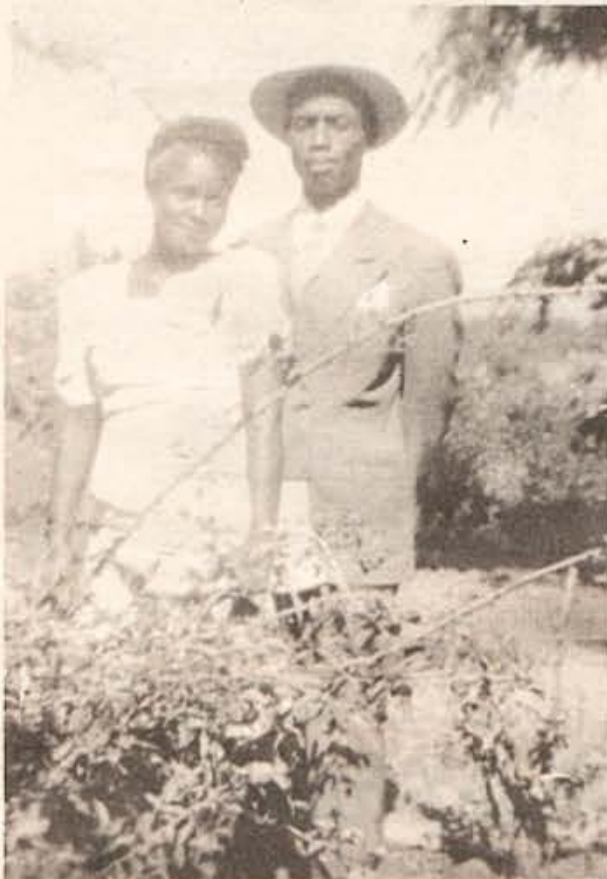
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Bowens Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



Cicero and Georgia Bowens shown in their yard shortly after their 1947 wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Cicero Bowens will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 9th. The couple was married July 9, 1947. They are the proud parents of five children, nine grandchildren and three great-grand children.

Tribute To Betty

Thousands of people attended the three-day mourning services for 61-year old Dr. Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X, mother of six daughters, grandmother, educator, friend, and activist.

Dr. Shabazz, after three weeks of valiant and persistent effort to survive, succumbed on Monday, June 23 to the tragic experience of suffering from third-degree burns over 80 percent of her body on Sunday, June 1. The fire allegedly was set in her Yonkers apartment by her grandson, Malcolm Shabazz. He is the son of Dr. Shabazz's second oldest daughter, Qubilah.

According to the doctors at Jacobi Medical Hospital Center, Dr. Shabazz survived much longer than expected for a woman her age with severe burns.

In tribute to Dr. Shabazz, Gov. George Pataki ordered flags to be flown at half-staff. Thousands of mourners passed through the Chapel during public wake at the Unity Funeral Home Chapel, on Eighth Avenue in New York, on Thursday June 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The public wake was followed with The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Omega Omega Service. On June 27, a private Islamic service was held at the Women's Center of Islam.

Dr. Betty Shabazz was born on May 28, 1936 in Detroit, Michigan and was raised by foster parents. She married Malcolm X, who was assassinated on February 21, 1965 while she, at age 29, and four of her six daughters, Attallah (born in 1958), Qubilah (born in 1960), Ilyasah

Shabazz

(born in 1962), and Gamilah (born in 1964), watched the tragic event take place. At that time, Dr. Shabazz was pregnant with the twins Malikah and Malaak (born after the assassination in 1965).

According to the book, "One More River To Cross" by Jim Haskins, Dr. Shabazz met Malcolm X when she was Sister Betty X at Temple Number Seven. Elijah Muhammad, the late leader of the Nation of Islam, had named Malcolm X minister of the Temple in N.Y. They fell in love and got married.

After the assassination, which took place in the Audubon Ballroom in Washington Heights, Manhattan, N.Y., Mrs. Shabazz was left to raise six daughters as a single parent without much community support because at that time many African Americans were not in tune with the teachings of Malcolm.

This was a challenge that Dr. Shabazz took on with much strength, perseverance, unselfishness, kindness, high morals, and compassion by looking forward with respect for her independent status and by having a strong determination that she and her daughters would succeed in life. She knew that education was the key to their survival. She attended Tuskegee Institute; Jersey City State College where she received a BA degree. Brooklyn State Hospital School of Nursing where she received a RN degree and a masters in early childhood development. She went on to receive her doctoral degree and then embarked upon a journey to helping others.

Continued on page 18

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A. J. Rhoades, Owner/Director

We plan ahead for our children's future, our retirement, even our monthly bills. How very few of us plan for funeral arrangements, even though this may be one of the most painful ordeals our loved ones will struggle through alone. **Community Funeral Home** can help you plan a final tribute, whether needed in the immediate or distant future. They understand family difficulties during the time of mourning; therefore, they see to every detail, handling your family's needs with personal care and consideration.

The directors of **Community Funeral Home** will carry out services, memorials, burials, transfers, cremations and other arrangements with dignity and genuine concern. Located in Jacksonville at 431 North Main Street, their facilities can accommodate any size or type of service designed to your funeral needs, you will save money and spare surviving family members additional pain. Call **Community Funeral Home** at 586-5824 to schedule a free and confidential consultation.

Planning for family services could be one of the most thoughtful gestures you could bestow to your loved ones, benefiting their emotional and financial well-being. The professionalism of **Community Funeral Home** explains why they are so well respected by area residents.



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THE HISTORY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL

provided by Mrs. Eurette Waddleton as
written by her sister



Public school education began in Alto for Black students shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation, probably in the 1870's. There are few records to refer to, but it is known that the first Alto Colored School was a one room log cabin located in the Frank Selman pasture. It was probably there that many of our great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents went to school.

Years later a two room school was built in the southwest corner of the New Hope Cemetery. In this building my father, John Bradley and Delsie Selman Bradley taught and were married. Others who taught at this site were Professor Halland and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bradford.

A three room school was built on the site of the present post mill. Teachers there were Mrs. Elora Johnson Jackson, Mrs. Martha Anderson, and Professor and Mrs. Brandon, who left Alto and went to Lufkin, Texas.

In 1928 the Julius C. Rosenwald Foundation built a modern frame school with four large classrooms, an office, a library, and an auditorium. This building was enlarged, extended,

and improved into what later became the Booker T. Washington High School from which most of us assembled and graduated. It is the school which is honored at the Booker T. Washington School Reunion this year and every other year.

Beginning in 1928, the following principals served B.T. Washington: Miss Donna Ragsdale, Mr. Brannon Tyler, Mr. Jeremiah Johns, Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Hopper, Mr. J.B. Earl, Mr. Fond, Mr. Versorley, Mr. Butler, Mr. Carr, and the last before integration, Mr. Charles Berry.

Many teachers who have had great influence on our lives include: Mrs. Lelia Lattimore Vinson, Mrs. Ocie Martin Sanders, Mrs. Kathryn spiller Tinsley, Mrs. Rosina Tinsley, Mr. and Mrs. Chalmer Adams, Mrs. Vivian Richards, Mrs. Willie Whitten, Mrs. Olivia Matthews, Mrs. Ruth Martin, Mrs. Deborah Germany Bradley, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Richard Black, and Mr. Elcher Cox. The teachers present at the 1997 Booker T. Washington School Reunion were Mrs. Iola Smith Penson, Mrs. Marvell Smith William, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Waddleton, Mrs. Hargrave, Betty Bradley Kimbrough, Mr. Joe b. Hudson, Mrs.

Alice Sue Jackson McGerry, Mrs. Buelah Riley, Mrs. P. rt McClure, and Mrs. Maxine Bradley Taylor.

The Booker T. Washington School Reunion brings together classmates, teachers, and friends. Acquaintances are renewed, old times relived, and we count up the joys of our lives.

It is a joy in life to find
At every turning of the road
The strong arm of an old friend kind
To help us onward with our load:
And since we have no gold to give,
And love alone must make amends,
Our only prayer is, while we live
God make us worthy of our friends

April 19, 1775
Black and white minutemen fight at Lexington &
Concord.

April 24, 1950
Negro student entered University of North
Carolina.

Booker T. Washington Reunion

A large gathering of former students and faculty and their families met in Alto, June 20-22 for the 7th bi-annual Booker T. Washington School Reunion.

Following the picnic, a crowd of more than 150 gathered at Alto High for the Saturday night banquet. Bouche Mickey, master of ceremony opened the 7:00 p.m. program as those gathered and sang the Negro national anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The welcome was given by Jessie Mae Moore and invocation by Rev. Norris Hamilton. Following

dinner, Broncie Williams gave the occasion and Linda Skinner the Land Mark Update. Otis Lloyd, former teacher, provided entertainment Pear Upshaw introduced the speaker. Joyce Thompson Savory, D. D. S. From Houston. Presentations were made by Margie Coleman and Rev. Oscar Verdell and Dahl Storms gave memorials.

Retired teachers and staff gave remarks, then the banquet ended with announcements by Joyce Simmons.

A dance followed with Authur Henderson of Livingston, Texas, providing the music.

Alto 1997

Major Sibley was the master of ceremony for the Sunday morning worship which was held at the school. Rev. Oscar Verdell did the invocation; Agnes Tilley gave the Welcome; Rollie Skinner introduced Rev. Burley Hudson, the speaker. Special recognition was given by Maude McCant and Joyce Barrett. Remarks and presentations were made by Dahl Storms; Cecil Verdell, Henry McCant and Eugene Barnes conducted the offering, Margie Coleman, Joyce Simmons, and Agnes Tilley reported on Scholarship Fund donations. Rachael Couteau gave announcements and the exciting weekend of activities ended with the benediction given by Rev. Burley Hudson.



Alto -Booker T. Washington 1997 School Reunion picnic: L. To R. Broncie Barron Williams, Houston; Maude Marie Hamilton McCant, Texarkana, Texas; Pearl Eva Tarver Upshaw; Oscar (Rip) Verdell, Athens; eletha Sibley Redmond, Oklahoma; Lorine Sibley Floyd, San Antonio; Luvonne Sibley Horace, Moscow, Texas; Dahl Barnes Storm, Dallas, Reunion Committee President; Joyce Barnes Simmons, Lufkin, Secretary; Agnes Mickey Tilley, Alto, treasurer; Milton Reagan, Rusk; Alfred McGowan, Benton Oklahoma; Lester Jordan, Oklahoma.



class of 1957 - Loretta Finley Brown, Agnes Mickey Tilley, and Joyce Barnes Simmons. Not pictured Henry McCant, Lois Joshua, Lufkin, and Norma Finley, L. A. California



Class of 1959- Pictured Maude McCant, Rip Verdell, Broncie Williams, and Dorothy Tyler Sneed, Foort Worth, Texas.



Mr. & Mrs. Valentine Waddleton were instructors at Booker T. Washington High School. Mr. Valentine Waddleton came to Alto from Winnsboro, Texas where he was born and raised. He first taught in a government program setup to teach veterans. In 1949 he began teaching agriculture at Booker T. Washington High School until her retired in 1977.

Euretta (Scoochie) Waddleton, taught English and History at Booker T. Washington from 1959 to 1968. She then taught at Dunbar High in Lufkin from 1963 to 1968. She returned home to Booker T. Washington and taught from 1968 to 1972. On Saturday night July 5th she will be the honoree at class of 1967 thirtieth year class reunion. Mr. & Mrs. Waddleton are both retired and live in Alto.

THE HISTORY OF G.W. BRADFORD SCHOOL

Mr. G. W. Bradford was born November 14, 1878, in Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas. He attended Macedonia Public School, near Rusk, the old Mt. Cole Public School, from there to the Alto Public School. He began teaching in 1907 and taught in various places for many years. His tenure began in Rusk about 1936 and retired in 1948. Mr. Bradford passed away January 14, 1960.

The first school was built on the present Bradford site during the school year 1938-39 and was named Rusk Colored School. George W. Bradford was its first principal. The school was destroyed

by fire during the 1942-43 school year. The churches of the community opened their doors so that the school could be completed without loss to the students. Gerald Chapman accepted the position as superintendent of schools for the 1943-44 school year in spite of the task of building a new school when there was a shortage of material because of World War II.

George W. Bradford retired from the teaching profession in May 1948, after a very successful tenure as principal. The name of the school was

changed to George W. Bradford High School during the 1952-53 school year, to honor this dynamic leader. At this time J. Mayo Wilder was principal.

The Supreme Court decision of 1954 ended segregated schools. High school did not cease to be an institution of learning until the end of the school year in 1968, with W. R. Meador, Sr. as Principal, and Jack E. Martin, Superintendent. The school enjoyed a successful tenure of 30 years and was dismantled in 1973.

Bradford 6th Bi-Annual Reunion Held



Bonnie, Jewel and Unalee discuss what to wear to Christian Fellowship tomorrow.



Billy, Coach Walker and Sonny.....smile for the camera.



Gertrude, Jewel and Bonnie pose for camera shot at picnic.



Joe, Billy, and Alvin discuss and Sonny discuss football days at Bradford.

The Sixth bi-annual Rusk Colored School and G. W. Bradford School reunion was held June 20-22nd with "Back In The Day" as the theme.

The Friday night reception and registration was held at Rusk Junior High Cafetorium with Sandra Jones as mistress of ceremony. The welcome was given by Charlsie Foreman Session with Matthew Watts giving the invocation. Those in attendance gave remarks, sharing their memories of school days.

Master of ceremony for the Saturday night banquet was former G. W. Bradford Coach, Larry Walker. The welcome was given by Doretha Session Johnson; invocation by Joe Nelson. The meal was served then Corine Burley Price introduced the speaker, Mrs. Essie Carter Thomas, Principal of Charles W. Keahey Elementary School of Houston, Texas. A presentation was made to the speaker by Lola Ward Mallard.

A dance was held at the Rusk Civic Center with Joe Teague's Jazz Ensemble providing the music.

The 11:00 a.m. Christian Fellowship held on Sunday morning was called to worship by Rev. Tony Teague. Special music was given by Rev. Bobby Cook; and Rev. James Wickware, the speaker was introduced by Rev. Teague. A presentation was made to the speaker by Joe Nelson.



Essie Mae Carter Thomas Saturday night Banquet speaker, class of 1945.



Corine Burley Price introduces banquet speaker



Pictured here is Maxine and Walter Session.

Andrew Young To Chair 100 Black Men Economic Summit

New York City will be the host of the 1998 100 Black Men Economics Summit. Former United Nations Ambassador, Andrew Young has been named chair of the Empowerment Summit. The purpose of the summit is to establish an economic and business forum that brings together the members of 100 Black Men of America and its local chapters to foster communication, exchange information and promote sustainable business-to-business relationships between African American and the corporate America business communities. According to Luther Gatling, Economic Summit Committee Chairman among the goals of the conference are to establish a national economic and community development strategic plan. There are seventy chapters of the 100 Black Men organization in twenty seven states and the District of Columbia.



Pictured here is Dorethea Johnson, Frazier Foreman, and Maxine Session.



Pictured above is Carolyn and Frazier Foreman.

For advertising information call 683-5743

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blount Chapel C.M.E.

41st Senior Choir Anniversary

Service could be held at Shady Grove C.M.E. due to Church Renovations

Linwood Gospel Chorus

invites you to praise the Lord with them in songs on July 26, 1997, 7:30 p.m. For more information call (409)858-4990.

Rev. Henry Whitaker, Pastor

Linwood Baptist Church Annual Revival

July 14-18, 7:30 p.m. nightly

Evangelist, W.R. Ricks of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Nacogdoches, TX
Pastor, Rev. H. Whitaker

Elm Grove Baptist Church One Day Revival

July 20, 1997

Rev. J.B. Session, of Frankston, TX, Speaker

Woodville CME Church Rusk, Texas

Usher's Anniversary

June 8, 1997, 3:00 pm

Rev. Charles Hill, Pastor
Rev. M.L. Bell, Guest Speaker

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

1st Annual 3 on 3

Half Court

Hoop-It-Up!

July 26th, 1997

at the

Rusk High School Gym

Tournament entry fee: \$30.00 per Team. Entry deadline is July 19th at 12:00 pm and space is limited so sign up early. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams. \$1.00 spectator admission. For more information contact Karen Bolton at (903)683-9720.

County Line Baptist Church
Douglass, Texas

Annual Mission All - Night Singing

Saturday, July 11, 1997 - 7:45 pm

All soloists, groups, choirs, etc. are invited.

Rev. J. Wickware, Pastor

Sis. Claudia M. Joyce, Secretary

Mission Circle June Programs

By Elnora Colston

On June 14th and 19th at 2:30 p.m. the Mission Circle of Rusk presented their program for the month of June 1997 at Oak Park and Birmingham Health Care Center.

Theme for June: "Missionaries, Honor Your Fathers!"

Honor thy Father and thy Mother that thy days may be long upon the land which thy God giveth thee. Exodus 20:12.

Honor thy Father and thy Mother, as the Lord thy god hath command thee, that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Deuteronomy 5:16.

For God commanded, saying, Honor thy father and thy mother and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. Matthew 15:4-6.

Moses said, Honor thy father and thy mother; and who so curseth father or mother let him die the death. But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, it is carbine, that is to say a gift by me: he shall be free. Mark 7:10-11. Children, obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Colossians 3:20.

This is a true story about a boy named Charles. He was reared in a Christian home, attending church services on a regular basis. Although his father was not always faithful, his mother an was excellent example of a dedicated Christian woman.

Charles was in the 7th grade. One day in the latter part of November, he was getting ready for school

as he was attempting to leave the bathroom. His father, a man of 62, was shaving, blocking the doorway of the bathroom. Charles did something he had never done before. He said to his father, "Get out of my way stupid." Instead of correcting him, Charles' father just stepped aside and let him pass. As he was riding the bus to school that day, his conscience began to hurt him because he was brought up to honor and respect his parents, but he had heard his friend talk about "my old man and old lady." Charles had allowed it to affect him so before he reached the school house he had decided as soon as he got home, he was going to apologize to his dad. When he got home, his mother met him with the news that his father had suffered a heart attack, and was in the hospital. Charles did not get too concerned because his father had been in and out of the hospital with heart problems for several years. He decided as soon as he came home he would apologize to him.

The call came to his mother that Charles' father had another heart attack, and died. He was buried on Thanksgiving Day in 1967. Charles still thinks about the last words he said to his father... "Get out of my way stupid."

He has asked God to forgive him, but he really wishes he could ask his father.

Missionaries, let's get to the point: Be careful what you say because you might never get an opportunity to change it. Let us always Honor and Respect our Dads!! Our prayer is bless all Fathers with your joy, love, and peace everywhere.

Happy Anniversary

Kenneth and Andrea Henderson

July 12, 1997

Morris Family Reunion

to be held

in the Elm Grove Community, Hwy 110 N., Rusk, Texas.

Fish Fry Friday, **July 25th** at Dedra Sander's residence

Saturday, **July 26th** at the Veterans of Foreign War Building, Hwy 69 S., Rusk, TX

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Speak Out

In his June 14th speech President Bill Clinton said that America should issue an apology to African Americans for slavery. The President has appointed a seven member advisory board to council him on his initiative to promote a national dialogue on controversial issues surrounding race. It is called "The President's Initiative on Race." The purpose is to increase understanding of the history of race relations and the common future people of all races share; to recruit leadership at all levels to help bridge racial divides; and to propose actions that address critical areas such as education, economic opportunity, housing, health care, crime and the administration of justice. President Clinton has cited the nation's most important mission as building "One America" for the 21st century.



Gladys Griffin - Alto, TX

"It might help. I just think there is a problem. I think you should look at the person and not the race."



Terrell Martin - Alto, TX.

"America should issue an apology. It might start racial healing, because we still don't get a fair shake at things today. It will have to be done if the country is ever to be run based on fairness and equality".

Income determines the quality of housing, healthcare, and other factors that makeup a person's quality of lifestyle.

The most recent census bureau report shows continued disparity in personal income between Black and White Americans. Personal yearly income for white adults is \$20,900, but for Black adults it is \$15,000. White high school dropouts make \$11,700 a year; blacks make \$8,900. White high school graduates make \$17,400; blacks, \$14,500.

Whites who attend but don't finish college make \$22,500 a year; blacks, \$19,600. And white college graduates earn \$35,500; blacks, \$29,000.

White male college graduates earn \$45,500, while white females make \$27,000. Black males make \$33,500; black females \$26,500.



Deitrick Smith - Rusk

"Somebody should apologize for all these years of pain and suffering. It's time we got our forty acres and a mule. It won't bring back all the lost lives or undo the psychological damage."



Andre' Price - Rusk, TX

"An apology? I think its too late for an apology! The way we have been slaved and mistreated... families separated and sold around the world."

Rusk Jacks Win First



The Rusk Jacks took first place in the East Texas Youth Basketball Tournament held at Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas, on July 20-22. The team defeated Hunnington 64-11, Lufkin 55-18, and Lufkin again 43-32. The players recieved a team trophy and individual medals. Pictured above are the coaches and team members with tournament individual point totals in parenthesis.

Pictured above from left to right are (front row) LaShawn Session(9), Melvin Henry(4), Eddie W. Harris(6), Marquis Hamlett(36), Demetri Session, (second row)Coach Eddie Harris, Kasey Sowell(32), Reginald Sirl(29), Mark Boyd(2), Thomas Anderson(20), Kevin Cox(17), and Coach Troy Hamlett.



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What's Cooking

Informer, What's Cooking? P.O. Box 332, Rusk, TX 77585.

Recipes



Flag cake celebrates holiday

By The Associated Press

When your family and friends gather for a Fourth of July celebration, mark the occasion with a red, white and blue Flag Cake. The cake is made with store bought poundcake and topping. The flag's stripes are made with strawberries; blueberries are used for the stars. The cake serves 15, so there's plenty to go around.

Flag Cake

- 2 pints strawberries
- 10 3/4 oz. Frozen pound cake, thawed, cut into 10 slices
- 1 1/3 cup blueberries
- 12- ounce tub frozen whipped topping, thawed

Slice 1 cup of the strawberries; set aside. Halve remaining strawberries; set aside.

Line bottom of 12-inch by 8-inch baking dish with cake slices. Top with 1 cup sliced strawberries, 1 cup of the blueberries and all the whipped topping.

Place strawberry halves and remaining 1/3 cup blueberries on whipped topping to create a flag design. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Make 15 servings.

Recipe from: Kraft Foods

Fireworks pasta salad colorful dish

By The Associated Press

Bursting with flavor, Summer Fireworks Pasta Salad is a colorful main dish. The salad is made with radiators or rotini pasta, cooked boneless chicken, plum tomatoes and slivered red onion. Garnish with blue corn chips, if desired, for red, white and blue salad.

- 1 pound radiators, rotini or other medium pasta shape
- Cilantro Pesto (recipe below)
- 3 tablespoons low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 to 3/4 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1-inch pieces.
- 8 plum tomatoes (about 1 1/2 pounds), cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 small red onion, slivered lengthwise
- 1/4 cup toasted pine nuts

For the Cilantro Pesto:

- 2 cups packed cilantro leaves
- 1 cup flat-leaf parsley
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 tablespoons Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts or walnuts
- 1/2 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 tablespoons red-wine vinegar
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Garnish

- Cilantro sprigs
- Blue corn chips

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Drain and set aside in large serving bowl.

Place ingredients for Cilantro Pesto in a blender or food processor; process until finely chopped.

Heat the 3 tablespoons chicken broth in nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add chicken and saute 3 to 4 minutes per side, or until browned and cooked through. Add chicken, tomatoes, red onion and pine nuts to pasta. Toss with all of the Cilantro Pesto until combined. Garnish with cilantro sprigs and blue corn chips, if desired. Makes 7 servings.

Nutrition facts per serving:

290 calories, 19 g pro., 37g carbo., 8g fat, 2g saturated fat, 30 mg chol., 100 mg sodium. Calories from fat: 25 percent.

Recipe from: National Pasta Association

Happy 11th Birthday!



Tiffani McGowan

July 9th

Love, Momma

Happy Birthday Tamarial Session

July 7th

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Happy Birthday Vanessa Miller

July 9th

RELIGION



The Foreign Woman

An example of virtue and compassion in an age of harshness and among an idolatrous people.

In the Middle East of thousands of years ago great famines were not unusual occurrences. Often, the solution was to go to other countries in search of what was needed: thus the patriarch Jacob went into Egypt, the prophet Eli to Sarepta etc. It was the same for Elimelech of Bethlehem who fled to the land of Moab with his wife Naomi and his two sons Mahlon and Chilion.

Their exile lasted a long time and the two sons found wives in their adopted country: one married Orpah, the other Ruth, they were both Moabite girls. Then the Menfolk died, first Elimelech, then Mahlon and Chilion. Naomi found herself alone with her two daughters-in-law. Knowing that the famine in her own country was now over and wishing to return there, Naomi suggested to Orpah and Ruth that, in the circumstances, it would be best for each to go back home to their

Orpah did not need much persuasion but Ruth would not hear of leaving her mother-in-law and went with her to Bethlehem, arriving at the beginning of the harvest. Ruth went to glean wheat and barley in the fields belonging to Boaz, a rich relation of Elimelech. She was following the harvesters when the landowner himself arrived and asked who this young woman was. Knowing the story of the Moabite woman and her kindness to her mother-in-law, he instructed them to take care of her.

But Ruth took matters further. Emboldened by the man's good treatment of her and encouraged by Naomi, she went and lay down at his feet and asked him to follow the custom whereby the relative of a dead man was allowed to marry his widow in order to give him descendants. He was not the closest male relative, but the man who gave up his claim before the town elders at the town gates, making everything official.

Boaz married Ruth, the Moabite woman, and they had a son, Obed, who was to be the father of Jesse, whose son David would be the greatest of Israel's kings. So it is true that the royal line had among its ancestors a foreign woman, but one who was compassionate and devoted to her new country.

The Book of Ruth

Written by an anonymous author after the exile, but relating deeds set in the tumultuous era of the book of Judges, the *Book of Ruth* is a moving and calm tale, more serene than the *Song of Songs*: maternal instinct is personified in the character of Naomi, tenderness in that of Ruth and generosity in that of Boaz.

Mission Circle May Programs

by Elnora Colston

On May 14th and 15th at 2:30 p.m., the Mission Circle presented their program for the month of May 1997 At Oak Park and Birmingham Health Care Center.

Theme for May: "Empowered By A Love Letter From Jesus"

If we had the gift to speak in all languages without learning them that is in all heaven and earth, "BUT" did not love others...we would only be making a noise. If we had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future and about everything, "BUT" did not love others...what good would it do? If we could speak to a mountain and make it move, we still would be nothing without LOVE. If we gave everything we have to the poor, it would be no value whatever without

love. Love does not demand its own way, it is very patient and kind. Love is never jealous or envious. It does not hold grudges...but rejoices whenever truth wins out. But some day all special gifts and power from God will come to an end. But love goes on forever.

"A love letter from Jesus":

My precious Friend,

I am sending you this letter by one of my disciples. I just wanted to let you know how much I love you and to become a meaningful part of your life. This morning when you awoke, I was already there hoping you would say, "Good morning" to me. My beautiful sunshine had filled your room, you didn't. So I thought maybe it was a little early for you to notice me. Again I tried to get your attention. When you stepped out of your door I breathed upon you my sweet breath scented with flowers. Then I sang you a love song through the bird's in the trees. You just walked right on by. Later on in the day I watched you as you were talking to your friend. Oh how I wish you would talk to me. But you just went alone your way. In the afternoon, I sent you a refreshing shower I ever shouted to you a time or two with thunder trying to get your attention. I even painted you a lovely rainbow in the midst of my fluffly white cloud. I just knew you would see me, but you were unaware of my presence. Then to close the day I sent you a beautiful sunset wink at you thousands of times through my stare hoping you would see me and wink back.....but you never did.

Tonight when you went to bed, I spilled moonlight up on your face to let you know I was there hoping you would talk to me a little while before you went to sleep.....you never said a word. It hurt me deeply, but I continued to watch over you all through the night thinking that maybe you would say "Hello" to me in the morning.

Each and everyday I have revealed myself to you in many wondrous ways hoping that you would accept me as your shepherd, for I am the only one who can supply you with all your needs. My love for you is deeper than the deepest ocean and bigger than the great blue sky. I have so much to give and share with you. Please let me hear from you soon.

Your loving friend,

Jesus

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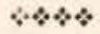
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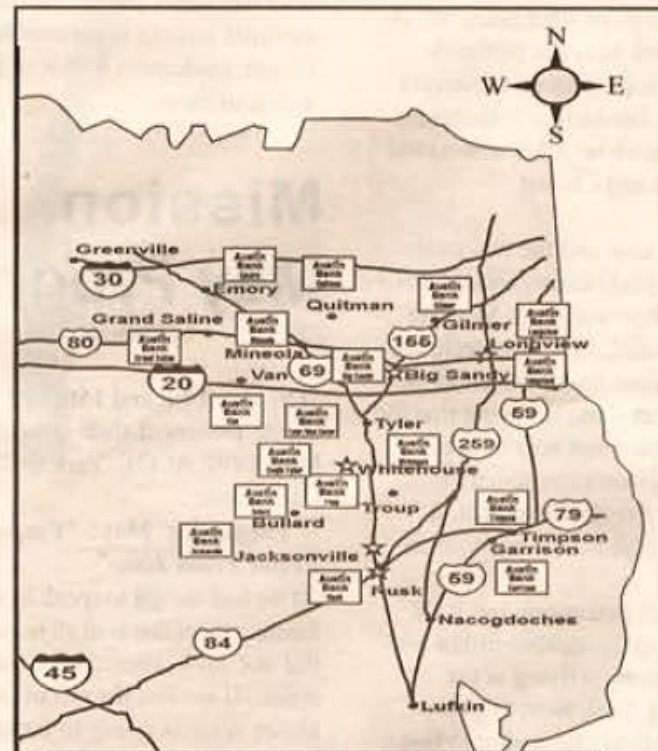
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need to rent another car?

ANSWER

Yes. The law provides that
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sation for loss of the use of
your vehicle while it is being
repaired. This is the reason-
able rental value of a
substitute car.

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African American Buying Power Rises

African American buying power is on the rise in Texas. The buying power of African American Texans has increased significantly in recent years. According to a report by marketing consultant Ken Smikle of Target Market News, a Chicago-based company that tracks trends in African American consumer spending, African American households are outpacing White

households on spending for consumer items such as cars, children's clothing, and perishable foods.

As the demographic group with the fastest rising rate of disposable income, African American Texans are catching the eye of all sectors of the retail and service markets. "When you're talking about billions of dollars to be made or lost, businesses have to sit up and take

notice," Smikle said.

Leading Texas economist M. Ray Perryman said African American Texans have more disposable income than ever. "Retail spending by African American consumers in Texas was \$12.5 billion in 1994," he said.

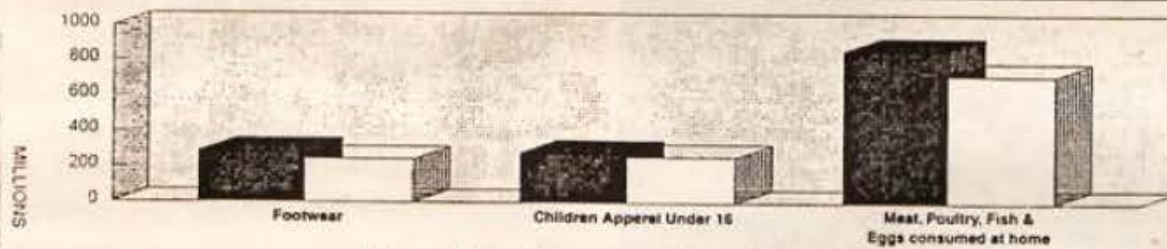
Perryman's numbers include an estimated \$2.25 billion in food stores, \$1.28 billion in restaurants, \$1.77 billion in general merchan-

dise stores, and over half a billion in furniture stores. African American also spent more than \$3 billion in miscellaneous retail purchases.

According to Smikle's research, personal income for African American nationwide increased \$20 billion in 1995. The national earnings of African Americans rose to an estimated \$324 billion. With a comparatively young population that has yet to reach full earning potential, African American buying power is expected to increase even further in coming years.

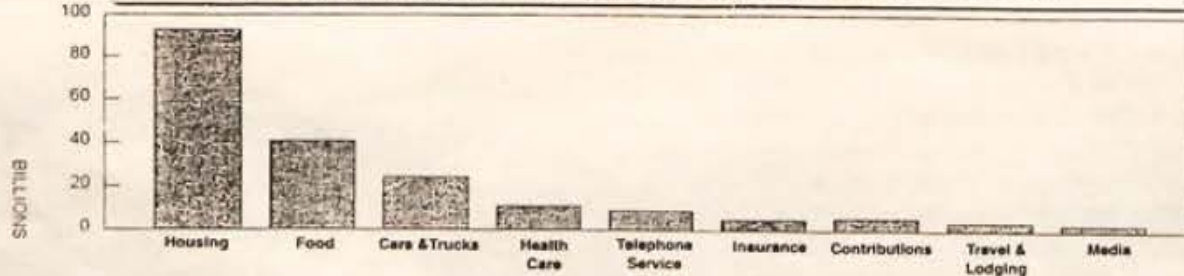


Hot Spots In Black Spending vs White Spending, per household in U.S.



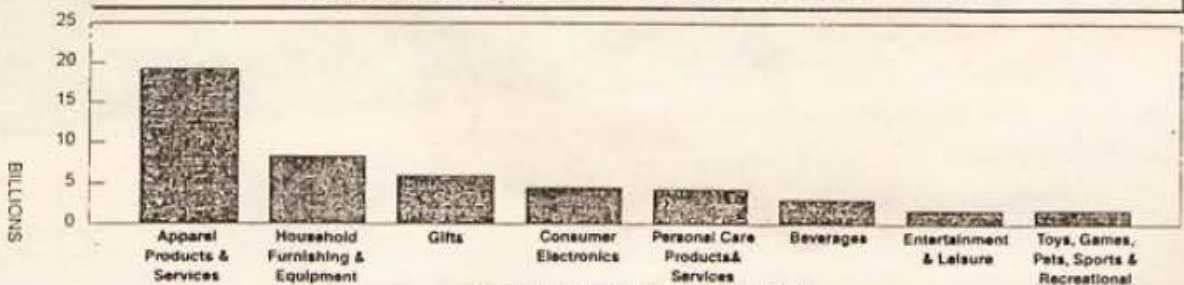
Source: The U.S. Consumer Expenditure Survey

Living Expenditures for Black American Consumers in 1995



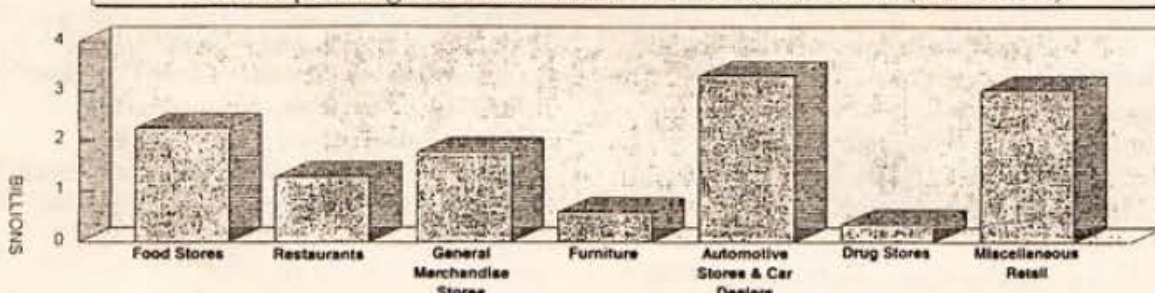
Source: Target Market News

Black spending on consumer items in U.S. - 1995



Source: Target Market News

Retail Spending of Black Consumers in Texas - 1994 (in Billions)



Source: M. Ray Perryman

Target Market News:

- Annual spending on clothing in African American households parallels spending in White households; African American shoppers outspent Whites on clothing for children under 16.
- African American households spent about 50 percent more than White households on food prepared at home, including fresh meat, fish, eggs and poultry.
- \$10.8 billion was spent on new cars and trucks in 1995 (double the amount in 1994).
- 36 percent increase in African American spending on consumer electronics items.
- 21 percent in beverage purchases.
- 17 percent increase in spending on personal care products
- Sporting events lured twice as many African Americans as in the prior year.

Health & Finance

Cherokee County Informer Health and Finance

By J. Frank Thornton, Jr.

Future articles in this section will discuss in great detail facts about your health and your money. My goal is to educate and inform. For example, we will discuss how to protect yourself and your loved ones from the high cost of health care in Texas. In fact, the first in this series will discuss Medicare and Medicaid for those over sixty-five, and in some cases, for those under the age. We will also discuss what supplemental coverage to Medicare are and why they are needed. We will discuss the Kennedy/Kassabaum bill which became federal law on Jan. 1, 1997, and how it affects you if you apply for Medicaid.

Later in the series, we will discuss Long-Term Care (LTC). What it really means, why more and more of us will need it in some form or the other, and why not having it can destroy a family's life savings. There will be information on why each one of us needs a will, and what should be in it, and what could happen when we don't.

Another series we will discuss the use of credit cards and how companies calculate credit interest. This information will include what compound interest is. If you have ever wondered why after you make a credit card payment and the balance appears to be the same, we will show how to get out from under this debt faster. We will discuss vital information on how to pay off a thirty (30) year home mortgage in almost half the time. A move that could save you thousands of dollars over the period of the loan.

If you have children, or grand-children, you might be interested in ways to provide the money necessary. These cost are going higher and higher.

During the period these articles will be appearing, we will track state and federal law and will report to you how these changes might effect you. We will also establish a section for any questions that might effect you. We will also establish section for any questions that might have regarding these articles. Every attempt will be made to questions sent to the paper in this section.

Finally, we hope that the information you get from these articles will be informative, helpful, and save you lots of money.

Happy Birthday

Fat

July 15th

Love, Daphne

Water Town Trip For Youth Sponsored In Memory Of Bo Berry



A foundation in Bo's memory has been set-up by the Rusk Police Department according to Chief Larry Robinson. "We plan to conduct drives and fund raisers to generate funds and donations are being accepted here at the Department," says Robinson.

Special thanks to: Jan Berry & Larry Robinson; Laidlaw Buses & employees Shellevia Wickware, volunteer driver, and Elaine Minor, for without them the Laidlaw bus use may not have been possible.

Jan Berry and the Rusk Police Department sponsored a trip to Water Town in Shreveport, Louisiana for 62 children who otherwise might not have gotten to go. The funds for the bus were donated in memory of Jan's late husband Bo Berry. Bo experienced a heart attack, which he never recovered from, while playing in a benefit football game in RHS Eagle Stadium on December 14, 1996. The game benefitted "Toys for Tots." "I did it because that's what he would have done," said Jan. "He participated in any sporting event that benefitted kids."

Special thanks to Eddie Harris & Oliver Sturns for organizing the trip; to the following people who chaperoned and provided lunches for the kids:



Black Engineer Named Head of Shell Oil Company

G.E. Bannister was named recently to head the Shell Continental companies. The Shell Continental Companies is the new umbrella named for a series of regional operating companies throughout the onshore United States.

The Shell Continental companies was previously known as the Continental Division of Shell Western Exploration and Production. The venture headed by G.E. Bannister operates in

seven states with 800 employees and 1.2 billion in net investment. As President of Shell Continental Bannister will be responsible for expanding Shell's onshore exploration and production business of California. Mr. Bannister first joined Shell in 1980 following his graduation from the South Dakota School of Mines with a degree in metallurgical engineering.

Members attend 107th Eastern Stars convention



Shown left to right: Venette Hill, Sophi Lamb, Erma Armstrong, Georgia Davis and sitting, Alma Brown.

Fort Worth -Pictured here second from the left is Mrs. Sophia Lamb of Lufkin, formerly of Rusk. Mrs. Lamb has attended the **Masonic Grand Chapter Order of Easten Stars Prince Hall Affiliation convention** in Fort Worth, Texas every

year since 1943. This year the convention held June 22nd - 26th was the 107th meeting for the affiliation. Mrs. Lamb is a member and Worthy Matron for the Lufkin Chapter #114. She is also District Dupty and member of the Golden Circles, Beaumont District.

A Talk With the One That Has Gone Before Me

By Senetta Mallard

continued from June 1997

As I grew older my sickness was still with me. But I continued to be blessed and the love that grandpa Luther and I had, only grew stronger. At the age of 16 I learned grandpa was diagnosed with cancer but he never stopped preaching or working and the bond grew closer and closer. I graduated at the age of seventeen. I attended college at TJC and even had the blessing of performing the half-time performance at the superbowl celebration in New Orleans in 1978 between the Dallas Cowboys and the Denver Bronco. I got my firstjob at the age of twenty. At this time I decided that I was tired of being a heavy child.

I continued to have a special bond with grandpa just talking about my childhood and of blessing. I decided to go to a weight Dr. to become a sma' son. His health got worst. I was afraid for him, but I always sent my love as a message by mother when she went to visit him. I remember that we always boxed a picnic of his favorite food that mamawould cook for him.

I felt when he saw me he know that I was scared the he was leaving me and I didn't want to loose him yet. He passed away before I reached the small frame I'd become so familiar with.

His spirit was with Jesus before I had complications with my heart. The doctor I'd gone to for weight lost was not interested in the past medical condition, it was only the almighty green. I really guess that the heart began to fail me the fall of 1982. I was becoming sick 18 months after grandpa

Continued on page 24

Happy Birthday
Tamarial Session
July 7th

Happy Birthday
Demorris Hunter
July 17th

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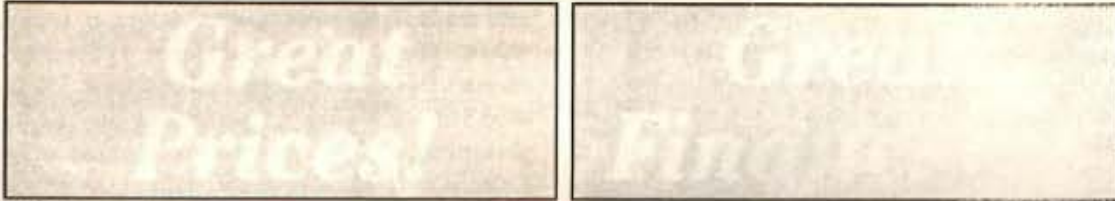


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<p>'95 Nissan XE Pick-Up A great buy \$8,950⁰⁰</p>	<p>'93 Ford Aerostar "XLT" Extended. Nice van, super value \$10,595⁰⁰</p>	<p>'90 Lincoln Mark VII Loaded Ride in comfort & style \$7,950⁰⁰</p>

Continued page 23

Luther passed away. I had a major collapse of my mitral valve in January 1983. I was at work walking from the pharmacy picking up medication from the pharmacy picking up medication for the clients I worked with. The ground supervisor stopped and began to talk with me. I told her that I was a little tired. She said, you look flushed so get your vital signs taken upon return to the ward. As I walked a few steps after she went on making rounds, I began to cough.

Upon my return the nurse asked me, what happened? I said, I don't know. She took my vital signs and they were 210/160, pulse 102. She attempted to talk me into going home. But I told her it's 7:30PM and I'll stay because I'd only been working here 2 years and 3 months. As I was leaving work at 10:15PM, she insisted to walk with me and told my mother what had happened. In 1982 the month of Feb. I'd gone to Dr. Wang my cardiologist was called the next morning January 20, 1983. Like a child I began to see my life flash before me. Even though I was afraid I put on a strong persona. The Dr. called the hospital and had me admitted to Newburn in Jacksonville. I spend from Jan. 20 - Feb 13, 1983. Going through a battery of test each day attempting to find out what could had happened?

On the 13th of Feb, it was on a Friday and raining cats and dogs. My mother was called from work and told to come to the hospital. I was being sent to Dallas for an evaluation test. The first night I rested good without any problems. Truly this is where the spiritual was with me. Feb. 17, 1983, the Dr. came in and told me, you'll have to have open heart surgery. I was so afraid and my pulse began to run away. That night I was so afraid that I really believed that my life was going to be over. This night of Feb. 18, 1983 after the Dr. told me I would need to go home to gain some weight so my surgery could go well. As it became later I was even more afraid and I had asked mama to let someone rest by myself. This is the night I had the talk with the one that had gone before me.

I was all alone and just lying in bed crying to myself being very upset. I had finally broke even. Being 23 years old, I really didn't know how much time I had left on this earth. Well, I laid there and put the television on a channel to see what time it was. And the time was 12:30am. I attempted to close my eyes to fall asleep because there were more tests before I went home. All of a sudden I saw a clear visible image at the bottom of my bed. The vision smile at me. I felt very spooked and put my hand on the call button. The nurse walked into my room and asked me if I had a problem. I asked her, has someone been in here maybe 30 minutes ago. She no. Ms. Mallard, visiting time was over at 9:30pm and it is 1:00am.

She took my temperature and gave me some tylenol. Afterwards I decided to walk up and down the hallway holding the rails so I wouldn't fall. Then I decided to turn the television on once again. For some reason I decided to turn the bright light off. After I returned to bed I just put the night light on. As I attempted to close my eyes to go to sleep again. Suddenly as I closed my eyes I heard a gentle voice. Strangely, I didn't feel afraid anymore. I opened my eyes and looked toward the foot of my bed.

Continued in August Informer Issue