

SQUARE & COMPASSES



EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX NOVEMBER 2025
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In Remembrance of Veterans Day, November 11th



OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The October meeting went well. The treasurer reported that ET ended the month with a balance of \$112K in the bank.

A visiting DDGM, RW Wilkerson, spoke about the need to act like a Mason, even when not in Lodge.

RW Barkley presented the GM message, and announced the next ET Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 8th, 2026.

GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE STATED

East Trinity will host a guest speaker this Monday. Brother Brod Bems (Ben) Domingcil of Garland 441 will be giving a presentation on Masonry in the Philippines.

Brother Domingcil began his Masonic journey in the Philippines. He continues this journey as a

member of the Garland 441 lodge. He has attended lodge at ET before, and has even participated in one of our Master Mason degrees.

He is also a historian and enjoys studying Masonic history. His presentation should run roughly 20-30 minutes. I've chatted with him on other historical topics, and I think this presentation will be very interesting and informative!

DUES DUES DUES

It is dues season again. The dues have increased for 2026. The new amount is \$200. You will be able to pay by credit card on the Grand Lodge of Texas website or by check or cash if you prefer the old fashioned way. Please contact the Secretary if you have any questions.



DON'T FORGET THE STATED MEETING

The stated meeting will be held on November 3rd, 2024. The meal will begin at 6:30 PM. Lodge will begin at 7:30 PM.

Fraternal Eats . The meal is a Masonic secret. (The Steward will be absent due to a family event. One of the other members will fill the void.)

DISCLAIMER

Many of you may notice that some of this newsletter is a reprint from last year. I chose to include Washington's Thanksgiving proclamation and a couple of articles about Veterans Day for those who have ensured our freedoms remain intact.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 3rd-Stated Meeting
- November 10th-PracticeMM
- November 17th-MM Degree
- November 24th-Practice
- December 1st -Stated Meeting

President George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation.

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
A PROCLAMATION.**

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us, and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions-- to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord--To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Go: Washington

EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This month we are featuring the lodge's 24th Worshipful Master H.A. Briscoe.

Henry Alvertie Briscoe

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1904)



Henry A. Briscoe was born on 17 January 1875 in Hunt County, Texas. His parents were Isaac Newton Briscoe and Mary Carruthers Maddox. Henry's father Isaac Newton, who went by the name "Newton", was born in Missouri and his wife Mary was born in Texas.

Henry first appears in the U.S. Census records in 1880. He is five years old and living in his father's household. His father, Newton Briscoe, and family were living in Hunt County, Texas. There are seven people in the household: Newton is the head of household (37), Mary C., wife (29), daughter Ida F. Briscoe (12), son Marion Briscoe (8), son Henry A. Briscoe (5), daughter Maud L. Briscoe (8/12) and Newton's brother E.W. Briscoe (30).

A marriage record was found in the Texas, *Select County Marriage Index* showing that H.A. Briscoe was married on 20 August 1896 to Charity May Harris in Hunt County, Texas.

The 1900 Census shows that Henry and his wife, Charity, and their two daughters were living in his mother-in-law's household in Rockwall, Texas. Mother-in-Law, Florence Harris, was a Widow. Henry's Father-in-Law, Charles William Harris, passed away on 10 May 1889, in Hunt County. The census also states Henry's occupation as "Telegraph Operator".

For a while, there was some confusion about the lodge records. We could not find any record of H.A. Briscoe being a member of East Trinity Lodge before 1904. Since Henry was listed as the Worshipful Master for our lodge in 1904, he must have been "in the line" some time before this year. The question was: How can Henry become the WM when he hasn't served as a Junior or Senior Warden?

We did some additional research through the Grand Lodge Proceedings and Lodge Returns and finally decided to look at the other lodges in Rockwall County (Royce City, E.P. Chisholm and Fate). When we looked at the Fate lodge, we had a Eureka moment. We found H.A. Briscoe listed as the Senior Warden for the Fate lodge in 1898. We also found H.A. Briscoe as Worshipful Master at the Fate lodge in the 1899, 1900 and 1901. Henry was also listed as a Past Master at the Fate Lodge in 1902 and 1903.

A search of our membership records in our Library turned up a certificate for H.A. Briscoe titled: SIT LUX ET LUX FUIT (Let there be light, and there was light) and it lists A.H. Briscoe as a Master Mason for the Fate Lodge #802, dated October 1903. I assumed this was Henry's demit from the Fate lodge. Mystery solved!

In 1904, Henry A. Briscoe became the Worshipful Master of East Trinity Lodge No. 157.

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1904

H.A. Briscoe – Worshipful Master
 Frank Clark – Senior Warden
 G.F. Vernon – Junior Warden
 E.C. Heath – Treasurer
 L.W. Wilkinson – Secretary
 J.F. Allday – Senior Deacon
 J.C. Barringer – Junior Deacon
 H.M. Wade – Senior Steward
 W.G. Scott – Junior Steward
 T.B. Lanham – Tiler

Past Masters - W. T. Barnes, E. C. Heath, W.C. Lanham, E. W. Hardin.

Master Masons - M.S. Austin, I.J. Austin, J.L. Austin, F.M. Anderson, T.J. Adams, T.H. Adams, D.J. Anderson, M.A. Brown, J.E. Baugh, , B.F. Burtner, T.W. Baily, E.W. Brown, W.W. Bishop, H.B. Barnes, Ebbie Carnes, J.F. Corry, G.M. Curtis, J.E. Crisp, J.H. Chisolm, L.L. Crawford, W.C. Darr, L.L. Darr, I.S. Davenport, W.B. Dowd, T.J. Evans, J.R. Eldredge, E.D. Foree, T.J. Green, A. Green, A.W. Harvy, Guss Hartman, T.D. Isbell, E.A. Jacobs, T.L. Keys, W.L. Lawhorn, T.L. Lawhorn, George Lindsey, T.B. Lanham, H.W. Manson, L.W. Mason, W.A. Murcherson, Joseph Moore, C.C. Newman, W.P. Soyth, W.C. Roberts, E.O. Rigsbee, Vindex Stowers, B.F.

Spofford, R.A. Snead, I.R. Trotter, W.C. Scott, J.T. Vance, J. W. Vance, W.C. Vernon, J.S. Vernon, L.W. Wilkerson, R. White, R.M. Womack, H.H. Walker, Jacob Zuspan: Total, 70.

Entered Apprentices – R.L. Davis, T.E. Hutchison, J.O. Leatherhead, *E.R. Turner*.

Demitted – *E.B. Ashurst, J.F. Black, I.V. Jolly, B.R. McKindree, L.F. Smith, G.A. Truitt*.

Death – *W.L. Brown, F.L Rogers*

In the East Trinity Lodge Returns, Henry served as Senior Deacon for 1907-1909 and he is listed as a Past Master for the years 1905-1916. Henry demitted from the East Trinity Lodge No. 157 in 1917.

In the 1910 census, Henry is listed as “head of household”, living on “Store Street” in Justice Precinct 1, Rockwall, Texas. He owned his house free and clear and he (35) and his wife Charity May (32) had three daughters: Florence (12), Katy (10), and Renna (6). Henry’s occupation was “Station Agent” for the Railroad. At that time, the **Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad** ran through Rockwall.

The Rockwall Train Station was located on the old High School Road and it was mainly a freight depot. The station was not operational for passenger service, but it served as a stop for passengers if signaled to stop. If you take the East Boydston Ave. by the Post Office and go down to T. L. Townsend Drive you will see the old train tracks crossing the road. The area where the school busses are parked was part of the train depot area.

Sometime between December 1917 and January 1920, Henry and family relocated to South Texas. They moved to Groveton, Trinity County which is about 107 miles North-East of Houston. We checked the Lodge Returns for the Eastern Star Lodge No. 284, located in Groveton and found H.A. Briscoe listed as a Master Mason. In 1921, 22 and 23 he is listed as a Past Master and he demitted from that lodge in 1924.

In the 1920 census, dated 22 January 1920, the Briscoe family is living in Groveton, Texas. Henry is a “Manager” for the Rail Road Company. His eldest daughter Florence Cordelia married Wesley O. Mansfield and they lived in San Antonio.

In 1930, Henry and May moved again to Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas, further South near the Mexican border, about 140 miles South of Corpus Cristi. The County seat is Brownsville. They lived with their youngest daughter Renna Briscoe Buchanan and her husband George.

At some point after the 1930 census, Henry and May moved up to San Antonio. Henry was still working for the railroad. We found this in the details recorded on his death certificate and his obituary.

Henry A. Briscoe died on 6 January 1940 in San Antonio, Texas and he is buried at Mission Burial Park South, Block 2, Masonic Garden, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Henry’s death certificate said he died of a Cerebral Hemorrhage resulting from an auto accident that happened the year before (Feb 1939). He died at his home at 928 N. Olive Street, San Antonio, Texas. He was 64 years, 11 months, and 19 days old. His obituary said his last job was General Manager for the San Antonio Southern Railroad. Henry’s wife Charity May Harris Briscoe died on 10 November 1961 in San Antonio.



Mission Burial Park South
San Antonio, Bexar Co. Texas

Compiled by Brother David L. Powell, East Trintiy Lodge No. 157
(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)

History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, which was once known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I.

In 1938, Armistice Day was established to remember the armistice – or agreement – that had been signed back on November 11, 1918, marking the end of WWI. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day in 1919, emphasizing peace and honoring those who served in the Great War.

In 1938, Armistice Day was declared a federal holiday with a focus on WWI veterans. In that legislation, the date of November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'"

Armistice Day to Veterans Day

"Armistice Day" became "Veterans Day" as the holiday evolved from commemorating the end of WWI to honoring all U.S. veterans.

In 1954, after the U.S. had gone through the devastation of [World War II and the Korean War](#), the scope of the holiday broadened. At the urging of veterans service organizations, the 83rd U.S. Congress amended the Act of 1938 by replacing the word "Armistice" with "Veterans."

In his October 8, 1954, letter to the administrator of Veterans' Affairs, President Dwight Eisenhower wrote, "I have today signed a proclamation calling upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, November 11, 1954 as Veterans Day. It is my earnest hope that all veterans, their organizations, and the entire citizenry will join hands to insure [sic] proper and widespread observance of this day."

November 11 became Veterans Day, a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Over the years, however, there were some changes to the actual date that Veterans Day was observed. In 1968, the Uniform Holiday Monday Act ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day.

Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. Many veterans as well as many members of the general public were not a fan of the date change. Many states also disagreed with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date.

Finally on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law that returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to November 11, beginning in 1978. This preserved the day's historical significance.

Over the years, Veterans Day has evolved into a day not just for remembering those who served in wartime but also for recognizing all veterans, including those who served in peacetime. It now serves as a time to reflect on veterans' contributions and ongoing challenges, such as health care and employment. The day has become a platform for honoring service while also advocating for veterans' needs.

Key Events in Veterans Day History

In summary, Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, began as a tribute to the end of WWI and has evolved into a day honoring all U.S. military veterans. Established in 1919 to commemorate the armistice signed on November 11, 1918, the holiday has undergone several changes, including being renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor veterans of all wars. Over time, it has grown into a day of national reflection, remembrance, and celebration of the contributions and sacrifices made by those who served in the U.S. armed forces.

- **1919:** Armistice Day: The origins of Veterans Day lie in Armistice Day, which was first observed on November 11, 1919, to commemorate the first anniversary of the armistice that ended WWI.
- **1938:** Federal Holiday: The U.S. Congress passed a law making Armistice Day a federal holiday, primarily honoring veterans of WWI and celebrating peace.
- **1947:** First National Veterans Day Celebration: The first celebration that used the term "Veterans Day" was held after Raymond Weeks, a Navy veteran who served in WWII, organized a movement for a national day to honor all Americans who served in the armed forces. Weeks served as the director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham, Alabama, for decades, until his death in 1985.
- **1954:** Renaming to Veterans Day: After WWII and the Korean War, the holiday's focus broadened to honor all American veterans. In 1954, President Eisenhower signed legislation officially changing the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day to recognize veterans of all wars.
- **1968:** The Uniform Monday Holiday Act: The law moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October to create more three-day weekends for federal employees. However, this change was unpopular.

1978: Return to November 11: Due to public and veterans' dissatisfaction with the date change, President Gerald Ford signed legislation in 1975 to restore Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, starting in 1978. The return acknowledged the historical significance of the WWI armistice.

Celebrating the Veterans Day Holiday

Veterans Day is celebrated across the U.S. with a variety of events to honor and recognize the service of military veterans.

National Veterans Day Ceremonies

Each year on November 11, there is a prominent Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, where the president traditionally lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In addition, several other prominent national Veterans Day ceremonies take place across the United States, including:

- **National World War II Memorial:** Located in Washington, D.C., this memorial hosts an annual ceremony featuring speeches by dignitaries and veterans, as well as a wreath-laying event to honor those who served during World War II.

MASONIC TRUE STORIES AND EVENTS

<http://www.mastermason.com/bridgeportlodge181/STRANG01.HTM>

THE LARGEST AND THE SMALLEST MASONS

At the time he was raised in Highland Park Lodge No. 382 in Los Angeles, California, John Aasen was eight and a half feet tall and weighed 536 pounds. Twelve craftsmen were required for certain parts of the ceremony. There were 1500 Masons present to observe the ceremony.

Charles S. Stratton, a midget, was made a famous by P. T. Barnum as "General Tom Thumb". He was first presented to the public in 1842; as the time he was two feet high and weighed 16 pounds. In 1844 he married Lavinia Warren, also a midget. He settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut and was raised in St. John's Lodge No. 3 on October 3, 1862.

THE CATHEDRAL BUILDERS

In 1899 Leader Scott (a pen name) published her book, *The Cathedral builders*, the story of a Great masonic Guild. This was followed in 1910 by W. Ravenscroft's *The Comacines, their Predecessors and their Successors*. The theory advanced is that when the Roman Collegia of Artificers were abolished, a group of workmen retired to an island in Lake Como where they preserved their technical skills and later built the cathedrals of Europe. This theory was followed by Joseph Fort Newton in *The Builder* and was widely accepted by readers of his popular book.

THE RHODE ISLAND LEGEND OF 1658

In 1853 the Reverend F. Peterson wrote on page 101 of his *History of Rhode Island and Newport* of the past: "In the spring of 1658, Mordecai Campannall, Moses Packeckoe, Levi and others, in all fifteen families, arrived in Newport from Holland. They brought with them the three first degrees of Masonry, and worked them in the house of Campannall; and continue to do so, they and their successors, to the end of 1742." This statement has been repeated from time to time, although in 1870 the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts looked into the matter and could find no evidence to support the statement.

HOW MANY MASONS SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Extravagant claims are sometimes made in connection with the Masonic membership of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. There were fifty-six signers of the document. There is satisfactory evidence to prove conclusively that eight were Masons. Twenty-four others are sometimes claimed as Masons, but evidence submitted is not completely satisfactory, being based of hearsay and "tradition", rather than documents. There are twenty-four signers who have never been claimed as Masons. The best answer the question is as follows: "Scholars have proved that eight Signers were Masons. As many as thirty may have been."

SIGNERS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

To counteract similar exaggerations about the Masonic membership of the signers of the Constitution of the United States. Brother Ronald E. Heaton also researched The Masonic membership of Signers of the Constitution, he concluded that thirteen signers were Masons. Their membership is supported by clear and conclusive written records; there are seven signers who are sometimes claimed as members, but the evidence is insufficient and not conclusive; the balance were not Masons.

THE STORY OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT, ELIHUS ROOT, AND THE GARDNER

Occasionally one reads the heart-warming story that President Theodore Roosevelt's gardener was master of the lodge at the time. The story illustrates how all men become equal in a Masonic lodge. However there is no evidence to support this story.

FREDERICK THE GREAT HELPS A BROTHER'S WIDOW

Frederick the Great, a Mason without any doubt, while in a jewelry shop in Potsdam, Germany, observed a middle-aged woman exhibiting an article of silver having certain Masonic symbols, possibly a Past Master's jewel. She was trying to borrow money on it. She said she had come to this particular shop to avoid the usurers and because the owner of the shop was a Mason. The jeweler told her that he was not in the pawnbroking business and couldn't make the loan.

Another person in the shop asked her many questions concerning the jewel, whose it was, how she had possession of it, etc. The man offered to buy the jewel and kept raising the price. When he decided to make her the loan, he discovered he had no money in his pocket. He then disclosed to the surprised woman that he was the King.

Fredrick shook his staff at the jeweler and told him that he was not fit to be a Mason and threatened to file charges against him. The following morning the woman went to see Fredrick and the palace and he instructed her to return whenever she was in need of help.

ELIZABETH ST. LEGER or THE HONORABLE MRS. ALDWORTH

In 1735 Lodge #44 at Doneraile, Ireland usually met at Lord Doneraile's home who was Master of his Lodge. His sister also lived with him, Elizabeth St. Leger.

Knowing that the meeting was about to open Elizabeth hid in a storage room adjoining the lodge room. She removed a brick that she had loosened from the wall a few days before and watched the conferring of the Fellow Craft degree.

When the meeting was about to close, Elizabeth realized what she had done, and in her nervous attempt to leave knocked over some storage boxes. The Tiler hearing the ruckus sounded the alarm and ran to dispatch the intruder. Lord Doneraile appeared just in time to save her life.

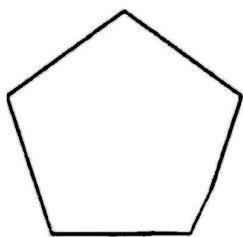
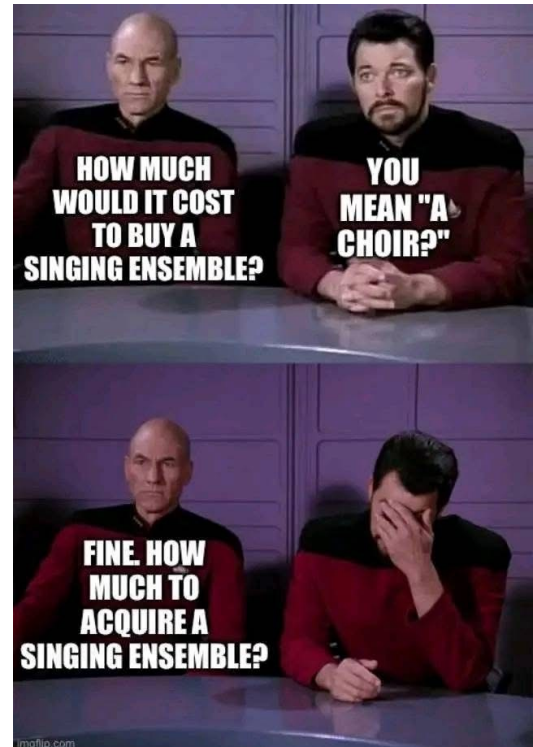
After questioning her the members re-assembled and deliberated on what to do about this intrusion. After two hours of heated debate, cooler heads prevailed. She was given two alternatives, either she submit to receiving the first two degrees in Masonry or other arrangements would be made for her. Miss St. Leger being able to hear some of the debate gladly accepted.

Mrs., or more appropriately Sister Aldworth after marriage, was so taken by the lessons of charity and Fraternal love shown to her upon being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft that night, that she spent her life and considerable wealth helping the poor in general and the Masonic poor in particular.

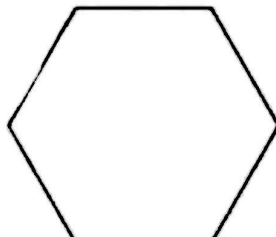
From Labor to Refreshment



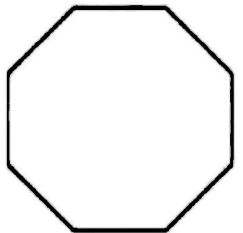
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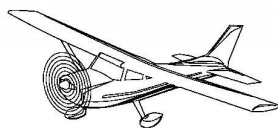
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Hexagon

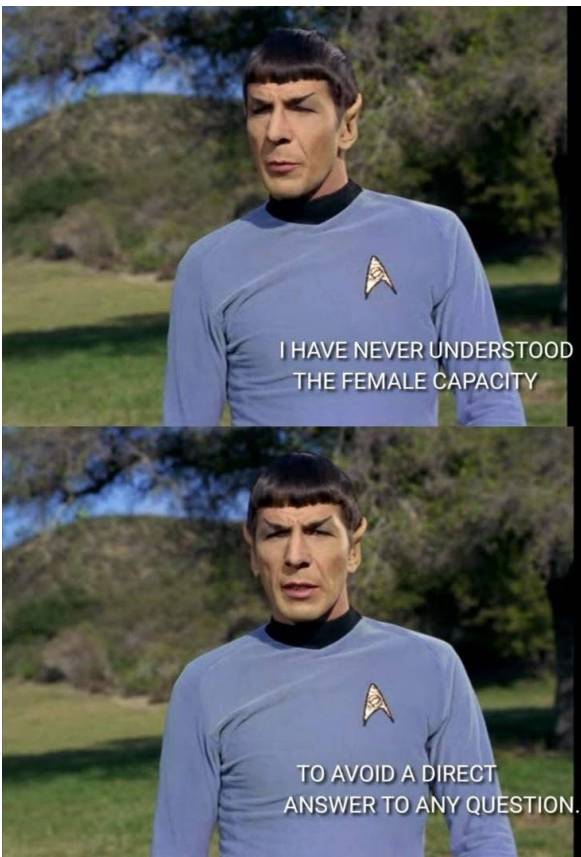


Octagon



Moneygone





**I wonder how many
vampires have been run
over by people who back
up using only their
mirrors.**

SPECIAL D AUTOMOTIVE

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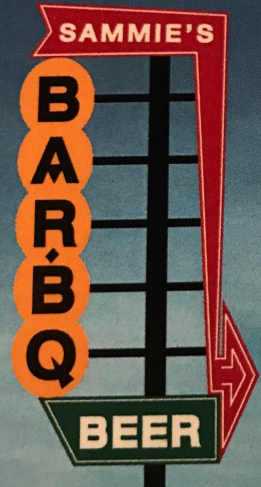
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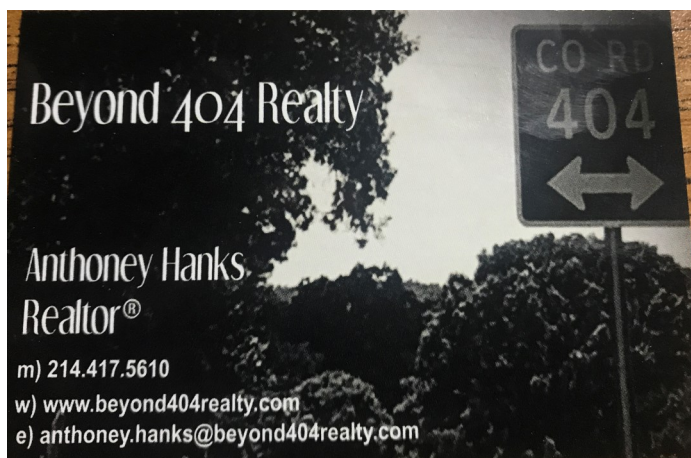
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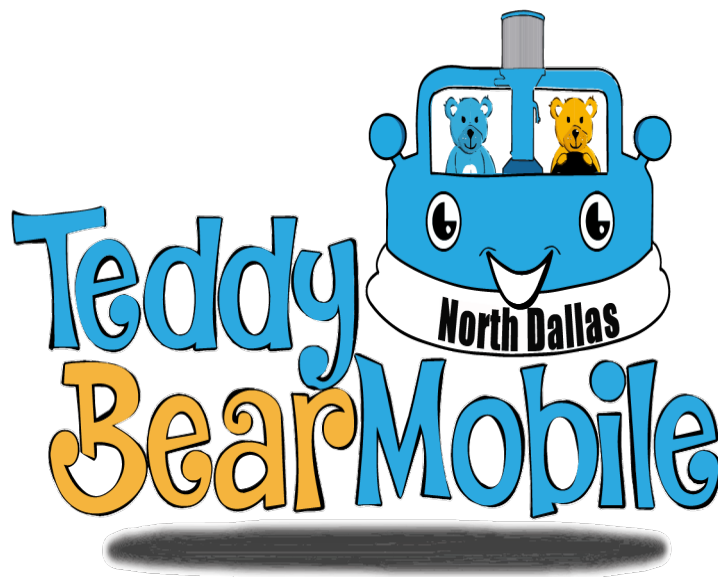
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