

February 2004 Obits
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Geretha "Jeri" Hatcher

Funeral services for Geretha "Jeri" Hatcher of Swink will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2004, at the Gospel Lighthouse in Valliant with Rev. Kenneth Cummings officiating. Interment will follow in Valliant Cemetery.

Mrs. Hatcher died February 29, 2004, in Paris, Texas. She was 63. She was a homemaker and of the Pentecostal faith.

Mrs. Hatcher was born March 1, 1940 in Santa Cruz, Calif., the daughter of William Ferris Houston and FloyMae (Henry) Houston and had lived in the Swink/Valliant area for the past 13 years. She married Sam Hatcher on July 6, 1955 in Covelo, Calif. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother: Loyd Vernon Houston and one sister: Floy Ilene Popskis.

Surviving relatives: her husband: Sam Hatcher; two sons: David Hatcher and Daniel Hatcher, both of Fairfield, Calif.; three daughters: Cindy Yarrigle of Springhill, Ore., Barbara Jackson of Covelo, Calif., and Debbie Attaberry of Medford, Ore.; one sister: Lenora Lou Chewning of Clear Lake, Calif.; 13 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 4, 2004, at the funeral home.

Miller & Miller Funeral Home Ñ Valliant, Okla.

Joe Pugh

Funeral services for Joe Pugh, 57, of Grant, are pending with Rogan Funeral Home. Joe Pugh died February 27, 2004, at St. Joseph South Hospital.

William R. Tidmore

Funeral services for William R. Tidmore of Swink were held at 2 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2004, at Faithway Baptist Church in Rufe, Okla., with Bro. Mutt Wallace, Bro. Bill Tidmore and Rev. Howard Head officiating. Interment was in Valliant Cemetery in Valliant, Okla.

Mr. Tidmore died February 24, 2004, in Paris, Texas. He was 84. He was a farmer and rancher and a World War II Army veteran who was wounded in action in Okinawa. He participated in the occupation of Japan. He was a founding member of Faithway Baptist Church, Rufe, Okla.

William was born March 4, 1919, in Mt. Idey, Okla., the son of Jasper Newton Tidmore and Sarah Elizabeth (Goswick) Tidmore and had lived most of his life in the Swink and Valliant area. He married Inez Faulkner on October 6, 1938. He was preceded

in death by his parents, a daughter, Glenda Ann Johnson, a son: Jimmy Dale Tidmore, and an infant daughter: Martha Tidmore. He was also preceded in death by six brothers: Melvin Tidmore, Cecil Tidmore, Alvie Tidmore, Leroy Kannada, Fred Kannada, and Hershel Pike; three sisters: Zelma Tucker, Lottie Wilson, and Jean Goodwin.

Surviving relatives: His wife, Inez Tidmore; two sons: Billy Ray Tidmore of Valliant; William E. "Boo-G" Tidmore of Valliant; two daughters: Betty Ramsey of Idabel and June Bean of Valliant; 11 brothers: Arvin Tidmore of San Diego, Calif., Odell Tidmore of Ft. Towson, Bob Tidmore of Valliant, Cecil Tidmore of Swink, Elvis Tidmore of Valliant, Marvin Tidmore of Broken Bow, Carl Tidmore of Valliant, W.T. "Cotton" Tidmore of Weatherford, Texas, Wesley Tidmore of Ft. Towson, Wilburn Tidmore of Lubbock, Texas, and Cortez Pike of Yakima, Wash.; four sisters: Lillian Hatcher of Valliant, Nellie Bruno of San Diego, Calif., Bonnie Currier of San Diego, Calif., and Lavada McCarney of Everett, Wash.; 17 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren, and one great great granddaughter; several nieces and nephews along with many other relatives and friends.

Miller & Miller Funeral Home of Valliant, Okla. Paid announcement

Patti Ainsworth Langston

Patti Ainsworth Langston, age 44, a resident of Grand Prairie, Texas, passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2004, in an Arlington hospital. Born on December 31, 1959 in Arlington, she had been a lifelong resident of Grand Prairie. She worked for the DFW Auto Auction. She was a member of Baptist Temple Church in Grand Prairie. Mrs. Langston was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Evelyn "Mutt" Ainsworth, on June 20, 1990.

She is survived by: Husband of 21 years, Johnny Langston of Grand Prairie; daughter, Sarah Langston of Grand Prairie; father, Billy Ainsworth of Grand Prairie; sister and brother-in-law, Debbie & Steve Durkin of Grand Prairie; brother and sister-in-law, Terry & Brenda Ainsworth of Allen, Texas; many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles and many friends.

Memorials may be made to the Leukemia Society of America or the charity of your choice.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Friday, February 27, 2004, at the Baptist Temple in Grand Prairie, and, at the Hawthorn Funeral Home in Carthage, Texas, at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 28, 2004. Interment was in Adams Cemetery in Logan, Texas.

Bean-Massey-Burge Funeral Home, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Paid announcement

Dorothy Mae Colbert

Funeral services for Dorothy Mae Colbert of Soper were held at 10 a.m. Friday, February 27, 2004, at Soper Assembly of God Church. Interment was in Soper Cemetery. Mrs. Colbert died Tuesday, February 24, 2004, in Soper. She was 82.

Dorothy was born October 17, 1921, in Boswell, Okla., to Frank Bishop and Elsie (Beams) Billey. She married Frank Colbert on November 3, 1945, in Hugo. She was preceded in death by her husband in May of 1984; two brothers, Nelson Billey and

Edward Billey; one step-daughter, Esterline James; and four sisters, Mary Tom, Lorene Stillwell, Wilma Colbert and Edna Belvin.

Dorothy is survived by two sons, Richard Colbert of Oklahoma City and R.V. Colbert of Soper; two step-sons, Andrew Colbert of Haskell and Ben Colbert of Soper; one daughter, Freda Colbert of the home in Soper; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home, Hugo.

William Featherstone, Jr.

Funeral services for William Featherstone, Jr., 44, of Hugo, are pending with Rogan Funeral Home. He died February 20, 2004 at his home.

William L. Featherstone, Jr.

Funeral services for William L. Featherstone, Jr., of Hugo, were held at 2 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2004, in the South Central District Building with Bro. Charles Parker officiating. Interment was in Crosley Cemetery.

Mr. Featherstone died February 20, 2004, at his home. He was 44. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

Surviving relatives: Father, William L. Featherstone of Hugo; brother, William Germaine Featherstone of Hugo; two sisters, Bertha Toya Featherstone and Patricia Riddley of Dallas; several aunts and uncles.

Rogan Funeral Home.

Gary Edwin Heft

Funeral services for Gary Edwin Heft of Hugo were held at 10 a.m. Friday, February 20, 2004, at Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Chapel.

Mr. Heft died Tuesday, February 17, 2004, in Hugo. He was 55.

Gary was born on April 22, 1948, in Denver, Colo., to Clarence and Helen (Perigo) Heft. He had lived in this area for eight years. He will truly be missed by all who knew and loved him. Gary was preceded in death by his parents and a brother.

Gary is survived by his wife, Susan Heft; two sons, Gary Tibbs and Garrett Heft, both of Denver; one daughter, Darlene Seymour of Denver; three stepdaughters: Alexandria Lamica of Alaska, Nicole Smith of Hugo, and Sandra Seigel of Hugo; three brothers: Glenn Creason, David Creason and Odie Hudson, all of Colorado; four sisters: Carol Gonzales and Karen Kiestand, Wanda Talley and Tina Balliger of Colorado; his mother-in-law, Nellie Hulse of Hugo; 13 grandchildren.

Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home.

Guthrie "Gussie" Olivia Robison Sanders

Guthrie "Gussie" Olivia Robison Sanders died February 16, 2004, at age 94. She had lived in Del Rio, Texas since 1982 and was a member of the Central Church of Christ.

Gussie was born in Nelson, Pushmataha County, Oklahoma, on May 25, 1909. She was the daughter of Henry Jefferson "Happy Jack" Robison (1863-1923) and Martha Ann "Mattie" Riddle (1870-1941).

She married Fred Reuben Sanders on the 28th of Dec., 1934, at Fort Towson, Choctaw County, Oklahoma. Mr. Sanders died in 1968. Sanders Elementary School in Corpus Christi, Texas, was named for him in honor of his years of service on the school board.

Gussie is survived by a son, Fred R. Sanders Jr., and his wife, Shirley Zeanah Sanders of Del Rio, Texas; two grandsons, Fred R. Sanders III, and his wife, Tracy Lynn Hansen Sanders, of Dripping Springs, Texas; and Clayton Dee Sanders of Austin, Texas. Also surviving are two great-grandsons, Ryan Frederick Sanders and Cole Christopher Sanders, who reside with their parents in Dripping Springs.

In addition, as with one so long in life, Gussie has numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews scattered all over this great land.

Burial will be held at a private graveside service in Corpus Christi, Texas. G.W. Cox Memorial Funeral Home of Del Rio, Texas, is responsible for the arrangements.

A Memorial Service will be held in Hugo, Oklahoma at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that any remembrances be made as a donation to Friends of Hospice, P.O. Box 2301, Del Rio, TX 78841.

Paid announcement

Roy L. Harvey

Graveside memorial services for Roy L. Harvey of Sawyer were held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, February 20, 2004, at Spencerville Cemetery. Speaker will be Rick Crowder. Mr. Harvey died February 13, 2004, at Choctaw Memorial Hospital in Hugo. He was 65. He was born November 13, 1938, the son of Jesse and Dellie (Formby) Harvey and had lived for the past 30 years in Sawyer. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a heavy equipment operator. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers: James Harvey and Ray Harvey.

Survivors: Two sons: Shawn Harvey and Roy Harvey, both of Hugo; three brothers: Orlen Harvey of Longview, Texas, Coy Harvey of Mississippi, and Wiley Harvey of Tishomingo; five sisters: Mary Dell Johnson of Idabel, Dorothy Hulsey of Brookston, Texas, Lois Mullens of Diana, Texas, Doris Yarbrough of Diana, Texas, and Sharon Matthews of Sawyer; one granddaughter.

Information provided by Miller & Miller Funeral Home of Hugo.

L Z (Scooter) Henson

Funeral services for L Z (Scooter) Henson of Hugo were held at 2 p.m. Saturday at West Kiamichi Church of Christ with Bro. Robert Robinson officiating. Burial was in Crosley Cemetery.

L Z (Scooter) Henson died February 15, 2004, at St. Joseph North Hospital, at age 74. Scooter was a retired cook and a member of West Kiamichi Church of Christ.

Survivors: One son, Chester Featherstone of Hugo; two daughters, Sherry Fort and Bertha Pearl of Hugo; one brother, Robert Lee Henson, Jr., of Oklahoma City; two

sisters, Pearlie B. Rhodes of Hugo, Verdie Mae Franklin of Oklahoma City; 10 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Rogan Funeral Home.

Gertha L. McCarty

Funeral services for Gertha L. McCarty of Hugo were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19 at First Baptist Church with Rev. Roylia Akins officiating. Burial was in Crosley Cemetery.

Mrs. McCarty died February 10, 2004, at her home. She was a retired school teacher.

Surviving relatives: Two sons, Roland Burk II of Binghamton, N.Y., Christopher McCarty of Hugo; three brothers, Roswell Smith of Tulsa, Herman and Anthony Smith of Phoenix, Ariz.; four sisters, Shirley Lewis of San Diego, Calif., Roberta Blake, Janette Jones, and Maryland Myree all of Phoenix, Ariz.; one grandchild, several nieces and nephews.

Rogan Funeral Home.

Betty Sue Morris

Funeral services for Betty Sue Morris of Hugo were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 21, 2004, at Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Chapel. Interment was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Hugo.

Mrs. Morris died Wednesday, February 18, 2004, in Antlers. She was 49. Betty was born December 31, 1954, in Floydada, Texas, to Roy and Mary (Pilkinton) Gallant. She married Coy Morris on October 18, 1974, in Soper, Okla. She was a homemaker and will truly be missed by all. Betty was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by one son, Coy Lee Morris of Tuttle, Okla.; one daughter, Amanda Diane Morris of Hugo; four brothers, O'Dell Gallant of Denver, Colo., Billy Gallant of Thorndale, Texas, Delbert Gallant and Troy Gallant, both of Hugo; four sisters, Laverne Anderson of Blair, Okla., Lorene Smith of Altus, Okla., Barbara Kendrix of Soper and Mary Ianicchinno of New York; three grandchildren.

Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home.

Dorothy "Cookie" Smith

Funeral services for Dorothy "Cookie" Smith of Fort Towson were held at 2 p.m. Friday, February 20, 2004, at Shoals Baptist Church. Interment was in Shoals Cemetery.

Mrs. Smith died Tuesday, February 17, 2004, in Paris, Texas. She was 64. Dorothy was born January 24, 1940, in McCurtain County, Okla., to Jim and Bea Stewart. She married Joe W. "Curly" Smith on November 16, 1968, in Fort Towson. She worked at the One Stop for Don & Lois Lanier and worked as a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paris, Texas. Cookie was preceded in death by her husband, "Curley" Smith in 1986; two sisters and one brother.

"Cookie" is survived by two sons, Randy Smith of Fort Towson and Billy Smith of Arkansas; one daughter, Bonita Pugh of Arkansas; and several grandchildren.

Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home.

Dorothy Colbert

Funeral services for Dorothy Colbert, 82, of Soper, are pending with Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home of Hugo. Mrs. Colbert died Monday, February 23, 2004, in Soper.

Floyd R. Brown

Funeral services for Floyd R. Brown of Boswell were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 21, 2004, at First Baptist Church of Boswell. Interment was at Restland Cemetery in Boswell.

Mr. Brown died Wednesday, February 18, 2004, in Talihina, Okla. He was 90.

Floyd was born December 30, 1913, in Bennington, Okla., to Henry Brown and Minnie Belle (Burke) Brown. He married Ruby Benice Hall in Atoka, Okla., on September 30, 1937. He was a retired Highway Patrolman and a rancher. Floyd was a Mason, Shriner, VFW, Odd Fellows and a member of Retired Highway Patrolman's Association. He will truly be missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers; one sister; and one daughter.

He is survived by his wife Ruby of the home; two daughters, Jeannie Ray Hoover of Madill, Okla., and Jody Carson of Dallas; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home.

Sam Roebuck

Funeral services for Sam Roebuck of Hugo were held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, 2004, at Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Chapel in Hugo. Interment will follow in Goodland Cemetery in Goodland.

Mr. Roebuck died Sunday, February 22, 2004, in Paris, Texas. He was 78.

Sam was born April 1, 1925, in Eggshell, Okla., to David Bruce and Mary Magdalene (Crowder) Roebuck. He married Velma Joyce Riggs in Ft. Worth, Texas, on July 2, 1952. He returned to Hugo in 1975 after retiring from the Air Force after 23 years of service. He worked for the Oklahoma Transportation Department for 10 years. He will truly be missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; one granddaughter, Lindsay Mericle in 1998; two brothers: Clifford Roebuck in 2001 and Jack Roebuck in 1996; and one sister, Bessie Stillwell in 1985.

He is survived by his wife Joyce of the home; one son, Samuel Bruce Roebuck and wife Tanya of Soper, Okla.; three daughters, Cynthia Elaine Decker and husband Warren of Albuquerque, N.M., Candith Renee Mericle and husband Greg of Medical Lake, Wash., and Melani Anne Finch and husband Eddie of Goodland, Okla.; two sisters, Maggie House of Soper, Okla., and Essie Crews of Dexter, Mich.; eight grandchildren, Toma Payne of Hugo, Okla., Gerome Finch of Hugo, Okla., Jennifer Mericle of Tucson, Ariz., Tamara Rice of Goodland, Okla., Deann Lajoy Long of Decatur, Texas, Eric

Mericle of Medical Lake, Wash., Caitlin and Sam Roebuck of Soper, Okla.; three great-grandchildren, Braeley Rice, Rowdy Finch and Jocelyn Rice, all of Goodland, Okla.

Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home, Hugo, Okla.

Paid announcement

Ruth L. Barnes Waters

Ruth L. Barnes Waters passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2004. Services were held in the pavilion at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Hugo, Oklahoma, at 1:30 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2004.

Ruth was a devoted mother whose love and generosity impacted many people. She loved to have fun: Favorite hobbies included playing bridge, watching Braves baseball, traveling, and gifting money to grandchildren and extended relations. Her vitality and feisty spirit were unparalleled Ñ she was still waterskiing and doing yoga headstands well into her seventies. Ruth had a passion for cooking and preparing food for friends and family. She endeavored to test a new recipe each week from either cookbooks or the food sections of the newspapers to everyone's enjoyment. Ruth lived in Hugo for 84 years before moving to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Being an active member of the First Methodist Church in Hugo for 60 plus years brought her great fulfillment and her tenure of 35 years at the Choctaw County Treasurer's Office demonstrated her strong work ethic. One of her most satisfying accomplishments in life was putting all three of her children through college. Her spirit and life-setting examples will extend well into the future; she will be greatly missed.

Ruth L. Barnes Waters was born July 19, 1917, in Hugo, Oklahoma to Lee Thomas and Minnie Florence (Willis) McKinney. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Dr. Floyd L. Waters; two brothers, Tommy McKinney and Alvis McKinney; and four sisters, Fannie Lee Robbins, Lizzie May Steen, Lona Adams and Bonnie Amend. Ruth is survived by one son, James Dudley Barnes and wife Lisette of Oklahoma City, Okla.; two daughters, Jean Anderson and husband Keith of Aurora, Colo., and Judy Curry of Santa Monica, Calif.; five grandchildren, Corie Barnes Talano and husband John of New Orleans, La., Nicole Barnes of Oklahoma City, Okla., Alexandra Barnes of Oklahoma City, Okla., David Anderson and wife Jen of Fort Collins, Colo., and Paul Anderson of Steamboat Springs, Colo.; and two great-grandchildren, Cleo Anderson and Melia Anderson, both of Fort Collins, Colo.

Funeral home: Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home, 216 East Jackson Street, Hugo, Okla., Phone: 580-326-6464 Fax: 580-326-3290.

Paid announcement

Dr. Julius A. LaCroix, Jr.

June 13, 1919-February 26, 2004

Julius A. LaCroix, Jr. (“June” to family members) was born on June 13, 1919, on a Red River farm south of Soper, Oklahoma, near the community of Bluff, Okla., which was a part of his mother’s allotment from the Choctaw Nation. He was the third child (2nd son) of Julius Alfred LaCroix and Ruth Randell LaCroix. LaCroix, Sr., was of Scots-Irish and French descent from Louisiana and his mother was of Scots-English and Choctaw Indian descent, one of the Original Enrollees under the Dawes Commission, Number 4167.

Dr. LaCroix attended elementary school at Goodland Indian School, junior high school in Antlers, Okla., and was graduated from Antlers High School in 1937. He entered Bacone College in the fall of 1937 and was graduated in May, 1940. While at Bacone he was active in many school activities and was a member of the famous “Singing Redmen” glee club. He attended Oklahoma A&M College one year before entering military service.

Julius was a member of Bacone’s National Guard Company “I” 180th Infantry, 45th Division and was mobilized for active duty with the company on Sept. 16, 1940. He remained with the company as Supply Sergeant until 1942 when he transferred to the Army Air Corps. Julius completed navigation training at Mather Field on June 13, 1942, on his 23rd birthday. He served in England in the Eighth Air Force and later in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Germany with the Troop Carrier Command. His group was engaged in dropping airborne troops behind enemy lines and delivering troops by airborne gliders into combat zones as well as transporting supplies and munitions. He was separated from the service at the end of the war in 1945 with the rank of Captain.

It is significant to note that Julius is the only graduate of Bacone College to become a medical doctor. This typifies the character of the man who set a goal early in life and though the odds appeared great, persevered until the goal was reached. He practiced medicine in Hugo, Okla., Choctaw County, for 32 years, retiring in Sept. 1990. His service to this community has been outstanding and through his efforts and leadership, the county has one of the most modern hospitals in southeastern Oklahoma. His dedication and devotion to his profession and the service rendered to his community is legend.

Dr. LaCroix married Charlene Fields on June 18, 1942. He received his M.D. in 1950 and moved to Hugo in 1952. Together Julius and Charlene had two children, Debbie LaCroix Taylor and Charles “Chuck” LaCroix and one grandson, Chad L. Taylor.

Julius Alfred LaCroix, Jr., is preceded in death by his wife, Charlene, and his older brother Thomas E. LaCroix of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Dr. J.A. LaCroix, Jr., is survived by his two children, Deborah LaCroix Taylor, Charles “Chuck” LaCroix and one grandson, Chadwick L. Taylor, of Hugo, Okla. Surviving siblings include Christina LaCroix Crews of Hugo, Jack Alfred LaCroix of Enid, Okla., Eugene LaCroix of Port Arthur, Texas, and Judy LaCroix, the widow of his older brother Thomas E. LaCroix of Fort Worth, Texas. Other survivors are his sisters-in-law, Novella LaCroix of Enid, Okla., and Mary Ann LaCroix of Port Arthur, Texas. Dr. LaCroix leaves many nieces, including Haralyn Crews Shatswell of Hugo, and many nephews, cousins, friends and colleagues.

Dr. LaCroix has been an avid supporter of Bacone College throughout the years and is a member of Phi Beta Phi Fraternity, the American Medical Association, past president of the Oklahoma Medical Association, former Chief of Staff of the Choctaw Memorial Hospital, a founding member of the Choctaw Indian Veteran Warriors Society, board member of Bacone College, and "Supply Sergeant" for many past reunions of his "I" Company comrades from Bacone.

Paid announcement

Lee Polk

Graveside services for Lee Polk of Soper were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 28, 2004 at Sugar Creek Cemetery with Rev. Greg Hammack officiating.

Mr. Polk died Wednesday, February 25, 2004, at his residence north of Soper. He was 65.

Lee Polk was born November 6, 1938 in Swampers, La., the son of George W. Polk and Effie Lee "Searcy" Woodward. He lived in this area for the past 40 years, working in the oil fields in Alaska, Louisiana, and Texas. He married Nancy Sullivan on November 16, 1962, in Andrews, Texas.

Surviving relatives: Wife: Nancy Polk, of the home; one daughter: Leah Ann Schutts of Antlers; Mother: Effie Lee Woodward of Louisiana; brothers and sisters: Ernest Woodward, Jr., James Larry Woodward, Homer Dale Woodward, Robert Woodward, Sam Woodward, Casey Woodward, Hershel Woodward, Lonnie Woodward, Margie LaBorle, and Elmer Woodward, all of Louisiana, Gloria Morgan of Arkansas, Joseph Woodward, Christopher Woodward, and Elmer Woodward, all of Mississippi; three grandchildren.

Mt. Olive Funeral Home, Hugo.