

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

Ninth Edition – May 26, 2015

Words From Our President

Members of the Board of Directors of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association have been making plans for the 2015 Memorial Day Program/Annual Business Meeting. As is tradition, the program will be held on Sunday, July 19th from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, located on CR 3357, directly across the road from the Cemetery.

The program will begin with congregational singing let by Mike Briley and accompanied by pianist, Lisa Lowry. Rev. Jack Wallace will give the invocation. Following the invocation will be a business meeting of the Association. The Annual Business Meeting will consist of a report on the activities taken and work performed for the care of the Cemetery during the past year, a financial report, and the election of three members for three-year terms to the Board of Directors. (Below, 2014 program featured Enola Gay Matthews)



Each year, a special memorial tribute to those interred in the Old Saltillo Cemetery in the preceding twelve months is conducted. This year, Kelli McAfee Tarver will make the presentation. Members of the family of each person buried in the cemetery during the year are encouraged to attend and participate in the honoring of their loved one.

Mrs. Shirley Gibbs will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Gibbs is a gifted Christian communicator, Bible teacher, and writer. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor who holds an M.S. in Counseling and a B.S. in Education. Mrs. Gibbs is the author of "When It's Time". A book which Dan Davidson, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, cites as, "an excellent resource for parents, counselors, and pastors. Shirley has written a beautiful and thoroughly scriptural book for children and a very practical guide for those who wait by their sides."

After the benediction given by Rev. Vic Casad, lunch will be served in the air-conditioned Kirby Memorial Center. For those who still prefer Memorial Day lunch outdoors, tables will be available under the shade of the church's large oak trees. Everyone is asked to bring the usual full meal with ample portions to be shared with others. The food will be arranged in buffet style with cups, plates, napkins, eating utensils, and water and iced tea being furnished.

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Spotlight: Randy Agee

At the 2014 annual meeting of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, members elected Randy Agee to serve on the Association's Board of Directors, and fellow board members welcome him.

Randy was born to Louis and Jo Ann Agee on December 31, 1954 in Madisonville, Texas. A happy, healthy boy growing up in Garland, Randy enjoyed life to the fullest. He played many sports, spent time at the family's farm, and kept everybody on their toes. After graduating from South Garland High School in 1973, Randy attended East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce) where he met and later married Donna Schmitz of Irving. They had two children; Ryan in 1977, and Ginnifer in 1979.

Randy maintains a longstanding career of nearly 40 years in the heating and air conditioning industry. He has worked in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. We are grateful that after all of his moves, he landed back in Texas in the mid-1990s and now enjoys great success with K & S Heating and Air, based in Garland, TX.

Following in his father's footsteps, Randy is also self-employed in the cattle industry. Don't be fooled however, their footsteps differ greatly as they each have their own, unique, way of 'getting the job done'.



Randy and his partner, Elaine, live in Point, Texas on Lake Tawakoni. He enjoys hunting, fresh water and deep sea fishing, and traveling in his spare time. He has worked as a fishing guide on Lake Fork and competed in hundreds of fishing tournaments throughout the years. Being an avid outdoorsman, Randy has many humorous "fish tales" and deer camp stories to tell.

This gregarious man has a heart of gold and has never met a stranger. He is the type of man you can count on to pitch in whenever help is needed. He has taught me a great deal about generosity, compassion, and patience. I'm truly blessed to call him my dad.

Randy has been an active participant at OSC events such as Memorial Day since he was a child, and his roots run deep in this community. His relatives buried in the OSC cemetery include members of the Adams, Agee, Brem, Caudle, Poor and Wright families.

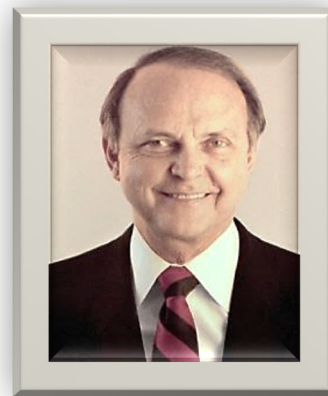
On New Years Eve, 2014 Randy turned 60 years young. He's still enjoying life to the fullest and he's not slowing down anytime soon! His grandkids think he's a pretty awesome Papa and that may just be his proudest accomplishment yet!



Ginnifer Agee Doyle, Contributing Columnist

Dr. Billy Joe Parnell

The Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Board of Directors recognizes the passing of Dr. Billy Joe Parnell, former Board Member and longtime supporter of the Cemetery: Dr. Billy Joe Parnell passed away on September 25, 2014, in Dallas, Texas. Bill was born in Mt. Vernon, Texas on March 16, 1925 and graduated valedictorian from Mt. Vernon High School, later attending ETSU and TCU. He graduated from Tulane Medical School in 1947. Bill married the love of his life, Tommye Irene Mathis on May 29, 1949, and together had 6 children. She remained his closest friend and confidant throughout their lives.



He served his country in the Korean War before returning home to complete his residency in radiology at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Afterwards he was on staff at Medical Arts, Parkland and St. Paul Hospitals. From 1957-1981 he practiced at Wysong Clinic in McKinney. He returned home to East Texas in 1981 to serve with Presbyterian Hospital of Winnsboro, East Texas Medical Center in Mt. Vernon and Pittsburg Hospital as their sole radiologist.

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Words From Our President, Cont...



Time will be provided at lunch and later during the afternoon for visiting – renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. Please bring lawn chairs so that you can enjoy the lunch and fellowship after the service.



Members of the Board of Directors of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association are Randy Agee, Ryan Agee, Lou Briley Daniel, Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, Nat Paul Gibbs, Barbara Conley Norris, Johnny McAfee, Kenneth Patrick, and Chris Skelly.

It is the sincere wish that all work performed in and for the Old Saltillo Cemetery enhances its beauty, pleases Association members, and pays tribute to the memory of those buried in the Old Saltillo Cemetery.

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President

A New Beginning

Prior to the 2015 Memorial Day Program/Annual Business Meeting, a special service will be held at the Saltillo United Methodist Church and the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church to officially close the Saltillo Church and affiliate all members, church holdings, etc., consolidating the two churches into one, known as the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church. The service will begin at 9:15 a.m. at the Saltillo United Methodist Church and conclude at the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church.

Services at both churches are scheduled to last about 45 minutes, ending about 10:00 a.m., prior to the beginning of the 2015 Memorial Day Program/Annual Business Meeting. Anyone who would like to attend the closing/ consolidation service of the two churches is invited to attend.

Although not part of the Memorial Day Program/Annual Business Meeting, all who are or have been associated with either church are encouraged to attend this very special service.

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, Contributing Columnist

Jewel McAfee

The Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Board of Directors recognizes the passing of Jewel McAfee, longtime friend of the Cemetery: Mary Jewel DeShazo McAfee passed away peacefully on January 11, 2015, at the age of 100. She is survived by her brother, C.W. DeShazo; her nephews Bob King, Derwin DeShazo, Gerald DeShazo, Don DeShazo, and Johnny Mack McAfee; and her niece Billie Rose Marable and their families. She was preceded in death by her dearly loved husband, R. B. McAfee, her parents William and Rosa DeShazo, her sister Alice King, and her brother Luther DeShazo.

Jewel was born March 15, 1914, in Saltillo, Texas. She graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1931, and married her high school sweetheart, R.B. McAfee, on December 25, 1945. She was a star on the 1929 Saltillo championship basketball team and was named player of the year. She was the Saltillo School Librarian, active in Christian Youth Development, Caretaker of the Saltillo Community Center, Organizer of Saltillo Homecoming for more than 30 years, instrumental in planning the Old Saltillo Cemetery Memorial for more than 40 years, Sunday School Teacher, Church Secretary/ Treasurer for more than 50 years and was an active member of the Eastern Star serving in 6 different chapters for more than 65 years. In 2009 she was the recipient of the prestigious Paul Harris Award for her selfless contributions to her community.



(Above, Jewel was recognized during the 2014 program.)

During their 57 year marriage, Jewel and R.B. teamed up for numerous church, charitable and community projects. They were instrumental in the fundraising and building of the Saltillo Community Center, had leadership positions in Saltillo Methodist Church and Masonic and Eastern Star orders. Throughout R.B.'s career with Gulf Oil Company, they lived in many places and were always an integral part of community and church affairs. She will be missed by her many friends and her loving family.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home in Mount Vernon with Dr. Jack Wallace officiating. Burial followed at Old Saltillo Cemetery with her nephews serving as pallbearers.

Sam Harvey Funeral Home obituaries, 2015

Dr. Parnell, cont.

He exemplified competence and compassion in his treatment of his patients and fostered endearing and lasting relationships with the staffs at those hospitals. During his time in East Texas he became a prolific and expert woodworker, renovating their home, a deteriorating 1905 Victorian, and restoring it to its former glory. He also made kitchen cabinets, several chairs and tables all of which exhibit exquisite mastery of the craft. He eventually turned to music, making two beautiful violins, learning how to play the violin, then showcasing his talents with two others at a talent show at his church, First United Methodist Church of Winnsboro. As a member of the church he enjoyed attending services, volunteering for various projects, teaching classes and contributing towards the success of the church. He also read extensively, choosing history as his main interest, which resulted in an extensive library that shall be donated to the Gilbreath Memorial Public Library and senior centers in Winnsboro.

He was honored for his lifelong accomplishments by the State of Texas, in the 77th Texas Legislature, by the House of Representatives in H. R. 526, in the presence of his entire family: "RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 77th Texas Legislature hereby commend Dr. Billy Joe Parnell for his outstanding efforts in behalf of his fellow citizens and extend to him sincere best wishes for success and happiness in all his future endeavors; and, be it further resolved, that an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Dr. Parnell as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives."

Bill was predeceased by his father and mother, Edward E. Parnell and Annie May Wardrup Parnell. He is survived by his closest friend and love of his life, Tommye Irene Mathis; three daughters, Annette Keedy of San Antonio (John), Cindy Shipes of Dallas (John), and Pamela Parnell; three sons, David Parnell of Houston, Charles Parnell of Austin, and James Parnell of Rockwall (Ingrid); and 7 grandchildren, Stephen Keedy, Claire Parnell, Elliot Parnell, Matthew Shipes, William Shipes, Austin Parnell and MacKenzie Parnell. Services were held at First Methodist Church in Winnsboro on Monday, September 29, at 1:00 PM and a graveside service followed at Detroit Cemetery in Detroit, Texas.

Beaty Funeral Home obituaries, 2014

Interments

Since last publication, the following individuals have been laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery:

Billy Jack Arthur: July 9, 2014
Mary Jo Eddy: November 18, 2014
Bob Armstrong: November 22, 2014
Jewel McAfee: January 14, 2015
Judy Carroll Mills: May 19, 2015

"God's finger touched him, and he slept."
Alfred Lord Tennyson