



Marjorie Burnett demonstrates divining, a technique using rods to locate lost graves, to the John Everett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Daughters Get Divining Demonstration

The John Everett Chapter DAR of Colorado County met at the home of their regent, Laura Ann Rau. After business was taken care of, Marjorie Burnett of Smiley gave a fascinating program.

She showed members her divining rods and demonstrated how to use them locating lost graves.

She stressed the importance of maintaining graves so that they don't sink into the ground, sometimes never to be discovered. The chapter drove to the Odd Fellows Cemetery to investigate a fenced in family graveyard with only one stone.

When Mrs. Burnett walked the

ground with her rods, she determined that there were no other graves at that site. She taught the members how to use the rods, even determining if a grave held a male or female.

The ladies were surprised to watch the rods held gently in their hands actually turn to the right or left in front of a live woman or man and spread apart when they approached a grave.

The John Everett Chapter invites any woman 18 or over who is interested in researching her ancestry back to the American Revolution, to attend a monthly meeting. For time and place, one can contact Laura Ann Rau at 732-6566.

Author To Appear At Nesbitt Library

On Tuesday, November 28, the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus will conduct another in its successful series of author dinners, bringing Austin writer Bill Crawford to town.

Crawford will make a presentation on many of the unusual personalities who appeared on the very powerful radio stations near the Texas-Mexico border. Stations could avoid the power restrictions imposed by the United

States government by building their transmitters just across the Mexican border. These border radio stations could be heard throughout most of the United States, making their on-air personalities national figures.

And there were many unusual characters. There were healers who sold mysterious miracle cures like goat gonad implants and Crazy Water. There were preachers who sold salvation, and autographed pictures of Jesus Christ. And there were politicians who sold themselves. Crawford's hilarious presentation covers them all.

Crawford and Gene Fowler are the co-authors of a book on the subject, *Border Radio: Quacks, Yodelers, Pitchmen, Psychics, and Other Amazing Broadcasters of the American Airwaves*, which will be available for purchase at the dinner.

Crawford's newest book, published in 2004, is *Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy*, a photographic history of the life and times of one of Texas' most colorful governors, W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel. He also co-wrote, with Joe Nick Patoski, *Stevie Ray Vaughan: Caught in the Crossfire*, a biography of the Texas guitarist.

Admission and dinner will cost \$15 to the general public, \$10 to Friends of the Library. Because of limited space, no more than 40 people will be admitted. Tickets can be purchased at the library, or reserved by telephone (979-732-3392), until noon on Monday, November 27.

Holiday Homes Tour Slated December 1

This year during Christmas on the Colorado, the Columbus Garden Club will follow a 29-year tradition of decorating the Tate-Sentfenberg-Brandon House, 616 Walnut St., and will again be docenting during the Candlelight Homes Tour, sponsored by Columbus Historical Preservation Trust (CHPT), on Friday Dec. 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The garden club will pretend that it is Friday, Dec. 23, 1921 and while the Brandons and the rest of Columbus are at a community tree celebration at the Northrup Opera House, an actual event documented in a local newspaper article of Dec. 16, 1921, the house will be open for tours so that guests of 2006 can catch the flavor and excitement of those earlier times.

(An interesting note to this article is that the Northrup Opera House is what is now the 1886 Stafford Opera House. The name of the opera house changed as its owners changed.)

Like it's 1921 counterpart, the Christmas tree in the Tate-Sentfenberg-Brandon House dining room will sparkle with electrical candles and will be trimmed with candies, popcorn, cranberries and glass ornaments. The dining table will be decorated with small festive Christmas trees made from rosemary.

The Brandons, planning an informal gathering of family and friends for Christmas, have a baked turkey cooling while the family is away at the celebration and baked desserts are ready for the weekend's gatherings. The kitchen smells of rosemary, parsley, oranges, cinnamon and all the traditional holiday aromas.

The home will be decorated throughout with holly, pine, cedar, magnolia leaves, poinsettias, and ferns.

The third grade students at Columbus elementary and St. Anthony's will again, as a long-standing tradition, hand craft ornaments for "the children's tree" upstairs. A children's tea party will be set up in the children's room.

From the moment visitors enter the home they will be taken away into the year 1921 as a costumed docent meets them and begins an adventure back in time.

Garden club member, Ann Wegenhoff, will be sewing her period costume as well as another from a pattern typical of the 1921 time-period. Wegenhoff and other garden club members will greet visitors in front of the home and will be serving cider and gingersnaps.

The Candlelight Homes Tour will include "homes of yesteryear and today". Other homes open for tour are:

The 1880 Stephens-Ramsey-Mattern-Laine House, 1118 Prairie Street that was recently purchased by Laura Ann Rau is of the Second Greek Revival Style which was popular at the turn of the century.

Rau says that some of the aspects of the house are of the Craftsman Period. On the left side of the house is what was originally built as a conservatory where plants were kept. And interestingly, under the conservatory is a root cellar.

Many homes in Columbus during that time had root cellars that were kept dark and stored potatoes, carrots and onions and preserved fruits. Rau says that the Matterns added the

conservatory and root cellar to the house around 1927. Come and explore this interesting home and sip some wine, eat some hors d'oeuvres and enjoy the sounds of the woodwind ensemble from Columbus High School at the Stephens-Ramsey-Mattern-Laine House.

The old 1870's Hotel Colorado, at 920 Milam Street, is now Country Time Homes and proudly owned by Rhonda and Philip Garcia. The hotel turned into a rooming house in the late 40s and 50s and became the residences for single workmen and train crews but still retained the name of Hotel Colorado.

The Garcias are decorating using garlands, decorated trees and a collection of cardinals. All of the decorations are retail items available for sale. Hot cocoa, drinks and snacks will be served.

The "homes of today" that will be on tour are:

The wonderful home of Joe and Sharon Hajovsky at 205 N. Oak Drive has a warm family feel about it. You will not want to miss this one. CHPT is proud to include this home of today in this year's tour. Through 30 years of teaching, Sharon Hajovsky has collected many ornaments as gifts from her students.

Each year she would have them write their name and the year on their ornament. The Hajovsky tree is decorated with these gifts of love and memories. There is another tree in their daughter's room that will also be decorated with memories.

The ornaments on this tree are ones that she made as a child, ornaments that her grandmother gave her each year, and a collection of pencils with her name on them. The yard will be fully decorated as each year they add something new.

The lovely sprawling home of Bruce and Donna Tesch at 220 North Street will be decorated from top to bottom. The master bedroom will be decorated in a Victorian manner in burgundy, greens and golds.

Donna Tesch says "the other bedrooms will have themes such as sports, fire department and a pink girlie room." The Tesches will be serving punch and all kinds of pies, cakes and cookies.

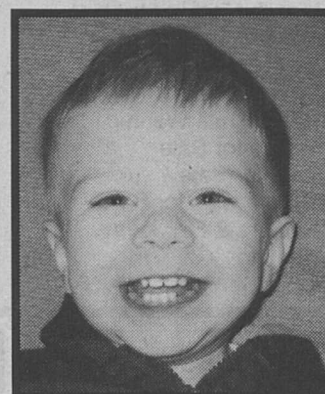
Cost of the tour will be \$3 per house for adults; \$1 per house for children; and under 6 years of age are free. Tickets will not be sold ahead of time but visitors will pay at each home.

The A Christmas Surprise! dinner theatre at the Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street in Columbus on Saturday eve-

ning, Dec. 2 is sold out. For those that have tickets, remember that social hour begins at 5:30, dinner is served at 6:30 and the curtain opens at 7:30.

For information about the tours or the dinner theatre or for tickets to other theatre productions, call 979-732-5135.

Other attractions on Saturday during Christmas on the Colorado include: a "Meet the Artists" reception and Studio/Gallery Tours and a Holiday Shopping Extravaganza Retail and Craft Fair. For more information about these events call 979-732-8385 or visit www.columbus-texas.org.



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How To Treat This Skin Condition

Dermatitis is a common inflammatory condition of the skin. In general, the skin is swollen, red and itchy. *Contact dermatitis* and *atopic dermatitis* are two types. Contact dermatitis occurs in response to direct contact with irritants or allergens. Soaps and cleaning products are examples of irritants, while allergens include rubber, metals, perfumes, poison ivy, and neomycin, which is an ingredient found in topical antibiotic creams. Atopic dermatitis commonly occurs in persons with allergies. Prescription medications may be indicated if pain or discomfort is severe.

Contact dermatitis can be managed by determining what causes the skin irritation, and then avoiding them. Redness and itching can be alleviated by *hydrocortisone cream*. It may take up to two to four weeks for the irritation to go away. Hydrocortisone cream may also be used to treat atopic dermatitis. *Antihistamines* may be recommended if itching is severe. Immunomodulators such as *Tacrolimus* (Protopic) and *pimecrolimus* (Elidel) have an affect on the immune system and may help to reduce atopic dermatitis flare ups. The FDA recommends that these medications be reserved for use only when other treatments have failed, due to their affect on the immune system.

WCJC Sign-Ups Going On

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) is currently registering for the Spring 2007 semester. Students may register in person through December 14, 2006 and January 8-18, 2007 at the Wharton campus, Sugar Land campus, or the WCJC Fort Bend Technical Center in Richmond.

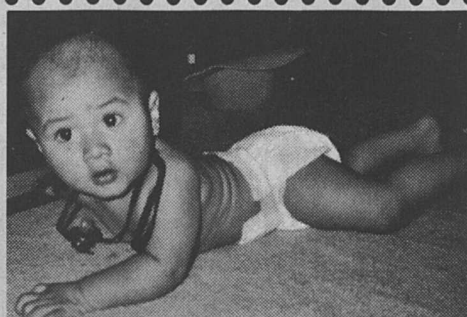
Registration appointments are not required.

Web registration will be held through January 18, 2007.

Classes begin January 16, 2007.

Wharton County Junior College offers an associate in arts degree for those intending to transfer to a four-year institution, an associate of arts in teaching degree, associate of applied science degrees, and certificate programs. Distance education courses are available through the web, interactive television, and videocassettes.

For more information about programs or registration, call 800-561-9252 or visit www.wcjc.edu.



HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY A.J.
NOVEMBER 28
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Thank You for remembering my 100th birthday.

A special thank you to the members of the Presbyterian Church for hosting a reception in my honor. It was great to visit with everyone and read all the cards.

God Bless Each of You,

Lora B. Thomas

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