



Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"I do hope your Christmas has...a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter patter and all. It always seems such a mixing of our past and our present, of this world and the next..."
—Evelyn Underhill

Unpacking memories...that's what I felt I was doing as I emptied box after box of Christmas decorations during last week's Sunday cool spell.

I had finished shopping the

day before and had decided to set this whole day aside to finishing the tree and putting up interior decorations.

I decided, as I put on my favorite Christmas music for appropriate mood setting, it wasn't just the unpacking of red and green, silver and gold — I was unpacking years of memories.

The red and green bubble lights that now adorn the low sills of my breakfast room windows are

the memories of bubbling lights on my family's fresh-cut Christmas tree some forty years ago.

Why was it all so special then? As I touched the warmth of the glass from the bubbling liquid inside, I remembered fresh, cold Christmas mornings and walking up to that green, woodsy smelling tree as I anticipated a wondrous Christmas day.

In our small woodframe house, we turned the thermostat of our wall heaters very low for the night — never warming any room the next morning till needed for use. Walking into that chilled air filled with family warmth is a forever memory of mine.

Some memories are a bit more recent, like the ceramic music box I very carefully brought forth from its tissue-wrapped cocoon where it had safely hibernated these past twelve months.

On the small turning platform a blonde-headed little girl leans forward at the kitchen table to help her mother bake Christmas cookies. A puppy drools beneath the table.

The depicted scene is so detailed and inviting you can almost smell the cookies baking in the little corner oven.

I purchased the music box when my oldest blonde-headed daughter was about eight years old and enjoyed baking holiday cookies with me.

It was again significant when my second towheaded daughter followed her sister's baking interest at that same age some six years later.

My annual appreciation of the little music box refreshes the memory of those wonder years during the adolescence of my daughters.

With a blonde-headed granddaughter just turning one year old, I know there will be special years ahead, again renewing the value of this time-worn piece of Christmas nostalgia.

I later found an ornament in bold maroon and white colors boasting a Texas A&M insignia on its side.

We had to have one of these ornaments when the girls were in college. I had also tied a maroon velvet ribbon to each of their bedroom doors to announce an Aggie in residence.

Memories of laughing college kids, trips to College Station and Aggie football games flooded from the depths of that round maroon globe.

Some memories were unpacked with a little more longing and sentiment. The little wooden decoration I found next was grandma's piece that had followed her to the nursing home

some years ago.

When she died last December, I had packed it away rather quickly, hoping at that time to pack away memories and thoughts that were full of loss and sadness.

As I studied it in my hands, I realized that I was now ready to see it and use it again.

It represents years of love and joy and shouldn't be kept in the dark forgotten confines of a storage cabinet.

A glass bell ornament I found and hung on the tree had been hung before, but holds more significance this year as I anticipate wedding bells ringing in '07 for my youngest daughter.

Having just announced her engagement, the bell holds the hope of a coming special memory.

And this last item also will hold more future than past. It's a pink lace-trimmed stocking that I bought last year in expectation of that new granddaughter who arrived the following January.

I realized I unpacked a brand new memory that will be renewed over and over for many years to come, till it too becomes an old, forever memory.

Christmas was unpacked, and I thought I would just sit back and relax, enjoying all the memories that surrounded me.

But I had to turn that music box for a few rotations so it would play a familiar, memorable tune....."Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays....if you want to be happy in a million ways, for the holidays you can't beat home sweet home...." And with a million memories, you can't beat remembering Christmas past and enjoying Christmas present.

Obituaries

Patricia "Patsy" Turner

Patricia "Patsy" Turner, age 59, of Garwood, passed away on December 5, from injuries from an auto accident near Marlin, Texas.

She was born on September 8, 1947 in East Bernard to Rudolph and Millie Maly Wasicek.

She was the owner of His and Hers Salon in Garwood as well as owner and operator of Garwood Sporting Clays with her husband Randy. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Catholic Daughters of America.

Patsy is survived by her husband, Randy Turner of Garwood; daughters, Danette Huvar of Garwood, Rachel Sunderman of Eagle Lake and Amanda Weishuhn of Fort Worth; sons, Dwayne Pagel of Garwood, Darrell Pagel of Eagle Lake and Jeremy Weishuhn of Dallas; sisters, Betty Hlavaty of Pearland, Dorothy Mader of Hillje and Shirley Fajkus of El Campo; and six grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; previous husband, Frederick "Bobby" Weishuhn; and brother, Richard Wasicek.

Visitation was held Friday, December 8 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Triska Funeral Home and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

A wake service was held at 7 p.m., Friday, December 8, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada.

Funeral services were held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 9, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Guerra officiating.

Memorials in memory of Patsy Turner may be made to the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department or to the American Cancer Society.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Elizabeth Mary Watson

Elizabeth Mary Watson, 69, of Wharton, passed away Saturday, December 16, in a local hospital.

She was born August 4, 1937, in Beasley, Texas, the daughter of John L. and Stella Bomnskie Cicherski.

She was a 1956 graduate of East Bernard High School.

She married Richard Watson on July 14, 1956, in Wharton.

Mrs. Watson was a member of St. John's Catholic Church in Hungerford. She loved to hunt, fish, sew, and quilt.

Funeral services were set for Thursday, December 21, at 10 a.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Hungerford, with Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako officiating.

A rosary was recited Wednesday, December 20, at 7 p.m. at the Wharton Funeral Home Chapel with visitation from 4 to 9 p.m.

Survivors include her husband, Richard Watson of Wharton; daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Rick Green of El Campo and Diane and Larry Smidovec of Garwood; sisters, Helen Valigura of El Campo and Evelyn Kocurek of Alvin; grandchildren, Jennifer Labay of Wharton, Amanda and Duane Klatt, Danielle Labay, and Misty Smidovec and Jerica Smidovec, both of Garwood; step-grandchildren, Vanessa Green, and Kristopher and Amber Green of Hillje; great grandchildren, Kennedy and Kendall Klatt, Corey Labay, Savanna Eggemeyer; and step great-granddaughter, Sarah Beth Green.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Walter Richard Watson, Jr. in 1960; sisters, Margaret Curlee, Dorothy Duncan, and Natalie Nelson; and brothers, Fred Cicherski, Kie Lee Cicherski, and John L. Cicherski, Jr.

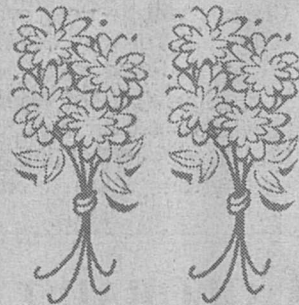
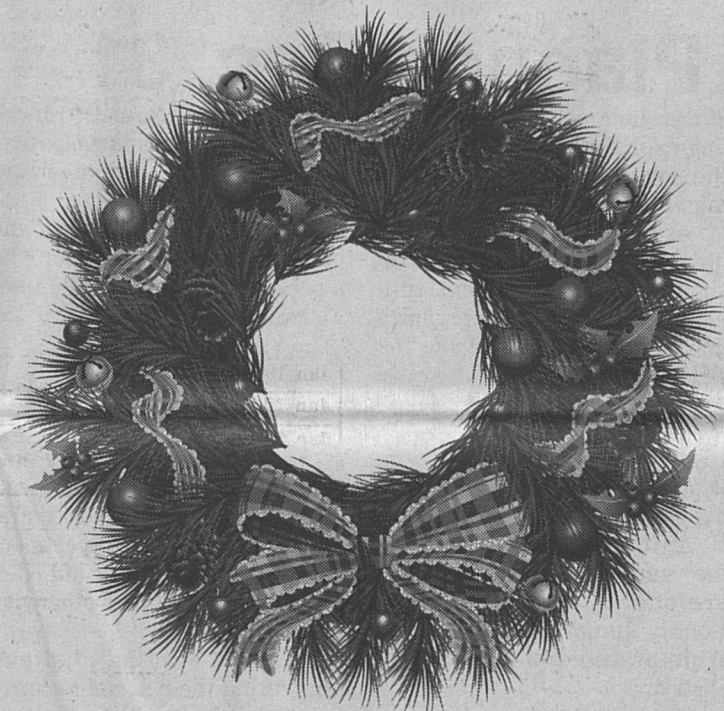
Pallbearers were Dwayne Klatt, Robert Crane, Tommy Watson, Karl Navarett, Michael Kocurek, Duane Koudelka, Danny Labay and Gary Kocurek.

Honorary pallbearers were Corey Labay, Mike Johnson, Larry Kocurek, and Kristopher Green and all of her granddaughters, Jennifer, Amanda, Danielle, Jessica, Misty, Jerica, and Vanessa.

If desiring, memorials may be made to the St. John's Catholic Church, PO Box 121, Hungerford, TX 77448 or Houston Hospice, 1102 N. Meacham, El Campo, TX 77437.

Funeral services were under the direction of Wharton Funeral Home.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



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GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community; Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.
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CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.
THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.
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EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST: 527 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor; 234-2571.
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CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.
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CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.
CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 308 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Español), 10 a.m. (English) 6 p.m. Saturday (English), Rev. Robert F. Guerra, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Fr. Joe Vrana; 758-3218.
GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.
LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.
LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: J. L. Craft, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.
ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Seller Jr. Lay-Pastor.
UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.
VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.
CrossRoad ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-335-7706.
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.
CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.
THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.
SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039.
ASSEMBLEA DE DIOS HOSANNA: 403 East Main, Eagle Lake; 979-732-1966; Pastor Romero Rodriguez Jr.
BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo; Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331.

Bible Verse of The Week

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

— Matthew 1:23

Submitted by Carol Cardenas

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