

Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place...to which we may continuously return..."

— Thomas R. Kelly

I seem to "continuously return" to my "inner sanctuary" much more this time of year - the Lenten season preceding Easter.

So when I read in the "Headlight" that Community Lenten Luncheons were being held each Monday in Lent at the United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake, I made plans to attend. As a writer of this column and as a part of this Eagle Lake community, anything with the word "community" reaches out to me to participate.

I was unable to make the first few luncheons, but was in attendance at the luncheon on February 25th. The 12th Annual Community Lenten Luncheons is sponsored by the local Methodist Church in coordination with

other city churches: First Baptist Church, Christ Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church and two area churches: Lissie United Methodist Church and Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Church of Garwood.

Attend with faith, but enjoy with great appetite the delicious homemade soups and cookies and additional fares provided by the volunteers of the participating churches.

Receiving both hot soup and a warm welcome by many attending that day, I settled in to enjoy some Christian comradery.

Good old-fashioned hymn singing preceded the speaker. The very first song brought me to my inner sanctuary and beyond: "The Church in the Wildwood" was one of my mother's favorites and I had not heard (much less sung) the song in many a year.

It brought my thoughts back

to the old wooden Presbyterian Church I attended in Sealy through the 50's and 60's and some of the old spiritual hymns that were sung almost every Sunday morning of my youth.

By the time we sang two or three more songs and ended with "How Great Thou Art", sung at my mother's funeral, I was completely ready to "out" my inner sanctuary and give up chocolate, margaritas and anything else on my life's priority list for the remaining 28 days of Lent.

Rev. Steve Whitfield, pastor of Christ Episcopal Church, gave a Lenten message I thoroughly absorbed and enjoyed, till I had to sneak out early to return to work. In true penance for leaving early, I contacted Pastor Whitfield a few days later.

He's an integral part of the "community" component of the luncheons as, besides being pastor of a participating church, he currently heads the Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance.

He informed me that any church or clergy is welcome to become a part of this joint effort of area churches to combine their resources and knowledge in better serving people in the Eagle Lake community.

The "Headlight" weekly lists some 41 area churches in its church listing, 21 specifically in Eagle Lake, so there are certainly a number of churches that could participate in this group of community-minded servants.

In addition to participation in the Lenten Luncheons, other projects by the Alliance includes the Community Thanksgiving Service, baccalaureate services for Rice CISD and various other programs including a summer job project for high school students. The Ministerial Alliance is also on the United Way donor list.

A major funding and service project by both the Ministerial Alliance and the Community Lenten Luncheons is the Eagle Lake Food Pantry. But this worthy project deserves its own space and consideration in next week's column.

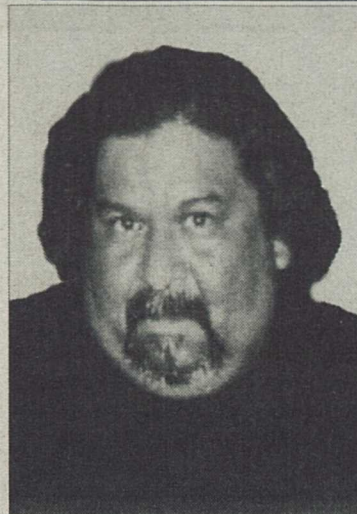
I gave up ice cream for Lent. My Catholic son-in-law asked me if my Protestant faith required me to do that.

I replied that I am sacrificing one of my favorite treats because I wanted to do this during Lent, not because I had to comply to anything.

He responded by relaxing next to me on MY sofa while eating away at a large bowl of that iced, creamy confection. Too soon for-getting my recent Lenten experience, I went searching for chocolate in my pantry and planned an outing of Mexican food and margaritas for the evening.

There's a reason we have 40 days to think about all this, and there are only two more Mondays in Lent.

Obituary



Ben Hernandez

Ben Hernandez, 42, of Sealy, formerly of Eagle Lake, passed away on February 29 in San Felipe from injuries received in a car accident.

He was born April 5, 1965 in El Campo the son of Joe L. Sr. and Angela Hernandez.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joe L. Hernandez, Sr. Survivors include his mother, Angela Hernandez of El Campo; sisters, Mary Robertson and husband, C.H. of Wharton, Linda Aguilar and Janie Rivera of Houston; brothers, Joe Hernandez, Jr., and Leonard Juarez of El Campo, Sam Hernandez of Houston and Henry Juarez of Raiford, Florida.

Visitation was held Tuesday, March 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Eagle Lake Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 5 at 10 a.m. from Eagle Lake Funeral Home with Jim Goynes officiating. Interment followed in Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake.

Pallbearers were Rene Torres, Michael Hernandez, Arthur Hampson, Juan Ramirez, Ricky Rivera and Santos Valdez.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Sister Delores Toliver
Sister Delores, affectionately known to many as "Bollie" was born to the late Henry and Lillie Toliver on December 12, 1943.

She attended the Riverside Colored School.

She confessed her life to Christ several years ago and was a faithful member of the Alleyton Church of Christ. She was employed at Columbus Inn for over 20 years which she enjoyed.

"Bollie" was a devoted mother, loving daughter, sister, auntie, grandmother, and best friend to many. She was someone who you could always count on and turn to whenever you needed anything. She was a good listener who had a smile that touched everybody's heart. She never knew a stranger.

She departed this life on February 22. She will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

She was preceded in death by her father, Henry Toliver, Jr.; granddaughter, Jemasheila Jackson; sister, Ella Mae Toliver.

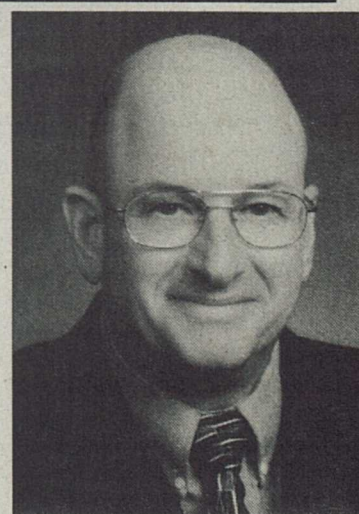
She leaves to cherish her memories a mother, Lillie Toliver ("Big Mama") of Glidden; eight children, Brenda (husband, Mark) and Rickey (wife, Lisa) of Eagle Lake, Debbie, Clifton, Leonard (wife, Mary), Sheila (husband, Anthony), Rachel (husband, Sean) all of Columbus, and Carolyn (husband, Vince) of Crowley, Texas; 10 brothers, Obie (wife, Martha), LeRoy (wife, Flora), and Carey all of Houston, Billye (wife, Carolyn) of La Grange, Bennie, Laird, Clarence, Jay Lynn, Tommie (wife, Brinda) and Johnny (wife, Darlene) all of Columbus; three sisters, Myrtle (husband, Marvin) of Houston, Lillie (husband, James), and Barbara both of Columbus; 23 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; three extended daughters, Sandra Glenn, Jesse Hargrove, and LaGeri Perrino all of Columbus; a special extended son, Thurman Hurd of Houston; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Celebration was held Saturday, March 1 at 1:30 p.m. at West Oaks Church of Christ in Columbus with Bro. Sherman Alexander officiating. Interment followed at Willing Workers Cemetery. Ben David Funeral Home of Columbus was in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers were Raymond Moore, Donald Ray Spears, Willie Stovall, Jr., Limmie Evans, Jr., Tim Fitzgerald, and Leon Scott.

Honorary pallbearers were Willie Toliver, Tommie Toliver, Jr., Eric Toliver, Woodrow Brown, Johnny Toliver, Jr., and William H. Wright, Sr.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Larry Fee Parsons

Larry Fee Parsons, 65, of Eagle Lake/Marlin, Texas passed away Friday, February 29 in Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake.

Visitation was held from 6 - 8 p.m. Monday, March 3, at the Groesbeck Funeral Home.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 4, at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church in Marlin with Rev. Eric Moore officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Cemetery in Marlin.

Larry Parsons was born January 1, 1943 in Marlin, to Flew and Virginia Parsons. He married Vicky LaVerene Chalmers on August 1, 1964 in Marlin.

He was a member of Kiwanis in Vernon. He was also a member of the Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce in Eagle Lake.

While in Marlin, Larry was a leader of his son's Boy Scout den and troop, member of the Lions Club and a member and past president of the Jr. Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Marlin.

Larry was dedicated to helping rural hospitals to gain better financial standing. He had 38 years of rural hospital service as an administrator in Marlin, Teague, Groesbeck, Vernon and Eagle Lake.

Larry was chairman of the RCH Protect Board of Directors. He was the first chairman and served for many years in that capacity. He was instrumental in the development of the RCH workers Compensation Cooperative. In addition he was a member of the TORCH Board of Directors from its earliest day and was a total supporter of the organization. His tenure was unusual as a rural hospital administrator for so many years.

He very much enjoyed fishing, especially with his children and grandson. He liked to hunt and had great fun on his annual hunting trips with his TORCH/RCH buddies.

He is preceded in death by both parents and grandparents, Will and Mittie Parsons as well as Vernon and Lois Bates.

Larry was a devoted and loving son, husband, and father.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Vicky Parsons of Eagle Lake/Marlin, Texas; son, Yancy Michael Parsons and wife, Julie, of Round Rock; daughter, Cinnamon Starr Barton of Austin; grandson, Travis Michael Parsons of Round Rock; nephew, Sam Chalmers of Angleton; niece, Hanna Chalmers of Angleton; brother in law, Eddie Chalmers and wife, Frances, of Angleton; aunts, Myrna Lee Doughty of Dallas and Bonnie Parsons of Waco and numerous cousins, friends and a host of colleagues.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association or the Salvation Army.

Visit www.groesbeckfuneralhome.com to sign the guest book or leave a memorial message for the family.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Fr. Joe Vrana; 758-3218.
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Bible Verse of The Week

"Dear Friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God."

—3 John 11
Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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