

From left to right: John Howard Reed, Elizabeth Cohen, Lorraine Lyter-Reed, Murray Cohen, Clara V. Reed.

## Reed Earns Nursing Master's Degree

Mrs. Lorraine Lyter-Reed of Houston was conferred the degree of Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) as a family nurse practitioner in ceremonies on Friday, May 9 at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Nursing School held at

the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The wife of the Rev. J. Howard Reed and daughter-in-law of



This past weekend Michael Jarrod Cooper, Jr. son of Michael Cooper Sr. graduated from Stephen F. Austin University. The commencement speaker was Governor Rick Perry.

Michael is a graduate of Rice High School. He has received a Bachelor's of Kinesiology and minored in Special Education. Michael is vacationing in Cancun, where he will serve as best man in a friend's wedding. Upon returning he will begin his studies at Texas Chiropractor College to obtain his certification/license as a chiropractor. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

Mrs. Virginia J. Reed, Lorraine previously received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas at Austin in December of 1980.

She began her career in hospital medical surgical units in Austin, Fort Worth, and Beaumont. For the past 15 years her practice of nursing has been focused on home health care and infusion therapy.

Additionally, Lorraine recently spent four years as an employee of the National Health Service and as a school nurse in England, during an overseas stint when her husband was called to the pastorate at the United Reformed Church in Woking, Surrey.

Several family and friends attended the ceremony marking this momentous milestone in Lorraine's career, and celebrated afterwards at an open house in her honor on Sunday, May 10.

## Masonic Lodge Gives Circus Tix

The Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge #366 has once again shown its generosity and care for our area's youth by providing Shriners Circus tickets to the Girl Scouts of Eagle Lake.

Lodge #366 donated tickets for each Girl Scout (a total of 44 girls) and their chaperones so they could attend, free of charge,

the world-famous Shriners Circus on April 26.

This is the second year the Freemasons have sponsored the circus for the Girl Scouts and the girls had a blast!

Freemasonry is one of the oldest and largest fraternities in the world. Many of our country's Founding Fathers were Freemasons, and many of our largest nondenominational charitable organizations were started by Masons.

The Girl Scouts is an off-shoot of the Boy Scouts, which was founded by Sir Baden-Powell, a Freemason living in Scotland in the 1900's.

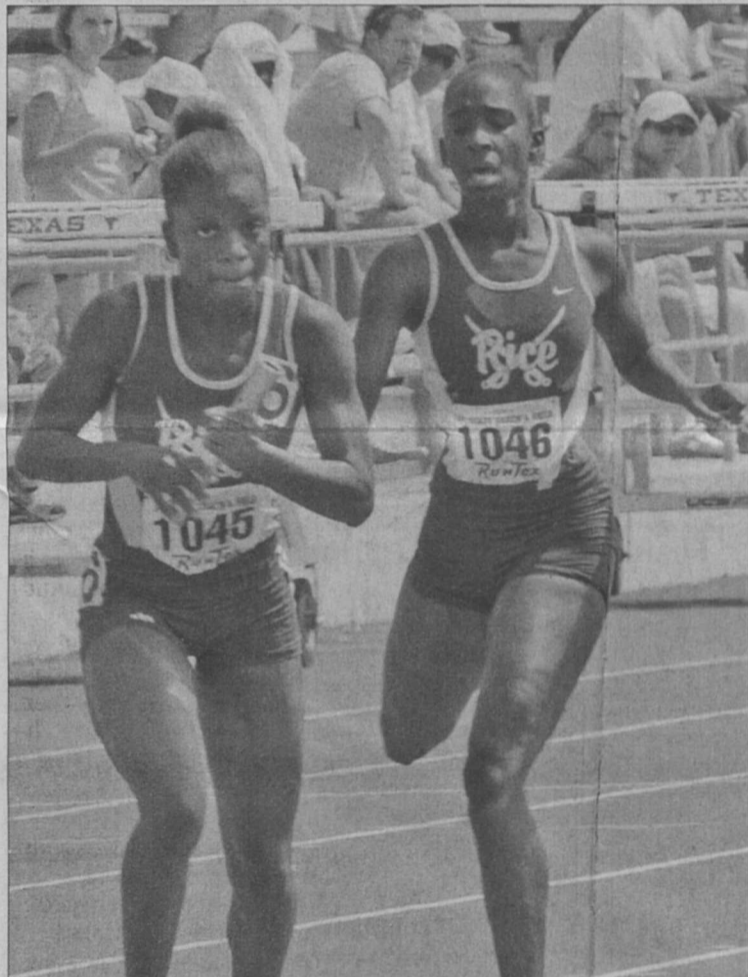
The "Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" soon to be known as the Shriners, was a new fraternity for Masons stressing fun and fellowship and was started by Masons, William Florence and Dr. Walter M. Fleming, M.D.

The Shrine is in no way connected to Islam (the original members adopted a Middle Eastern theme just for the fun of it) and the only religious requirement is indirect: all Shriners must be Masons, and petitioners to Freemasonry must profess a belief in a Supreme Being.

The Shrine's charitable arm is the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of hospitals in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Originally built to treat young victims of polio, they now deal with all pediatric cases, specializing in orthopedic injuries and disease and burns.

The Shrine Circus is a major fundraiser for these hospitals.



Jaquita Woods hands the baton to Annicia Williams at the State Track meet Saturday during the mile relay. They finished 6th.

## Parsons To Make Nesbitt Appearance

Chuck Parsons, a historian of the Old West and of Texas, will appear at the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus on Tuesday, May 20. The event begins at seven o'clock in the evening and is free and open to the public.

Parsons will discuss and autograph copies of his latest book, John B. Armstrong, Texas Ranger and Pioneer Ranchman. Armstrong was the ranger who pursued and arrested the notorious killer John Wesley Hardin. In later years, he established the Armstrong Ranch, which is still owned by his descendants.

Library director Bill Stein said, "We are proud to add Mr. Parsons to the roster of distinguished authors who have appeared at the library. Few people have had as enduring an interest in the Old West, or published as much reliable material over the years, as he has."

Parsons is the author or co-author of eleven books and numerous articles. His books include Captain L. H. McNelly—Texas Ranger: The Life and Times of a Fighting Man (2001), Phil Coe: Texas Gambler (1984), Clay Allison, Portrait of a Shootist (1983), The Capture of John Wesley Hardin (1978), Texas Ranger N. O. Reynolds, the Intrepid (2005, with Donaly E. Brice), Captain C. B. McKinney: The Law in South

Texas (1993, with Gary Fitterer), and Bowen and Hardin (1991, with Marjorie Parsons). He is presently working on a book about the so-called Sutton-Taylor Feud.

For many years, he served as the answer-man for True West magazine, responding in print to numerous inquiries about the Old West. He served as the president of the National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History (NOLA) and as the editor of its journal, and was also active in the Western Outlaw-Lawman History Association (WOLA). When the two groups merged earlier this year, Parsons was named to the board of directors of the new organization, the Wild West History Association.

Before moving to Texas, Parsons had a career in Minnesota and Wisconsin teaching in an inner city junior high school and then, for eighteen years, serving as a high school principal. All those years, Parsons says, "I wanted to be in Texas spending my days researching and writing about Texans! Once upon a time I was interested in all history, but of course soon realized I had to really narrow my focus. Bad Texans such as John Wesley Hardin, Bill Longley, and Ben Thompson interested me a lot, but I soon developed an interest more in the good guys."

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