

9. The children and grandchildren of Elijah Franklin Smith and Fanny Elam Morris

9. Elijah Franklin Smith 24 MAR 1862 • Pleasanton, TX - 9 OCT 1928 • Bryson, Jack, TX
 Fanny Elam Morris 29 SEP 1866 • Atlanta, GA - 7 MAR 1953 • Graham, Young, TX
 Marriage: 14 Nov 1886 • Content, Runnels, TX



Elijah and Fannie around 1890 from my personal family photos. They were my great grandparents.

Elijah arrived early in the Civil War days, so he was technically born in the Confederate States of America. He came a couple of years after Sophronia and a couple of years before the twins Jesse Robert and Benjamin Benton in 1867. With the five-year gap between Elijah and the twins, I speculate that Elizabeth may have had another child

that did not survive as she had been on a pretty regular two-year cycle and a birth in 1865 would have been in keeping with the standard.

I should note that this is my direct line.

58. Della Mae Smith 24 MAR 1893 • Bryson, TX - 19 JUN 1984 • Lometa, Lampasas, TX
 Thomas Clinton Butler Sr 8 DEC 1886 • Denton, TX - 27 MAR 1946 • Young County, TX
 Married: 5 May 1918 • Loving, Young, TX



Personal family
 photos from
 Richard Bills. Tom
 and Della on their
 wedding day.

Tom and Della were my grandparents. I never met granddad since he died in 1946, but spent a lot of time with grandmother over the years as her home was our home base when we travelled home for vacations while living overseas for many years. Della was the third child of Elijah and Fannie. She was at home in 1910 and in 1916, she headed off to The Normal School at Denton and got her teaching certificate. After a few years of teaching at small country schools in the north Texas area, she met and married Thomas Clinton Butler.

Children of Tom and Della:

217	Thomas Clinton Butler Jr	1921	1944	Della and Tom's Child#1
218	Mary Dell Butler	1923	2016	Della and Tom's Child#2
219	Charles Robert Butler	1925	2021	Della and Tom's Child#3
220	James Harold Butler	1927	1928	Della and Tom's Child#4
221	Betty Ruth Butler	1930	2021	Della and Tom's Child#

217. Thomas Clinton Butler Jr 23 DEC 1921 • Red Top, TX - 11 JAN 1944 • Germany
Doris Christine Newman 21 JAN 1924 • Loving, TX - 12 MAY 2009 • La Mesa
Marriage: 20 Aug 1941 • Cisco, TX

I'm going to begin this biography with a Memorial that I prepared about Clinton for a project called "Stories Behind the Stars" and then add some standard information as I normally do.

2nd Lt Thomas Clinton Butler, Jr. Service Numbers 18038237 and O-751094



Thomas Clinton Butler Jr was born on the family farm north of Graham, Tx in a small farming community called Loving. His father was a farmer and his mother, Della (Smith) Butler was a school teacher. Both were born in Texas and Della's great grandfather had been at the Battle of San Jacinto. Clinton was the oldest brother of Mary, Robert, James (who died as an infant), and Betty. He did all of the things that farm boys did in the 30's like 4-H, hunting, and fishing.

He graduated from Graham High School in 1939 and headed off to John Tarleton College in Stephenville, TX and studied there for a couple of years before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in Jan 1941 at Fort Worth, TX. In June of 1941, he married Christine Newman. His brother Robert told the story that he and Christine had eloped and they showed up at the family farm in the middle of the night and Clinton kicked Robert out of the room they had shared growing up so he and his bride could have some privacy. His initial training was in New Orleans, and Christine followed him there.

Clinton qualified for flight training and headed off for training at Moses Lake WA, Kearney AB NB, and finally Chanute Field, Illinois where he received his wings and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. Upon completion of his training, he was sent to England crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Mary to Glasgow, Scotland before traveling to England by train. On Dec 1, 1943 he and his fellow crewmates were assigned to the 322nd Squadron of the 91st Bomber Group at Bassingbourn, England.

The 91st Bombardment Group (Heavy) was constituted on 28 Jan 1942 and was known as the Ragged Irregulars. (The 91st was also known as the home of The Memphis Belle.) Activated on 15 Apr 1942. Trained with B-17's. Moved to England, Aug-Oct 1942, and assigned to Eighth AF. Operated primarily as a strategic bombardment organization throughout the war. Entered combat in Nov 1942 and concentrated its attacks on submarine pens, ship-building yards, harbors, and dock facilities until mid-1943. During this period, also struck airdromes, factories, and communications. (Attacked the navy yard at Wilhelmshaven on 27 Jan 1943 when heavy bombers of Eighth AF first penetrated Germany.) The unit received a Distinguished Unit Citation for bombing marshalling yards at Hamm on 4 Mar 1943 in spite of adverse weather and heavy enemy opposition. From the middle of 1943 until the war ended, engaged chiefly in attacks on aircraft factories, airdromes, and oil facilities. On 11 Jan 1944 organizations of Eighth AF went into central Germany to attack vital aircraft factories; participating in this operation, the 91st group successfully bombed its targets in spite of bad weather, inadequate fighter cover, and severe enemy attack, being awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for the performance. This is the operation in which Clinton was killed.

Based on the Dailies of the 322nd, it appears that they were assigned to an aircraft called Chief Sly's Son a B-17 (42-31076). They carried out missions on 30 and 31 Dec 1943 without incident. A third mission was flown on Jan 7th 1944 and then on Jan 11th they participated in a massive raid on Oschersleben,

Germany where they sadly took enemy fire and Pilot J. C. Page gave the order to bail out. Clinton was the co-pilot and after all of the crew (except Art Grinder who had been killed by machine gun fire) had bailed out, the aircraft exploded killing Clinton. From the MACR 1919 reports, it appears that he was having trouble with his parachute and could not get it properly hooked up. His body was later recovered and he was buried in Belgium. The rest of the crew were captured and finished the war in POW camps.

While Lt Clinton was serving, his brother, Robert was in the Pacific in the Navy, his brother-in-law, C. W. Ellis was in the Navy Seabees. His father who had spent the war as the head of the Young County Draft Board died of a heart attack March 30, 1946 on his youngest daughter, Betty's 16th birthday. Our family believes that the stress of having sent so many young men into the service contributed to his death. In 1949, John Tarlton College dedicated their new stadium in his honor along with William T. Wright, another Tarlton student. His wife, Christine, never remarried.

Thank you 2Lt Butler for your service and your sacrifice, you will not be forgotten.

Crew of B-17 42-31076 "Chief Sly's Son"

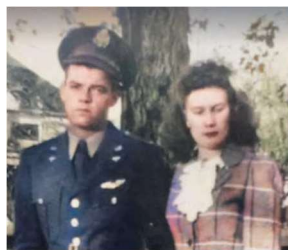
- | | | |
|-----|------------|--|
| 1. | Pilot | PAGE, John C. 2LT (POW) O-745165 |
| 2. | Co-Pilot | BUTLER, Thomas C. Jr. 2nd Lt O-751094 KIA |
| 3. | Navigator | LYNCH, Lawrence J. Jr. 2nd Lt O-809667 EUS |
| 4. | Bombardier | STEVENSON, William (NMI) 2nd Lt O-744513 EUS |
| 5. | E.T.G. | GINDER, Arthur S/Sgt 17032855 KIA |
| 6. | B.T. G | WOTRING, Arlie O. Sgt 35743598 EUS |
| 7. | R.O. G | MALCOS, Albert J. Sgt 36611038 EUS |
| 8. | L.W.G. | ALLRED, James P. Sgt 34450481 EUS |
| 9. | R.W.G. | BROKKE, Charles F. Sgt 39542565 EUS |
| 10. | T.G. | OLIVER, Warren A. Jr. Sgt 33524574 RMC |

This story is part of the Stories Behind the Stars project (see www.storiesbehindthestars.org). This is a national effort of volunteers to write the stories of all 400,000+ of the US WWII fallen here on Fold3. Can you help write these stories? Related to this, there will be a smart phone app that will allow people to visit any war memorial or cemetery, scan the fallen's name and read his/her story. SBTSPProject/Texas/Young.

If you noticed anything erroneous in this profile or have additional information to contribute to it, please contact me at rbills_houston@yahoo.com

References:

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2. 2LT Thomas Clinton Butler Jr. (1921-1944) - Find a Grave Memorial - Memorial site at home
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4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/91st_Bombardment_Group - 91st Bomber Group on Wikipedia
5. <https://b17flyingfortress.de/en/b17/42-31076-chief-slys-son/42-31076/> - Info on aircraft
6. <https://aircrewremembered.com/page-j-c.html> - crash report
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12. Graham Daily Reporter (Graham, Tex.), Vol. 7, No. 304, Ed. 1 Thursday, August 21, 1941
13. Graham Daily Reporter (Graham, Tex.), Vol. 7, No. 311, Ed. 1 Friday, August 29, 1941



Christine and Clinton about 1942. Christine's grave marker where she was buried with her sister in El Paso. Clinton's cross and the American Cemetery in Belgium.



At the risk on being redundant, Clinton was the first child born to Tom and Della Smith Butler. He arrived at 3 o'clock in the morning two days before Christmas 1941. At the time, his father had gotten through his entrepreneurial phase of running a drug store and had settled down to farming in Loving, TX. He was followed by a sister, Mary in 1925, a brother Robert in 1925, a brother James in 1927 who died in 1928, and finally a sister Betty in 1930. The all appear (except James) in the 1930 Census. He appears at home in the 1940 Census with all of his family at age 18, but we know that he was probably home for the summers as he had headed off to John Tarleton in Stephenville after graduation from high school in 1939. He participated in ROTC while there. Here is a photo of him while in college. He doesn't seem to have been available for his high school senior photo, but he had his eye on a classmate of his sister Mary who was named Christine Newman.



Christine's father was John Hope Newman and her mother was Ada Parcell Bavousett who was John's 2nd wife. His first wife, also named Ada had died in 1918 from the Spanish Flu after having given birth to Christine's older half-brother Cyrus James Newman in 1917. John and Ada also had a 2nd daughter, Elizabeth (Betty) Newman in 1928. Her father was well known in Graham as he ran a freight shipping company and did a lot of advertising. Cyrus married in 1940 to another Graham girl Lillian Bullock. They married in Graham, but were living in Raleigh, NC. I have been unable to discover his military service or draft registration, probably because he was in Raleigh and the algorithm is looking for Texas, but he had attended Texas A&M so I am certain that he served. He was back in Graham by 1950 helping his father in the freight business and with 3 children Cyrus (Sarge), Richard, and Kerry.

Following Clinton's death, Christine's father had relocated his business to Wichita Falls leaving his son James to run the Graham operation while Christine and Betty helped him run the operation in Wichita Falls acting as clerk and billing clerk. Her father moved to Abilene after 1950 and Christine may have moved there with him, but I cannot find evidence. He later moved to Hereford. He died in 1967, and his obituary in the Abilene news reads:

Newman Funeral Planned Tuesday Funeral for John Hope Newman, 73, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Loving Baptist Church with the Rev. Billy Davis, Baptist minister from Hereford, officiating. Burial will be in Loving Cemetery, with Morrison Funeral Home of Graham in charge. Mr. Newman died at 10.30 a.m. Sunday at Hendrick Memorial Hospital after an illness of several months. He was the father of C. Y. Newman, 1726 Sylvan.

Born Dec. 16, 1893, in Erath County, he moved to Loving in 1900 and farmed there after attending school in Graham. He moved to Abilene in 1924, where he entered the trucking business. Since then, he was in the trucking and freight line business in areas of west and northwest Texas. After retiring from the ICX Freight-line five years ago, Mr. Newman went into the truck brokerage business for himself in Hereford. Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Christine Butler and both Mrs. Betty Ruth Edelbrock, of San Diego, Calif.; four sisters, Mrs. Wilson of Jacksonville, Mrs. India Carroll of Fort Worth, Mrs. Stella Stephens of Graham and Mrs. Ruby Loftin of Archer City; and three grandchildren.

The Census's do not support the fact that he moved to Abilene in 1924. It probably should be 1954. We see that his son was still in Abilene and had three children and that Christine and Betty were in San Diego and that Betty was married. I was able to find that Betty married Eugene Edelbrock in San Diego in 1962. He was a coach and teacher in that area as was Betty who had graduated from Midwestern University

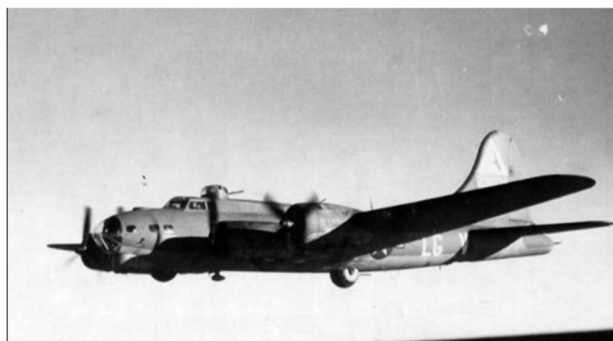
in Wichita Falls. The marriage does not seem to have lasted as Eugene was reported getting a divorce from a 2nd wife in 1970 and marrying a 3rd time in 1974.

Their mother died in 1994 and her obituary reads:

Ada Percell Newman of La Mesa, Calif., died Monday (May 2, 1994). Visitation will be from noon to 4 p.m. today in Harding Orr and McDaniel Montana Avenue. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Survivors include her daughters, Betty Newman and Christine Butler. She was a former El Paso resident.

The conclusions that I draw from this is that Betty did not have a friendly divorce and reverted to her maiden name. After John's death in 1967, Ada may have joined her daughters in California, but moved back to El Paso after Betty's divorce. When Betty died in 2001, she moved to California to live with Christine until her death in 1994. Christine stayed in California until her death in 2009 at which time she and her sister shared a grave next to their mother in Restlawn Memorial Park.

I am not sure what other family members have heard, but my mother always contended that Clinton and Christine were not happy together. After Clinton's death, all of his personal effects were sent to Christine and despite attempts to communicate, she had shut off contact with Clinton's family. I did note that in 1953, Christine and her parents sailed to Europe, probably to visit Clinton's grave.

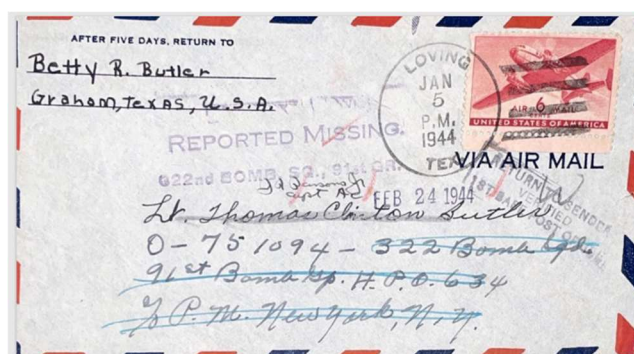


This is Clinton's plane, Chief Sly's Son. In the Dailies, it was incorrectly reported that he was aboard Dame Satan.

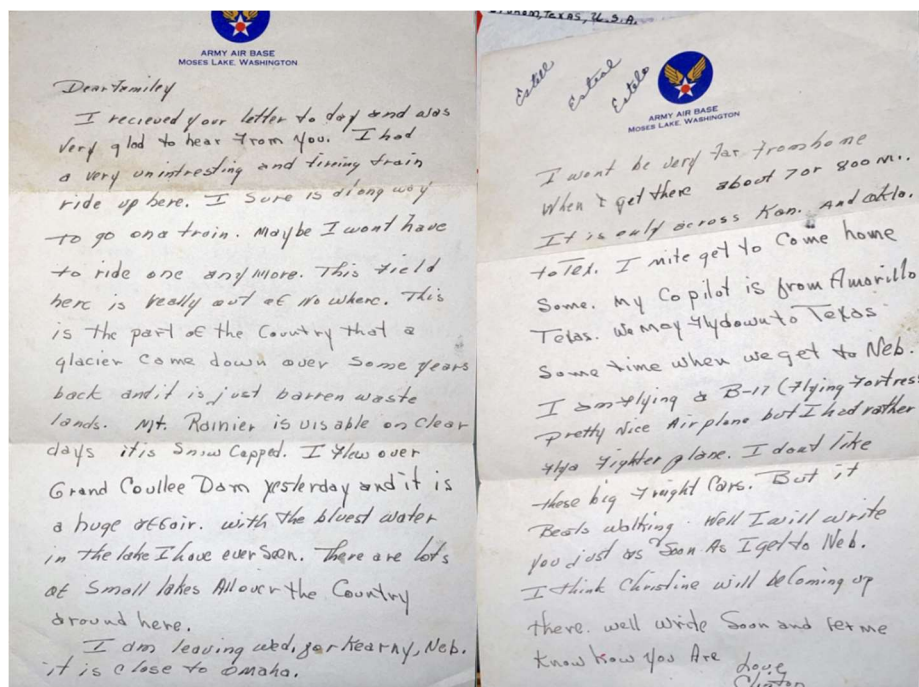
This is a photo of the kids probably when he was in ROTC at Tarlton.



This is an envelope that was returned to my mother.



Below is a letter that Clinton wrote to his family while in training. I have also been able to find the MACR which is the missing air crew report which was prepared by the Army Air Corp which has interviews with all of his surviving crew members. I seem to have filed it somewhere that I cannot find, but I did have some documents about Clinton's original burial place where the German's buried him and then the discovery of his remains and the removal to the American Cemetery. There was an option for his body to be returned, but Christine selected not to have his remains returned which I suspect is a source of some of the tension.



218. Mary Dell Butler 19 NOV 1923 • Graham, Young, TX - 6 JUL 2016 • Midland, TX
 Christopher Wade Ellis 8 MAR 1923 • Cisco, TX - 15 AUG 2001 • Midland, TX
 Marriage: 27 Jan 1943 • Graham, TX



Photos of Mary and Red from Findagrave.

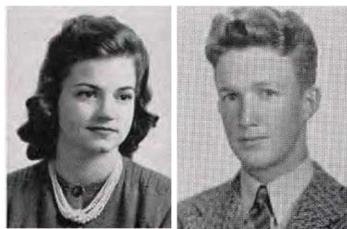


Mary Butler was the 2nd child born to Tom and Della arriving just in time for Thanksgiving in 1923 and 8 months before her future husband. She didn't show up in a census until 1930 by which time she joined Clinton and had been joined by Robert, and Betty. Unseen in the Census is little brother James Harrell who was born in 1927 and died 18 months later so she would have been about 5 when her little brother died and I'm sure that was a bit traumatic for her. James was followed by her sister Betty and I suspect that she was generally a good big sister, though it is said she jokingly told Betty that if James hadn't died, then Betty would probably not have been born. Hey, what are big sisters for. She looks pretty caring in this photo. A couple of news articles I found about Mary in the 1930's includes an article about a large hot bed tomato garden that Mary had prepared for 4-H, the largest in the County at 40SF. Another article from 1938 mentioned an award for attendance and scholarship at Graham High. For some reason the Class of 1940 Yearbook is not available, but Mary is shown as a member of the Class of 1940 in the 1939 Yearbook and was a cute junior that year and a classmate of her brother Clinton's future wife, Christine Newman.

After graduating in 1940, she headed off to The University of North Texas in Denton where her mother had gone many years before when it was called The Normal School. She had matured a bit and had a cute dimpled cheek. I scanned the freshman class and only noticed two other kids



from Graham in her class so she would have had to find some new friends. I did notice one girl named Marie Rather from Houston, but I don't think that she was Dan Rather's sister. Denton must not have appealed to her because in 1942 she had transferred to Texas Tech in Lubbock and reported to have pledged DFD. She appears as a sophomore in the Tech yearbook dressed to the T's. I think that her presence at Tech may have had something to do with a certain Junior who was also enrolled there. She lived in Women's Dorm #1 and it looks like they were fed pretty well. I had been curious about DFD and found this write-up in the Yearbook.



dinner at

Rush week for the D.F.D. began with the traditional Smorgasbord the Hilton hotel. New pledges were honored with open house October 15. Highlight of the fall's entertainment was the Thanksgiving reveille dance. Novel reproductions of Walt Disney army insignia decorated ballroom walls.



Line of candles runs for yards. Beginning the second course are Maxine Carroll, Elizabeth Belew, Mary Dell Butler and Mary Lucille Smith.

Alumnae were entertained November 8 with a Homecoming luncheon. D.F.D. was the first to contribute services to the Red Cross in a body. Members exchanged gifts at the annual Christmas party, and honored patronesses in February with a dinner at Mexican Inn. Pledges gave actives heart lockets at dinner in February. Marie Barnard and Betty Diltz received bracelets at Founders' Day dinner for being best member and pledge respectively.

New members and pledges were introduced in March from a flower-decked parasol centered on a revolving stage. Patronesses gave a farewell dance for club in May. D.F.D.'s plan to hold reunion in Ruidoso again this summer. Martha Price was president of Inter-Club council, Marjaray Ridley was a yell leader, senior class secretary and Phi U member; Betty Shryock was president of Theta Sigma Phi, named in Who's Who and in Forum; Martha Herring was a LA VENTANA beauty.

In December 1942 at the Military Ball put on by the Society of American Military Engineers, Mary was one of several candidates vying to be one of 4 coeds to be honorary cadet officers for the Tech ROTC organization. Meanwhile Red (or CW) was excelling in college and was a member of *Alpha Chi*, national scholastic honorary fraternity composed of 104 members from the upper ten per cent scholastically of the junior and senior classes, places stress upon character and personality. Its purpose is to stimulate, develop and recognize scholarship.

Exploring Red Ellis, we find that he was born in Cisco, TX on 8 Mar 1923 to Horace and Henrietta Davis Ellis. Horace was from the San Angelo Area and married Henrietta there in 1915. He seems to have started being an electrician quite early in his life as in 1910 he was stringing telegraph lines. He headed west after getting married and had a couple of daughters in New Mexico Athalie Aline Ellis in 1915 and Elma Emma Ellis in 1919 in Arizona. Something brought him back to Texas in 1923 for the birth of his son, Christopher Wade (partially named after his grandfather Columbus Wade). The didn't stay in Texas long as daughter Billie Jo Ellis arrived in Albuquerque in 1925 and son Patrick Winford Ellis in Sonora, TX in 1928 which completed the Ellis family. In 1940 he was back in Carlsbad working as an electrician in the potash business, probably with some of the Smith cousins that I have discussed in previous editions.



The 1940 Census found Mary still on the farm in Loving and Red (identified incorrectly as Columbus) at home in Carlsbad finishing up high school and getting ready to head off to Tech. I'm not sure if May and Red met at Tech or somewhere else which prompted he switch from North Texas to Lubbock, but it happened, and as WW2 unfolded, in June 1942 with three years of college under his belt and a summer job with Reynolds Electric in Gainesville, TX he registered for the WW2 draft. He was only 19. For some reason, his parents had moved to Lubbock and his father was his point of contact at 1805 Ave R. He was 6'-0"-165lbs-blue eyes-red hair-light complexion. I have been unable to find much detail about Red's service in the Navy, but he enlisted

in 1944 and probably due of his participation in ROTC he was an officer. At some point during his training, he and Mary were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Suzanne Patricia who arrived in Fort Worth on 2 June 1944, just 6 months after Mary's oldest brother Clinton was killed in Germany. She was living at 1100 Washington Ave in Fort Worth when she was notified. I read a news article that in May 1946, Red was reportedly back in Civvies in Lubbock. Red's Sister Elma had married John Mack Campbell in 1940 had he served in the Seabees from 1942 to 1945 and his younger brother Patrick served from 1945 to 1947. His three brothers-in-law, Clinton, Robert Butler, and Jack Bills were also serving.

After working for Kerr McKee in Los Alamos, He seems to have started his own construction company by 1950 because the 1950 Census found him in Santa Fe with his youngest son and son-in-law working with him as electrical contractors. While in Santa Fe, son Robert Ellis arrived in 1948. It was then off to Alaska for a job with the Alaska Air Command where daughter Cindy was born in 1953 and finally back to Midland in 1954 when their final child Vicki was born in 1956. Red died in 2001 and his obituary below gives a good account of his career. Uncle Red was a wonderful easy-going gentleman. He was always busy with his projects and he always had a pipe that he smoked. Unfortunately, I think that contributed to his cancer which led to a difficult final few years of his life.

C.W. "Red" Ellis

March 8, 1923 - August 15, 2001

C.W. "Red" Ellis, 78, died Wednesday, August 15th, following an 18-month battle with cancer. His strength, stoic determination and enduring sense of humor were a source of inspiration for his family and friends to the very end.

Christopher Wade Ellis was born in Cisco, Texas, on March 8, 1923, the third of five children born to Horace and Henrietta Ellis. The family lived in various communities in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California before settling in Carlsbad, New Mexico during Red's teenage years. He graduated from Carlsbad High School in 1939, and earned a degree in Civil Engineering at Texas Tech in 1943.

While at Tech, Red met Mary Dell Butler of Graham, an experience that he described as "the greatest event of my life." Mary and Red were married on June 27th, 1943, and moved to Fort Worth, where he worked for Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corp. before joining the U.S. Navy in 1944. After his discharge he worked for McKee Construction Company in Los Alamos, N.M., then as a general contractor in Santa Fe, and later as an engineer with the Alaskan Air Command in Anchorage.

He and Mary moved to Midland in 1954, and Red joined Pierce, Norris, McCutcheon and Pace as a structural engineer. He became an independent consulting engineer in 1956. He was licensed in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Alaska and was a member of ASCE, TSPE, Consulting Engineers Council of Texas, Civil Engineers Advisory Council for Texas Tech, Structural Engineers Association of Texas, and the Civil Engineers Academy of Texas Tech.

Red loved his work and especially enjoyed the challenge of complex structural problems. His "semi-retirement" in 1997 meant trimming his work week from seven days to six, and he continued to work full-time on various projects until a few months before his death.

Although he is gone, his legacy is visible in structures from California to Louisiana. Red enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf and shared his love of the outdoors with a large extended family. He was a gentle spirit, a scholar and a gentleman. He will be remembered for his dry wit, integrity and generous nature.

He will be dearly missed by Mary, his wife of 58 years; his children, Suzanne Ellis Gonzalez of Austin, Robert Ellis of Lago Vista, Cindy Ellis Elliot and her husband, Dick, of Denver, Colorado, and Vicki Ellis Gleason of Fort Worth; his loving sister, Jo Slade, of Albuquerque; seven adoring grandchildren, Robert, Margaret and George Gleason of Fort Worth, and Andrew, Alexander, Abigail and Aaron Elliot of Denver; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Kathryn Butler of Lometa and Jack and Betty Bills of Kerrville; and numerous nieces and nephews and their families.

The family thanks the many dear friends who have provided love and support throughout Red's illness, the staff and volunteers of Hospice of Midland, and the caring staff on Four East at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Memorials may be directed to the Murdough Center for Engineering Professionalism, Box 4 1023, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409, to promote ethics in engineering education and practice, or to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland, TX 79702.

Mary died in 2016 and her obituary appears below. Like Uncle Red, Aunt Mary was a wonderful aunt. Not mentioned here is the fact that she hosted her niece Sharon Bills for two years when Sharon's parents were overseas despite having 4 other kids of her own.

Mary Dell Butler was born on November 19, 1923, in Young County near Graham, Texas, to T.C. and Della Butler. She started school in a two-room schoolhouse in the nearby community of Red Top before attending school in Graham, where she graduated from Graham High School. She grew up on the family farm, where she learned industriousness and resourcefulness. Mary attended North Texas State Teacher's College for one year before transferring to Texas Tech. She majored in home economics - much to the benefit of her children and grandchildren - and met her future husband, C.W. "Red" Ellis, there. They were married on June 27, 1943.

Following their marriage, Mary and Red moved to Fort Worth where their first child, a daughter, was born in 1944. They later moved to Santa Fe, where Mary did some modeling and was a founding member of the Santa Fe Women's Golf Association. A son was born. Mary and Red then lived in Albuquerque before heading north to Anchorage, Alaska for two years. A second daughter was born. In 1954, they moved to Midland, Texas. Mary often remembered that, upon landing at the airstrip in Midland, Red said, "We'll only be here for a year - two at the most." The last of their four children was born in 1956 and Midland became home.

Mary was a doer and a giver. She was a great cook and seamstress and she was always busy with various creative projects. Mary had a green thumb, and her garden sported kale long before it was recognized as a "super food." She was actively involved in the community in many different capacities through the years. She was busy with PTA and scouts when her children were young and assumed many roles in the life of First Christian Church. She helped to deliver Meals on Wheels for a time and often worked as a poll worker during elections. Mary enjoyed playing bridge and loved golf. She was a member of the Hogan Park Women's Golf Association. She also was a long-time member of the En Amie Book Review Club.

For many years, Mary enjoyed spending time with Red and the family at their condo on Lake Travis where they boated and played golf. She also liked spending time with extended family at the Butler family gatherings at her brother's ranch in central Texas and the Ellis family gatherings on the Conejos River in Colorado. She liked to travel and in addition to travels within the United States, she visited Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Zaire and South Africa, as well as Canada, Mexico and Belize.

Mary died on Wednesday, July 6, 2016. She had lived with Alzheimer's for many years and finally succumbed to the complications that it causes. Mary was loved and will be missed by a large extended family and many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and two of her brothers, as well as her husband, Red, who died in 2001. She is survived by her children, Suzanne Gonzalez of Austin, Robert Ellis of Midland, Cindy Elliott of Denver, and Vicki Gleason of Fort Worth. She also leaves seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, as well as her brother, Robert Butler of Lometa, and her sister, Betty Bills of Kerrville, and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the staffs of the Vogel and Younger Centers at Manor Park for their care of Mary these past two years. A memorial celebration of life will be held at First Christian Church in Midland on Saturday, July 23, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to First Christian Church, designated for Outreach - or to organizations supporting Alzheimer's research.



Published in Midland Reporter-Telegram from July 13 to July 17, 2016

Turning brief to their child. Daughter Suzanne headed off to the University of Texas in Austin. The most dramatic story that I have about her during that period was about the day Charles Whitman started shooting from the UT Tower. She was working in an office overlooking the mall and my sister, Sharon had stopped by to visit when they heard the shooting. She went to the window to see what was going on when a policeman burst in yelling at them to get away from the window. In 1966 she married Gustavo Gonzales in Austin who was working on his Doctorate in Romance Languages and teaching Peace Corp Volunteers. The marriage did not last and according to records they divorced in 1971 in Yolo, California. Sue has mostly remained in Austin and done a lot of teaching and has been active with her church. She was an avid runner and dated a gentleman for a long time who was responsible for organizing the Austin Marathon for many years and as such she got to meet many world class runners. She even brought a Russian runner named Albina (Gallyamova I think) to Thanksgiving at the ranch one year and Albina went on to win the Houston Marathon. Gustavo had three brothers and four sisters and he was the 6th child. I looked quickly at his family, and his two older brothers are deceased, the 2nd Jose spent a career in the US Air Force and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His 2nd youngest sister, Pyda who was in their wedding is married and living in Fort Worth. Her oldest son Patrick was killed by a hit and run driver in 2006.

Robert was to me, a pretty quiet and mysterious man. When I was growing up, he was my oldest male cousin and we lived overseas, but heard of his exploits from letters his mother sent and from our summer visits. The funniest story I remember was the time that he shot himself accidentally. It seems he found some 22 bullets and decided to take a swing at one with a golf club and it discharged hitting him in the leg, but not seriously. There was also the time he got locked in his car trunk while trying to sneak into the drive-in movie with his buddies. He was a big football star in high school and got a scholarship to Colorado School of Mines. I missed a lot of family contact between 1972 and 1984 as my life got very busy and living in many different places so I don't know what Robert did in this period. There were tales I heard of him running a mud business in Colorado. Tales of a marriage that I never heard much about. He was perhaps in Bakersfield, CA at one point. He returned to Texas in his later years and spent a number of years living at his parent's condo at Lago Vista, TX and working as a landman. He bought a house and moved to Midland where he passed away in 2023.

Cynthia Jane Ellis (Cindy) was born in Anchorage, AK in 1953 and moved to Midland when she was a year old and grew up there attending Midland High School where she was the Homecoming Queen in 1970. She headed off to Texas Tech where she got a degree in marketing and advertising. At some point after graduation, she was swept off of her feet by Richard Elliot, a young man from the Kansas City area who had completed his degree in Dentistry at University of Missouri – KC after having completed a degree in zoology at the University of Kansas. His father was a doctor in KC with a distinguished career which you can read here. [Raymond Glenn Elliott \(1918-2012\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#). He set a great example of service to others which he seems to have instilled in Dick who along with Cindy have done countless charitable missions. Cindy and Dick lived in Austin early in their career before moving to Colorado where they ran a dental practice in Steamboat Springs for many years. They had 4 children, 3 boys and one girl and continue to live in Colorado. Their children are Andrew, Alexander, Abigail, and Aaron. I guess you could call them the A-Team. As I explored Dick's family, I found that his younger sister Jean married a young man named Albert Blake Dick IV in 1968. Albert's great grandfather was Albert Dick Sr who in 1876 in collaboration with Thomas Edison invented the mimeograph machine. His grandfather established an office supply business called AB Dick which was extremely successful. Here is a fascinating story of the origins of the mimeograph. <https://www.madeinchicagomuseum.com/single-post/ab-dick-company/> and a bit of history of the AB Dick Company. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A. B. Dick Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._B._Dick_Company) With their residence in Colorado, they were not as frequent attendees at the Thanksgiving and 4th of July gatherings as others, but they made their fair share and it was always great to see them and their growing kids.

Vicki Gay Ellis arrived in Midland after Mary and Red moved there in 1954. She was born in 1956 and graduated from Midland High School near the top of her class and in the yearbook, she stated: *Vicki Ellis-"I am currently planning on studying archaeology, microbiology, or marine biology at an as yet undecided college."* I do not know where she ended up going to college or what she studied, but in 1976,

she married Michael R. Gleason in Midland and they had three children between 1978 and 1983 before divorcing in 1983. Here children are Robert, Margaret, and George. I was out of state during all of this period and I don't recall having met Michael. In researching him, I found that his father was a car salesman in Chicago for many years. Michael seems to have been the only child of Glenn and Dagmar Gleason, but that is not certain as other children are mentioned in Glenn's obituary and I have not taken the time to unravel his family. Michael has gone on to an interesting career in MGM, Universal Studios, and most famously as the host of "Live from Abbey Road" for a number of years in the early 2000's which was a highly praised series on concerts that aired on BBC and Sundance TV. I have heard tales of his subsequent marriages, but have not explored this in any detail. The most recent news I heard about him was his release of some children's books a few years ago.

Vicky mostly lives in Fort Worth where she works in online marketing a graphics and keeps track of her children and grandchildren who have ended up in the Los Angeles area at last count with the exception of her oldest son, Robert who remains in Fort Worth and has done some genealogy work in the past and even contributed to Alvy's family history and is credited in his book. Robert has married, divorced and remarried recently and has no children, Margaret studied at Duke and ended up in Tunisia for a number of years and married a Tunisian gentleman and they had three children before divorcing. Margaret and kids currently live in the Los Angeles area. George also lives in LA and has been married twice that I am aware of. He worked for LA Realty and is a DJ it seems from his Facebook posts. He went through a period as an ultramarathoner completing several 24-hour competitions.

Children of Mary Butler and CW "Red" Ellis

544	Patricia Suzanne Ellis	1944		Mary and Red's Child#1
545	Robert Ellis	1948	2023	Mary and Red's Child#2
546	Cynthia Jane Ellis	1953		Mary and Red's Child#3
548	Vickie Gay Ellis	1956		Mary and Red's Child#4

219. Charles Robert Butler Sr 19 MAY 1925 • Loving, TX - 10 MAR 2021 • Lometa, TX
 Billie Kathryn Lancaster 11 FEB 1928 • Fort Bend, TX - 1 JAN 2017 • Lampasas, TX
 Marriage: 20 Aug 1950 • Albuquerque, NM



Robert and Kathryn entertaining at the ranch.

As I start writing about Robert and Kathryn, I would share that they were my part-time 2nd parents. When my parents moved back overseas in 1966, I spent the summer at the ranch before starting boarding school and then many of my short breaks while at school were spent at the ranch. They later took in my younger sister Kathryn when my parents had to leave Bolivia in a rush when the oil company was nationalized. They hosted family gatherings at Thanksgiving and the 4th of July for about 40 years allowing this side of the family to develop close

relationships and to watch everyone's families blossom and grow. They were a special couple and we miss them a lot.



Robert's first census was in 1930 when all of the family was together at home for the last time. We saw that Clinton headed off to college in 1939 while Mary, Robert, and Betty labored on back at the family farm and excelling in high school in the classroom, sports, and music. Robert was a letterman in football and very active in FFA. He was a handsome young man as you can see. He worked on the Yearbook Staff. Below is one of my favorite stories from the Graham Steer Yearbook detailing an unfortunate trip by the FFA to Kansas City which included Robert and my father's brother Donald Bills.



"KIDS" IN KANSAS"

Mr. Baker, with some of his F.F.A. "kids" in Kansas last week, evidently was found in some embarrassing situations. Even the professor got in a little trouble by calling a negro at the hotel a "darky." The following conversation was very humiliating to the negro, as well as most provoking to Mr. Baker. Ask him about it!

Some of the "kids" must have been hard up for money, for Robert Butler was caught trying to pass some Missouri mills for nickels when he was buying souvenirs. Jimmie Sims likes his ice cream even in the city, for after ordering a hearty meal at the cafe, he gave it to J. Duff and went to the corner drug store for his favorite dish of ice cream. Donald Bills showed his craftsmanship in the city by trying to sell tickets to the American Royal Horse Show. Of course, this would have been all right had the tickets not been for the show three days before. He made no sales.

The busy days and long ride were very tiresome. Rufus Sipe stretched so hard that he actually knocked out Mr. Baker's windshield. Still the kids rode on in the rain and the wind and arrived in Graham before dawn Thursday morning. Having learned the ways of Kansas City, these kids believe they are better prepared for their next F. F.A. trip.

Robert was supposed to graduate in 1942, but with the war on and the uncertainty of the times, he decided to stay another year in high school as he told me because it looked like we were going to have a good football team. He graduated in 1943 and in 1943 he registered for the WW2 Draft which his father was a member. He was 18, unemployed, and helping his parents on the farm. His father was his point of contact. He was 5'10"-145lbs-blue eyes-brown hair-light brown complexion. Unlike most, Uncle Robert wrote an extensive biography and I will share his own view of his wartime experience.

Later after Clinton entered the army air force, I was drafted at age 18, and sent to San Diego to become a sailor. I was trained to be a radioman and aerial gunner in the Naval Air Force, and saw service in the South Pacific. I was lucky enough never to face Japanese bullets. I was assigned to the Naval Air Transport Service which flew supplies into islands in the South Pacific where action was going on, or to islands which had been captured by the American forces and secured. I attended radio training at the Naval

Air Technical Training Center at Millington, Tennessee, and Naval ATTC at Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Florida, and Aerial Gunner School at Purcell, Oklahoma.

I don't remember when Red left for the Navy, but he attended mid-shipman school and was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy. I was drafted in the fall of 1943 and sent to Dallas, where we boarded a train for San Diego. I arrived there and was issued a sea bag which was packed full of all the gear which I would need while in bootcamp. We were run through a barber shop and everyone had all their hair clipped off. I remember this was a new experience, because a woman cut my hair. I had never seen a woman

barber. Shows you that the woman were doing men's jobs to relieve the men to be soldiers or sailors. This happened all through the United States in all the industries which were doing defensive work. There was a typical caricature which was "Rosie the Riveter". This covered all the women who helped in the defense of the country during war time by replacing men. This actually changed American in a social way. Up until the war, the woman's highest calling was to be educated, marry, raise a family and provide a comfortable home for husband and children. World War II changed that. After the war the women left the home and remained in the work force. The question which this might pose is, did this change in the home, women working, have anything to do with the rise of juvenile crime, which has continued to be a big problem in 2001. Only now are we wondering if TV could have been a contributor to this seemingly violent behavior we are witnessing today.

Red and I both wound up in the Navy, and somehow, we managed to meet in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1945. I had been sent to an aviation school right out of Memphis, Tennessee at a little town called Millington. We spent several months here learning to send and receive Morse Code. Also to send flags (semaphore) and know what those flags meant. Flags were used in the navy by signalmen and when radio silence was in effect the signalmen could send signals. We also learned aircraft identification, both friendly and enemy. We learned some radio theory about repairing your radio. I was sent from here to a gunnery school at Purcell, Oklahoma, to more radio at Jacksonville, Florida, then on a train across the United States to Alameda, California. We took what was called operational training here.

Flying in three different planes and being checked out on the radio experiment. We were assigned to a squadron here and left for the squad. I left San Francisco on a ship headed for Honolulu. There were many sea sick men before we got out of the bay. WE got to Honolulu. We began to be assigned flights, but first we flew as a 2nd radioman. An older and experienced radioman was our trainer. The H.A.T.S. was the same as the air transport command in the army. We left Honolulu with a cargo of war supplies to fly to the many islands where the battles with the Japanese were still going on. Many times, we would return with a plane load of wounded men, who would be headed for Honolulu and the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. This was a famous hotel where the rich from American had vacationed and stayed before the war. It was a beautiful hotel. Pink in color and the grounds were manicured and planted with beautiful flowers and shrubs. This was taken over by the armed forces for R&R for the fighting men. There were two hotels on Waikiki Beach, the other one was on around the beach toward Diamond Head. We were flying on C-54's but occasionally flew on a PBYM Flying Boat (it could land on water) to the states.

Once when I was in Honolulu, waiting to be scheduled for a flight, there was a message left for me that Red would meet me at a certain bar in downtown Honolulu at a certain time. I arrived there and went into this crowded bar which didn't have anyone in sight but commissioned Naval officers. I saluted Red, and he put me at ease and announced who I was. We were all big friends the rest of the evening. I finally staggered out the door, telling Red so long, and maybe we'd meet down on one of the islands.

I did look up Clinton's best friend, and one of his Flint Creek fishing buddies, one time when we were on Guam. I caught a ride in a jeep down to the place where Morris was to be. It was a ship repair dock. The sailors were able to have liberty on land while their battleship was under repair. I found Morris and we retired to a beer garden and talked several hours recalling times at Graham. Later, on a flight back from Guam to Honolulu we were carrying a group of wounded and pilots who were going back for a rest. I saw a man I knew from Graham. He was in Mary Dell's class and married a girl in my class. His name was Wendell Willis, and he piloted a B-17- Louise Louvellet.

In Jan 1944, his brother Clinton was killed and in Mar 1946, his father dropped dead of a heart attack. He was waiting to accrue enough points to get his discharge, but he was allowed to come home for his father's funeral and since the war was over, he was discharged. He tells in his biography this story:

Well, the wheat crop was ready to harvest, Red and I were home, so we had to acquaint ourselves with the old Allis-Chalmers combine. Red and I set to work to repair the canvasses, put teeth in the cycle, overhaul and put it into shape to combine a wheat crop. It was a 'power take-off' combine and we were still using the old Minneapolis-Moline, lug wheeled tractor. Lug meant that it didn't have tires on it. It had triangular shaped steel lugs about 4" long which were bolted on with 4 bolts to a steel rim. It didn't slip in the dirt very much. I will have to say that Red and I made good partners harvesting this crop. We spent a lot of time working on the combine.

It was a busy summer for Red, because, at this time rural electrification was just coming into this part of Texas. The REA would hook it up to your house if your house was wired. Red wired our house. Putting in wall switches and some drop cords. When word got out that Red could wire houses, he was in big demand in the community. I don't remember how many he wired nor how much he made. But I'm sure he didn't make much. He charged them for the wire and pull plugs etc. I never knew how much the neighbors paid him. Red made many friends in the community. His being able to combine, wire houses, and advise them on just what to do impressed them, and I'm sure Red didn't hurt their pocket book, as if they had gotten an electrician from town. When Red and Mary left there, Red had a job at a high security plant, north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. This was the place where part of the atomic bomb was developed and put together. The ultimate weapon, which President Harry Truman gave the order to drop on several Japanese targets, Hiroshima being the most destructive. This ended the war and the Japanese surrendered and a peace ensued.

After the war courtesy of the GI Bill, Robert headed off to college at Texas Tech. While all of this had been going on, his future wife Kathryn Lancaster was making her way in the world. Kathryn was the daughter of Claude and Bertha Ludmilla Halamicek. Claude was the 7th of 10 children born to John and Winnie Wheeler Lancaster, both born in Texas during and shortly after the Civil War. He had 4 older brothers and 2 older sisters and 2 younger brothers and one younger sister. Bertha was the youngest daughter of 12 children born to John Method and Anna Baron Halamicek. She had 5 older brothers and sisters and 1 younger brother. Her parents had come to Texas from Czechoslovakia in 1870 and started a town in Fayette County called Roznov which was named after his hometown in the old country. He ran a grocery and was the postmaster there for many years. It no longer exists as a town and the area is often called Halamicek today and there is a Halamicek Cemetery in the area just off of FM1291. While I haven't done a thorough study of her family, she seems to have had some very successful brothers and sisters to include merchants, doctors, and mayors. Claude was the son of Johnnie A. Lancaster and Winnie M. Wheeler and was born in east Texas in a small farming community between Livingston and Lufkin. He was the 7th of 10 siblings and had 3 older and 2 younger brothers and 2 older and 1 younger sister. I've had trouble finding censuses for Claude and Bertha, but it appears that they married in Huntsville, TX in 1926 and daughter Billie Kathryn arrived in 1928 in Sugar Land, TX where Claude was teaching. He was 28 and Bertha was 21.

The Lancasters seemed to have ended up in Livingston in the 1930's and I am unclear as to what Claude was doing in this period. There is a 1940 Census for what could be Claude, Mary, and Billy K in Livingstone that is probably them, but Kathryn's age is given as 7 instead of the expected 12. In 1941, the Hamlin, TX newspaper reported the arrival of the Lancasters from Livingston and Claude was buying the local Western Auto Store. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Auto Like many major retailers of the early 20th Century, Western Auto was a major player for many years but no longer exists. Kathryn was 13 at the time and ready to enter high school where she would be a star student. Claude set about improving the store by buying a new building and making it one of the premier shops in town. He was active in the local Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, and local politics. A year after arriving, they decided to have a 2nd daughter, Lana Claude who arrived a week before Christmas 1942. Kathryn joined the local Literary Club when she was 14 and in 1943, she was a Senior in high school when she was a mere 15 and was on contention for Senior Favorite. She graduated in the summer of 1944 having turned 16 and headed off to



college at Texas Tech in Lubbock. While at Tech she was honored for her outstanding ability in dramatics and was selected to be a member of Alpha Psi Omega. This is her picture from the Tech Yearbook in 1948 when she was the Stage Manager for APO. She was also in the Debate Club. And President of the Speech Club. In 1948 she had a role in a play at Tech called "George Washington Slept Here". Upon graduation in 1948, she returned to Hamlin where she was hired as a school teacher at her old school. She continued her interests in drama and in 1950 won 2nd in the Interscholastic League for her direction of "When the Whirlwind Blows." She was very active in the local chapter of Beta Theta which was a service organization for women. In 1950, she directed her students in a production of "Tom Sawyer". She had gone to Lubbock for Homecoming in 1949 and I wonder if that is when she and Robert met as he had returned from the war and was attending Tech at that time. Robert does not say where they met in his narrative, but in August 1950, they were married in Albuquerque, NM. I believe that Red and Mary were living there at that time, but I don't know they reason that they married there instead of Hamlin. The wedding announcement indicated that they would be moving to their ranch near Goldthwaite, TX.

The ranch was located in Mills County which was actually closer to Lometa, but Lometa was a very small town in Lampasas County, but it was the place Robert and Kathryn were to call home for the rest of their lives. Their children, Debora, Robert Jr., and Belinda were all born while they lived there, though their birth records indicate that Debora was born in Bell County and Robert and Belinda in Taylor County. I will discuss them later. Anyway, the ranch was a great place and a very central part of all of the Butlers for many years. I will publish their obituaries and add a discussion later.

Kathryn died first in 2017 rather suddenly and unexpectedly from pancreatic cancer. Her obituary reads:

Billie Kathryn Butler passed away at Rollins-Brook Hospital in Lampasas on January 1, 2017. Kathryn was born February 11, 1928 in Sugarland, Texas to Claude and Bertha (Halamicek) Lancaster. She was an excellent student and graduated high school at age 16. She began attending Texas Tech at that young age. Kathryn was a speech major and developed a love of Shakespeare early on. She enjoyed attending the Winedale Shakespeare Festival and when she visited England, made sure to visit Stratford-on-Avon. She was an avid reader and loved plays, poetry and literature. She was proud of the fact that she completed the list of the 100 Greatest Books Ever Written.

She met her future husband, Robert Butler on a blind date while both were attending Texas Tech University. After receiving her BA from Tech, Kathryn taught High School in Hamlin, Texas for 2 years. She and Robert were married August 19, 1950. After their marriage they moved to a ranch near Lometa where they have lived for the past 66 years. Kathryn spent 19 years teaching second grade in the Lometa ISD and loved to talk about her experiences with her students. She loved to plant trees on Arbor Day with her students.

Kathryn was a member and officer of the Goldthwaite Garden Club for 60 years. She was the first President and lifelong member of the L-M (Lometa) Garden and Civic Club since its founding in 1959. She was a nationally accredited flower show judge and served as a judge at many area shows. She provided many beautiful flower arrangements for the Lometa School and Lometa United Methodist Church over the years.

Kathryn was a wildflower expert and she and her husband Robert gave many wildflower preservation programs to groups in the area. They also planted wildflower seeds every year at the Lometa Regional Park.

She made her family feel loved by cooking them three wonderful meals a day and cooking their favorite foods when they visited. Her son got chicken fried steak or fried chicken every time he visited but she always ate the back and neck and gave the best parts to her family.

She and Robert loved to host the extended family and their guests for big July 4th and Thanksgiving celebrations. She always took special treats to friends who were sick or unable to do for themselves. Kathryn was a wonderful friend and missed many friends who she lost in recent years. She was generous and giving to her family and to all in need.

Kathryn also entered the Chili Cookoff at the Lometa Diamondback Jubilee regularly and received many awards for the women's chili and showmanship. She also decorated the stage for the Jubilee every year. Ahe was proud of her Czech heritage and made a visit to her ancestors' hometown when she visited Czechoslovakia. She cooked thousands of poppy-seed kolaches for her kids.

Kathryn was a die-hard Democrat who helped hold the elections at the community of Scallorn in Mills County for many years. She strongly believed in women's rights and equal rights for all. She was proud of being a Girl Scout Leader for 15 years and led 2 troops from Brownies through First Class Scouts. She was also a Cub Scout Den Mother.

Kathryn is survived by her husband Robert of 66 years. Three children; Debora Terry and husband Tom of Lampasas, Robert Butler and wife Pam of Houston, and Belinda Gillum and husband Stanley of LaGrange. Grandchildren; Jason Terry, Alison Weir, Chris Gillum, Amanda Talent, Samantha Butler and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Lana Sullenger and niece, Laura Lancaster.

Robert lived an additional 4 years living on his beloved ranch until his final days. His obituary reads:

Robert Butler died peacefully on March 10, 2021, at his home near Lometa. He was born on May 19, 1925, on a farm seven miles north of Graham in Young County, Texas to Thomas C and Della Butler. He graduated from Graham High School and served in the US Navy during World War II.

A Texas Tech University graduate, Butler married Billie Kathryn Lancaster, also a Tech graduate, in 1950. They moved to a ranch west of Lometa in Mills County, where they raised cattle, sheep, and goats, and were active community members. The drought conditions during his first seven years in ranching, 1950-1957, were portrayed in the book written by Elmer Kelton, "The Time It Never Rained." One of his neighbors always said that when it rained 40 days and 40 nights Mills County only got a heavy dew.

Robert Butler was a long-time member of the Lometa Lions Club and served as president for two years. He was chosen "Lions Club Man of the Year" in 1968 and 1991. Two of the Lions Club projects he helped initiate were the Lometa Diamondback Jubilee, for which he served as master of ceremonies for 20 years, and the Lometa Regional Park.

He also served as a precinct chairman and state delegate for Mills County Democratic Party, as a member of the Lampasas County Appraisal District Board of Directors, and on the Lometa Rural Water Board. He was a member of the American Legion and the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association.

Butler was an advocate for children and was elected to the Lometa Independent School District Board of Trustees, and served as president for many years. He was a longtime supporter of the FFA Rodeo and announcer at the first rodeo. For many years Mr. Butler was a wrangler for the Methodist Boys' Ranch in Waco. He was president of the Tri-County Methodist Men for eight years, and during his tenure Methodist Men from Lampasas and Mills counties built a set of working cattle pens for the Methodist Boys Ranch.

Butler was a Boy Scout Leader and pack master for Cub Scouts, and a teacher for the Lometa United Methodist Church Sunday School.

He was an active cattle rancher until he retired at the age of 91. He enjoyed raising sheep, but losses to coyotes of up to 50% of the annual lamb crop put him out of the sheep business. Substantial reduction of the mohair subsidy cratered the Angora goat business and put him and other ranchers out of the goat business. Eradication of the screw-worm fly in 1966 was a lifesaver for ranching and caused an explosion in the whitetail deer population, which became a consistent income source for Bulter and many local ranchers.

Butler enjoyed reading about Texas history and had a library of more than 300 related books. He grew and photographed Texas wildflowers, and he and his wife Kathryn gave wildflower preservation programs around the area. He enjoyed looking for Native American artifacts on the "Green Fly Ranch".

Butler was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn Butler; brothers, Thomas Clinton and James Harold, and sister, Mary Dell Ellis. He is survived by his sister, Betty Ruth Bills, his children, Charles Robert Butler, Jr., and wife Pam, Debora Terry and husband, Tom, of Lampasas, and Belinda Gillum and

husband Stanley of LaGrange, five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be a private family memorial.



Uncle Robert teaching Sharon and Richard how to ride.

“The Picture” A typical annual 4th of July photo with gathered family members and friends and pets.

Kathryn and the Butler kids, Mary, Robert, and Betty. Note many of Robert’s arrowhead collections gathered on his ranch.



Debora was born 5 months after me in Aug 1951. She was the big sister to her brother and sister, Robert and Belinda. Her yearbooks only go through 8th grade, so I don’t know exactly what honors she accrued but I did read about being active in FFA and Girl Scouts. She did well in school and graduated in 1969 and headed off to school at Texas A&M where she met and married Thomas Terry while still in college in 1971. Sadly, we lost Tom this year after complications following a knee replacement. Tom was the son of Dudley and Celia Morgan Terry. His father was a very successful military officer and Tom was born in Germany when Dudley was stationed there in 1949. He was joined in Germany by a by a little sister (ironically named Deborah). Shortly after her birth, Dudley was transferred back to the US and while driving between posts in Tennessee, their car was hit by a gravel truck and his mother and sister were killed.

In 1960, while once again in Germany, Dudley married Patsy Walsh who was divorced with two sons, Charles and Fred. He was then reassigned to Fort Hood where in 1963, tragedy struck again and his stepson Fred was run over and killed at Fort Hood while riding his bike just 4 months after the birth of son Billy Clint. Debora and Tom lived in Austin many years where they ran a real estate appraisal business and they had two children, Jason and Alison in 1974 and 1977. Alison has maintained the Smith family tradition of having twins.

Robert Jr grew up in the family as “Little” Robert due to the fact that his father was Robert and we had a cousin Robert Ellis so as to avoid confusion over who was who, he got stuck with the moniker “Little” much to his chagrin. After I was away from Texas many years, he had morphed into Chuck. Robert headed off to college at The University of Texas and then was given an opportunity to work in Washington DC as a page in Congress for his local US Representative. This being the Vietnam era, Chuck started feeling the concerns about not having a student deferment so he returned to Austin and college and enrolled in Navy ROTC. When the draft ended, so did his potential Naval career and he completed undergraduate and graduate work he went to work in Austin in the banking industry. While working in Austin, he went to a bar one day and a pretty girl walked in with some of her friends and Chuck told his buddies that “I’m going to marry that girl.” That girl was Pamela Lynn Hahn from San Angelo and sure enough they did tie the knot in 1981. At the time of their marriage, Pam was working for Transco and Chuck was working for First City Bank for a person who later turned out to be a friend of mine named David Schindeldecker. David later started a bank called Northwest Bank and hired Chuck. He also went on to become the CEO of Redstone Corporation and that company owned The Houstonian where George Bush 41 claimed as his Texas residence for many years. He also developed many golf courses and other significant Houston landmarks before his untimely death. Chuck continued his career through numerous bank buyouts but was very successful in his career. Pam likewise had an interesting career. She ended up working for the demon Enron Corporation at the pinnacle of its success and was the Director of Executive Compensation. When Enron crashed, she remained on the payroll for several years having to provide testimony in the many investigations of that spectacular collapse. I’m not sure when Pam took up running, but it may have been to relieve some of that stress, or it may have been when she worked for Tenneco and they sponsored the Houston Marathon for many years. Nonetheless, she is a running phenom and continues running to this day. She has completed the Boston Marathon multiple times and was even running the year of the bombing. As I recall she was fast enough to have finished about 10 minutes before that disaster. They have one daughter Samatha Jane born in Houston in 1990.

Belinda came along a few years after Chuck arriving in 1957. Like her brother and sister, she went to school at Lometa High. Her mother was a teacher at the school so I’m sure Aunt Kathryn kept a watchful eye over Belinda as well as Debra and Robert. Browsing the 1975 yearbook, I saw a picture of her hanging out with Stanley, her future husband. Sen was crowned the 1974 Football Sweetheart. She was on the girls’ basketball team while Stanley was on the boy’s team. She was in FFA as was Stanley. She was a flag bearer on the drill team. Stanley and Belinda were Mr. and Miss Lometa High in 1975. Stanley was Senior Class Favorite. His and her Senior credits show:

BELINDA BUTLER

73 Sweetheart Candidate; 74 Football Sweetheart; Drill team 4 yrs; Flag Carrier 2 yrs; Basketball 1 yr; Statistician 3 yrs; FHA 4 yrs; Officer 2 yrs; History award; 4 A awards; Choir 3 yrs; Harvest Festival Queen Candidate Fr. yr; Class officer 4 yrs; Class Fav. Jr. yr.

STANLEY GILLUM

Soph Class Fav; Jr. Class Fav; Sr. Vice Pres; FFA Officer, Sentinel; Football, 2 yrs; Basketball, 1 yr; Football Cpt; FFA 4 yrs; Drill Team Beau Candidate; Lord in Harvest Festival Sr. yr; All District 1st team Def. Linebacker.

I believe that Belinda headed to school in San Marcos after her graduation in 1975, and shortly thereafter, she and Stanley got married. They headed out to Odessa where they were blessed with a son

Christopher in 1976 and had a little hiccup in their relationship before working things out and having a daughter, Amada in La Grange in 1982. Belinda spent many years as a school teacher in La Grange while Stanley worked at the LCRA power plant nearby having a successful career. They have 6 lively grandchildren and seem to be enjoying their retirement with lots of local friends and family and lots of interesting trips. In looking at Stanley's background, I note that he was the 2nd of 4 brothers. His father was Paul Gaylord Gillum and his mother was Margie Ratliff. Unfortunately, his oldest brother died in 2020. I'm not sure if that was Covid related.



Robert and his sisters and brother-in-law Jack Bills in the front yard of the ranch 2006. Several of the kinfolk in the background to include Belinda, Nathan Bills, Cassie Talent, and Shanna Gillum.

Children of Robert and Kathryn Lancaster Butler

549	Debora Butler	1951	Robert and Kathryn's Child#1
550	Charles Robert Jr. Butler	1952	Robert and Kathryn's Child#2
551	Belinda Kathryn Butler	1957	Robert and Kathryn's Child#3

220. James Harrold Butler 13 JUL 1927 • Loving, TX - Death 1 AUG 1928• Loving, Young, TX



James Harrold arrived about an hour after midnight on July 1927. A little over a year later on 1 Aug 1938, he came down with appendicitis and encephalitis and passed away. Clinton, Mary and Robert would have been 7, 5 and 3 so they probably didn't have a lot of memories of James Harrold, but as I mentioned before, Mary always told Betty that if he hadn't died then Betty wouldn't have been born. Good old big sisters.

221. Betty Ruth Butler - 27 MAR 1930 • Loving, Young, TX - 13 DEC 2021 • Kerrville, Kerr, TX
 Jack Autry Bills - 22 Nov 1926 • Loving, Young, TX - 23 JAN 2011 • Kerrville, Kerr, TX
 Marriage: 1 Feb 1948 • Graham, TX



Betty and Jack – the early years.

Betty was the final child born to Tom and Della. She arrived a month before the 1930 Census and joined her three big siblings on the farm in Loving. She enjoyed a fun childhood on the farm and while she was quite young took up the violin, a talent she learned from her father who played various instruments. She was very proud of her playing. I wrote a separate story about her violin that I will share here.

Mother's Violin – A Nice Story



Mom died December 13, 2021 after a long and adventure filled life of 92 years. After her death, it came time to sort through her belongings and find new homes for her many treasures. The old violin ended up being chosen by her grandson, Nathan and his wife Nicole who have a wonderful collection of treasures. This old violin has been lying around in Mom's house since 1984 and where it was during Mom and Dad's 30 years of living overseas is a mystery. Over the years, Mom told me that she had been given the violin by her father who used to play when she was growing up. She proudly told me that she was asked to play in the High School Orchestra when she was 13 years old. I never heard her play it although Dad always played his guitar all the time. I asked her once why she didn't and she said that she just gave it up when she got married and there was too much other stuff to do.

Gregory Piano, Violin Students Present Recital

Students of one month to the advanced classes were presented by Mrs. C. P. Gregory in a piano and violin recital Thursday night at the First Methodist Church.

The church was attractively decorated to carry out the seasonal theme.

An excellent program of well rendered selections was given by the students who displayed both talent and poise in their presentations. Among those who played were Peggie Lee Potts, Mary Beth Rosser, Caroleen Turner, Betty Ruth Butler, Jack Walker, Mary Bob Turner, Betty Jo Rutherford, Cassie George, Jim Bob Walker, Peggy Sue Brewster, Tommy Wright, Janet Hinson, Don King, Donna Jean Rising, Mary Frances Harlan, Betty Jo Clayton, Elizabeth Ann Rising, Jean Jeffries, Lou Wallace Childress, Jo Frances Clark and Mrs. Edgar Matthews.

I did a little research and found these photos and stories. Grandad probably taught Mom the basics, but it looks like she wanted to get better so she took lessons as seen in this article from Dec 1941. She was 11 years old and Pearl Harbor had just been attacked when this was written.

Here she is from the 1943 GHS Yearbook as a 13-year-old in the orchestra.



Here she is with her violin again a couple of years later having a good time playing with the orchestra.



And again, an autographed shot of the string section.



Now on to a little side story....

While browsing old newspapers, I came across this little clip about my great grandfather building a house and I thought – “I have a picture of that house” and I shared it with my family in our Wordle chat. My sister immediately noticed a violin in the background which I had never noticed, but sure enough, there it is. I can’t say definitively, but this could quite well be the same violin that was passed down from Great Granddad Butler to his son Granddad Butler to my mom. Inquiring minds want to know.

the greater part of this week.
Mr. J. A. Edmonson and wife have just returned from a visit to his fathers in Hopkins county.
Mr. J. J. Butler is building a house for his son-in-law V. M. Winkler.
We will just say to Kate of Sa

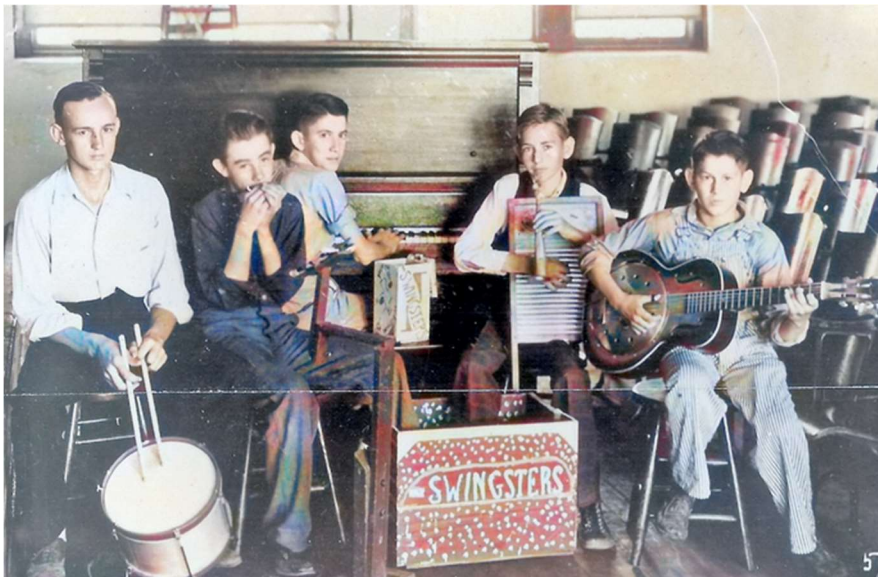


My sister immediately sent me this portrait of my granddad. The folks in the photo are Victor Milton Winkler, Joseph Jefferson Butler, Minnie Clark Butler, Eula Butler Winkler and baby Joe Winkler in 1906.



Betty was growing up on a nearby farm in Loving, but she was the same age as Jack's younger sister, so I suspect that's how they met. Betty played violin and was apparently pretty good as she was first chair at Graham HS when she was 13. Betty's two older brothers were in the war, and her oldest brother was shot down and killed on Jan 11, 1944 in Germany. Her father was on the Draft Board all during the war and on Betty's 16th birthday in 1946, he dropped dead of a heart attack. The stress of losing his son and sending boys off to war must have taken its toll. Betty graduated from GHS and her widowed mother arranged for her to go to business school, but she had other ideas. She had met this handsome young sailor, Jack and in Feb 1948, they were married in Graham. Jack came home from Tech for the wedding and they took a bus back to Lubbock afterwards. Jack graduated in 1949 from Tech with a degree in Petroleum Engineering and went to work in the west Texas oil fields. Their first daughter, Sharon was born in 1949 in Levelland and Richard followed in 1951 in Andrews. Ironically as they drove into Lubbock early on 2 Feb 1948, their future son-in-law Bruce Curry was born in Lubbock.

Jack was the youngest son of JR and Clemmie Bills. He was born on 22 Nov 1926 in Loving, TX. His oldest sister was 18 years older and he had a younger sister that was born 5 years after him. That's quite a span for Clemmie. Jack grew up on the family farm outside Loving and had a fun childhood. He did all of the things one does on a farm to include lots of chores, fishing, hunting, and raising animals. He told me that they didn't get electricity at the farm until he was 15 so summers were hot and nights were dark. He moved his bed out to the porch in the summer to be cooler. Jack and his older brother Donald were in a



band that Donald started called the Swingsters. They played events all over the county and it must have been a thrill to be "famous". That's Don on the piano and Jack on the guitar. Jack continued playing guitar all his life and taught all of his kids to play. His playing and singing remain one of my fondest memories of him. In later life, whenever he and Mom went to a party, Dad would always happen to have his guitar in the car and that would lead to an evening of singalongs.

As a youngster, Jack was active in the 4H Club and served as an officer in various capacities. Jack graduated from Graham HS in 1943. He told me that he was always the shortest kid in his class and didn't grow to 6' until after graduation from high school. He graduated from GHS in 1943. He was still too young to enlist in the service, so I believe that he enrolled at Texas Tech, but upon turning 18, he enlisted in the Navy in 1945. He attended training in Chicago and Corpus Christi and was at the Corpus Naval Air Station when victory over Germany was announced. He said he was fortunate to have been on a pass so he got to celebrate, but the base was locked down when the surrender was announced, so many sailors missed the festivities. He was posted to San Diego when Japan surrendered so he bided his time until he could be discharged. Upon discharge, he returned to school at Tech.

Life in west Texas was pretty rough, and in 1954, Jack had an opportunity to go to work in Venezuela with Gulf Oil Company. Despite having two youngsters, Betty didn't miss a beat and told him to go for it. He went down in early 1954 with the family following about 6 months later after housing was secured. Jack and family spent the next 11 years in San Tome, Venezuela. This was one good sized oil

camp in Eastern Venezuela which was a wonderful place to live. There were probably 250 families living in camp. There was an excellent school and a very nice club with a pool, soda fountain, restaurant and movie theater. There was also a golf course. Life was good. In 1960, Kathryn arrived on the scene to complete the family.

In 1965, Jack had some issues with office politics in San Tome and decided to transfer back to the states. He ended up in Odessa, but found Odessa to be professionally unchallenging and began searching for alternatives. As fate would have it, his boss was scheduled to go to Bolivia but the boss's wife backed out at the last minute, so Jack raised his hand and Bolivia it was. Sharon went off to UT and Richard went off to Peacock Military Academy in San Antonio since the schools in Bolivia ended at the 9th grade. Bolivia was a much smaller operation than Bolivia so you lived on the economy rather than the oil camps of Venezuela. They spent a couple of years in a rental in the middle of town and then built a house. Richard and Sharon visited during holidays. It was an interesting time in Bolivia with one President dying in a mysterious helicopter crash and in 1969, Che Guevara appeared on the scene wreaking havoc unsuccessfully in the countryside. In another incident, there was a blowout on one of the rigs which necessitated the need to call in the famous Red Adair, so Jack got to spend time fighting the fire with Red. Later in 1969, the government got into a dispute with Gulf and decided to nationalize the company, so all of the Gulf employees had to beat a hasty retreat out of the country. Jack and Betty spent about six months in limbo as things were sorted out in Bolivia and Jack received an assignment to Kuwait. During this period, daughter Kathryn stayed with Betty's brother Robert and his family at the ranch in Lometa.

They moved to Kuwait in 1970 and lived outside Kuwait City in a town called Al Ahmadi. Life in Kuwait seemed to suit them well. Sharon got married in 1971, but Richard was able to visit Kuwait a couple of times. The location afforded many opportunities to travel to interesting locations like Iran, Cyprus, and Europe. The operation in Kuwait was a joint venture between Gulf and British Petroleum and it was a massive operation. Jack was the Production Manager for the Burgan Oilfield. It was one of the largest oilfields in the world. During their stay in Kuwait, Kathryn attended the local school until the Kuwaiti Government decided that it was inappropriate for boys and girls to be in the same school. As such, the school closed and Kathryn left for boarding school at St Stephens in Austin. Jack and Betty spent 11 years in Kuwait and really enjoyed their time there. I'm not sure exactly what prompted their departure, but I seem to recall that there was a big push for "Kuwaitization" as the date approached for turning over the company to Kuwait. As such, they were transferred again to Kinshasa, Zaire.

Kinshasa again proved to be an interesting assignment. Jack had some problems converting his Spanish to French, but was able to make it work. Fortunately, it seems that many of his coworkers were old friends from previous assignments so they found it a nice place to live. Betty very much enjoyed seeking out and buying local African artifacts and amassed quite a collection of masks, carvings, beads, and pottery. Again, the location afforded the opportunity to take interesting trips to Kenya and South Africa. In 1984, Chevron purchased Gulf in a hostile takeover and shortly thereafter Jack decided to retire.

Jack and Betty had purchased a house in Kerrville near Sharon, so retirement took them there. It was determined that the house they owned wasn't really what they wanted, so they bought a house out on Highway 16 across from Riverhill. It's ironic that the farm Jack grew up on was at the other end of Highway 16 in Young County. They spent many wonderful retirement years in Kerrville where they were active in the church, Rotary, quilting, golf, and traveling. Many of their children and grandchildren lived nearby, so they hosted many family visits. On Halloween 2010 after a Trunk or Treat activity at church, Jack came home and fell down injuring his arm. The wound became infected and he went into a decline and passed away on 23 Jan 2011. Betty continued living in her home until health problems resulted in the need for her to move to Assisted Living. She remained lively and alert until shortly before her death on 13 Dec 2021.

Sharon married Bruce Curry in 1971 and had three children Rebecca 1971, David 1975, and Sarah in 1985. She has 5 grandchildren. Her oldest granddaughter was born just as Jack was dying, and Sarah gave her Jack's middle name to her daughter Taylor's as her middle name since they were very close when Sarah was growing up. Bruce as mentioned above was born in Lubbock and was the son of Rod and Lillian Turner Curry. He had an older sister, Pat. His father was a mechanical engineer and seemed to have worked for public utilities for much of his career. Bruce's grandfather was a Methodist minister, Reverend Bruce

Curry who came to Texas from Tennessee and married Ada Mae Rape about 1900 and had three children, a daughter and 2 sons to include Rod. Ada died in 1913. He then married Bonnie Pieratt about 1914 and had three more sons and 2 more daughters between 1907 and 1922 so Bruce had a lot of aunts and uncles. His parents were a lot older than Jack and Betty so even after Rod's retirement to Fredericksburg, TX, there was not a lot of interaction. I was surprised to see that when Rod was 14, he lived in Ballinger, TX where so many of the Smiths and Hudmans were from and lived for years.

Sharon was born in Levelland, TX while Jack and Betty lived in west Texas. She was about 6 when the family moved to Venezuela. Sharon was an excellent student in San Tome so much so that she skipped a grade. With a September birthday, she had started school as one of the youngest in her class and by the time she graduated from the 9th grade in Venezuela in 1963, she was only 14. The school only went through 9th grade so she moved to Midland for her Junior and Senior year while living with her Aunt and Uncle Red and Mary Ellis. Unfortunately, as she approached her Senior year, her parents left Venezuela and she had to move from Midland High School to rival Permian High School. That surely was a traumatic time for her, I'm sure. She made it through and headed off to Austin to attend UT where she met and married Bruce Curry. Bruce completed his undergraduate work at UT and went on to UT Law School and graduated. After practicing for a brief period in Austin, he found an opportunity in Kerrville and they moved there in the early 1970's where he was in private practice for a while before eventually being elected District Attorney, a position that he served in for around 37 years. I believe that he was the longest serving DA in Texas when he retired. They live in Kerrville and have 5 grandchildren from their three children, Rebecca, David, and Sarah who all live in the Greater Austin Area.

Richard was born in Andrews, TX on 19 Mar 1951. I think that Jack had a brother in Andrews at the time that may have influenced his being born there. Judging from family photos, he seems to have had a fun childhood in west Texas. In 1952, a month before his first birthday, the family visited Jack and Betty's families back in Graham and they went to lunch with Jack's parents and many of his siblings. Richard was pictured with his grandfather. After lunch, his grandfather was not feeling well and laid down and died. When Richard was about 4, his father moved to Venezuela and Betty and her two youngsters followed 6 months later. Life in Venezuela was a wonderful place to grow up. There were excellent schools. A bunch of kids of varying ages, a beautiful club with a swimming pool, movie theater, bowling alley, tennis courts. Jack taught Richard to play the guitar, coached his flag football team, bought him a go-cart and bought a boat which afforded many wonderful weekends at Silver Island off the north Venezuelan coast near Puerto La Cruz. While living in Venezuela, the family would return to Texas most summers and buy all of their clothes for the upcoming year, a task Richard hated. They would visit relatives and grandmothers who both lived in Graham. We visited Disneyland in either its first or 2nd year probably visiting Jack's oldest sister, Leota who lived in Long Beach.

Growing up in San Tome, the expectation was that when you graduated from 9th grade, you would head off to a military academy in the states, but his dad threw him a loop and resigned after he completed 8th grade and moved to Odessa where Richard attended Permian High School the first year that they won the State Championship and his first experience to watch and play real football. After a year in Odessa, Jack had enough and accepted a transfer to Santa Cruz, Bolivia and Richard's expectations of attending military school became a reality. Because of the excellent San Tome schools, he was able to skip his sophomore year so only spent two years at Peacock Military Academy in San Antonio. Peacock was an old school that had been established in 1896 by Col. Peacock and in 1926, his two sons took over the school and ran it until 1973 when societal changes lessened the appeal of military schools. He played football and graduated as valedictorian in 1968. He spent his Christmas and summer holidays in Bolivia having many exciting adventures.

In 1968, he headed off to UT Austin with plans to follow his father's career as a petroleum engineer, but the prospect of organic chemistry prompted a change to mechanical engineering. While at UT, football was all the thing as the Longhorns won the National Championship twice. Richard had the honor of servicing at the Resident Assistant for the team in 1971 and 1972. While at Peacock, he had applied for and was accepted to receive a ROTC scholarship which steered his career following graduation. He graduated in Dec 1972 and entered active duty in the Corp of Engineers in Jan 1972. While in college, he met a lovely

young lady from Corpus Christi named Nancy Nicks and they married in 1973 in Corpus after Richard returned from a deployment from his Construction Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood to fight floods in Morgan City, LA. After three years at Fort Hood, Richard was assigned to Korea where he got to spend the 1976 Bicentennial. It was an eventful year building barracks for the 2nd Infantry Division on the DMZ. In the summer of that year, two American officers were brutally attacked while supervising a tree trimming operation and hacked to death by North Korean goons. The President put the US Forces on Defcon 3 and weapons and ammunition was issued to all personnel. A massive show of force was staged and one of the Companies from Richard's Battalion was sent in with chainsaws to demolish that tree.

His overseas assignment came to an end in Jan 1977 and Richard's military obligations were coming to an end, but the Army called as suggested that they would like to send him to graduate school upon his completion of the Officers Advanced Course. It sounded like a good opportunity although it would result in 4 more years of obligation, but he took the bait and spent 6 months at Fort Belvoir, VA followed by 18 months at the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana completing studies to receive a Masters of Civil Engineering Degree. While at Fort Belvoir, after an embarrassing physical fitness test, Richard resolves to work on his fitness and began running, a pursuit that he continued until 2012 completing numerous fun runs and 11 marathons. While at UI, their only child son Nathan in 1978 at Scott AFB in Rantoul, Ill.

Following graduate school, Richard had a choice to serve in Hawaii with the Pacific Ocean Division, in Saudi Arabia where the Corp of Engineers was helping build King Khalid Military City, or with the Portland District in Portland Oregon. Richard and Nancy decided that the Portland assignment sounded the most appealing and with young Nathan in tow, they moved to Vancouver, WA in Jan 1979 where they bought their first house. Richard spent his first two years working on a massive project, the contraction of the Bonneville 2nd Powerhouse on the Columbia River. It was a huge project that included diverting the river, demolishing and rebuilding the entire town of Bonneville, and constructing the huge hydroelectric powerhouse. In early 1980, he was scheduled to spend some time in the district office and began his assignment there at the same time as Mt St Helen's started coming to life. In May 1980, the mountain exploded causing flooding, death, and destruction. Richard was assigned to join the team that the Corp was directing to manage the aftermath of the destruction and work on projects to mitigate further damage from the mudflow that had filled all of the area rivers and even block the ship channel in the Columbia River which was the means by which the Port of Portland gained access to the Pacific. After 6 months on the mountain and his obligation once again coming close to running out, Richard was anxious about getting another remote assignment for his final year when out of the blue, personnel called and asked if he would be interested in going to teach engineering at West Point. That was an opportunity that he could not resist and despite having only year of obligation to remain on active duty, he felt a moral obligation to complete the three-year assignment. Besides, the job was great and the friends he served with were wonderful.

Having had no intention of making the Army a career and finding himself with 11 years of service, Richard made the decision in 1984 that it was time to leave and get back to Texas as he had missed so much of things going on with family back home. Texas was in a bit of a depression in 1984 and job prospects looked a little bleak, but he took leave for Spring Break and made trip to Houston and Dallas for some interviews that had been arranged by a recruiter. One interview was with a little start-up computer company in Houston called Compaq, who seemed to be going places during its first year. 1984 was the year of the real birth of the Personal Computer. IBM had come out with a PC and many companies were vying to build similar and compatible products but no one succeeded better than Compaq. They were growing by leaps and bounds and Richard was hired to be the New Construction Manager with the idea that he would spend 6 months in Houston where ground had just been broken on Compaq's first building. He was then to go to San Antonio where Compaq had an option on 300 acres. Things were going too fast in Houston however and the San Antonio plans were dropped and the initial 5-year Houston plan was completed in two years and more land was purchased adjacent to the original site to allow for growth to continue. Plans were drawn up for 3 new offices, 4 new factories, and supporting infrastructure. Work proceeded aggressively for implementation of the expansion. Meanwhile, the international PC market began to become a very important

sector for Compaq and pressure built within the company to build a factory in Europe. In the fall of 1987, the VP in Europe called Rod Canion and told him that he had purchased 50 acres in Scotland and needed a factory up and running by the following November. A facilities team from Houston including Richard and several architects and consultants immediately headed to Scotland to analyze the situation and confirmed that the basic plans were good and that Compaq should proceed. Richard volunteered to head the project and moved to Scotland on New Years Eve 1987 (for tax reasons) and got the ball rolling. In November 1988, Phase I was completed and Phase II was authorized to start. Richard and family decided to see that through and completed Phase II in Aug 1989 whereupon they relocated to Houston.

Back in Houston growth had continued. While there had been a short pause in 1988, it had resumed with a passion and construction was underway of CCA4, CCA5, and CCA6 and continuing on CCM3 through 6 continued growth was forecast, so more land was purchased adjacent to the two existing sites and planning got underway for CCA7-13, parking garages, a training center, a fitness center, and a new central plant. Growth was so fast that the facilities group had to resort to office space that was built out inside one of the parking garages as there was no room in the offices. During this period, Richard was tasked to go to Singapore and find a space to lease to start up operations for Compaq Singapore. A large factory was eventually built there but one of his colleagues headed up that project as too much was going on back in Houston. It looked like it would never stop, and in the early 1990's Compaq purchased 750 acres across the highway from the existing campus and plans were developed for several more office buildings, factories, distribution center, infrastructure. Work began on the construction of the main artery road through the future campus, a sewerage treatment plant, and a central plant as well of storm water detention ponds. Richard had the opportunity to spend some time in Munich looking for an office site and in Holland selecting a location for a European Distribution Center. Suddenly and dramatically in 1992, things changed. Internal conflict in the Compaq management ranks led to the ouster of the founders and the takeover of Compaq by Eckard Pfeiffer from Germany. Domestic expansion plans were scrapped and layoffs began. While Richard dodged a bullet on the first round, 1993 found his Compaq career come to an end.

After being laid off in Oct 1993, Richard took a run through the woods and pondered about his next move. He quickly landed a job with a large construction company called Tellepsen which lasted all of 6 weeks in a rather funny (in hindsight) sequence of events. While still at Compaq, the company had made a large capital donation to the YMCA and Richard was asked to monitor the use of the Compaq funds by the YMCA in their expansion of the Cypress Creek YMCA which was adjacent to the campus. As his career at Tellepsen abruptly ended, he got word that the YMCA of Greater Houston had hired a new CEO who had great plans for a large capital campaign and an expansion of the Greater Houston YMCA. Through the connections that he had made at Cypress Creek, Richard was hired to be the VP of Facilities for the Y and spent the next seven years in a wonderful job building, expanding, maintaining, and renovating YMCA's all over the greater Houston area. It was a wonderful experience, but in 1999, he made a mistake in judgement and decided to leave the Y and try his hand at commercial real estate brokerage and that proved to be a mistake. While he did ok, it was a job full of stress and uncertainty and following the disaster of 9/11/2001, he opted out of brokerage and went to work for Cedarwood Development, a company based in Akron, OH that had been selected by CVS to help it expand west of the Mississippi. The next 10 years were spent working with a team of real estate and development professionals locating sites, buying sites, designing projects, working on entitlements, getting permits, and build a CVS on a corner near you. The team built nearly 200 projects in SE Texas of the 10-year period from 2000 to 2010. Richard spent a part of this time commuting to Ft Lauderdale, FL to help Cedarwood's office in SE Florida and managed the completion of several high-profile CVSs in that state. In 2010, the CVS expansion slowed down and the Cedarwood team turned its attention to a company out of Corpus Christi called Stripes who decided to expand to Houston and ended up helping them acquire about 90 sites in Texas.

As that relationship drew to a close, Cedarwood decided to close the Houston office and once again, Richard found himself looking for something useful to do. He joined a local general contractor, Suntech, who had built many CVSs for him with the goal of building an in-house real estate branch. It didn't work as planned convincing Richard finally that he may not really be a real estate guy. Suntech was a great company with great people. The owners had a personal relationship with the founders of Bucces and had

built the original Buccees in Lake Jackson and many of the largest stores in Texas to include Temple, Baytown, Denton, New Braunfels, plus many others. Suntech abruptly went out of business and Richard was not quite ready to hang it up so he joined another general contractor called Axis and spent a couple of year on some very interesting projects to include the renovation of The Met Church, the Youth Building at Faithbridge Church and a 54-room dormitory for St Mary's Seminary. In 2021 he retired. His mother died shortly thereafter and he has been deeply engaged in genealogy since that time that he wishes he could share with his mother.

Richard's wife Nancy was the daughter of Jack and Helen Hungerford Nicks. Her aunt Mary has done a wonderful genealogical study of the Nicks family which has some fascinating members. Her great great grandfather was named Claudius Buster who had the misfortune to participate in the ill-fated Mier Expedition known in Texas History as "The Black Bean Incident" where the captured Texans were forced to pick a bean out of a jar and 10% of them were executed. Claudius had the good sense to have temporarily escape during the bean pull but was recaptured and imprisoned for almost two years before President Polk finally arranged a release. He ended up marrying a young lady named Sarah Garrett whose father, Hosea Garrett was one of the founders of Baylor at Independence which was the precursor to Baylor University and Mary Hardin Baylor. Her father was in the Army Air Force during WW2 and completed his training at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station with a guy who grew up to be George Bush 41. Her mother came from a family with roots in Germany. Her grandfather, Charles Hungerford was from Illinois and came to Texas after marrying Ella Marie Wuerzinger. Charles was an engineer who attended the University of Illinois and ended up becoming the County Engineer in Jackson County before developing TB and dying in Houston when he was only 44 after spending some time at the sanitarium in Kerrville. Nancy has been a wonderful loyal wife to Richard for 51 years so far. A mother to Nathan, and grandmother to Katharine and Austin. She spent some time in retail in her early years and is a fitness fanatic who spends many hours at the gym and many more doing yardwork.

Kathryn was the little sister who had a different perception of the family. She was born in San Tome, Venezuela in July 1960 and much to Richard's chagrin she got to share a bedroom with her big brother in her early years as his room didn't have an air conditioner while the other two bedrooms did and her mother thought that she would get too cold. My biggest memory of Kathryn in Venezuela her extreme fear of Halloween costumes which she called maskers. We left Venezuela when she was 5 and she attended kindergarten in Odessa before returning to Bolivia with Jack and Betty in 1966. She put up with a few visits from her big brother and sister during the 1960's. She learned guitar from Jack and at one point in her travels made a wonderful recording of Jack's singing and playing and a few songs of her own. When they were booted out of Bolivia, she spent the time as things settled out living at the Butler ranch and going to school in Lometa. Once Jack and Betty were assigned to Kuwait, she joined them there and attended school in Kuwait until the Kuwaiti government decided that coed schools were unacceptable so she headed off to St Stephen's Boarding school in Austin and graduated in 1978 and then headed to UT. She did visit her brother Richard once when he was at West Point and there were rumors of a Kuwaiti prince who was pursuing her. She also attended the University of Texas where she did not seem to participate in being in the yearbook. She traveled to visit Jack and Betty during her college years in Kuwait and later in Zaire. In one of her trips to Zaire, they took a trip to Kenya and during their visit, Betty was assaulted on the street, knocked down and had her earrings stolen. Kathryn chased down the thief and as I recall held him until the police arrived.

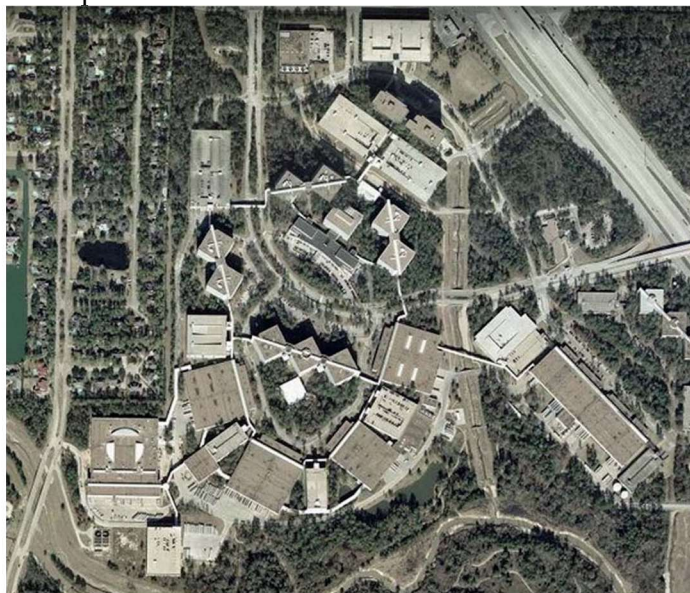
Upon graduation, she ended up in Houston and was living the good life working as an audiologist. At some point in this period, she met Jon Albright, a bright young man from Fort Worth who had started his education at Rice, but ended up working for an oil company that interrupted his schooling. They married in 1987. I don't recall the year, but Kathryn's boss decided to relocate his practice to Brownwood, TX which is the geographical heart of Texas. While Kathryn ran the doctor's office, Jon took the opportunity to go back to school and get his engineering degree at Howard Payne. He specialized in hydraulics and works very hard in his profession on all things related to water. He works for a firm called Freese and Nichols, but currently works remotely as he works toward finally retiring. Kathryn and Jon have two

daughters, Rachel and Madeline who live in Colorado and Austin respectively. In 2022, they moved into Jack and Betty's former home in Kerrville so she and her older sister Sharon can stay in touch.

Children of Jack and Betty:

552	Sharon Jane Bills	1949	Betty and Jack's Child#1
553	Richard Brian Bills	1951	Betty and Jack's Child#2
554	Kathryn Ann Bills	1960	Betty and Jack's Child#3

Some photos of Richard's adventures.



Completed Compaq Campus Houston – Now Lone Star University



Phase I under construction



Rich with his Scottish Contractors.

Final projects – The Met, Faithbridge and St Mary's



Enjoy this edition and if you have any corrections, photos, etc. do not hesitate to contact me at rbills_houston@yahoo.com.

This was completed 25 Nov 2024.