



TEXAS STATE TROOPER

www.texasstatetroopers.org
TSTAMAIL@aol.com

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TSTA REPORT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

In East Texas with Don Metcalf

The fallen officers' memorial trail: Old monument moved, new one installed, ceremonies with both

1,050 miles of travel pulling a trailer with heavy engraved monuments by Don Metcalf...preparation and coordination by DPS officers and survivor families...strong community support with news media coverage...it all came together in two East Texas towns last month to honor three DPS troopers killed in the line of duty. The fallen officers honored were Highway Patrol Troopers Larry E. Hobson and Kobler C. Winn, killed together in a car accident in 1973, and Highway Patrol Trooper James Scott Burns, fatally shot at roadside this past spring.

Hobson and Winn had been stationed in Athens but died near Corsicana, which was where the late Rick Metcalf put up the memorial granite monument honoring them. For quite some time, their families had wanted their marker moved to their hometown of Athens. The monument for Trooper Scott Burns, the new one was placed in Jefferson, where his duty station was. The



Michaela Burns and baby daughter



Don Metcalf (left) and Tim Elliot install the stone.

monument man, gallant Don Metcalf, so appreciated by DPS troopers and Texas Rangers, handled both situations in a long, hot and tiring East Texas trip.

On a blistering hot July day, Don Metcalf and his son-in-law Tim Elliot drove to Rockdale's Memorial Monuments, picked up the inscribed granite monument for fallen Trooper Scott Burns and towed it on their trailer to far away Jefferson, near the Louisiana border. There, on the county courthouse lawn, in late afternoon 102° heat, they dug the hole, mixed and poured concrete and hoisted the heavy marker into place. All around them, giving guidance and moral support were local officers which included DPS Sgt. Josh Mason.

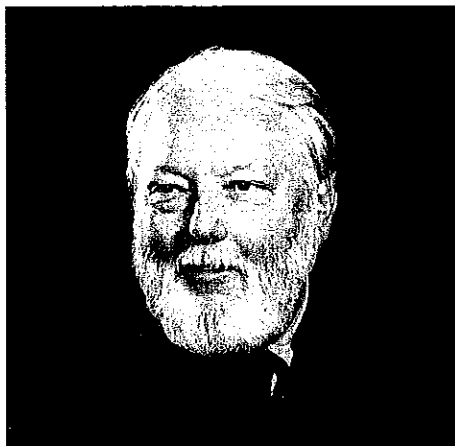
Sgt. Mason was Trooper Burns' sergeant and worked with Metcalf, Burns' widow Michaela, the families, the county commissioners, the news media and community leaders to coordinate the event. The next morning (August 7th) at 10 a.m., a good crowd gathered in front of the Marion County Courthouse for the memorial ceremony.

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Court's In Session

By Judge Larry Gist



Till Death Do Us Part

All of us remember when a Texas execution was stopped because of a claim that the drugs used would constitute "cruel and unusual punishment." And more recently, an execution was postponed because last minute legal maneuvering kept the prison from being able to use its routine procedures before the death warrant expired.

The death penalty is probably the most controversial and least understood of our criminal procedure. So let's take a moment and look at some of the important practical aspects of our highest penalty.

It's impossible to locate all of the meaningful provisions in one place, and important aspects are found in the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Administrative Rules of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, and in the internal procedures of the prison protocol itself.

The convicting court is required to issue a "death warrant" to the prison. If a habeas corpus application is filed, the warrant can't issue until the Court of Criminal Appeals denies relief or issues a mandate. The first execution date must be at least 91 days after the convicting court sets it. If the execution is stayed, the subsequent execution dates must be set at least 31 days from the entry of the execution order.

Our law provides that the condemned inmate shall be denied access to "all persons" outside of the prison except their "personal physician, lawyer and clergy person, who shall be admitted to see him or her when necessary for his or her health or for the transaction of business and all relatives and friends" who can be admitted under prison rules.

The prison director is required to designate an executioner as well as the place of execution. The Code of Criminal Procedure provides that "the following persons may be present at the execution:" the executioner and his assistants; the Board of Directors of the Department of Corrections (now the Department of Criminal Justice); two physicians including the prison physician, the spiritual advisor of the defendant; the chaplains of the prison system; the County Judge and Sheriff of Walker County; and "any of the relatives or friends of the condemned person that he may request, not exceeding 5 in number." It is

specifically provided that no convict shall be permitted as a witness.

Note there is no mention of friends and relatives of the victim. The Board of Criminal Justice responded to this need in 1996 and adopted a rule covering execution witnesses. The rule includes all of those mentioned but in addition permits 5 close relatives of the victim and a spiritual advisor to be present.

Further, the rule admits media representatives including a reporter from the *Huntsville Item*; a reporter from Associated Press, and three additional media representatives selected in rotation by the prison Public Information Office. Finally, the TDCJ Executive Director is allowed to admit any other person he approves.

That rule also requires that the rooms provided to the defendant's relatives and the victim's relatives have "sight and sound" separation as well as "sound separation" from the execution chamber except that everyone can hear the defendant's last words.

The execution protocol provides that 3 grams of sodium thiopental, 100 milligrams of pancuronium bromide and 140 milliequivalents of potassium chloride be used in the execution process. IV lines are inserted in the left and right arms. A medical doctor must be present to examine the inmate, pronounce his death and designate the official time. Each IV team member must be a "medically trained individual" who has "certification sufficient to perform these procedures." At least one team member must be certified or licensed as a certified medical assistant, phlebotomist, emergency medical technician, paramedic or military corpsman. There are both primary and backup IV lines, and observation ensures that there is no IV malfunction or tissue infiltration.

Procedures provide for redirection of chemicals to a backup IV site if the inmate does not lose consciousness within 60 seconds. It is also required that saline be injected in the IV line between the administration of chemicals. New regulations require that the drug team "prepare a backup set of the normal saline syringes and the lethal injection drugs in case unforeseen events make their use necessary." The second IV line is started as "a precaution and is used only if a potential problem is identified with the primary line."

The CI Division Director or Huntsville Warden or their designee "shall observe the appearance of the condemned individual during application of the Sodium Pentothol. If the condemned individual exhibits no visible signs of being "awake" the drug team shall be instructed to proceed to the next step. If visible signs of being awake are observed, the drug team shall be instructed to switch to the backup IV line.

Once death has occurred, the body of the convict shall be embalmed immediately. If the body is not demanded by a relative or friend within 48 hours of execution, the body shall be delivered to the Anatomical Board of the State if requested by them. If no request is made, the body shall be "decently buried" and the fee for embalming shall be paid by the county in which the indictment was originally issued.

Finally, all death sentences must be ordered "at any time after the hour of 6 p.m. on the day set for the execution, by intravenous injection of a substance or substances

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In East Texas with Don Metcalf...continued from front page

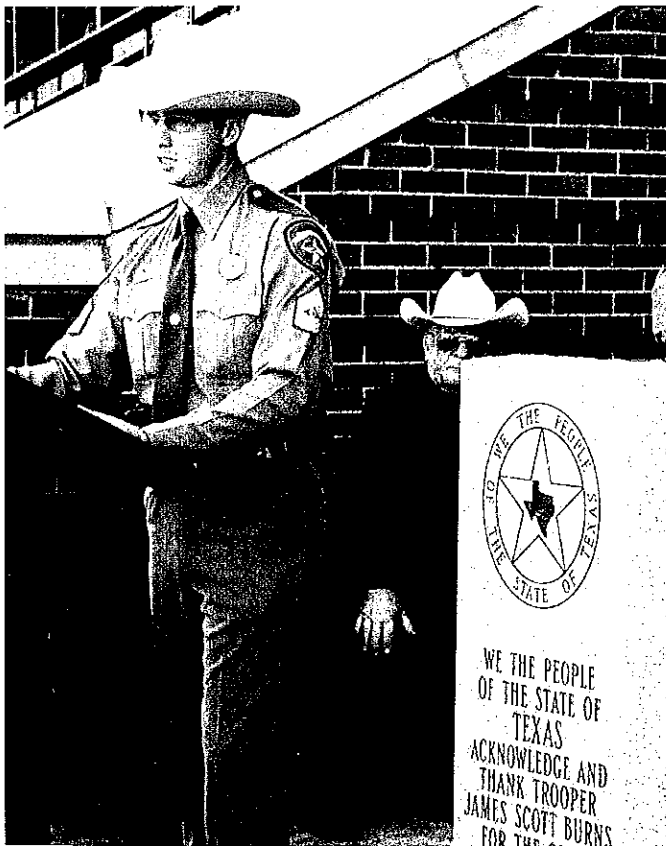
They mostly stood in the red cobblestone street, where Jefferson City police had cordoned off a traffic area.

When a law officer is killed somewhere in our huge state, it is often merely noted as a news statistic by far away people. But where one is near the scene and knows the trooper or other officer, one realizes the huge ripple effect of shock, grief and loss that hits so many people. So it was in this little town. Among those gathered somberly were large families of both parts of the sadly-ended young marriage. Fallen Trooper Burns and his surviving young wife both came from large families.

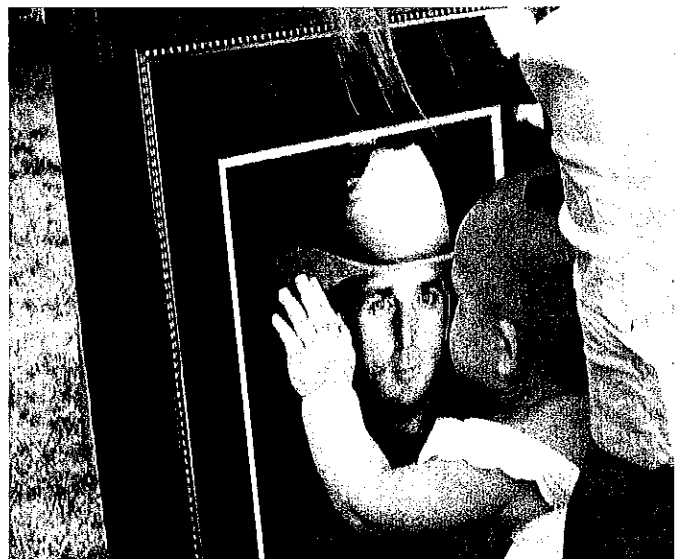
In the crowd were many DPS troopers, sheriff deputies, Texas Rangers, city police, EMS personnel, county and city officials and citizens: also lots of children. Highway Patrol Sgt. Josh Mason opened the ceremony by calling on DPS Chaplain Nelson Chaney of Texarkana to lead in prayer. Then Sgt. Mason thanked the county com-



Don Metcalf: "When people pass by this marker, they will remember Trooper Scott Burns."



missioners for their cooperation, thanked Don Metcalf and gave the warmest possible tribute to his fallen trooper. "We had lots of enjoyable personal experiences together,



Trooper Burns' baby daughter (9 mo.) says goodbye to her daddy, rubs his picture. Many wept at this.

which included hunting and fishing. I had meals in Scott's home. He was a great role model for many people and is a 'hero' to me."

Mason then introduced District Attorney William Gleason, who praised Don Metcalf for bringing the monument, and had high praise for the work of DPS troopers. "They seek out the bad guys and protect us from them,"

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In East Texas with Don Metcalf...continued from page 3

he said. "This is a special moment to honor Scott Burns, he was *my* trooper. He was in my office the morning before he was killed. His death is most painful to me."

In a unique moment in the D.A.'s speech, a gust of wind toppled the large framed photo of Trooper Burns, which was placed on the courthouse lawn. A reverent silence followed. The crowd watched as Don Metcalf's assistant Tim Elliot restored the fallen picture on its tripod.

Don Metcalf, who had driven hundreds of miles to transport the heavy granite memorial monument to the courthouse lawn, quoted USMC's Col. Oliver North in giving the definition of a hero. "He is not someone who flies between tall buildings and plucks people from dangerous scenarios, he is an ordinary person who daily puts his life on the line for the safety of others – and often lays down his life for others. Such a man was Trooper Scott Burns."

Metcalf then gave some background of the memorial monument program for fallen DPS officers' mentioning that it was started by his late brother Rick Metcalf who grieved over a fallen trooper who had been kind to him. "DPS troopers are a vital part of the thin blue line. If we did not have them, our lives would be in jeopardy. And when people pass by this Trooper Scott Burns' marker, they will remember his sacrifice."

Families of fallen Trooper Burns and his surviving wife Michaela often gazed with awe, tears and appreciation at the handsome monument. Michaela Burns and her baby got lots of hugs and words of support. Many of these came from several burly Texas Rangers, who were there in force to comfort the grieving.

Soon after the Jefferson ceremony was concluded, Don



TSTA's Jack Lawler, brave Michaela Burns and baby.

Metcalf and his assistant Tim Elliot drove 130 miles to the Corsicana area to lift the Hobson-Winn monument from its remote highway location and bring it to Athens. Weather and soil erosion had deteriorated this monument's visibility. Located in a swampy, highway drop-off area, it was difficult for the guys to extract. Athens Highway Patrol Sgt. Bobby Shields, who worked and sweated alongside them, called a wrecker (who donated his services), which had the equipment to get the 1000 lb. stone out and onto the Metcalf trailer.

Then, back to Athens and the DPS district office where Sgt. Shields had supervised a beautiful, landscaped area for the monument's new location. The transferred stone was installed again in 103° heat. County jail prisoners did



some of the labor. A well-publicized dedication ceremony for the two fallen officers was held the next morning (August 9) and the large crowd was blessed with cooler

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Left to right: HP Sgt. Bobby Shields, Don Metcalf and County Sheriff's deputy Bryan Barnhart, who is a retired career DPS trooper.

In East Texas with Don Metcalf...continued from page 4

weather. Present were a host of East Texas troopers, sheriff's deputies, city police, EMS personnel, and Athens citizens. Athens mayor Randy Daniel was present.

Although the troopers' deaths occurred years ago, many, many loved ones of the fallen were there and appeared overwhelmed with the monuments getting transferred here also, the ceremony, the logistics that got it all together, and the honors still bestowed on their long ago fallen officers.

Why would such a crowd of East Texas people attend to observe a tragic event that happened over 35 years ago? Reason: the hurt, the grief and the pride are still there with the family survivors.

The largest ever contingent of news media people to come for this type ceremony were also present, with cameras and notepads. Among them was a Channel



3 television crew from Shreveport who interviewed Metcalf and DPS officers. Other news media included Tyler television KLTU, a radio station, the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, and other publications.

The news of this event was doubtless broadcast all over East Texas.

Sgt. Shields opened the ceremony by calling on Sgt. Richard Fulton for prayer. Shields then described the reason for the event, thanked everyone for attending and thanked Metcalf and Elliot for their dedicated hard work. He spoke words of praise for fallen troopers Winn and Kobler, praised their families, then introduced Metcalf.

"By the grace of God and two fallen heroes," Metcalf said, "we are able to be here today. This memorial monument, easily visible to the thousands of people coming here to DPS on driver license business, will be a permanent reminder of the sacrifice of these two officers, and of the price that DPS and other law officers often pay to provide public safety."

In concluding, he removed his hat and said, "I take off my hat to those who fell, their families and to all DPS officers. I'm honored that I can serve them."

Metcalf thanked TSTA and DPSOA for their support of

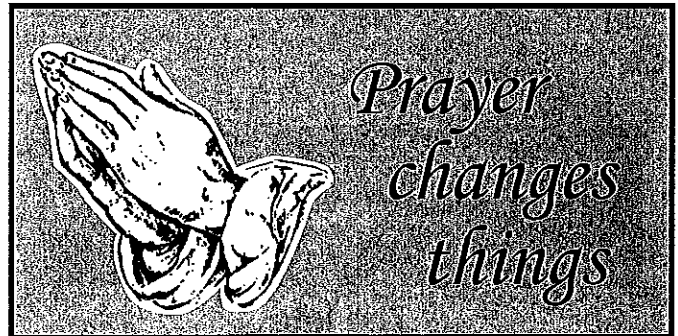


Mrs. Melba Winn, widow of fallen Trooper Kobler Winn, hugs a long line of troopers.

the memorial monument programs. TSTA bought meals and gasoline for him on his 1050 mile, two-monument project. (Pulling a trailer with a 1,000 lb. stone does not get good gas mileage.)

Who can measure the worth of this work, with its comfort to the family survivors and its reminders to the public? TSTA salutes it – and Don Metcalf – and is pleased to be a part of it.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Words to remember

- Make peace with the past so it won't spoil the present.
- Don't trust someone who doesn't close their eyes while you kiss them.
- Read more books and watch less TV.
- Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
- Trust in God, but lock your car.
- The real university is a collection of books.
- Love does not make the world go 'round. It is what makes the ride worthwhile.

There are no routine stops.

Court's In Session...continued from page 2

in lethal quantity sufficient to cause death until such convict is dead."

You can easily see how much emphasis is placed on making sure each execution is done properly and that due consideration is given to the needs of the defendant, his family and the family of the victim.

So until next time, you'll be careful out there, you hear.

A man all DPS rookies and recruits should know about:



**The late
COL. HOMER E. GARRISON**

...DPS Director for 30 years, 1938-1968. His leadership, which spanned WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, was outstanding in making DPS one of America's premier state police agencies, "Public Safety" took on huge meaning under his direction. Col. Garrison cared deeply about the troops. He knew many by their first names. The DPS Recruit Training Academy is named after him.

A DPS legacy? Yes. That's Col. Homer Garrison. Let us not forget him.

WE CARE
Texas State Troopers Association

Many of our troops have died fighting to give others the right to vote. Be sure you vote Nov. 4th.

Want to help the DPS fallen officers' MEMORIAL MONUMENT PROGRAM?

If so, send your contribution (check) to:

**Don Metcalf
P.O. Box 6003
Katy, TX 77491-6003**

He's the guy who makes the plans, hauls the stones, burns his own gasoline and does the heavy work - all on his own time. He loves the troopers and their families.

Health tips

Get the most from a complete checkup

Try these tips to make the best use of your medical checkup:

■ *Prepare for your visit* – Make a list of things you want to discuss, and think about how to describe your concerns. Organize materials you will need, such as your health record – including vaccinations, drug allergies and surgery information. Bring – in their bottles – your prescription drugs, as well as any herbal supplements, vitamins and nonprescription drugs you take. Bring contact information for any other doctors you have seen recently. Don't forget a pen and paper to write down any new information.

■ *On the day of your visit* – Focus on the business at hand. Describe your most concerning or serious health issues first, speaking openly and honestly. Listen carefully, and ask questions if you don't understand something. Take notes about your diagnosis, treatment plan and any information about new drugs that may be prescribed. Inquire about written patient education materials that you might take home. Find out how to follow up if you have questions later.

■ *Follow through* – After your visit, review your notes and any materials from your visit, and follow treatment or drug instructions carefully. If you experience worsening symptoms or medication problems, let your doctor know.

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Please visit our web site.

If you have an e-mail address,

please send it to

Don Dickson at:

webmaster@texasstatetroopers.org

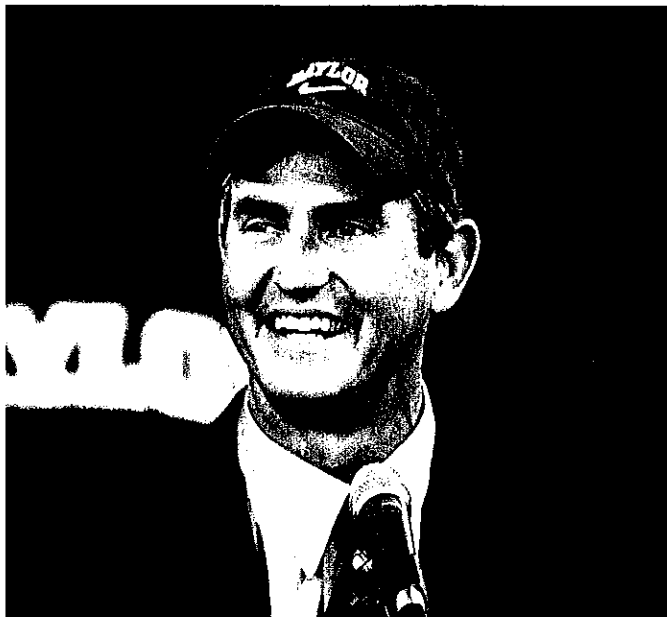
My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 years old and we don't know where the hell she is.

New Baylor Football Coach Art Briles Has Winning Record

Overcame family tragedy to achieve it

Baylor University is enthused about its new head football coach, Art Briles. Ian McCaw, Baylor's Director of Athletics says, "Art Briles embodies all the qualities we seek in our head football coach, with great personal character and integrity. He is regarded as one of the top head coaches and offensive minds in college football, a strong recruiter with a vision and plan that will lead us to bowl games and championships."

Coach Art Briles, a native West Texan, did not earn these credentials overnight. He "paid his dues" over many coaching years and has won with every team he coached.



Art Briles, Baylor's new head football coach.

He comes to Baylor after leading the University of Houston to a dramatic turnaround in its losing football program. The Cougars had been in a 14-year downward spiral, having won just eight games in four years, losing every game two years before Briles arrived.

In his first UH coaching year the Houston Cougars made school history by finishing 7-5 and playing in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl. In 2006 he guided the Cougars to a Conference USA championship title with a 10-4 season, plus a Liberty Bowl trip. In his fifth and final season – before coming aboard at Baylor at the end of 2007 – Briles' Houston Cougars had an 8-4 season and were invited to play in the Texas Bowl. Briles' 2005 Cougar team finished 6-6, led conference USA in total offense and played in the Fort Worth Bowl. In between they won at least eight games at UH, and his Cougars played in four bowl games.

Turnarounds of losing football programs seem to have been a trademark of Coach Art Briles' career. Baylor University was impressed with them.



Baylor's Pat Neff Hall. It's golden dome stays lit at night.

As a young boy Art Briles lived, ate, and breathed sports, especially football. He was born in Haskell, Texas in 1955, but his family moved to Abilene shortly thereafter, as his father, Dennis Ray Briles, became a football coach there. Then, his father became coach at Rule, Texas, 40 miles from Abilene. Art's high school football years, 1970-73, were played there. He played quarterback, and also ran track. In Art's sophomore year Coach Dennis Briles' Rule team posted a 9-1 season. In Art's senior year they went undefeated in district play, then met Big Sandy High School in a state championship game. They lost a heartbreaker to Big Sandy, 14-13.

Art's parents Dennis and Wanda were both active in the Rule First Baptist Church, and their son Art and big brother Eddie were taken to church regularly. Dennis and Wanda both taught Sunday School classes.

In a San Antonio interview this past July, TSTA editor Jack Lawler discussed Coach Art Briles' high school days in which he played under his coach father, Dennis Briles.

"What was it like, playing under your father?"

"It was very tough," Art Briles said. "My dad treated me harder than the other players. That way, nobody could say that he was partial to me. Because of this, I had to work twice as hard as the other players."

Upon graduation from Rule High School he got a football scholarship to the University of Houston. He was soon a "starter" and played two years as a wide receiver.

His parents attended most of his games, traveling long distances to some of them. On one Houston Cougar football weekend in 1976, Coach and Mrs. Briles were driving to Dallas, Texas, to see Art and his team play SMU in the Cotton Bowl. In the car with them was Art's aunt. They had a terrible automobile accident, and all three were killed, on Art's game day.

The Houston coach got the tragic news just before kick-off, but decided to wait until after the game to tell Art. On the field, during the game, Cougar split end Art Briles kept looking into the stands for his parents. After

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Coach Art Briles...continued from page 7

the game the coach called Art aside in the locker room and told him. To say that he was stunned does not adequately describe his reaction. Soon afterward, with his heart broken, Art Briles tore his ACL and decided to transfer to Texas Tech. In his grief, he recalls, he was "numb" for about six months. He asked the question, "Why?" With both his parents and his aunt gone, he had no home to return to, no loving support group.

Slowly he decided he had a choice. He could try to cope by drinking and partying, or he could stand tall, honor his parents by living up to the things they had taught him since his childhood. "I could either 'flourish' or 'falter'," he said. "I chose to flourish. In the days ahead, my Christian faith sustained and strengthened me."

He needed a change. The heart-rending shock he had absorbed at Houston held too many memories. He transferred from the University of Houston to Texas Tech. His heart was just not in football. With no football scholarship to help pay his way, he worked at odd jobs which included a TG&Y warehouse, and Manpower, Inc. It took him two more years to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in Health/Psychology. In his senior year, 1979, he married his high school sweetheart from his hometown, Rule. After graduation from Texas Tech, he got his first coaching job at the little town of Sundown, about 40 miles west of Lubbock as an assistant coach at the high school, which could not field many players. He coached all sports.



Photos courtesy Baylor Athletic Dept.

Two years later, young Coach Briles landed an assistant coaching job at Sweetwater, a larger school, where he coached both football and power lifting. His head coach was W.T. Stapler who inspired Art with his leadership and techniques. During three years at Sweetwater, he commuted to Abilene to get a Master's degree in Education. Then, he got a bigger job.

It was at Hamlin, Texas, a Division 2A high school in a town of about 4500. Briles came aboard there as football coach and athletic director. It was his first head coaching job, and he quickly learned it was a big change in his work. "It was enlightening," he says. "I realized that, within the rules, I could be creative and I loved it. I used a variety of offenses. And I began to realize how very important linemen were." Using techniques and habits of hard work he had learned from his coach father, he led

Hamlin's young footballers to the state quarterfinals and also the semifinals in his two years there.

The semifinal game was against Electra and Hamlin did not win. Briles was very proud of his kids and told them they were 'winners in his eyes'. "There are lots of ways to describe winners," says Art Briles.

His next coaching job change took him to Georgetown High School, in a growing town near Austin. There he was again head football coach and athletic director. The school had a strong athletic program backed by strong community support. Coach Briles enjoyed his two years there.

DPS troopers who have transferred several times can identify with the coaching changes of Art Briles, each of which took him to bigger jobs and larger challenges. Of course, as troopers know, job and location changes affect the family. How did Coach Briles' coaching job changes affect his wife and children? "My wife Jan and I are a team," says Coach Briles. "Our love for each other sustains us in all situations. We always prayed together before job changes and our kids have always adjusted well to the changes."

In 1988, Coach Briles' reputation and winning record landed him the head coaching position at a school where he would stay 12 years: Stephenville High, a Division 4A school. It was a town with great community support, but their football team had not gotten into the state playoffs in over 40 years. Art Briles coached his Stephenville Yellowjackets into the state playoffs his second year. In his long tenure there, Stephenville High won four state championships. It was a success story which major football programs would note. These would include Texas Tech, the University of Houston and Baylor.

Although he brings Big 12 Conference coaching experience to Baylor, Coach Art Briles, a West Texan, is a

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Two DPS officers who played high school football under Coach Briles: What they say about him

Trooper Brad Couch, HP-Stephenville.

Brad was a kicker (punts, kick-offs, PATS) on Coach Briles' Stephenville High School team in 1992 and 1993. The yellowjackets won state in '93. He followed that with a football scholarship at Tarleton University, then became a state trooper in 2000. "Coach Briles was an outstanding motivator," he recalls. "He treated us like people. He was energetic, always positive and always there for me. I think he can turn Baylor around."

Lt. Tyler Harpole, HP-Waco.

He played under Coach Briles all four of his high school years at Stephenville High, graduating in 1991. Five years later he was a DPS trooper and saw service in Big Spring and Brownwood. "I'm tickled pink that Coach Briles has come to Baylor. He always had a strong work ethic, made us work to earn every thing. He would show you how something should be done. One of his rules was, "always improve."

Coach Art Briles...continued from page 8

product of Texas high school football. In high school ranks, he developed six Division One quarterbacks, five of whom threw for over 3,000 yards in a season. He has been a president of the Texas High School Coaches Association. In April of this year he was inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

In 2000, Coach Briles moved from high school to Big 12 coaching ranks when he was hired by Texas Tech. The Red Raiders' head coach was Mike Leach who favored a passing attack, but encouraged the running game. He made Art Briles his running back coach. The Tech ground game flourished under Briles, increasing its yardage every year and producing a 2001 first-team All Big 12 performer in Ricky Williams. The Red Raiders won seven or more games each year. Briles, on Mike Leach's staff, went to a bowl game each year.

Moving from high school to college coaching presented assistant coach Art Briles exciting challenges and new opportunities. He liked it and liked Lubbock. He decided that college level coaching offered him increased opportunities to personally influence his players. He explains the difference this way: "Most high school players have a home to go to – with parents, grandparents or someone who would listen to them. In college, after practice, the kids return to a dorm room and a roommate."

"It's here," he explains, "that I felt the kids need me. Externally, they don't act as if they do, but internally, they usually do."

Last year, 2007, Baylor University's president told his athletic director Ian McCaw to locate a championship caliber head football coach who could win with integrity. The search began. It found the Houston Cougars' head coach Art Briles at the close of his fifth year there. He met with BU's athletic director and others. In three days, the position was offered to Briles and he accepted. He hardly knew anyone at Baylor, with one important exception. He already knew several of the Baylor players, from his high school coaching days.

From his coming aboard last November, Briles has known that his challenge at Baylor is huge. They had not been winning. He knows that he must change the image of Baylor football: knows it needs credibility and respect.



Floyd Casey Stadium, Baylor Bears home field

He must lift morale everywhere. "My players must believe they can win," he says. "They must not be afraid of success."

How does his very first Baylor Bear football team shape up for the rugged 2008 Big 12 season? Briles has 35 lettermen. His linemen are big. He has good backfield speed, and he has some depth at quarterback. "Our offense will be a combination passing and running. Our line will be able to play with anybody."

Does the coaching legacy left to him by his father affect his coaching today? "Yes, definitely," says Baylor's new coach, "my dad's work ethic is with me today. He was a hard worker and never complained. He would figure out a way to do something...then do it. The way I approach things today are due to my dad's influence on me."

Discipline in his coaching? Coach Briles says he and his staff do it on an individual basis. "Every player must be in his place and doing what he is supposed to do."

Turning a devastating family loss into a winning career is the Art Briles story. It has resulted in turning many losing football seasons into winning programs. Baylor fans are excited about their new coach. Waco troopers, pay close attention to what happens at Floyd Casey stadium this year!

By Jack Lawler

Coach Briles is a recent inductee into the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame for his West Texas activities. He and his wife Jan have three children: Jancy, a UH graduate who works in the Dallas Cowboys Public Relations office; Kendal, a UH Cougar letter winner and UH graduate who is an assistant coach on his father's Baylor staff; and Staley, a senior at UH.

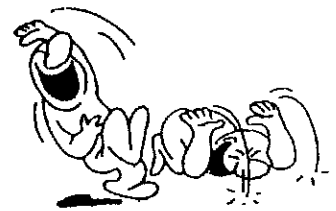
Thieves use stolen license plates to get gasoline

A woman said her son found his license plate missing so he called the police to file a report. They told him people were stealing the plates to get free gas. Given the rise in gas prices, people have taken to stealing license plates, putting them on their car, then getting gas and running. The gas station will have "your" license plate number and you could be in trouble for "pump and run." Check your car periodically to be sure you still have a plate. If you should find it missing, file a report immediately!!! Keep an eye on your license plate! Make sure you always know it's there! When the license plate is reported as the "drive off vehicle", it's YOU they contact! Be aware! Be aware of your license plates, most of us never look to see if the plates are there or not.

TSTA Membership Advantages

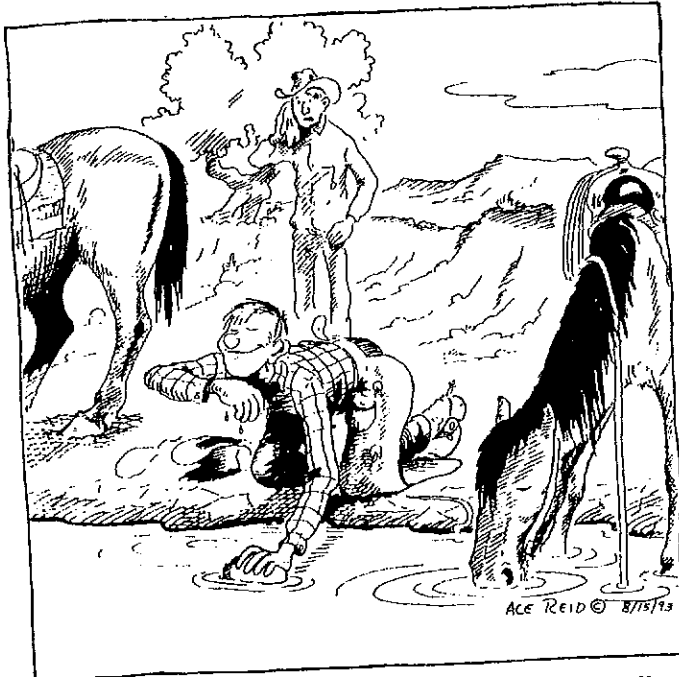
- Free Last Will & Testament • Free AD&D Insurance • Emergency Assistance • Legal Assistance • Recreational Facilities • Legislative Representation • Personal Counsel

* Kuempel's Korner *



COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"There jist ain't nuthin' like a delicious swaller of 110 degree water on a 112 degree day."

There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.

A duty without a dream becomes a frustration.

Faith is the bird that sings while it is yet dark.

Sooner or later we all sit down to a banquet of consequences.

We trust God for the big things, but fail to trust Him for the tiny things.

You seldom see a hearse with a U-haul trailer behind it.

A friend is someone who steps up when the whole world steps out.

Did you know that George Washington was a Texan? He spent his childhood in the South Texas brush country. In the yard of his little house was a mesquite tree. One night, by moonlight, he chopped it down. The next morning, his father accosted him. "George, did you chop down our tree?"

George: "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did it."

Father: "Well, if you cannot tell a lie, you cannot be a Texan. Pack your suitcase, we're moving to Virginia."

Does luck exist in the cases of trial lawyers?
Yes, but it only comes in the library at 3:00 a.m.

Do yourself into feeling, instead of feeling yourself into doing.

The devil is delighted to fly you first class as long as you're going in the wrong direction.

"The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war."
- The Marines

Abraham Lincoln was good at diffusing opponents. A bitter political enemy once challenged him to a duel. "You may have your choice of weapons," his angry opponent said.

"Wery well," said Mr. Lincoln, "horse manure at six paces."

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Statement of Purpose

Texas State Trooper is an official publication of the Texas State Troopers Association. Should you have news you would like published, mail it to:

Texas State Troopers Association
 5540 North Lamar
 Austin, TX 78751
 E-mail us at TSTAMAIL@aol.com
 Website: www.texasstatetroopers.org

The Texas State Troopers Association is open to all first-line commissioned members of the Department of Public Safety, both current and former.

TSTA intends no indictment of those of supervisory rank through their exclusion as members of this organization. We do understand, however, that no association can be all things to all people. Therefore, we have chosen to represent those who need our services more: first-line troopers. This policy negates the probability of conflict of interest that stems from multi-class representation.

TSTA will work hard for the betterment of life for every member of the department.

FOR MEMBERSHIP: Complete the application below. Mail it and a check for \$25 payable to the Texas State Troopers Association to the address at the top of the application. Include your jacket size: M, L, XL, XXL or XXXL. Your cap and jacket will be mailed to you.

WILLS: Members are reminded that one of your benefits from TSTA is the free preparation of a last will and testament. This service is performed by Lee Johnson. He may be contacted at:

Lee Johnson
 Attorney-at-Law
 575 N. 7th Street
 Beaumont, TX 77702
 Telephone: 409/833-8911

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OFFICE ADDRESS	(street, city, zip code)		OFFICE PHONE NUMBER (include area code)	
DATE EMPLOYED	DATE OF COMMISSION	DATE OF TERMINATION (if no longer with DPS)		

Membership dues paid to TSTA are not deductible as gifts or charitable contributions but may be deductible under an IRC Section other than Section 170 (c).

I, _____, request membership into the Texas State Troopers Association, and if accepted agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, the rules and decisions of its officers. I also agree to pay annual dues of twenty-five (25) dollars for all of a calendar year or any part thereof.

I understand that any unreasonable failure to assist a fellow member of the Texas State Troopers Association will result in this membership being cancelled by the board of directors at their option.

I also understand this membership will terminate immediately if I am promoted to any supervisory rank of sergeant or above.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

