



TEXAS STATE TROOPER

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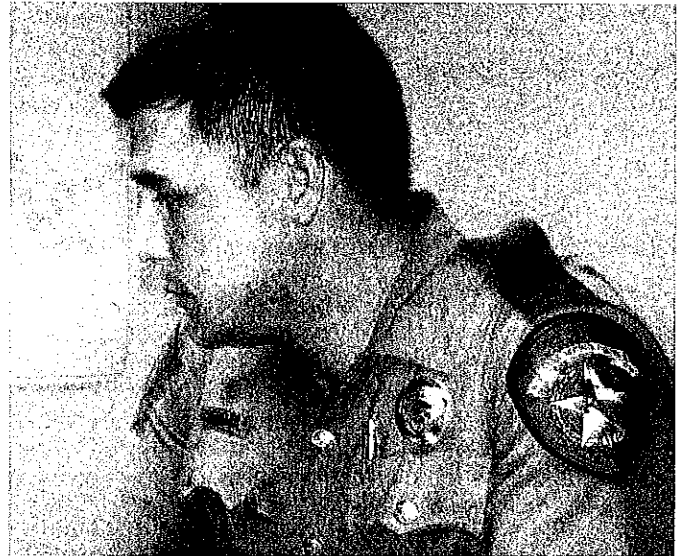
Fort Hood area troopers and many other Centex officers scramble to meet shooting crisis

Killeen troopers, city police and Bell County SO deputies arrive at Hood exits fast

Highway patrol trooper John Hutzler was returning to his Killeen office from Waco when he got an urgent call from his sergeant Patrick McElroy, "Come to the office fast. There are shooters on the base and people are down!"

Within minutes, John and eight other Killeen troopers were with their sergeant who had turned the DPS office into an emergency command post. Information was "sketchy." Nobody knew if there was one shooter or a dozen. They knew only that the shooting was on the base. Was the shooter or shooters in a vehicle, or on foot? No information on this. The sergeant quickly dispersed his troops to guard Fort Hood's many exit gates. "Look for anything suspicious," he said. "And be visible!"

John Hutzler's assignment was the gate marked Bell County. Other gates included the East gate, the Main gate and the Clear Creek gate. John and his fellow troopers



Killeen HP Trooper John Hutzler: "A day to remember."

scrambled to reach their assigned areas quickly. Meantime, law officers from other Central Texas locations were racing toward Fort Hood. These included county sheriffs and their deputies, city police from Killeen-Temple and smaller nearby towns, FBI agents, Game Wardens, Texas Rangers and the Ranger high command from Austin.

En route, Trooper Hutzler called his wife Beth to assure her that he was safe. The Fort had been closed down when John arrived. There was heavy crowd activity at his gate and all the other gates. The Clear Creek gate was overwhelmed with a huge crowd. Civilian wives, husbands and parents were frantically trying to get into the Fort. Many parents had children in schools inside. Fort Hood's entrances and exits were normally guarded by civilians. They were hurrying to put up barricades. Arriving troopers helped them.

John Hutzler, his fellow troopers and civilian gate monitors yelled to the gate crowds, "Don't try to get in yet! It's safer to stay where you are." The fears, tension and uncertainties of the crowds had the potential for panic or rioting. John was moved to the Main gate. The news media soon arrived there and began asking questions and interviewing people. Hutzler was impressed with the many officers from different law enforcement agencies present – and how quickly they had reached Fort Hood:



Officers frantically try to locate shooter.

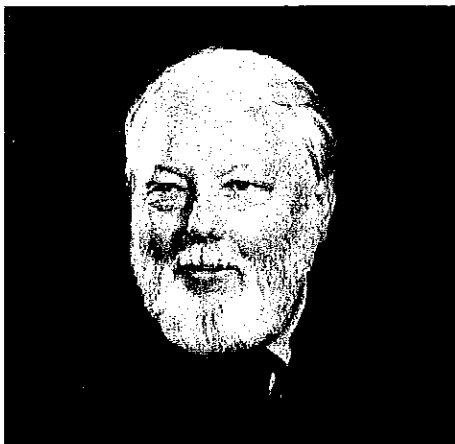
Photo courtesy of Fort Hood PIO

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Court's In Session

By Judge Larry Gist



DNA vs. CSI

There is probably nothing more important today than the value of DNA analysis in every aspect of the criminal justice system. Much of that attention is driven by television shows that often completely distort the procedures and costs necessary to arrest the correct person, free the innocent, and convict the guilty.

Those often unrealistic expectations are fixed in the minds of so many jurors. If there is no DNA evidence introduced, a good defense lawyer will often successfully argue that guilt hasn't been shown "beyond a reasonable doubt." That even happens in cases where scientific evidence is insignificant. But the not guilty verdicts continue. That's what the public has grown to expect based on television forensic crime episodes.

So let's look for a moment at this new phenomena and how it affects our criminal justice system.

The last Legislature created a Criminal Justice Reform Commission. It was given the responsibility to study and make recommendations of ways to limit the number of "innocent" people who were convicted. As we all know, a very large number of people have been exonerated because of new DNA techniques and tests.

Nationally, there have so far been 242 people exonerated as a result of post-conviction DNA testing, including 17 who were on death row. Texas is the home of more verified wrongful convictions than any other state. We have had to date a total of 38 prisoners exonerated through modern DNA testing.

What is also interesting is that out of the total of 242 people who were exonerated, DNA tests also correctly identified 104 people who actually committed some of those crimes. There is no doubt that DNA results can be a very valuable tool in the initial investigation of criminal cases. It can often help investigators clear suspects and identify the true offender.

Texas has also recently substantially increased the

compensation due to offenders who were wrongfully convicted as shown by post-conviction DNA testing. We lead the nation in freeing the wrongfully convicted, most of whom will soon become millionaires under our newly passed legislation.

Exonerees will get \$80,000 for each year spent behind bars and \$25,000 for each year spent on parole or as a registered sex offender. The compensation also includes a lifetime annuity payment worth between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per year. They also receive a vast array of social services including job training, tuition credit and access to medical and dental treatment. Finally, they can receive up to \$10,000 for reentry living expenses. No other state comes close to Texas in providing such generous wrongful conviction benefits.

James Woodard was convicted of a Dallas murder almost 30 years ago. He was recently given a full pardon by the Governor having been cleared by DNA evidence. According to recent news reports: "In the case of James Woodard, who spent nearly 30 years in prison, his compensation comes to about \$4.3 million."

Texas long ago passed several DNA access laws. They provided that any convicted person or guardian of a convicted person on their behalf may apply for post-conviction DNA testing through the convicting court. And our statutes now require the preservation of biological evidence. In capital cases, that evidence must be preserved until the inmate dies, is executed, or is released on parole. If the defendant is sentenced only to confinement, the evidence must be preserved until the defendant dies, completes the sentence or is released on parole.

Since 2001, Texas has been collecting DNA samples from prison inmates and offenders sent to TYC. The last Legislature passed additional statutes requiring that felony probationers are also required to provide DNA samples as a condition of supervision.

New legislation also requires that DPS must establish a central DNA index to collect and disseminate DNA information to law enforcement. This collective DNA database will have invaluable significance in the investigation of future cases.

For example, over 19 years ago, Jennifer Schuett awoke naked on a fire ant mound. She didn't have enough strength to get up and the last thing she remembered was being dragged across a field. Her throat was cut and she lay bleeding in an empty lot for over 12 hours until she was found. Despite her injuries she survived her abduction and rape. Almost two decades later, she

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Fort Hood area troopers...continued from front page

Texas Rangers, city police (from Killeen, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove, Lampasas and Temple) FBI agents, troopers from other counties, and game wardens.

The rangers went inside the base quickly. John talked with some of them and several other officers. Most troopers did what state troopers have always done: *worked traffic*. Killeen city police and Bell County sheriff's deputies helped them. While working traffic, trooper Hutzler shut down one entire road leading toward a base gate. There were too many vehicles. There was concern for Fort Hood's large military housing section for married soldiers and officers. The Fort's Military Police (M.P.s) got busy patrolling it.

Most civilians and many soldiers were too far away to hear the multiple gunfire by the killer. It didn't take him long to kill 13 people and wound 43. Two non-military police officers – one of them female – courageously stopped the deadly shooter with their own handgun fire. The base newspaper later called the murderous event "Ten Minutes of Hell!"

Site of the shootings was the soldier Readiness Processing Center, for soldiers awaiting deployment overseas. Into the crowds in waiting chairs and at blood-drawn stations, the killer opened fire at close range – firing approximately 100 rounds with a high capacity big caliber handgun. Soldiers later said the shots seemed slow and methodical. Desperate, unarmed soldiers broke windows



Photos courtesy Fort Hood Sentinel and PAO.



After the shooting: shock, awe...and grief.

trying for safety. Witnesses later said the shooter then moved to an adjacent building and shot several others before police downed him.

Fort Hood's safety officials, who arrived moments after the shooting, said the number of dead and wounded was, "Nothing short of awesome." Significant, they noted, were the actions of soldiers who had sprung into action to help save their buddies. Several fashioned bandages from pieces of their own uniforms to prevent blood loss of the wounded. Medics used plastic tables as makeshift stretchers to move the wounded. Civilian medical choppers came, but delayed landing for a time because command people had to wait to assure them that landing zones were secure. For a time, there was uncertainty as to whether there were multiple shooters. The black day was one of bloody carnage. Texas law officers arriving fast and acting decisively, soldiers courageously helping soldiers, and fearful civilians needing the sight of DPS uniforms and the calming effect of their authoritative directions. At 3:00 p.m., the Fort Hood bugle sounded "recall," and all soldiers stopped and saluted the flag in the middle of all the carnage.

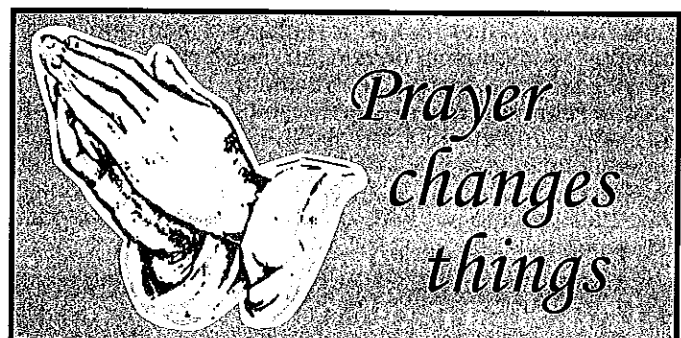
One combat JAG captain wrote in his report, "The initial cops did everything right. And this army is not broken, no matter what the pundits say. Not the army I saw on this day."

In recalling the tumultuous day with TSTA editor Jack Lawler, Killeen Highway Patrol trooper John Hutzler said, "I thought our law enforcement part went smoothly. Many agencies worked together great. We had the crowd contained. We were prepared. If a shooter had come across, we had him. I think 9/11 had opened our eyes. Law enforcement readiness was apparent at Fort Hood on this day."

Trooper Hutzler drove through the entire fort late in the day. He got home about 8:00 p.m. that night. His wife Beth was doubly glad to see him. Fort Hood, named after a famous Confederate General John Bell Hood, has long been a soldiers' town. With a population of 112,000 and an economy that depends upon Hood's soldiers, Killeen cares about its soldiers. It grieves with families when there are Iraq-Afghanistan deaths. It is a good relationship. The tragic November 5th shooting impacted Killeen citizens strongly.

DPS Trooper John Hutzler's duty tour in the Killeen/Fort Hood area started July, 2008 after duty in Rosebud, Dayton and Orange. He likes Killeen – its people, its soldiers, its patriotic spirit and the good relationship between Fort Hood's commanders and DPS troopers.

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Killeen HP Trooper John Hutzler

The fort permits DPS to use its firing range. Also, he has enjoyed working in different communities, where he has met many people. "I enjoy talking to people, and believe this is important. Often, on highway patrol 'stops', I ask them to step out of their vehicle, because conversation gets a little more friendly that way. Also it helps me evaluate them as offenders. If someone's conversation stays about the same for five minutes - at the same level - it usually means that they are a good citizen, and no threat to public safety."

Trooper Hutzler patrols highways 190 and 195 between Interregional 35 and Killeen. On one highway stop, the offender was a state lawmaker. "It was a good visit," smiled Hutzler. He says he has been in several high-speed chases.

John Hutzler grew up in Kyle, a fast-growing small town south of Austin. There he graduated from high school, where he played football. His parents Gary and Nancy Hutzler worked for the Kyle ISD where his father was a teacher and coach. After graduation, John did construction work for the school system, attended Blinn Junior College at Bryan and later, Sam Houston State at Huntsville, majoring in Criminal Justice. He finished college with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He wanted a career in law enforcement. He applied with the federal government, without success.

While at Blinn Junior College, which was not far from Texas A&M at College Station, John had made "Aggie" friends. One was a girl Aggie named Beth Rovinelli from East Texas. They met at a restaurant near the Aggie campus. A friendship developed, in which Beth learned of John's interest in law enforcement. She had an aunt named Nita Bowen who was the first female DPS trooper to make sergeant. John met Sgt. Bowen, who strongly urged John to apply with DPS. He did, and was accepted in March of 2004. By this time John and Beth Rovinelli, who had become a nurse, were very serious about each other.

There are no routine stops.

John graduated in August of 2005 and was assigned to the highway patrol in Orange (near Beaumont). Two months later, he and Beth got married. Had new trooper John Hutzler prepared his bride for the stress factor (such as the Fort Hood shootings) that is usually present in a law enforcement marriage? "I didn't have to," says John, "as a nurse who had worked emergencies, she already knew about stress. She is a true champion as a trooper's wife."

Dates in history involving tragedy and great loss of life, like December 7, 1941, and September 11, 2001, are embedded in most Americans' minds. Now, a new memorable date has been added: November 5, 2009, the Fort Hood



Trooper Hutzler, wife Beth. She's a nurse.

massacre. It is a date that thousands of Fort Hood soldiers will long remember. It will also remain embedded in the minds of Killeen citizens, dozens of Texas law officers and especially the troopers of Killeen DPS.

"Even though I was not inside the Fort or really near the massacre," says Trooper John Hutzler, "it will remain a black day in my memory." And along with that goes a good thought: "I'm proud to be an American, and a Texas trooper."

* * * *

Like Trooper Hutzler, veteran **St. Corporal Harpin Myers** was on the highway when Sergeant McElroy's emergency call came about the Fort Hood shooting. He and some fellow troopers were returning from an advanced accident school in Waco and were near Belton. Moments later, he and the other troopers were in their Killeen DPS office being briefed.

Multiple shooters spraying bullets inside the Fort? Harpin's first thought was a fearful one. He knew that his father, a retired career Army veteran, had planned to go inside the Fort that day to get a prescription refilled near the location. Harpin quickly called his parents home. His dad was safe at home, having changed his mind about the Fort Hood visit. But the information was "sketchy." The incident reminded Harpin of the Luby's incident in 1991.

Sr. Corporal Myers' lieutenant sent him to a command

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Fort Hood area troopers...continued from page 4

post which had been quickly set up about 50 yards from the shooting scene. "It was a busy scene there," he said. "Many ambulances, police officers, troopers, Fort Hood M.P.s and frightened civilians with questions."

The shooting was over when he arrived. Casualty figures were coming in. They were frightening and also uncertain. Trying to learn more, he questioned several soldiers. He soon returned to his Lt. at Killeen DPS (a few miles away) and reported his fragmented information.



Veteran Trooper Harpin Myers, HP - Killeen.

Soon he was meeting incoming SWAT teams giving them information and directions. Several of them were from Austin. From several cities, they seemed to come in caravans, and continued arriving throughout the afternoon. Harpin told them which radio channel could give them more information. "They came prepared to confront an assault, if necessary," he said. "There were eight or nine different vehicles."

Sr. Corporal Harpin Myers was amazed at how many DPS troopers arrived at the command post—and how fast they got there after the 1:30 p.m. shooting. It seemed that troops from all DPS services were there – HP, DL, Aircraft and CID. He knew that many had already worked a full shift somewhere else. "They stayed as long as necessary," he said, "and nobody complained."

Sr. Corporal Myers also had a long day. It had started at 5:30 a.m. He was released to go home at 11:30 p.m. Yes, his wife and all of his children were glad to see him. They had monitored all possible news throughout the afternoon.

All in a days work for DPS troopers? Well, not exactly. It was a weird, chaotic, emotionally draining day for John Hutzler, Harpin Myers and their fellow Killeen troopers. The killer had left a trail of blood, sadness, shock and anger.

By Jack Lawler

Sr. Cpl. Myers comes from a large family of law officers, and has completed almost 30 years of DPS service. He has seven children (five are adopted). His father and mother live in Copperas Cove. They have 28 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His brothers and sisters are: Todd, Austin PD; Christopher, Sgt. University of Texas PD; Melanie, a retired DPS Criminal Intelligence/Polygraph Sgt.; Eric, a former DPS pilot; Patrick, a chief of police for a school district; Sylvania, a retired registered nurse; and Ron, a manager for a computer company.

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is telling her story in the hope that the man who assaulted her will be caught.

Through new and improved DNA testing, the FBI is conducting tests in its Quantico lab and there is great hope that this horrible crime can now be solved. Instances like this will become the norm in criminal investigations.

So not only can we hope to significantly reduce the number of people wrongfully convicted, but also identify, catch and prosecute those who actually commit the crimes.

In some instances, DNA tests can work miracles. But these tests are also subject to a large number of limitations and costs. It is practically impossible to have evidence in so many cases that is capable of yielding DNA test results.

That's why we have to always make sure the public understands both the benefits and limitations of DNA testing. Some of the current forensic television shows mislead the public and do a disservice to law enforcement efforts.

But in the right circumstances, we are getting closer and closer to insuring that the guilty are found and convicted and the innocent exonerated. Keep tuned.

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

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*If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence,
it's probably because there's a septic tank underneath.*

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God. That shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way.

-M. Louise Haskins



Health tips

Outsmart your supermarket

Ever make a quick stop at the supermarket for a few things only to go home with considerably more than you had planned? Part of the reason is that supermarkets are designed with human tendencies in mind. To shop smart:

- *Make a list* – If you're tempted to deviate, check the Nutrition Facts label. Look for calories per serving, fiber content, fat amounts and types, sodium, sugar, vitamins and minerals. Chances are you would be better off sticking to your list.
- *Don't shop when you're hungry* – You'll likely encounter the smell of fresh-baked goods or ready-to-eat deli specials. Marketing through the air is tough to resist, especially if you're hungry.
- *Shop the perimeter* – That's where you'll find fresh produce, lean meats, and low-fat and fat-free dairy products.
- *Know where to look* – The general rule is that top-selling items are at eye level. Look up and down before making a selection. You may spot a generic product that's comparable in nutrients and less expensive. Staples are typically midway into an aisle. This creates more search time and a better chance you'll buy something along the way that's not on your list.

Reprint with permission from *Mayo Clinic Health Letter*, January 2010.

OOPS! Did you forget to renew your TSTA membership before the December 31 deadline? All is not lost, you can still renew, but you must wait six months for TSTA's free legal assistance. All other TSTA benefits will be restored immediately upon receipt of your renewal form and your \$25 annual dues. Renew now! For your family's sake - regain your TSTA member benefits.

Editorial

Fresh New Year, big new challenges for DPS troopers and other officers

So you've survived another busy holiday season – and another year that went by unbelievably fast. And you handled some tough problems, some disappointments, some high moments, some big changes and some tense moments. Maybe you took a financial "hit." And maybe you shed some tears over someone or something you lost. But you're here, you're working and you have a job to do that's far more important than the jobs most people are doing. And some have no job.

Even though the events of the past year and the mind-boggling things were unsettling, and the new stuff popping all around you now gives you new worries, maybe you should thank the one upstairs for putting you where you are right now.

Yes, you do have a unique job, and it is so very important – because maintaining public safety is the thin but strong fabric that holds this part of our great country together. The importance of doing it trumps the dangers, the hardships, the uncertainties and the sacrifices. What if there were no state troopers, no rangers, no sheriff's deputies, and no city police? The answer to this is unthinkable.

Your neighbors, the people in your town (county) need to be safe from bomb threats at their schools, sporting events or churches. Their children must be protected from dangerous illegal drugs on their school grounds, their daughters safe as they walk through a neighborhood park, their sons safe from drunken drivers as they go out on a "date." Then there's cross-country people who travel our highways. The enemies of our country have dedicated themselves to killing American civilians and our military. They would as soon kill us here as in a Middle East country. They must be stopped before they start. Your new DPS Director Steve McCraw said it this way: "You are the tip of the spear that confronts this huge danger."

Then, there is your own family with which you are blessed. Are you just lucky to have them, or did you earn them? Or, is it because Somebody up there loves you? If you don't have a family, there is somebody who loves you, watches you and depends upon you. And there is the DPS family. It's real. It includes, of course, your fellow officers, the guys and gals who back you up. Your being a part of it is a big plus. If you're a rookie and don't understand this yet, you soon will. If you're a veteran trooper, you know the importance of helping a new trooper.

You don't have to do much research in order to get motivated for the new year. So sharpen up, saddle up and move out.

One other thing, TSTA cares about you too. When the need is great, TSTA is there.

Happy New Year!

By Jack Lawler

Two DPS Brothers:

They grew up close and stay close today

Before Dad's retirement, they were a three-trooper family.

Imagine two young brothers about 8 and 11 years old, their Dad is a DPS trooper, and they're running loose on a 240-acre ranch that had horses and goats. You guessed it. They rode horses, skipped rocks across ponds, shot .22 rifles, climbed trees, and played "cops and robbers." Both boys were proud of their DPS trooper father, James Burson. Sometimes they got to ride in his patrol car (a Mustang), and sometimes they pretended they were in a patrol car chasing "bad guys."

The boys were Jake and Josh Burson. Jake, the oldest, was born in Clifton, TX in 1977, when his Dad was in the Recruit Training Academy in Austin. New Trooper James Burson, after graduation, was assigned to Colorado City, where Josh was born in 1981. Twelve years later, with the two boys growing fast, their trooper father was transferred to Waco, and the family settled in nearby McGregor, a small town. By this time the two brothers were great pals – and into lots of "things". The Bursons were members of the College Avenue Baptist Church: the boys were raised going to Sunday School and church.

The brothers attended McGregor High School, where they graduated. Jake was three years ahead of Josh. Jake played basketball; Josh played football. Jake's senior year in high school was especially busy – he attended school half a day, and worked the other half-day as a butcher in a grocery store. Both boys never wavered in their desire to become law officers – even DPS troopers like their Dad. That ambition went all the way back to kindergarten days.



Josh, (left), and big brother Jake.

After high school graduation in McGregor, still with a state trooper career in his sights and needing 60 credit hours of college, older brother Jake enrolled in McLennan Community College in Waco. With little brother Josh still in high school and his Dad on the DPS Waco Highway Patrol, he graduated in 1996. He applied with DPS, but was not accepted. He then got a job with the Woodway Police Department (a suburb of Waco) where he worked two years. During these days, Jake married his high school



Josh (left) and Jake today.

sweetheart, Brandi Majors. The marriage was at the church they had both attended for years, College Avenue Baptist of McGregor. It was a large wedding – a family affair. Jake's brother Josh was best man, with his father and great uncle serving as groomsmen. The newlyweds went to Six Flags Over Texas on their honeymoon. Jake kept applying with DPS and was accepted on his third application.

Meanwhile, Josh, coming along behind him on the education trail, also went to Waco's McLennan Community College. He helped meet college expenses with a warehouse job at a county electric co-op. After earning 62 course credit hours there, he attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Then, he applied with DPS and was quickly accepted. Someone who had been recruited had dropped out; Josh had been an alternate, and got the place. The brothers' arrival at the Recruit Training Academy was not simultaneous, but it was close. Josh began his six-month training with Class A-01 in September 2001. Jake started his training period three months later, in January 2002 with Class A-02. So their training periods overlapped, but they were in different groups. Did both adjust to the rigorous physical and mental training "grinder?" Yes, their trooper father had briefed them on things they could expect. They were mentally and physically ready, and they soon discovered that several other recruits had fathers, uncles or brothers who were troopers.

At training academy recruit graduations for the brothers, DPS gave their trooper father the honor of pinning

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Two DPS Brothers...continued from page 7

on their badges. "Since the day I let them both go deer hunting without me," says James Burson, "I have always been proud of them. But on the days they became state



Josh: the uniform fit better - later.

troopers – graduation days -- I was 'doubly proud.' Those were special moments."

James Burson, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, retired from DPS in 2004. He is now an Assistant Chief of Police in his hometown of McGregor. He recalls that, as a trooper dad, he did not "push" his boys to become troopers. "But, at various times while growing up, they would ask me questions about trooper work, and I would give them straight answers. They were very aware of my uniform, my patrol car, and some of my duties."

After graduation Josh Burson was assigned to the Highway Patrol in Corsicana. After a few months there he was transferred to Colorado City, where he stayed six years – until 2008. Meanwhile, his big brother Jake was also assigned to the Highway Patrol and had been sent to Cleburne. He worked there for a year, and then was transferred to Waco. The brothers stayed in close "touch" by telephone and in person. They both liked HP work. But both had an inner yearning – they both aspired to do investigative work.

Perhaps the yearnings went back to the "good guys-bad guys" games they played as little boys. They wanted to learn the highway offenders' reasons behind their being stopped – especially where drugs were involved. Ironically or intentionally, DPS fulfilled their aspirations. In 2007, Jake was promoted to Criminal Investigation/ Narcotics (CID). Jake went to far away Alpine. In 2008, Josh was promoted to CID and was assigned to El Paso and transferred to Abilene five months later.

Jake found heavy drug smuggling in his Alpine area,

which was only 85 miles from the Mexican border. Meantime, Josh faced lots of investigative work in his Abilene area. After a few months at Alpine, Jake was transferred to San Angelo. Now the brothers were in the same work, in unique West Texas, only 90 minutes apart, as West Texans measure their miles.

They both like their work today. Although their work hours are sometimes long and unpredictable, they like their flexibility and freedom afforded – something they never had as highway patrol troopers. Often they can be home on weekends, which pleases their wives and kids. Have their parents worried through the years about their safety in their dangerous professions?

"If so," says Josh, "they never showed the worries. Dad always showed confidence in us, and our mother was always a great supporter of our careers."

In Intelligence work, of course, they do not wear DPS uniforms, as they did on the highway patrol. Neither minds this, although they had both achieved the rank of Sergeant as uniformed HP officers. Some still call them "Narcs," but their official classification today is "Agent."

It is no surprise to learn that both have strong memories of their highway patrol days. Jake recalls some high-speed chases. Once he pursued a motorcyclist all the way from Waco to Austin – at high speeds. The motorcyclist had marijuana on him.

Another high-speed chase included a truck/tractor 18-wheeler who supposedly had bombs on it. A fellow trooper finally shot out his tires, and the offender's vehicle ran into a highway sign. He had gasoline on board and set the truck on fire, trying to kill himself. He failed, then jumped out, and Jake and other troopers captured him.

Josh has a special highway patrol memory...When he was in Corsicana in Spring of 2002, the Sheriff's Office in Navarro County got a call from the "rest area" south of town. An elderly lady couldn't find her husband or their vehicle. He was close to the area and went to the rest area and met with the lady. She got in his vehicle and they attempted to find their vehicle and her husband. They had been travelling to a location down south. About fifteen miles down the road, they saw their vehicle and he stopped the husband who didn't realize he had left his wife. Both were very embarrassed. It turned out the wife was asleep in the backseat when the husband pulled over at the rest stop; while he was in the bathroom, she woke up and went inside to go to the bathroom. The husband came back out and assumed the wife was still asleep in the back, so he left...without the wife. Josh told him to just stick with that story and maybe he wouldn't get in trouble. Neither one of them had cell phones so she couldn't call him. "This probably wouldn't happen nowadays with cell phones," Josh says.

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Although the Burson brothers are still young DPS officers, they have lots of miles behind them in HP and CID work, and have a few words of advice for younger officers, especially the rookies.

From Josh: "Remember your training. It can save your life, or somebody else's. Also, get to know the people in your community."

From Jake: "Make sure you do the right thing and maintain your integrity. Also, take care of your business."

Jake had a unique highway experience that contains valuable advice to married officers. He was sent to investigate a one-vehicle crash involving a DWI. Just before he arrived, a second drunk came along and hit the first one. Jake arrested the second DWI driver and was putting him into his patrol car when a third DWI crashed into his car and flipped Jake over the car. The drunk woman in his black and white was angry that someone had hit her! Jake's sergeant ordered him to go to the hospital in the ambulance. Believing that he had no broken bones and refusing to be strapped down, Jake hobbled into the ambulance.

He called his wife. It was after 1:00 a.m. and she didn't answer her phone, so he left her a voice mail. "Hey, just wanted to let you know everything's fine. I got hit by a drunk and am headed to the hospital. I love you, and will see you in the morning." Arriving at the hospital, he was met by an angry wife, mad as a stomped on rattlesnake. She educated him on the effects of leaving a voice mail when he was being taken to the hospital.

"So guys," Jake says, "in this type situation, my advice is, don't just call one time, keep calling til you reach her."

The Burson DPS troopers: father (James) and two brothers (Jake and Josh). They were close when they were very young - they are close today, and they could probably write a book about law enforcement families with three or more officers. There would probably be some funny stuff in it!



Josh, yesterday.



Jake, today.

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Little known facts about gun control

"In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians were unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

"Germany established gun control in 1938 and from 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

"China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

"Guatemala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

"Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

"Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million 'educated' people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated."

Switzerland issues every household a rifle! Its government trains every adult in the use of it. Switzerland has the lowest gun-related crime rate of any civilized country in the world.

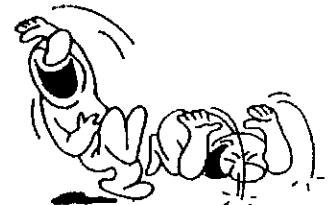
You won't see this data on the US evening news, or hear politicians disseminating this information.

Notice! All TSTA Members:

Mountain State University can help you accelerate career success. Texas representatives are here to help you. Please visit www.mountainstate.edu/tcleose or contact Texas Partnership Coordinator Andra Nieto at anieto@mountainstate.edu or 1-800-766-6067 ext. 1773 (toll free) or 304-237-3658 (cell) for information. Call MSU today and find out more.

Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

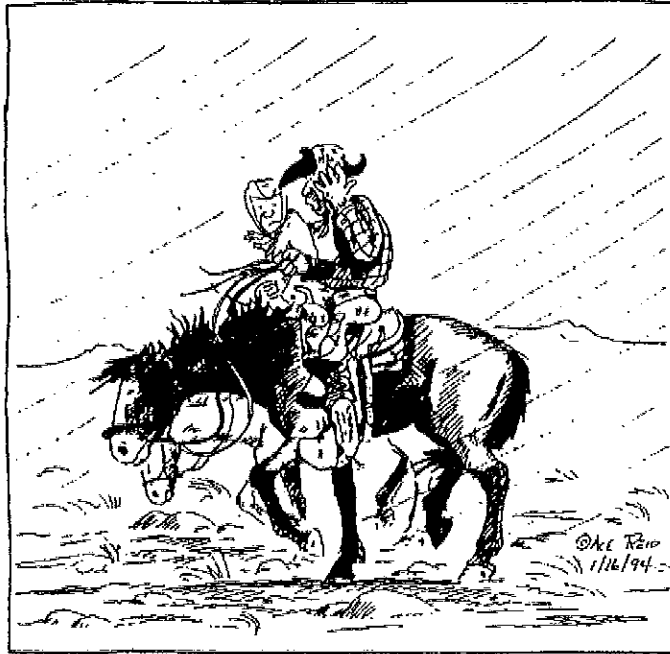
* Kuempel's Korner *



Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
-The Bible

COWPOKES

By Ace Reid



"I shore wish them characters bellyachin' about global warmin' could share this little experience with us."

The instructor at a company-sponsored first-aid course asked one of his employers, "What would you do if you had rabies?"

Answer to worker: "Bite my supervisors."

Marriages are made in Heaven. But so are thunder, lightning, tornadoes and hailstorms.

Ronald Reagan, suffering from Alzheimers, reportedly wisecracked, "It's not so bad. Having a bad memory is a blessing. I forget there's a democrat in the White House."

A graduate student with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

A graduate student with an engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

A graduate student with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

A graduate student with a liberal arts degree asks, "You want fries with that?"

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak out and remove all doubt.

Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not.

Husband to wife during marital spat: "As you leave, go out backwards so I'll think you're coming in."

Diplomacy is the art of saying, "Nice doggie, nice doggie," until you can find a rock.

The first sign of maturity is that the volume knob also turns to the left.

Marketing people say that nothing really happened in this world until somebody sold something. And the first salesperson was Eve.

Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq, where the Tower of Babel was, and where Noah built the ark. Hmmm...

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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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2010

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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 _____

