

★ Area obituaries

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part of the business, he became the Deputy Marshal for the city of Tyler and for the last 18 years he was the Justice of the Peace for Precinct No. 2 in Tyler. Bill loved to fish, but most of all he loved his family and their trips to Galveston.

Bill is survived by his loving family including his wife of 36 years, Kathy Burleson Lemmert of Flint; daughter, Ruthie Linsenbardt and husband Eric of Missouri City, Texas; grandchildren, Madison and Chelsea Linsenbardt of Missouri City, Texas; brothers George Lemmert and wife Sue of Chandler, Dan Lemmert and wife LaQuetta of Tyler, and David Lemmert of Dallas.

Memorials may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude's Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Berta Marie Parsons

Services for Berta Marie Parsons, 87, of Tyler, were held Wednesday, December 3 at Rose Hill Cemetery with Bill Goble officiating.

Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, under the direction of Chandler Memorial Funeral Home. Ms. Parsons passed away December 1, 2008 in Tyler, Texas. She was born November 26, 1921 in Tyler.

She was a life-long resident of East Texas, was a Methodist and retired as a dental hygienist. Survivors are a nephew, Steve Parsons of Longview; and niece, Claudia Layton of Chandler.

Jennifer Ann Carrington

Funeral services for Jennifer Ann Carrington, 48, of Tyler were held on Thursday, November 4, 2008, 10:30 a.m. at Chandler Memorial Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Jim Ross officiating. Burial was in Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery in Tyler, Texas, under direction of Chandler Memorial Funeral Home.

Ms. Carrington passed away November 30, 2008 at her residence. She was born November 22, 1960 in Austin, Texas and lived most of her life in the Tyler area. She was a Presbyterian and a school teacher at St. Gregory's. She had attained a Masters degree.

Survivors include sister, Elizabeth Campos and husband Julian; nephew, Joshua Carrington Campos; niece, Polly Jennifer Campos; and an aunt, Jo Beaver.

Pallbearers were Jose Roman, Rogelio Ledesma, Fernando Estrada, Joshua Campos, Julian Campos, and Lionel Campos.

Honorary pallbearers were John Riggle and Bill Jones. Visitation was held Wednesday, December 3, 2008, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

All Things Historical

T Ceremony Honors Canton's Cherokee Line

The Cherokee Boundary Line, an important part of East Texas, finally got the recognition it deserves recently in a ceremony on an oiltop road north of Canton.

Officials of the Van Zandt County Historical Commission, joined by two members of the Texas Historical Commission, dedicated a Texas Historical Marker telling the story of the boundary line, which once marked the boundary between Indian lands and Texas, running from near Alto northward to the Sabine River.

The Cherokees, who called themselves Ani-Yunwiya, the "principal people," once were one of the foremost Indian nations of the U.S.

Cherokee society reflected an elaborate social and political structure built around a town run by a council dominated by older men. The Cherokees also had their own written language.

The Cherokee land grant once occupied parts of Van Zandt, Gregg, Wood, Smith, Rusk and Cherokee counties and bordered six other counties.

Boundaries were determined in a treaty with the Cherokees, but in 1839 after years of conflict, the Republic of Texas drove many of the Cherokees into Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

In 1844, surveyor William Angus ran a 38-mile-long line from the Neches River west of Alto to the Sabine River. Officials later used the line as the starting place for other early surveys, in-



By Bob Bowman

cluding one creating Van Zandt County.

The new historical marker stands at the junction of the Cherokee line and the Old Dallas-Shreveport Road on Van Zandt County Road 1117.

The marker is the eighth to be placed along the Old Dallas-Shreveport Road to identify and preserve the history of significant locations, events and people who have added to the rich history of Van Zandt County.

And, today, near the Oklahoma town of Tahlequah, the history of the Cherokees has been preserved with a tribal museum and other tributes to their rich history.

★ Charlie Poole, prisoner of war

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Simpson, Capt. Robert G. Certain, 1st Lt. Robert J. Thomas and Sgt. Walter L. Ferguson. Of this crew, Certain, Simpson and Johnson were captured and shown the bodies of the other crew members. Six years later, the bodies of Rissi, Thomas and Ferguson were returned to U.S. control by the Vietnamese. Certain, Simpson and Johnson were held prisoner in Hanoi until March 29, 1973, when they were released in Operation Homecoming.

Capt. Hal K. Wilson was in the lead aircraft of a B-52 cell from Utapao. Also on board his aircraft were crewmen Maj. Fernando Alexander, Capt. Charles A. Brown, Jr., Capt. Henry C. Barrows, Capt. Richard W. Cooper Jr. (the navigator), and Sgt. Charlie S. Poole (the tailgunner). Wilson's aircraft was hit by a SAM near his target area and crashed in the early morning hours of December 19, sustaining damage to the fuselage. In the ensuing fire, there was no time for orderly bailout, but as later examination of radio tapes indicated, all six crewmen deployed their parachutes and evidently safely ejected. The aircraft damage report indicated that all six men were prisoners.

Radio Hanoi announced in news broadcasts between December 19 and 22 that the six crewmen had been captured. When the war ended, however, only four of the crew returned from Hanoi prisons. Hanoi has remained silent about the fate of Charlie Poole and Richard Cooper.

The Christmas Bombings, despite press accounts to the contrary, were of the most precise the world had seen. Pilots involved in the immense series of strikes generally agree that the strikes against anti-aircraft and strategic targets was so successful that the U.S., had it desired, "could have taken the entire country of Vietnam by inserting an average Boy Scout troop in Hanoi and marching them southward."

To achieve this precision bombing, the Pentagon deemed it necessary to stick to a regular

flight path. For many missions, the predictable B-52 strikes were anticipated and prepared for by the North Vietnamese. Later, however, flight paths were altered and attrition all but eliminated any hostile threat from the ground.

Linebacker II involved 155 Boeing B-52 Stratofortress bombers stationed at Anderson AFB, Guam (72nd Strat Wing) and another 50 B-52s stationed at Otapao Airbase, Thailand (307th Strat Wing), an enormous number of bombers with over one thousand men flying the missions. However, the bombings were not conducted without high loss of aircraft and personnel. During the month of December 1972, 61 crew members onboard ten B-52 aircraft were shot down and were captured or declared missing. (The B-52 carried a crew of six men; however, one B-52 lost carried an extra crewman). Of these 61, 33 men were released in 1973. The others remained missing at the end of the war. Over half of these survived to eject safely. What happened to them?

Reports mount that have convinced many authorities that Americans are still held captive in Southeast Asia. Are Poole and Cooper among them? Do they know the country they love has abandoned them? Isn't it time we found them and brought them home?

From the New Orleans Times-Picayune, Sunday, March 12, 2000:

Family waits to lay pilot dad to rest - Vietnam was not over until body comes home

by James Minton, *The Advocate*

Ruth Poole has vivid memories of the day she learned her father's plane had been shot down during a bombing mission over the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

"It was hard to believe," said Poole, who was then nearing her 15th birthday.

After 27 years, the war still intrudes into her life as she struggles with resolving the loss of her father, whose body has been recovered but not released for burial.

In December 1972, President Nixon ordered an all-out bombing campaign against North Vietnam to push the North Vietnamese back to the peace talks, which had stalled in Paris.

Called Operation Linebacker II, the campaign included the first use of Air Force B-52 bombers over North Vietnam, including the plane "Rose 01" for which Tech. Sgt. Charlie Poole was the tailgunner.

Based at Westover Air Force Base, Mass., his plane was operating that month from U-Tapao Air Base, Thailand, and went on a mission on Dec. 18, the first night of Linebacker II.

"My Mom took us to school that morning as usual. We knew a B-52 (from Westover) had been shot down during the night, but we didn't know which one," Ms. Poole recalled.

As she and her sister neared their duplex apartment after school, they noticed an unusual number of cars parked outside.

"I said I hoped it wasn't at our house, but when we got closer I could see all the uniforms inside and I knew it was Dad's plane. It was quite upsetting," she said.

Although the Pentagon never classified Charlie Poole as a prisoner of war, four members of the crew bailed out after the plane was hit by two surface-to-air missiles. Poole and the sixth crewman, Capt. Richard Cooper, were unable to eject.

Hanoi thought it had captured an entire B-52 crew, which it paraded through the streets. A local newspaper listed Charlie Poole as a POW, giving the family a glimmer of hope, she said.

Those hopes were dashed as Americans made plans to welcome the former POWs home.

"I remember when Mom got the call that Dad's name was not on the list and wouldn't be released.

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SET FREE

The children of Israel were set free
When they crossed over the Red Sea.
Yes, God delivered them
From the hand of the enemy.

We too have been set free
When we repented and asked to be
A part of God's family.
Yes, we were delivered and set free.

Set free, yes, set free.
Yes, we have been set free.
Forget the past, we are free.
From the cross Jesus set us free.

by Thomas L. Howard

News Briefs

Music Nite

Music Nite at Parkside Shore. Great Country, Gospel and 50's music. First and Third Monday from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Free food, free music and Lots of Fun. Donations are appreciated. Call Nancy at 903-849-1965 or Gwen at 903-849-4180

Party for Ray

A congratulatory party will be held for Sheriff Ray Nutt and Constable for Precinct 4 Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 8 at Sunrise Shores Community Center. Everyone is Invited!

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