

This Month:

August Moments In History
Jeff Milton, Lawman
Summer Birding
Food Relief
Captain Nancy Aldrich
2016 Pacesetter Campaign
Texas Rangers Capture Fisher
Salvation Army Events

IN PRINT, ON-LINE & ON FACEBOOK

The Valley Spotlight

FREE
TAKE ME HOME

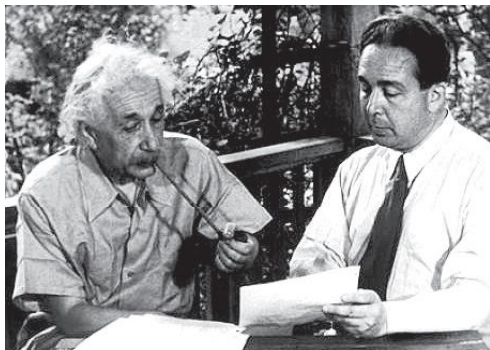
August 2016

The Little Paper You'll Want To Keep & Share

Vol. 3 No. 3

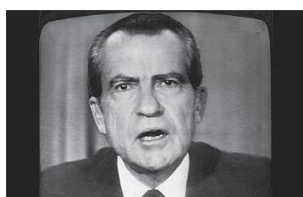
The Month Of August In History

August 2, 1939: Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay.



A second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred when an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki.

August 9, 1974: Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency as a result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon had appeared on television the night before and announced his decision to the American people.



Facing possible impeachment by Congress, he became the only U.S. President ever to resign.

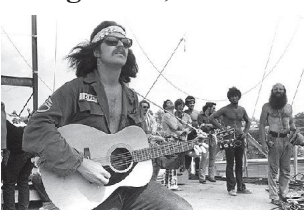
August 13, 1961: The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles (166 km) around the perimeter of West Berlin. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.



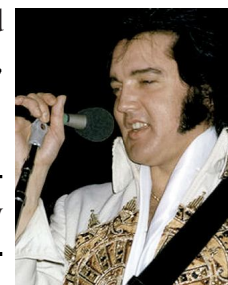
August 14, 1945: Following the two Atomic Bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms originally issued at Potsdam on July 26, 1945, with the exception that the Japanese Emperor's sovereignty would be maintained. Japanese Emperor Hirohito, who had never spoken on radio, then recorded an announcement admitting Japan's surrender, without actually using the word. The announcement was broadcast via radio to the Japanese people at noon the next day. The formal surrender ceremony occurred later, on September 2, 1945, on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. August 14 is now celebrated as V-J Day, commemorating President Truman's announcement that Japan had surrendered to the Allies.



August 15, 1969: Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands and drew a crowd of more than 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolize the counter-culture movement of the 1960s.



August 16, 1977: Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m., at age 42.



August 17, 1998: Bill Clinton became the first sitting President to give testimony before a grand jury in which he, the President, was the focus of the investigation. This resulted from a sweeping investigation of the President by Independent Counsel Ken Starr as well as a private lawsuit concerning alleged sexual harassment by Clinton before he became President. In the evening, President Clinton appeared on national television and gave a speech admitting he had engaged in an improper relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The admission occurred several months after a much publicized denial.



August 18, 1920: The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote.



August 19, 1991: Soviet hard-line Communists staged a coup, temporarily removing Mikhail Gorbachev from power. The coup failed within 72 hours as democratic reformer Boris Yeltsin rallied the Russian people. Yeltsin then became the leading power in the country. The Communist Party was soon banned and by December the Soviet Union itself disintegrated.



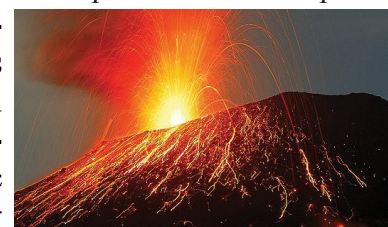
August 21, 1959: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii to the Union as the 50th state.



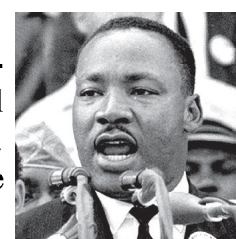
August 24-25, 1814: During the War of 1812, Washington, D.C., was invaded by British forces that burned the Capitol, the White House and most other public buildings along with a number of private homes. The burning was in retaliation for the earlier American burning of York (Toronto).



August 26, 1883: One of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in recorded history occurred on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa. Explosions were heard 2,000 miles away. Tidal waves 120 ft. high killed 36,000 persons on nearby islands, while five cubic miles of earth were blasted into the air up to a height of 50 miles.



August 28, 1963: The March on Washington occurred as over 250,000 persons attended a Civil Rights rally in Washington, D.C., at which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his now famous I Have a Dream speech.



August 31, 1997: Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers. The crash occurred shortly after midnight in Paris inside a tunnel along the Seine River.



Jeff Davis Milton ... The First Border Patrolman

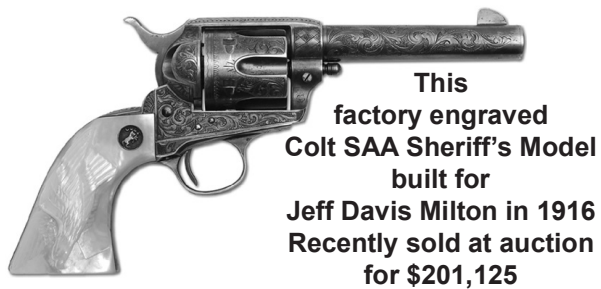
He was a fearless officer and a master of firearms whose long and colorful career as a lawman spanned more than half a century in the troubled times of the Southwest. This is the legacy of the "First Border Patrolman", Jeff Davis Milton.

On November 7, 1861 Caroline, the wife of the governor of Florida Confederate General John Milton, gave birth to a son. They named him Jeff Davis Milton. Jeff grew up on the family estate in Sylvania, Florida which fell into hard times following the end of the Civil War.

At the age of 15, a grown man by the standards of the times, he moved to Texas where he worked in a relative's mercantile store and tried his hand at cowboying.

Seeking more excitement in life, on July 27, 1880, Jeff applied to become a Texas Ranger at their headquarters in Austin, Texas. Only 18 years old at the time, he lied about his age to meet the requirement age of 21 and was sworn in as a Ranger private.

In those days Rangers had to furnish their own firearms, Jeff chose a Colt .45 single action and an 1873 .44 Winchester carbine. The .45 single action was his weapon of choice for his entire life. During his later years, he carried a second gun, a cut-down .45 in a shoulder holster under his shirt. This second gun was destined to get him out of many tight places.



Traveling thousands of horseback miles in his three years with the Rangers, Jeff came to know the sprawling state of Texas like the back of his hand. Much of his time was spent in the Trans Pecos and Big Bend areas as the Southern Pacific railroad laid new track into El Paso.

There was no shortage of gamblers, outlaws, and prostitutes following the construction work keeping things interesting for a teenage Ranger.

Milton was arrested in Mitchell County following an incident when a belligerent cowman shot up the town and drew on Milton and two fellow officers when they arrested him.

The cowman was shot down, and the three young lawmen were charged with homicide in a lynch mob atmosphere fueled by threats from the rancher's friends. The three unarmed defendants were escorted before the Justice of the Peace, each "guarded" by a brother Ranger wearing not one but two revolvers, one convenient to the gun hand of the accused. The would be lynching party sized up the situation and retreated to the nearest bar. Milton and his partners were eventually acquitted.

Desiring a change, Jeff left the Texas Rangers and headed to New Mexico. He homesteaded a small ranch and soon his reputation led him to deputy sheriff's jobs in various counties, as well as to positions as a cattle detective.

For a while, he carried a special commission from the governor of New Mexico. His efficiency at rounding up cattle thieves, as well as his mild and friendly manner gained him many New Mexico friends.

In 1887, Collector of Customs Joseph Magoffin of El Paso hired Milton to ride from Nogales across the desert clear to the Gulf of California. His job was to prevent smuggling, one man and a packhorse covering hundreds of miles.

Jeff's reputation as marksman and an efficient lawman grew as his guns came into play more than once during his comparatively long tenure with Customs which ended when political forces caused the discharge of the entire service in 1889.

For a while, Milton reverted to deputy sherifing, horsetrading, and prospecting. During his Customs patrolling and subsequent battling about southern Arizona, Jeff made lifelong friends among the Papago Indians, friends who more than once aided him with difficult arrests and dangerous passages through the desert.

While recovering from a broken ankle, Milton took up the unlikely position of conductor of a Pullman car on a Southern Pacific run from El Paso to Mexico City. Otherwise rowdy passengers were inclined to tone it down a bit when they discovered the identity of their well-known host, who always had his .45 in his waistband.

El Paso had become a wide-open town. The railroad brought with it an anything-goes gambler's paradise. Booze, bunco, bordellos, and just plain murder and robbery were the order of the day. El Paso's city councilmen offered Jeff the position of Chief of Police. He gladly accepted, having become bored with the mundane task of collecting fares.

El Paso was about to be reformed.

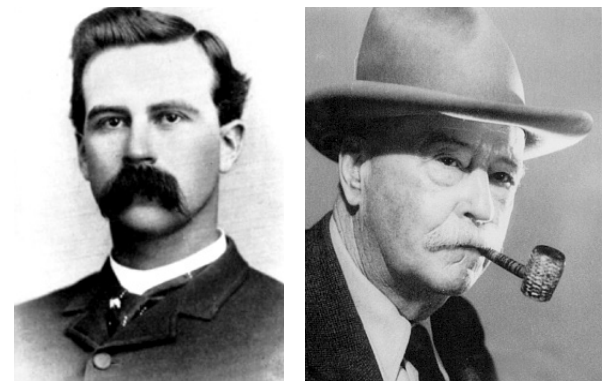
With a new local ordinance against gambling behind him, and his trusty sixhooter, Jeff started a mass transport of gamblers out of El Paso.

Milton's well known, and well deserved, reputation came in handy when the infamous John Wesley Hardin came to town. Hardin had recently been released after serving 15 years at the state pen at Huntsville for one of his many murders. Having studied law while in prison, he planned to hang out his barrister's shingle in the wild border town of El Paso. Armed with sixguns and rifles, Hardin and his cohorts were confronted by Milton as they entered town.

Jeff informed the stone-faced Hardin and his group that he wouldn't permit the carrying of arms on the streets of El Paso. There was a brief silence and then Hardin made the wise choice to surrender their guns to the nearest bartender.

In a questionable election, the El Paso reform party was voted out and Jeff was fired by the new politicians who wanted no part of his brand of law. He got work as a deputy U.S. Marshal which he found less than lucrative. Jeff hired on as a Wells Fargo express messenger on the Southern Pacific run from Benson, Arizona, to Guaymas, Mexico. Armed with food, sixgun, shotgun, and rifle, he escorted many valuable shipments of gold and silver bullion while interspersing railway trips with horseback forays in search of border outlaws.

The bones in Jeff's left upper arm were shattered in a gun battle that occurred when lawman, turned outlaw, Burt Alvord and five others raided the express car at Fairbank, Arizona. Shooting one handed with his shotgun, Jeff dropped two of his antagonists. Rapidly weakening from loss of blood, he shut the door, concealed the keys in the safe, improvised a tourniquet, and passed out. Alvord and his gang searched the unconscious Milton for the keys to the loot. Failing to find the keys, they gave up the raid. After a long recuperation, Jeff emerged with a crippled left arm.



Jeff Davis Milton
born 1861 - died 1947

Even with this handicap, his efforts were later largely responsible for the capture or death of the Alvord gang.

In 1904, Jeff was commissioned by President Theodore Roosevelt to the position of Mounted Chinese Inspector. Large numbers of Chinese were being smuggled out of Mexico into the U.S., which prohibited their entry as per the Chinese Exclusion Act signed by President Chester A. Arthur on May 6, 1882. Milton's job was much the same as it had been with customs, as he covered much of the same area of southern Arizona. A healthy life on horseback kept him energetic and young. He raised a little harmless hell from time to time and was said to "cover the ground he stood on".

Catching Chinese illegals proved rather mundane to the veteran lawman, so he made the most of it by filling his days with personal combats, guiding, and prospecting.

In 1919, Milton married Mildred Taitt of New York and at least went through the motions of settling down. Five years later, at the age of 62, Jeff Milton became the first officer appointed to the newly established U.S. Immigration Service Border Patrol in 1924.

The Economy Act of 1932 forced the still active Milton into retirement at age 70. The Sector Chief at El Paso wrote in praise of him: You have come to be regarded "as an institution rather than an individual. No other immigration officer has your value in cultivating for the Service the good will and friendship we must have for effective enforcement of the law."

Among U.S. Border Patrolmen today, Jeff Milton remains known as "the first Border Patrolman." Milton's final years were spent in Tucson where he passed away on May 7, 1947. As he wished, he was cremated and his ashes were scattered over his beloved Arizona desert.

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True Tales of a Valley Birder

by Keith Hackland (alamoinn@aol.com)

Summer Birding in the Valley

Some folks work in the fields, on roofs, in construction and garden in the summer here in the Valley. Other folks drive or fly in to bird watch. I respect everyone who has to work outdoors in the sun in three digit heat because they have to do that to earn a living. Birders do it for fun.

Why Summer Birding Is Great

Every month is different, and every month is great birding here where we live. Summer birding is amongst my favorite time because there is so much to see.

To start with, June and July are great months for fledglings, baby birds that have just left the nest, and are doing their best to become independent. This is the most vulnerable time for babies, because their motor skills are not fully developed, and they don't know who is a predator and who is a friend.

Lesser Nighthawks, a tropical bird that spends the summer in the Valley, nest on our roof. During June we see their fledglings in the yard, and we do our best to keep away predators. But it is not that simple. When a fledgling of most bird species senses danger, it freezes. That can protect it from detection by a predator, but does not protect it from a car. Last year in June I found a Lesser Nighthawk fledgling pressed flatter than a pancake on the road in front of our Inn in Alamo. That was a tough find to handle. It was clear that a car ran it down. This year one spent several days in our back yard, and I believe it was raised to adulthood successfully.

Walking out a hallway at our church in San Juan in late June I found a Black-crested Titmouse fledgling cowering against the wall inside the hall. I carefully lifted it up and took it outside, and placed it in a bush. The parents of most species continue to feed fledglings until they can fend for themselves. It was great to know that this species is nesting in urban areas. I hope it did well.

Summer Visitors

In addition to nighthawks, we have other species that visit the Valley in the summer. Two of the most dramatic are Flamingoes (occasionally), and Wood Storks (regularly). Flamingoes are normally found in parts of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. Some years one or more birds will wander onto the Texas coast and visit our lagoons and bays. These are quite different from Roseate Spoonbills that we enjoy year round, sometimes colloquially referred to as flamingoes but are not ...

simply compare their quite different bills to tell them apart.

Wood Storks also occur in Mexico and further south. They travel in flocks and are regularly seen during summer along the Texas Coast and in the Valley. They are tall white birds with black bills, and typically are seen foraging close to water, such as drainage ditches. They eat anything slower than they are, including frogs and fish. They are not picky, enjoying recently dead things, too. When flying they are reminiscent of American White Pelican.

We also enjoy many flycatcher species in summer. My favorite summer bird is the Groove-billed Ani. This is an interesting bird that is all black, including its parrot-like bill. People who look at them quickly may assume they are grackles, and I have heard them called crows. However, they are quite different from those other black birds. Anis sport a double jointed tail that flaps around as if not under their control. Their call is unique. We were pulling guinea grass recently behind our house in Alamo, and a single Ani dropped to the ground and followed us, coming as close at 18 inches to us. Likely it was looking for insects. Anis like hanging out in small flocks, but can also be seen alone. Their unusual bill and odd behavior sets them apart from all other birds.

We enjoy hummingbirds in our yard all summer, Buff-bellied and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, coming to our Turks Cap flowers and to our feeder.

Summer Migrants

Summer is also, perhaps unexpectedly, a busy time for migrants. By June shorebirds have completed their nesting and often the adults head south, leaving their offspring to migrate later. So we start looking for shorebirds. By July some song birds are migrating, for example the distinctive ochre red Orchard Oriole.

Summer Resident Specialties

Most of the Valley specialty birds (tropical species that are at or close to their northern limit in the Valley or are best seen here) occur throughout summer. Visiting birders and Valley birders report great sightings.



Black-crested Titmouse



Wood Stork



Groove-billed Ani

Summer Strategy

The most favorable time to bird in summer is early morning. Our guests are out at first light and return when the sun rises overhead. Evenings are also great times to bird, BBQ, and simply hang out outside in the summer. But for those folks who do not want to waste a minute on a siesta, during the hot hours birding from the car is comfortable and successful. Shorebirds, water birds, raptors, and road runners can be found outside foraging or loafing under the midday sun.

“Birds should be saved for utilitarian reasons; and, moreover, they should be saved because of reasons unconnected with dollars and cents. To lose the chance to see frigatebirds soaring in circles above the storm, or a file of pelicans winging their way homeward across the crimson afterglow of the sunset, or a myriad of terns flashing in the bright light of midday as they hover in a shifting maze above the beach ...

Why, the loss is like the loss of a gallery of the masterpieces of the artists of old time.”

Theodore Roosevelt




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Food Bank Rgv Food Relief by Omar Rodriguez

The toughest days are almost over for hungry families in the Rio Grande Valley. With school starting up again next month, many families struggling to make ends meet are feeling relief that their children will soon gain access to breakfast and lunches at school again. Unfortunately, on the other side of the coin, they must contend with preparing their children for school and that means extra expenses for uniforms, backpacks and school supplies that must meet school guidelines. That can often put them behind in their budgets once again, making them choose between bills, their children's education or getting nutritious food on the table.

The Food Bank RGV is there for families with food relief to help them make it through trying times like these. We are always looking for volunteers to help us sort food or help in our community garden. As always, monetary donations help us react to urgent needs right here in the Valley. A donation of \$20 can easily provide 100 healthy meals for children.

Another way is to have fun! Join us at Empty Bowls 2016, Sept. 13, 2016 at the Boggus Ford Events Center in Pharr, Texas. Over 30 local restaurants will be serving samples of some of their best foods. There will be silent auctions and music. Each ticket holder will take home a one-of-a-kind ceramic bowl that symbolizes hunger.



Find out more about Empty Bowls and how we help feed up to 42,000 people per week at: foodbankrgv.com or call (956) 682-8101



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August is *Family Fun Month*



As summer draws to a close, take the time to schedule fun activities for your entire family to enjoy together. Here in the Rio Grande Valley, these could be a day at the beach, a picnic at a local park, a trip to the state park or wildlife refuge, going to the zoo, visiting one of our many museums, having a backyard BBQ or even just staying at home and enjoying quality time playing games or reading stories.

The important thing is, you are doing it as a family! Children learn about families from the time they spend in their own families. Spending time in everyday family leisure activities is associated with greater emotional bonding within the family. Youths who communicate, do activities and have close relationships with their parents are less likely to engage in violence.

United Way Of South Texas Kicks Off 2016 Pacesetter Campaign

United Way of South Texas (serving Hidalgo & Starr Counties) is one of approximately 1300 independent chapters in the country. Each is a reflection of its community and supports programs and agencies that address many critical issues in local neighborhoods.

Mrs. Edna Garcia, Security Service FCU, is the 2016 Board Chair and is supported by an additional thirteen committed Board Members. Their goal is to impact the community by both administering and funding programs that address a client's education, financial stability and health needs.

Through the work of our 26 partner agencies, including Boy Scouts, Palmer Drug Abuse Program, Aurora House, "211" Community Council of the RGV, Boys & Girls Clubs, American Red Cross, Women Together and many more, United Way impacts the lives of over 245,000 residents every year. This represents almost 30 percent of our service population in Hidalgo & Starr Counties.

United Way also administers the VITA (free income tax preparation) and Transportation Voucher (free bus tickets) programs for eligible clients. We also launched Volunteer South Texas in late 2015, to give individuals an opportunity to search for volunteer opportunities online at www.volunteersotx.org.

Every year, United Way staff, board members, loaned executives and volunteers collaborate in efforts to raise funds through the annual campaign.

All United Way funded projects rely on the critical financial support of the community,



Top Row L to R: Jennifer Banda, HEB, Edna Garcia, Security Service Federal Credit Union, Campaign Co-Chair, Sam Munafo, Inter National Bank, Adrian Villarreal, International Bank of Commerce, Joel Pena, South TX Health System, Todd Mann, South TX Health System-McAllen Medical Center
Sitting L to R: Richard Escalera, HEB, Charleen Solis, Inter National Bank, Karen Pittman, International Bank of Commerce, Cesar Rodriguez, City of McAllen and Alma Ortega-Johnson, Wells Fargo, Campaign Co-Chair

including employees at the workplace, school districts, municipalities, private corporations, federal and state agencies and individuals.

It is imperative that the community and businesses be aware of the importance of getting involved and educating employees about the services that are available. This is a unique opportunity to be part of the many solutions that United Way offers to residents on a daily basis. Clients range from infants, to end of life care patients.

United Way invites you to call 956-686-6331 to learn about joining the United Way family of supporters. We will provide fantastic training opportunities to prepare a campaign coordinator at your workplace. Join our Top 10 company supporters and hundreds of other business in supporting United Way. You can coordinate your *Employee Campaign Today!* Please call 956-686-6331 or visit us at www.unitedwayof-sotx.org to learn more about getting involved in the 2016 Campaign.

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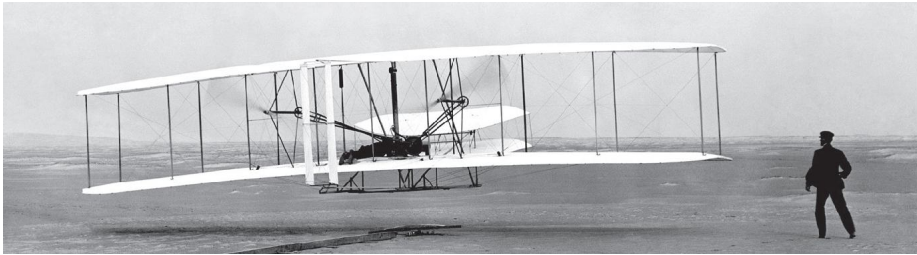
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Fill in each square with one digit, using only the numbers one through nine | Numbers cannot repeat within an individual box of nine squares
Numbers cannot repeat down a column | Numbers cannot repeat across a row

August 19 is National Aviation Day

On December 17, 1903, Orville Wright piloted the first powered airplane 20 feet above a wind swept beach in North Carolina. (pictured below) The flight lasted 12 seconds and covered 120 feet. Three more flights were made that day with Orville's brother Wilbur piloting the record flight lasting 59 seconds over a distance of 852 feet.



In 1939 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued a presidential proclamation designating the anniversary of Orville Wright's birthday, August 19, to be National Aviation Day.

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Pancho Villa's Forces Fire Upon American Pilots Near Brownsville

In September 1914 the 1st Aero Squadron was organized based at North Island, San Diego, California. In response to tensions along the Texas - Mexico border four pilots and three planes, Curtiss JN-2s, were transferred to Ft. Brown in Brownsville, Texas in March 1915.

On April 20, 1915 Byron Q. Jones took off from Fort Brown with aviation pioneer, Lt. Thomas D. Milling. Their mission was to scout the forces of Pancho Villa who were staging in the Mexican city of Matamoros.



The Curtiss "Jenny" flown by the pilots of the 1st Aero Squadron at Ft. Brown

About 15 minutes into the flight, the U.S. aircraft drew the attention of Villa's forces, who opened fire with at least one machine gun, as well as small arms. Jones was able to maintain his composure under fire. He opened the throttle and nosed up, climbing to 2,600 feet to avoid the gunfire. He maneuvered away from the river and was able to return safely to Fort Brown.

This marked the first time ever that an American pilot was fired upon during an aerial combat mission.

"If we all worked on the assumption that what is accepted as true is really true, there would be little hope of advance." Orville Wright

Captain Nancy Aldrich

by Nancy Aldrich

In the early 1970s, Nancy found herself a single mother, with two teenaged children, trying to get by on \$800 a month. Even in the 70s, that was not a pretty picture. She knew she had to make drastic changes in her life.

Being a product of the 40s and 50s, she had followed the traditional path and graduated from High School, married and started a family. She was very happy that she had found a good Christian man to marry, and settle down with. However, through the years it became clear that he was not what he had appeared to be. They divorced in 1972, and now she was alone with the children and no prospects for a good job.

In 1977, Nancy received an Income Tax Refund check for \$990. This was money she could use for anything she wanted. Her life-long dream had been to learn to fly. At that time the cost of learning ran approximately \$1,000. She drove to the Boulder Country Airport, in Colorado, endorsed the check over to the flight school and said, "Teach me to fly. I want to become a professional pilot!" She was shocked when everyone in the room burst out laughing. They explained that they would be happy to take her money and teach her to fly, but no one would hire a woman to fly an airplane. She was determined! She told them to teach her to fly anyway.

She worked hard and flew several times a week. She earned her pilot's license, then her instrument license; her commercial license; and her instructor's license. Within 18 months, she was teaching others to fly. As the years went by, she worked hard gaining experience. In 1983, United Air Lines hired her to write training programs for their pilots. It was not the job she wanted, but at least she was working for an airline. Then in 1985, United began hiring pilots, and she was able to get a job as a Flight Engineer on their DC-10s. She now had a uniform, and rode in the cockpit, but was not satisfied. She wanted to be the Captain, not the Second Officer. It took

another six years, but in 1991, she was awarded a Captain position on their Boeing 727s! Nancy has flown as far north as Fairbanks, Alaska; as far south as Montevideo, Uruguay; as far west as Singapore; and as far east as New Delhi, India.

She has flown DC10s; 727s; 737s; 757s; and 767s.

Twenty seven years after they laughed at her and said no one would hire a woman pilot, she retired from United Air Lines as an International Captain.

Her claim to fame is that she became United's first "Grandmother Captain," a title of which she is quite proud!

Nancy now lives at John Knox Village in Weslaco, and is very happily retired!





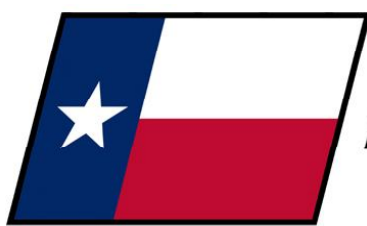
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Texas Rangers Capture John King Fisher, 1876

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Napoleon Augustus Jennings, a member of the group of Texas Rangers who rode out to capture John King Fisher, tells of the encounter.

"It was May 25, 1876 when we arrived at Laredo, and we camped near the town for three days. Then we continued our journey on toward the Nueces River. It was here that we learned first about the desperado, King Fisher, and his notorious gang of horse thieves, cattle thieves, and murderers.

Fisher lived on Pendencia Creek, near the Nueces, in Dimmit County. He had a little ranch there, and about forty or fifty of his followers were nearly always with him. These men, too lazy or too vicious to work for themselves, preyed upon the substance of the toiling settlers. They stole the ranchmen's horses and cattle and robbed their corn cribs, and they did not stop at murder to further their ends.

Fisher was about twenty-five years old at that time, and the most perfect specimen of a frontier dandy and desperado that I ever saw. He was tall, beautifully proportioned, and exceedingly handsome. He wore the finest clothing procurable.

He was an expert revolver shot, and could handle his six-shooters as well with his left hand as with his right. He was a fine rider, and rode the best horses he could steal in Texas or Mexico. Among the desperadoes, the stolen horses were known as 'wet stock' that is, horses which had been stolen in Mexico and swum across the Rio Grande to Texas, or vice versa."

Finding Fisher's ranch house, the Texas Rangers split into two groups and approach from different sides:

"There were only nine of the desperadoes at the house at the time, but a precious gang of outlaws and cutthroats they were. Here are their names: J.K Fisher, known as 'King' Fisher; Burd Obenchain, alias Frank Porter, wanted for murder and cattle-stealing, as desperate a ruffian as ever the Texas border knew; Warren Allen, who shot a Negro in a barroom at Fort Clark for drinking at the same bar with him, and then deliberately turned and finished his own drink and ordered another; Bill Templeton, horse thief; Will Wainwright, Jim Honeycutt, Wes Bruton, Al Roberts, and Bill Bruton. All of them were wanted for numberless crimes.

A few weeks before we arrested them, King Fisher and Frank Porter, by themselves, stole a herd of cattle from six Mexican vaqueros who were driving the herd for its owner, near Eagle Pass. Fisher and Porter rode around the herd and killed every one of the six Mexicans. The vaqueros were all buried together, and I saw the place where they were buried. It was known as Frank Porter's Graveyard.

At a prearranged moment, all of us dashed for the house at full speed, six-shooters in hand. A fence was in our way, but the horses went over it like hunters after the hounds, and before Fisher and his men perceived us we were within a hundred yards of the place.

Most of the desperadoes were playing poker under the shed-like extension in front of the ranch house. They jumped up and started for the house proper to secure their arms, but before half of them succeeded in getting inside the door, we were around them and our six-shooters were cocked and pointed at their heads.

"You'll have to surrender or be killed!" cried McNelly to Fisher, who stood halfway out of the door, with the lieutenant of his band, Burd Obenchain, known to his companions as Frank Porter. Fisher did not move, but Porter half raised his Winchester, and coolly looked along the line of Rangers.

"Drop that gun!" yelled McNelly. "Drop it, I say, or I'll kill you."

Porter looked McNelly squarely in the eyes, half raised his rifle again, and then slowly dropped it to his side, and with a sigh leaned it against the side of the house.

"I reckon there's too many of yer to tackle," he said, calmly. "I only wisht I'd a-seen yer sooner."

The other men gave up without a struggle. They were badly frightened at first, for they thought we were members of a vigilance committee, come to deal out swift justice to them and hang them by lynch law. They were agreeably disappointed when they discovered we were the Rangers, officers of the law of Texas.

We took the men with us at once to Eagle Pass and put them in jail there. We tied the feet of the prisoners to their stirrups and then tied the stirrups together under the horses' bellies. We also tied the desperadoes' hands to the pommels of their saddles and led their horses.

Before we started, Captain McNelly told us, in the hearing of the prisoners and of Fisher's wife, that if any of our prisoners attempted to escape or if an attempt was made to rescue them, we were to kill them without warning or mercy. That is, or was, known on the frontier as *La ley de fuga*, the shooting of escaping or resisting prisoners. It was well understood among the outlaws, and was a great protection to the officers who were compelled to escort prisoners over long distances through the sparsely settled country. The knowledge of this condition of the border prevented members of a desperado gang from attempting to rescue prisoners, for such an attempt meant instant death to the captives."



John King Fisher (1854-1884)

Fisher was born northeast of Dallas, Texas. His family moved north of Austin around 1860.

When Fisher borrowed a horse without telling the owner, he was soon arrested for horse theft. He soon escaped from the posse with the help of the horse's owner, who decided not to press charges. He then made his way to Goliad, Texas where he was soon arrested for breaking into a house. He was sent to prison but pardoned just four months later. Moving on to Dimmit County, he established a ranch in a area where cattle rustling was rampant.

Before long, Fisher was right in the middle of it, with his ranch serving as a haven for drifters and outlaws. He was sometimes known to ride with Mexican rustlers, sometimes making off with as many as 100 head of cattle. His outlaw activities often led to violence and he quickly gained a reputation as a skilled gunfighter. He was arrested at various times by Texas Rangers Leander McNelly and Lee Hall but always managed to avoid conviction. Evidently by 1876, Fisher had his fill of the outlaw life, married and bought a ranch near Eagle Pass.

In 1881 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Uvalde County and two years later became the sheriff. He turned out to be an efficient and popular lawman and made plans to run for re-election in 1884. However, on the night of March 11, 1884, in the Vaudeville Variety Theater in San Antonio, Fisher and his companion, noted gunman Ben Thompson, were involved in a shootout brought on by a quarrel between Thompson and the theater's owners. Both Fisher and Thompson were killed.



You might not recognize the original Texas Rangers from 1823. They had no shiny silver badges, no six shooters, and no white Stetsons. They were farmers and ranchers who wore their own clothes, rode their own horses, and used whatever guns they could shoot well. They came together when there was a threat to early Texas colonists and went back to their work when it was over. But they were the beginning.

Memorial Funeral Home Donates \$10,000 To The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center

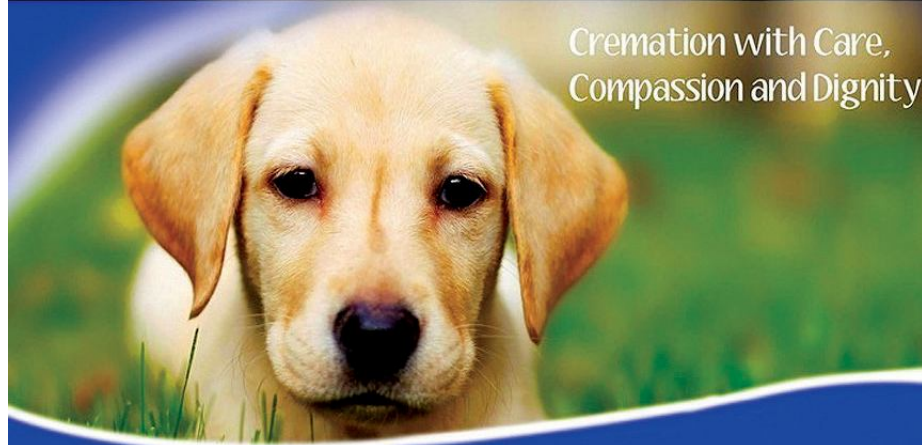


Memorial Funeral Home of San Juan and Edinburg presented The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center with a contribution of \$10,000 towards their capital campaign and are proud sponsors of the Fire Hydrant Statue where rescue stories will be featured. Located at 2451 N. U.S. Expressway 281 in Edinburg, PAWS is a one of a kind animal welfare facility with state of the art kennels, public dog parks, an in-house spay and neuter clinic, and an education smart room.

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They’re Only Ours for a Little While

by Nancy Hanson (Dedicated to the memory of Duke and Sam)

We humans are prone to chase rainbows,
 always wanting that pot of gold.
 But the wisest of us remember the joy
 of just a small creature to hold.
 Allow yourself to accept their great gift,
 and know what devotion is worth.
 If you’ve been loved by a dog or cat,
 you’re the richest person on earth.
 But their lives are lived in miniature-
 bright sun to palest moon.
 They bless our days with innocence,
 and faithfulness that’s stilled too soon.
 These precious lives are fragile,
 as fleeting as a baby’s smile.
 So give them all the love you have.
 They’re only ours for a little while.
 And in the lonely moments
 when you pause to wonder why,
 hold close those brightest shooting stars
 that burn so briefly in our sky.
 But then look deeper in your heart
 to know all love must intertwine,
 and when the night sky seems the darkest,
 you’ll see their light forever shine.

Watch The August Skies

The Perseid meteor shower will peak from August 11 - 13 this year. The best time to view the meteor shower will be in the early morning hours, just before dawn. However, if fortune smiles upon you, you could catch an earthgrazer, a long, slow, colorful meteor traveling horizontally across the evening sky. The meteors will become more frequent after midnight and be most abundant in the hours just before dawn when you could see 50 or so meteors per hour. To watch the meteor shower requires no special gear, just a dark open sky away from city lights. Don’t give up if you don’t see any meteors right away as they tend to come in spurts interspersed with lulls. The phase of the moon is brighter this year in August, making it more difficult to observe the meteor shower.



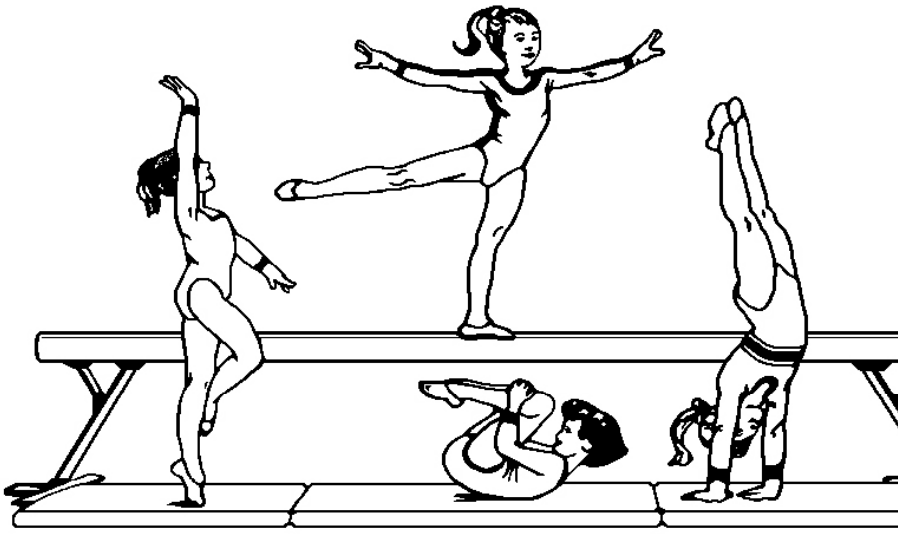
The Perseid meteor shower occurs as a result of the Earth crossing the path of the comet *Swift-Tuttle*. This happens every year from around July 17 to August 24. Bits and pieces of the comet enter the Earth’s upper atmosphere at speeds of around 130,000 miles per hour bursting into fiery trails of light in the nighttime sky. Plan ahead, find an area that is as dark as possible and make sure that you have permission to be there to observe the meteor shower. Lastly, pray for open, cloudless skies.

Advertise in The Valley Spotlight, Call 956-457-8600

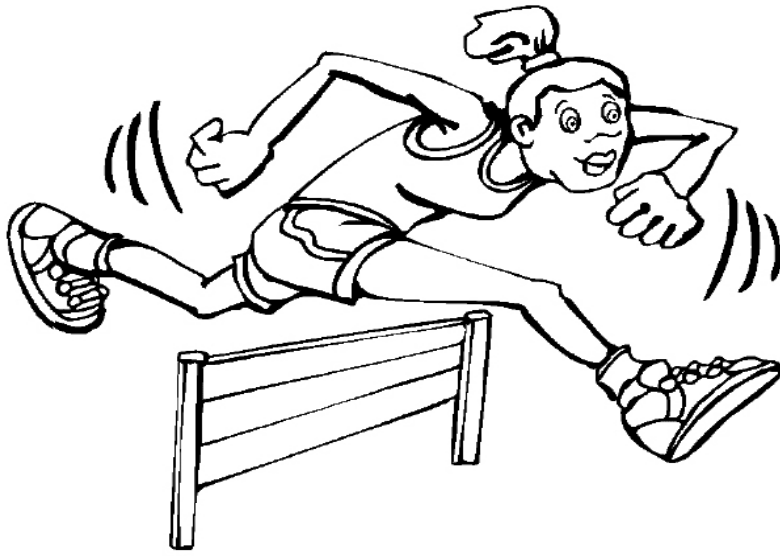
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- TAEKWONDO
- TENNIS
- TRACK AND FIELD
- TRIATHLON
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The Salvation Army Turns 85 On August 9Th!

by Eloise Montemayor Grants Administrator/Public Relations



In celebration of our anniversary, we invite the public to join us on August 4th from 12-1 PM at our 85th Anniversary Behind the Red Shield Luncheon. This luncheon will showcase The Salvation Army's programs and services and will also give guests an opportunity to tour the facility and hear a former client share his/her success story. RSVP required. Please call 956.682.1468.

We also invite the public to support Just Between Friends of McAllen. Just Between Friends is a seasonal sales event where communities come together to buy and sell the best in gently-used children's and maternity items at HUGE SAVINGS. These events are held twice a year.

We thank Just Between Friends for donating \$550 worth of clothing and other items last year to needy families from our shelter. After every event, unsold items donated by vendors go to The Salvation Army Thrift Store. The next Just Between Friends event will be August 5th and 6th at the Nomad Shrine (1044 W Nolana Loop) in Pharr, TX.

Visit jbf.sale.com or call event coordinators, Raul and Claudia Garcia at 956.534.0351 for more info.

Finally, The Salvation Army and Ashley Pediatrics invite the public to attend a fun Back to School Health Fair held on Saturday, August 6 from 9AM-12PM at The Salvation Army Banquet Hall (1600 N. 23rd St. McAllen, TX 78501).



Vendors at this fair will offer various health screenings at no cost to guests. Health screenings include blood glucose tests, vision screenings and more. All guests will also have the chance to win door prizes. These door prizes include backpacks and school supplies for children. Don't miss out! For more information on this Back to School Fair, please contact Eloise Montemayor at 956.682.1468 or email her at eloise.montemayor@uss.salvationarmy.org.

To give a monetary donation, you may send a check payable to The Salvation Army to the following address:

PO Box 4766, McAllen, TX 78502. You may also visit with us in person at 1600 N. 23rd St. McAllen, TX 78501 to discuss with us how you would like to get involved.

Thank you for your support!"

The Gold and The Beautiful 4th Annual GO GOLD RGV Walk for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month



Every Wednesday in September at 6:00 pm we meet at Fireman's Park and walk to Vannie Cook Children's Hospital. Wear Yellow or Gold and join us to walk in honor of the children battling Cancer, both the survivors and those we have lost. We believe no family should have to face Cancer alone. We shout out a special **THANK YOU!** to the McAllen Police officers who are present at each intersection of 2nd street to make sure that all children and families are safe.



Back to School Health Fair



Saturday, August 6 from 9a.m.-12p.m.

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