



THE RAMSDALE BURIAL PLOT IN WISE COUNTY Has One Grave Been Empty For Decades? No One's Sure

DECADES-OLD CASE

Mystery Shrouds Identity Of Body Placed In Grave

By JIM DRAKE R-C Wise County Bureau

NEWARK — Nearly a century ago the Wise County sheriff placed a man behind bars at the county jail to await trial on a felony charge.

The sheriff was never to know if the man was guilty or innocent. For he died in jail before he could speak his piece in court.

Services were conducted and the man was laid to rest in the family plot at the Paradise Cemetery.

THAT WAS IN 1879. But now there are indications that one of the graves in the burial plot is empty, or at least holds the remains of someone other than the person whose name appears on the grave marker.

Unfortunately, the Wise County courthouse, along with its records, was destroyed by fire in 1881, and it has been impossible to check the court records of the date involved. But information handed down to another generation and relatives of T. E. (Eli) Ramsdale supports all the facts except for the identity of the person buried in the grave over which stands the Eli Ramsdale marker.

A SURVIVING relative, Oscar Lowry, born in 1866, who has had the story related to him more than a few times, told the Record-Chronicle that he had had no reason to think about the incident until a few years ago when an elderly gentleman called at the Lowry home at Newark with surprising information.

The caller introduced himself to me as a minister," Lowry said, "and I was hardly prepared for what he had to relate.

He began with 'I have information that I've been concealing for many years' and that's when he told me that Eli Ramsdale was not buried in Wise County.

"HE TOLD ME, 'I knew Eli Ramsdale 25 years ago

ter he was supposed to have been buried at Paradise. It was in Lincoln County, New Mexico, in 1904. He related the incident that led to his arrest, and added that his name was carved on a tombstone at Paradise.' It left me speechless, confused."

Lowry, now approaching his 86th birthday, is a native of the southern section of Wise County.

"I had been told all along that Eli Ramsdale was arrested in the vicinity of the now defunct town of Aurora, located a few miles west of Rhame. And since the information came from my mother, I never had any reason to doubt it. In fact, I'm inclined to stick to my mother's version and to discredit the minister's story.

THE RAMSDALE burial plot at Paradise contains several tombstones. At least eight stand in a row, and with only slight variation, they are the same size and of the same shape.

One carries the name of T. E. Ramsdale. It shows he was born in 1851 and died in 1879. The usual month and day is omitted.

"It was told," Lowry continued, "that Eli Ramsdale was placed in the county jail at Decatur, and that he died there. I know that if a ruse was perfected—that if Eli Ramsdale was permitted to escape and to make his way to New Mexico—there had to be collusion. I am amazed that such information has been kept secret all those years.

Reflecting upon the minister's story, Lowry said he is convinced that the preacher, already in his sunset years, would not have related the information had he not been convinced that there was a spectre of truth involved.

Big Scrub is the name given to the 441,924-acre Ocala National Forest east of Silver Springs, Fla. The forest contains the largest known tract of sand pine, often called scrub pine.

Town Topics

Cornelia Varner, TWU assistant professor of English, was elected chairman of publicly for 1964-65 of the Texas Joint English Committee for Schools and Colleges, District V.

Miss Varner was elected at the annual meeting of the English Workshop Conference, District V, held at Arlington State College recently.

Miss Varner supervises TWU students doing practice teaching in English.

William J. Loader Jr. of Dallas, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Loader, 800 Mulkey, left Monday for basic training at Naval Training Center, San Diego.

Dr. Autrey Nell Wiley, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences is attending the annual convention of the South Central Modern Language Association, the South Central College English Association and the Chairmen of English Departments of Texas Colleges and Universities in Lubbock today through Saturday.

Norman; Linda Neal, Gainesville.

Dismissed: Mrs. Lomer Hill, Decatur; baby Ailsa Shell, 3909 Titan; Mrs. Bertha Lambert, 316 Wood; Mrs. Donny A. Hatcher and baby, 2121 Stella; H. J. Hasenflug, Lake Dallas; Mrs. Levi Crutchfield, and baby, Lewisville; Mrs. Kay Barker, 2404 Fowler; M. C. Lamar, 620 Pearl; Mrs. C. E. Harris, Dallas; Mrs. E. M. Harral, 1114 Norman; Mrs. Richard Lowe, 823 Coll; D. E. Cassidy, Decatur; Charles Faith, NTSU; Joe Chiles, Lewisville; Mrs. V. H. Belov, 305 W. Mockingbird.

DENTON OSTEOPATHIC HOSPITAL AND CLINIC

Admitted: Mrs. Francis McCoy, 1414 Oakwood.

Dismissed: None.

BIRTHS

A boy to Mr. and Mrs. Foy R. Spann, 3812 Titan, in Flow Memorial Hospital.

HOSPITAL

Admitted: Mrs. Foy R. Spann, 3812 Titan; Mrs. Kate Decker, Pilot Point; John Howard, Lewisville; Mrs. Mattie Darnell, Aubrey; Mrs. H. H. Normile, 1802 Greenwood; Mrs. Floyd Wilkins, Lewisville; H. E. Dempsey, Silled; Mrs. J. H. Wilson, Dallas; Mrs. Ravos Ford, Fort Worth; Mrs. R. V. Starnes, Route 1, Denton; Mrs. Frank Hayes, Lewisville; D. P. Goodrum, 1317

G.O.P. RULES

Demos Fear Extinction In Alabama

By REX THOMAS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — After each presidential election since 1952, the Democrats in Alabama have counted the returns and twitted the Republicans: "You're eligible to have a primary now, why don't you?"

A political party must get 20 per cent of the votes in a general election before it can have a primary, at state expense, the following election year.

The Republicans have been eligible since the first Eisenhower campaign of 1952. They kept right on nominating their candidates by convention — and getting a bigger vote each election.

This year, it's a different story. It's the Democrats who had to call in the mathematicians to see if they can hold a primary in the 1966 elections.

Sen. Barry Goldwater carried Alabama on Nov. 3. The Democrats got only about 30 per cent of the vote.

Thus have the mighty fallen from public favor in a state where, for generation after generation, Democratic nomination was all it took to win.

The Goldwater landslide elected five Republicans to Congress and swept Democrats out of local office in a score of counties. Thousands of Alabamians, bristling with resentment against the party of their ancestors, cast a straight GOP ballot.

Republican spokesman jubilantly proclaimed the advent of a strong two-party system in a state long known for one-party control. Acting GOP state chairman Tom Brigham went further. He said Alabama will be a Republican state in the years to come.

Disinayed Democratic leaders analyzed the GOP victory, hopefully, as an emotional outburst touched off in large measure by opposition to the Civil Rights Act. They forecast a return to Democratic domination two years from now, but readily admitted their ranks are split by intraparty strife.

Some Democrats blamed Gov. George C. Wallace for the party setback because of his part in the presidential campaign and his refusal to support the national party.

The unprecedented defeat brought demands from the Democratic ranks for reorganization of the party; for a party registration law to keep Republicans out of the Democratic primaries, and for a return to the loyalty oath binding Democrats to the national ticket in future elections.

RELEVANT TODAY

TWU Theater To Present Ancient Play By Plautus

One of the responsibilities of the educational theater is to provide the university community an opportunity to experience important highlights from the world's dramatic literature.

Such will be the case Friday and Saturday — with repeat performances Nov. 20 and 21 — when the TWU Theater presents "The Braggart Warrior" by Plautus, second century B.C. comic dramatist.

The TWU Concert and Drama Series number, directed by Ralph Carter, will open each night at 8 in the Redbud Auditorium. Tickets are \$1 for adults, half price for university and school students.

Nun Slips Away To Be Married

AGRIGENTO, Sicily (AP) — Sister Maria Gasparina has slipped away from the Camestra convent where she took her vows as a nun 10 years ago.

Newspapers reported she had gone with her former fiance, Luigi Giorgio, and that they had applied for a license to wed.

Sister Maria Gasparina, the former Crocifissa Genova, entered the convent when her family opposed her engagement to Giorgio, her cousin.

Later Giorgio was sentenced to seven years in prison for robbery. When he was released, he went to the convent a week ago and sister Maria Gasparina left with him. Both are 27.

Newspapers reported they were staying with his parents at Canicatti.

Money-Raising Ideas Hit By Presbytery

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Presbytery has recommended to its 70 churches that they don't use bazaars, fairs, sales, dinners and similar events to raise money.

Commercial undertakings of this nature are "inconsistent with good stewardship," said a motion offered this week by the Presbytery's stewardship committee.

Preferred fund-raising methods are lilies, Sunday offerings and annual pledges.

The father gave away the bride in ancient Egypt. He handed one of her sandals to the groom, signifying she was now in the groom's care. Today, friends tie old shoes to the car in which the newly married pair leaves for the honeymoon.

Dr. Josh P. Roach, chairman of the TWU department of speech who spent the first half of 1964 as educational television consultant to New York State, has explained the Roman theater, including this play which has the Roman name of "Miles Gloriosus."

"Although the Roman theater never achieved the heroic stature of the Greek theater, it was perhaps more important in influencing the plays and characters of other countries.

"Two very significant theater movements developed as a result of the popular Roman comedy of Plautus and Terence.

"One was the Commedia dell'Arte, or Italian comedy. This improvised comedy of the common people which was first so popular in Italy and later in Spain, France, Germany, and even in England and Russia, modeled its stock characters on those developed by the Roman authors just prior to the Christian era.

"The one of the characters of 'The Braggart Warrior,' that of Pyrogopolynices, posed such comic possibilities that he became the Spanish captain of the Commedia troupe. He is the forerunner of Shakespeare's Falstaff.

"Palaestrio, the conniving servant, developed into the Commedia character Arlecchino, a character who was later to become the popular Punch of the Punch and Judy shows in England."

In the TWU production, Marie McCluskey of Lubbock has the part of Pyrogopolynices and Susie Nelson of Sherman, that of Palaestrio.

"Another direction in which the Roman plays made their influence felt was in the college and university plays of the Middle Ages," Dr. Roach said.

"Long before the religious spectacles and guild plays developed in England and on the Continent, students were encouraged to perform many of the classical dramas which had been preserved in their libraries.

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Advertisement for 'THE GREAT ESCAPE' and 'A SHOT IN THE DARK' at the 'BANDHO DRIVE-IN THEATRE'.

Advertisement for 'WHERE LOVE HAS GONE' featuring Susan Hayward and Bette Davis at the 'FINE ARTS THEATRE'.