

official parade lineup.

✓ The Cleburne Junior High School PTA will host an open house for parents, today, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the school. Parents will follow their children's schedules and will meet teachers as they travel around the building.

✓ The first event scheduled for the 4th Annual Texas Wild West Showdown in Cleburne is a slick horse rodeo for the youngsters. It is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, at the Johnson County Sheriff's posse arena.

The slick horse rodeo is open to kids between the ages of two and six who will be riding their own slick horses. Events include barrel racing, bull riding, barrel racing, pole bending and calf roping. Prizes will be awarded, and word has it that KDEW Channel 4 will be on hand to film segments of the slick horse rodeo and the open rodeo which will follow at 7:30 p.m.

The entry fee is \$5 per youngster. Slick horse rodeo organizer Ann Meek said, "We want to do something positive for the kids." She went on to say it seems like we don't hear much about the good things kids are doing these days. This activity will be a good way for our young buckaroos to spend a little time and have some fun.

To enter the slick horse rodeo, or for more information, contact Mrs. Meek at 645-6475. The Wild West Showdown will continue with an open rodeo and dances on Friday night. On Saturday, Oct. 9, the parade begins at 10 a.m. in downtown Cleburne, and the day is packed with a variety of activities celebrating the western spirit of our area. The showdown concludes on Saturday night with a talent show at the Esquire Theatre.

Proceeds from the showdown will benefit the Johnson County Committee on Aging Meals-on-Wheels Program.

"It was a privilege to have been a student during the years Mr. Smith served as superintendent," said Justin Hewlett, president of the CISD Board of Trustees, following the unanimous vote of approval to rename the PAC. "And now it is a pleasure to be able to honor him for all the dedication and hard work he devoted to this district."

"He is most deserving of this honor after his many years of dedicated service," said Don Smith, superintendent of Cleburne schools. "We are very pleased to have the high school's Performing Arts Center named after Mr. Smith," said CISD Superintendent Jim Grunert. "He was very instrumental in making the district's dream of a facility such as the PAC a reality."



Don Smith

"During Smith's tenure the Gerard See SMITH, page 7A

# SOLVED MYSTERY

## Death notice of stripper was concocted by Penn Jones

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By PETE KENDALL  
Times-Review Staff

The story began with Penn Jones Jr. some 27 years ago as a crusading weekly newspaper in Midlothian. The story ended with wife Elaine Jones on Sept. 28, 1993, in a quaint farm cottage near the Ellis County community of Palmer.

With the 79-year-old Jones at her side, sipping from a mug of coffee at the dining room table, Mrs. Jones matter-of-factly answered one of the more puzzling questions surrounding the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy and subsequent murder of Lee Harvey Oswald by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

Karen Lynn Bennett Carlin did not die of a gunshot wound in Houston in 1964, Mrs. Jones said. She didn't die at all. She was killed off by Mr. Jones in his first book, Vol. 1 of "Forgive My Grief," to help her disappear and avoid those who might want to do her harm.

It was with "Forgive My Grief," published in 1966, that Mr. Jones emerged as the guiding light of assassination researchers with a no-holds-barred critique of the Warren Commission Report.

The Warren Commission stated that Oswald acted alone in assassinating Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas. Jones, legendary former publisher of the *Midlothian Mirror*, stated otherwise. He favored a conspiracy theory

from the very beginning and advanced his position in newspaper editorials and books, in part by reporting mysterious deaths of figures who played some part, however large or small, in the deaths of Kennedy and Oswald.

One was Karen Lynn Bennett Carlin, aka "Little Lynn," a stripper for three months at Ruby's Carousel Club on Commerce St.

Some researchers believe Ruby manipulated Little Lynn — via several telephone calls and a Western Union money order — into providing him with an "alibi" for a spur-of-the-moment shooting of Oswald at Dallas Police Headquarters. Some researchers believe Ruby plotted the shooting to occur minutes after he wired Little Lynn money in Fort Worth.

Little Lynn was interviewed in Fort Worth that fateful weekend by a Secret Service agent. She testified at Ruby's two trials. She revealed nothing of significance.

The *Times-Review* reported recently that she spent most of 1964 changing residences in Fort Worth, that she appeared a final time as an exotic dancer at the Skyliner Ballroom on the Jackboro Highway, and that she was arrested by Fort Worth police for indecent exposure on Labor Day.

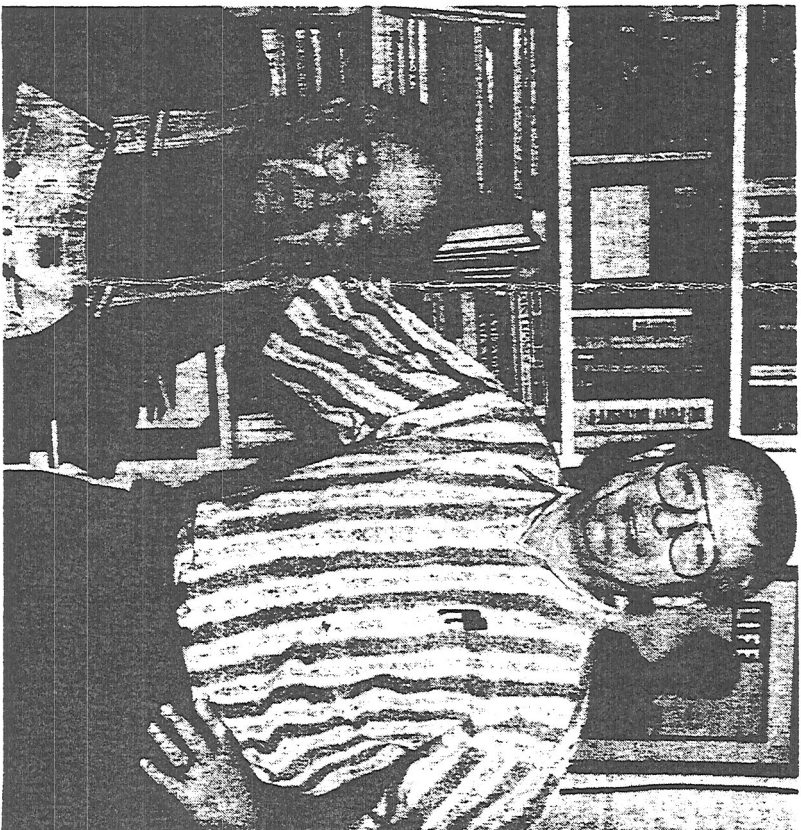
Then she dropped out of sight. Then, some two years later, Jones published her obit in "Forgive My Grief."

"The story has been printed," he said. See DEATH, page 7A

but we can pull it on the super collider." Backers countered that loss of the collider would deal a devastating setback to future scientific and technological development. Scientists hope to discover new particles and learn more about the origin of matter by colliding beams of subatomic particles at near-light speeds in the collider's 54-mile underground tunnel.

the collider has been derailed by persistent allegations of cost overruns and management ineptitude. While Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary has staunchly denied cost overruns exist, she has initiated reforms to increase oversight and add greater financial controls. The shakeup came as DOE identified up to \$1.5 billion in potential cost overruns.

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Penn Jones Jr., 79, and Cleburne resident Gary Shaw pictured Tuesday at Jones' Ellis County home near Palmer. (Photo: Pete Kendall)

# DEATH

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...that Karen Lynn Bennett, 'Little Lynn,' died of gunshot wounds in the head in Houston. She died under the name of Teresa Norton. 'Little Lynn' is the last known person to talk to Ruby before he shot Oswald."

Numerous authors repeated, and occasionally embellished, the death notice. One, the late Sylvia Meagher, added the more specific date of August 19, 1964, in her authoritative work, "Accessories after the Fact," in 1967.

Only in the last year did any published assassination researcher bring up the possibility that she might be alive. Cleburne resident Gary Shaw was the first and openly one to say he had spoken with her by telephone and corresponded with her through the mail. Several authors printed Shaw's claim.

Until Tuesday, though, Jones' 27-year-old death notice was the fly in the ointment. His information had to have come from somewhere. He had to have had a reason for printing that Little Lynn was dead. He did have a reason, Shaw and a Times-Review reporter learned.

According to Mrs. Jones, whose husband was recently hospitalized and suffers memory lapses, Mr. Jones spoke with Little Lynn and an unknown man in Houston in either 1965 or 1966 and was asked to report her death.

What follows is the pertinent portion of a 40-minute taped interview conducted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Neither had read the recent Times-Review story concerning Little Lynn before Tuesday's interview, and neither was made aware before the interview that

Shaw had been in contact with Little Lynn.

**SHAW** — What do you remember about what Penn told you about Little Lynn and the trip to Houston? **ELAINE JONES** — Whoever it was told Penn that for her sake he was to say she was dead. She was going into the government protection plan. I don't remember much else besides that he was supposed to say she was dead. He did see her. He did talk with her. He knew she was alive, but the story was she was supposed to be dead.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Little Lynn's mid '60s disappearance would predate the government's official witness protection program.

**T-R** — Penn did see her in Houston? **ELAINE JONES** — Yes, that's what he always told me. And there was some man he talked to. I don't know the man's name, but he was a government official. The story was to be released that she was dead for her protection.

**T-R** — When did that take place in Houston? **ELAINE JONES** — 1965 or 1966, along in there. **SHAW** — So Penn actually released that story, **ELAINE JONES** — Yeah. He probably saved her life. **SHAW** — Well, I've been talking to her and writing her for a little over a year. She wants to tell what she knows now. So, hopefully by the 30th anniversary (of the assassination), we'll have her story out.

**PENN JONES** — Great, great. **Mr. Jones'** personal file on Little Lynn isn't particularly revealing, though there are some interesting items, such as the original letter to her from Warren Commission chief counsel J. Lee Rankin.

There are also several fan letters to her, one in the form of a Christmas card, and Little Lynn's unmailed responses. One can only conjecture how Mr. Jones might have obtained them.

From the December, 1963, Christmas card, sent by an admirer in Chicago, Ill.: "Several years back, did you at one time live in San Francisco in a walk-up one-flight furnished apartment? And were you employed at a basement bar where light was provided for by candles? If this is correct, please contact me. If you are who I think you are, I would like to help you."

Little Lynn's unmailed Jan. 7, 1964, response, using the Carousel Club as a return address: "Sir, I am not the girl you are interested in, although I appreciate your letter, and the lovely Christmas card. Thank you. Sincerely, Little Lynn, P.S., feel free to write again."

Another admirer in Greenville, Miss., wrote to request a picture. Little Lynn's unmailed response: "Sir, I appreciate your card but do not have any pictures. Little Lynn, P.S., feel free to write again."

It's a slim file composed mostly of newspaper clippings, a magazine picture page of Carousel photos, and business cards.

"It looks like it's been stripped down," Mrs. Jones said. "That's the sad part. It looks like at one time there was probably a lot more in the file."

Other researchers have examined the file, according to Mrs. Jones. Authors Harrison Edward Livingstone and Robert J. Groden visited Mr. and Mrs. Jones in the last year.

Club and the Jack County Teacher's Unit.

Smith is a native to Elbert, Texas, and a graduate of Newcastle High School. He is a veteran and served as a staff sergeant assigned to a B-24 Bomb Wing with the 11th Air Force in Alaskan Islands.

Following this term in the service he enrolled in Weatherford Junior College on a football scholarship and received an Associate of Arts degree. He then attended TCU and Texas Wesleyan where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He holds a Master's Degree from TCU and completed 39 hours at the doctoral level at North Texas University.

Don and Wanda Smith, who is tired School Administrators Association.

Smith spent 37 years of his life in public education, starting out as an eighth-grade teacher and coach in Granbury. He spent five years with Granbury ISD and was serving as a principal when he accepted the post of high school principal with Jackboro ISD.

He served nine years in that position before assuming the responsibility of superintendent of the Jackboro district. Smith oversaw many projects in JISD and was also a very active participant in community service, serving as Chamber of Commerce president and director.

He still maintains close ties with many local and state educators and is a past president of the Texas Re-

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Livingstone and Groden co-wrote "High Treason." Livingstone wrote "High Treason 2," in which he delves into the subject of Little Lynn's supposed death and her resurrection by Shaw.

But neither Livingstone nor Groden, Mrs. Jones said, were informed that Mr. Jones' long-ago, oft-repeated death notice on Little Lynn was erroneous and planned from Tuesday's interview.

**T-R** — Has anybody else asked you about Little Lynn?

**ELAINE JONES** — Only Harry Livingstone and Robert Groden.

**T-R** — Do you recall what you told them? **ELAINE JONES** — We didn't tell them this. We didn't tell them anything. I didn't tell them anything because I didn't know them at all. I just let them look at this file, and they wanted to take it to town and make copies of everything.

Mrs. Jones acknowledges her facts are sketchy. On the subject of Little Lynn, she relies on the file and on her memory of what her husband told her about meeting Little Lynn in Houston in the mid '60s.

"If he (Penn) wouldn't have kept so many mental notes, that (written research) would have helped," she said.

Nonetheless, the 27-year-old question of Little Lynn's bogus death notice now appears answered. "Everybody and his dogs have printed it since then, including yours truly," said Shaw, who said he hopes Little Lynn will soon step forward to fill in all the remaining blanks.

# SMITH

Continued from page 1A

Elementary School and the CHS Career Center were also constructed and major improvements to all campuses including the air conditioning and re-lighting of all buildings were initiated.

And construction is only the beginning of what took place during the 15 years at Cleburne, which turned out to be his final stop in public education. Under Smith's leadership, the district's programs were expanded to include Community Education, Adult Education, Volunteers in Public Schools and the Adopt-A-School program.

And while he is proud of these facilities and the many programs which continue to be great suc-

ses, what he holds most dear from his years in Cleburne are the people, in the schools and in the community, with whom he worked.

"The rapport with and the support of the community in those 15 years and the good feelings about the schools and the family feelings of the school staff is the greatest memory I have," he says. "We were all in it together."

Today, Smith is a consultant and marketing representative with DSA, Inc. of Cleburne, a position he has held since September of 1986.

He still maintains close ties with many local and state educators and is a past president of the Texas Re-

Association.

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Don and Wanda Smith, who is

# PEACE

Continued from page 6A

of the stage for the events that will ultimately unfold in the end times," he told Baptist Press.

Speculation about the end of the world is only expected to heighten with the approach of the Third Millennium.

Evangelist Billy Graham said he has never had so many people asking him if the end of the world is near. Not only the upheavals in the Middle East, but floods, famines and wars in recent years have helped reinforce such speculation. "I can't tell you how the events are going to take place.... Nor would I say that we are at the end of the age," Graham said. "But I can't help but believe in my heart we are moving toward some climax in history."

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