

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

My friend Dave just killed a buck in Ohio. This time however, instead of waiting on the big one, he arrowed one that had a lot to be desired. It was an older buck with one antler that had been broken off and the other one that looked as if each point had been worn down to the nub. The body of the deer was big as is typical in Ohio, but the wear and tear of many years of fighting had taken its toll on the rest of its features. Dave had seen the deer earlier in the year and knew that it was very territorial. It was as if this once proud monarch had been given a few small acres and was willing to fight with great and small to protect it from any and all comers. Dave was proud of his trophy because it reminded him of his own battle scars that he had taken lately. It reminded him of how he too had been beaten up and may not look like the spiritual trophy that many expect. I suspect these may be his greatest spiritual days.

You see, the truth is, our greatest days are not when we are in our physical prime or even when we feel as if we are on top of the world. They are not when we look like a spiritual monarch or even when we seem to be reaching the most. Our greatest days come after many of our nubs are worn off. They are when our distinguishing characteristics are not beauty marks but battle scars. They are when our greatest pleasure is not from a victory but from the fact we have simply

fought a good fight. It is what makes us real and "re- alness" is what the world needs to see. A children's story called The Velveteen

Rabbit, written in 1922 by Margery Williams, best illustrates this. They are in the nursery and the toy rabbit in the story is asking the

skin horse about becoming real. Here's how the story continues.

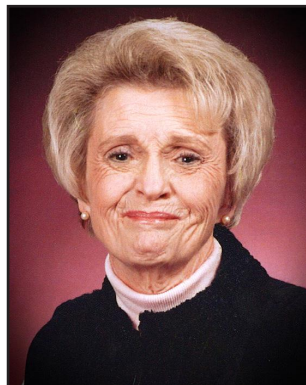
"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?" "It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's

why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby.

But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

The buck that Dave took the other night was the most beautiful deer in the woods, because Dave understood. gary@outdoortruths.org

Obituaries



VIRGINIA ANN FULTON

Virginia Ann Fulton, 79, of Crossett, passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2017, at the Hospice Home Care Center in Little Rock. She was born on May 5, 1938, to her parents, Aubrey and Mary Pierce. Along with her four siblings, she was raised on the family farm in Lexington, MS until she met and married a shy Methodist preacher by the name of Rev. Paul Fulton in 1958.

Ann attended Delta State University and received her Bachelor of Elementary Education degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1969. She was a member of the Methodist Church and the Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority and taught 30 years combined at Price and North Crossett Elementary before she retired.

She enjoyed taking long

relaxing drives, talking, and visiting with others, and she genuinely adored children.

Ann had a gentle, sweet spirit and a big heart. Whether it was the school janitor or a student in need, her limited resources never kept her from helping those less fortunate.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Aubrey and Mary Luby Pierce; her husband Paul Fulton; one brother Aubrey Pierce, Jr.; one sister Patsy Lynn Yokum; and one grandson Drew Williams. She is survived by her four daughters, Paula Williams and husband, Rick, of Muskogee, OK, Mary Margaret Gardner of Crossett, Kathy Edgar and husband, Marty, also of Crossett, and Susan Newman and husband, Greg, of Fayetteville; two sisters, Faye Byars of Silsbee, TX, and Beth Hershberg of New Orleans, LA; ten grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, at the First United Methodist Church, 500 Main St., Crossett with Pastor Bryan Diffie officiating followed by a Graveside Service officiated by her grandson Pierce Williams at the Rocky Hill Cemetery in Louisville, MS on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. under the direction of Medders Funeral Home of Crossett. Pallbearers were Paul Edgar, Hunter Newman, Pierce Williams, Kyle Dixon, Jason Sanders, and Daniel Hudson.

Visitation will be from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Thursday, December 28th at Medders Funeral Home, 1564 Hwy.

52 W in Crossett.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to missionary Pierce Williams at www.giving.ag.org.

WILMA KILLEBREW GNEMI

Wilma Killebrew Gnemi, 95, passed away peacefully from this life to be with her heavenly Father on December 29, 2017 at Manhattan Nursing and Rehab Center in Jackson, MS.

Wilson and Knight Funeral Home is in charge of the services. Visitation was held from 11:30 a.m. until time of the service at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the Ebenezer United Methodist Church at Ebenezer, Mississippi.

Mrs. Gnemi was born September 1, 1922 to the late William Dickerson and Martha Burrell Killebrew. She was not only a homemaker, but also worked at Henson Kickernick in Lexington, and later worked at Gnemi and Company, a family owned business.

She was a lifetime member of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church where she served in many capacities. Wilma also loved attending the Ebenezer Baptist Church with her sister and childhood friends. She opened her home to the Wednesday night prayer meeting and WMU ladies.

Mrs. Gnemi was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 57 years, William "Squeekie" Gnemi; son James Daniel Gnemi; and brothers, James Killebrew, Albert Killebrew, Ollie Killebrew, Douglas Killebrew, Lester Killebrew, and Marty

WARRINE T. TRAVIS WILLIAMS

Warrine T. Travis-Williams, 76, passed away Saturday, December 16, 2017.

She was born on February 3, 1941 in Lexington to the late Richard and Ida Gibson-Travis. She was preceded in death by her husband Tommie L. Williams, four brothers, Walter, Eddie, Lesley and Freddie and three sisters, Juanita, Curlene, Willie and Alice.

Warrine attended school in Lexington and relocated to

Killebrew; and sister Elnora Kitchens.

She is survived by sons, Bill Gnemi (Lynne) of Ruston, Louisiana, Larry Gnemi (Pam) of Greenwood, Johnny Gnemi (Patti) of New Waverly, Texas; and daughters, Rose Vaughn of Madison, Ann Shaw (Henry) of Florence, Bettye Huckaby (Frank) of Hernando and Cindy Woody (Gary) of Greenwood; seventeen grandchildren, and twenty five great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Wayne Vaughn, Matt Gnemi, Will Gnemi, Ryan Gnemi, Carter Gnemi and Drew Huckaby.

Honorary pallbearers were Blake Gnemi, Trevor Gnemi, Adam Gnemi and Thomas Woody.

Memorials may be made to Ebenezer Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, 3684 Hwy. 14, Pickens, MS 39146, or Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 3684 Hwy. 14, Pickens, MS 39146 or Ebenezer Baptist Church, 3529 Ebenezer Road, Lexington, MS 39095.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.wilsonandknight.com

Memphis, TN in the sixties. She was a person of faith and lived her life serving Christ. She was baptized at an early age accepting Christ as her personal Savior. She served the Lord faithfully and fellowshipped with COGIC. She belonged to Holy Temple under the leadership of Pastor Charles E. Jackson, Jr. where she served as Mother Warrine Williams.

Those left to cherish her memory include: son Bennie Williams of Memphis; four daughters, Annie Williams and Sylvia (Floyd) Moore, both of Lexington, Deborah Overall and Angela Overall; daughter-in-law Michelle Overall of Memphis; 20 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; brother Richard Travis, Jr. of Lexington; sisters, Christine Ray of Memphis, Ora Lee Irving and Catherine Coats, both of Lexington; sister-in-law Robbie Mae Travis; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

The family wishes to express their thanks for the concern, prayers and support during their time of bereavement. We pray that God will bless each of you. Travis, Moore and Williams families.

WILLIE REEVES

Elder/Coach Willie Reeves of Lexington passed away on Wednesday, December 27, 2017. Funeral services will be held at 12 noon on Friday January 5, 2018 at Lexington Multipurpose Complex in Lexington. Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4 at Porter & Sons' Funeral Home in Lexington.



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