


Liberty

Church of Christ



Bryant Perkins,
Minister

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

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We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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Ely Air Lines –

Dot Lemon

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

The storm boiled ahead, black clouds torn by lightning, the air alive with menace. Most pilots would have turned back. Dot Lemon, flying a Stinson Reliant in 1932, claimed she pressed on – straight into the eye of the hurricane. Whether fact or myth, the story captures her essence: a woman who refused to accept the limits set before her.

Dorothy “Dot” Lemon was born in 1907, adopted by a pastor in Syracuse, New York, and destined for an unconventional path. At sixteen, she climbed into a Curtiss Jenny under the guidance of barnstormer Merrill K. Riddick and flew solo – a teenager taking the controls of an airplane at a time when women were barely permitted to drive. By her late teens, she was barnstorming across the skies of rural America, dazzling crowds below.

Flying didn’t always pay the rent, so Dot took an advertising job with Hayes Aviation, selling airplanes as the New York state sales manager. There she met Leon Perl Brink, a decorated World War I pilot. Their relationship was complicated and, according to Dot’s telling, produced four sons, though proof seems elusive.

In 1937, she married fellow aviator Richard Lemon, and the pair moved to Florida to run a flight school at a grass strip called Belvedere Field, what is now Palm Beach International Airport. During World War II, the field became a military training site, and Dot shifted into leadership, serving in 1940 as chair of the newly formed Florida chapter of the Ninety-Nines, the pioneering organization for women pilots.

After the war, she turned to competition. Air racing was the cutting edge of civilian aviation in the late 1940s, and Dot eagerly signed up for events. She flew the



Halle Trophy Race in 1946 and in 1948 placed third in the Kendall Trophy Race, proving her skill in the crowded field of postwar racing pilots.

By the 1960s, Dot had reinvented herself again, this time on the West Coast. In 1961, she shattered another barrier, becoming the first woman elected president of the Institute of Navigation – a scholarly organization devoted to the science of guiding aircraft, ships, and later, spacecraft. She even wrote a curious little allegorical book, *One One: A Story of the Life, Death, and the Resurrection of an Airplane* (1963), blending her passion for machines with a touch of philosophy.

But Dot was never content to stay in one lane. Her next chapter carried her far from cockpits and racecourses, deep into the jungles of Venezuela. In 1964, the government granted her concessions to the Las Cristinas gold properties, later the focus of billion-dollar legal battles. When she died in Caracas in 1986, the mines outlived her, their ownership tangled in lawsuits, but her name forever attached to them.

Barnstormer, racer, pioneer, prospector – Dot Lemon refused to be just one thing. She lived a life of audacity, from the roar of biplanes to the thunder of tropical storms, proving again and again that for her, limits were only invitations to push further.

ElyAirLines.substack.com

Next SHC Book Club meeting Oct. 28

LIBERTY - Join other readers in a discussion of Anthony Doerr’s *Cloud Cuckoo Land* at the October meeting of the SHC Quarterly Book Club. The club will meet Tuesday, Oct. 28 from 6-7 p.m. at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC). The selected novel, which was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2021, involves multiple characters connected through the centuries by an ancient work called *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. This event is fun and free with no membership or registration required.

Featuring fictional works with a connection to the world of museums, archives and libraries, the Sam

Houston Center book club is open to all and meets in the Center’s main building at 650 FM 1011 in Liberty. Home to extensive archival holdings documenting Southeast Texas, a library collection and a museum, the Center offers an ideal setting for discussions about novels tied to these fields. Each meeting will be led by SHC staff.

Interested participants may obtain a copy of the novels through their local library or favorite bookstore to prepare for the conversation. For more information, contact SHC staff at (936) 336-8821 or via email at SamHoustonCenter@tsl.texas.gov.

Pct. 4 Constable’s Office concludes narcotics investigation

LIBERTY COUNTY - The Liberty County Pct. 4 Constable’s Office and the Liberty Police Department concluded a narcotics investigation regarding the sale of methamphetamine from a residence located in the 100 block of CR 158 in Liberty.

Several months ago investigators with Pct. 4 and the Liberty Police Department began the investigation after receiving reports that a suspect, identified as Shonda Fay Tullous, was selling methamphetamine from the aforementioned location.

As the investigation progressed, quantities of methamphetamine were seized and

investigators established sufficient probable cause to support an arrest warrant that was presented to Liberty County Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace, Judge Larry Wilburn, who issued a felony warrant for Tullous’ arrest.

Investigators also worked in conjunction with the Dayton office of the Texas Pardon & Paroles, which issued an arrest warrant for Tullous in reference to parole violations.

On Mon., Sept. 29, Tullous was arrested by the Dayton Police Department at the Dayton Pardon & Paroles Office in reference to the parole warrant. Tullous was incarcerated at the Liberty County Jail.

On Wed., October 1, Pct. 4



Frankly Speaking –

Gesundheit!

What Did You Just Say and Why?

by Frank Jordan

Achoo! What just happened? Why do we sneeze? Wikipedia says, “sneezing typically occurs when foreign particles pass through the nasal hairs to reach the nasal mucosa. This triggers the release of histamines, which irritate the nerve cells in the nose, resulting in signals being sent to the brain to initiate the sneeze through the trigeminal nerve network.”

The trigeminal nerve is a cranial nerve responsible for facial motor control and senses. Your eyes automatically close when you sneeze and you don’t sneeze when asleep. But then you probably already knew all that, didn’t you?

As a note, the trigeminal nerve is located close to the optic nerve which, when sensing a bright sudden light like the sun, can signal the brain to constrict your pupils and simultaneously, for some, create a mistaken response by the trigeminal nerve that triggers an unexpected sneeze! Now you know.

If folks are nearby, the sound of a sneeze generates a quick response of, “Gesundheit!” So why does someone who almost certainly does NOT speak German nor often even know the person sneezing, without hesitation utter a three syllable word in the difficult language when a sneeze oc-

curs?

Why do we feel we must verbally respond to a sneeze? Do we say anything after hearing a burp or a snort? Usually not. Let’s discuss the history, meaning and purpose of the sneeze response.

The word gesundheit is a German word derived from “gesund” meaning health and “heit” meaning “state of” and thus the combination is defined as “good health” or “healthiness.”

If you are a purist, the sneeze response comes from a German proverb, “Gesundheit ist besser als Krankheit” or “Healthiness is better than illness.” Indisputable. The first known usage of the German retort in the United States was by the Pennsylvania Dutch farmers of German heritage.

In other cultures, the sneeze has brought different responses including the words, “long life” from the ancient Greeks, while the Romans would say, “Jupiter protect you.” In Arab countries you would hear, “Alhamdulillah” for “God be praised,” while the Hindus in response say, “Live well.”

An unusual one is in China where the words “Baisui” are the sneeze response meaning, “May you live a hundred years” and in Russia “Rosti bolshoi” for, “Be

healthy.” The Hispanics have a multiple response to a first sneeze, “salud” for “health,” then “dinero” for “wealth” for the second sneeze, and “amor” for “love” on the third nose blast. Don’t know what they say for the next 10 or 15 sometimes heard!

Why do all these cultures and more respond so quickly to basically wish the blessing of good health to the sneezer they may not even know? In ancient times people believed the force of a sneeze could propel a person’s soul out of their body. The invocations such as gesundheit were thought to stop the evil spirits from taking the soul of the person who sneezed, with the word also providing protection for future sneezes against the evil spirits.

Many, instead of gesundheit

who are from North America, say “God Bless” and the person who sneezed instinctively says, “Thank you!” The change in response from gesundheit probably is due to most in North America becoming weary of saying a German word for which they did not know the meaning.

Frankly speaking, it’s ironic the phrase, “God Bless” is another way to issue the same sentiment of seeking God’s protection against whatever evil spirit might be expelled due to the content of the sneeze. The evil spirits expelled by a sneeze just may be germs for a cold or other illness instead of your soul, so while you can say “gesundheit” or “God bless;” please also cover your nose before the nasal explosion!



DAYTON ROTARY
L to R: Rotarian Jeff Jones, Rep. Janis Holt, Rotarian Tammy Alexander.

Rep. Holt speaks to Dayton Rotarians

DAYTON - The Rotary Club of Dayton gathered at the Dayton Community Center for its weekly luncheon meeting. Rotarian Jeff Jones had the program and the members along with their guests welcomed House Representative Janis Holt, who provided an in-depth look at recent developments in Austin.

The bulk of Holt’s program focused on the state legislation, reflecting nine months of active participation in both the regular and special legislative sessions. Key updates included:

- Ban on Hostile Foreign Ownership of Land (SB 17): Prevents entities from China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran from purchasing Texas land.
- Ban on Red Flag Laws: Protecting Second Amendment rights.
- SB 287 (287g) Program: Requires county law enforcement to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement.
- Education Reform: Increases school funding and expands school choice, with ongoing dialogue with ISD superintendents.

During special sessions, legislators also addressed flood relief following the Kerr County disaster and congressional redistricting that moves Liberty County into District 9. Holt discussed other bills concerning abortion pill penalties, women’s privacy, and STAAR test reforms.

However, Holt admitted that not all efforts succeeded during the legislative sessions. Property tax relief, a THC/hemp ban, and Colony Ridge reform bills failed to advance. However, Holt emphasized that reforming development practices, such as Colony Ridge, remains a top priority.

Following her update, Ro-

tary members posed questions on issues ranging from human trafficking in Colony Ridge to school calendar changes along with cell phone bans in classrooms. Holt responded with an emphasis on balancing safety, educational quality, and parental involvement.

Rotary Secretary Elizabeth Robertson reminded members that Rotary raffle tickets are available and the raffle big prize will be a CFMoto, CForce 400 ATV. The meeting concluded with the Rotary Four-Way Test being led by President Dr. Luke Chachere.

Holt, who grew up in Jefferson County now resides in Silsbee.

Free senior lunch on Fridays in Dayton

DAYTON - Area seniors 55 and over can enjoy a free lunch each Friday at 11 a.m. at the Dayton Community Center thanks to the generosity of Amanda Wilson and her staff at the Dayton Community Center. No sign up is necessary. The first Friday of the month lunch will be provided by Theresa Abner. Eastgate Church will provide lunch the second Friday of the month, followed by Helping Hearts on the third Friday. The fourth Friday lunch will be provided by the Methodist Church. When necessary, lunch on the fifth Friday will be provided by Son-Shine Jubilee Supplies. Following lunch there will be bingo for all to enjoy.

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