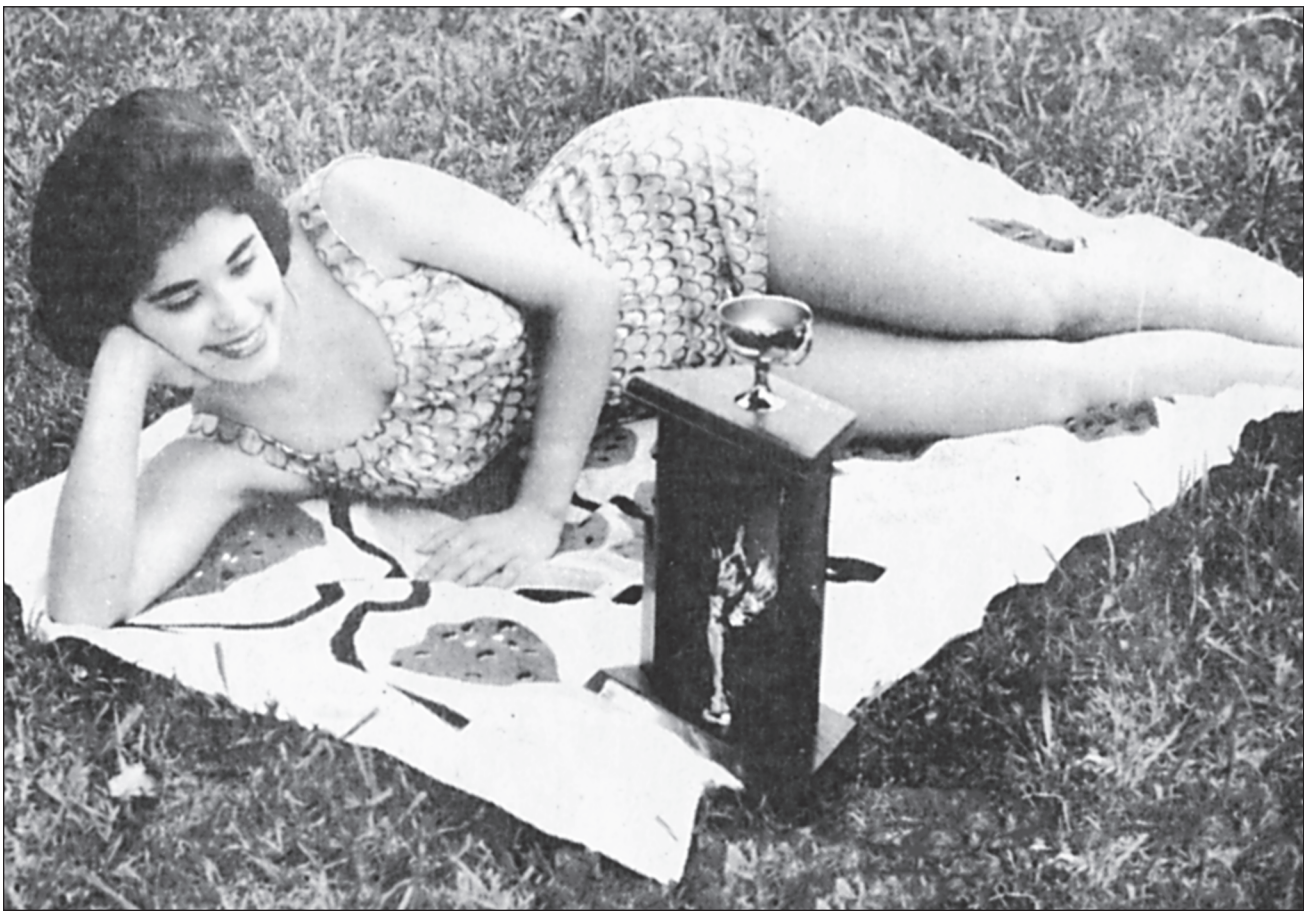


HISTORY & FOLKLORE



We got a bit of assistance on names from Janice Bodenhamer who recognized her dad in this photo from last week’s Gazette of a group of deerslayers in 1963. Janice’s dad Frank Bodenhamer is second from right holding the cigarette and Sam Shapiro is second from left with the cigar. Thanks, Janice!



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, October 18, 1962 – Patricia Gilmore is getting to be quite a trophy collector. In addition to her Miss Dayton prize here, she has many twirling and other medals and trophies.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, October 18, 1962 – Clifford L. Strickland is one of the most active and ambitious constructors in the Trinity Valley. Universally known as “Slick Strickland,” he has undertaken and completed a number of industrial construction projects as well as numerous machinery installations.

From Liberty Gazette, Thursday, March 10, 1977 –

To Elmer Mecom... Memorial to a Friend

Editor’s Note:

Mrs. Elmer Mecom was killed in a highway accident near Daisetta recently. She was a remarkable person, as is well known by her many friends. Bill and Anna Lou Brett were among her closest friends. Bill, who is feature editor of our Big Thicket Gazette, wrote the following piece about her shortly after hearing about her death.

ELMER MECOM

Knowing Elmer Mecom is gone is going to take a lot of getting used to. I don’t really know it yet, it’s been less than an hour since I was called at home and told she’d just been

killed in a car wreck. Since then it’s just been short scenes to keep, I suppose, from facing it. Got in my car – drove by where it happened – Zane Turner was helping direct traffic – ask him was it so – he said yes – drove to Liberty – started to write this. No thoughts I can remember in between.

Elmer Mecom is a friend of mine. I’m not ready to say, “was a friend” yet. She is a good friend of mine, from a long time ago. From back in the thirties when I’d see her at dances and gatherings and after her and Little Harvey married, at rodeos and calf ropings and such.

She’s a worker, Elmer is. Ain’t many men can do better work horseback than her and fewer than that knows their cattle better.

Elmer is a good farmer, can do it all from the unplowed ground to hauling it to market. I don’t mean she can tell a hand how to do it. I mean she can do it from hooking on to a moldboard plow and setting it to plow right to double-clutching a truck out of a muddy rice field on the way to the dryer with a load. I’ve seen her plowing ‘way after dark. I’ve seen her loading a seed drill using a flashlight and I’ve seen her fight a combine all day.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, October 16, 1969 – Elmer Mecom uses her Jeep as a cowpony on her ranch near Hull. Here she leads the horse on which her daughter Florence, known to her usually as “Coon,” won the title of Queen of the Trinity Valley Exposition Rodeo last month.

And adjust and mechanic on all of them.

I’ve seen her do this and then come in and cook and clean house. She’s a good cook, Elmer is. Maybe not for dainty appetites, but with what

folks like us is used to, beef, hog and field and garden produce, she’s hard to beat.

Like most of us, she is two people. Not two-faced, never two-faced. Friends of hers know it; enemies of hers know it. You never doubt where you stand with Elmer. This makes for a person that’s comfortable and easy and enjoyable to be around if you’re a friend and one that’s easy to stay away from if you’re not. I’m glad she sees me as a friend.

Elmer don’t give up easy when she feels she’s right. In fact, she don’t give up, period. For the last year or two she’s been tied up in a lawsuit against millions of dollars

and lots of political pull but so far they haven’t pushed her an inch. Up to now the only ones that’s believed she’s right was twelve people in a jury box, but, contrary to what they tell me and thee, citizen, when we’re on a jury panel, they was overruled and it was handed to people that see it different. Against them odds she probably won’t win but it won’t be because she’ll go to whining and give up.

This is the Elmer Mecom I know. The vital statistics will be in the obituary column.

I’ve got to go now and see the family and know I’ve lost a friend.

– Bill Brett



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