

Deaths and funerals

Continued from B4

Maria J. Villaverde

Our loving Maria J. Villaverde was called to rest on January 8, 1995.

She was born in 1905 and passed away at her home of 43 years in Austin, Texas.

She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Andrea (Covill) Sherman and husband, James, Mrs. Celia (Sally) Buesch and husband, Edward, and Mariela Villaverde, her son, Innocencio Villaverde and husband, Steven.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Caballo Villaverde in 1968 and son, Bruce Villaverde in 1993, John Villaverde, Sr. in 1987 and José Agustín Villaverde in 1989.

She was a member of the Catholic parish and the Spanish-Castilian Council of St. John's Catholic Church.

Funeral will be in Assumption Cemetery.

Joseph D. Whetstone

Services under the direction of Wilke-Amy-Coy Funeral Home, 2620 W. Congress.

He was a member of Dripping Springs First Baptist Church and veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Air Force.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, and a sister.

Survivors are his wife, Neoma Whetstone of Dripping Springs; daughter, Joyce Lange of Austin; grandchildren, Heather and Drew Lange, husband, Raymond Whetstone of Orlando, Florida, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family visitation will be from 7-9 p.m. Monday, January 9, 1995, at Harrell Funeral Home Chapel in Dripping Springs.

Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 10, 1995, at Dripping Springs First Baptist Church with Reverend David McKinley officiating and Pastor David Smith assisting. Burial will be in Palmita Cemetery, Dripping Springs, with Reverend Don Linder officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dripping Springs First Baptist Church or charity of choice. Arrangements by Harrell Funeral Chapel in Dripping Springs, 558-5666.

In Loving Memory Robert Martinez

Always a smile, an encouraging word and able to bring you to every new year. This is how you will always be remembered. We miss you, Our Dad in Houston, Miss Charol and Theresa Cornejo and families.

April 11, 1937 - January 8, 1991. Mother, how you have had great grandchildren, and a new daughter-in-law. You would enjoy those babies and one of them looks just like you! Today had a nice call, but you just could not get through and he's doing great well.

Don used his doming magic to get you water for that Church. We hope you can see the improvements to it and the others have made.

We miss you every single day, but we love you so very much. Mommy's Kiss

McClung County

WALKER, Delma M. "Babe" 87, of Llaneta died Saturday, January 7, at the Llaneta City Cemetery. (Waco Herald-Examiner, Llano)

WELLS, Verna V., 71, of Llaneta died Friday, January 6, at the Llaneta City Cemetery. (Waco Herald-Examiner, Llano)

WHITE, William H., 81, of Austin died Saturday, January 7, at the Llaneta City Cemetery. (Waco Herald-Examiner, Llano)

WILSON, James H., 81, of Llaneta died Saturday, January 7, at the Llaneta City Cemetery. (Waco Herald-Examiner, Llano)

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This section is recyclable

Sunday, January 8, 1995

Austin American-Statesman B5

Families of four slain girls move on - but do not forget

Continued from B1

other families could not be reached for comment this week.

The Saracis, the Ayers, Maria Thomas and Barbara Saracis's ex-husband Charles and Jennifer's father, of New Boston, Texas) split the \$11 million settlement in January 1994. Eliza's father, James Thomas, was not a party to the suit.

The parents have financed and serve as board members of a nonprofit organization called We Will Not Forget SAAR. SAAR is an acronym of the first letters of the four girls' names.

Programs and initiatives still are being developed, but the organization's purpose is education about and prevention of violent crime, with a focus on crime at fast-food establishments.

In addition, the Saracis are funding construction of a lodge to be named in their daughters' honor at the Child Care, Youth and Family Center in Dripping Springs. Barbara Saracis serves on the board of Child Care, a child-development organization that administers Head Start programs, and an organization that helps her when she arrived in Austin in 1979 as a divorcee with two young children.

News of the lawsuit settlement, the families hoped, would grab the attention of business that employ teen-agers.

The settlement afforded the families some new opportunities. It gives so, said Barbara Saracis, "the settlement is a poor excuse for any children."

"I'd much rather be living in that other house, trying to make ends meet with two teen-agers, than comfortably moving into a nice place without them."

Last fall, Skip Saracis, 47, who was a manager at Dell Computer, started studying law at the University of Tulsa. Barbara Saracis splits her time between Austin and Tulsa.

"Lawyers have such a bad rap," he said, "but from our experience, I have learned that there really is a need for lawyers. I'm interested in public interest law and alternative dispute resolution. Most of us common folk don't know how to deal with legal situations."

"I'd like to be in a situation where I could help some of these nonprofit organizations that have been a help to me, and I'd like to help people assert their rights."

Frustration with the unresolved criminal investigation and with being denied details of what happened to their girls at the yogurt shop has driven the Saracis to hire an attorney to conduct a private investigation. The lawyer is concentrating on two suspects, Mexican national Perfecto Villa Slavovick and Alberto Cortes Jimenez, who are jailed in Mexico on charges of kidnapping.

Barbara Saracis said the time in Tulsa is therapeutic, although Austin always will be home. "Tulsa is such a safe haven. I can't really leave, but I can go there and hide out from time to time. When we go out anywhere (in Austin) we are approached. People know who we are. They always offer pleasant condolences, but that carries its weight."

"Sometimes, I feel so conspicuous on unrelated conversations," Barbara Saracis said her husband Charles is a law student, their foundation to prevent other crimes and their public speaking engagements they accept all are an attempt "to make a difference for other kids."

"Trying to find some kind of meaning in our lives without these girls," she said, "is really all we could hope for."

Deaths

ALEXANDER, James H., 87, of Austin died Thursday, January 5, 11 a.m. Tuesday, King-Turn Memorial Home, Austin. Burial in Sunset Cemetery.

ANDERSON, Edwin N., 84, of Copeland died Thursday, January 5, 10 a.m. Monday, St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Copeland. Burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Copeland. (Austin Herald-Examiner)

BRANNON, Margaret "Peg", 75, of Austin died Friday, January 6, 10 a.m. Sunday, St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Copeland. Burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Copeland. (Austin Herald-Examiner)

CHITTO, Karen Marie, school daughter of Robby and Karen Chitto of Round Rock, died Thursday, January 5, 2 p.m. Monday, Cook-Walton Capital Center Cemetery, Cook-Walton Capital Center, Round Rock.

COPELAND, Arlie, 88, of Copeland died Saturday, January 7, 11 a.m. Monday, McCullough Funeral Home, Lockhart. Burial in Sunset Cemetery, Dripping Springs.

FAULK, Beulah, 84, of Austin died Thursday, January 5, 10 a.m. Tuesday, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Burial in Capital Memorial Hill. (King-Turn)

FREY, Cleo L., 85, of Austin died Friday, January 6, 10 a.m. Monday, Carver-Park Funeral Home, Burial in Austin Memorial Park.

HAVERILL, Wesley, 81, of Llaneta died Saturday, January 7, 2 p.m. Monday, Central Christian Church, Llaneta. Burial in Hill Cemetery, Llaneta. (Waco Herald-Examiner)

HOUSTON, Pauline, 73, of Austin died Jan. 4, Services 2 p.m. today, Wilke-Amy-Coy Funeral Home, Burial in Capital Memorial Park.

JONES, James Cowie, 81, of Lockhart died Saturday. Family visitation 8:30 p.m. today, McCullough Funeral Home.

KEEP THAT HAPPY FEELING WITH CHIROPRACTIC ADJUSTMENTS. DR. BILLY HARRISON. PHONE FOR APPOINTMENT 453-1922

NOTICE: The gym and travel bags advertised on page 12 of this week's Target circular are incorrectly priced. The ad states that the bags are priced at 2 for \$9. The correct price of the bags is \$12 each.

TARGET: You Are Invited. Come discuss neighborhood issues at a special Town Hall Meeting. Monday, January 9, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Carver Library, 1161 Angeline Street.

LOSE WEIGHT WITH HYPNOSIS. QUICKLY SAFELY WITHOUT HUNGER. WRITTEN GUARANTEE. \$3999 COMPLETE. Austin Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Red Lion Austin Airport. Jct I-35 290 & I-35.

GIGANTIC FIRE SALE. New Merchandise Arriving Daily To Help Cover Fire Losses! ENTIRE STORE 50% Off! All In-line Skates, All Snow Ski Wear, All Water Skis, All Bikes, All Ski Equipment, All Tennis. All Departments Recently Restocked! BONUS COUPON: Take An Extra 10% OFF* Sale Prices. Sun & Ski Sports Expo.