**RETURN TO ACTIVITY TABLE**

**WHO WERE THESE FAMOUS FOLKS?**

**SECTION 1**

**Block 2, Lot 5 Margaret and J. M. Shannon:** were ranchers and benefactors of Shannon Hospital.

The couple had no heirs, leaving an estimated 80 million dollar legacy to the hospital. They moved to San Angelo in 1893. Mr. Shannon established interests in the ranching, banking, and insurance business with hard work. He was a big man, standing 6 feet, 6 inches and liked to save his money. He was frugal to the point of wearing "breeches pinned together with safety pins or mesquite thorns.” Shannon attributed his success to "always staying with the herd “.

**Block 10, Lot 20 James L. Millispaugh:** arrived in San Angelo in 1871 and worked as the Post Trader at Fort Concho for many years. He was also one of the city commissions. Mr. Millispaugh supported projects that ensured the future of San Angelo such as wide streets, the Santa Fe Railroad extension, and the development of water and light development companies.

**Block 10, Lot 11** **Oscar Ruffini:** was a noted Texas architect who came to San Angelo in 1884 for his health. He was the first professional architect in San Angelo as well as its principal architect in the years 1884-1918. He also designed the courthouses in Paint Rock and Ozona. You can see his work at the Mason-Hughes house located at 1104 W. Beauregard. During his long career Ruffini designed numerous courthouses, schools, residences, and commercial buildings throughout West Texas. He never married and chose to live in a tool shed that is now located at Fort Concho. He died in 1957 at the age of 99.

**Block 13, Lot 4, East 2/3 Woodman of the World: Sterling P. Pool Headstone:** is one example of a Woodman of the World monument. The Modern Woodman of the World is an insurance company founded in 1890 by Joseph Cullen Root in Omaha, Nebraska. He was inspired after hearing a sermon about "pioneer woodsmen clearing away the forest to provide for their families.” His Society "would clear away problems of financial security for its members".One enduring physical legacy of the organization is distinctive headstones in the shape of a tree stump. The headstones often include a depiction of the WOW relics and symbols, including a stump or felled tree, the maul and wedge; an axe; and often a Dove of Peace with an olive branch. As Woodmen "do not lie,” a common inscription was "Here rests a Woodman of the World.” Sterling P. Pool’s headstone is an excellent example of these monuments. He was born in June of 1895 and died in October 1918 at the age of 23. He fought in WWI, as one can see by his uniform.

**Block 14, Lot 15 The Greek God Pan, the Bunyard Family:** this is a statue of Pan, who in Greek mythology is the god of the wild, shepherds and flocks, hunting and rustic music. He has the hindquarters, legs and horns of a goat. The family of Bobby Bunyard chose Pan because he loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter. He also raised and sold goats on the family farm. But he kept his two favorite goats, Buddy and Suzy, who were treated as family pets.

**Block 15, Lot 13 John “Sarge” Nasworthy:** was a Texas pioneer and Texas Ranger who fought in the Civil War. He was called “Sarge” because he arrived in San Angelo wearing a pair of Confederate soldiers’ pants with a stripe down the leg. However, he said he served as a sergeant in a Texas Ranger company. In the 1880s he was deputy county clerk and deputy sheriff of Tom Green County. He was the first treasurer of the city of San Angelo. He also owned the first local brick kiln, a wagon yard, a livery stable, and the only hearse in town in the early days. Lake Nasworthy is a man-made water conservation project located on a family ranch. He died in 1924 at the age of 75.

**Block 15, Lot 14 Edith Grierson (Edie):** was the daughter of Maj. General Benjamin Grierson and Alice Kirk Grierson. She was born in 1865. The family was stationed at Fort Concho and were living in the OQ#I building when Edith contracted typhoid fever. Two weeks later, Sept. 9, 1878, Edith passed away at 13 years of age. She was buried at the Fort Concho Cemetery which would now be the present location of Angelo Glass. A family friend, Dr. S. L. S. Smith, would later relocate her remains to Fairmount Cemetery. Dr. Smith was the surgeon at Ft. Concho and the first doctor in San Angelo.

**Block 15, Lot 4 Mortimer Leonard Mertz**: was born in 1854 and came to Texas in 1870. He and his partner, George J. Bird, were in the sheep and cattle business. They also operated cotton oil mills and gins. Mertz was instrumental in bringing the Orient Railroad to San Angelo. Mertzon was named in honor of him. In 1892, Bird and Mertz purchased a large block of stock in the San Angelo National Bank, and Mertz was elected bank president. In 1926, he initiated the construction of the eight-story bank building at Twohig and Chadbourne. (It is now the home of Trimble-Batjer Insurance). He remained bank president for 40 years until his death 1931. It was one of the first skyscrapers in San Anglo and cost between $132,500 and $250,000 to build.

**Block 22, Lot 7 Tom McCloskey:** was the owner of the Arc Light Saloon located at the corner of Concho Avenue and Chadbourne Street. It was built in the 1880's. When he installed “wood” arc lights, precursors of the electric light bulb, on the corner of the saloon, the local newspaper stated in May 1893 that the lights were “considered in expert circles one of the greatest triumphs of recent electrical discovery.” Saloonkeeper Tom McClosky kept good order and catered to the more respectable customers.  He was a Canadian ex-heavyweight prizefighter and a good businessman who won the respect of everyone in San Angelo.  When he died in 1914, all mourned his loss. The statue of Tom McCloskey is by noted sculptor Frank Teich, who also carved the Texas Confederate heroes statue on the grounds of the Texas State capital in Austin. McCloskey’s widow commissioned this noted cemetery landmark.

**Block 22, Lot 17 Hubbard Family Headstones:** are some of the newer and more unique memorials in Fairmount. On the back of one is incised the route of the Texas and Pacific railroad. There are also many epitaphs written on the headstones, including “nature’s stage is wonderous”, “time is growing short” and “do what you can with what you’ve got where you are now”.

**Block 23, Lot 12-13 Hudson Family Angel Headstone:** this is a beloved headstone at Fairmount. The resting angle is a classic Victorian symbol and represents spirituality, rebirth, protection, wisdom, mercy and divine love. They also guard the tomb and are thought to be messengers between God and man. Our angel may also represent a mourner for the lost loved one since she is draped over the headstone.

**Block 25, Lot 21 Tankersley Family:** were the first white settlers in the area. The family arrived in 1864, before Fort Concho was established in 1867. Mrs. Annie Tankersley, the first white female pioneer in the Concho Valley, operated the Tankersley Hotel.  A strong-minded woman, she faced down an angry mob of soldiers during the Soldiers Riots of 1881. Her first hotel, a wooden structure, burned; and she replaced it with a fireproof adobe structure. This structure was destroyed in the flood of 1882. The town of Tankersley is named after them.

**Block 50, Lot 7 – 10 City Gridiron Cemetery Area:**  in Block 50 lay the remains of 203 citizens buried in the old City Cemetery that fronted East 4th Street, bounded by Magdalen and North Oakes Street. It was across the street from what is now the Central Freshman Campus, located at 218 North Oakes. This area in Block 50 was established in 1920 when the old cemetery was being cleared to make way for the new high school playing field and Public Park. Thus the name City Gridiron Cemetery.

**Block 50 John Ingram**: was a soldier and farmer who was born in Green County, Kentucky, on March 10, 1808. He left Arkansas Territory in the fall of 1821 with Thomas J. Williams, Jesse Burnam, and James Gillaspie and reached the Brazos River on December 29, 1821. On January 4, 1827, Ingram signed a petition with many others of Austin's colony condemning the instigators of the Córdova rebellion as "traitors" and "infamous characters. He fought in multiple engagements throughout the Texas Revolution, including the battle at San Jacinto. Ingram married Elizabeth Price, a native of South Carolina, in January 1838. The couple, who eventually had seven children, settled on the Colorado River some nine miles above La Grange at Ingram's Prairie. At some point Ingram and his family moved to Rutersville, where their home was often the site of Methodist services. In 1869 the family moved to Blanco County. There Mrs. Ingram died on September 22, 1888, and was buried in the Walnut Cemetery near Round Mountain. Ingram died in March 1896 while on a visit to Fort Concho and is buried in Fairmount Cemetery, San Angelo. His military record shows him to be five foot, eight inches with blue eyes and fair complexion.

**Block 55, Lot 1 Anchor, Cross, Lily and Ivy Headstone:** is a well-known headstone at Fairmount and an excellent example of classical Victorian symbolism. The anchor can signify a mariner, fisherman, or a U.S. Navy burial. It is the Christian symbol for hope and steadfastness. The cross is the traditional symbol of Christian faith, and the lily is a symbol of chastity, innocence, and purity. The white lily is used to symbolize the resurrection of Christ and restoration of innocence of the soul. The ivy is a symbol of immortality, fidelity, and faithfulness and of undying affection and friendship.

**Block 56, Lot 14-15 Willis Johnson:** was born on February 16, 1857 in Paris, Henry County, Tennessee. J. Willis Johnson would become one of the most admired examples of law enforcement excellence. Johnson hitchhiked at 16 to West Texas and started out in Brownwood, TX. He joined a group of buffalo hunters in 1874 and worked around Pecan Bayou, eventually ending up in the village of Santa Angela, where he garnered a reputation of being a skilled buffalo skinner. In 1882, Johnson was elected the Hide and Animal Inspector for Tom Green County and held this position until he ran for Sheriff in 1884. He beat James Spears by a small margin and became the peacekeeper of the largest county in Texas. He would win reelection four additional times by a large margin. And he never carried a gun. Johnson married Lou Elizabeth Holmsley on September 14, 1887. Johnson was also an avid rancher. He acquired two famous Tom Green County ranches, the Crows Nest and the Door Key. He also had a hand in banking, holding the position of vice president and chairman of the board for Western National Bank from January 25, 1905 until his death. J. Willis Johnson died on November 14, 1923 of a cerebral hemorrhage. The J. Willis Johnson Foundation was established after his death by his late wife. The foundation would later construct the Johnson Dam and numerous community and medical projects.

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