

Folks, a milestone has been reached with this column — this is the 600th “Reilly Springs News.” It’s been a journey learning about Reilly Springs, sharing joys and sorrows and celebrating life in

the small community that our ancestors began back in the 1800s.

What began over 11 years ago has evolved into a dose of just what is happening in your lives and the world around us. We’ve shared personal losses of many of those who were constants in our community, celebrated their lives and told about some of the stories they remembered about our community. And you’ve shared with us some treasures that your own parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents have handed-down from generation to generation about what makes the Reilly Springs community so special. Without a doubt, it’s certainly been the people, those stalwart individuals who kept the faith during very trying times and continued to go about doing good in this place we now call home. We can only hope that the lives we’re leading today will in some way reflect on others in days to come as they share their memories of us.

Those special memories are even more special to me this week as I share in the loss of one of my favorite aunts, Sarah McDonald Boyd, who passed away Friday. Aunt Sarah was one of those who endured the cotton patch and swore that if she ever reached adulthood she was going to marry a “town boy” so she wouldn’t ever have to pick cotton, again. She succeeded in that department when she married a teacher and college professor from Sulphur Springs. However, he took her on a journey through life that surely made her have some doubts, as they moved to Ozona and then to Big Spring, where there weren’t her beloved trees. But through it all she was the life of the party at most family gatherings. I treasure the early Easter Egg hunts at my grandmother’s home that she was such a part of during my formative years. She always made life fun at every family event with a keen sense of humor. She inherited the mannerisms and voice of her own grandmother “Belle,” and delighted the entire family with her stories and love of life. She will be sorely missed by us all. Services were this morning at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery.

I heard from my “cousins,” the Striblings, this week, and they reported a trip to Brayden’s soccer games over the weekend. They won the first one but lost the second one in weekend action. Then, on Saturday evening, Cody, Rhandi and Case Fails visited with friends Sara, Brandon and Pacen Price and Tommy Mobley and Bryan Wright.

David and Debra Stribling took Brayden and Alexis to a trail ride at David and Tammy Winstead’s home on Saturday, and Debra and Alexis tried “calf fries” for the first time in their lives. You might want to ask them for their own version of this dish.

And if you heard some shooting Saturday night, Brayden killed his first coyote. He didn't stop there — he was trapping hogs Sunday.

Until next week, have a wonderful Easter holiday with family and friends sharing the great blessings that we enjoy in this community.