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M A G A Z I N E

JANUARY 2024

The Light Within

A former international fashion model is a timeless beauty

In the Kitchen With Mari Worley

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business:
Gilfillan's Paint & Hardware

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ON THE COVER



Model and now writer, Helen Martin loves sharing glamor tips.

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Memories by Melissa.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome, 2024!

New places, new learning, new experiences and meeting new people entice me to travel near and far. "New" doesn't have to just happen as our New Year begins. It can be enjoyed throughout the year. For instance, this past summer, I enjoyed eating pizza while playing games with my grandchildren and their parents. It's a concept I hadn't ever seen before, but the wait time before one's custom-prepared pizza arrives is filled by selecting and playing an old favorite or newly conceived board game and/or puzzle. We grabbed refills because there wasn't a rush to leave after dining. My granddaughters didn't even think of getting on a cell phone or tablet that night! What a joy as we played and talked. I learned a new game that evening, and I learned another couple of games during a "girls" campout, where I made some new friends and saw a new-to-me area of Texas.

I'm not a romance or fantasy story person, but I was captivated by a serial story on one of my streaming networks during the past holidays. It had a Hallmark Channel feel to it, so even when disasters occurred, hope was not lost. The scenery was beautiful. The gardens and homes were perfectly groomed, and I never saw anyone doing any chores of any sort. Everyone in the small community helped one another, and the two somewhat villainous souls faced justice and turned their lives around. As I have paid bills, cleaned house, cut brush in the pasture and had needed car and roof repairs addressed, I have resolved this new year to change my attitude while seeking more joy in my chores; more thankfulness in owning that car, home and pastures; and find a little more time to relax with friends and family.

Here's to a blessed and fulfilling New Year!



Virginia

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The Light Within

— By Virginia Riddle



Photo by Ron Pawelkowski.



Youthful days spent growing up in Abington, Illinois, south of Chicago, gave Helen Martin her start in the international fashion world. “Abington was a small farming town with factories,” she recalled. “My mother was elegant. She designed and made our clothes, and she spoke beautifully. My career started when I took home economics in school, and we sewed an outfit and had to model it on a stage without a runway. The parents were our audience, but when the lights came up, and I saw the audience, a star was born. I just knew what to do even though I had never seen a fashion show. The teacher told my parents, ‘Helen should be a fashion model.’”


Her mother, a creative person and actress in school, understood Helen’s potential. The small-town girl left Abington for Chicago to train at Patricia Stevens Modeling and Talent Agency, and she studied acting. “I worked by day and went to school by night,” Helen said. “I never stopped for anything.” Helen’s time was soon booked by an agent, and she was doing commercials and modeling at stores and hotel ballrooms. “It was so exciting,” she recalled.


By the 1960s, she was in New York City. Victor Skrebneski, a famous fashion photographer, started taking photos of Helen for Associated Press newspapers, and the photos later became part of his coffee table book. “The only nude photo I ever posed for was with him,” she confessed. “I trusted him, and my sainted mother had to see the photographs. It was an elegant lifestyle in NYC, and I loved every minute of it. Models went out all the time in fashion designers’ clothes.” Helen’s career took her to exotic locations including Hawaii, Bermuda and Key West. “My mother was Italian, and I was told I was exotic looking, so I modeled mostly couture fashion. No matter the location, photographer or fashion, Helen said, “A model has to know what the camera is seeing and what his or her place is in it.”


“A model has to know what the camera is seeing and what his or her place is in it.”

She married and moved to Dallas, Texas, where she joined the Kim Dawson Agency, Inc. “I didn’t ever diet, but I did eat small portions,” Helen admitted. “Models had to have a 33-inch hip or less. Sometimes, I would eat very little for three days before a designer fitting, but one sad day came when I had gained 10 pounds and no longer had a 33-inch hip.” She appeared in movies, TV and radio commercials and freelanced as a model. Neiman Marcus booked her for a private showing for the store’s best customers, and she started working for Stanley Marcus at Neiman Marcus. “I worked with all the major fashion designers while modeling or through Neiman Marcus — Valentino, Yves Saint Laurent, Karl Lagerfeld, Armani, Prada and so many more,” Helen remembered. “Stanley and the top designers were elegant, kind and

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Photo by George Dawson.

my mentors.” She cited the annual Christmas catalog and the Fortnights as her favorite memories of her time with Neiman Marcus.

Lou Michaels, Helen’s sister, and her husband, John S. Davies, moved to Corsicana, and Helen joined them two years ago. “John and Lou were friends with Nancy Rebel in Dallas, and she invited them to move here,” Helen stated. “When a girl, I couldn’t wait to

leave small-town Abington, and here I am again, living in a small town, and loving it!” she exclaimed. Helen has written a published book, *High Fashion High Adventure*, and is working on her second book, with the working title, *Grandmother, Mother, Myself*. Used to working with modeling agencies, Helen said, “I found a publisher for my book without even having an agent.” Additionally, she’s a popular speaker. “I love all the events, writers, artists in Corsicana and having the college here,” she said. “The streets are quiet, and I can walk and say hi to people.” A widow, she enjoys visits with her stepson and daughter-in-law who live in the Dallas area.

As the New Year begins, Helen shares some of her tips for classy design and dressing. “Don’t just think comfortable. Be smart. Wear navy since it looks good on everyone no matter their hair, eye or skin coloring. Black classical styled pencil skirts never go out of style and look elegant. Attention to grooming is most important, and one’s makeup must look fresh and natural. Accessories are the most

essential things in one’s wardrobe — jewelry, gloves, scarves, hats, your grandmother’s pin — they can change an outfit beautifully. Tops and bottoms don’t have to match. Be creative, and never stop being glamorous. Women and glamour are synonymous. Wear what’s flattering instead of trying to look ‘your age.’”

Looking back on her long modeling, acting, couture fashion and now writing career, Helen said, “I never have thought of quitting or changing anything about my career. I never gave out an inappropriate vibe to anyone with whom I worked and was only once approached inappropriately by an advertising man. I told him I wasn’t his ‘baby,’ turned and walked away.”

Another notable and timeless beauty, Audrey Hepburn, maybe remarked about beauty best, “... true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she shows.” Helen’s style, elegance and passion for her work is notable wherever she goes and is proof that timeless beauty is lit by the light within oneself. **NOW**

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Zoomed In:
Pat Stone-Gullatt

By Virginia Riddle

Having found the right home in Corsicana’s Carriage District, Pat Stone-Gullatt and her husband moved to Corsicana in 1984. They later moved to Lake Richland Chambers. Pat, widowed twice, has lived in the county since the year she came to Corsicana. “I enjoy the small-town living and love the Kinsloe House, where I served as president,” Pat said.

She volunteers with the Salvation Army, Northside Baptist Church and recently received a plaque for her service with the Navarro Regional Hospital Auxiliary. She likes to play bridge, read, garden in flower beds and has gone on river cruises in Europe. Her son’s family visits often, and she has two stepdaughters. Pat concluded, “I’m thankful to have enjoyed my life, met the people I have and have my family.”



It takes a village to host First Methodist Church Corsicana’s popular annual bazaar.



Dr. Kenneth Walker, Navarro College president 1974- 1988, receives a tour of his namesake, Walker Dining Hall, from Director of Dining Services Jennifer Harper.



General Lee (aka Bob O'Toole) greets JCCS students at the Pearce Museum.



Patricia Ivie, Gary Garcia and Lorie Stovall rejoice after finishing the Angelita Vineyard Wine Run.



Kids attending the Pioneer Village's fall re-enactment learn old-fashioned skills.



Andrew Lewis, Navarro County Extension agent, explains the Master Gardener program to Better Garden Club members.



Margie Taylor visits with Judy Gallin at her WLAC Gallery opening reception.

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— By Virginia Riddle

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customer, help troubleshoot their project challenges, build relationships and provide exceptional customer service."

About 15 staff members, some with more than 20 years' experience, and all with unique skill sets, help customers. "Our employees are integral to our success and a cornerstone of our business. We're grateful to have them and proud to work beside them while meeting customers' needs," Darla said.

Locally owned by brothers, Jim Gilfillan Jr. and John Gilfillan, along with Darla, John's wife, the business was founded in 1983 by James Sr. and his wife, Betty. Jim and John started working at this family-owned business at young ages. "They developed their individual business interests — Jim's being paint, and John's focusing on hardware," Darla said. Everyone is cross-trained so occasional days can be spent enjoying Jim and John's favorite sports — snow skiing and four-wheeling.

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include Benjamin Moore and Kelly-Moore paint, STIHL and Ego Power equipment, Milwaukee Tools and full lines of hardware, plumbing and related home improvement supplies and materials. Most major credit cards, cash and checks are accepted as payment.

Having grown up in this business, John said, "I enjoy the relationships formed over the years. We're hometown experts who develop relationships with people in our community and reinvest in that community by offering employment and providing needed services and products." Gilfillan's is a member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business and the Paint and Decorating Association. "We've been selected as Best of the Best in the Hardware and the Paint and Supplies categories for over 20 years," John added.

"We take care of the needs of our customer, help troubleshoot their project challenges, build relationships and provide exceptional customer service."

"Our sense of community is important," Darla agreed. "We support local nonprofits and Navarro College. Corsicana's small, rural, conservative hometown environment allows personal and professional relationships to form where businesses and customers enjoy a level of trust and respect.

"It's important to both Jim and John to continue building what their father worked hard to establish in this community by taking our family-owned business on to the third generation, our sons," Darla shared. "As an extended, work-related family, our hope is to serve our community by providing retail and commercial hardware and paint products while continuing to build lasting relationships with our neighbors. We live, work and have built our lives in this area and want our customers and employees to know we're grateful for the blessing of being able to run this business with their help. We look forward to building new and strengthening existing relationships. We're excited about the future of our store as we adapt to our customers' growing needs and the growth of our community." **NOW**

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In the Kitchen With

MARI WORLEY

— By Virginia Riddle

Living overseas during most of her growing up years influenced Mari Worley's cooking. "I love to cook ethnic food, and I'm liberal with all spices and herbs," she shared. "I use cookbooks I've collected from all over the world in addition to my mother's two cookbooks, and I make up recipes with ingredients I like while trying to cook healthy meals."

Mari is the marketing director for Angelita Vineyard & Winery. She and her husband, Bill, have raised five children and have eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They live on their ranch along with dogs, cats, exotic birds, horses, cattle and chickens. Mari concluded, "I love to cook because I love to eat. I express love for others by cooking and get pleasure from their enjoyment of the meal." **NOW**

Italian Delight

This may be prepared beforehand and refrigerated.

1 lb. hamburger
2 onions, chopped
1 bell pepper, chopped
6-8 mushrooms, sliced (Canned may be used.)
1 garlic clove, minced
1 10.5-oz. can condensed tomato soup
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce

1 8.25-oz. can creamed corn
1 6-oz. can whole olives
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 Tbsp. Tabasco sauce
1/2 lb. egg noodles, cooked according to package directions
1 cup cheddar or Mexican cheese, grated

1. Brown the hamburger, onions, bell peppers, mushrooms and garlic. In a large bowl, combine the browned mixture with

the remaining ingredients, except the cheese.

2. Pour the mixture into a large casserole or rectangular baking dish; cover with the grated cheese. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.

Moroccan Fish

Yields 4-6 servings.

4 lbs. whole sea bass, lingcod or rockfish, filleted
1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 tsp. curry powder
1/2 cup dry white wine
3 Tbsp. soy sauce
3 Tbsp. ketchup or chili sauce
1 tsp. dill weed (optional)

1. Rinse the fillets; pat dry. Line a shallow roasting pan with heavy-duty foil. Arrange the fillets skin-side down on the foil; set aside.

2. In a small frying pan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onions and garlic; cook until the onion is tender.

3. Stir in the curry powder; cook for 1-2

minutes. Add the wine, soy sauce, ketchup and dill weed, if using; stir until the mixture is heated completely.

4. Generously brush a portion of the onion mixture over the fish; bake the fish, uncovered, at 425 F for 25 minutes, or until the fish flakes when probed with a fork. Continue to brush the fish with the remaining onion mixture several times during the baking.

5. To serve, cut serving-size pieces crosswise; remove the skin from the meat.

Garden Vegetable Salad

Yields 4 servings.

- 1 cup asparagus, sliced into 2-inch-long pieces
- 1 cup green beans, sliced
- 1 cup fresh or frozen peas
- 2 Tbsp. cider vinegar
- 2 tsp. honey
- 2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 14-oz. can marinated artichoke hearts (quarters or halves)
- 1 cup radishes, sliced
- 2 eggs, hard-boiled and quartered

1. In a vegetable steamer, arrange the asparagus, beans and peas; steam over boiling water about 2-4 minutes or until the vegetables are barely tender. *Note: If using frozen peas, don't steam them.*

2. Plunge the vegetables into cold water to cool quickly; drain well. Cover; refrigerate if the dish is prepared ahead of time.

3. Before serving, in a bowl or jar, combine the vinegar, honey, garlic salt and pepper. Drain the marinade from the artichoke hearts into the vinegar mixture; stir and shake.

4. Pour the dressing over the vegetables. Add the radishes and artichoke hearts; toss. Cover; chill approximately 30 minutes. Garnish with the eggs.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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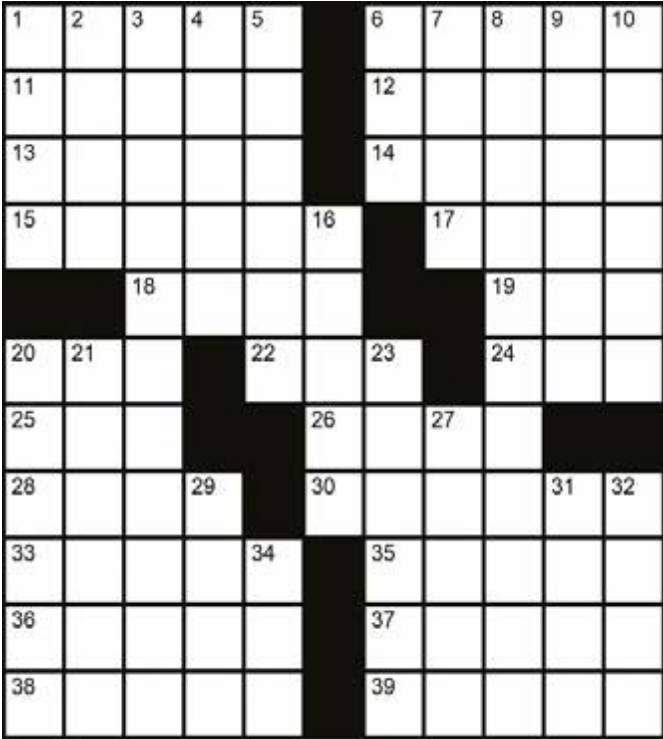
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Territory marker
- 6 Indisputable data
- 11 General meaning
- 12 Alert
- 13 These choristers can be male or female
- 14 Annapurna locale
- 15 "The Lion King" baddies
- 17 Plunge head-first
- 18 Lab product in "Breaking Bad"
- 19 Involuntary muscular contraction

Down

- 1 Six-sided state
- 2 Depend
- 3 Meet painter, surreally prone to excess
- 4 Nary a soul
- 5 Not genuine and usually inferior
- 6 Geisha's prop
- 7 Impressed
- 8 Governmental seat, usually
- 9 Alamo commander
- 10 Choose
- 16 Acute
- 20 Immerse
- 22 Destroy
- 24 G M T minus 4h
- 25 Bard's before
- 26 Turn at dice
- 28 Political patronage
- 30 Tranquil
- 33 Broadcasting
- 35 Stand
- 36 Name
- 37 Turned off
- 38 Perfume
- 39 Without emotion
- 20 Train stations
- 21 Humorously sarcastic
- 23 Samuel Goldwyn's homeland
- 27 It happens every birthday
- 29 Ceramicist's furnace
- 31 Image of a deity
- 32 Repudiate
- 34 Soak in liquid

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle. Click on the See All button to view solutions.



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1/2, 1/6, 1/13,
1/24, 2/3

Navarro College Home Basketball Games:

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1/10, 1/17, 1/24

Kinsloe House Luncheon:

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1/17-1/20

The Last Five Years:

Times vary. Fator Theatre,

Warehouse Living Arts Center,
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2/1

The Greatest Love of All:

A Tribute to Whitney Houston:
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www.corsicanapalace.com.

2/3

Billy Dean:

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Wednesdays

Storytime:

10:30 a.m., Corsicana Public
Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook:
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Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Newcomers Club Luncheon:

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11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House,
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First Saturdays

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