

# Lifelong Coke County resident retires

Marilyn Bivins, owner of Glenn-Bivins Insurance, retires after 37 years with Glenn-Bivins Insurance. Marilyn's grandfather, L.T. Youngblood, partnered with Miss Carrie Williams in the local insurance agency sometime between 1922 and 1927, calling the agency Youngblood-Williams Insurance. Then in 1937, Mr. Youngblood purchased Miss Carrie Williams' interests in the agency and became the sole owner, changing the name to Youngblood Insurance.

After Marilyn's dad, Earl F. Glenn, received his honorable discharge from the Army in 1945, Earl (known fondly as Tuny) and Mary joined her father's insurance agency. They changed the agency name to Youngblood and Glenn Insurance. In 1971 Mr. Youngblood retired from the family business. At this time, the agency name was changed to Glenn Insurance Agency. It remained that name until 1983 when Mary and Tuny brought in their eldest daughter,

Marilyn Glenn Bivins.

The agency once again changed its name to Glenn-Bivins Insurance. This agency started in the First National Bank building in Bronte and was located in the original bank building. Then, when the new bank was built, First National Bank-Bronte made a place for the insurance office in the new building. Glenn-Bivins Insurance stayed there until 1987 when they just outgrew their space. Marilyn and Garry Bivins built a new building at 123 West Main Street in Bronte, where Glenn-Bivins Insurance is privileged to have continued for many more years. And the agency will continue for years to come.

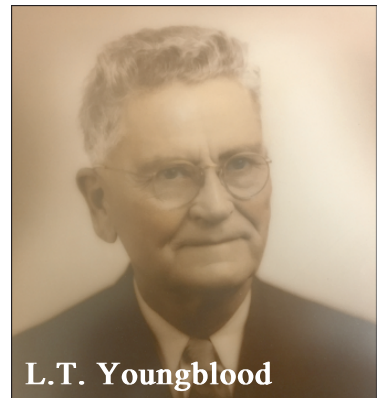
Marilyn Bivins grew up in Bronte, graduated high school in Bronte, and graduated from Baylor University. After graduation, she started a teaching career and married Garry Bivins. In 1983, Mary and Tuny were able to get Marilyn, Garry, along with their two daughters, Christy and Melissa, to move back to Bronte to raise their family.

Marilyn has been such an active person in Coke County. She was very active on the East Coke County Ambulance service from its inception until retiring in 2020, in the Bronte First Baptist Church, Sorosis Study Club; and in any way to support our precious community from sponsoring band boosters, sports boosters, the cheerleaders, FFA, Stock Show, Restoring Bronte Foundation, Christmas in Olde Bronte, Longhorn Golf Course, Bronteoberfest, just to name a few.

Marilyn hired Lanette in November 2002. Marilyn instilled into Lanette the great importance of supporting our local community and remembering to place God front and foremost in everything you do. After 18 years, Lanette and her husband Keith Fletcher, have purchased Glenn-Bivins Insurance from Marilyn. Lanette only hopes to be able to make the kind of impact Marilyn made on this community and to continue the family legacy. Lanette stated she has very large shoes to fill - Papa Youngblood was a great man!



Marilyn Bivins



L.T. Youngblood



Earl "Tuny" and Mary Glenn

Tuny and Mary were amazing people! Marilyn has taught her so much - both in the insurance business and how to be an

honorable person. Lanette and Keith wanted to keep the name Glenn-Bivins Insurance to honor Marilyn, Tuny, and Mary.

James A. Garfield is the only sitting member of the U.S. House ever elected President, but he never got the chance to put his mark on the office. He was shot by an assassin four months into his term and then lingered on for two months until his death. Garfield was a deeply honorable man who was forward-thinking on matters such as equality between the races. I finished this book thinking he would have been an excellent President had he not been murdered by a deranged man whose reasons for the attack are beyond logical belief. Sadly, Garfield should have survived the attack, but the primitive "experts" of American medicine managed to prevent that.

"Desert Solitaire" by Edward Abbey

Edward Abbey is not for everyone. A renowned author on environmental issues, his views were extreme and dabbled into the anarchic. Even so, "Desert Solitaire" is a fine read whether you endorse his world view or not. It tracks Abbey's years as a park ranger in the 1950s at what is now Arches National Park. Living alone in the desert, a man has time to deeply consider the world and Abbey uses his time in often-fascinating ways. If you ever consider writing about your own experiences in life, Abbey is a must-read.

"Billionaire Wilderness: the Ultra Wealthy and the Remaking of the American West" by Justin Farrell

Justin Farrell grew up poor in Wyoming before becoming a sociology professor at Yale. He takes a balanced and deeply-researched look at the trend of wealthy and ultra-wealthy Americans flocking to places like Jackson Hole, which creates complex interpersonal relationships between residents

across ethnic, social, and income spectrums.

"Let My People Go Surfing: the Education of a Reluctant Businessman" by Yvon Chouinard

I have written about this book before. The founder of Patagonia tells of his unintended rise from rock climber to billionaire CEO. Regardless of whether you agree with Chouinard's political views, more entrepreneurs and business executives could stand to learn from his deeply sincere vision of a person's obligation to use their success to impact the world around them.

"A Big Gospel in Small Places:

Why Ministry in Forgotten Communities Matters" by Stephen Witmer

Witmer is a pastor in rural Massachusetts who advocates for the importance of Christian ministry in rural places. I devoted several essays to thoughts on this book, but I would reiterate its value - if you are a Christian leader in a "small place" or if you aspire to be, this book is a powerful encourager to pursue that mission.

"Cadillac Desert: the American Desert and its Disappearing Water" by Marc Reisner


One of the classic books on the development of the modern

American West, Cadillac Desert will infuriate you at the short-sighted development of the West's scarce water resources. It will anger you at many of the West's most important stakeholders, who have often engaged in the most short-sighted and self-destructive decisions in their "choose your own adventure" path of water management.

"Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage" by Alfred Lansing

Another book that I wrote about earlier in 2020, "Endurance" tells the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's doomed expedition to the Antarctic. Launched in 1912, the expedition became trapped in pack ice and the men spent three years trying to escape the ice and return to civilization. It is an incredible tale of resilience and leadership. It will leave you in awe that Shackleton did not lose a single man.

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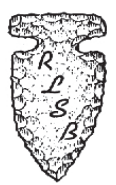
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