

9-30-98
IN

Jose Valdez

Jose Valdez died Sept. 30. he was 64.

He is survived by his wife, Janie Valdez, sons, Ike, Mike, Santos, Richard, Gabriel, Lorenzo, and Jimmie

Valdez; daughter, Rose

Garcia; brothers, Domingo,

Donato, Toby,

Tony, Juan,

Jesse, and Greg Valdez; sisters,

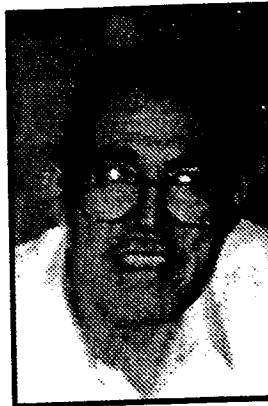
Lupita Lucio,

Anita Villanueva, and

Mary Vasquez;

18 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Oct. 3 at St. Luke's Catholic Church. Burial followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.



Valdez

9-10-98
IN

Mary Lee Repass Vandiver

Mary Lee Repass Vandiver died Sept. 7 at an Irving hospital after a short illness.

Born March 31, 1912, in Ivan, to Lee Gordon and Oma Johnson Repass, she graduated from Texas Tech and West Texas State University. She was a teacher in Wellington and retired from the Amarillo Public Schools in 1974.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Al; two brothers and a sister.

Survivors include her daughters, Virginia Conner and husband Johnny of Irving and Carolyn Altman and husband David of Cedar Park; grandchildren, Tim Conner and wife Tammy of Irving, Kelly Duncan and husband Brent of Plano and Kristi Kelley and husband Thad of Cedar Park; and four great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted Wednesday at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Mike Walker officiating.

Family requests in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to First United Methodist Church of Irving.

Arrangements by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

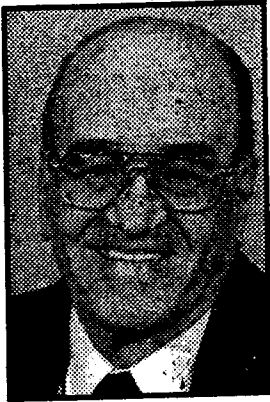
9-6-98
IN

Charles Edward Vann

Charles Edward Vann of Irving died Sept. 3. He was 79.

He was a member of Beltline Road Church of Christ and an Irving resident since 1955. He was born 7/31/1919 in El Paso, Ark.

He is survived by daughters, Deanna Margaret Vann Shero, Mesquite; Barbara Ann Elkins, Fort Worth and Carolyn Sue Renfro, Irving; sister, Estelle Brown, Irving; grandchildren, Malean Broyles,



Vann

Broken Arrow, Okla., Michelle Youman, Mesquite, Bethany Knowles, Saginaw, Adam Elkins, Arlington, Rhonda Adams, Morenci, Ariz., and Sonya Gierling, Watauga; and eight great-grandchildren.

Services were held Sept. 5 at Beltline Road Church of Christ with the Rev. Dan Flournoy officiating. Burial followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

89-6-98
I.N.
491

Remains linked to missing nurse

Metroplex officials continue search this week for clues to how Reena Varghese of Irving died

By **GENE ABRAHAMSON**

News Staff Writer

Grand Prairie investigators will continue to search the West Fork of the Trinity River this week for evidence of how an Irving nurse reported missing since April 1996 died.

A forensic dentist last week determined the remains of a jawbone with teeth found near MacArthur Boulevard in Grand Prairie to be that of Reena Varghese of Irving, police reports stated. Varghese, who was 25 years old when she was reported missing April 4, 1996, was last seen at 7:08 p.m. that evening leaving Methodist Medical Center in Dallas, where she worked as a nurse in the special care nursery.

"There is no way to tell if she was killed in an accident or if there was some kind of foul play," Sgt. Alan Patton, Grand Prairie police spokesman and supervisor of the police department's crimes against persons unit, said Wednesday during a press conference called about two hours after Varghese's family was notified of the positive identification of her remains.

Patton said the jawbone was found by an Irving teen-ager, who was fishing with his family in the West Fork of the Trinity in mid-May. He said the jawbone was found about 15 feet above the water line and under a bridge on MacArthur Boulevard, just north of Interstate 30. Police

See NURSE, Page 2A

LAST SEEN IN 1996

Reena Varghese was 25 years old when she was reported missing April 4, 1996. She was last seen at 7:08 p.m. that evening

leaving Methodist Medical Center in Dallas, where she worked as a nurse in the special care nursery.



VARGHESE



J. BRENT WINN/News Staff
Grand Prairie Police Crime Scene Technician Don Swanz retrieves a bag of potential evidence Wednesday from the West Fork of the Trinity River.



J. BRENT WINN/News Staff

Sgt. Alan Patton of the Grand Prairie police department makes an announcement a jawbone discovered in May was identified as missing nurse Reena Varghese of Irving.

Nurse: Remains linked to missing Irving woman

□ Continued from Page 1A

were called and an officer collected the jawbone, which was sent to the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas for analysis and comparison.

Patton stressed to the media that based solely on the jawbone and teeth, there is no way to determine if Varghese might have been killed in an accident while driving to her home — less than two miles from the bridge — or if she might have been murdered. The white, 1990 Toyota Corolla Varghese was seen driving when she left Methodist Medical Center in Dallas has not been located.

Last week, about 30 police personnel, members of the department's lake unit, personnel from the Dallas County medical examiner's office and officers in a Dallas Police Department helicopter searched the area of the West Fork of the Trinity River in hope of finding

evidence that might aid in determining how Varghese died.

"They found some things, but who knows where they came from," Patton said. "The people doing the search found some animal bones, but no skeletal remains."

Patton said police personnel would continue to search the river area. Police also were trying to locate a sonar unit that would aid in determining if a car might be under water in the area where Varghese's jawbone was found.

"Whatever investigation we have into this death will be a joint investigation including Grand Prairie police, the Dallas Police Department's missing persons and homicide units and the Methodist hospital police," Patton said.

Varghese's disappearance had been primarily investigated by Dallas police until her jawbone was discovered in Grand Prairie.



VARGHESE

Search for evidence continues

By **GENE ABRAHAMSON**

News Staff Writer

Nearly a week after police announced a jawbone with teeth found near the West Fork of the Trinity River matched that of a missing Irving woman, Grand Prairie officials have yet to discover evidence indicating how she died.

On Aug. 31, a forensic dentist determined the remains of a jawbone with teeth found near MacArthur Boulevard in Grand Prairie to be that of Reena Varghese of Irving, police reports stated. Varghese, who was 25 years old when she was reported missing April 4, 1996, was last seen at 7:08 p.m. that evening leaving Methodist Medical Center in Dallas, where she worked as a nurse in the special care nursery.

The jawbone was found by an Irving teen-ager who was fishing with his family in the West Fork of the Trinity in mid-May. The teen-ager found the jawbone about 15 feet above the water line and under a bridge on MacArthur Boulevard, just north of Interstate 30. Police were called and an officer collected the jawbone, which was sent to the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas for analysis and comparison.

Patton stressed to the media that based solely on the jawbone and teeth, there is no way to determine if Varghese might have been killed in an accident while driving to her home — less than two miles from the bridge — or if she might have been murdered. The white, 1990 Toyota Corolla Varghese was seen driving when she left Methodist Medical Center in Dallas has not been located.

On Sept. 2, about 30 police personnel, members of the department's lake unit, personnel from the Dallas County medical examiner's office and officers in a Dallas Police Department helicopter searched the area of the West Fork of the Trinity River in hope of finding evidence that might aid in determining how Varghese died. The search continued the next day with a volunteer diver using sonar equipment to try to find

See VARGHESE, Page 3A

Varghese: Investigation continues

Continued from Page 1A

clues under water.

"The diver said he's certain the car is not in the Trinity east of the bridge," Patton said. "He's going back out and will start at the Belt Line Road bridge to the west and work his way back to the spot the jawbone was found. We also will arrange for him to go up in a helicopter so he can check on other bodies of water in the area that he might want to check out. He's very motivated and he has two or three people to help him. As long as he wants to do the job, we'll take it."

Patton said the search so far has turned up bones most likely from animals, a piece of blue dash and other car parts that have not been positively linked to Varghese's car and other items that he declined to identify. Items turned up during the search will be given to a crime-analysis lab to determine if they have any significance in the case.

On Wednesday morning, local investigators were scheduled to meet with members of the Dallas Police Department's missing persons and homicide units, who first investigated Varghese's disappearance, to discuss the case, Patton said.

Royal Benton Vaughn

Royal Benton Vaughn died Oct. 12 at Arlington Memorial Hospital. He was 75.

Born Sept. 30, 1923, in Red Springs, Vaughn served in World War II and retired from American Airlines with 24 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Troy and Sibbie Vaughn of Dublin; brother, Billy Ray; and his first wife, Mildred Gordon.

He is survived by his wife Dottie Vaughn; daughters, Peggy Vaughn and Kay Vaughn of



Vaughn

Denver, Colo., Brenda Prachyl and her husband, Ron of Flower Mound; brother, Thomas Don Vaughn and his wife, Anita of Shreveport, La.; niece, Vicki Vaughn of Hermitage, Tenn.; sister-in-law, Ann Vaughn of Lorraine; and his first wife family.

Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Oct. 15 at Donnelly's Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Wallace Philpot and the Rev. Ryan Williams officiating.

Family requests memorials to either American Cancer Society or American Heart Association.

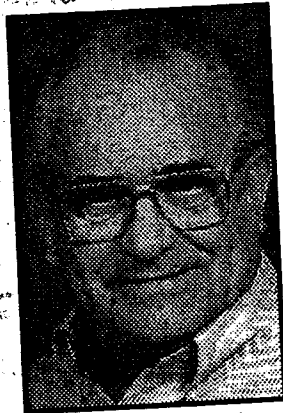
10-15-98
IN

John Vance Veno

John Vance Veno of Irving died Sept. 18 at a Dallas hospital. He was 69.

Born Dec. 16, 1928, the son of Zeb and Dolly (Gibbs) Veno, he was a retired homebuilder and a member of the Episcopal Church of the

Redeemer, Irving. He was also past president of the Irving Homebuilders Association, served on the national, Texas and Dallas Homebuilders Association;



Veno

and also served on the planning and zoning committees and the YMCA.

He was preceded in death by son, Ronny Veno; and sister; and father.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Veno of Irving; mother, Dolly Gibbs; son, Danny Veno; daughter, Cindy Veno; grandchildren, Phillip Veno, Janelle Veno, Brett Veno, Sydney Veno, Ronny Veno; and nieces, Sandy Hough and Debbie Thompson.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Irving with the Rev. Mark Story officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

Family requests memorials to "Gift of Life," or to the Diabetes Association.

Arrangements by Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home.

9-20-98
W

Mary Helen Vickrey

9-30-98
IN

Mary Helen Vickrey died Sept. 28 at an Irving hospital. She was 62.

She was born Feb. 5, 1936, in Groesbeck. She was a homemaker and member of Calvary Baptist, where she was a Sunday school teacher for 16 years.

She is survived by her husband, Leroy Vickrey of Irving; sons and daughters-in-law, Lewis and Shirley Russell of Irving, and Ricky and Cheryl Russell of Grand Prairie; stepsons and wives, Richard and Janet Hall of Chattanooga, Tenn., Michael and Kelly Hall of Carrollton, and Stephen and Janelle Hall of Diamond Bars, Calif.; and brothers, Charlie Allen, Harvey Allen and Joe Allen all of Mexia and William Allen of Irving; and 14 grandchildren.

Services were held Oct. 1 at Blair-Stubbs Chapel in Mexia with the Rev. Ronnie Stringfellow and Dr. Bobby Parker officiating.

9-10-98
IN

Juanita Martinez Villanueva

Juanita Martinez Villanueva of Irving died Sept. 3. She was 94.

Born March 8, 1904, in Bastrop, she was a seamstress for Nardis of Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Juan Villanueva; son, Jose and daughter-in-law Rosa Villanueva; and brother Sam Martinez.

Survivors include her children, Oreste and Eva Villanueva of Dallas, Gilbert and Suzy Villanueva of Irving, Arturo Villanueva of Irving, Dolores Cantu of Dallas, Sarah and Manuel Pantoja of Dallas; sisters, Nell Ortega of Houston and Clara Ruiz of Irving; 16 grandchildren 22 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

A rosary was conducted Sept. 8 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home and services were conducted Sept. 9 at Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe in Dallas with Father Larry Pichard officiating. Burial followed at Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

9-10-98
IN

**Emma Lou
Stephenson Voelkle**

Emma Lou Stephenson Voelkle of Irving died Sept. 7. She was 89.

Born June 2, 1909, in Collinsville, to Grace Hudspeth Stephenson and the late Nim Stephenson, she attended North Texas State University and was a homemaker. She was also a member of the pioneer family of Western Grayson County.

Survivors include her sons, John J. Voelkle Jr. of Dickinson and Nim Voelkle of Irving; daughter, Louise Weaver of Mesquite; grandchildren, Georgia Giles, Johnnie Grissom, Lynette Magee, Al Voelkle, Randal Weaver, Joy Weaver, Janna Weaver and Brent Weaver; and great-grandchildren, John Giles, Jan Magee and Thomas Magee.

Services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 at Collinsville Church of Christ. Burial will follow at Collinsville Cemetery.

8-27-98
IN

Louis Clifford Voisen

Louis Clifford Voisen of Irving died Aug. 23 at his home. He was 69.

Born May 7, 1929, in St. Louis, the son of Louis Clifford Sr. and Arline (Burns) Voisen, he was retired with Loral (L.T.V.) in Grand Prairie. He was a member of the Catholic religion and a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He married Charleen Robinson May 26, 1956, in Caddo, Okla.

He is survived by his wife of Irving; Sons, Michael Scott Voisen of Chicago, and Jon Mark Voisen of Irving; brother, John Voisen of California.

Services were held Aug. 25 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Mark Moore officiating. Burial followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.