

# Home Country

## The Dance To Remember

Mrs. Doc watched the dancers swirl around the cleared hardwood floor of the Legion hall, and smiled to see her husband, Doc, waltzing with Ardis Fisher. But

Mrs. Doc was never one to sit out a waltz, so she looked around at the menu.

Over in the corner, smiling and tapping his foot, was Pop Walker. Pop and sev-

eral other residents of the Rest of Your Life retirement home were there to enjoy the dance and celebrate the nation's birthday. Pop has a hard time with his memory, these days, but always forgets things with a smile.

"Pop," said Mrs. Doc, "how about a dance?"

"Why sure ... uh?"

"Mrs. Doc."

"Right. Mrs. Doc."

Pop had learned to waltz back when more people did it, and the decades had smoothed his dance steps with the fine sanding of time. It was a pleasure

for Mrs. Doc to go around the floor with him.

She smiled and winked at her husband as she and Pop danced by, and Doc grinned and swirled a fancy di-do with Ardis, just to show off. Then she and Pop got closer to the bandstand and there was Dud Campbell playing his accordion. He looked happy and surrealistic in the muted reddish lights on the stage. Next to him sat Carla Martinez, playing rhythm guitar and smiling out on her town and her life. Jim Albertson was up there, too,



**Slim Randles**

playing the waltz's melody on the harmonica, and trading the lead with Jasper Blankenship on his fiddle.

As she and Pop Walker danced away, the bandstand receded in a blur of light and sound. Passing like ships in the night were Dewey Decker with Mavis from the Mule Barn truck stop. Mavis's hair is growing back in since the treatments, giving everyone in the valley just one more reason to be thankful. Randy

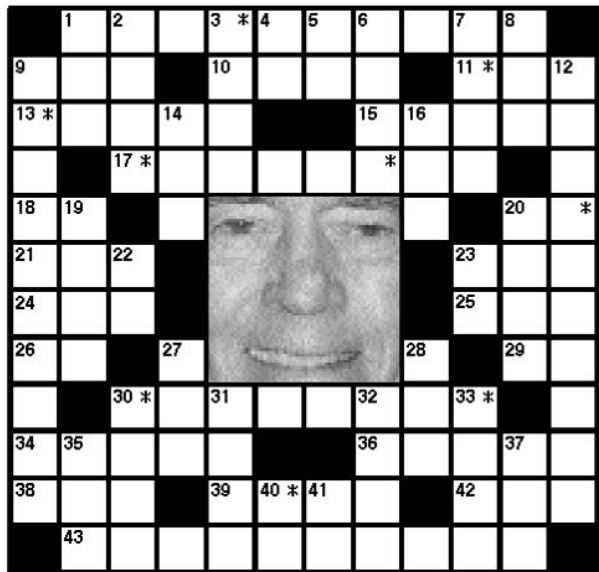
Jones and Katie Burchell sailed by on wings of love.

The waltz ended and Pop walked Mrs. Doc to her seat.

"Thanks for the dance, er ... Honey," he said.

"Thank you, Pop." The people who dance through our lives give us the reason to get up and get dressed each day.

Brought to you by Slim's new book "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right." Learn more at <http://www.nmsantos.com/Slim/Slim.html>.



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

**ACROSS**

1. "NCIS: \_\_\_"
9. Frankie Heck, to Axl, Sue and Brick
10. Emily or Markie
11. Adams or Johnson
13. Destroys
15. 1964 Robert Culp movie
17. Blair Underwood drama series (2)
18. "Fired \_\_\_" (1997-98)
20. Noah Wyle series, once
21. Capture
23. "Ask This \_\_\_ House"
24. Stallone, to friends
25. Early 10th-century year
26. "\_\_\_ Was a Quiet Man"; '07 Christian Slater film
29. "Man \_\_\_ Fire"; '04 movie for Denzel Washington
30. Chris of "The Bachelor"
34. "The \_\_\_ Hangs High"; Abbott & Costello film
36. More loyal
38. Prior to
39. \_\_\_ Turner
42. Panabaker of 12 Down
43. Matthew \_\_\_ of "Criminal Minds"

8. "Sanford and \_\_\_"
9. Matthew Perry sitcom (2)
12. "\_\_\_ Family"
14. Org. for Ducks and Penguins
16. Schwarzkopf's monogram
19. "\_\_\_ Rider"; Clint Eastwood movie
20. "Sesame Street" fellow
22. "Law & Order: Trial \_\_\_ Jury"
23. "The \_\_\_"; 2003-07 series for Adam Brody
27. "I Didn't Know I \_\_\_ Pregnant"
28. "Grounded \_\_\_ Life"
30. Garden worker, at times
31. Depend
32. Puncture
33. Heat in the microwave
35. NATO or OPEC
37. "A Flea in Her \_\_\_"; 1968 Rex Harrison movie
40. Initials for Sheriff Andy Taylor's portrayal
41. Fraternity letter

Solution  
Dan Rather



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**TRAILERS:** 04 Wilson Pace Setter DWH 550 Ag Hopper Grain Trailer; (4) 01 Wilson DWH 400 43' Pace Setter Grain Trailers; 99 Wilson Pace Setter DWH 400 Hopper Bottom Grain Trailer; 75 Ace 102 Grain Trailer; 07 Wells Cargo CW2022102 Enclosed Utility Trailer; 01 18' Flatbed Trailer; 01 Built Rite Goose Neck Flatbed Trailer.  
**COMBINES:** 94 Case IH 1688 Axial Flow Combine, 3908 Hrs.  
**HARVEST EQUIPMENT:** 99 Macdon 962 30' Draper Header; Brent 410 Grain Cart.  
**HAYING EQUIPMENT:** 06 Hesston 9260 Windrower, 2545 Hrs.; 9075 Disc Header 15'3"; 04 Hesston 9260 Windrower, 2007 Hrs.; 9075 Disc Header 15'3"; 04 MacDon 93521 Windrower, 4425 Hrs.; 922 Head; 08 NH H8080 Speedrower Self-Propelled Windrower W/770HD 18' Head, 649 Hrs.; NH BR780 Round Baler; Darf 917 24' Overhead Hay Rake; 09 Rowse Double 9' Bar Mower.  
**PLANTING EQUIPMENT:** JD 30' 455 Drill; 90 Unverferth Weigh Wagon/Seed Tender.  
**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT:** Krause 2100 45' Disk.  
**SKID STEERS & ATTACHEMENTS:** 07 Bobcat S300 Skid Loader, 2760.5 Hrs.; 06 Bobcat S300 Skid Loader, 2653.4 Hrs.; Bobcat/Ingersoll Rand Model 811 12' Backhoe Skid Loader Attachment.  
**LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT:** Rowhide Portable Corral; Pearson Chute.  
**LAWN & GARDEN:** 06 JD X585 Mower, 384.2 Hrs.; 01 Grasshopper 325 Mower, 808.6 Hrs.  
**ATVS:** 05 Honda Sport Trax 450 4 Wheeler; 03 JD Gator Turf 4X2 Utility Cart W/Dump Box.  
**FERTILIZER/CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT:** 95 Mertz 3300 3 Wheeled Liquid Floater, 8547 Hrs.; SPX 4260 Patriot 7788 Fertilizer/Chemical Sprayer, 5494.8 Hrs.  
**SHOP EQUIPMENT:** Ingersoll Rand D 175 G Portable Air Compressor On Trailer, 597 Hrs.

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