

Nancy Theodosia Ward Hudson
(1878-1950)

of

Daughter of John Thomas Ward & Sarah Ann Elizabeth Scarborough,

Wife of Charles Henry Hudson Sr.

by Timothy Dean Hudson

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Dosia Ward Hudson Biography

Nancy Theodosia Ward (8 Mar 1878–14 Mar 1950) was the youngest child of John T. Ward (Jack) and Sarah Ann Elizabeth Scarborough (Betsy) [1]. Known by her family as “*Dosia*,” she was born on her parents’ farm about seven miles east of Farmerville. Jack Ward died when Dosia was only five years old, and she grew up on his old farm. During her childhood, her family’s farm lay along the Port Union Road that led from Farmerville eastward towards the Port Union settlement on the Ouachita River at the mouth of Bayou d’Loutre. Modern Louisiana Highway #828, the Wards Chapel Road, follows the same basic path that the Port Union Road did in the nineteenth century. It was the primary route from Farmerville eastward to the Ouachita River until the state had Highway #2 constructed in the mid-twentieth century [2].

Dosia Ward married on 7 January 1897 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Charles Henry Hudson (16 Dec 1873–24 May 1957) [Charlie] [3]. Charlie was the son of John Thomas Hudson (9 Dec 1850–6 Oct 1924) and Susannah Jane Goyne (29 Jan 1851–19 Oct 1937). The Hudsons lived near the Wards but closer to Farmerville, and they belonged to the Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church just as Dosia’s mother, grandparents, and other relatives did.

Following their marriage, Dosia and Charlie Hudson settled in Union Parish, although their precise residence in 1897–1898 is unknown. About 1898 or 1899, they moved to Sterlington, where Charlie may have worked on one of the large plantations along the Ouachita River. They had a stillborn son in 1899 who was buried in an unmarked grave in Sterlington. In late 1899 or early 1900, they returned to the Port Union Road area near the Wards Chapel Church [4].

On 1 July 1901, Charlie Hudson bought a 319-acre farm along the Port Union Road about seven miles east of Farmerville. Their farm included land that Dosia’s father had purchased from her grandfather, David Ward, in 1854, and so it adjoined the land that was her parents’ primary farm. Dosia and Charlie lived beside her widowed mother, Betsy, widowed sister, Janie, niece, Willie Brantley, and youngest brother, Allen Ward [5].

Charlie Hudson became a successful farmer, and he operated cotton gin and store on his farm. In 1905, he founded the Bunker Hill Post Office at his store on the Wards Chapel Road. He remained active in the local Democratic Party for most of his adult life, serving on the Union Parish Police Jury and as the Union Parish Representative in the Louisiana Legislature for two terms, 1924–1928. Later in his life, Charlie Hudson drove a school bus.

On 22 August 1915, Dosia joined the Liberty Hill Primitive Church that her grandparents, [Noah Scarborough](#) and Samantha Fowler, and great-grandparents, [Richard and Sarah Fowler](#), had helped to found in 1848 after their arrival in the Ward’s Chapel neighborhood from Snow Hill,

Alabama the previous year. Dosia's mother, her uncle, Matt Scarborough, and most of her aunts also belonged to Liberty Hill Church. The next day, Monday, August 23rd, Elder Woody K. Smith baptized her. Dosia remained a dedicated member of Liberty Hill Church for the remainder of her life. Elder Reason W. Rhodes later wrote of Dosia [6],

She was very faithful and greatly devoted to the church and the faith and practice of the Old Baptists. She with her husband and family made their home an Old Baptist home any time they had the privilege of entertaining them. Many brothers, sisters and friends will remember her on account of the enjoyment and hospitality received in their very pleasant home. The writer always found an outstanding welcome there on many occasions. To know her was to love and admire her as a neighbor, a good and devoted wife and mother, also as an humble, meek, plain, sound and faithful Baptist.

Dosia Ward Hudson spent her life on her farm caring for her husband, children, mother, and siblings. On Tuesday afternoon, 16 April 1929, she and her five married daughters, Ruth, Reita, Dibb, Lelia, and Evaline, mother-in-law, Susan Goyne Hudson, and many nieces all threw a surprise sixty-ninth birthday party for her older sister, Mary Ann Ward Taylor. Farmerville's newspaper termed it as *"One of the loveliest affairs of the season,"* and described it as [7]:

On arriving, the guests were ushered into the spacious living room which was beautifully decorated with spring flowers.

After playing several old-fashioned games and listening to several good "old-time" records on the Orthophonic, the basket with the many nice presents was passed around. Mrs. Taylor said many kind, tender words to the givers of the beautiful gifts. After looking at the gifts, the hostess...served a delicious salad, perminto [sic] and cheese sandwiches, ice tea, angel and devil good cake.

The birthday cake held 69 candles. All the guests wished Mrs. Taylor many more happy birthdays.

Dosia and Charlie celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home on Sunday, 12 January 1947. Farmerville's newspaper reported that,

Mrs. Hudson was becomingly gowned in a black crepe accented with gold buttons, and wore a corsage of yellow rosebuds and white split carnations.

Their eight children and most of their twenty-two grandchildren joined with over one hundred guests to *"offer sincere felicitations and to extend their congratulations"* [8].

In December 1949, Dosia fell and broke her hip. She had an operation at the Monroe hospital to repair injury and spent two weeks there recuperating. She returned home the first week of January [9], but she did not recover from the broken hip. She died on March 14th. Farmerville's newspaper published her obituary two days after her death [10]:

Funeral services for Mrs. C. H. Hudson, 72, who died at a Monroe sanitarium at 6:50 a.m. Tuesday following an illness of six weeks duration and a major operation, were held from the Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist church at 2:30 p.m. yesterday with the Rev. R. W. Rhodes officiating.

Interment was in the Taylor cemetery [sic] under direction of the Kilpatrick Funeral home.

The deceased is survived by three sons and five daughters, who are June, John and Woodrow Hudson; Mrs. George W. Miller, Mrs. James Carmack and Mrs. Herbert L. Miller, all of Farmerville; Mrs. Velma Hall of Sterlington and Mrs. Clyde Harper of Springhill. Twenty-two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive.

Mrs. Hudson was the former Miss Docia [sic] Ward. She was married to Charles H. Hudson on January 7, 1897. She was one of an old, prominent and honorable family of this community, many of her ancestors having been pioneer settlers here.

At their church conference held on Sunday, March 26th, Liberty Hill Church approved this resolution related to the death of Dosia Ward Hudson [11]:

Sister Hudson was ever faithful to her church attending her meetings as often as her health permitted [sic]. She had been in ill health several years before her death. The church has lost a faithful sister the family a devoted wife and mother the community a good friend and neighbor, but we feel her loss is her gain.

Therefore be it resolved that we bow to the will of God and humbly beg him to give us grace to comfort us in our bereavement and make us say with understanding hearts, they will be done in all things, Oh Lord and not mine.

Resolved further that these resolutions be made a part of our minutes and recorded on our record book as such.

Dosia Ward Hudson is buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery [12].

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DOSIA WARD
HUDSON
(1878–1950)

Children of Dosia Ward & Charlie Hudson

Dosia and Charlie Hudson had ten children:

1. **Ruth Mae Hudson** (11 Oct 1897–1 Aug 1993) married on 14 November 1917 in Union Parish, Louisiana to George Washington Miller (20 Oct 1894–15 Jul 1985), son of Peter Leonard Miller (6 Aug 1871–15 Aug 1963) and Sarah Brantley [Sallie] (2 Sep 1874–8 Feb 1901). Ruth and George Miller are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.
2. [infant son] **Hudson** born dead in 1899 and buried near Sterlington, Louisiana.
3. **Reita Belle Hudson** (27 Feb 1900–19 May 1982) married on 10 September 1921 in Union Parish, Louisiana to James M. Carmack (10 Jun 1898–20 Mar 1961), son of Charles Edward Carmack (26 Dec 1870–6 Nov 1937) and Lydia Othelia Burns (25 Mar 1875–4 Dec 1972). During World War I, James M. Carmack served as Private First Class in Company A, 7th U. S. Infantry. Reita and James Carmack are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.
4. **Susan Elizabeth Hudson** [Dibb] (20 Nov 1901–30 Jan 1972) married on 23 December 1920 in Union Parish, Union Parish, Louisiana to Herbert Lee Miller (20 Jul 1900–7 Jun 1984), son of Peter Leonard Miller (6 Aug 1871–15 Aug 1963) and Sarah Brantley [Sallie] (2 Sep 1874–8 Feb 1901). Dibb and Herbert settled on a farm near her parents along the Wards Chapel Road. Herbert farmed and raised cattle and other livestock. In 1953, he sustained an unusual injury in an accident that occurred on his farm [13]:

H. L. Miller of this community sustained painful and what came near being fatal wounds when he was gored by a vicious cow last Saturday morning near Cross Roads.

The cow charged him when she suddenly became enraged and violent, piercing his arm and thrusting a horn into his breast, barely missing a vital vein.

Mr. Miller suffered intense pain. He was rushed to a local clinic for medical attention and treatment. The wound is of a nature which, it is said, will require some time for healing.

Dibb Hudson Miller died prematurely of cancer in 1972, with Herbert surviving her by a dozen years. Dibb and Herbert Miller are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.

5. **Willie Lelia Hudson** (24 Nov 1903–1 Sep 1989) married on 3 September 1927 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Clyde Charter Harper (27 Jan 1907–11 Oct 1953), son of James Henry Seborn Harper (3 Sep 1868–8 Sep 1933) and Henrietta Ford Wise (4 Jun 1877–8 Apr 1933). Lelia and Clyde lived in Ruston before moving to Springhill. After his premature death, Lelia taught school and raised their three daughters. Lelia and Clyde Harper are buried in the Springhill City Cemetery, Springhill, Webster Parish, Louisiana.

6. **Mary Evaline Hudson** (3 Oct 1905–28 Apr 1986) married on 5 September 1925 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Velma Gray Hall (3 Dec 1904–28 Jun 1963), son of James Herbert Hall (2 Dec 1883–25 Sep 1950) and Mittie Gray Taylor (23 Jul 1886–23 Dec 1913). Evaline Hudson and Velma Gray Hall are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.
7. **Charles Henry Hudson Jr.** [June, Bud] (21 Jan 1907–16 May 1982) married on 2 April 1937 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Vivian Love (4 Mar 1908–2 Feb 1938), who died giving birth to their only child. He farmed in the 1930s and early 1940s. June Hudson married on 29 May 1945 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Lurline Holley (31 Dec 1906–7 Apr 1990), daughter of William Parks Holley (1884–30 Aug 1961) and Cleta Levonia Rountree (1887–9 Dec 1964). After his marriage, June began working for the gas company, and in 1950, he worked on their maintenance crew. June Hudson and his wives are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.
8. **John Thomas Hudson** (13 Sep 1909–6 Nov 1985) married on 4 March 1933 in El Dorado, Union County Arkansas to Flayo Cade (4 Jul 1916–1 Apr 1988), daughter of William Cade [B. O.] (1 Jun 1896–19 Jan 1981) and Ethel Lee (4 Apr 1900–21 Jul 1965). John completed his master's degree in education and worked as a principal for many years. He and Flayo are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.
9. **Woodrow Wilson Hudson** (19 Apr 1912–11 Feb 1987) married on 4 March 1933 in El Dorado, Union County Arkansas to Fabrice Boatright (16 Mar 1916–23 Nov 1997), daughter of George William Boatright (6 Sep 1886–24 Dec 1934) and Elizabeth Dean (24 Nov 1885–20 Jan 1959). As children, Woodrow Hudson and his future wife both attended Hopewell School, with his first cousin, Willie Brantley Love, serving as their teacher. After he graduated from Farmerville High School, he attended Louisiana Tech University for one semester.

In March 1933, Woodrow and his older brother, John, both eloped to El Dorado, Arkansas with their fiancés. After their marriage, Woodrow and Fabrice settled on his parents' farm on the Wards Chapel Road and farmed for several years. He later took a job selling insurance, and they moved their family to Mansfield and Jonesboro for several years before returning to Farmerville in the latter 1940s. Woodrow worked in the chemical plant in Sterlington from the 1950s until his retirement about 1980. Although he did not join the church, he regularly attended services at the Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church, as well as accompanying his wife to services at the Wards Chapel Church of Christ.

Woodrow and Fabrice Hudson are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.

10. [female] **Hudson** (25 Jan 1915–11/12/14 Feb 1915). This infant has two tombstone markers in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery with differing death dates, while family records give a third

death date. However, family members, including Dosia's two eldest daughters present at the birth, Ruth and Reita, state that Dosia gave birth to one female child who died several weeks later.



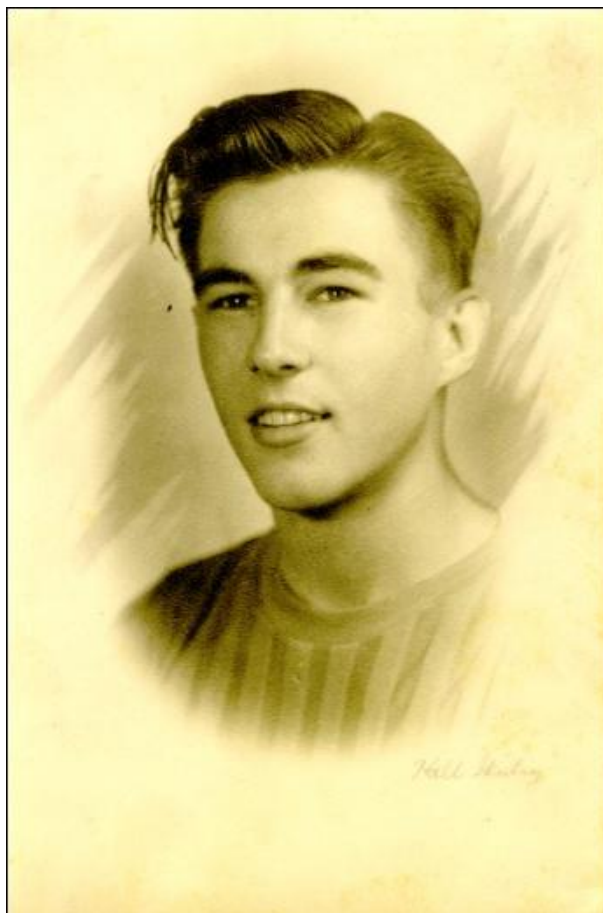
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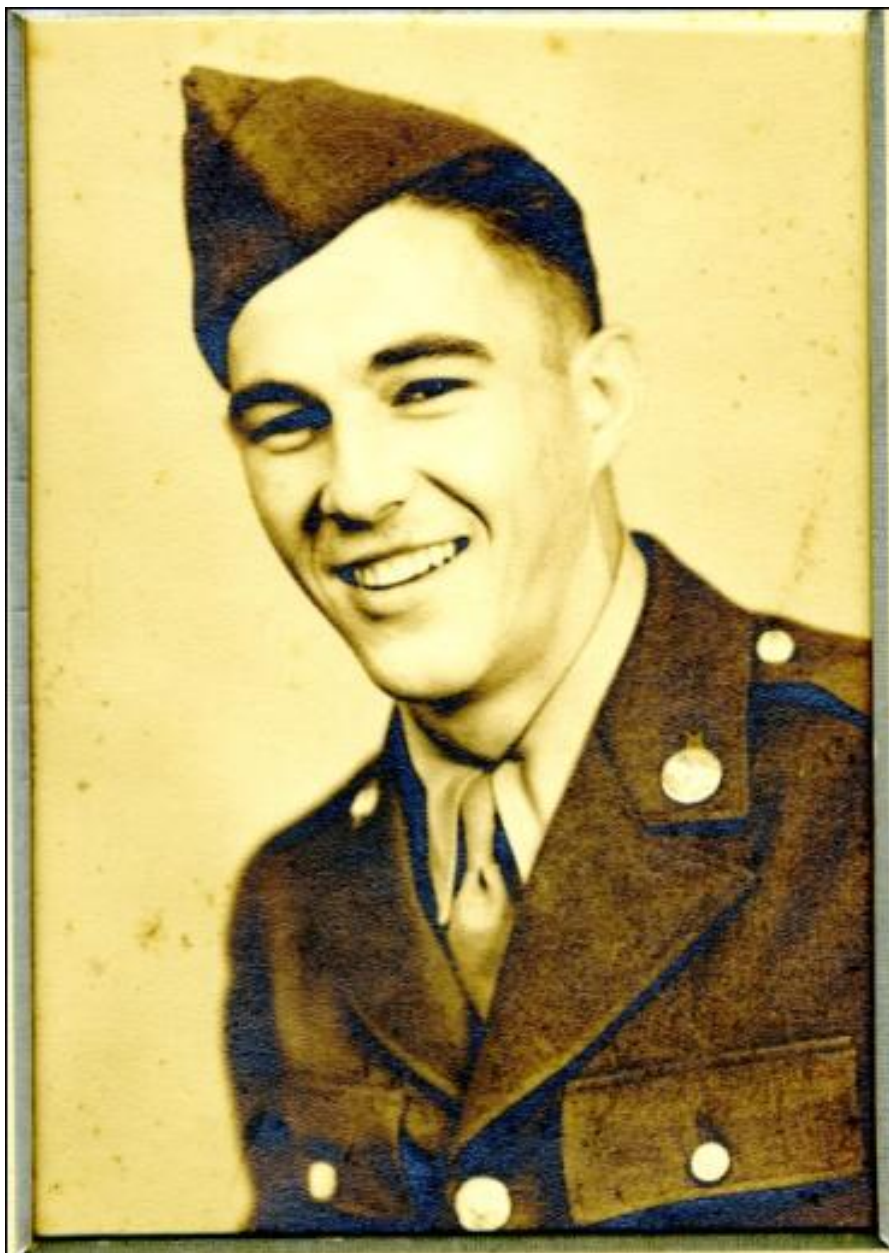
James Hudson Carmack's Deadly Heroism 1944

Dosia and Charlie Hudson's third child, Reita Bell Hudson (27 Feb 1900–19 May 1982) married in 1921 to James M. Carmack (10 June 1898–20 Mar 1961). Their son, James Hudson Carmack (Buddy), was born on 17 January 1924.

After graduating high school, Buddy attended Louisiana Tech University in Ruston until he decided to enlist in the Air Corps on 5 December 1942 at the age of eighteen. He *"received his wings and was commissioned a pilot as 1st Lieutenant."* On the night of 15 August 1944, while stationed at Del Rio, Texas, Carmack piloted a bomber taking off on a practice flight. After taking off, once the plane reached an altitude of one hundred feet, it suddenly exploded. Two other soldiers in the plane died instantly, but Carmack and his co-pilot survived the initial explosion and crash.

Carmack returned to the burning plane in an attempt to rescue the co-pilot, resulting in burns over 67% of his body. The *"Arkansas Gazette"* stated that his death *"was probably caused by his heroism in returning to his burning plane to save his co-pilot."* Carmack remained unconscious for about eighty hours and received several blood transfusions in an attempt to save his life. He succumbed to his injuries at an army hospital in San Antonio. His parents had his remains shipped home for burial in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana [14].





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Ted Hudson Dies of Gunshot Wound 1962

Dosia Ward Hudson's youngest son, Woodrow Wilson Hudson (19 Apr 1912–11 Feb 1987), eloped in March 1933 with his distant cousin, Fabrice Boatright (16 Mar 1916–23 Nov 1997). Woodrow and Fabrice had five children, with the youngest, Ted Hudson, born on 14 July 1944. In high school, Ted became the star pitcher for the Farmerville High School "*Farmers*," playing baseball all four years of high school as well as on the American Legion and Louisiana All-State baseball teams. Playing against Linville in 1960, Ted pitched a four-hit shutout that ignited the team, with the Farmers scoring five in the sixth inning and going on to win 8-0. In a June 1960 game against Rayville, Ted struck out nine for the American Legion team, leading them to a 2-1 victory. During the spring of his senior year, he was the Class A All-State first team selection [15].

After graduation in 1962, Ted planned to enter Louisiana Tech that fall. On August 22nd, he had his guns out in his bedroom to clean, supposedly in preparation for hunting. After cleaning two, he began to clean the third rifle when the firearm went off, with the bullet striking him in the stomach. Family members summoned an ambulance, but the wound proved mortal. He lived only about forty-five minutes after the incident, with his death occurring en route to the St. Francis Hospital in Monroe [16].





TED HUDSON
(1945–1962)



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Notes

1. *"Gazette"* (Farmerville, LA), 8 April 1914, p. 5, column 4. Union Parish LA Conveyences:
Book 28, p. 660: Sarah A. E. Scarborough Ward and the heirs of John T. Ward to Charles H. Hudson; Hudsons wife, 8 April 1914.
Book 25, p. 421: The heirs of John T. Ward and Sarah A. E. Scarborough Ward to Mrs. C. J. Brantley, 8 April 1914.
Book 25, pp. 413-414: Sarah A. E. Scarborough Ward and the heirs of John T. Ward sell land to G. A. Ward, 8 April 1914.
 In each of these three transactions, Dosia Hudson, wife of C. H. Hudson, was identified as an heir of Jack and Betsy Ward.
2. Woodrow Wilson Hudson Sr. remembers the state building Highway #2, and he was born in 1912.
3. Union Parish LA Marriage Book 9 (1894-1900), p. 423 (Charles H. Hudson to Theodosia Ward, 6 January 1897). Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, tombstone of *"Charles Henry Hudson"* (16 Dec 1873-24 May 1957). *"The Gazette"* (Farmerville, LA), 16 March 1950, p. 1, column 3. The marriage record only includes the license application by Charles H. Hudson. The second page that gives the actual marriage date was not completed by the court clerk. Dosia's obituary states that they were married on 7 January 1897.
4. 1900 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 1, Precinct 2, ED #16, p. 20b, Dwelling #32, line #60: Chas. H. Hudson (age: 26; born: Dec 1873; Farmer; farm owned freely); line #61: Theodosia Hudson (age: 22; born: Mch 1878; wife; married 3 years; 3 children; 2 living). Although the census enumerator recorded that Charlie Hudson owned his own farm, the records show that he did not purchase it until July 1901.
5. Union Parish LA Conveyance Record 9, pp. 52-53 (Harriet L. Jameson, Tutrix to minors Eda and C. H. Jameson to Charles H. Hudson, 1 July 1901). Hudson bought 319 acres of land in Sections 29 and 30, Township 21 North, Range 2 East.
6. *"Signs of the Times"* (Rutherford, NJ), August 1950, Vol. 118, No. 8, pp. 192-193. Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church Minutes, 26 March 1950. Church minutes in the personal collection of Timothy D. Hudson. The obituary of Dosia Ward Hudson was written by Elder R. W. Rhodes.
7. *"The Gazette,"* 1 May 1929, p. 1, column 2.
8. *"The Gazette,"* 16 January 1947, p. 2, columns 1-2.
9. *"The Gazette,"* 5 January 1950, p. 5, column 5.
10. *"The Gazette,"* 16 March 1950, p. 1, column 3.
11. Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church Minutes, 26 March 1950. Personal collection of Timothy D. Hudson.
12. Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, tombstone of *"Theodosia Ward Hudson"* (8 Mar 1878-14 Mar 1950).
13. *"The Gazette,"* 4 June 1953, p. 1, column 5
14. *"Del Rio News-Herald"* (Del Rio, TX), 27 August 1944, p. 1, column 8. *"Arkansas Gazette"* (Little Rock, AR), 30 August 1944, p. 14, column 1. *"The Gazette,"* 31 August 1944, p. 1, column 4. Texas Death Certificate #36740, 1944, James H. Carmack, Bexar County. According to his attending physician, Carmack died of shock caused by *"1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burns of head, back, upper and lower extremities."*
15. *"The Gazette,"* 24 July 1958 (p. 1, column 5), 4 June 1959 (p. 1, column 7), 4 May 1961 (p. 1, columns 2-3), May 17 (p. 1, column 6), and June 7 (p. 1, column 4) and 21 (p. 2, column 4), 1962. *"State Times Advocate"* (Baton Rouge, LA), 18 June 1962, p. 28, column 1.
16. *"The Gazette,"* 30 August 1962, p. 1, column 3. Louisiana Death Certificate #14171, 1962, Ted Hudson, Union Parish. Ted Hudson's father, Woodrow W. Hudson, reported to the physicians that he was *"cleaning .22 Rifle; let it accidentally Discharge."* He died of *".22 Rifle Shot in Abdomen."*

