The Christian Courier

June, 1998

Send correspondence to:
1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168

Which Heart Have You?



Have you ever thought about the number of people who obeyed the gospel on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:); likewise, have you ever wondered why more people do not obey the gospel today? This is true, even though Jesus tasted of death for all men. "*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*" (Heb. 2:9).

Jesus died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6), and God is not willing that any should perish (2 Pet. 3:9); however, the masses "walk by" on the other side — rejecting God's call and grace. The Bible teaches that only a few will be saved. "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*" (Matt. 7:13-14).



The whole world lies in darkness, and Jesus teaches us very specifically why only a few will be saved in the parable of the sower (Luke 8:5-15). Satan takes the Word out of the hearts of many of those who hear the Word from the wayside; he causes others who believe to fall away into temptation; and he causes others to let the riches and attention of this world choke out their desire to do the Lord's will.

Jesus said few will make it. Why? It's not because God doesn't love them (John 3:16). The problem lies within the heart of man.

In this study, we see there are four types of hearts, which basically represent the positions of all who hear God's Word, and we will see why only a few will make it.

The heart that Satan keeps

Notice these two verses: Luke 8:5, "*A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.*" Luke 8:12, "*Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*"



We learn here that Satan is present each time the Word is sown. He doesn't want God's power to have its way. Satan never misses an assembly, church meeting, etc. There are many ways that Satan steals the Word out of a human heart. Through lies and deception (Adam & Eve) — Satan is the father of all liars; by causing you to delay your obedience as Agrippa did — He wants you to believe you have plenty of time; he confuses you with false doctrines about God's plan of salvation; he tries to convince you that a life of sin is the best; and he wants you to believe that you are okay.

Satan is in the word-stealing business. Do not let him steal the Word from your heart.

The heart that temptations get

Notice these two verses: Luke 8:6, "*And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.*" Luke 8:13, "*They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*"

This picture is that, with great joy, some obey the word. The Word gets into the heart and stays for awhile. Satan does not cease. He sets up a trap, or snare. "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*" (1 Pet. 5:8). The temptations that lead to falling are as varied as the individuals. A Christian can fall. "*For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*" (2 Pet. 2:20).

The text reveals that these fall because they have no root. We must be rooted in love and God's Word (Eph. 3:17-18; Col. 2:6-7). If we don't, we won't have the strength to withstand when Satan throws temptations in own way. "*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*" (James 1:14-15). The Christian must flee from every appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22). He must not go near his old manner of life.

The heart that is overcome with cares, pleasures, and riches

Notice these two verses: Luke 8:7, "*And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.*" Luke 8:14, "*And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*"

These, too, receive the Word. They obey, then they go forth. After awhile, something happens. They are choked. They are "seized" or "throttled," just as a person would be choked in a physical sense. These have suffocated or drowned spiritually. The various things that destroy their spiritual life are:

Cares. (This could be a worrying about anything; i.e. food, clothing, job, health, etc. We must do what we can, then turn the rest over to God). "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" (Matt. 11:28-30).

Riches. (Love or desire for money, or what it can buy.) "*Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been*



wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." (James 5:1-7).

Pleasures. (The pursuit of desires. Putting the things of the world before God. We must not love the world). "*From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scrip-*

ture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:1-7).

They "*bring no fruit to perfection.*" They start many things, but never finish. We must complete what we start.

"*And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*" (Luke 9:62). We must finish what we started out to do. The cares, riches, and pleasures of this world will cause us to lose our soul.

The heart that makes it

Notice these two verses: Luke 8:8, "*And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*" Luke 8:15, "*But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*"

This heart is pictured as "*good ground.*" It is a prepared heart. Qualities of the heart that make it to heaven are as follows:

It is an honest heart. An honest heart will search after the truth, and will accept it. "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32). "*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*" (Matt. 5:6).

The honest heart is changeable. **"***Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?***"** (Acts 2:37). The Ethiopian eunuch readably accepted the Word (Acts 8:27-40).

It is a good heart – Pure and holy. Matt. 5:8, "*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*" It is forgiving. **Matt. 6:14-15, "***For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*"

It is a hearing heart. It has a ready disposition to hear. James 1:19-21, "*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*"

It is a keeping heart. It becomes a permanent part. James 1:21, **"***Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*"

It is a doing heart. James 1:22, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*"

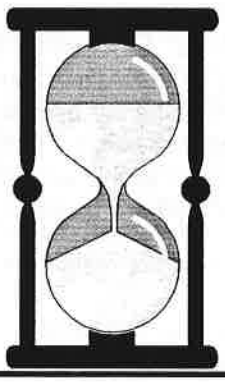
It is a fruitful heart. Gal. 5:22-25, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*"

It is a patient heart. It is longsuffering. 1 Cor. 15:58, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*" Like Job of old. James 5:11, "*Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*" It realizes that it takes time to grow, glow, and go.

Yes, a few will make it. The heart with the proper work and attitude could make it. Which heart have you? You must be honest with yourself and God.

Written in love of the truth,
Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th St.
Seattle, WA 98168

Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, June, 1948.** Bro. F. H. Stringham, Chico, CA, reported that 16 brethren needed help in Pocahontas, AR, as the congregation where they worshipped had gone digressive. Bro. W. H. Francis, Mangum, OK, announced a meeting in June that he was to hold at Munday, TX, and another in July at Reydon, OK. Bro. Coy Garrison, Hillsboro, TX, wrote that the company he worked for wanted him to work at a new location in Oklahoma City, and he wished to know of a loyal congregation in that area.

***The Christian Courier*, May-June, 1978.** Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, announced their meeting in July with Bro. Howard McCay. Bro. Leroy Mullens, Randlett, OK, reported on their meeting and the passing of Bro. Jack White. The Yuma, AZ, congregation listed the names of several recent visitors, and rued the loss of Bro. & Sis.

Ethridge, who moved away. Bro. N. E. Bergstrom, Gardendale, TX, announced that Bro. Elmer Hunt would hold their meeting in June. The Lorenzo, TX, congregation reported Bro. Steve & Sis. Oletta Spurlin had a new baby boy, Justin Lee; and that Sis. Reba and Ellen White were recuperating from Bro. Jack White's death. Also listed: Bro. Bobby & Sis. Teri Lamb, Yakima, WA, had a baby boy, Brandon Nicholas, April 26th; Bro. Dennis & Sis. Kay Bentz, Chico, CA, had a baby boy, Ryan Scott, June 10th; Bro. Nate Lytle, 15, was killed in a motorcycle accident; and Sis. Rachelle Wall, Yuma, AZ, passed away.

***The Christian Courier*, May, 1988.** The Bellflower congregation announced the birth of Kindra Lynn to Bro. Martin and Sis. Tanya Brockman; that Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Perigen were expecting their first child; and that Bro. Oliver would hold their meeting in August. Bro. Abe Lobota, Phoenix, AZ, thanked others for their prayers, cards, letters, and phone calls concerning his surgery. Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, also thanked others for their cards, letters, prayers, and flowers for him. Bro. Elmo Brown, Fort Bragg, CA, wrote that they planned to move to the Modesto, CA, area. Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen, AR, reported that Bro. Walter Ferguson had just gotten home after a week's stay in the hospital; and that they planned to have a meeting in June with Bro. Mark Perigen as the guest speaker. The San Pablo congregation announced the baptism of Melody Glynell, and indicated they were saddened by the passing of Sis. Nora Loveland of Yakima, WA.

***The Christian Courier*, June, 1988.** Brother Errol Forsman, Lorenzo, TX, wrote that Bro. Larry and Sis. Vandra Wood had a new baby daughter, Bethany Laranda; and that they planned to have two meetings: Bro. Mark and Bro. Jerry Perigen would hold the one in July, and Bro. Ellis Forsman would hold the one in December. Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, thanked everyone for the prayers and letters of encouragement for his wife. Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, announced that Sis. Goldie Brown had returned to the church; and that Kim Barrett and Shannon Mannon were baptised. Sis. Tiffeasa McKinney, Selah, WA, wrote a letter of encouragement for other teens and youngsters to join her at the Delta Camp Meeting. Bro. Ken Baldwin, Phoenix, AZ, said, "See you at the Cedaredge Camp Meeting!" Bro. John McKinney, Selah, WA, wrote that some of them at Selah planned on being at the Delta Camp Meeting; and that Malinda Wren was baptized. The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation reported that they were remodeling a building to use for worship services; that Bro. Wayne and Amy Orendorff had a baby girl, Hanna Marobbye; that Bro. Matthew Shepherd and Sis Kelly Forsman had married; and that several there had planned to go to the Delta Camp Meeting. Bro. Eddie Wilkerson, Cedaredge, CO, indicated that he was excited to hear of all those who planned on being at the Delta Camp Meeting that year. Also announced was the passing of Bro. Buddy Baker in Modesto, CA.

Editor's Note:
There was no edition of *The Courier* last month due to the lack of news, articles, etc.



Do Unto Others

"*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*" (Luke 6:31). (What a thought!) But, do we as people even live by what this says? Or do we tend to cause strife among ourselves? We, as Christians, should only have one goal in life, and that is living our lives so as we can gain a home in heaven. We are to help each other obtain that home, and not do anything that would hinder someone from obtaining that home. (What a thought!)

In Christian love,
Don Johnston
1034 So. 140th St.
Seattle, WA 98168

Cards and Letters



Baron, OK

Greetings,

We would like to inform you that the Baron Church of Christ plans to have a meeting June 18, 19, 20, & 21 with guest speakers from Goshen, AR. Dinner will be served each night before services which start at 7:30 p.m.

Please attend if you can.

Debra Brown for the Baron Church of Christ

San Pablo, CA

Greetings to all the brotherhood,

We pray that all is well with you and that no one has had storm damage. It has been raining off and on here in northern California, but the heavy fog has not been so bad this year.

We thank God for His love and care for us even though the trials and tribulations go on. Psalms 46:1-2 says, "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear ...*" God certainly is our strength in time of troubles. Seems as though troubles never cease. Sis. Fern Logan has had trouble with her leg and is bedridden for awhile, and Bro. J. D. Logan had an operation on his face. He has several stitches on his right cheek, but is recovering okay. Sis. Lola Prado and her daughter, Dianna, were awakened by neighbors one night because her house caught fire. There was an electrical short, but they were able to get out of the house unharmed. We thank God for their not being ovecome from the smoke. The contractors want a big payment up front before they will rebuild her house. It seems that there are no honest people anymore. Her insurance has paid most of the cost of rebuilding, but no one wants the job. Anyway, we should pray for them.

Bro. Jack Cooper is not well. He almost passed out in church one Sunday. He was dizzy and weak, and he had back pains. Please pray for him and also Sis. Mable Cooper, too.

Bonnie and I lost a sister-in-law, who was killed in a fire in her mobil home. She lived in Ceres, CA. She was living alone since my brother passed away last year. Please pray for their children and her family. Her name was Geri Bryant.

There has been so many that have passed on this last year, but we know that we can't live forever. Also, everyone should realize that our Lord has gone to prepare a place for us, and that He wants us to be where He is — each and everyone. Not just a few, but everyone. If there is someone who is reading this, I plead with you to seek the Lord while He may be found. Place your trust in Him and not on the things of this world, for they will pass away. Let's all strive to wake up in heaven with our Saviour and our God.

Thank you all for the Christian Courier, and thank you for your prayers.

Homer Bryant, San Pablo, CA, congregation

Editor's note — The above letter was received earlier, but was mis-filed, and just recently discovered. For this error we offer our deepest apology to the San Pablo congregation.

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This spring Bro. Ellis & Sis. Lynell Forsman with Hanna Orendorff joined Bro. Matthew & Sis. Kelly Shepherd & family and Bro. Eric & Sis. Lori Harper & family in Bellflower, CA, during school spring break. It was wonderful seeing the brethren there again.

In April Bro. Howard McCay became very ill and weak, and we thought we were going to lose him. We got Hospice involved, and since then he has been slowly improving every day. He is still bed-ridden, but his color, pain, awareness, and appetite are better. He once again has an interest in reading, tv, etc., which he had been unable to do the past few weeks. During this period, Bro. Howard has received visits and calls from so many people. We thank everyone for their visits, cards, flowers, phone calls, and most especially all your prayers. The Lord had mercy on us all.

We received word that Sis. Caryn Jorgenson (Sis. Patricia Bergmen's daughter) had a baby girl, Hannah Renee, one month premature on April 8th. She was 18 inches long, 5 lbs., 15 ounces. She had a little trouble breathing, but she's fine now.

We just received word via Bro. Don & Sis. Virgie Hammett of the Selah congregation that Sis. Betty Carlson of Yuma, AZ, that as of 5/29, was in critical care over complications with a pacemaker taking care of her heart. The prayers of the faithful will help.

Also received news via phone call to Bro. Howard that Sis. Jo Williams is back at home in Oklahoma, after a lengthy stay with Mildred Nelson of the Cancer Clinic in Mexico. Sis. Jo reported that they were able at last to lift

out her cancerous breast tumor. They will still treat the cavity it left behind. We pray for her complete recovery.

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation will be having a gospel meeting July 19th - 26th this summer with Bro. Ellis Forsman as their guest speaker.

Lord willing, some of the members here plan to attend the Camp Meeting in Delta this summer. Hope to see some of you there.

Our love to all,
The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

Yuma, AZ

Greetings to all from Yuma,

A bit of news from the Yuma congregation; some good, some not good. The good news is that Denny Davis, the son of Bro. Bud & Sis. Willie Davis, was baptized the 15th of April. We are so very happy to have Denny as a part of our Christian family.

We still have some illness, but some seem to be better. Sis. Betty Carlson has improved, and looks pretty much her old self. Sis. Schrader, likewise, is doing somewhat better. Our hearts are very sad, in that Bro. Bud Davis has been diagnosed with cancer in his lungs and other parts of his body. We know there has been many prayers for him, and we also know that they have been heard. His pain has been eased substantially. It is great to have the ones ill listed in the news letters, and let us all pray for them daily.

The congregation here is doing well. There will be several leaving for the summer. They will be missed, but somewhere else, others will be happy to have them for awhile.

This is about all the news from here. Let us all behave ourselves as would be common with Christians in the presence of others and always remember that someone from above is watching also.

In Christian love,
The Yuma Congregation

Surprise Party!

The Selah congregation is having a surprise 90th birthday party for Bro. Merle McKinney on July 11th. It will be from 11 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. at the Autanum Youth Park, just west of 3rd Ave. S., where it deadends into Autanum. The park will be on your left. The party will be a pot luck dinner, but if anybody would like to come by and just say "Hi!," that would be fine, too.

— Gene McKinney

In Memory of Horace Pounds

Bro. Horace Pounds passed away on March 4th at the age of 94. He was a faithful member of the Newcastle, Texas, Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Lydia of 71 years, three sisters, and many nieces and nephews. We will miss him.

In Memory of Ted F. Drysdale

Born:
January 6, 1936
Yuma, Arizona

Entered into rest:
April 22, 1998
Brawley, California

E-Mail Addresses

Clifford P. Boling	cpboling@juno.com
Leesa Boling	lhboling@juno.com
Eunice Bruce	embruce@webtv.net
Remco Dykstra	remco.dykstra@tip.nl
Robert Farley	farleyr@juno.com
Becky Forsman	Becksf@juno.com
Earlene Forsman	Lingy@juno.com
Ellis Forsman	ForsmanEP@aol.com
Evart Forsman	Forsman_Eric@juno.com
Kevin Harper	kjharper@worldnet.att.net
Matt Matlock	Matt_Matlock@juno.com
Bill McCay, Jr.	Mccayb@wolfenet.com
Ellen McCay	EMcCay@aol.com
Gene McKinney	monya@televar.com
John McKinney	Jmckin7799@aol.com
Matt Shepherd	mattsheph@aol.com
Amy Orendorff	amh31@juno.com

Children:

Sarah Boling (12)	sj1boling@juno.com
Sheena Boling (9)	sj2boling@juno.com
Shiloh Boling (6)	sj3boling@juno.com

COLORADO OLD TIME 34TH ANNUAL CHURCH OF CHRIST 1998 DELTA GOSPEL CAMP MEETING



All are invited to to join us in Cedaredge, CO, for a family camp meeting held at the Big Spruce Church Camp.

June 27 - July 5, 1998



Location:

- Take Highway 92 east out of Delta (4 miles to Grand Junction); turn left (north) onto Highway 65, and go through Cedaredge, continue north past Camp Cedaredge and Aspen Trails Campground for one mile. Turn right onto U50 Road; continue one mile to Big Spruce Camp on the right. Follow the signs.

Facilities:

Full hookups for RV's and trailers.

- RV spaces, rooms, and dorms available. To reserve an RV space, room, or dorm space please call: (970) 856-7481, or write to Sister Verlie Baldwin, P.O. Box 663, Ceadredge, CO 81413.

Things to bring:

- Your own sleeping bag, bedding, pillows, and flashlights.
- Sweaters and warm clothes, as the nights are cool. Days can be warm.
- Your own towels, washclothes, and personal items.

Policies (strictly enforced) at the Church Camp:

- All clothing for men, women, and children must be to the knee or below. No exceptions!
- Dress appropriately for all church services.
- Do not hand out literature without approval.
- Please use King James Version Bible in the services.

Important phone numbers:

- Any questions, please call:

  Eddie (970) 856-3875
  George (970) 856-8811
  Verlie (970) 856-7481
  Chester (970) 856-7408

- Camp phone number is (970) 856-3741 in case of emergencies.

There are many wonderful events planned this year for our Gospel Meeting.

We look forward to you joining us!

Donations are appreciated. Everyone welcome – Y'all come!

Happy Hollow Church Of Christ

P.O. Box 663, Cedaredge, Colorado 81413

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 5-7, 1998	Goshen, AR	Richard Jones
June 18-21, 1998	Baron, OK	Guest speakers
June 21-28, 1998	Yakima, WA	Sammy Boen & Mick Boen
June 27-July 5, 1997	Delta Family Gospel Meeting	Guest speakers
July 19-26, 1998	Lorenzo, TX	Ellis Forsman

Baptisms

Cody Fouch	Cedaredge, CO	April 5, 1998
Denny Davis	Yuma, AZ	April 15, 1998

Births

Hannah Renee to Randy & Caryn Jorgenson	Glenwood, WA	April 8, 1998

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Heart blockage
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition
Geri Bryant family	Ceres, CA	Lost mother in fire
Jo Williams	Duncan, OK	Fighting cancer
Ernest Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer & broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Lauren Guthrie	Pleasantview, OK	Epileptic seizures
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, CA	Dizzy spells
Lola Prado	San Pablo, CA	Lost home to fire
Jeanne Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Epstein Barr virus & mono.
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	R S D Syndrome
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Anna Lee Warner	Springfield, OR	Broken vertebrate, surgery
Sarah Sauve	Yakima, WA	Fighting cancer in hip
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Bud Davis	Yuma, AZ	Lung cancer

Passings

Geri Bryant	Ceres, CA	?
Horace Pounds	Newcastle, TX	March 4, 1998
Ted F. Drysdale	Brawley, CA	April 22, 1998