

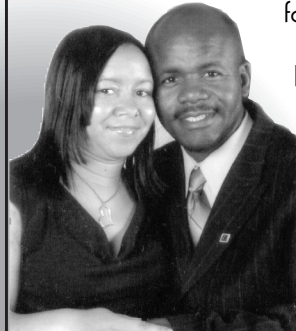
# WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. William Mathis Sr. & Ms. Beverly Frank Mathis are pleased to announce the wedding of their daughter, Latanya Faye Mathis to Corey Dwayne Henderson, son of Sandra L. Henderson & Mr. & Mrs. Landry Valant.

Latanya & Corey are both graduates of Ross S. Sterling High School. Latanya is employed by ChemQuest. Corey is employed by Veolia.

The wedding will take place at Maranatha in Mt. Belvieu, Texas on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at four o'clock pm. Reception ceremony following at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

After the honeymoon, the couple will return to their home in Baytown, Texas.



## Olive Rhayne Copeland

It's A Girl!

Born Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 12:20am at Texas Women's Hospital (Houston)  
8 lbs. 14 oz., 20 1/4 in.

Parents: Joel and Amy Copeland of Houston

Grandparents: Calvin and Jerri Copeland of Baytown & Jed Barker and Rhondy Barker of Midland

Great-Grandparents: Late Lawrence and Kitty Milner, Evelyn McGill and the late Lester Copeland and Willie McGill, John Barker and Effygene Bull and the late Anne Barker, & Jim and Donna Reid and the late Mary Reid



## STETSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

launching them. "He's such a smart dog that I ran out of tricks to teach him by that point," Robert said. "We'd bought books of tricks and gone through them all."

When Robert told his wife Susan about the new "trick," she was in disbelief: A dog that could launch rockets?

"At one time she didn't believe I could teach him to fetch the paper," Robert chuckled. "At that point it was a challenge and I had no choice."

Robert put the skills he had honed as a car stereo installation technician to work. He designed a "paw-activated launch," or "PAL."

The trick to the PAL was in the nature of the launch scenario. When humans launch a model rocket, a button must be held down until blast off. Robert knew this wasn't an option for an excited dog, so the PAL was specially designed to convert a momentary touch into a steady connection. When all was said and done, the PAL was a yellow and black square about the size of a CD case.

After a few rounds of practice, Stetson learned to tap the PAL on the command "launch." Two weeks after Robert hatched his idea, he and Stetson headed out to Murff's Turf Farm in Crosby for Stetson's first launch. Owned by a close friend, the grass farm provided a perfect launch site with its sprawling miles of flat, grassy turf.

Just as they had rehearsed, Robert counted down: "Three, two, one... launch."



Baytown Sun photo/Rob Chambliss

Seth Sherman, 8, clutches his stuffed "rocket dog" as he retrieves the rocket after a launch November 2 in Crosby.

After tapping the PAL and accepting a treat, Stetson was taken by surprise when a rocket blasted just a few feet from the PAL. That component of the trick had never been rehearsed.

It wasn't long before Stetson made the connection between the PAL tap and rocket launch. By the end of his first trial, when a rocket failed to launch, Stetson would run toward the launch pad in a barking fit.

"Stetson doesn't like misfires," Robert said.

Today it could be argued that Stetson enjoys rocket launching more than Robert. The mere sound of a rocket firing on videotape or the sight of the PAL puts the little Sheltie in a tizzy, as he hops and howls.

When the Byrds took

Stetson to the 44th Annual National Association of Rocketry Annual Meet (NARAM) in 2002, they could hardly believe his celebrity status. Kids and adults alike had brought copies of Sports Rocketry Magazine, which had featured a five-page article on The Rocket Dog earlier that year.

"It was like traveling with a celebrity - a rock star even," Robert said.

It was at that point that the Byrd's realized that their beloved pet had achieved iconic status.

To the Byrds, Stetson is just another member of the family, but to his fans Stetson is The Rocket Dog.

For more information on Stetson The Rocket Dog or to request a guest appearance, visit [www.therocketdog.com](http://www.therocketdog.com).

He can shimmy, shake and launch rockets, but Stetson is always eager to learn new tricks. Send your new trick ideas and challenges for The Rocket Dog to [stetson@truewater.com](mailto:stetson@truewater.com).

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## ORTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

In a restaurant ad, Newby's on North Alexander Drive advertised its oyster bar and seafood dinners.

King John's Palace offered a noon buffet at Port Haven Marina. Evenings, customers could enjoy John King at the piano.

Now that's a memory maker. When I was in high school, Mr. King was my piano teacher and we're talking more than 37 years ago.

For whatever reason, I'm glad I saved the May 30, 1971, page from The Baytown Sun. It's good going back.

Wanda Orton is a retired managing editor for The Baytown Sun.

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