

LOTTO

a few things to read and think about

prepared by Dr. David McTier, Production Dramaturg



What would you do?

6549-050618513-084979

Good luck for your draw Sat 05 Dec 09

Your numbers

A 04 09 19 20 31 45

Dream Number

You've entered

MARK YES TO GIVE YOUR CHANCE
NUMBER ITS CHANCE OF

1 play x £1.00 Total draw = £1.00

EUROMILLIONS LOCAL CHRISTMAS
DAY SO PLAY IN ADVANCE

6549-050618513-084979 011717 Term. 4 Dec 2009



Forget the lottery. Bet on yourself instead.

—Brian Koslow

How could we have been so lucky?
I can't believe how blessed we've been.
—Steve West, Powerball Winner

Winning the lottery is the worst thing
that ever happened to me.
—Billie Bob Harrell, Jr., Texas Lottery Winner

I figure you have the same chance of winning the lottery
whether you play or not.
—Fran Lebowitz

The Texas Lottery

The Texas Lottery is the government-operated lottery available throughout Texas. It is operated by the Texas Lottery Commission, headquartered in downtown Austin.



History

The voters of Texas approved an amendment to the Texas Constitution in November 1991 authorizing lottery sales in Texas.

The Texas Lottery Commission created an unusual contest for the Lottery logo – designs from a contracted ad agency were pitted against designs from the general public. One logo from each source was placed in head to head competition, and the winning logo – a cowboy hat thrown high in celebration (still in current use) – was the public design (the winner was Susan Holten, from Carrollton).

The Lottery's first game was the scratch-off ticket Lone Star Millions, with the first ticket sold to then Gov. Ann Richards at Polk's Feed Store in Oak Hill. First-day sales of 23.2 million tickets set a then-world record, with first-week sales (ending June 5, 1992) also setting a world record.

Lotto Texas began sales on November 7, 1992, with the first drawing on November 14, 1992 and the first jackpot (from Schulenburg) won on November 28, 1992. By November 1993, Texas Lottery sales would exceed \$1 billion, breaking the Florida Lottery's record set in 1989.

The Texas Lottery Commission was formed via legislation in 1993 to take over management of the Lottery from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; the legislation also gives the Commission oversight of charitable bingo games (moving that duty from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission).

Texas joined the Mega Millions consortium in 2003, with sales beginning December 3 and the first drawing to include Texas was two days later. Though no Texas ticket won the jackpot, one Texas-bought ticket matched the first five numbers for \$175,000. The first Texas jackpot winner of Mega Millions was not until the drawing of October 4, 2004; a Carrollton player took home the \$101 million (annuity value) prize.

As part of the cross-selling arrangement between the operators of Mega Millions and Powerball, the Texas Lottery Commission agreed to begin selling Powerball tickets on January 31, 2010; the first drawing including Texas was three days later.

In 1997 a major scandal rocked the Texas Lottery. Accusations of fixed contracts with the company that manages the lottery surfaced. The scandal went away when the director simply appointed the previously accused management company as the winning bid after a different company had already been chosen.

General rules

Like all state lotteries, players must be at least 18.

Winning tickets must be claimed within 180 days or be forfeited. For scratch-off tickets, the time limit begins when a game is officially closed by the Commission; for drawings the time limit begins the date of the drawing.

According to the Texas Lottery Commission, the allocation of lottery sales is as follows:

62 percent is paid out in prizes

27 percent is paid to the Foundation School Fund, which is used to support state public education

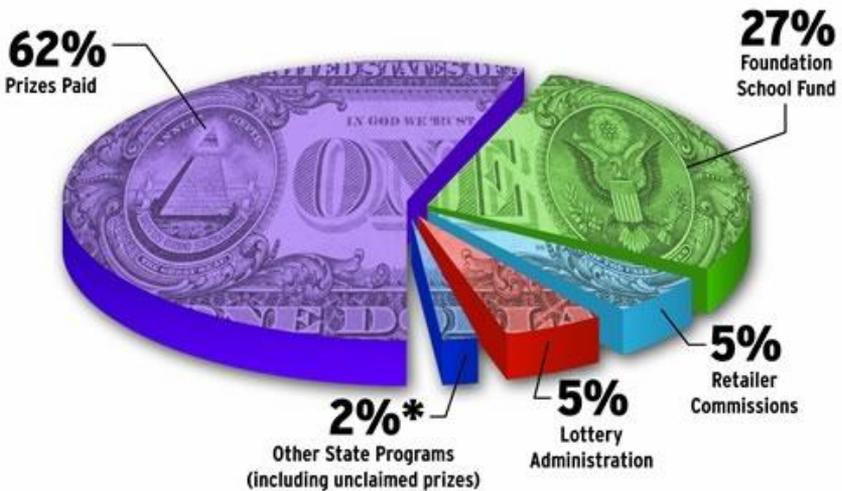
5 percent is paid to retailer commissions

5 percent is retained to cover lottery administration costs

Approximately 1 percent (specifically, the value of unclaimed prizes) is transferred to the Texas Legislature for allocation to other state programs.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Lottery

Where the Money Goes:



* Percentage totals are rounded. Approximately \$7.3 million was transferred to the Texas Veteran's Commission.

Information reflects FY '10 figures

Solomon Jackson, Jr.

South Carolina
Retired State Employee
\$260 Million (Powerball, 2009)



\$260 Mil. Lottery Winner: Prize Won't Change Me

By Meg Kinnard, Associated Press, August 26, 2009

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A retired South Carolina state employee who spent two bucks on the lottery was all smiles Tuesday as he claimed a \$260 million Powerball jackpot.

"For once in my life, I really experienced the old saying, pinch me to see if I'm still alive, or if this is real," Solomon Jackson Jr. said.

South Carolina Education Lottery officials say the Powerball jackpot is the largest ever won with a ticket bought in the state, which has the nation's fifth-highest unemployment rate. Powerball is played in 30 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Jackson, a lifelong Columbia resident, shared few details about himself or his plans for the money. He did say he is married and has 10 siblings, though he would not say how many children he has or give his age.

He also did not say whether he will take his winnings in yearly payments over three decades or in a \$129 million lump sum, which would work out to about \$88 million after taxes.

He did reveal he had been an assistant supervisor for the state Revenue Department until taking early retirement in 2000 and using his free time to return to school to get a degree from Midlands Technical College.

"It is a beautiful day for education," Jackson said. "I said, 'Well, why can't I throw \$2 at the lottery, to help education?' Come to find out, I did not need \$2 to win, so I wasted a dollar. Thank God. Thank God. Thank God."

Jackson, who said he has played the lottery before, appeared at a claims center in Columbia on Tuesday with I.S. Leevy Johnson, an attorney whose wife taught Jackson in high school and said he has known the man for years. But Johnson said he was still somewhat taken aback when he fielded Jackson's call Monday.

"He said to me, Mr. Johnson, I want to talk to you about something. And being a criminal defense lawyer, I said, 'Oh Lord,'" Johnson said. "We matched the numbers up, and we learned that truly he was a winner."

Jackson picked up the only ticket that matched all the winning numbers for the Aug. 19 drawing — 14, 24, 31, 43 and 51, with a Powerball of 27 and a multiplier of 5 — at a Columbia gas station after shopping at a nearby Walmart.

He says he won't let his winnings affect who he is, only dropping hints that eventually someone else will benefit from his good fortune.

"I'm already retired, I've already got a good income, and God has blessed me, so I won't do a bunch with it," Jackson said with a smile. "But somebody's going to be blessed."

Lottery officials say Jackson's chances of winning were one in 195 million.

"That's a lot of people," he said. "And yet, little ole me, of all the people."

Lottery Winner Gives Morris College \$10 Million

By F. Finley McRae, Special to BlackAmericaWeb.com, January 14, 2010

Rev. Solomon Jackson's recent gift to Morris College, the largest in its 103-year history, was part of his lottery winnings.

The reverberations from Rev. Solomon Jackson's recent gift to Morris College, the largest in its 103-year history, are still bouncing around the Sumter, South Carolina campus.

Explosions of joy, gratitude, shock and disbelief rocked the Neal-Jones Auditorium when the Baptist minister told students and faculty that he'd just donated multiple millions to his struggling, historically black alma mater, where he studied theology in the 1970s.

"It was one of those moments you will never, never, ever forget," said Dr. Maggie Wallace Glover, the college's director of Developmental Programs, as she described the scene in the auditorium last Thursday afternoon. "There was standing-room only, people stood wall to wall," she recalled in an interview with BlackAmericaWeb.com.

NiCole Williams, the Morris College director of public relations, said school officials had called students to attend a special program, "but did not disclose the announcement because they wanted the initial surprise to be felt by him and the students. They didn't want to take anything from Rev. Jackson and his moment."

"So," Dr. Glover said, "when Rev. Jackson announced his gift, it was magnificent! The students clapped and clapped and screamed and screamed."

Rev. Jackson, and his stunning gift made a lasting impression, Dr. Glover said.

"We will we never forget him or his persona," she predicted. "He looks just like us. He's like the guy next door, without the aloofness of corporate America or somebody with a Ph.D. He's just like your father, brother or uncle."

Rev. Jackson's donation was carved out of his share of the \$259 million Powerball Lottery he won in August of last year. He elected to take one lump sum, which netted \$88 million after taxes, rather than increments over time. In

addition to his contribution to Morris, he's also established a statewide college scholarship fund.

A relatively small group of critics - none or few of whom appear to be African-American - have denounced Rev. Jackson and his good fortune in comments under Internet articles about the funds he's donated to educate South Carolina's poor and marginalized blacks. The shepherd of Columbia's Shiloh Baptist Church, he has apparently ignored them all.

BlackAmericaWeb.com made numerous attempts to reach Jackson, but without success. Morris College's president, Luns C. Richardson, was also unavailable.

Since Rev. Jackson's announcement, Dr. Glover said, she's asked faculty and administrators if they'd have remembered their alma mater if they'd been as fortunate as Rev. Jackson in winning a lottery. None of them, she said, answered affirmatively. "That makes his gift even more significant," she said.

Students still in shock, she said, "who will probably never get that close to a millionaire again, got a chance to see him and hear why he donated \$10 million to Morris College."

Melvin T. Howard, III, Morris College's student body president, told BlackAmericaWeb.com that the gift, which will fund 10 critically needed projects, "has truly been a blessing from Heaven." Among the target projects are a \$3 million dormitory with sections for men and women; a \$2.5 million administration building; a \$1 million college endowment; a \$500,000 endowed freshman scholarship and a \$170,000 student health center.

The impact of Jackson's gift, Williams said, "will be felt for generations to come, by our students' children and their children."

Nathaniel Abraham, publisher of the Carolina Panorama, a black weekly located in 45 miles from Sumter, in Columbia, the state's capital, said African-Americans there "applauded Rev. Jackson and his contribution. It's a great gift for our youth and their future."

To show their deep appreciation, Howard told BlackAmericaWeb.com, "each and every student will sign a huge thank-you card," which will be delivered to his attorney and longtime friend, I. S. Leevy Johnson. The college has slightly less than 1,000 students.

In Columbia, the Rev. Dr. Sheila Elliot, the associate minister of Francis Burns United Methodist Church, said, "Everyone here and around the state is proud of Rev. Jackson and his generosity."

Dr. Elliot, an expert in African politics, a former professor at Columbia College and a Woodruff Scholar at Atlanta's Emory University, provided another perspective.

"Rev. Jackson gave out of his abundance and thus, in effect, contributed more than a tithe (10 percent of one's income) to the college. Everyone can't give \$10 million, but everyone has something to give, so its also an excellent example for the school's alumni to follow," she noted.

"We have to have a heart to do so, and we have to give intentionally," Dr. Elliot continued, "Its the only way our institutions will survive."

With this gift, she said, "Rev. Jackson was speaking to us. He was saying he believes in the ability and strength of black people and that we should trust in God to provide for us."

And, Dr. Elliot added, "I believe Rev. Jackson was also saying, 'You don't have everything you need just yet, but if you have faith in God, he'll supply all of them. Meanwhile, look again at yourselves through new eyes and with new hope.'"

Two other prominent leaders, one of them speaking for an influential denomination, were equally moved. The Rt. Rev. Preston W. Williams, presiding over the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, based in Columbia, said, "The AME church applauds the generous gift from the Rev. Solomon Jackson, Jr. to his alma mater. This kindness shines an example from which we may draw inspiration."

Congressman James E. Clyburn, majority whip of the House of Representatives, agreed.

"Morris College is in my hometown of Sumter and is the alma mater of my parents," Clyburn said. "Rev. Solomon Jackson's generous gift, about one tenth of his winnings, sets an example that I hope many will follow. His generosity will help transform that campus and foster the development of political, educational and religious leaders of and for the future."

A black Columbia resident, a woman who asked to remain anonymous, seemed to overflow with joy when she said, "Everybody here is talking about Rev. Jackson and his gift - at the supermarket, at the tailgate party, at church ... everywhere!"



Brad Duke

Idaho

Gym Manager

\$220 Million (Powerball 2005)



Taking home the jackpot: Here's how one lucky winner spent his new-found fortune.

By Ellen Florian Kratz, *Fortune*, February 28 2007

Brad Duke, 34, a manager for five Gold's Gym franchises in Idaho, pocketed a lump sum of \$85 million after winning a \$220 million Powerball jackpot in 2005. He spent the first month of his new life assembling a team of financial advisors. His goal: to use his winnings to become a billionaire. Here's what Duke has done with his money so far.

- \$45 million: Safe, low-risk investments such as municipal bonds
- \$35 million: Aggressive investments like oil and gas and real estate
- \$1.3 million: A family foundation
- \$63,000: A trip to Tahiti with 17 friends
- \$125,000: Mortgage retired on his 1,400-square-foot house
- \$18,000: Student-loan repayment
- \$65,000: New bicycles, including a \$12,000 BMC road bike
- \$14,500: A used black VW Jetta
- \$12,000: Annual gift to each family member

Did you often buy lottery tickets or was this a one-time thing?

I played the lottery often when I won. I had developed a little numbering system. Since I've won, there's been a lot of numbering systems for lotteries all over the Internet. Before that, there weren't any. I really thought I was going to win. I even wrote it down in my journal in 2002.

How did you develop your system?

How to choose my lottery numbers started through a trial and error process. I just started playing number games with myself about how to capture the most diverse numbers. Then I looked at the most recent Powerball numbers over the last six months and took the set of 15 numbers that were most commonly coming up. My Powerball numbers were going to be those 15. So I starting messing around with it, and my number games got a little more complex and a little bigger. I was starting to win smaller amounts like \$150 and \$500.

So many lottery winners have sad endings. Did you worry about that?

I've always handled responsibility well. If you accept that check, you accept an amazing responsibility to yourself and whomever you decide to include in it. I was quiet about winning for a month before I decided to come out. During that time, I was getting as much research as I could on existing lottery winners and what their stories were. Most of them lose all the money within a short amount of time. I'm looking at statistics where people in ten years have nothing. In ten years, I wanted to be worth about ten times as much. I think a lot of people who play the lottery are people who live on hope.

What was your first major purchase?

A trip to Tahiti for me and 17 of my friends. At the same time, I paid off my mortgage and student loans. [What was your biggest purchase?] The family foundation was the biggest allotment of money. \$1.3 million.

What else did you do with your money?

I wanted to make the most of the opportunity that was given to me, so I put together a team with the intent to reach and maintain a \$1 billion status over a particular period of time. I wanted to do it in 10 years, which I knew was aggressive. My team talked me into looking at 15 years. But it looks like we're on track for 12 years. When you do something like that, the more you become worth, the quicker your growth curve is. My total net worth right now is at an unofficial value of \$128 to \$130 million. We've done very well for the first year and a half.

What about a big new house or a fancy new car?

I guess I'm more worried about spending time on my investments and helping my consulting company along and doing fun things with my family and friends. I will have a new home and a great car at some point, but just not now. The great thing about the lottery was that I get to experience amazing things with people I care about. I started up a consulting company and am employing some people that helped me along the way with my employment. I took my family on a cruise.

You had to have treated yourself to something.

I bought bicycles. I'm probably own upward of 17 bikes. I also bought a 2002 Jetta. I gave my 2005 Jetta to my nephew. So it's the exact same car except for his is white and mine is black.

You had a newer car that you gave to your nephew and you bought an older car?

That's correct. I wanted a black VW Jetta with a black interior. Believe it or not, those are really hard to find. I went to the local dealership and had them track one down for me. They had to go to Texas to get it. It fit my bicycle rack really well.

What happened to your job at Gold's Gym?

I still teach a spinning class there twice a week. I took some time off after the whole thing because everybody had investment opportunities that were the greatest thing since sliced bread, and there were 100 of them every day. So I had to get out of there for a while, but when I went back, the people I'd been teaching for the last 8 years were still the same people, and I was still the same instructor.

Have you given money to members of your family?

One of the first things I did was give everyone in my family the maximum amount without tax consequence. I have all of my nieces' and nephews' college funds set up, and they're set. And there's no debt for anyone anymore. Everybody is happy.

Are you happier since you've won the money?

Absolutely. When it comes down to it, I get to do the things professionally that I've always wanted to do. I get to invent a piece of equipment that I've always been thinking about doing. I get to give back to some people that have given to me over years.

Callie Rogers, 17

Won: \$3.5 million

Outcome: Lost fiancé, peace of mind

After supermarket clerk Callie Rogers, then 16, bagged her jackpot last June, "I just sat there crying," the British teen recalls. Over the coming months there would be more tears in store. First, jealousy reared its ugly head. "People I didn't know were saying bad things about me," she says. Then her 25-year-old boyfriend proposed—and told her she'd have to buy her own ring, promising to pay her back. She ended up dumping him. "I knew he was a loser before I got rich," she says now.

These days things are looking brighter for Rogers. She has a new, live-in boyfriend, 24-year-old Nicky Lawson. "He's got his own money," Rogers says. "He bought me my ring."

The High Cost of Winning By Lambert and Tresniowski, People, March 15, 2004

Abraham Shakespeare

Florida

Casual Laborer

\$30 Million (Florida Lottery)



Lotto winner Abraham Shakespeare's sudden millions led to celebrity -- and tragedy

By Rene Stutzman, *Orlando Sentinel*, January 30, 2010

Lotto winner's untimely end

Others wanted a piece of Abraham Shakespeare's \$17 million lump sum

Abraham Shakespeare, 43, couldn't read or write. He had dropped out of school after seventh grade, went to jail for a string of burglaries and then, for a time, scraped by on labor-pool jobs.

In 2006, his life was transformed. He won the Florida Lotto and took a \$17 million lump-sum payout before taxes.

He bought a BMW, moved from a working-class neighborhood in Lakeland, where he had grown up, to a gated community and began to live what he hoped would be the good life.

Shakespeare -- whose remains were found Thursday under a 6-month-old concrete slab behind a house near Plant City -- had become a celebrity in Lakeland, a poor man from the neighborhood who had suddenly become rich, said Sentorria Butler, 25, his former girlfriend.

She was at a bar one night with friends, when one of them said, "My cousin's a millionaire. Would you like to meet him?"

She and Shakespeare started dating, and then she moved in and they lived together for a year and a half, she said. She later gave birth to their baby, now age 1, about the time they broke up.

Early on, though, they had wonderful times, she said.

They flew to New York City for an overnight trip, she said. Neither had been on a plane before, and Shakespeare liked it so much, one week later they climbed on another jetliner and went back to New York, this time for two days.

But as it turned out, Shakespeare wouldn't have long to enjoy the good life.

The house where Shakespeare's remains were found is owned by the boyfriend of a woman who had, in recent months, taken control of much of Shakespeare's property, according to Polk County officials.

Polk Sheriff Grady Judd three weeks ago described that blonde, Dorice "DeeDee" Moore, 37, of Plant City, as a "con artist" and person of interest in Shakespeare's disappearance. She has denied harming him.

He had been missing since April.

Moore had told authorities, as well as Shakespeare's friends and family members, that he had grown weary of people asking for money and wanted to disappear, so she helped.

The people who knew him best said Shakespeare had, indeed, grown exasperated with people asking for money. Even so, he was a soft touch, they said.

People would spot him on the street. That was easy. He was 6feet, 5inches tall and 190pounds. They would tell him stories of hardship, for example, that they couldn't pay their rent and that they -- and their children -- were about to be evicted, and he would hand over money, friends said.

"He thought with his heart -- not his head," Butler said.

State inmates whom he had never met would send him letters from prison, asking for money, Butler said. She had to read them aloud to him. She recalled a note from one inmate who asked for \$1,000.

"We just laughed," she said. "What is he going to do with \$1,000 in jail?"

But Shakespeare wound up sending the man \$50, she said.

Her brother, Jereme Reed, 19, was sitting with Shakespeare one morning, and in one 30-minute stretch, Shakespeare's phone rang eight times, Reed said. Each time, it was someone asking for money.

Having all that money "was like being in the limelight in a small town," Butler said.

Before winning the Lotto, there was a time when Shakespeare had to get up at 4a.m., hoping to get a labor-pool job, said longtime friend Robert Earl Brown.

After winning his jackpot, he would stay up all night, cruising Lakeland's streets, and then sleep until early afternoon, said another longtime friend, Eddie Dixon Jr., 47.

Despite the lottery riches, Shakespeare kept some of his old habits. Most days, he hung out at Super Choice Foods, a busy neighborhood supermarket on Lakeland's West Memorial Boulevard, an artery through the black part of town.

"He liked to look at women," said Dixon, who spent time with him at the market. After winning the lottery, Shakespeare dated a lot of women, Dixon said.

He had two children, Butler's 1-year-old boy born after the jackpot and a 10-year-old son with another woman from before.

About two months before Shakespeare disappeared, he and DeeDee Moore, the "person of interest" in his disappearance, launched a new business, Abraham Shakespeare LLC, according to the Polk Sheriff's Office.

She controlled the company, the Sheriff's Office reported, and gave herself \$1 million. That was a gift from the lottery winner, she explained to deputies. She used the money to buy a Hummer, Corvette and a truck, the Sheriff's Office reported.

She also told detectives she bought Shakespeare's house for \$655,000 and bought an additional \$185,000 in debt that people owed him. The Sheriff's Office, though, said it could find no evidence that she paid for them.

For months, Moore staged events, trying to convince people that Shakespeare was hiding but still alive, the Sheriff's Office reported.

She used his cell phone in April and sent text messages to his friends and relatives, posing as Shakespeare, the Sheriff's Office said.

She offered Butler, the mother of Shakespeare's young son, a \$200,000 house if she would lie and say that Shakespeare had dropped by one night, Butler and the Sheriff's Office said.

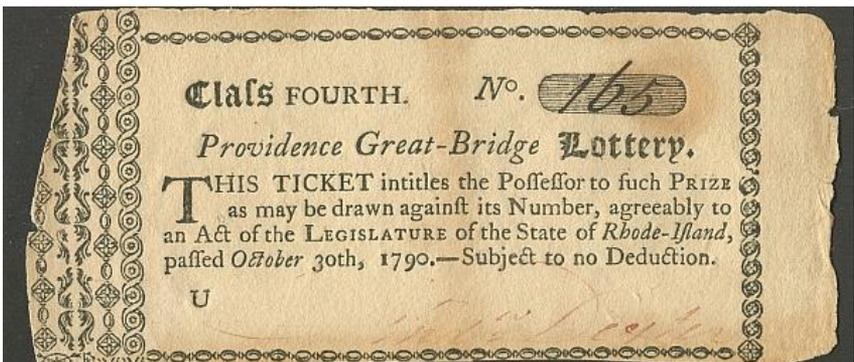
Moore also paid one of Shakespeare's relatives \$5,000 to hand-deliver to his mother a birthday card and suggest that it was from Shakespeare, according to the Sheriff's Office.

She has not been named as a suspect in Shakespeare's death and has not been arrested.

She did not return phone calls last week. She told The Ledger, a Lakeland newspaper, that she had not harmed him but had merely helped him disappear.

She now lives in his house, and Judd told The Ledger he thinks she took the last of his winnings.

Shakespeare's friends are angry at the stunning turn of events. "He didn't deserve this," Butler said.



Joan Ginter

Texas
College Professor
\$21 Million (4 Texas Lottery Wins)



4-time Texas lotto winner rich with money, mystery

By Paul J. Weber, *Houston Chronicle*, July 13, 2010

The odds that Joan Ginter would hit four Texas Lottery jackpots for a combined nearly \$21 million are astronomical. Mathematicians say the chances are as slim as 1 in 18 septillion — that's 18 and 24 zeros.

Just as unlikely? Getting to know one of the luckiest women in the world.

"She wants her privacy," friend Cris Carmona said.

On a \$50 scratch-off ticket bought in this rural farming community, Ginter won \$10 million last month in her biggest windfall yet. But it was the fourth winning ticket in Texas for the 63-year-old former college professor since 1993, when Ginter split an \$11 million jackpot and became the most famous native in Bishop history.

But she's a celebrity who few in this town of 3,300 people can say much about.

"That lady is pretty much scarce to everybody," said Lucas Ray Cruz, Ginter's former neighbor. "That's just the way she is."

Can I buy by mail?

At the Times Market where Ginter bought her last two winning tickets, the highway gas station is fast becoming a pilgrimage for unlucky lottery losers. Lines stretch deep past a \$5.98 bin of Mexican movie DVDs, and a woman from Rhode Island called last week asking to buy tickets from the charmed store through the mail.

She was told that was illegal. The woman called back to plead again anyway.

The Texas Lottery Commission has seen repeat winners before, but none on the scale of Ginter.

Spokesman Bobby Heith said the agency has never investigated Ginter's winnings — three scratch-off tickets and one lottery draw — for possible fraud but described the verification system as thorough.

Her other winnings — both from scratch-off tickets — were \$2 million in 2006 and \$3 million in 2008.

So how did Ginter do it, then?

Good luck pinning her down to ask.

Ginther has never spoken publicly about her lotto winnings and could not be found for comment. She now lives in Las Vegas after moving away from Bishop, and an answering machine message for a telephone number listed at her address says not to leave a message.

She asked the few people who've exchanged more than brief pleasantries with her not to grant interviews and sneaked into lottery headquarters in Austin to collect her winnings with the least publicity the state offers jackpot winners.

But spend a few hours in her hometown — and equal time scouring public records — and a contrasting profile emerges.

Her home address in Las Vegas is on a street called Paradise Drive. When USA Today asked readers in 2000 to sound off on airline service, Ginther groaned over a flight attendant who carted away her cheese and crackers and a sundae too soon. Two years later, she grumbled to the Las Vegas Review-Journal about a proposed monorail running through her exclusive condominium towers.

"I moved here because I wanted to have a beautiful home with a great view and that's what I have. I didn't expect to have a monorail come down here with thousands of tourists every day," Ginther told the newspaper, in what might have been the only time she was directly quoted in the media.

Nitpicking first-class service, and mad the view in her luxury home might be spoiled?

Bishop residents may not know much about Ginther — but they know that's not her.

Here around the cotton farms and boarded-up downtown, Ginther, who over the years regularly visited the town to see her father who died in 2007, is called benevolent as much as she's called lucky.

They say she bought the church a van. Gave money to the family that runs the Days Inn off the highway. When she moved, she donated her home to charity.

Sun Bae, who owns the Time Market and sold Ginther her last two winning tickets, said she drives around in a bland Nissan sedan but once bought a nicer car for someone down on their luck. Bae said Ginther doesn't even own a cell phone.

"She is a very generous woman. She's helped so many people," Bae said.

Calculating the actual odds of Ginther hitting four multimillion-dollar lottery jackpots is tricky. If Ginther's winning tickets were the only four she ever bought, the odds would be one in 18 septillion, according to Sandy Norman and Eduardo Duenez, math professors at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Exactly how often Ginther plays is unknown. But Norman and Duenez said that a habitual player winning four times over a 17-year span is much less far-fetched.

At the Times Market, Bae and store regular Gloria Gonzalez said they've certainly watched Ginther buy her share of tickets over the years. And not just for her.

Gonzalez said when her elderly father would sit at the store's window booth and scrub through dollar scratch-offs, Ginther would surprise him with a \$50 ream of tickets.

"Win, win, win," Ginther would chant, rooting him on.

After all, the only way to win is to keep playing. Ginther is smart enough to know that's how you beat the odds: she earned her doctorate from Stanford University in 1976, then spent a decade on faculty at several colleges in California.

Teaching math.

Denise Rossi, 53

Won: \$1.3 million

Outcome: Stripped of her winnings

Blindsided—that's how Thomas Rossi felt when Denise, his wife of 26 years, hit him with divorce papers in 1997. "I thought we got along good," says Rossi, 70, a photographer. "I couldn't understand it. She wanted me to move out of the house very fast. It wasn't like her to act this way."

Two years later it all made sense. A letter addressed to his ex-wife that mistakenly arrived in his new Los Angeles apartment revealed she had won a lottery. Rossi learned Denise had scored \$1.3 million in the California lottery on Dec. 28, 1996—11 days before she filed for divorce. He took her to court for not disclosing the money, and the judge awarded Rossi the entire haul. According to her lawyer Connolly Oyler, Denise could have kept half and perhaps all of her loot had she been honest, but the court ruled "her failure to disclose was a fraud," he says. Since then Denise has disappeared (she could not be located for comment), but not before trashing Rossi. "I was very happy to be free of this person that was like a parasite," she told NBC's Dateline in 2000. "[Winning the lottery] has brought me really nothing but grief and headache."

Receiving \$48,000 after taxes every year, meanwhile, has given Rossi "peace of mind," he says. "If it wasn't for the lotto, Denise and I would probably still be together. Things worked out for the best."

The High Cost of Winning By Lambert and Tresniowski, *People*, March 15, 2004

Billie Bob Harrell, Jr.

Texas

Pentecostal Preacher

\$31 Million (Texas Lottery 1997)



Billie Bob's (Mis) Fortune

By Steve Mcvicker, *Houston Press*, February 10, 2000

Less than two years after Billie Bob Harrell Jr. took the \$31 million lottery jackpot, he took his own life. Harrell, a former Pentecostal preacher, was a Home Depot stocker when he hit the jackpot.

Many have the same dream: finding the six magical numbers that unlock the treasure known as the Texas Lottery. Then life would be good. Problems would vanish. There are even the collective fantasies of what to buy and with whom to share this new, instant wealth.

Billie Bob Harrell Jr. shared those common visions by common souls seeking the salvation of sudden fortune.

And in June 1997, he found it.

He sat in his easy chair one evening and looked at his Quick Pick and then at the Sunday newspaper. Harrell studied the sequence of numbers again and began to realize the wildest of notions. He and wife Barbara Jean held the only winning ticket to a Lotto Texas jackpot of \$31 million.

Harrell, a deeply religious man, knew he had a godsend from heaven. After being laid off from a couple of jobs in the past few years, Billie Bob had been reduced to stocking the electrical-supply shelves of a Home Depot in northeast Harris County. He was having a damn hard time providing for himself and Barbara Jean, much less for their three teenage children.

Every Wednesday and Saturday those kids were on his mind when he'd scrape together a few spare dollars to purchase a couple or so lottery tickets. Sometimes he'd use the sequence of his children's birth dates to choose his numbers. Other times he'd let the state's computer do his choosing for him. That random selection finally paid off, transforming Harrell into a millionaire overnight on a warm evening in June.

The hard times were history when he arrived in Austin about a month later, with an entourage that included his family, his minister and his attorneys, to collect the first of 25 annual checks for \$1.24 million.

Life had been tough, he said at the formal lottery ceremony, but he had persevered through the worst of it.

"I wasn't going to give up," said Harrell, then 47. "Everyone kept telling me it would get better. I didn't realize it would get this much better."

In fact, it was great. At least for a while. Harrell purchased a ranch. He bought a half-dozen homes for himself and other family members. He, his wife and all the kids got new automobiles. He made large contributions to his church. If members of the congregation needed help, Billie Bob was there with cash.

Then suddenly Harrell discovered that his life was unraveling almost as quickly as it had come together. He relished the role of being an easy touch. But everyone, it seemed -- family, friends, fellow worshipers and strangers -- was putting the touch on him. His spending and his lending spiraled out of control. In February those tensions splintered his already strained marriage.

And on May 22, 1999, 20 months after hitting lottery pay dirt, Harrell locked himself inside an upstairs bedroom of his fashionable Kingwood home and stood at the point of no return. Investigators say he stripped away his clothes, pressed a shotgun barrel against his chest and fired.

Billie Bob Harrell was gone forever. So was the fortune, and even the family that had rejoiced with him when the shower of riches had first rained upon them. A schism has widened between the children and grandparents, who cannot even agree on whether Billie Bob took his own life. And an intrafamily war looms over the remnants of the fortune, which may not even be enough to pay estate taxes.

Perhaps the only thing not in dispute about his life and death is the jarring impact of money: It may not have caused his problems, but it certainly didn't solve them.

Shortly before his death, Harrell confided to a financial adviser: "Winning the lottery is the worst thing that ever happened to me."

BIGGEST U.S. LOTTERY JACKPOTS

\$365,000,000 • 2/2006, Powerball

\$363,000,000 • 5/2000, The Big Game

\$340,000,000 • 11/2005, Powerball

\$331,000,000 • 4/2002, The Big Game

\$315,000,000 • 11/2005, Mega Millions

Steve and Carolyn West Bob and Frances Chaney

Oregon

Lawn Caretaker, Bookkeeper, Parents
\$340 Million (Powerball 2005—Split)



Lottery Winners One Year Later!

By Vickie Bane, *People*, March 26, 2007

What happens after you win a monster lottery jackpot?

Truck driver Ed Nabors, who on March 6 won half of the record \$390 million Mega Millions bonanza, is about to find out. But two Oregon families--who won the \$340 million Powerball--already know. Here's their story of toys bought, fun had--and a few surprising lessons learned

In January 2006, Steve and Carolyn West lived in a modest ranch house in Medford, Ore. One day a van pulled up, the Wests' old oak bedroom set and boxes of dishes were piled aboard, and the family made the four-mile journey to a new home. A much bigger home: 6,400 square feet. On six acres. With a hot tub, a pool and a 30-ft. water slide. A mansion, most would call it. "What did you do?" asked the stunned van driver. "Win the Lotto?"

"Yes," said Carolyn. "We really did."

Indeed: In October 2005 the Wests, along with Carolyn's parents, Bob and Frances Chaney, won what was then the largest single-ticket Powerball jackpot in history: \$340 million. Elated and grateful, they told their story, at the time, to *PEOPLE*. Now *PEOPLE* has gone back to find out *What Everybody Wants to Know About Becoming Suddenly, Gargantuanly Rich but Never Gets the Chance to Ask: Now that you have the money--the families took a onetime, \$164 million (before taxes) payout that January--what does that feel like? What did you buy?*

Do friends treat you differently? Has long-lost second-cousin Ed suddenly appeared and asked for a loan? Are you happier? And ... do the airlines still serve fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies in first class?

Since depositing the check, the Wests and the Chaneys have bought new houses, some toys, and have traveled to Europe and, for Christmas, Hawaii. But unlike many lottery winners, there's one place they emphatically haven't gone: off the deep end.

"I still clip coupons," says Steve, reaching into a kitchen drawer and holding up 50-percent-off coupons from Outback Steakhouse. Frugality is a tough habit for

Steve, 49, to kick: In May 1999 he declared bankruptcy after losing his job at a lawn-care center, an experience he calls "embarrassing."

The big surprise? "We found out when we didn't have the money, we dreamed about all these fantastic things you think you need," says Steve. "Then, when you have the money to buy whatever you want, you realize it's not the stuff you can buy that's really important; it's still being around family."

On Oct. 2 a family tragedy tempered much of their joy: Bob died at age 73. A retired security-firm owner who loved to fish, he was still recovering from a fall off a roof two years before the family hit the jackpot. The one thing he wanted was a canary-yellow Hummer, so days after winning he went out and bought one. The couple's other big splurge was a French country-style house down the road from the Wests'. Sadly a fall there, against a bathroom wall, left him with fluid on the brain. An emergency operation eased the swelling, but "he just never did come out of it," says Frances.

He remained only semiconscious. After three weeks with no change, Frances says she whispered into the ear of her husband of 49 years, telling him, "It's okay to go; we're taken care of." He died of pneumonia soon after. The family regrets that Bob didn't get to take the Alaskan cruise he'd dreamed of and never got to drive the Hummer. It's still in the driveway. How long will it stay there? "Always," says Frances.

And there was more trouble. A week after Bob's funeral, Frances, 69, injured her hip, leading to surgery and two months of physical therapy. Still, she was able to join the West family Christmas Day to spend a week relaxing at Turtle Bay Resort on Oahu, Hawaii. It was her first big trip since winning; Steve and Carolyn, with daughters Erin and Meagan, had already spent most of August on a first-class tour of Italy and Switzerland. Among the girls' souvenirs: Erin bought Prada sunglasses and a Gucci purse. Meagan, 16, bought Louis Vuitton shoes and a purse and Gucci sunglasses, as well as designer skirts.

At first, Steve says, their UBS Financial Services investment counselor Curt Bennett budgeted the family to spend \$300,000 a month. "We said, 'We don't need that much,'" recalls Steve. So the monthly allowance was ratcheted back to \$100,000, the rest invested.

Which isn't to say their checkbook is gathering dust. They replaced Carolyn's 2003 Honda van with a 2006 GMC Yukon so she could ferry kids to Meagan's cheerleading competitions. And even though Carolyn, 48, thought she didn't want a sports car, she succumbed to the charms of Steve's champagne-colored BMW 650i convertible and bought a silver BMW.

Steve, who collects antique record players, also purchased an original 1912 Edison Opera phonograph for \$6,000; later he added several antique music boxes that, he says, "I never thought I would be able to afford." He turns and pats the Yamaha baby-grand player piano that sits in their living room: "Carolyn wanted something too, so this is her indulgence." Still, none of the kids have

new cars. Erin drives a 2000 Ford Focus. "I don't want a good car going to high school, because someone could scratch it," she says.

And how have the people around them responded? Erin, 18, says that she lost some friends because of her family's good fortune and ended up switching high schools. "They started telling me I was different and that I was greedy because I started going to lunch with other people," says Erin, who is happy with the move.

Son Curtis, 20, also changed schools, moving to Portland, where he has entered a new college. His biggest extravagances include a new Alienware gaming computer and a laptop.

The Wests' oldest son, Matt, 22, was recently honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps after serving two tours of duty as an MP in Iraq. He is engaged to Chelsey Miller, 21. The couple bought a house in North Carolina with a little help from his parents, although Matt resists asking for anything: "It's nice knowing that the money is there if I get in trouble, but I would rather do it on my own."

The Wests say their friendships have remained the same--almost. "We are friends with everybody," says Steve, "but there are a few people who don't talk to us now. It's weird. We don't feel that we've changed, but rather that the people around us have changed in how they see us." Lisa Moorhead, a close friend for seven years, believes the family is fundamentally the same. "It's amazing how normal they are," she says. "They think about other people rather than themselves."

To that end both families have given money to the schools, recreation centers and, occasionally, needy groups they read about in the newspaper. "There was an article about a 13-year-old girl who was gathering up things for teenagers in foster care and needed backpacks to put the stuff in," says Frances, who paid for the backpacks.

Yet even their friends are surprised that Carolyn continues to work 30 hours a week. A bookkeeper for a transportation company, she brings home \$500 to \$600 every two weeks. "She has friends here," says Moorhead, who is Carolyn's boss.

Steve has given his lawn-care business to his brother Gary, who moved to Medford last summer. But even though he hired a gardener to help mow his own estate, he worked alongside his brother all fall helping with plantings. "It's hard to stop, because that's what you've been taught to do all your life," says Steve. Adds Gary: "We still need him for consulting; he's the expert."

The families will now begin accepting applications from nonprofits to give away a million dollars yearly from the charitable foundations each has established. "We want to help southern Oregon schools, families and kids," says Carolyn. Frances hopes to focus her foundation more on giving to "family and Christian organizations and law enforcement."

For the most part, their lives have been mercifully free of con artists and deadbeats trying to hit them up for cash. But Steve has had a stalker of sorts, who's called him multiple times. "She kept saying she couldn't go on another day and she was going to commit suicide," says Steve, who referred her to his foundation. "It's hard because sometimes they start crying and you feel bad, but we're not giving money to individuals. If you do it once, you're going to be in big trouble."

The Wests don't buy Powerball tickets now, but Frances says that she still picks up a few from time to time at the same Jacksonville market where she purchased the winning ticket drawn on Oct. 19, 2005. "It will probably never happen again," she cheerfully admits. "But then who would have ever thought it would happen the first time?"

Steve has moments when he still can't believe it. "When I go to bed at night," he says, "I look down the valley and I think, 'How could we have been so lucky?' I can't believe how blessed we've been."

HOW THEY SPENT IT

For the Wests 2006 was the year of the Big Upgrade. "For one, we bought the house," says Steve. The total for their five-bedroom, five-bath palatial home is "well over \$2 million," not including the cost of an interior decorator and new furniture, much of it in cherrywood. (They kept the nearby modest ranch where they used to live for a rental.)

Along with indulging his life-long passion for Edison phonographs, Steve also splurged by building a 31-by-12-ft. greenhouse for his personal supply of "orchids and tropicals." Cost: \$40,000.

Two 2006 BMW convertibles, a GMC Yukon as well as a Segway set the West family back some \$200,000.

There were two family trips: one to Italy and Switzerland in August and a Christmas getaway to Turtle Bay Resort on Oahu, with (pictured below, from left) son Matt, his fiancée, Chelsey, Meagan, Erin, Steve, Carolyn, Frances Chaney and her sister Libby Kochendofer. Europe, says Steve, "was expensive. We spent \$80,000, and that was just for transportation and the tour, which didn't cover all the meals."



Frank Capaci

Illinois

Groundskeeper

\$195 Million (Powerball 1998)



Big Money, Big Trouble.

By Peter Annin, Newsweek, April 4, 1999.

Frank Capaci hit the jackpot. That part was easy.

Before the winner of last week's \$197 million lotto jackpot in Boston starts celebrating, he should talk to Frank Capaci.

Just a year ago, Capaci was the sole winner of a \$195 million Powerball jackpot. After taxes and a lump-sum-payout deduction, he took home \$67 million--a lot of clams for a retired electrician in Streamwood, Ill. End of story, happily ever after? Flash forward to the present: some of Capaci's closest pals no longer talk to him. He's not welcome at his neighborhood pub, and his former bartender buddies are muttering "lawsuit." Capaci declined to speak with NEWSWEEK--in fact, he's declining all media requests--and his son Tony explained why. "So much has happened that has made our lives so complex... There are too many allegations and too many negative words."

The story starts at Bill's Pizza Pub in Streamwood, where Patti Rooney and John Marnell tend bar. On May 20, 1998, with the Powerball jackpot overflowing, they collected \$5 bills from several pub regulars and drove one hour to Wisconsin for tickets. At the last minute, Capaci threw a fiver into the kitty--either the best or the worst investment he ever made. The next day, Marnell handed Capaci a sealed envelope containing his ticket. Unable to read it without his glasses, Capaci handed the ticket to Rooney to read. "My hands were shaking. I took a step backwards and almost fell," she remembers. "That was the first time he told us, 'I'm going to take care of you, too'."

Capaci quickly dashed off checks to Rooney and Marnell for \$10,000 each. But pub regulars say that he'd promised the bartenders far more. (Rooney asked for \$3 million, and says he offered \$500,000 for her and Marnell to split.) Pizza Pub owner Bill Berger says Capaci's "certainly not going to be happy with the money, because he hasn't done the right thing. He hasn't taken care of Patti and John, and this never would have happened without them."

Maybe the regulars at the bar Capaci used to call "my place" wouldn't be so hard on him if they thought he'd handled himself better. In the weeks after his win, regulars say, he often turned the pub into the court of the lotto king. He'd order a round of drinks for the house, then lean over to the bartender and say, "Except him!" while pointing at someone he didn't like. Other times Capaci would complain, "You don't know the problems that that money has brought me"--infuriating people who were struggling just to pay their bills. "I think Frank

wants to be a good guy," says bar owner Berger. "I'm just not sure he knows how."

For now, Capaci is staying away from the bar. He's kept his job as a groundskeeper, unlisted his phone number and bought a shredder for the reams of unwanted mail. "He's gone into hiding," says old friend George Brust. For Capaci and other lotto winners, big money brings big problems. That doesn't stop the rest of us from dreaming of that winning ticket--and of how well we'd handle it if we only got the chance.

William Post, 64

Won: \$16.2 million

Outcome: Brother hired a hit man to kill him, divorce, bankruptcy

Gone are the days when William Post, 64, would find a pair of pants he liked and buy 400 of them. Gone too are the mansion, the farm, the half-dozen cars and the diamonds. In fact, looking around Post's ramshackle home in Franklin, Pa., you'd never suspect that 16 years ago he won \$16.2 million. And yet despite declaring bankruptcy in 1994 and suffering from health problems including severe asthma, Post maintains, "I'm a very happy man now. Money can't buy peace of mind."

As an overnight multimillionaire, that was certainly something that eluded the onetime circus cook. In 1994 his brother Jeffrey pleaded no contest to hiring a hit man to kill Post and his then wife, Connie, allegedly in order to get his hands on Post's estate. (Jeffrey is serving 20 years probation.) Spooked by the plot, Connie left Post not long after. From there things deteriorated further, in large part because of Post's lavish and sometimes bizarre spending sprees. "As soon as the stores opened he'd want to go and buy stuff," says his daughter Gladys Burrous, 42. "Everything, anything."

Today Post lives on a \$558 monthly Social Security disability check and has \$43 in the bank. "He probably is happier," says Burrous of her father. "When he won, he really didn't know how to handle it."

The High Cost of Winning By Lambert and Tresniowski, *People*, March 15, 2004

The Roby 43

Texas

43 Residents of Roby, Texas

\$46.7 Million (Texas State Lottery 1996)



A Texas Deliverance

By S. C. Gwynne, *Time*, December 16, 1996

Battered by drought, pestilence and crashing cattle prices, tiny roby is suddenly awash in millionaires

At the precise center of Roby, Texas, on one of the town's more expensive pieces of real estate, is a crudely made sign: good used clothes 10 cents to \$1. It sits in front of a faded little store and tells you everything you need to know about the economics of this dying cotton-and-cattle town. The average house here costs \$30,000. The average income is barely \$20,000. Everywhere buildings are boarded up, abandoned, sinking in the rust-red dirt. The population is 616 and dwindling.

The town needed a miracle. And over Thanksgiving weekend it got one. With a mixture of shock and gratitude, Roby residents learned that 39 of their own had won more than \$1 million each in the Texas state lottery. They belonged to a pool of 43 people organized by Peggy Dickson, 48, a bookkeeper at the town's cotton gin. Each wagered \$10, enabling the pool to buy 430 tickets. The one that won paid \$46.7 million--that's \$54,255.81 a person each year for the next 20 years, or roughly \$40,000 after taxes. Dickson had never before organized such a lottery syndicate, and many of its participants had never bought a lottery ticket. "It still doesn't feel exactly real," says Kathy Terry, one of 21 Terry kinfolk who won (they all are descendants of the town's founders).

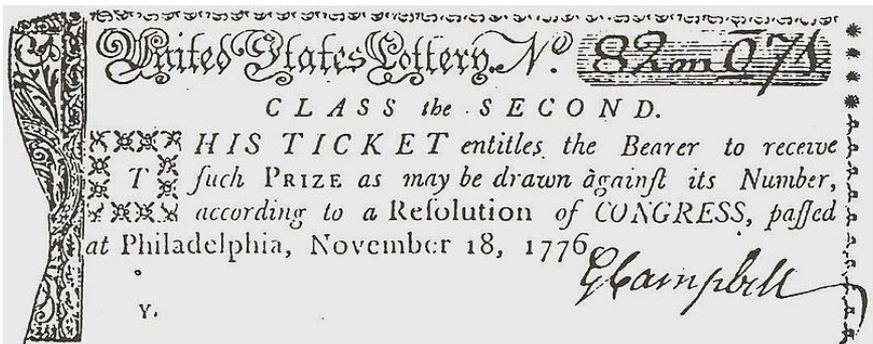
Roby residents have reason to be suspicious of their good luck, which has been unfamiliar lately. Misfortunes have descended with biblical force: a three-year drought, a continuing plague of boll weevils and crashing cattle prices. Twenty-eight winners were farmers or ranchers, and three-fourths of them were in deep financial trouble. "In June they were fixing to come get our stuff," says Kathy Terry of the bankers who hold the notes on their farm. "We've kept it going only because we got a loan from my dad. My husband was already looking around for other work." Manuel Valdez, 43, and his wife Susie, 37, were close to losing Susie's Fish & Grill, which the couple sank their life savings into only five months before. Manuel, who had stopped by the cotton gin (owned by the Terrys, of course) for a cup of coffee and joined the lottery pool on a lark, says they could not have held out much longer. "This month I really didn't even want to come to work," he says. "I opened the checkbook, and we were down to our last \$136." Another winner, Gene Terry, 61, says he had got so far into

debt that he had to put up his two small farms as security. "A lot of these farmers just could not have kept farming another year if they had not won," says Mayor Cecil King.

To the question, "What are you going to do with the money?," the winners say, "Well, buy our freedom, of course." But freedom in Roby does not mean traveling in Europe, buying a new car or moving away from the dusty prairie. "I'll tell you what \$40,000 means to us," says Kathy Terry. "It means we can pay off the interest we owe." Years of financial insecurity have made people like Lance Green, 30, hang on tightly to the things he can count on, like his \$9-an-hour job. He doesn't plan to quit at the gin even after he pays off the debts he ran up in his construction business. "Yeah, I could go out right now and buy a new pickup," says Mike Terry, 37, who makes \$30,000 a year at the Terry cotton gin and whose wife makes \$10,000 at the bank. "But I say, What a waste of a whole year's lottery payment. We're thinking about things like a college education for our three kids." The Valdezes plan to hang on to their restaurant and re-enroll their 21-year-old son in college; he dropped out for financial reasons this year.

Even though the dreams of Roby's millionaires fit their struggles, that has not kept outsiders from as far away as Germany from calling in with investment tips. One financial adviser who contacted several winners billed himself as a "lottery economist." Green says he has received a phone call from his ex-wife, with whom he has a daughter, expressing interest in the disposition of the money. If there's any bad feelings from people who missed out on the now famous pool, the tight-knit Robyites are not saying. Two men who were invited to join the pool and turned it down, however, were said by everyone to be "sick about it."

For now, at least, there seems to be a tacit consensus in Roby that the best outcome of the lottery would be a life that continues unchanged. Winner Thurman Terry, 82, patriarch of the Terry clan, vows to do just that, which means running a few head of cattle. "The problem with retirement," he says with a wry smile, "is that when you retire you are liable to die, and I have no such plans."



Geraldine Williams

Massachusetts

Custodian

\$294 Million (Mega Millions 2004)



\$294M lottery winner is 68-year-old cleaning woman

By Gail Oskin, Associated Press, July 9, 2004

Meet Geraldine Williams, a retired custodian and cleaning woman who will no longer have to mop her own floors or dust her own furniture.

Geraldine Williams, a longtime house cleaner called a 'wonderful person' by friends, is now a multimillionaire.

Williams stepped forward Friday to claim the \$294 million Mega Millions jackpot, the second-largest jackpot ever to go to a single person in North America. (Related video: Geraldine Williams celebrates her financial windfall)

Williams, who was introduced at a news conference at state lottery headquarters, said she'll take the payout in a lump sum of \$117.6 million after taxes.

She said she was still stunned by her luck, a week after the numbers were drawn.

"I'm in disbelief," she said. "I can't believe it's me."

Williams, 68, recalled staring at a television as it showed the winning numbers, clutching her winning ticket and muttering, "Oh, God! Oh, God! Let it be! Let it be!"

Williams cleaned homes after retiring as a custodian at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. She said she fully intended to keep an appointment to clean a client's home this week until she was told she had to meet with financial advisers in Boston.

Williams said she told her three children about her good fortune as soon as she knew, but added hiding it from everyone else had been difficult. She kept the winning ticket at a bank before turning it in.

"It's horrible," she said. "I don't like lying, I don't like sneaking around."

Williams said she plans to give the money to her children and some charities, and to travel.

Williams, a grandmother of eight who moved to Lowell more than 40 years ago, said she plans to stay in the area.

A neighbor of Williams called her "a bundle of energy."

"She really will be able to enjoy this. I'm so happy for her. It's unbelievable, it's very surreal," said Paula Peacock, 39.

Peacock said Williams picks up trash in their neighborhood of two- and three-family homes. She added that Williams, "takes care of people that are elderly. If I know Gerry, she'll still want to go and take care of them."

The \$294 million is the highest Mega Millions prize in the game's history, exceeding a \$239 million jackpot in February. Williams' winning numbers were 10-25-38-39-50 with a Mega Ball 12.

The largest single ticket lottery jackpot winner ever in North America was Jack Whitaker of Scott Depot, W.Va., who won a Powerball jackpot of \$314.9 million on Christmas Day 2002.

Other states participating in the Mega Millions game are Georgia, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Jay Sommers, 36

Won: \$5.8 million

Outcome: Lost it all, delivered pizza

Oh, to be young, handsome and suddenly so rich you can outshop Paris Hilton! Jay Sommers was 20 when he won a fifth of a \$28.9 million lottery jackpot in Michigan in 1988. With his first annual \$290,000 payment he bought not one but five new cars. "I blew all of the check in 2½ months," says Sommers. "What 20-year-old wins that kind of money and is sensible with it?"

Oh, to be young, handsome and suddenly so broke you're delivering pizza! Spending so fast he couldn't pay taxes, Sommers asked a friend who is a businessman to manage his loot. His pal persuaded Sommers to swap his annual checks for a discounted lump-sum payout. One day in the mid-'90s Sommers went to the bank and discovered all his money was gone—frittered away by his friend's bad investments and shady deals. Sommers sued his friend and won the case, but spent much of his \$887,000 settlement paying off lawyers and debts. To make ends meet during the case he took the pizza-delivery job. "People recognized me and it was humiliating," says Sommers, 36. "One minute I'm famous and five years later I'm broke. It's been a roller coaster ride."

Single and living near Detroit, Sommers now does construction work and is a racecar driver trying to make it big in NASCAR. "I'm still bitter and I'll be bitter the rest of my life," he says. "I think I'd be further along today if I had never won."

The High Cost of Winning By Lambert and Tresniowski, People, March 15, 2004

ODDS

- Odds of bowling a 300 game: 11,500 to 1
- Odds of getting a hole in one: 5,000 to 1
- Odds of getting canonized: 20,000,000 to 1
- Odds of being an astronaut: 13,200,000 to 1
- Odds of winning an Olympic medal: 662,000 to 1
- Odds that an American adult does not want to live to age 120 under any circumstances: 3 to 2
- Odds of injury from fireworks: 19,556 to 1
- Odds of injury from mowing the lawn: 3,623 to 1
- Odds of fatally slipping in bath or shower: 2,232 to 1
- Odds of drowning in a bathtub: 685,000 to 1
- Odds of being killed on a 5-mile bus trip: 500,000,000 to 1
- Odds of being killed sometime in the next year in any sort of transportation accident: 77 to 1
- Odds of being struck by lightning: 576,000 to 1
- Odds of being killed by lightning: 2,320,000 to 1
- Odds of being murdered: 18,000 to 1
- Odds of getting away with murder: 2 to 1
- Odds of being the victim of serious crime in your lifetime: 20 to 1
- Odds that a first marriage will survive without separation or divorce for 15 years: 1.3 to 1
- Odds that a celebrity marriage will last a lifetime: 3 to 1
- Odds of getting hemorrhoids: 25 to 1
- Odds of being born a twin in North America: 90 to 1
- Odds of being on plane with a drunken pilot: 117 to 1
- Odds of being audited by the IRS: 175 to 1
- Odds of having your identity stolen: 200 to 1
- Odds of catching a ball at a major league ballgame: 563 to 1
- Odds of becoming a pro athlete: 22,000 to 1
- Odds of a person in the military winning the Medal of Honor: 11,000 to 1
- Odds of winning an Academy Award: 11,500 to 1
- Odds of getting a royal flush in poker on first five cards dealt: 649,740 to 1
- Odds of spotting a UFO today: 3,000,000 to 1
- Odds of becoming president: 10,000,000 to 1
- Odds of winning the California lottery: 13,000,000 to 1
- Odds of a meteor landing on your house: 182,138,880,000,000 to 1

CHANCES

Chance of dying from any kind of injury during the next year: 1 in 1,820

Chance of dying from intentional self-harm: 1 in 9,380

Chance of dying from an assault: 1 in 16,421

Chance of dying from a car accident: 1 in 18,585

Chance of dying from any kind of fall: 1 in 20,666

Chance of dying from accidental drowning: 1 in 79,065

Chance of dying from exposure to smoke, fire, and flames: 1 in 81,524

Chance of dying in an explosion: 1 in 107,787

Chance that Earth will experience a catastrophic collision with an asteroid in the next 100 years: 1 in 5,000

Chance of dying in such a collision: 1 in 20,000

Chance of dying in an airplane accident: 1 in 354,319

Chance of dying from choking on food: 1 in 370,035

Chance of dying in a terrorist attack while visiting a foreign country: 1 in 650,000

Chance of dying in a fireworks accident: 1 in 1,000,000

Chance of dying from food poisoning: 1 in 3,000,000

Chance of dying from legal execution: 1 in 3,441,325

Chance of dying from parts falling off an airplane: 1 in 10,000,000

Chance of dying from being bitten by a dog: 1 in 700,000

Chance of dying from contact with a venomous animal or plant: 1 in 3,441,325

Chance of dying from a shark attack: 1 in 300,000,000

Chance of having a stroke: 1 in 6

Chance of dying from heart disease: 1 in 3

Chance of getting arthritis: 1 in 7

Chance of suffering from asthma or allergy diseases: 1 in 6

Chance of getting the flu this year: 1 in 10

Chance of American man developing cancer in his lifetime: 1 in 2

Chance of an American woman developing cancer in her lifetime: 1 in 3

Chance of getting prostate cancer: 1 in 6

Chance of getting breast cancer: 1 in 9

Chance of getting colon / rectal cancer: 1 in 26

<http://www.funny2.com/odds.htm#>

Chance of winning Powerball: 1 in 195,249,054

<http://www.durangobill.com/PowerballOdds.html>

David McTier, Ph.D.

Production Dramaturg

David McTier is Associate Professor of Theatre at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he teaches theatre history, dramatic theory and criticism, and dramaturgy. Raised on a cattle farm in rural Georgia, he holds a Ph.D. in theatre history and criticism from the University of Texas.



During the past twenty years, he has taught on the faculties of the University of Kentucky, the University of Virginia at Wise (formerly Clinch Valley College), the University of Vermont, Agnes Scott College, Rockhurst University, and Young Harris College.

He has directed 60 productions, including period and American classics, musicals, children's theatre, contemporary, and original plays. Of particular interest are non-traditional, mixed-media, and company-developed performance dealing with current social issues.

Dr. McTier has been an active participant in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), and his production of *LOST*, an original piece about the effects of war on women, was invited to and performed at the 2004 Region V Festival in Denver. That same year, he was awarded a Kennedy Center Faculty Fellowship to the National Critics Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and he returned to the O'Neill in 2010 for the National Puppetry Conference.

Named to *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, he spent eighteen summers teaching gifted and talented high school students at the governors programs in Georgia (Governor's Honors Program), Virginia (Governor's School for the Visual and Performing Arts), and Missouri (Missouri Fine Arts Academy).

Dr. McTier recently was named a 2012 Fulbright Scholar to the University of Prishtina in Kosovo, where he will teach dramatic theory and criticism as well as directing.

Website: www.davidmctier.com