

## **Death in the Sanctuary**

Prior to 1984, Coppel's Methodist church sat at the northwest corner of Coppel and Bethel Road. It was a small, wood frame building, with a white exterior. Inside, the church had five or six rows of wooden pews, a pulpit, and a choir chancel. Church Historian Fred Conger relates that the chancel was so small that the knees of choristers bumped the Pastor's legs when he stood at the pulpit.

"The floors were wooden," Conger said, "with small gaps between the boards with an open dirt area underneath, so cold, heat or smells could come up easily."

Conger recalls that one summer the church was plagued with a putrid smell. For weeks, members and trustees searched for the source. Eventually it was discovered that an armadillo had crawled under the building to die. One unlucky member had to crawl under the church and drag the carcass out.

Since the critter died in church, did it die in a state of grace?

"No." Conger wryly replied, "It died in the state of Texas."

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