



**FEBRUARY 2020**



**Trivia:** February is Valentine's Month. Here is a BUCKET LIST of restaurants in each state according to Cheapism. These are not cheap but rather some fine dining. You might try one of these "special" restaurants on the "Love" day of this month:

**Cheapism** <https://www.msn.com/en-us/foodanddrink/restaurantsandnews/the-bucket-list-restaurant-in-your-state/ss-BBRUVmd?ocid=spartandhp>

<b>AL</b> -(Birmingham) <b>Café Dupont</b>	<b>MT</b> -(Big Sky Canyon Village) <b>Rainbow Ranch Lodge Restaurant</b>
<b>AK</b> -(Anchorage) <b>The Crow's Nest</b>	<b>NE</b> -(Omaha) <b>V.Mertz</b>
<b>AZ</b> -(Chandler) <b>Kai</b>	<b>NV</b> -(Las Vegas) <b>Joel Robuchon</b>
<b>AR</b> -(Little Rock) <b>One Eleven at the Capital</b>	<b>NH</b> -(Bedford) <b>Bedford Village Inn Restaurant</b>
<b>CA</b> -(Yountville) <b>The French Laundry</b>	<b>NJ</b> -(Red Bank) <b>Restaurant Nicholas</b>
<b>CO</b> -(Colorado Springs) <b>The Penrose Room</b>	<b>NM</b> -(Santa Fe) <b>Geronimo</b>
<b>CT</b> -(Mystic) <b>The Restaurant at Spicer Mansion</b>	<b>NY</b> -(NYC) <b>Eleven Madison Park</b>
<b>DE</b> -(Wilmington) <b>The Green Room</b>	<b>NC</b> -(Cary) <b>Hérons</b>
<b>FL</b> -(Orlando) <b>Victoria and Albert's</b>	<b>ND</b> -(Fargo) <b>Mezzaluna</b>
<b>GA</b> -(Sea Island) <b>Georgian Room</b>	<b>OH</b> -(Cincinnati) <b>Orchids at Palm Court</b>
<b>HI</b> -(Honolulu) <b>La Mer</b>	<b>OK</b> -(Tulsa) <b>Polo Grill</b>
<b>ID</b> -(Coeur d'Alene) <b>Beverly's</b>	<b>OR</b> -(Newberg) <b>The Painted Lady</b>
<b>IL</b> -(Chicago) <b>Alina</b>	<b>PA</b> -(Leola) <b>Te</b>
<b>IN</b> -(Elkhart) <b>Artisan</b>	<b>RI</b> -(Watch Hill) <b>Coast</b>
<b>IA</b> -(Des Moines) <b>Proof</b>	<b>SC</b> -(Charleston) <b>Circa 1886</b>
<b>KS</b> -(Prairie Village) <b>Story</b>	<b>SD</b> -(Sioux Falls) <b>Minerva's</b>
<b>KY</b> -(Louisville) <b>The English Grill</b>	<b>TN</b> -(Walland) <b>The Barn at Blackberry Farm</b>
<b>LA</b> -(New Orleans) <b>The Grill Room at Windsor Court</b>	<b>TX</b> -(Washington) <b>The Inn at Dos Brisas</b>
<b>ME</b> -(Kennebunk) <b>The White Barn Inn Restaurant</b>	<b>UT</b> -(Park City) <b>Riverhorse on Main</b>
<b>MD</b> -(Baltimore) <b>Charleston</b>	<b>VT</b> -(Waterbury) <b>Hen of the Wood</b>
<b>MA</b> -(Boston) <b>Menton</b>	<b>VA</b> -(Washington) <b>The Inn at Little Washington</b>
<b>MI</b> -(Detroit) <b>Iridescence</b>	<b>WA</b> -(Seattle) <b>Canlis</b>
<b>MN</b> -(Robbinsdale) <b>Travail Kitchen and Amusements</b>	<b>WV</b> -(Shepherdstown) <b>Bavarian Inn Dining Room</b>
<b>MS</b> -(Biloxi) <b>Mary Mahoney's</b>	<b>WI</b> -(Kohler) <b>The Immigrant Restaurant</b>
<b>MO</b> -(Kansas City) <b>Bluestem</b>	<b>WY</b> -(Moose) <b>Jenny Lake Lodge Dining Room</b>

## FROM OUR GRADUATES:

**Norma Cissell Smith:** THIS ONE FOR DECEMBER I FINALLY SAT DOWN TO READ. IT IS A GREAT ONE. I LOVE BEVERLY'S TRIP THROUGH LIFE. SHE IS SO MUCH FUN TO BE WITH WHEN WE HAVE THE REUNIONS. BEVERLY, LYNETTE, NENA AND I LOVE TO GO LOOK AT THE ANTIQUE SHOPS WHEN BEVERLY COMES TO TOWN. REMEMBER OUR NEXT CLASS REUNION IS THIS COMING OCTOBER 2020.

**Crozier Brown:** "Dick's, oops, I mean Richard's life story was fantastic and impressive. Again, it makes me thankful and proud of the many classmates who have accomplished so much. WHS60 really did make the world a better place!"

**Charlotte Suttle Kliebrink:** "Very good article about Dick Tooker."

**Jim Maxwell:** "Santa Fe had a White Thanksgiving and a White Christmas and it looks as if we'll have a White New Year!"

[David Dibbs](#): “Richard is an excellent writer and had a great story. I really enjoyed reading it”.

[Nena Hunt Wallace](#)- “I loved the article by Dick Tooker. It was wonderful.”

## UPDATES:

[Charlie Sligh](#): Joe Riley stays in touch with Charlie and sees him fairly often. Charlie is staying with his sister, Alice and hubby Greg Ogden. Their address is:

[3016 Deerwood](#)

[Waco, Tx 76710](#)

Charlie does have his own address, [P.O. Box 2327, Waco, TX 76703](#). He’s checking it, regularly.

He is up and around, going upstairs/downstairs, gingerly; but still has his chest protection “harness” on. He is feeling much better, but still “feels” the cracking of his chest/sternum. He says he may be staying at the Ogden’s for several months. It’s a long process to get back to complete independence and comfort.

[Cynthia Kirkland Mazza](#)-still taking it one day at a time thru treatments.

[Linda Shelby Lyons](#)- trying to regain her strength by walking and a program of physical therapy.

[Richard Tooker](#): Yesterday (January 21) I was diagnosed with throat cancer. I quit smoking 30 years ago and I’ve been waiting for that other shoe to drop ever since. Looks like it just did.

[Phyllis Brooks](#): Has had some testing on her port as she has had issues with blood clots. Said she has lost some weight but is feeling better and able to do a little cooking. She needs our continued prayers.

## Regarding Elta Anne Owen Hogue’s death:

[Cynthia Kirkland Mazza](#): Elta Anne and I just reconnected last few months too. We were dear friends at WHS and were active in Highland Baptist youth. We reminisced about our fun youthful days as she missed her beloved husband Don and struggled with her cancer journey. She was so ready she said to meet her savior and see her Don. Praying for peace and comfort for her boys and family and many friends. From what I understand she was a vibrant beautiful lady whose light was always shining for Jesus. You are there, dear friend.

[Cathey White Land](#): I am devastated to hear about Elta. I knew thru Gayla that Elta had found out in the last few months she had cancer, but had no idea it was life threatening at this point. Oh my gosh!

[Bev Murphy Wells](#): Saddened to hear about Elta Anne. Sometimes that happens so often when one spouse passes then the other spouse is not far behind so now she and her dear husband are resting together.

We are living in times of saying a lot of good-byes to so many all around us. As we get older, it seems to get harder and harder to say goodbye.

[Kay Phillips Sparks](#): I am so sorry to hear this. Gayla and I were talking about Elta just yesterday, and she told me Elta was not doing well. She really wasn’t sick very long.

[Susan Harkness Hill](#): So sad!! She was a special, close friend in high school. You should see all the tributes on Facebook. She was truly loved.

[Tim Lasseter Latta](#): Such a wonderful, love filled and humorous obit.

### Regarding David Peeples' death:

Sandra Wooten Overhouser: Thanks so much for keeping those of us out of Texas informed about David's passing and services. I have had a hard time wrapping my head around his loss. He was always so nice to me. Such a kind and gentle person. I wondered how he could play football so well. He has always had a special place in so many lives.

Bev Murphy Wells: Thank you for allowing those of us who couldn't be at David's service a virtual bird's eye view. Your sharing is so very important and it is greatly appreciated! It sounds like his service turned out just how David wanted it. I'm sure he was enjoying it from his point of view.

It was asked how many deaths we have had this year. We have lost 16 graduates since our last reunion. They are:

Gene Carson- November 2018

Tom Chambless- April 2019

Jenny Easter Miles- October 2019

Scott Horne- January 2019

Mary Murray Lockwood- May 2019

Frank Neel- April 2019

Denny O'Neill- November 2019

Marcus Otterstad- December 2019

Linda Peacock VanDenBerg- May 2019

David Peeples- January 2020

Roy Don Phillips- January 2019

Mary Frances Rodriquez Morales- April 2015

Ron Sommer November 2019

Rik Spencer- June 2019

Betty Vaughan Willis- November 2019

Elta Anne Owen Hogue- January 2020

### BIRTHDAYS:

1- Don McClellan

4- Al Ctvrtlik

5- Russ Keeling

10- Tommye Ruth Blair Toler

16- Kay Phillips Sparks

18- Norma Cissell Smith

25- Jeanne Holland Harman



### MEDICAL CORNER



**With Flu season in full swing right now, please be cautious about touching these things:**

hand Sanitizer pumps

elevator buttons

computers

cell phones

gas station pump

popular items at the office—(coffee pot, door knobs, light

switches, telephone)

menus- **salt pepper shakers, condiment jars**

turnstiles

electronic pens- **pens in doctor office**

kitchen sponge

bathroom sink

air dryers

bacterial soap dispensers

your toothbrush (store far away from toilet)

other people's towels and razors

someone else's drink

your gym's yoga mat

your uber's door handle

shopping cart handles

the public restroom's floor

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/wellness/things-you-should-never-touch---according-to-doctors/ss-AAJXj6e?ocid=spartandhp#image=2>

## FROM THE EDITOR:

The Town Crier is always a work in progress. It is rather like a box of chocolates: You never know what you are going to get until it is opened and digested. Just remember- YOU ALL are the Town Crier. Without input from each and every one of you, I would have nothing to report.

I decided to do a little research on how many graduates have been so kind to share with us their lives after graduation. This all started back in February 2018 when I requested some pictures from Stan Lennard. He mentioned he liked to paint for a hobby. Being that I ask a lot of questions, I found out that Stan does beautiful artwork. Stan shared some of this artwork with us and just "off the cuff" I mentioned maybe we could start a **Show and Tell**. I knew Karon Shinault Jackson made beautiful quilts so the next month I asked her to share. Fast forward to now when this segment has developed into so much more. I am just thrilled and hope many more of you will jump on the bandwagon to be recognized.

I want to recap all those who have been so kind to open a part of their lives with our class. Their stories and their talents are just mind-boggling. Take a bow, everyone!

February 2018-	Stan Lennard
March 2018-	Karon Shinault Jackson
April 2018-	Janell Buida Bolton
May 2018-	Tim Lasseter Latta
June 2018-	Elizabeth Bentley
July 2018-	Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff
August 2018-	Sondi Nelson Pace
September 2018-	Tommye Ruth Blair Toler
October 2018-	Jim Woodson
November 2018-	Janice Player Howell
December 2018-	Aubrey Stringer
January 2019-	David Dibb
February 2019-	Richard Quick
March 2019-	Linda Shelby Lyons
April 2019-	NO ONE
May 2019-	David McPhail
June 2019-	Bonnie Burson Chapman
July 2019-	Erik "Rik" Spencer
August 2019-	Ken Baker
September 2019-	Melynda Ricketts Chatham/Charles Chatham
October 2019-	John Anderson
November 2019-	John Davis
December 2019-	Beverly "Bev" Murphy Wells
January 2020-	Richard (Dick) Tooker
February 2020-	Russ Keeling
March 2020-	David Walsworth

Please, won't you join this wonderful group and share a few things you have done since high school graduation? You can write it or you can give me some of the details and I will write it.

Whichever, you will have the final say as to every word and every picture. It will go to print exactly as you have okayed. "I'm listening", I'm waiting, and **WE ARE ALL INTERESTED**.

*jeanne*



It is a real treat this month to feature the life adventures after high school of Russell Keeling. I was in Senior Chorus with Russell and can vouch that he has a very good singing voice. If you will remember, he was our "Tin Man" in the Operetta, **The Wizard of Oz**. And, he was our representative to All State Chorus. After 59 years, Russ is still singing on a regular basis.

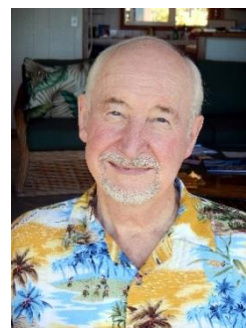
Russ attended our very first reunion in 1975, and I hope will attend our next reunion in 2020. He has been most accomplished in his career; however, anyone who knows Russ would expect nothing less than success from him. He was elected one of our class favorites in high school but little did we know that we would have our very own "Tom Cruise Top Gun" as a classmate!

Russ, although modest and quiet, still lives life as full and fast as he has flown his airplanes. He calls California home; therefore, we hardly ever get to see him unless we are so lucky to get a picture or two while he is on a trip. Now, fasten your seatbelts while you take a fast ride through the adventures and experiences of one of the nicest men I have ever known.

### Russell Keeling



1960



2019

### The Wizard of OZ

**I-r Russ Keeling, Malissa Starnes Baugh,  
Noah Appleton, Dick Tooker**



LT. COL. RUSSELL L. KEELING  
Commanding Officer

After graduating from Waco High School, Russell, who became known as "Russ" in his more mature years, attended Texas A&M, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and graduated in 1964. While at A&M, he was a member of the Corps of Cadets all four years, was Commander of First Group Staff, and completed the ROTC flight program at nearby Easterwood airfield. His first licensed solo flight was from Waco to Fort Worth to pick up his high-school sweetheart, Betty Craig, (who was attending TCU) for a "cool" weekend. Can't you just imagine how the other coeds were buzzing about that date! Russ commented on his first flight by saying, "**We barely cleared the power lines just south of the little landing strip in Fort Worth...with Betty's dad looking on, horrified, from the ground.**"



Upon graduation from A&M, Russ spent a few months dragging heavy electrical wires through mesquite trees (and around rattlesnakes) in central Texas while under the close supervision of Texas Power and Light Company. He then entered pilot training at Reese AFB in Lubbock and after a challenging and competitive year, graduated “Top Gun” (first in his class.) Russ selected the F-104 Starfighter as his choice of fast-movers and was sent to Test Operations at Eglin AFB, Florida. Some of his responsibilities were to takeoff, fly special supersonic profiles, and land unmanned F-104s for the purpose of testing live air-to-air missile firings. Perhaps the highlight of this tour-of duty was Russ’s saving a 15-year-old girl who had been caught in a high surf and rip current off the beach of the Officers Club. For this rescue, Russ received the Airman’s Medal for life saving and heroism.



In 1969, with the conflict in Southeast Asia picking up steam, Russ volunteered for a tour in A-1s. Flying out of a base on the Mekong River between Thailand and Laos, he completed 236 combat missions in North Vietnam and Laos. These missions varied from blacked-out night sorties over the Ho Chi Min trail, to ground troop support, to the search and rescue of downed American pilots in the region. Russ’s plane was “hit” on three occasions but he managed to keep control of the aircraft and land at friendly locations. After a year of combat, he left SEA as one of the most highly decorated pilots (at that particular time) in the “war”.

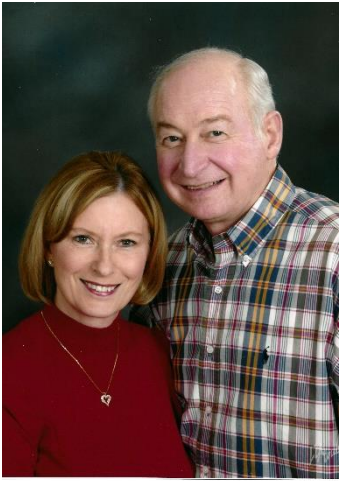
The transition to B-52s was interesting for Russ as he had been a fighter pilot and used to doing everything himself. However, Russ quickly picked up the concept of an “aircrew approach” to combat missions, became an instructor pilot in minimum time, led his crew on numerous nuclear alert periods (ground and flying), and eventually took his Select Crew to Guam and Utapao RTAFB in Thailand. This assignment culminated in daily attacks against Hanoi and Haiphong through the end of conflict. The missions were 15-16 hour sorties, carrying 108 500-lb. bombs, using three-ship mutual-defense cell formations, uploading 100,000 lbs. of fuel during night aerial refueling, and evading the highest concentration of ground-to air-missile defenses in the world. There were several close calls due to the flood of missiles being aimed at Russ, but he received no hits (damage) and had safe RTBs (Return to Base).



After four winters in B-52s at Kincheloe AFB MI (upper peninsula), Russ was sent to the Air Force Institute of Technology where he earned a M.S., Electrical Engineering, then to the Air Force Communications School (Biloxi MS) and then to HQ, Special Communications Command, where he directed the secret testing of unintentional electronic radiation and its uses. This technology which was developed at a secret site on the border between East & West Germany, eventually became the backbone algorithm for the development of “smart bombs”, and earned Russ AF-level commendations. Russ said, “**Not bad for an ol’ fighter pilot at a pucky desk job!**”

Russ served as Chief of Standardization/Evaluation at the bomb wing at Goldsboro NC for a brief period and then was directed to the operational staff of the Inspector General of the Air Force. His primary duty was to brief the Chief of Staff, USAF, each quarter, on the combat readiness of all forces worldwide. During this period of time, Russ personally developed what became known as Common-Core Inspection Criteria for all units, regardless of command affiliation, responsible for common functions (e.g., Civil Engineer units).

This single effort ensured that all theater commanders could receive units from any other command and know that those forces would be trained and evaluated using common inspection criteria. The significant changes to inspections for every combat unit in the Air Force were immediately implemented by the Chief of Staff, USAF.



Russ retired from the Air Force in 1987 in Redlands CA, where he met his present wife, Lloy (Canadian-born and now a US citizen (and very proud of it)). They married after a six-year courtship, decided to travel, and have been on every continent, with the exception of Antarctica. They have taken many cruises on many different cruise lines and says Russ, **“all were wonderful”**. They especially have enjoyed extensive self-driving trips to (1) Italy/Sicily, (2) Spain, France, and Switzerland, (3) the UK (from Lands’ End to John O’ Groats, (4) Ireland (South & North), and (5) Germany/Austria. Russ says these are **“memorable because of the local friendships cultivated in the locally-owned B&Bs and pubs.”**

When flying on such long trips became boring for them, (age probably had something to do with it) Russ and Lloy turned to “RV-ing”. That decision has helped them to see a lot of the U.S. and Canada which has given them a big change in their

approach to travel.



Post military jobs for Russ include being a financial advisor for military families, C-141 flight training supervisor at Norton AFB, developer of the flight training program for a non-profit air ambulance service, Civil Engineer for the closure of Norton AFB, and training director of the local Sylvan Learning Center. Russ enjoys the activities of racquetball, choral singing (executive positions for the Inland Master Chorale and his church choir), extensive gardening, RV-ing, grandkids (Russ = “Papa”), live entertainment, and several sets of friends.

Wow! What a busy, accomplished and productive life it has been for Russ since Waco High School graduation so many years ago. He has been so many miles, has had so many experiences and close calls, and has displayed so much dedication and determination. It rather reminds me of a few lines by Robert Frost:

**“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.  
And miles to go before I sleep.”**

In closing, Russ says about his life, **“ I’m blessed with the greatest wife and life companion in the world, as well as kids and grandkids, great health, and a good life. ”**

**“Cheers and blessings to all my classmates, Russ”.**



## **PICTURES:**

### **Blast from the past:**

Gayla Miller and George Compton  
Senior Prom, 1960



Jim Nash, 1964



Joe Ratliff (**deceased**), Hal Johnson, John (Moon) Mullins- reunion, 2013



Linda Jarrett Hagman (**deceased**) Betty/Vince Tusa, Kay Phillips Sparks- reunion October 2000





## **JOKES:**

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged.

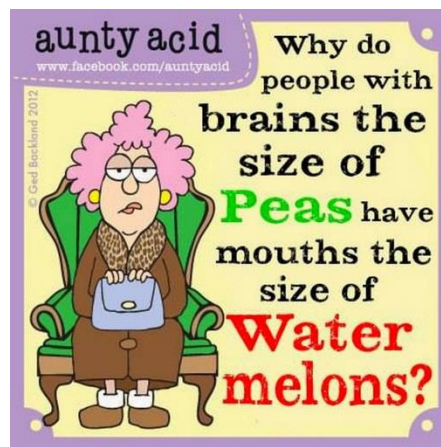
However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.''  
The doctor said, 'I didn't say that... I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'



## **Lastly, from Joe Riley:**

**“Here’s to our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. Let us hope it comes to pass, before we do.”**

*“Don’t go to a school reunion.  
There’ll be a lot of old people  
there claiming to be your  
classmates.”*

—COMEDIAN/ACTOR TOM DREESEN