

MAY 2020

How some graduates are "Living their Lives"-surrounded by the threat of the Coronavirus:

**Ken & Scoot Baker:** We truly do live in a great place. This Coronavirus (thing) is making a change in everyone's life. However, where we live, it is not all that bad. Our social life is more restricted than before, however it is done for the good of us all. We still go to the workout room and then to the hot tub every morning. Around 11 AM our lunch arrives in our room. (they know what to bring us by the menu selections we made the day before—usually soup, salad, a roll, a meat, 2 veggies and a dessert and a drink. Needless to say by that time it is time for a nap. About 4pm they bring us a goodie bag which includes snack bars and potato chips plus a bottle of water. I have never been so well treated. All staff members are very kind and loving. I feel like I have moved into a resort at no extra cost. At this time we have no one with this 'big bad bug' and the folks who run this place are doing everything to keep it that way. Just thought you might enjoy knowing about our daily life. Do not feel sorry for us — life is good.

**Crozier Brown:** We were very young during the days of WWII but still harbor vivid memories of the very real hardships, the very hard times, the frequent heartbreaks, the awful worries of survival and the many concerns. Maybe that's why I'm having a hard time getting as upset or as worried as many today. Certainly it's a serious problem, certainly we need to be prudent in our actions BUT this will be over before too long. This too, will pass!

**David Pettus:** (from Hawaii) We hope you and our classmates are well and safe. COVID-19 has only begun to appear here in Hawaii and most people are not taking it very seriously yet. We've started practicing social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves, etc. so we can get used to it before the wave hits. Hang on, everybody!

**Douglas Ed Crook:** (from Germany) Covid 19 has reached its crescendo here in my own "hometown" Fuerstenfeldbruck. The measures being taken by our state and federal gov seem to be working. Two girls down in Munich (not related) were jogging thru the large city park day before yesterday. A policeman stopped them; they had to pay \$250 a piece for breaking the ordinance. We cannot sit in our yard...because it is not fenced in. A bit crazy...our world has certainly changed. There will soon be a biz recession and perhaps we'll all be wearing masks here soon. Shades of the Lone Ranger. We're still locked down here, but can take a walk, but only with the family. Can buy groceries, keeping a yard- and-a-half from other people. Still critical, but the Germans are well organized. It's all going to cost a lot.

**David Dibb:** My neighbor called to see if we had enough TP. Said he ordered a case of the commercial size rolls from Amazon. Who new Kimberly Clark would be a hot stock?? Anyway, we are good-finished painting the back of the house this week.

**Tim Lasseter Latta:** We are at the lake in Franklin County (East Texas) where there are no confirmed cases as yet of the virus, cleaning out the toy box and finding homes for cars and blocks, etc. The dogwood and azaleas are at their peak so we've done some nice walks. Yesterday we drove on some county roads and could not believe the purple wisteria displays. They ranged from low on the ground to the tops of tall trees. Reupholstered a small chair and in general did some things that had been on the back burner. John and I can both work from out here, and I'm currently designing a new kitchen for clients in Grapevine and a whole new house for a client in Weatherford. Not going to the store much at all, but there is plenty of food here in the freezer. Will run out of fresh things before anything else. Will likely get boats back in the water soon. Very quiet and peaceful here and except for missing the kids and grands, we are very content with just trying to stay healthy. We wish the same for every dear one in our class.



**Joe Riley** sent this picture and explanation: in my "line around the corner" shopping spree today at SAM'S and HEB, (see attached picture at Sam's, where my basket was next to the yellow corner post), they were out of toilet paper, again.



**Aubrey Stringer/Phyllis Wieser** : Thank goodness for technology....I was able to join my Sunday school class this morning in my jammies!! Everyone, be well and know that we'll get through this. Aubrey and I send you all hugs and good wishes. If there's anything that we can do to assist anyone in our area, please call or text me. Aubrey, of course, can be reached by phone-254-722-4881.

**Bob Easter**: Reflections. A journey back home to our roots. Life always presents new challenges, yet seldom do those challenges shake our core by forcing us to focus on what's truly important in life. The things you were worried about months ago, where are they now? Has this virus commanded us to take inventory of what really matters or are we still wanting it to be over quickly so we can continue down the material road desperately trying to satisfy a hunger for happiness by always looking for the next big thing to achieve or do,

Each of us has a gift to share. Yours is very unique. Only you carry that gift. When we take away any successes in business or professional life and focus only on the gift it brings true happiness. Personally the virus has forced me to take inventory of why am I still here. The answer came back quickly. It is to give away what God has so blessed me with. Things like love, smiles, listening, encouraging with a helping hand, plus teaching health benefits in growing organic vegetables and allowing me to provide bumper crops to food pantries, family and friends. Just knowing some mother, father, or child will eat better tomorrow fills my soul. Why? Because deep hunger as a child is something I experienced often. It taught me so much and has been a gift that keeps on giving because the Lord taught us the more we give away the more blessed we become. When someone asks how I am doing my response is "Blessed". That blessed response always brings a smile on their face and helps them to remember they too are blessed.

**Annita Incardona Henson**: We seem to be doing OK for the moment. We are staying in. Jim gets cabin fever and goes to the pharmacy and Whole Foods but he runs in and runs out. We have things delivered, as well. The news of Coronavirus for New York is grim.

New York City is a ghost town. The streets are bare. Everything is closed except Duane Reade and the grocery stores. The taxis are empty and so are the buses. Cars are sparse and the traffic lights go on and off like it's The Twilight Zone. Delivery guys wear masks and gloves when they deliver food or groceries and our doormen wear rubber gloves and constantly spray the reception desk and boxes that come in from UPS and FedEx.

We stock up on snacks that we never bought before and we eat them constantly. That is how we pacify ourselves. Jim works from home. I still mess with buying and selling antiques but the market is soft right now so my cousin Patty Incardona Welborn and I are going to try to reconstruct our Italian family history. She lives in Texas and I am in New York but we email every day. So do my daughters and I.

We have two friends, a husband and wife, who think they may have had the virus but not bad but they had fever, sore throat and a cough. They had it for a week or so but stayed to themselves and got over it. They were not tested, however. Please stay in and stay healthy.

**Glenn/Janet Hurta**: We are fine. A little too lazy. Enjoying fresh-baked bread and coffeecake, but otherwise fine!

**David/Janie McPhail:** We are good....sometimes have cabin fever but we can take a long walk in our neighborhood. I probably have enough groceries for a month – ordered for p/u from HEB 2 separate times. Last weekend our grandson and David cut down a huge Live Oak in our front yard. Otherwise, just plodding along. Nothing major going on ....well our son and grandson have female labs and 3 ½ weeks ago they had a total of 18 puppies...know anyone who wants a lab puppy? They have 8 blacks and 10 yellows – of all those babies only 3 were females.



### Regarding Bill Alexander's story:

**From Pat Payne:** Bill, I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the adventures of your life! We have friends here in Naples who met in Africa while with the Peace Corp. One of their sons is with the American Embassy and is currently stationed in Ghana. If my memory serves me correctly we had a nice chat on the last day of our last reunion. So happy you shared your story in the Town Crier. What a life you and Rosemary have shared!

**From Crozier Brown:** Enjoyed supremely Bill's life story. Yet another shining star in the crown of WHS60!

**From Tim Lasseter Latta:** Bill's story is fascinating!!



### More regarding Richard Tooker:

**From Victoria Tooker:** It means a lot to me that Richard was so well loved by his classmates. And I forgive you all for calling him Dick! Thanks for sending all the wonderful comments & pictures. I look at the pictures & it just doesn't seem possible that he's gone. He had been very sick but he always bounced back. I'm truly shocked. The pictures reminded me how glad I was that he cut off the ponytail!!! He had lost sight in one eye with the stroke & I said, Hey, let's do something rebellious, just to prove that we can still do it! He had always wanted to grow a ponytail. So that was it! There was no stopping him. I can't even remember what I did, so it must not have been too rebellious. Everything he did was with great gusto, and a smile. I miss that. He was a gentle giant and his absence is stunning. But boy do I have some great memories!!!

Btw, I came to a reunion many years ago. Richard asked, "Do I look as old as the rest of these people?" I said "Yes."

That was my last reunion! With love, **Victoria**

**From Dave Pettus:** Dick was such a good guy and good friend. As Melissa Starnes also recalled, he was a stellar part of the Wizard of Oz production as the cowardly lion. Fare thee well, Dick, and thanks for the memories...

**From Gwen Ewing Hodges:** Dick was one of a kind and I remember him letting us sneak into WACO to watch him in the sound booth! Wish he could have seen my daughter at work as a radio news anchor where then equip is so good don't have to be in a booth, life is so short for all and especially for your Bill, way too brief💕.

**From Stan Lennard:** Over the years I have stood in awe learning of the extraordinary lives, careers and accomplishments of so many of our former classmates (perhaps all of them), certainly Dick. I ask the question, what accounts for this? What was it about our teachers, classmates, our community, our town, our beloved state that contributed to it? To what extent was it our coming to know of our abiding Creator and Savior who guided our respective destinies? I would enjoy hearing from all about what they believe accounts for it. God knows we as grand and great grand parents need to do what we can in our remaining years to restore that essence into the lives of our youth, our children, our teachers, community, towns and states. I am so proud, good Waco Tigers all!

**Bev Murphy Wells:** Richard will live on circling the earth in grand fashion! What a thought provoking concept!

**Annita Incardona Henson:** I was so very sad to hear about Richard Tooker. He wrote to me on Facebook just about a month ago right after he had had those tests and I congratulated him for not being too bad off. Little did we know. Too many classmates are dying.

**Carolyn Taylor** (Rayburn Taylor's widow) provided us with this picture of Dick when he was back at North Junior high school What a cute red-headed young lad! Thanks, Carolyn!



## **Having a Garden:**

**Bob Easter:** Do you now understand Grocery shelves are being left empty and people lining up to buy food. Some of the vegetables in a garden are actually healthier than the ones you purchase in a store. You knew I would be sending something out about the Health Benefits of growing your own Foods. Our Past generations had gardens. Blessing to all.

Hope you enjoy these educational sites how you can stay healthy in mind, body and soul. Learn to grow a Garden. Then you will have a much better appreciation of a Farmer, their families.

These sites are evidence and research about health benefits of gardening. **You will be amazed the amount of food you can grow in a 10 x 10 garden space. Do not have room, join a Community Garden!!!**

<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/14-healthiest-vegetables-on-earth#section5>

<https://www.alive.com/lifestyle/the-dirt-on-gardening/>

<https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/how-to-build-a-raised-garden-bed-best-kits-and-diy-plans/>



## Smiling is Infectious

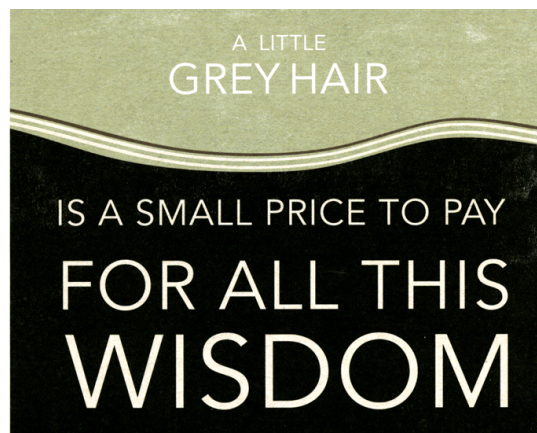


-Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu.  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling, too.  
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin  
When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile, and then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected.

### **May Birthdays:**

- 2- Terrell Reagan
- 5- Carol Leskin Allen
- 11- Carol Adams Scarborough
- 13- Tom Kittlitz
- 15- Darell Gill
- 23- Janene Loftis Jett
- 26- Kay Albright Hofer





## Judith Hamff Murphy



1960



current

Judith has lived in California for a long time, has had a great career, and has traveled quite extensively. I figured she would have an interesting story to tell how a Waco girl became a California girl. She was nice enough to accept the challenge of telling her story. The Beach Boys summed it up in their song, *California Girls*: “I wish they all could be California girls, with the West coast sunshine where the girls all get so tanned.” Now, in Judith’s own words, she reflects back on her experiences and adventures after leaving Waco High:

### MY UNEXPECTED LIFE

**COLLEGE:** In late August 1960, about three weeks after my 18th birthday, my dad backed in the family's '57 Pontiac and loaded my necessary belongings (mostly carefully chosen clothes). He, with Mother along of course, moved me into the SMU dorm. My parents were thrilled that I was going to SMU as they were very devout Methodists—my mother was the office manager at Herring Avenue Church and my dad was a third-generation Methodist with his grandparents having helped establish the first Methodist Church in their South Texas German community. My parents made it very clear from the get-go that I was not going to college to find “Mr. Right” but rather I was going for a degree that could serve me for my entire life if I chose/needed to work for money, i.e., I would always have a “Plan B”. Further, they were up for four years, eight semesters, and they expected a diploma at the end.

I loved college and dorm life. (Who wouldn't?!) SMU wasn't quite as “Methodist” as my parents envisioned. I returned to Waco for the first two summers, even taking a couple of history courses at Baylor one summer. But the summer after my junior year I asked my parents if I could stay at SMU and they agreed—provided I counted the summer as one of my eight semesters and graduated early, in January 1964. I agreed.



**MY TEACHING YEARS:** That January, immediately after graduation, I was fortunate to get a teaching job in the Dallas Independent School District where I had done my student teaching. I was assigned a first grade class at Benito Juarez Elementary School (a primary school, grades 1-3) in deep West Dallas. For me, there was a whiplashing cultural shock between Highland Park/University Park in North Dallas and Singleton Blvd. in West Dallas. The children were mostly very disadvantaged and for most English was their second language. However, it soon became obvious that 6-year-olds are much the same everywhere—mostly fairly bright, curious, and eager to learn to read, etc. They were very impressed that I lived “over the river and past the tall buildings” where some of them had never been. Also, since I wasn't married

they found it rather puzzling that I wasn't a nun. The following fall the teacher in the classroom next door to me introduced me to her husband's good friend, a Texas Longhorn grad—and, by the way, it was TU-OU weekend in Dallas. Of course, you know where this story goes....

**MOVING TO SAN DIEGO:** Moving on—in early August 1967, Tom landed a job as an Intermediate Planner with the City of San Diego Planning Department. We had been married a couple of years and baby son John had joined us. I was in my second career—stay-at-home mom. I told my family that we'd probably be in California about a year. Who could possibly want to spend their entire adult life in that perfect temperate climate and always live less than 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean? Everyone knew that when “they” shook the U.S. all the fruits and nuts rolled to California. But when I stepped off the plane and the sea breeze hit me in the face I knew I'd found home! A week or so later, an afternoon at the beach sealed the deal.

**MY THIRD CAREER AS AN ACCOUNTANT:** In 1975, with son John 9 years old and his younger brother, Jason, 4 years old and ready for 4-5 days a week in pre-kindergarten, I decided it was time to resume my working life. I had substitute taught a couple of years before Jason was born, but there was a glut of teachers in Southern California and several years of long-term subbing were needed to land a full-time teaching position. San Diego State University (7 miles from my house) had a well-respected Business School and I decided it was time to move on. With an undergrad degree in Liberal Arts, the MBA in Accounting program required 60 units and I would need to score in about the 70th percentile on the GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test) to be accepted in the program.

I bought the GMAT Prep workbook. For several months, most evenings after the kiddos were in bed, Tom who had much more advanced math than I, “refreshed” my memory with the algebra, trig, etc. that I would need for the upcoming test. Our plan worked—and thus began my grad school studies. I was in my early 30s and one of two or three women in most of my classes. Driving to school in my bright yellow Volvo station wagon wearing jeans, T-shirt, a hoodie, and flip-flops was quite a change from my days on the SMU campus.

I finished my classwork, wrote my thesis, and started to work in 1979. Accounting positions for someone with an MBA and no work experience were not easy to find, especially during an economic recession. My first job was in the corporate agriculture industry in North San Diego County. My division made chicken feed for the local egg ranches but there were required monthly financial statements to the corporate office and I was also the office manager of the feed supply store.



Eighteen months later I networked my way into San Diego's budding, dynamic high-tech industry. The next 20 years of my 22-year career were all in the computer industry with 12 years spent in data backup hardware/software manufacturing. I worked as a staff accountant, accounting manager, and divisional controller. Mostly I was responsible for producing the required periodic financial reporting, but I also worked on various corporate tax compliance issues, teams which implemented computer accounting systems, worked with internal and external auditors, and helped with corporate annual reports, etc. None of the high-tech companies where I worked are still around—and I've had enough worthless stock options to wallpaper my house!



In 2001, Tom was 62 when he decided to retire from the City of San Diego. He wanted to travel more and, of course, that meant I retired also if I wanted to travel with him. He got the travel bug first, but mine kicked in shortly after. As some of you know, once you get started, one trip leads to another, and then you're hooked. Travel is addictive!

**OUR TRAVELS:** After Tom's cardiac bypass surgery in 1989, I suggested that we go to Italy the next year. Tom had studied architecture in college, loved his history of art and architecture classes and took Italian for his foreign language. My Liberal Arts studies were always mulling around in my head. We had been watching Rick Steves and his Western European travel shows on PBS for several years. We planned our first trip in detail per RS's suggestions, got reservations at the suggested hotels, etc. and moved forward. For the first trip, before the days of the internet, Tom called Italian hotels for reservations in the early morning before he went to work. For future trips, I started faxing hotels from my work and then booking on the internet.

We loved Italy in 1990—Rome, Florence, Venice, and a bit of Tuscany. Sixteen days and back to work the morning after we returned. We returned to Italy in 1995, France in 1996, Spain in 1997, and then England and Ireland in 1999. All the trips were self-directed per Rick Steves guide books and we loved it, always felt safe and didn't have much trouble making our way around. Nevertheless, Tom always wore a money belt with our air tickets and passports. As RS says, "If you get past a basic level of comfort, spending more money isolates you from the people you're visiting." We mostly stayed in two or three-star family-run hotels and B&Bs.

With these first few trips, I analyzed our expenses via my Excel spreadsheets and learned that when you travel to Europe for two weeks, 40% of the expense is air travel. Therefore, once we retired it only made good sense to extend the trips and stay longer! Which, of course, we did.

Long story short here: In Tom's 17 healthy years of traveling we visited 74 countries—took several cruises to out of the way places—Alaska, Amazon River, Panama Canal, Cape Horn, Tahiti, Hawaii, Iceland, Greenland, Faroe Islands. We took a few land tours too—India, Egypt, Jordan, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Sicily.



in Greece

Early in our San Diego years, we began tent camping. The oceans and mountains provide the perfect places to enjoy our beautiful country—with mostly cool nights and not so many bugs. Camping was also the perfect vacation for a family with two curious, active boys. We visited most of the western states, camped in the mountains and enjoyed beach camping as well. We headed to the Sea of Cortez in Baja Mexico too—usually with 25 or 30 neighbors and friends to camp for long weekends near San Felipe.





early camping trip to Lake Tahoe

When we retired I announced to Tom that I was done/finished with camping! He solved the problem by finding a slightly used but very comfortable Class A motor home—and thus a new chapter to our travels. With several long trips we visited all 48 states. Our longest trip was three months to Quebec City and down the East Coast to Washington, D.C. before turning west and heading home. We also traveled about two months to Key West and around the perimeter of Florida. We spent some time in Canada—Calgary, Banff, Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto. We always took our dog with us.



Lucio

**POST SCRIPT:** Tom unpacked his last bag in early 2018 after a final short cruise to Mexico from San Diego.

The years between 2016 and 2019 were not easy for me. During a trip to SE Asia in early 2016, I contracted a virus which took six months to knock. Before the six months were done, in a routine mammogram I learned I had a very early stage breast cancer. The recovery rate is very good, but the treatment was the same as for more advanced Stage 2 breast cancers. I had the lumpectomy and finished the required radiation treatment in mid-January 2017, only to lose our dear older son John two weeks later. Two years and six weeks after losing John, we lost Tom.

Jason and his wife, Rachel, live near downtown San Diego, less than 15 minutes from my house. We get together almost every weekend. They are both active, career-minded 40-somethings. Jason has a CIS degree and works for Sony in their PlayStation Division. Rachel is an LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist) with a private practice. I spend time with neighbors and friends and I still have six cousins in Texas to visit.

As I've previously reported, I took my first solo trip with a land tour in the fall of 2019 to Ireland and Scotland. I'm hoping to resume my solo travel adventures in 2021. In the meantime, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I'm able to travel to the WHS reunion in October.

**(Post Script from editor):** Judith told me Lucio died after a 10-month battle with cancer in 2015 while she was attending a class reunion. However, Judith said, "I got a new dog--a 15 pound mutt (half poodle plus mix)--last May and named him Willie (as in Willie Nelson). 😊 Little Willie is very easy going, keeps me company in my new life plus he helps me to continue walking to stay active."



Little Willie, in his holiday bow tie

### PICTURES:

Several months ago **Judith Hamff Murphy** ran across this picture. It was taken at North Waco Elementary, Mrs. Beck's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. This is only part of the class but they were having May Fete. About 6 of these pupils were in high school with us.



Boys, kneeling: (From left) Cary Lipsey, Billy Tedards, Boyd Hampton, Hayden Watson, Jerry Kirks, Tom Lowry.

Girls: (From left) Mary Katherine Wyatt, Judith Hamff, Eileen Jacks, back ?, Diane Langston, Wanda Sawyer, Judith Bickley, Carol Adams, Kathy Burleson, Katherine Kurly, back ?, Linda Peacock ?, girl ?, boy ?, Mary Ann Dyer, girl ?, Dennis O'Brien.



Judith Hamff



Carol Adams



Boyd Hampton



Tom Lowry



Dennis Obrien



Mary Ann Dyer

### **Coronavirus Humor:** (if there is any humor to this virus...)

#### My Two week Self-Isolation Quarantine Diary

Day 1 – I Can Do This!! Got enough food and wine to last a month!

Day 2 – Opening my 8th bottle of Wine. I fear wine supplies might not last!

Day 3 – Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, some have 235 seeds. Who Knew??

Day 4 – 8:00pm. Removed my Day Pajamas and put on my Night Pajamas.

Day 5 – Today, I tried to make Hand Sanitizer. It came out as Jello Shots!!

Day 6 – I get to take the Garbage out. I'm so excited, I can't decide what to wear.

Day 7 – Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!

Day 8 – Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen". You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

Day 9 – I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going Bar hopping.

Day 10 – Struck up a conversation with a Spider today. Seems nice. He's a Web Designer.

Day 11 – Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12 – I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 13 – If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidently touch your face.

Day 14 – Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1.

**-My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in the bed all day, but look at me now! I'm saving the world!**

**-Homeschooling Day #3: They all graduated. #Done.**

**-You think it's bad now? In 20 years our country will be run by people homeschooled by day drinkers.....**

**-Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?????**

