

FROM THE EDITOR:

I want to thank everyone who expressed their appreciation for the history of the Town Crier. It thrills me that so many of you enjoy the Crier. Anytime anyone has an idea or item to be shared, please remit it. The old saying, "Two heads are better than one" is really worthwhile. I thank all of you for your contributions and anxiously wait to hear from those who may still be considering. Please keep up your good work as you help make my job easier.

jeanne

Comments regarding Chinky's recap:

Pat Payne: "Another unbelievably wonderful life adventure !!"

Tommye Blair Toler: "I thoroughly enjoyed Chinky Johnson's very rewarding and exciting life story. Her work in immunogenetics and HLA antigens has given mankind incomparable knowledge for health care. Congratulations Chinky!"

Judith Hamff Murphy: "What great experiences Chinky Johnson has had in addition to making a significant contribution to medical science in her chosen field. Wow! I always especially enjoy reading about the circuitous routes that some women took as we bridged the cusp between the women before us and the women's movement of the late 60s, 70s and forward. "

SuEllen Golden Wilson: "I so enjoyed reading about our dear friend, Chinky Johnson. We knew that she was brilliant and fun...but Chinky used all her talents to live an amazing life. Thanks, Chinky for being part of my life in Waco."

Betty Luedeker Gatlin: "What a wonderful life for Chinky. She has done wonderful things and accomplished so much."

David Dibb: Thank you so much for sharing that story. So many aspects of it were interesting and inspiring. I believe Chinky had a great deal of courage to follow her interests to such unpredictable places. Going back to her Norwegian roots was a fascinating addition to her research career story. And, with all this Covid stuff going on, the timing of the story could not have been better. Although I had nothing at all to do with it, I still feel a sense of pride that so many of our classmates have accomplished so much and given generously to help others along the way.

Bev Murphy Wells: Really enjoyed reading about Chinky. What a talented and interesting individual and loved all her pictures too. Keeping our graduates safe who live in the hurricane areas has been one of my concerns too! We all think about them during impending news.

UPDATES:

New address for **David Ditto:**

David and Linda Ditto - 613 Scenic Bluff Dr. - Georgetown, Tex. 78628 ph-512-777-9452

Tim Lasseter Latta's brother in law who was evacuated from Detroit, Oregon got the sad news that he lost everything. He left with his car, the dog, and the clothes on his back ...but he got out alive!

David Dibb's sisters-in-law who live in Pensacola were spared from Hurricane Sally. The only thing they lost was their electricity. They had a generator so David said they were okay--just lots of debris.

Rod Sommer: "Cheri and I are doing well. We prepped for Sally, but had no problems at all. All our kids and grandkids also GOOD. I know our neighbors to the east have really been beat up."

Russ Keeling: “Mornings are quite smoky because of the down-flow of air from the mountains, but afternoons are tolerable. The view of the mountain from our patio Thursday night was awesome: The burning peak looked like a fireball from a space movie. We're providing housing for an evacuee from Mountain Home.”

Kay Phillips Sparks' grandson left to fight the Oregon fires with a crew from Ruidosa, NM in a brand new firetruck.

It has been reported that **Darrell Gill** has Covid-19. At this time, I do not think he is in the hospital.

A Neat Idea:

Use an old trash can to hold wrapping paper rolls.



Medical Corner

Mental Confusion beyond the age of 60:

The three most common causes are: **uncontrolled diabetes; urinary infection; dehydration**

Regarding dehydration:

People over 60 constantly stop feeling thirsty and consequently stop drinking fluids. When no one is around to remind them to drink fluids, they quickly dehydrate. Dehydration is severe and affects the entire body. It may cause abrupt mental confusion, a drop in blood pressure, increased heart palpitations, angina (chest pain), coma and even death. This habit of forgetting to drink fluids begins at age 60, when we have just over 50% of the water we should have in our bodies. People over 60 have a lower water reserve. This is part of the natural aging process.

Get into the habit of drinking liquids. Liquids include water, juices, teas, coconut water, milk, soups, and water-rich fruits, such as watermelon, melon, peaches and pineapple; Orange and tangerine also work.

The important thing is that, every two hours, you must drink some liquid. Remember this!

By: Arnaldo Liechtenstein a general practitioner at Hospital das Clínicas and a collaborating professor in the Department of Clinical Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo (USP)

!!! A good test to see if your face mask is sufficiently working: !!!

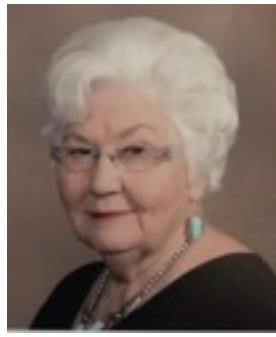
Try blowing out a candle while wearing your mask. A good mask should prevent you from extinguishing the flame. The rule isn't foolproof, but it should help weed out masks that aren't very protective.



LINDA PHELPS McKEE



1960



current

Here is someone, it seems, I have known forever. I have worked on numerous reunions with Linda, have run into her at Hobby Lobby and other parts around town, and have most always seen her at every luncheon and funeral (back before COVID). My husband and son were patrons of her husband's haircuts back in the early years--in fact, James probably gave my son his very first haircut. Linda is a very busy lady, most talented and is always very involved with our reunions. She and James have many interests, both love to travel, and she is finally sharing her life after graduation with us. Maybe her story will get you in the mood for Christmas which will be here before we know it.

“Is it Christmas yet? It’s always Christmas at my house. My passion for years has been Christmas. I love everything about it: Christ, the reason for the season, the music, the joy of giving (and receiving), the traditions, the love and generosity, and of course, the decorations.

My story seems so insufficient compared to other classmates with all their accomplishments, education, and travels, but here it is. I married my high school sweetheart, James McKee, right after graduation. He was a barber at Shaw’s Barber Shop, so the guys knew him better than I did. He has always enjoyed our reunions, because he knows so many of my classmates (he also knows all about the girls, too). We just celebrated our 60th anniversary in June. Our family has grown from three daughters to six granddaughters, one grandson, two great-granddaughters, and two great-grandsons, plus a few sons-in-law and grandsons-in-law. We have quite a gathering at holidays.

I attended college off and on, but never finished my degree in Finance. My first job was at the First National Bank of Waco, and I worked in banking for 13 years. Then I changed careers and worked for the U S Postal Service for 30 years as a Statical Data Technician (I crunched numbers for the budget). I could have done my job until I was 100, but they closed all administrative offices in Waco. Since I wasn’t going to move to Austin or Dallas, I retired at age 70.

Now, the story of my Christmas. When we moved to Axtell, TX in 1978, we started collecting antiques. I've always loved decorating for Christmas and wanted antique decorations to complement our décor. We went to estate sales, garage sales and flea markets looking for old ornaments, and we found a lot. They were not pretty, so I started researching where I could find new "antique" ornaments. I decided that others might want to have the antique looking decorations as well, so I rented a room in an antique mall, went to market, and so began "Christmas Past". We put up several trees showcasing the ornaments, and used antique furniture to display other decorations. I loved going to the World Trade Center and to the Market Center in Dallas much to James' dismay. My promise "*not to buy much*" was never kept. I continued with the antique mall until it was obvious it was not profitable. Most people don't buy enough ornaments for a tree at one time (not like me). They buy one or two and keep adding. So the end of faze one.

Next, I decorated a Christmas tree in my daughter's office. She worked in a doctor's office in a building with many medical offices. The building manager liked what I had done, and asked me to decorate the entrances of the building and some other offices. Soon other offices wanted their offices decorated as well. Since every office needed to be different, I had to have lots of ornaments, decorations, trees, garlands, and wreaths. More trips to market. I always went twice a year and sometimes four times. Janet Hurta was my partner in crime on many of those trips. Our house was a Christmas workshop and warehouse starting in October until after Thanksgiving. My children, grandchildren, and a few others were my workers. We had to start decorating the offices the day after Thanksgiving, and we worked day and night to get it all up, then it all had to come down the day after New Year's Day. I also decorated my church and a few homes.

After I retired and had more time to do the decorating, I decided I was too old. Now I only decorate my church and my home. At times I have had as many as eight decorated trees in my home. These range from 12 ft. to 7 ½ ft. One year I had a different era displayed in each room. I had a woodland tree representing the beginning of Christmas trees, an Old World tree with hand blown ornaments, a Victorian tree with antique toys and candles, a 40's tree with bubble lights, icicles and tinsel, an aluminum tree with color wheel and rotating base, a sixties/seventies tree with angel hair and spiral ornaments, and a modern themed tree. The tree in our garden room had gardening tools and lots of flowers, and the children's tree was either cartoon characters or candy themed. Last year I only had four full-sized trees at home: two 9 ft. and two 7 ½ ft. We used to decorate a lot outside as well, but we're too old now to do it ourselves and too stingy to pay to have it done. Now, we just decorate the front porch, put up pathway lights, and rotating colored lights on the house.

I'm a collector as well. James says I'm a hoarder, but that's not true. My collections include Fitz & Floyd Christmas cookie jars (I have over 100 cookie jars, not all of them are Christmas

related), a large collection of Polonaise Christmas ornaments, a Victorian Christmas village (I keep up all year), a collection of the Santa “back covers” from the December issue of National Geographic, Old World Santas, and angels. I have many more collections, but they are not Christmas related. I have been referred to as the “Christmas nut”. James is the “rose nut”. He has over 200 rose bushes in his collection. He also has four antique and classic cars including a 1955 T-Bird and 4 Corvettes, and a 20 x 20 train room. So, who is the collector now?

We no longer go to market, but we do spend a lot of time going to nurseries, car shows, and train shows (not now with COVID-19). We like to travel and take cruises as well. We had to cancel the cruise we planned for our anniversary, and don’t know when we’ll be able to take it. I don’t know what the next year will bring, but you can bet it will still be Christmas at my house.”





Downstairs



Upstairs

Victorian Christmas Village



Fitz and Floyd Christmas cookie jars



Santa 'back covers' from December National Geographic



White Flocked tree

October Birthdays:

6-	Randy Farrar
7-	Gregory Howell
9-	Marvin Schutza
15-	Sharon McCarthy Odell
	Betty Barkley Flowers
16-	Charles Edward Wilson
17-	Beverly Summey Gritter
18-	John Ferguson
	David Walsworth
21-	Ken Baker
25-	Ralph Klatt
26	Anitra Harrell Henrion
29-	Tim Lasseter Latta

Pictures:

Susan Harkness Hill and hubby Ralph Hill. Susan reports, "Things are going well here in NM...in spite of fractured sacrum in March (horse bucked me off!!) and unending Covid restrictions... we are still riding and really enjoying our mounted shooting hobby. I am not as fast as I used to be, but it is too much fun to give up, even at our age."



Judith Hamff Murphy ran across some old lunchroom pictures at Waco High School, February 1960. I am sure you will recognize some of these familiar faces. Keep in mind this was *only* 60 years ago!!

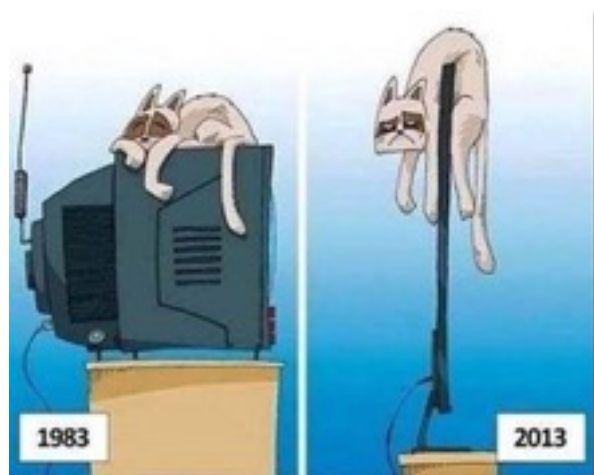


Looking back, those years seemed to have passed quickly. Not a single person in 1960 had any idea what was in store for us. After all, we were seniors with unlimited time ahead. Boy! Did we have a lot to learn!



JOKES:





I see people around my age mountain climbing, I feel good getting my leg through my underwear with out losing my balance

You Know You're Getting Old When "Friends With Benefits", Means Having Someone Who Can Drive At Night.

www.whs60.org