

**FROM OUR GRADUATES:**

**David Dibb:** "I remember Larry's Volvo".

**Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff:** "I especially enjoyed reading Larry's story---it was a great example of a changed life. I especially enjoyed the pictures of his cars---the Morgan was a beautiful example of a classic sports car."

**Nena Hunt Wallace:** "Larry really had an eventful life."

**Gayla Miller Webb:** "I remember Larry always had a nice car as well as his friend James Spillman. I was not really into cars but that was pretty cool. I am so happy his life is on a good tract and he is happily married. I would love to visit with both of them any time he is in the Houston or Katy area."

**Stan Lennard:** "Thanks to all who put these photos and the reunion activities together and for sharing them. "

**Re oldies:** Do you remember these ?

**Dave Walsworth:** "My word!! I remember every one of these. Thanks for the memories."


**Tommye Ruth Blair Toler :** " Ahh, memories. What great times. "

**Jim Cypert (whs 61)** "Yes, I do remember these. Most of them at least. It was simpler times for sure."

**David Pettus:** "This was great! Thank you."

**Linda Phelps McKee:** "Thanks Jeanne, I really enjoyed this and yes I do remember most of them."

**Ralph Klatt:** 

**James Coone:** Like... 

**Charlotte Suttle Kleibrink:** "That was good memories. Made me want to dance and sing."

**David Dibb:** "I had to download it to my big computer and play it. It's my favorite Statler Bros song, but I had never seen it animated before. Thanks, I will enjoy it more than once."

**Bev Wells:** "Great memories! When I was home, I stayed at the Hilton which was right down the way from the old Police department building where my Dad worked so that brought back a lot of memories of remembering my Dad walking in and out of that building. On my walk up Austin Avenue, I stopped and took a picture of the old Kress' building where I worked all through high school (walked from high school to Kress' every day after school). I know there are condos upstairs now. I shopped in the old McCrory's building and took a picture of the old Waco Theater (a lot of memories there) and a picture of the ALICO. Stopped at Coach's and had a brisket meal (took as a carry out). I told them I traveled over 1K miles just for their brisket! Walking from the Hilton up to 12th street made me realize just how up uphill it was...never occurred to me that much before. Older legs let you know that. My room overlooked the river and cattle bridge and it was nice to be able to walk over to the Spice Village and shop. But getting back to memories...our generation has had the best memories. I always have good memories of Waco too!"

**Regarding Jimmy McDonald:**



**Pam Prickett Tucker:** (whs 61) "So sad!

**Jeannie Dickerson:** "Beautiful home.. sorry to lose another classmate."

**Tim Lasseter Latta:** "This is the house and pool of my dreams. It sounds like he had a great life."

**Bob Easter:** "Sad news. We are losing so many. I so wished we had kept much closer after WHS. What a great friend he was during those years."


**Bev Murphy Wells:** "Saddened to hear about the loss of another classmate. What a beautiful home Jimmy enjoyed on this side of eternity. My sincere condolences to his family."

## UPDATES:

**Randy Turner:** Randy still needs our prayers. He is classified as critical but his daughter says he is making baby steps in recovery and that nothing is beyond God's providence. We cannot speak to Randy but I am sure cards would be welcomed.

**Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff:** "My husband and I both survived Covid 19---very mild case---in fact we wouldn't have been tested except for the fact that our son called and said he had lost his taste of smell. Since we are in close contact with him frequently, we decided to be tested. Sure enough---positive. We quarantined, and symptoms disappeared within a week. We were very lucky---we only had fatigue and a cough---not the extreme symptoms many experience. I hope all our graduates escape this pandemic as it continues to threaten the world."

**George Compton:** George reports that on November 11 he had a melanoma removed. All went well and all margins seem to be clear.

**David Pettus:**  "Our macadamia nut harvest this year is one of the best ever, and we can get some to you before the holidays! Kapulena's magical weather and soil have given us lots of beautiful nuts, and our team has roasted them to light golden perfection, with a subtle touch of salt. We think we can fulfill everyone's requests if you order soon. Just remember... once you taste a few, you might eat them all before the holidays, so be sure you order enough to last!

Let us know how many pounds you'd like and where you want us to ship them. We'll email you a PayPal invoice for \$29 per pound, including Priority Mail shipping. You can pay the invoice with either a PayPal account or a credit card, and your nuggets of Hawaiian sunshine will be on the way!

Above all, we send you greetings and thanks for being among our special friends. One of the joys of the harvest season for us is the pleasure of being in touch and sharing our bounty with you."

In Gratefulness,

Dave and Sherry

[davesherry@hoolea.com](mailto:davesherry@hoolea.com)

47-391 Velez Rd.

PO Box 1405

Honokaa, HI 96727

(808)775-1234

**Cynthia Kirkland Mazza:** "Plugging along on this journey. Just finished two Chemo's and dr was pleased that it's working for now as my labs were better. Will begin next cycle Nov 30. Please convey my thanks to classmates for their cards, texts, mostly prayers.

Fighting 💖 🙏 👍 🥰"

## **A Neat Idea** (for some small presents)

Use the cuffs from an old shirt.....



Or, the sleeves from an old sweater



...or a dish towel for smaller gifts.



## December Birthdays:

I want to share again Sondi Nelson's story about why she celebrates both Dec 9 and 10 for her birthday. Per Sondi (2015): "My birthday is Dec. 9-10. It was always the 9<sup>th</sup>, until Medicare unveiled that my birth certificate says Dec. 10....so now I celebrate for 2 days and only get one year older! (I was born @ 11:58pm on Dec. 9, but it did not get recorded till the next day....my mom and dad always celebrated Dec. 9, so I did too....until Medicare changed it!) ha. Merry Christmas! Sondi"

9-10	Sondi Nelson Pace
13	Jerry Causey
14-	Peggy Wake Thyfault
16	Chinky Johnson
17	David McPhail
24	Hal Johnson
26	Howard Dudgeon, Joan Beaty Settle
28	Gayla Miller Webb
31	Elizabeth Bentley Gwen Ewing Hodges

On Veterans Day this year Larry Thomas fondly reflected on the year of 2011. On 11-11-2011 he had the honor of driving his father in the Dallas Veteran's Day Parade which honored WWII Vets. I have no idea how many WWII Vets are still alive in 2020, but in 2011 Larry was told that 400 WWII Veterans were dying daily. Six months and one day after this special 2011 event, Larry's father peacefully passed away as Larry sat at his bedside. We all should take the time to make special memories for ourselves and others - we may never again have the chance!



Susan Harkness Hill



1960



current

This month features Susan Harkness Hill. Susan and I lived on the same street growing up. There is one thing that really stands out in my memory about our “younger years”: We decided to put on a “circus” type presentation in her garage for our parents and the neighbors. Keep in mind, this was MANY YEARS AGO so my recollection may be incorrect.... but we did trapeze-like acts from ropes that we hung down from the rafters in her garage. We did all kinds of swings/turns/tricks that we could at our tender ages. We got applause so I guess it was enjoyed by all who attended. We might have even sold tickets...just cannot remember. As you are aware, back in the “olden days” children had to use their imaginations on how to entertain themselves. There were no “techy” gadgets to keep us indoors and occupied.

Susan grew up and developed into a most attractive adult with a very interesting life. She has a LOVE for horses and is still very active with them. So, saddle up as we ride through her life since high school.

### The Rest of the Story By Susan (Harkness) Hill

Actually, I did not really graduate from Waco High School. My step-father was in the Air Force and was transferred to Harmon Air Force Base in Steventville, Newfoundland in the last half of my senior year at Waco High. I was devastated to leave Waco at that time, but had no choice. My mother had the presence of mind to have my senior picture made, so at

least I was present in the year book. It was quite an interesting change in my life for the 6 months there. There were only 13 in my graduating class, so surprisingly I came out the valedictorian. It must have been due to all the great teachers at Waco High.

I then attended the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and graduated in 4 years with a bachelor of fine arts. (The good grades from high school did not follow, as I found college life much more entertaining. Oh, if only I could do it over again.) Oil painting had been a hobby since grade school, and remains a hobby to this day. Finding time for it is another story. I love painting landscapes with horses, and flowers, some of which are below.



*Friends trail riding among fall leaves  
near Durango*



*Heading home before the storm*



*Wild horses and chamisa  
Farmington, NM.*

*Snowy southwest mountains*

*ng the aspens*



*Sandia Mountains painted near Cal'neel*



*Not sure what these are, but they match the colors in my kitchen and are hanging there. I was trying to paint loosely.*



*My favorites are holly hocks. I had a wonderful garden of them before the gophers took over. The taller picture is named Green House Hollies, and I won a prize for it.*

## CAREER

I started working for Medicare in 1966 at the inception of the program as a claims processor. In the beginning, there were about 25 of us in the office all trained and ready to go, but the claims didn't come in. When one would get mailed in, we would all pass it around for practice. Then came the avalanche of claims, and we never caught up again. I worked for Medicare for 18 years. The office grew quite a bit over the years. I was a supervisor before I left to become self employed as a "health care reimbursement consultant", a job I invented for myself. Now there are many consulting firms and employment opportunities for coding and claims processors, but at that time, most of the physicians and hospitals didn't have any training or experience in coding. I was able to fill a big void for 22 years.

Working for myself was grueling. I seldom had time off or a vacation. But it was also quite rewarding. I traveled from New York City, Baltimore, and Orlando, to San Francisco, LA, and many places in-between. In later years, I specialized in oncology, both chemotherapy and radiation therapy. My favorite client was in San Antonio, and I traveled there many times on business. Ironically, I, the person who would sooner die than speak in front of a crowd, ended up making presentations at major conferences several times a year. It was probably the biggest accomplishment of my working life.

## PERSONAL

On personal note, I was married to my first husband for 18 years (no kids). Then I met the love of my life 2 years later, Ralph Hill, and we were engaged for about 19 years before marriage in 2007. I was living at home and taking care of my dad before he passed. Ralph has two wonderful, happily married daughters, one in California and the other in Carrollton, Texas; and 3 grandchildren, which sadly we don't get to see very often.



Our denim wedding in Red River, NM 7/7/07

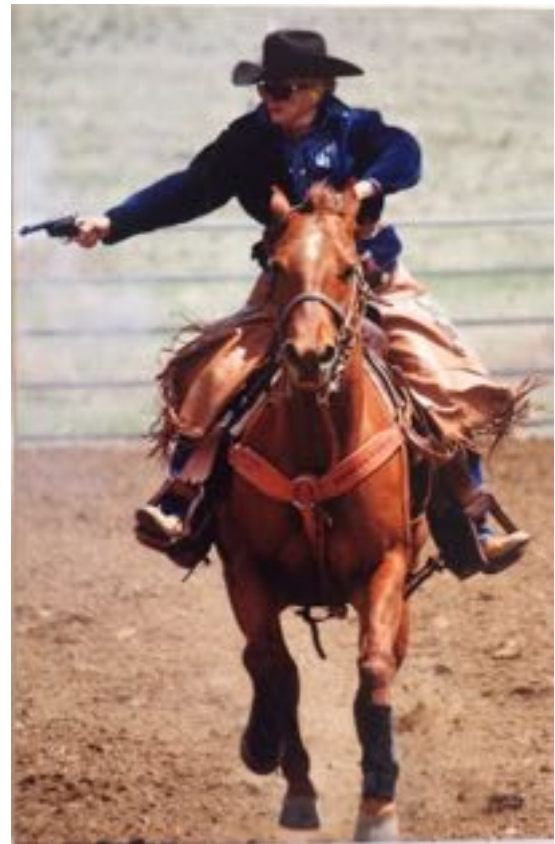
## HORSE COMPETITION

Ralph and I have had many great adventures together, mostly involving horses and mounted shooting. It is a timed sport sort of like barrel racing (only there are over 70 different patterns) in which you shoot 10 balloons with black powder blanks using two single action 45 revolvers. I was the Single Action Shooting Society ladies world champion in 2019...all luck. The older I get, the slower. It is just too much fun to retire for another year or two. But, I am starting to rethink this strategy after getting bucked off and breaking my sacrum last March. Things are totally shut down in New Mexico now that the Corona virus has taken over, except for a few small shoots at private arenas.





*Susan & Rosie in Ruidoso; she is wearing her helmet hat.*



**(Yes, all these are Susan! They are not pictures of Annie Oakley, Calamity Jane, or Dale Evans.)**

## COWBOY CHURCH

Just when living was getting peaceful, Ralph and I were contacted to explore helping start a cowboy church here in Edgewood. We worked in a core group for about 6 months to prepare for its launch, and were totally shocked to have 95 people attend the first service in March, 2019. We *were* averaging over 200 before Corona arrived on the scene, but are still reaching about 150 attendees each Sunday. It has been totally time-consuming, but so very rewarding. I have always wanted a chance to give back for all the blessings in my life. Now I am truly blessed. East Mountain Cowboy Church purchased 62 acres of land and had our first rodeo/playday last August. Over 150 kids entered several events, and we fed about 700 free meals. Everyone was hungry for an opportunity to get out and have fun with their horses. We were afraid the governor would shut us down due to the Corona virus, so we called it a protest.



*Church services held in gym, with lots of spacing between chairs these days. Pastor Curt Miller is awesome. Easter Sunday sunset service I took the picture and had a banner made.*



*East Mountain Cowboy Church trail riding group.*

Let's hope and pray we can continue to serve such a great community.



**Pictures:**

**Baseball Team with some of our graduates: (front row) : Douglas Crook, Barton Zachry, Pat Malone**



**Douglas Crook, Paul Constantine, Hal Johnson**



Humor:

**I Thought The Dryer Made My  
Clothes Shrink.  
Turns Out It Was The  
Refrigerator.**

**At the bank, I told  
the cashier, "I'd like  
to open a joint  
account please."  
"OK, with whom?"  
"Whoever has  
lots of money."**

**How do you start a fairy tale in the modern age?  
"If elected, I promise..."**



**My stomach is FLAT.  
The L is just silent.**

**THERE ARE TWO WAYS  
OF ARGUING WITH  
A WOMAN.**

**NEITHER ONE WORKS.**

The old lady handed her bank card to a bank teller and said, "I would like to withdraw \$10. The teller told her, "For withdrawals less than \$100, please use the ATM."

The old lady wanted to know why ... The teller returned her bank card and irritably told her, "These are the rules. Please leave if there is no other matter. There is a line of customers behind you."

The old lady remained silent for a few seconds, then handed the card back to the teller and said, "Please help me withdraw all the money I have." The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and respectfully told her, you have \$300,000 in your account and the bank doesn't have that much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come again tomorrow?

The old lady then asked how much she could withdraw immediately. The teller told her any amount up to \$3000

"Well, please let me have \$3000 now", she said. The teller then handed it very friendly and respectfully to her.

The old lady put \$10 in her purse and asked the teller to deposit \$2990 back into her account.

The moral of this tale .....

Don't be difficult with old people, they spent a lifetime learning the skills.

