

August 2022

NEWS ITEM!!:

I am so excited and I know you will be, too! The Town Crier is going to have a new feature!! **David Dibb** used to write two columns for the Golden News, a community paper in his area that focuses on seniors in Florence, SC where David lives. The paper sold, David no longer works there, and now he has some extra time on his hands. So...this month David is doing an article for the Town Crier called **Whatever Happened to?...**and then he fills in the 'whatever'. This may or may not be a monthly feature. It may be whenever David gets an interesting subject he wants to pursue, whenever some of you suggest something of interest, or just whenever David has the desire to write. Anyway, I know you will enjoy his article this month as he really has a gift and talent that he is willing to share with us. If you have any ideas or suggestions for this new feature, please contact either of us.

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From our Graduates:

Regarding the 80th Birthday party:

Robert Wilson: "It was hot outside but inside was nice. Everyone said they had a great time and want to do it again. 42 RSVP'd and 35 came."

Janene Loftis Jett: "Looks as if everyone who could attend had a wonderful time! Good looking folks, too!!!"

Gwen Ewing Hodges: "It was lots of fun and good company and food! A big thank you to Robert Wilson and his helpers. Missed several others."

David Ditto: "Thanks for sharing. We had a great time, and enjoyed seeing everyone again after sooo many years. A big thank you to everyone that made the party possible, and a success. I never attended any of the reunions, and now I'm sorry that I didn't. I like parties, and you people know how to party!! "

Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff: "Great pictures."

Elizabeth Bentley: "Looks like there was a great turnout".

Regarding Don McGown:

Bill Alexander: "I attended kindergarten through the 3rd grade in a company school in an oil camp in Venezuela, where my dad (an Aggie BTW) had a job. When we moved to Waco and I entered the 4th grade in Provident Heights, I was a year or two ahead in reading and arithmetic, but I had never had a social studies unit and had never seen a library or a football or a milkshake. Don and Sandy Knapp sort of adopted me, became my friends, and helped me fit in. For the next three years we were best buddies. Don's family took me to an Aggie Friday night "yell practice". So I have always been grateful to Don and remember him fondly. Another good man down."

Ralph Klatt: "So sad. Thank you for keeping us informed."

Gwen Ewing Hodges: "Condolences to all who loved him."

Bev Murphy Wells: "I didn't know Don, but his obit caused thought I wished I had. For those who did know him, what a blessing he was to them. My prayers for his family and loved ones who will dearly miss him but know all too well he's in a far better place than we are!"



Whatever Happened to...?



... Studebaker ... *by David Dibb*

My Mom's family drove Studebakers for as long as I can remember. There was the "bullet-nose" Commander, similar to the one pictured here, that my grandfather in Wisconsin had. It was Studebaker's effort to capture the aeronautical look in an automobile. They were only built in 1950 and 1951, so are quite sought by collectors these days.

My Mom was true to Studebaker to the end. She drove a blue Scotsman, one of the last models produced (1957-1958) before they merged with Packard Corp. It was built cheap, but sturdy. I always thought it was an embarrassing come-down from Grandpa's Commander, but apparently it was a business success in the low-price end of the automobile market.

By the time I got to Texas Tech, Studebakers were the last thing on my mind (although, having just a bicycle for transportation, even a Scotsman might have looked pretty good). But, my Sophomore year, I moved off campus, and shared an apartment with a classmate who drove a snazzy red Studebaker Hawk.



Today, the best place to see Studebakers is at their Museum in South Bend, Indiana, where the family produced high quality wagons, carriages, and automobiles for 114 years... during the Civil War, two World Wars, and the Great Depression. Interestingly, their first move from horse-drawn wagons into the automotive business in 1902 was Electric vehicles. Battery-powered carriages. In the end, they just weren't big enough to generate the massive amounts of money needed to survive R&D costs, marketing, occasional product flops (like Ford survived the Edsel), and seismic world events.

Check this link for a fascinating look at the Studebaker family in America since 1736.

<https://carriagemuseum.org/articles/studebaker-bros-carriages-and-wagons/>



1. **Judith Hamff Murphy** has recently returned from her first trip anywhere in almost 2 ½ years. She reports: “Finally out of the house and off to Italy for three weeks. This trip wasn't one of my finest, but it was great to FINALLY get away from home for awhile. I hadn't been more than a few miles north of the Del Mar Race Track in almost 2 ½ years! While enjoyable for a change of pace, the first week out can only be described as totally an exercise in Murphy's Law. Flights (3) over were all late leaving and one had to be rescheduled before the connecting flight took off. It was 97 degrees in Rome for the first four days—and totally mobbed with Europeans—especially Brits, Irish, and Germans, with some Northern Irish, Welsh and Scots. But nevertheless, it felt really good to be in the company of so many people from so many countries and all of us being in the same frame of mind—relieved to finally be out enjoying our lives again. The final blow of the week was on Saturday afternoon when I went to join my planned 9 day tour to southern Italy and found out that it had been canceled and through an administrative error, I wasn't notified. I quickly planned a week in Sorrento, a couple of hours and two train rides south of Rome. (Note: Once I got the hotel director involved and he called his contact at the tour company, I was quite fairly compensated for my troubles.) My last 12 days had been planned for two Tuscan hill towns—Orvieto and Montepulciano, and a final stop in Florence. All three stops were enjoyable, even with the continuing unexpected high temps (94 degrees in Florence on my last day there) and the same crowds of fellow travelers. For me, actual sightseeing was minimal with the crowds and the hot afternoons, but I managed a self-guided tour with Rick Steves' guide book to the Orvieto cathedral with some of the best frescos anywhere. I also managed a day trip to Capri, a visit to a Montepulciano wine cave, an afternoon tour to the Chianti Classico wine district. I'd already been to the major iconic attractions in the region and climbed a couple of cathedral domes on prior trips. Just sitting in a cafe in a busy piazza with a spritz or an espresso and a bottle of cold water made for some great fun times for this “not so young” traveler. A couple of final notes: The morning after I checked into my hotel in Orvieto a large group of students arrived in the hotel lobby. I asked the receptionist who they were and was very surprised when he said “Oh, they're the Summer Studies Abroad Art students from SMU in Dallas, Texas! And they had been coming there for 25 years! Italian travel hint #1: Never ask an Italian if you can walk somewhere. Ask how far it is to the desired location, multiply the answer by 2. If your answer is less than 800 meters, you are probably less than ½ mile from your destination.”



Judith on the fast train from Naples to Rome--travels at 175-185 miles per hour.

Seats are similar to airplane seats.



The Montepulciano wine cave



The local train from Sorrento to Naples. And yes, the band on the train provided for a little Sunday morning jazz music.



The gelato shop in the morning before the people arrive. (A rather unusual picture)

2. **Bev Murphy Wells** has just completed an item on her bucket list. She has been wanting to visit all 50 states in the USA. She has just returned from Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota which fulfilled this desire. Bev reports that Mount Rushmore was her highlight of the trip. She was gone the whole month of June. This lady lets no grass grow under her feet!! What fun.



Belle Fourche, SD- the Geo Center of the USA (incl. Hawaii and Alaska)



Mount Rushmore





Howard Dudgeon



1960



now

I have been trying to get Howard to tell us his story after graduation for a long time. I am thrilled that he finally consented to give a “brief history”. Howard has the best memory of anyone I know. Also, he has not seemed to age any since we graduated, which is not fair to us women! Howard is a very interesting person with whom to have a conversation because he knows so much about so many things. The stories he can tell are fascinating...and they are true stories!

At our reunion on the Brazos Belle in the year 2000, Howard was our featured speaker and I think we could have sat and listened to his stories all night long. He is usually a quiet soul until his memory kicks into full gear. Then, sit back and enjoy. Howard was one of the best sons I have ever known. After his mother had to be moved into assisted living, Howard visited her twice every day and took care of her cat until the cat died. The cat’s home was the Dudgeon homestead so Howard did not sell his mother’s house until the cat died. Howard would go visit the cat twice a day, also. Now, isn’t that thoughtful!!!?

Sit back now for a few minutes and enjoy Howard’s brief history. I am sure there are many more things he can tell us which maybe he will do in the **DID YOU KNOW** segment at later dates.

“In the summer of 1959 I decided that I was going to be a college basketball player although I was 5'9" and had never played on a junior high or high school team. I started practicing in my spare time. That went on for almost ten years. I grew from 5'9" to 6'3" by June of 1960. Sometime later I grew to 6'5".

While I was trying to be a basketball player, I went to Baylor got two degrees, failed two CPA exams, had two jobs and proposed to two girls.

At Baylor I tried out for the basketball team three times unsuccessfully. My two degrees- a BBA and a Bachelor of Accountancy. My grades were C+/B-. I didn’t study. I did not come close to passing the CPA

exams. I worked for Waco Carton Company/Gulf States Paper for about six months. They wanted me to go to Frankston, Texas and be the controller for Frankston Paper Box Company. I did not want to leave Waco so that ended my job there. I then got hired to teach school at Waco High for the 1966-67 school year. They offered me a contract for 1967-68. I declined. The reason I declined was that I was going to my stock broker's office during my conference hour at Waco High and making a lot more money trading stocks than I could teaching so I thought I would do that for a living.

The girls said no to my proposals.

In 1969 I gave up trying to be a basketball player and started trying to get a regular job. I still made enough to live on trading stocks, but it was extremely nerve racking. Baylor University hired me as assistant budget director on May 15, 1969. I had various titles and responsibilities at Baylor over the years, assistant budget director, assistant treasurer, treasurer, director of special projects and treasurer emeritus.

The assistant budget director helped prepare and oversee Baylor's departmental budgets. As assistant treasurer I still helped with budgets while assisting the treasurer with short term investments and banking.

To be treasurer of Baylor University I was required to obtain my CPA certificate. I had already failed the exam twice so I started taking the exam again and finally passed it in 1973 on my eleventh try. When I was taking the CPA exam, you took 4 parts in 5 sessions of 4 hours each. When I was taking it, you got credit and kept credit if you passed 2 parts at the same session. I passed theory and law and later auditing and practice one at a time.

I was appointed treasurer in February of 1974 and served in that capacity for almost 30 years. As treasurer of Baylor I was responsible for banking, cash management, short term investing and property and liability insurance. I was also in charge of any stocks and bonds that Baylor owned. Baylor did not manage its endowment so almost all stock gifts were sold upon receipt.

In 2004 I signed a 2 year contract as director of special projects. The contract was to end at my retirement December 31, 2006. The only project I did was tracking down valuable paintings that Baylor had, mainly 36 paintings by Eduard Cortes. I found all of them. One was actually in the trash, the rest were in offices or storage.

In late 2006 the president of Baylor appointed me treasurer emeritus. Baylor provided me an office, a computer and computer support. There were no duties with that position. I kept that position for 9 more years and gave it up May 22, 2015. I left Baylor after 46 years and 7 days or 16,808 days. I was at my office 16,748 days all or part of the day, had 50 days in the hospital and 10 days in Dallas with my parents on Christmas Days. I took no vacation days during my time at Baylor. I lived to be there.

My health in my middle age and old age has been good, no serious problems. My main problem has been my allergies. I have been taking allergy shots since the spring of 1948, 3 shots a week in 1948, 2 every 2 weeks now. Originally the shots were to help with asthma attacks and now the shots are to prevent hay fever and nose bleeds. My worst health year was 1974. I had 3 surgeries and a kidney removed. Since then... nothing too serious.

In my attempt to fight off middle age and old age, from 1977 to 1992 I rode my bicycle an average of 100 miles a week, sometimes over 150 miles a week in the summer. After quite a few close calls with cars, I quit riding so I could actually survive until my old age.

Since I retired, I do very little. I watch Law and Order, The Western Channel and try keep up with names of the bars and saloons in western movies. I never realized what good actors Audie Murphy and Randolph Scott were.

I play in a Texas Hold 'em poker tournament every Monday night at Red Man Lodge in Bellmead. There is a \$35 buy in. Everyone starts with the same amount of chips. Usually there are 25 or 30 people there, ages about 20 to 83. I have been playing there over 10 years. I get to the final table fairly often and have broken even or made a small profit a couple years."



Howard and his mother, Jane Dudgeon. Mrs. Dudgeon was such a beautiful and gracious lady.



Howard, appx 5 years old



This is the teddy bear that Howard's father brought to him from his WWII tour of duty. Howard still has the bear. The story behind it:

"There was a famous koala bear in Australia named Billy Blue Gum. My bear is named after him. You can actually go on the internet now and buy vintage Billy Blue Gum bears. My father was in Australia and New Guinea almost three years during WWII."



l-r Jack Martin, Martha Lacy, Paul Constantine, Pam Utley, **Howard Dudgeon**, Hugh Wilfong



Howard at the 2000 reunion



Carole Fisher Clingman and **Howard** at the 2000 reunion. Howard never passes up an opportunity to put his arm around a pretty lady.



2015- Jack Martin and **Howard Dudgeon** modeling their West Junior jackets...They were both managers of the football team at West Junior in 1956. Amazing that both could still fit into the jackets! Per Howard:

“Jack Martin and I were born in the same hospital on the same day within a few hours of each other. We registered at Sanger Avenue School the same day next to each other in the registration line in Mrs. Ferguson's room. We were football managers together at West Junior in 1956-57.”



Howard and George Karahal at the 2015 reunion



Howard at a 2016 luncheon at Casa de Castillo



Howard Dudgeon "plays sheriff" in the office of the local Waco sheriff, Parnell McNamara- 2015



A very distinguished Treasurer Emeritus.

Updates:

Bev Murphy Wells has a new address: Make a note in your directory.

1754 Wax Berry Court

The Villages, FL 32163_

Bob Easter: Bob is still recovering from knee surgery. He experienced what seemed like relentless muscle spasms that caused a lot of sleepless nights. Finally, after a change of medicine and doctor, things are under control and he is now able to get some uninterrupted shut-eye. He reports his knee is healing as he is now walking with a cane and currently in therapy 3 times a week. I'm sure he is just itching to get back in the garden in spite of the Texas heat.

Birthdays for August:

- 3- Angie Plemons Lehman
Cathey White Land
- 4 LouAnn Hilton Brady
- 10- John Mullen
- 19= Dill Bailey
- 20- Charles Sligh
- 21 Charlotte Suttle Kleibrink
- 22 Pat McGlaughn Dooley
- 27 Bonnie Burson Chapman
- 29 Aubrey Stringer

A Neat Idea:



For anyone who still does any type of painting: Wrap a heavy rubber band around the center of the paint can. After getting paint on your brush, wipe your paint brush against the heavy rubber band. The excess paint will drip back into the can without making a mess.

BLAST FROM THE PAST:

**Second grade at Dean-Highland
Spring, 1950** **Mrs. Wiebush, teacher**



Re-enactment of 3 classmates who were at the 2022 80th birthday party:
Jim Monnig, Malissa Ruth Starnes Baugh, Marvin Schutza





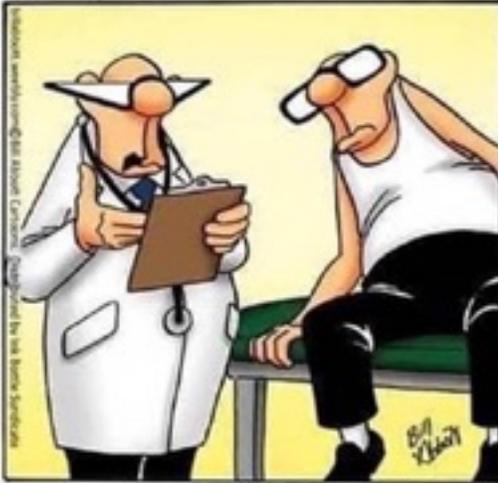
[Jim Monnig, Malissa Ruth Starnes Baugh, Marvin Schutz](#)
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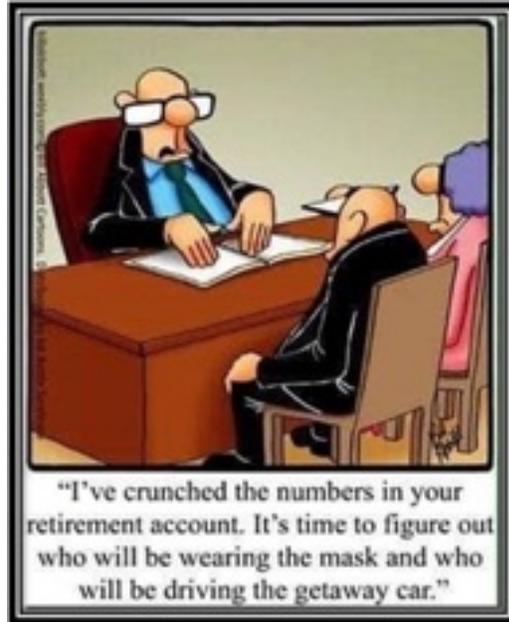


Judy & Larry Thomas with granddaughter Paxtin, who will attend SMU in the fall.

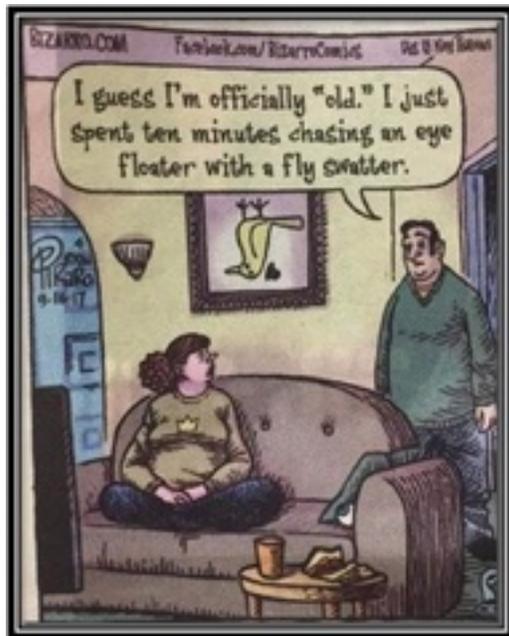
HUMOR.



"High sodium, high cholesterol, lots of toxins - your blood test is remarkably similar to a potato chip."



"I've crunched the numbers in your retirement account. It's time to figure out who will be wearing the mask and who will be driving the getaway car."



I guess I'm officially "old." I just spent ten minutes chasing an eye floater with a fly swatter.



There is a gap in your resume... What were you doing in 2020?

I was washing my hands...

