

SEPTEMBER 2022

From our graduates:

Gayla Miller Webb: "I have not responded to much in the Town Crier even though I think Jeanne has done a great job through the years to help our classmates get and stay connected. I have tried to remain in touch with many through the years, even with a number of the men. Who says a man and a woman can't just be friends. Thank goodness I have a husband who understands my friendships.

One friendship I am so glad I continued through the years was with Darell Gill. We were in the band together and stayed in touch through the reunions. Darell had some sad last few years. He shared much of that with me as we talked on the phone from time to time. His sister called me to let me know of his death and asked if I would pass the word, which I did to Jeanne.

Today I watched his memorial which brought tears to my eyes. There were at least 20 friends who spoke of what a great friend and coach Darell was and what he had contributed to his coaching. They also spoke of his last sad years. I am so glad that I continued to stay in touch and listen when he needed a friend.

Please watch his Memorial. It will warm your heart. And remember as we near the last years and days as we age, it could be one of us who needs an old friend to listen to us.

To each of you my dear classmates, I care about each of you. Let's be happy."

Link for Darell Gill memorial service.. <https://celebrationoflife.tv/blog/darell-gene-gill>.

Betty Barclay Flowers: "I just loved reading Howard Dudgeon's writings on his life. He is such an interesting guy & His mother was really beautiful as a young woman!"

Pat Payne: "At West Jr. Howard and I had to wait on our mothers to pick us from time to time. Howard introduced me to eating dill pickle chips and potato chips together. Howard walked me down to the small grocery store. He would first get a small bag of chips, rip open one side of the bag and then add the pickle chips from a jar on the counter. I did that for the next 20+ years!"

Tommye Ruth Blair Toler: "What a newsy Town Crier. I enjoyed it very much. David Dibb's info on Studebaker was interesting and I look forward to more from him. I got some chuckles from Howard Dudgeon's piece....two degrees, failed two CPA exams, had two jobs and proposed to two girls! The photo of his mother shows that she was a beautiful woman. I never saw her but as an operating room nurse I worked with his father many times. He had a great memory just as Howard does. I enjoyed tagging along vicariously on Judith's trip to Italy. She made it an enjoyable trip despite several setbacks. Judith was the first one I saw at the 80th birthday party. We were both wandering around trying to find the party. Thanks to a resident who led us through the building and pointed the way we finally made it. I enjoyed the party too."

Bev Murphy Wells: Really enjoyed reading David Dibbs scenario about the Studebaker. I didn't know there was a Studebaker museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana but next time I head north, will check it out.

What a delight to read about Howard 's Show and Tell! Blessed are the humble as the people sing their praises voicing their admiration. Howard didn't leave anything out, even sharing his ups and downs but still kept going. He really should write a book to encourage others to keep on keeping on! He's a good man and has led a good life! What a legacy to leave some day! Thank you Howard for sharing! Your story was a joy to the heart!

And Judy Hamff Murphy's story was enlightening too! Another world traveler! Can't say this enough, the birthday party was great and kudos to Robert Wilson again! Looking forward to more from fellow classmates. Stay cool in more ways than one!

David Dibb: "Howard does spin a modest tale about what I suspect was quite an illustrious career at Baylor. And Judith proves (again) that good things happen to good people who travel with a good attitude. And most upset travel plans at least make good stories."

Linda Phelps McKee: "Enjoyed all the stories, pictures, and cartoons."

UPDATES:

Bob Easter: Bob continues the recovery process from his knee surgery of June 28. However, he has developed two pinched nerves in his back that cause pain and he still has muscle spasms that cause interrupted sleep. He is working with a Physical Therapist to help with weakness due to his lack of mobility. He says he is still looking forward to being able to garden in the future.

Cathey White Land- is healing from her second ankle surgery. Cathey has her limitations for a while but we really hope this surgery will be 100% successful.

Exciting News: **Edgar Gatlin** has found love again. If you recall, he lost his precious wife, Bobbie, with Covid in January 2021. Here is a picture of the happy newlyweds! Congratulations!!! We are thrilled for you two.

Edgar and Kay Gatlin



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY:

Pat Payne: New address:

7460 Little Lane, Unit 202-
Naples, FL 34105

Cathy White Land has disconnected her home phone number. Please delete it from your directory.

Tim Lasseter Latta has also disconnected her home phone number. It also needs to be deleted.

BIRTHDAYS for September:

3	George Compton
6	Shirley Joy Rogers Keele
9	Mary Beth Cash McMahan
15	Bev Murphy Wells
21	Pat Payne
26	Dana Sauer Keifer Bill Alexander



Whatever Happened to..... Geronimo?

by David Dobb

One of the bravest things a person could do is jump out of an airplane... for fun, or to prepare for battle. And often, as the erstwhile parachutist goes hurtling out of the door, he yells. "Geronimo!". Why? Because, with Hollywood's help, that name has come to symbolize bravery in the face of great risk to life and limb.

More of the great Indian leader's life has been told in movies than in the history books. From the 1930's to the 1960's, Hollywood's Geronimo (portrayed by real Indian actors, like Chief Thundercloud) was a bloodthirsty savage, killing settlers, burning homes and wagon trains, stealing horses and guns, and thwarting all efforts of the U. S. Cavalry to contain him on a reservation. In 1962, Chuck Connors was cast as Geronimo, drawing lots of criticism, but also opening a new era, where the Indians were portrayed as lied to in treaties, cheated and mistreated on reservations, and banished from the wild and free lands they once enjoyed.

But how much of the legend is true, and what made Geronimo into that legend? He was born in (now) New Mexico, when it was still claimed by Mexico in 1829. The Apaches were nomadic and moved around the area we know as New Mexico, Arizona, Sonora, and Chihuahua (Mexico), in constant conflict with the Mexican military and civilians. He married at age 17, and had 3 children. He hunted, went on raiding parties, and developed skill as a "medicine man" and a clever and brave leader.

When he was about 27, the Mexican Army sent about 400 soldiers against his village (then in Sonora), probably in retaliation for their raids against civilians. Most of the men were away at the time, and when they returned, his wife, 3 children, and mother were dead. His hatred for Mexicans intensified, and for the next 25 years he led a band of 30 to 50 warriors, wreaking havoc in "his" native land.

By that time, the US had already annexed Texas and purchased New Mexico, and a few years later purchased Arizona, so now the US military and civilians were also involved. The Apache's intimate knowledge of the mountains of Sonora allowed them to evade Mexican pursuers, and new international boundaries stymied US military pursuit.

Eventually, joint Mexican and US efforts wore the small band down, and Geronimo finally surrendered, not knowing he would spend the rest of his life as a prisoner of war. By that time he had re-married, and he was separated from his family as he was shuttled from one military prison to the next: Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio; Ft. Pickens, Pensacola; reunited with his family in Alabama; and finally to a reservation near Ft. Sill, Indian Territory, Oklahoma. He was about 60 years old, and over the next 20 years he married 6 more wives (maximum of 2 at one time), attended the St. Louis World's Fair, met President Theodore Roosevelt (who refused to let him go back to Arizona, where he might still be tried for murder), signed autographs in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and eventually died of injuries received falling off a horse at the ripe old age of 80.

At Ft. Sill, he learned about Christianity, and thought it had better answers for life after death than did the Indian beliefs... which really were not sure what the afterlife was like. He never quite made the leap of faith, though. He was kicked out of the Dutch Reformed Church for gambling, and often told his Indian friends "our old ways were better".

His name? Well, his mother named him "Goyahkla", which means "one who yawns". The Mexicans named him "Geronimo", which has no Spanish meaning, and no one is quite sure why.



1. **David and Anita Dibb** recently made an interesting trip to Ft. Pickens, FL. David reports: We've seen a couple TV movies lately about the capture of Geronimo. They carried him off to Ft Pickens in FL. Ft Pickens is located on the end of an island off the coast of Pensacola, which is Anita's hometown. This trip we decided to check out the famous Chief's beachfront home.





2. **Larry Thomas** has a hobby of photographing the cars he has owned and some of his favorite race tracks. A wall in his garage reflects some of his pleasant memories.



3. **Howard Dudgeon** remembers: “The song that Waco High Football team sang coming back from Death Valley 4th Street practice field after each practice was from a Tex Ritter song called Rye Whiskey.” It goes:

If the ocean was whiskey and I was a duck, I would dive to the bottom and never come up but the ocean ain't whiskey and I ain't a duck so I'll play Jack of Diamonds and trust to my luck. Jack of Diamonds, Jack of Diamonds I cry if I don't get Jack of Diamonds I surely will die.

Rye Whiskey

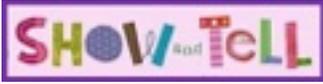


[Tex Ritter, "Rye Whiskey" \("Song of the Gringo", 1936\) - YouTube](#)

Click on the above link to hear the complete song sung by [Tex Ritter](#).

4. **Bev Murphy Wells**: “There is a **Model T museum** in Richmond, Indiana. It moved from California. This museum goes with wherever their new President resides. Richmond is an adorable town especially in the winter; the little store shops remind me of Bedford Falls.

Also the **Corvette Museum** is in Bowling Green, Ky. The room where the cave demolished hundreds of thousands of dollars of corvettes has been kept the same from the day it occurred (tidied up of course). One can spend hours there. Once a year there is a drawing to win a corvette too (check it out on line). Who knows you may be the winner!”



DAVID DITTO



Just like we had our Top Gun in the class, we have our own Roy Rogers and Dale Evans with our graduate David Ditto and his wife, Linda. David recently attended the 80th birthday party of our class and said it was the first reunion activity he had attended and was sorry that he had never been to any others. We are thrilled that he gave us a try and now he is making up for lost time by sharing with us, as only he can tell, the blessings he has received since graduation. Regarding the pictures he selected for his story, he said: **“These all bring back memories to us. I selected a few to highlight what I mentioned in the story. We are all Americans, and Texans, and we know we are all covered by God's Grace wherever we are!”**

David has had a wonderful life. He and Linda have been to places and seen things around parts of our USA that I would dare say not another graduate has experienced. They have ridden horse trails that most of us probably are not aware even exist. Most likely, if we were living back in the 19th century, David and Linda would be two people who would surely jump on the opportunity to “go west, young man, go west. “ While you read David’s story, just picture yourself sitting around a campfire out in the “wilds” away from all the hustle and bustle of our cities. Look up at the stars in the sky, hear the sounds of the night and the crackling fire, smell the coffee, kick back--- relax and enjoy nature and this beautiful land of ours. Of course there are still chores that need to be done as horses need to be fed and watered, but you do not have to worry about running out of gasoline during the trip.

Saddle up now as David takes us vicariously on some horse trails to some beautiful scenery in different parts of our good ‘ole USA. I understand it is the ‘**way you ride the trail**’ that counts. Like the theme song from the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Show, David and Linda’s rides have all been **HAPPY TRAILS**.

**“Happy trails to you, until we meet again
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather
Happy trails to you, 'til we meet again.”**



David Ditto: Life after Graduation

“After graduation, I worked for H.E.B. grocery stores for 30 years. I started out in Waco at Westview Village, then to Killeen, and then back to Waco. In 1972, I became store director in Killeen, then to Copperas Cove, and then to a large new store in Killeen. I finally ended up in Temple for the final eight years of that career, and retired.

After much deliberation as what to do next, I joined a local beer distributor that sold Coors, Miller Lite, and every kind of import. I was an account manager, sales manager, route supervisor, and promotional guru! That lasted for 15 years and a second retirement at 63 years of age. Whew!!

Now back up a few years. I met my wife, Linda Burchfield, on a blind date, arranged by my sister-in-law in the summer of 1959. We dated until she graduated from Waco High School in 1963. I turned 21 on May 23, Linda graduated on May 28, and we were married on June 1st. Big week!! That was 59 years ago, and what a wonderful journey it's been, every step of the way! God has truly blessed us at every turn and with every step that we have taken along the way. We only had one child, a daughter. She has been a blessing beyond any dream that we could imagine. She has three children and four grandchildren. That makes Linda and me the happiest great-grand parents in this world.

Right after we were married, we drove to Lodi, California to meet Linda's grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. That was the first time I had ever been out of Texas. Later we drove to Lincoln, Nebraska to meet other uncles, aunts and cousins. We have been to the Bahamas and recently on the Alaska cruise.

Linda started her banking career while we lived in Killeen. When we moved to Temple, she became vice president in the Trust department at Extraco Banks. After a distinguished 27 years with Extraco, she retired, also.

As a stress relief of 60 plus hours on the job, we were able to purchase some horses. For 38 years we kept them on the 15 acres at our house where we lived just outside Temple, Texas. I started out riding with the Bell County Sheriff's Posse, performing in numerous rodeos around central Texas. The posse would open up the rodeo by performing a drill, including pin-wheels and crossing patterns at a full gallop. Timing was everything. Then we would space apart and set the “posts” for the riders in the Grand Entry. Rodeo performers, local horse clubs, and anyone else who had a horse and wanted to ride could ride in the grand entry and be presented to the audience. Next, the Posse would all line our horses up at the end of the arena and present the flags for the national anthem. All was a dream come true for me!! That continued for about five years, but Linda thoroughly enjoyed riding also. Since many weekends were tied up riding with the posse, she was left out. She loved trail riding.

We had a lot of friends who rode trails out on Ft. Hood at that time and so we joined the “Cove Trail Riders Club” in Copperas Cove, Texas, located next to Ft. Hood Army Base. There were about 30 families in the club. We would meet once a month and plan the trail rides for the upcoming month. I served as president for that club for a couple of years, and as vice president for many years. On Ft. Hood with 215,000 acres, there is plenty of wilderness and places to ride...just not in the IMPACT area—not allowed—as that would be very risky! We rode all over Ft. Hood in those days, but as it became harder to get permission to enter the Base, we began to branch out to other places. If a Texas park allowed horses on the trails, we were there. Linda and I owned super smooth riding Missouri Fox Trotter horses, and therefore, joined the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association. That association also had a Texas chapter in Greenville, Texas, and we were members of it, too. I raised a filly out of one of my mares. When “Cookie” was about one year old, I showed her in the halter class at three Fox Trotter shows in different locations in Texas. “Cookie” took second place in the halter class at each of the three shows. The one horse that beat her out of first place, all three times, was almost two years old and much larger. I also learned that many of the judges buy horses,

sell horses and have their horses trained by the professional trainers that are showing. Oh well, another dream come true!! It was fun and a great experience. Cookie, at age two years, became a super trail riding horse. As a result of many friendships that grew out of all that, we began to ride in many Texas State Parks and private lands and organized trail rides in Texas. Even that wasn't enough for some of us. You guessed it; we were soon riding in the Kiamichi Mountains of Oklahoma, Ozark Mountains in Arkansas, and Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri. Those states have ample National Forests with horse trails through the mountains and clear water streams. We had a horse trailer that had a modern-day camper in front of the horse part. It had a king size bed, a full-size couch/bed, a kitchen with three-burner stove, a sink, a refrigerator, and a complete bathroom with a shower. "Glamping" is what we called it. We had all the comforts of home while we camped and rode our horses. When we started out riding, we had to train the horses to stay tied to a picket line (rope), tied between two trees. With a full mesh bag of hay and a bucket of water, they were happy. Much later many of the campsites had metal pipe pens or even stalls for the horses. Wow! Things are getting easier now!

We rode through the thick tall trees, up steep mountains, crossed streams of water, and had terrific scenic views. I can't begin to tell you how beautiful God's creation really is until you have seen it from between the two ears of a beautiful, gentle horse! We felt like cowboys and early settlers going west. Another dream come true for me!! Normally we would join friends from all over Texas at a particular camp site and set up camp. At night we would all sit around a campfire and see who could tell the tallest tale. Not really! But boy the camaraderie was unbelievable and the fun we had will last till we go to the next world. In the morning everyone would tend to their horses and fix their own breakfast. While Linda made sandwiches for lunch, packed our saddle bags and filled our canteens with water, I would brush and saddle the horses. When everybody was ready to ride at about 10:00 a.m., we would ride the trails till about one o'clock and find a really nice spot by a stream, or on top of a mountain where we would tie the horses to a tree and we would all sit around on rocks and tree stumps and eat our lunch. After about an hour everyone would mount up and we would continue to ride in sort of a clover leaf design back into the camp and the trailers. The next day we would ride in a different direction, and seldom rode the same trail twice. When we got back to the trailers and campfire, after a 15-20-mile ride, at about 4:00-5:00 p.m. everyone would have their own meat to cook on a campfire grill, and the ladies would all put together a potluck with veggies and dessert. Yummm Yum!!

Cross Country Trail Ride in Eminence, MO was one trail ride camp and organized ride that we enjoyed most and went to annually for 15 years. It had from 2,200 to 3,200 riders every year. Interestingly, we rarely came across anyone else on the trails. We knew our way around, so we never went with the organized ride. We just rode the trails around the mountains, valleys and streams doing our thing. The camp had 2,700 stalls for horses and water and electric hook-ups for trailer convenience. The camp had a large dining hall, and rest rooms and showers if someone needed them. It also had a large enclosed riding arena with a very nice stage. They would have a well-known country and western entertainer perform on stage for one night each year. At the trail ride in Eminence, MO we met friends from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and other states. The trail ride was always the first two weeks in October and many times they would have an early freeze, so we got to see the many colors of leaves on the trees. The mountains looked like a beautiful painting!

Linda and I continued this lifestyle till 3-4 years ago. But the fifteen acres of tractor shredding pastures, mowing an acre size yard and driveway, weed eating and everything else that goes with keeping a good-looking yard, soon became no easy task or not as much fun for me. It had all been a dream come true for us but the work began to outweigh the fun, so we agreed to downsize the house and have a regular-sized lawn. Two years ago we moved to Georgetown, Texas to be close to our daughter. We are close enough to walk to each other's house. We miss living in the country, but this was meant to be, also.

We sold our horses, our horse trailer, and bought a 36-foot fifth wheel RV camper trailer. We love to travel in our “mobile home” away from home. When our friends who live in Melissa, Texas found out what we had done, they also did the same. We have been to Branson, Missouri together and many other places. We rarely go anywhere without our camper. Linda and I just came back from Branson with our daughter and son-in-law. We just love it up there, and have been over to Eureka Springs to see the outdoor Passion Play since we were so close to the area. Three years ago, Linda and I went with some church friends to Kentucky to see the “Ark Encounter” and the “Creation Museum”. We were blown away with the magnificent presentation of them both and are planning on going back there again. We remain active in our church. Linda participates in the ladies’ activities and I am an elder. We sometimes serve as greeters and pass out bulletins, etc. I also help a group of guys build wheel chair ramps for people who can’t afford one.

Along with two successful careers and our trail ride experiences, topped off with a loving, close-knit family, I feel very blessed and happy!”



4th July Parade Sheriff’s Posse- 1989

David on Sugar (Cookie’s Mom)



2008- Campsite at Eminence, MO



Cookie at Brenham show- 1998 David and Linda



CCTR Eminence, MO - David on Bubba and Linda on Cookie 2004



David crossing the Current river 2009



Beautiful scenery on a trail- David on Dandy 2011



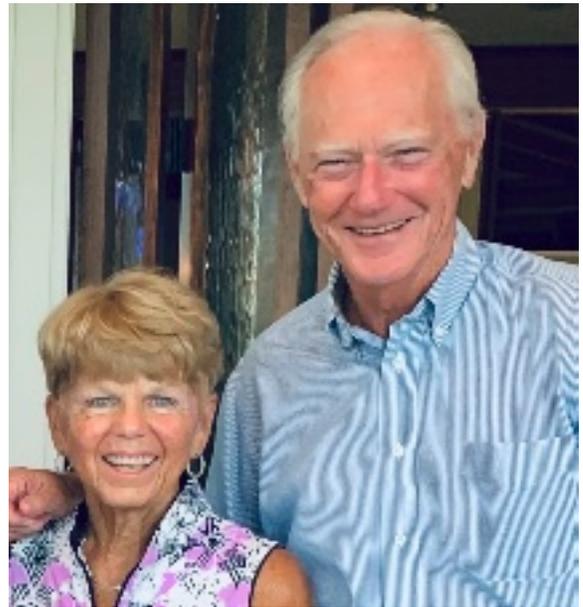
Linda on Cookie and David on Bubba-- trail training Sassy 2006



Quachita Trail on Hwy 1 -Cedar Lake, OK...2005 Happy Trails 'til we meet again.



PICTURES:



Pat Payne and Patty Raymond when they first fell in love.

Pat and Patty Payne after 44 years of marriage (2022)

That look of love is still in their eyes and hearts, and the same smile still on their faces!

"We are always the same age inside." – Gertrude Stein



Patty and Pat on their 44th anniversary dinner August 18, 2022

Tim Lasseter Latta and hubby, John, have friends who own a lake front home in Lake Tahoe. Recently 5 couples met there for lots of fun, good food, and fellowship. What a pretty view!!



Enjoying the pier



Good food and fun on the deck

Blast from the past: Spring 1959



TIGER MAINSTAYS - Much of Wood High's 1959 football success was on the ability of these three star players. From left are all-state tackle

candidate Gene Murto, running back Jimmy Cortez, and Vic Anderson. All three were outstanding in Friday's final season. (Clara Koppe Photo)

HUMOR:



A man and a woman were traveling in a train.

Woman : Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place.

Man : Awwww! Are you single ?

Woman : No, I am a Dentist....



Sometimes, not saying anything is the best answer. You see, silence can never be misquoted.

<p>JIM</p>	<p>JOE</p>
Bachelors Degree in Philosophy	4 year paid apprenticeship
100K student debt	No student debt
Can't find a Philosopher job	Earns 80K annually
Believes people without college degrees are stupid	Disconnected Jim's electricity for non-payment