

 January 2023 

"MY WISH FOR YOU"

Comfort on difficult days,
Smiles when sadness intrudes,
Rainbows to follow the clouds,
Laughter to kiss your lips,
Sunsets to warm your heart,
Gentle hugs when spirits sag,
Friendships to brighten your being,
Beauty for your eyes to see,
Confidence for when you doubt,
Faith so that you can believe,
Courage to know yourself,
Patience to accept the truth,
And love to complete your life.

Author: Unknown

From our Graduates and friends regarding the Jim Rankin story:

Donald R Rankin: "Wow...Thanks a bunch Jeanne. This will be another important part of our family history."

Malissa Starnes Baugh: "GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRREEEEEEAAAAAAT Town Crier." (December issue).

Oh, my! How sad to hear this story about our classmate, Jim Rankin! David did such a great job in his reporting of this tragedy! We are so blessed and thankful to have David, helping and sharing his stories for the Town Crier! I know Jeanne is also appreciative of David's consenting to help her in this effort. Their dedication truly helps to reunite our wonderful WHS Class of 1960!!!"

Ernie Higginbotham: "Thanks for sharing."

Tim Lasseter Latta: "Really great issue of TTC. I remember Jim Rankin so well from high school. He had a great sense of humor and was a really nice person. I liked him a lot. We were back from the Navy and living in Dallas when I opened the Dallas Morning News and read the account of Jim's disappearance. I was shocked as everyone was and saddened by the circumstances that left his wife and four children without a husband and father. The viciousness of the crime was haunting. In testimony to Jim and Beverley, his children are successful and apparently happy."

Gwen Ewing Hodges: "Thank you Jeanne and all contributors, at this stage of life it is comforting to keep in touch and reminisce about our youth! You get better with each issue. Thanks to David Dibb for telling us the rest of Jim Rankin's sad story as I am sure we all wondered over the years. Condolences to his family who missed out on his presence in their lives. May Jim Rest in Peace knowing they turned out so well."

Carol Barry: "The Jim Rankin story is so very well done and the pictures brought it all together to make a complete package. A nice, successful family and businessman, having a meal and just going to his car, found himself the victim of such a horrible crime. A wife and children put through a nightmare. Those two sociopathic criminals were about as bad as one can get. I think some of the TV networks would want to do a piece on it. One can't help but rethink walking alone to their car day or especially night. Some criminal could be in the restaurant waiting for you to leave and following or could be waiting in the parking lot. Congratulations on a great Town Crier. "

Betty Barclay Flowers: “I just finished reading the story of James Rankin!!! Good heavens! It's right out of something written by Truman Capote! What a sad, sad story! I didn't know him but just the fact that he was in our class lets us know that even in those years when we thought we were so safe, horrible things could happen!”

Judith Hamff Murphy: Wow! What a horrible, premature end to Jim Rankin's life—and he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Kudos to you, Jeanne and David Dibb for your research and presentation of this story. (Having left Texas in the late 60s, I only recently heard about Jim's murder.) Hope you are doing well--Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! As always, I appreciate your newsletter and am glad you have David Dibb's additional contributions.

Bev Murphy Wells: First of all, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Hope Dana Sauer enjoys her new digs and less responsibilities and more walks is understandable! The story David Dibb attributed to James Rankin was quite a read. I didn't know James nor what happened to him, but what a tragedy and loss. Thanks to David for his time, research and all of his efforts and to Jim Monnig's remembrance. I know James' children are so proud of their Dad and James would have been so proud of his children! Howard's memory is phenomenal as he shares his delightful stories. Great pictures of the luncheon group! Always good to see those.

Additional info about the Jim Rankin story:

The other Perpetrator involved with the murder of Jim Rankin was Michael Terry Crenshaw. He is still incarcerated:

Michael Terry Crenshaw is an inmate currently at the CDCR - California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF-CSP, Corcoran), located in Corcoran, CA.



Photo added by [Robert Sage](#)

James T Rankin

BIRTH	1941
DEATH	1981 (aged 39–40)
BURIAL	Austin Memorial Park Cemetery Austin, Travis County, Texas, USA
PLOT	9a-29-8
MEMORIAL ID	44106290 · View Source



Photo added by [Kathy Burgess Burr](#)

Beverly Ellen Jones Rankin

BIRTH	26 Jan 1941 Austin, Travis County, Texas, USA
DEATH	20 Dec 2005 (aged 64) Harris County, Texas, USA
BURIAL	Martin Oaks Cemetery Lewisville, Denton County, Texas, USA Show Map

Whatever Happened to... RC Cola?



By David Dibb

Spoiler alert! *RC Cola* is still around, and, with its new partners, *Keurig* and *Dr. Pepper*, it is hanging on to a \$12 Billion share of the world soft-drink market. But its 117-year history makes for a great little story.

Coca-Cola was invented by a druggist in Atlanta, GA, in 1886. Besides tasting good, and having a refreshing fizz, “Coke” contained extract from the coca leaf (a form of cocaine), and from the kola plant, a source of caffeine. It’s no wonder customers kept coming back for more.

By 1905, *Coca-Cola* was being sold at soda fountains across the South, mixing the proprietary *Coca-Cola* syrup with carbonated water. At his Columbus, Georgia grocery store, Claud Hatcher sold so much “Coke” that he thought *Coca-Cola* should give him a discount on the expensive syrup. *Coca-Cola* disagreed, so Hatcher quit selling Coke, and started developing his own line of *Royal Crown* drinks: Ginger Ale, Strawberry, Root Beer, and, their most popular, *Chero-Cola* (cherry).

In 1910, the company was re-named the *Chero-Cola Company*, and they were popular enough that *Coca-Cola* sued them for infringing with a “sound-alike” name. The judge ruled that Coke owned the name, “Cola” (which was also being copied by dozens of other competitors). That loss seriously hurt the business. “Chero” without “Cola” was not a name that would sell. But Hatcher was not to be denied. In 1924, he developed a popular line of fruit drinks, which he named *Nehi*. And in 1934, *Nehi* brought back the cola lines, again nipping at Coke’s heels. Then in 1944, a higher court overturned the earlier verdict, and said the *Coca Cola Company* did not, in fact, own the word “cola”. *Nehi* then became *Royal Crown Cola*, and continued dogging *Coca-Cola* with a series of notable innovations.

Royal Crown Cola was the first to sell soft drinks in (tin) cans, and later were the first to market their drink in recyclable aluminum cans. The cans made *RC Cola* a popular lunchbox drink, and in the 1950’s, “an RC Cola and a Moon Pie” gained some notoriety as a popular “working man’s lunch.” They were the first to offer 16 oz bottles (sold at the same 5-cent price as a 12-ounce Coke), and they won taste tests vs. Pepsi and Coke. They also hired big names like Bing Crosby, Lucille Ball, and Shirley Temple to promote RC Cola.

Speaking of innovation, as most of our readers were entering the hallowed halls of WHS for the first time (1958), the *RC Cola Company* introduced Diet Rite Cola, the first nationally marketed diet soft drink. It was a game-changer.. setting them apart from Coke and Pepsi, instead of competing head-to-head with a similar product. Not only was it calorie-free at a time America was becoming more health-conscious (except for Moon Pie connoisseurs), but the taste was the same as the original RC Cola. The new sweetener, Cyclamate, was 30 times sweeter than sugar, but did not noticeably affect the flavor. Coke and Pepsi were caught completely off-guard. They did not even have a diet product in the pipeline. While they took a few years to develop and market TaB, Fresca, and Diet Pepsi, Diet-Rite Cola was building a dominant position in that market segment.

Diet drinks became so successful that the Sugar industry lobbied to have cyclamates investigated. They poured millions of dollars into studies slanted to suggest there was a danger. Some rats injected with 1000 times as much Cyclamate as a human could ingest developed tumors. That was all the powerful Sugar Lobby needed, in 1969, to pressure the FDA to remove their approval and strike fear in consumers' hearts. When the diet soft drink market collapsed, almost overnight, Coke and Pepsi lost money, but *Royal Crown Cola* lost most of its business, and never posed a threat to the "Big Two" again.

Royal Crown has gone through a series of buyouts and direction changes in the last 50 years, but RC Cola is currently sold, with Nehi drinks, by Keurig-DrPepper Inc. They have a loyal following in a variety of venues... Chicago pizzerias, Southern small towns, plus various countries, like Estonia, Thailand, Iceland, and the Philippines. Just maybe, you can find some on your local grocery store shelf, way past the prominent Coke and Pepsi displays, and you can pick up a can of RC Cola and a Moon Pie, and take a trip down memory lane.

note: Coming next month, "The Million-a-Day Moon Pie Story"



1. Pat Payne's 80th birthday adventure:

"Yesterday (Dec 9th) was another adventure. Jumped (thrown) from a plane at an altitude of 14,000 feet. Yes, that in 2.6 miles. Free fall for 8K feet falling at 130 mph and then a nice glide to Mother earth. Happy I did it but think playing golf better fits my future goals.

Moorings Park (where we now live), has a WanderLust program which essentially does "Bucket List" adventures. We had two ladies who also jumped. One is 97 Years old. The other is a OBGYN doctor in her late 70's who has Parkinson disease. She uses a stroller and they carried her onto the plane. Both did beautifully. Can't tell you how impressive their courage and grit was. Never a complaint nor whimper. It was chin up, let's jump.

The next adventure is driving Formula One race cars in Miami!"



1

Please lead me to the airplane



2

Jumping (being thrown out) at 14,000 feet



3

8K ft free fall dropping at 120 mph



4

Parachute opens at 6K ft. WHEW!

2. A few more of Howard Dudgeon's 2005 memories:

a. "Helen Dumont would always open the semester by saying "I will Indian wrestle anyone in here for a passing grade." No one took her up, but I am sure Johnny Norris could have beaten her. The first time that we went into the lab, she would hold up a penny and say "Do not put this in nitric acid, then she would leave the room. Everyone in the room would pull out a penny and put it in the acid. The penny melted."

b." Martha Emmons, who taught world history at West Junior, could not remember names. She called you either 'boy or girl'. When she was lecturing, she had a pointer that she used to pull down maps or point out places on maps. If you weren't listening- (talking, etc) ...she would hit you on the head with that stick. I think I still have some lumps from that. She later taught English at Baylor and lived well past 90 years."

UPDATES:

Dave Pettus (in reference to the Mauna Loa volcano): "We are fine. Our home is on the other side of the island from the volcano, so we don't worry. We could get ash...nothing yet, fingers crossed." (Dated- Dec 1)

Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff: new cell phone number: 402-305-8627

Al Ctvrtlik: Al has experienced some inner ear issues and is currently in a Rehab facility in West, TX. He wants everyone to have his current info. Said he would be here through January, maybe February 2023. He would love to hear from friends and to know whenever our group has any get-togethers.

Current info:

Al Ctvrtlik

c/o West Rest Haven

503 Meadow Drive

West, TX 76691-1018

Phone: 254-902-8930 direct line

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

4- Malissa Ruth Starnes Baugh

Betty Craig Keeling

10 Betty Luedeker Gatlin

12- Nanci Stiteler Felice

16- Vince Tusa

Steve Brown

17- Ken Lipscomb

19- Betty Barrett Reaties

25- Bernie Regian

Pat Gabler Kemper

26- Don Clyde Blackburn

Pictures:

From David Dibb: "We have this amazing Japanese Maple 🍁 in our front yard. It looks from this photo like God framed our Nativity and put a spotlight on it."



Additional pictures from the November graduate luncheon:



Robert Wilson,

Bob/Nena Wallace,

Sherry Robertson Nunn



Carol Adams Scarborough, Gary Roberts, Marvin Schutza



David/Janie McPhail, Kay/Ralph Sparks



Linda and Gregg Howell, Tommye Ruth Blair Toler, Bill Markum



Robert Wilson addressing the group

HUMOR:

REMEMBER WHEN WE HAD
TO SMACK THE TV
BECAUSE THE CHANNEL
WASN'T COMING IN CLEARLY?
I FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT FAR
TOO MANY PEOPLE.

I MIGHT WAKE UP EARLY
AND GO RUNNING. I ALSO MIGHT
WAKE UP AND WIN THE LOTTERY.
THE ODDS ARE ABOUT THE SAME.

Quote from John Dutton (*portrayed by Kevin Costner*) on Season 5 episode 6 of YELLOWSTONE:
"If you can't sleep through a man's snoring, you aren't tired enough."

Now there's
an idea.



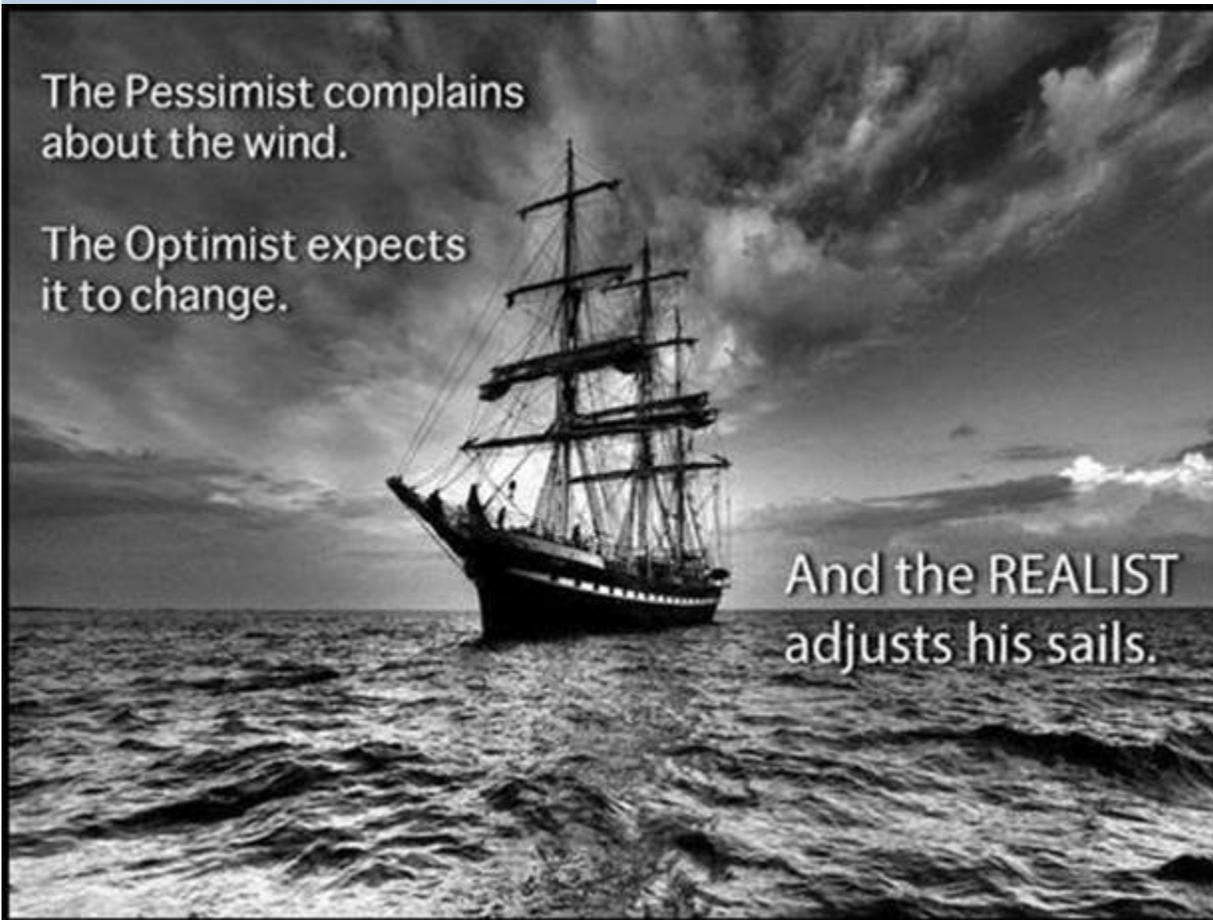
**Growing old is
hard work...
The mind says
"yes" but, the
body says "what
the hell are you
thinking"**

Wait, wait... you're telling me...



If I pee in the yard, I get a TREAT?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT in 2023:



AND IN THE END,
IT'S NOT THE YEARS IN YOUR LIFE THAT COUNT.
IT'S THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS.
-ABRAHAM LINCOLN-



*For beautiful eyes,
look for the good in others;
for beautiful lips,
speak only words of kindness;
and for poise,
walk with the knowledge
that you are never alone.
— Audrey Hepburn*



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