

MARCH 2023

From the editor:

It has come to my attention that Tommy Carter was an artist. No one knew this until after Tommy's death. In collecting Tommy's belongings, his children discovered a lot of art that Tommy had drawn and they have now dedicated a website to display some of that collection. The website is: www.thdc.art Enjoy!

From our graduates and friends:

Betty Luedeker Gatlin: "Howard has a fantastic memory. His details are amazing. Love David Dibb's articles. Especially loved Jim's story about Hector since I have adopted so many dogs that were dropped off "in the country" by lovely people. That event is not so frequent these days. I am hoping that it is because there are a lot more people who will take them in and love them. I only have one now."

Larry Thomas: "I appreciate all the effort you put into keeping the class connected through the newsletter. There is an incredible balance of news, some good, some sad mixed with humor and memories. When I tell my friends about the Waco Town Crier, they are impressed and envious. I don't know of anyone among my senior citizen friends who have anything comparable."

David Dibb: "We enjoyed Jim's story about Hector. I bet that would be a great series if you could encourage others to send you their pet stories."

Jim Cypert- WHS ('61): "I really enjoyed Howard Dudgeon's remembrances. I actually remembered nearly all of the things mentioned about OLD WACO. I guess I am old Waco, also."

Jerry Bridges: "I worked part-time for HEB at 18th and Austin after school and on Saturdays. I enjoyed a Moon Pie and an RC Cola on my breaks. For some reason, RC Cola tasted better with Moon Pie than either Coca Cola or Pepsi. As a checker I made ninety cents per hour, so a Moon Pie and an RC were cheap as well as good. At that time I was six feet tall and weighed 130 pounds, so I was able to enjoy this treat without any effect on my beltline. Such is not the case now.

Wonderful memories of a time long past but fresh in my memory."

Tommye Ruth Blair Toler: "I really enjoyed the February Town Crier. David Dibb's story about Moon Pies made me want to run out and buy one. I haven't eaten one in years. David Ditto's response about RC Cola was interesting as well. And I loved Jim Monnig's story about Hector. These stories are very entertaining."

Debbie Ryan (RHS 1972): "February was one of the best newsletters. That was a neat picture of you and Howard. Y'all look so young! I really love the story about Hector! Such a heart-warming story! "

Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff: I feel for all of our classmates who are affected by the weather. Freezing rain and sleet are the worst culprits of the winter season. We have had our share of these here in NE. I am especially concerned about the loss of beautiful trees that can't survive heavy ice coverings. The live oaks come to mind, and I hope that they are not heavily damaged.

I read with a heavy heart all the notifications of losses in our class. I pray all of you stay healthy this year.

Bev Murphy Wells: Really enjoy David Dibbs' storytelling. Quit a penman! Keep them coming David! His RC story reminded me of how Big Red got its name. And Jim and Mimi's story about Hector reminded me of my Hungarian Vizsla named Hogan (she was a girl dog, not a boy). She had red fur and green eyes. She passed in 2011 and I still miss her. We learn so much from our pets. The picture of Howard and Jeanne is adorable...really happy days! Love all the flashback memories and recollections, and Food for Thought didactics. Hope it has warmed up in Texas!

Whatever Happened to.... Pete and Repeat?

By David Dibb

We moved to Florence, SC, 30 years ago, and built a house on a 1/2-acre heavily-wooded lot backed up to about 100 acres of more woods. With no fencing, we enjoyed visits by deer, raccoons, possums, and rabbits... almost like Texas, but no armadillos. Of course, that severely limited what we could plant in our yard. I read somewhere that azaleas were poisonous to deer, but ours did not get that memo.

We enjoyed that “sharing” arrangement with our animal visitors until about 4 years ago when the neighborhood was invaded by wild hogs (no, they are not all in Texas!). So we put up an iron fence around our backyard. That hurt the deer’s feelings, but at least now we can plant daffodils, pansies, and ornamental grasses, and most of our azaleas have a chance to bloom.

About 12 years ago, inspired by some beautiful landscaping done in the small areas between homes in Charleston, we cut back a few more trees and built up a small garden/sitting area in the backyard, with a swing, a fountain, stone pavers, lots of green plants, and finally, a small pond... about the size of a hot tub. And then, having lost our dog, Bonnie, we decided to get some pet ducks. The little ducks would love the little pond. It was around Easter, and the local Tractor Supply Co. was selling baby chicks and baby ducks. We got two ducks and named them Pete and Patricia.

We put a little fence around the pond so they would not wander off into the woods. We bought duck food, but they preferred digging bugs and worms out of the ground. But after about a month, Patricia died, and Pete was by himself. By this time, Tractor Supply was out of the duckling business, but we found someone in North Carolina with ducks for sale, so Anita, Pete, and I went to get him a new friend. No longer a yellow duckling, Pete was now a small white (non-flying) Pekin duck, and he picked out one that looked like him, but a little younger.

On the trip home, sitting on Anita’s lap, Pete pecked the new guy on the head often to show him who was the top duck. At home, we put them both inside the fence. Pete jumped in the water... new guy did the same. Pete swam in circles... new guy did the same. **Pete** got out and preened his feathers... new guy... (ok, you get the picture). We named the new guy, **Repeat**. From that point on they were inseparable. They grew up fast, and were soon able to hop over the fence to forage the yard, and even the edge of the woods, for bugs and worms. We took down the fence. We made them a little duck house.

They could go where they wanted, but they wanted to stay in our yard and around the “pond”, which was now more like a large puddle compared to their size. Sometimes in the morning, they would go out to the edge of the road in front of our house and watch the people going to work, who often honked, and walkers would stop by to ask how Pete and Repeat were doing today. Our front door has a shiny brass plate at the bottom. One day we heard a rapping at the door, and opened it to find our boys standing there. Apparently they had seen their reflections in the brass plate, and Pete was trying to peck that “other duck’s” head

We always do a photo Christmas card, so, in spite of Pete’s strong objections, we tied a Christmas ribbon around his neck for the photo shoot. When we did the same for Repeat, Pete rushed over, pecking at us, and tried to pull it off! I wrote a children’s book about their adventures, and “published” it for our family. Scarlet, our high-school neighbor, was quite an artist, and illustrated the book with beautiful sketches.

But ducks are wild animals, right? We began feeling guilty that their world consisted of a tiny pond and small yard, when, across the street (behind Scarlet’s family), there was a 10-acre neighborhood lake (ok. I confess. We live in a Country Club.) There on the lake they could be free to be all they could be (whatever that may be.) So, on an appointed day, we carried them across the street and released them to the (wild?) Lake Bennet. They swam out a few feet, looked around, swam back, hopped out, ran across the yard and down the driveway and across the road and straight to our backyard.

I wish I could say they lived in their backyard world “happily ever after”, but one day we found Pete by himself again, and the remains of Repeat near the pond where a fox, or maybe a hawk, had proved that we are, indeed, in the wild. It is said that the eyes are “the mirror of the soul”. Pete’s eyes showed such sadness and loneliness, and probably fear, because he must have witnessed Repeat’s death. And then, in a few days, the fox or hawk came back, and Pete was gone. We have often looked at the pond and talked about starting over with a couple more ducks, but we don’t want to put them (or us) through such a sad ending again.



Pete and Patricia



the pond



Christmas Card 2011



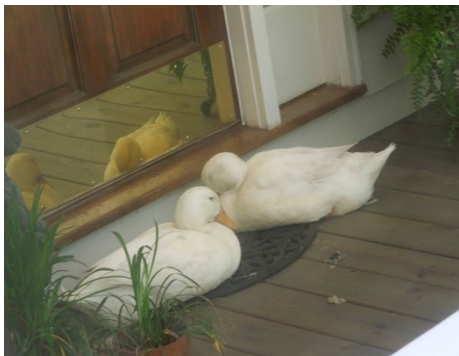
Lake "release"



"Let's try the azaleas"



Morning road "duty"



waiting at the door



Scarlet's illustration



backyard "wild" life



1. John Anderson: John is in the skies and on the road again. This is from John on January 30th:

"In New Hampshire, it snowed this morning...soft pillows cover the sleeping earth. Next week we fly to Namibia via Germany—empty Africa, a list of superlatives (driest, highest sand dunes—surpassed by Mars—largest meteor on the earth, diamonds cover the cold sea coast)...then on to South Africa and Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls. Only a few short weeks and then off again to Easter Island and Pitcairn and the jewels of the Western Pacific. No rest for the wicked. Sad all this stored in a memory that soon will not be. "

I asked John if there was any place he had not been....his reply: "Never, Never Land...or OZ or the glorious red sky of Betelgeuse. But my youth, vibrant youth in Texas still my favorite."

Most of us feel that way about our youth in Texas. We did indeed grow up in the best of times although we may not have been aware of it at the time.

2. "YOU'RE OLD WACO IF":

- You've bought a hamburger at Diamond's or Cupp's for 25 cents or less.
- You remember seeing Roy Rogers and Trigger at the H.O.T. Fair & Rodeo.
- You remember Santa's Workshop Christmas Decorations at the entrance to Cameron Park every year.
- You know where the Professional Building was/is.
- You've had a hamburger from McDonald's in Waco before McDonald's came to Waco.
- You've ever taken a date to Pepe's Pizza.
- You can name at least three independent cafeterias that served Waco back then and remember what their specialty was.
- You ever got the table by the fireplace at Sambo's.
- You shopped at the five and dime on Austin Ave.
- You rode the amphibious "Duck" on Lake Waco.
- You competed in the Soap Box Derby races on Waco Drive.
- You know who Nina "B" is.
- You've eaten one of Mrs. Fickle's fried pies.
- You remember the Crystal, Melrose, Rivoli or Strand Theaters.
- You've been to the 'wrasslin' matches on Clay or even on Waco Dr.
- You've read and can identify the real life people alluded to in "Sironia".
- You remember the smell of the cookie factory on Franklin Ave.
- You remember Dr. Hoehn's collies.
- You've been beaten in a pool game by "James" Bond.
- You fished old Lake Waco after buying bait at Sunbeam Bait House.
- You've eaten Aubrey Stringer's Bar-B-Que.

3. A few additional 2005 memories from Howard Dudgeon:

a. I used to sneak in the Westview Drive-Inn. One night Tommy Carter, Ken Lipscomb, someone else and I sneaked in. We got caught. I temporarily changed my name to Don Higgins that night. That was the same night we chased or got chased by a skunk. We went over to Betty Barkley's house but her mother would not let us in the house. Betty Barkley lived at 1200 Lawrence. When you looked down the street from her home, you could see the screen at Westview Drive-Inn. Betty's father, Red Barkley, played in the major leagues for the Saint Louis Browns, Boston Bees/Braves, and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Betty's nephew made it to the Red Sox for a short time, I think, ...Brian Barkley???

b. Pat Payne and I went to the Waco Theater to see "And God Created Woman" with Bridget Bardot in between morning and afternoon football practice. That was late summer 1957. We promised that we would keep it a secret. Now the secret is out.

c. I saw Elvis Presley twice in person, once at the Waco Theater and once at the HOT. There is a picture of him taken at the Waco Theater while he was in the Army at Fort Hood. That picture is at Uncle Dan's Barbecue. "

4. Of 424 graduates, we now have 168 members of our class who have passed. 257 of us are still alive. One of the deceased actually graduated from another high school but is still counted as one of us.

Regarding Ernie Higginbotham:

Linda Phelps McKee: "So sad. He was a very nice person. "

Tommye Ruth Blair Toler: "Sad news for sure. Make every day count."

David McPhail: "Thanks for the very sad update."

Bev Murphy Wells: "Another sad notice. Sorry to hear about Ernie! My heartfelt sympathy to Kim and family."

Bob Easter: It is so sad to see so many have already passed away.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

1	Karon Shinault Jackson
7	Glenn Hurta
8	Lynette Muchow Baugh
14	Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff
16	Jeannie Dickerson
17	Jane Berry Neece
19	David Dibb
23	Mickey Lade Perkins
25	Larry McMurray
28	Douglas Crook
31	Stan Lennard
	Malachi Kelly

A NEAT IDEA:



A rubber chair leg cap instantly converts a hammer into a rubber mallet. A rubber 1 1/8 inch cap fits tightly over most hammer heads and only costs a few dollars at most home centers or hardware stores.



Bob Easter sent a photo of Ernest Higginbotham in Mrs. Sanders 6th grade class at North Waco along with notes of who are in the rows. Bob would love to see if any of you can fill in the blanks.



Ernie Higginbotham

Top Row Left to Right"

Caroline Gilliam; Jennie Rose Christian; Wyndell McDaniels; Johnny Pearson; Larry Trammel; Dennis O'Brien; Bobby Easter; Beverly Summey

2nd Row: Left to Right

Donna Todd; Billy Faye Evans ; Dixie Gwin; Jerry _____?; Johnny Dolezal (?) Charlotte Suttle; Larry Cobb; Lane Price?

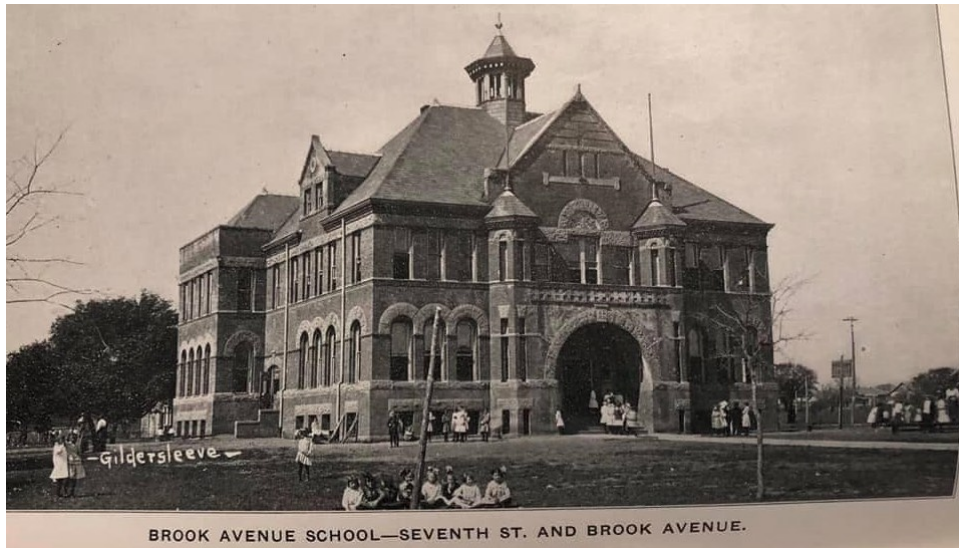
3rd Row: Left to Right

Floyd Dekle ?; Joyce Player; Marcia Wieting; Barbara _____?; Wayne Cox; Donna H(?) _____; Sandra (?) _____; David Parrish

Front Row: Mrs Sanders

Ernest Higginbotham; Rosalyn _____?; Elaine Seville ?; Dub Allen; Elsie? _____; Carey _____?; Jerry McRay; Grover Rogers

Picture of Brook Avenue Elementary- beautiful old building that is now gone:



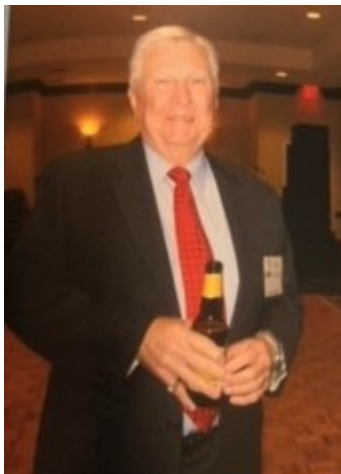
Blast from the past at our 50th reunion - 2010:



Bev Murphy “the golfer” Wells



Our late graduate and cheerleader, Jan Massey



James, “the Builder” Coone



Our horsewoman, Susan Harkness Hill and
hubby, Ralph. The late Dwayne Lee on the left in the background.

HUMOR: (Some of these made me laugh out loud.)

I have decided to get a dog and call it 5 miles. That way I can tell everybody that I walk 5 miles every day.

Also discovered that it's not the washing machine that's shrinking my clothes -it's the Fridge.

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels that couldn't make a decision.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

When I get a headache I take two aspirin and keep away from children- just like the bottle says.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed.
We're having a meeting.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo".

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Old age is coming at a bad time.