

**May 2023**

**From the Editor:**

Recently I was contacted by Thomas (Tom) Niles who grew up in Waco but joined the Air Force only three months before graduating with our WHS 1960 Class. Currently he is in West, TX at the same rehab facility as Al Ctvrtlik.

Thomas attended Sul Ross Elementary, West Jr. High and Waco High. Only 6 months after joining the Air Force he returned to Waco to marry his girlfriend and they were blessed with three beautiful children before his wife died in 1984. Thomas retired from the Air Force after 20 years' service at which time he and his wife moved to West, TX. He bought the old Best Theater, remodeled it into an Entertainment Center where many good memories were had from the local folks in and around West. To raise enough money to remodel the theater, Thomas said he auctioned off about 350 old movie posters housed in the theater that dated back to Tom Mix and the silent era. Thomas was also successful in getting a historical marker for the old building. After retiring from this business, he sold the building to Jerald Bolton of West.

Thomas Niles contact info:

cell ph- 512-975-0616

West Rest Haven

503 Meadow Dr. #117

West, TX 76691.

Give Thomas a call if you remember him...he said he would love to get reacquainted with some folks. He might be calling some of you as he ordered a directory from David Dibb.



Old Best Theater

Location: 218 North Main Street, West TX

Historical marker #386

[Best Theatre Building - TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS \(weebly.com\)](http://www.texas-historical-markers.com)

**FROM OUR GRADUATES:**

**Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff:** Things are quiet here in Nebraska--all the horrible weather seems to have changed course lately, and 'tornado alley' which used to include our area has shifted. The devastation suffered on May 11 in Waco is felt elsewhere now, but I will never forget that day--it is burned into my mind.

I am still buying and selling dolls, collectibles, and antiques---I love doing it, and it keeps me busy. I understand 'new computers'---or at least the problems which come with them. Mine is also fairly new, and I am still adjusting to its quirks.

Happy Easter—

**Jim Monnig:** "I love the dog tails from Howard and Tommye Ruth."

**Bev Murphy Wells:** The dog stories were just great! Howard's various dogs, Blackie, Queenie, and all the Spots in his life and Tommye Ruth's Freckles. Loved that Tommy Ruth shared Freckles with retirement center and the Montessori children. Oh, and Jim Monning's pedicure story and pictures -- what a classic! Love those pedicures! And Aubrey, our class celebrity! Would love to see "Hell and High Water," assuming it can be ordered via Amazon? The casting of Jeff Bridges was perfect! Assuming there would be info displayed at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum which I try to go to when I'm in Waco.

**Judith Hamff Murphy:** I loved Jim Monnig's pedicure story! And the seasonal polish is a nice finishing touch! I really enjoy my regular pedicures. Some men go to my nail salon, but most men still don't know what they're missing! BTW: A few months ago I found a much needed new State Farms insurance agent while chatting with the guy in the pedicure chair next to me.

**San Diego, from the ridiculous to the sublime:**

San Diego had the coldest March in almost 90 years! Recently the surface water temperature off Del Mar was 52.25 degrees—the coldest reading since UCSD began using a buoy system to monitor large areas of the U.S. Coastline in the 70s.

And then we finished up the month with SDSU coming away with #2 in the March Madness NCAA Basketball Tournament! Way to go Aztecs!!

**Regarding Jeri Ann Boren Guyton:**

**Gwen Ewing Hodges:** "Loved her! Condolences to all who loved her 🙏🙏🙏"

**Betty Luedeker Gatlin:** "So sad."

**Kay Phillips Sparks:** I'm really sorry to hear this. She and I were friends but had not been in touch in a long time.

**Bev Murphy Wells:** This is happening too frequently, losing so many! So sad! My heartfelt sympathy to Jeri Ann's family and close friends.

## UPDATES:

**Tim Lasseter Latta** broke her pelvis. She has no idea this happened but says the pain is slowly improving. No tennis, no golf right now... but she has high hopes for the future.

**Bob Easter:** Bob is continuing to face lots of health issues. He is convinced that his problems stem from taking the Covid vaxx. His walking continues to deteriorate, and he is looking into getting a voice recognition app for typing. He currently has two infusions weekly and asks for prayers for both Carolyn and him. If you want more details, please contact him at [bob@easterandeaster.com](mailto:bob@easterandeaster.com) phone-512-346-1692 Bob said hearing from graduates really lifts him up.

**David Dibb celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday....most memorable!**

( From March 30-April 10)

### **My 80th Birthday Celebration (by David Dibb)**

First, a word about why I am just now getting around to having an 80th birthday. When I was in the 4th grade in Arlington Heights Elementary in Ft. Worth, I was learning faster than most of the kids... especially the Math and Science. My Mom had a B.S. in Mathematics, and maybe I inherited some of her aptitude. Well, they were not sure what to do with me. There were no special programs back then, so they decided to “double promote” me from the 4th to the 6th grade.

So, at age 11, (after a summer with lots of History and English studies) I entered 6th grade, where all my “peers” were a whole year more physically and socially developed (especially the girls!) A lot happens to your mind and body in those early teenage years, and it was no fun being behind the curve. My girlfriend was Rene’, the shortest, most petite and, I thought, cutest girl in the class.

Between 7th and 8th grade, we moved to Waco, where my Dad started up the Heart of Texas Goodwill Industries operation, which is still going strong there. Funny thing, at North Jr High and at WHS, I was still physically a year behind everyone. As far as being a “smart” kid, I was Beta Club material, but not NHS. That double promotion leveled (or tilted) the field in many areas.

Fast forward 63 years, and we are in South Carolina. One son and 2 of our grands live in North Carolina, the second son and 4 of our grands live in Virginia, and our daughter and other 2 grands live in Germany. What I wanted for my 80th (March 19th) was for all our kids and most grands to come home together, which had not happened in over 10 years. One of our daughter’s clients has a plant in Boston, and she was scheduled there in late March, and then she could come home. After coordinating with our sons, we planned our big family get-together on, Ta-tahh, April 1st...April Fools’ Day!

Then other in-laws, who had not seen their cousins, nieces, and nephews for an equally long time, wanted to come and be part of the Party. We have been in Florence 30 years, and I have ministered as an Adult Bible Teacher most of that time. We have mourned the loss of parents and spouses, and rejoice over the first grandchild or college graduate. We have sat in hospitals, and organized baby showers. We have camped, dined, done repair projects, gone on mission trips, and served in the choir and VBS with our best friends, our church friends. So we decided to invite them, too.



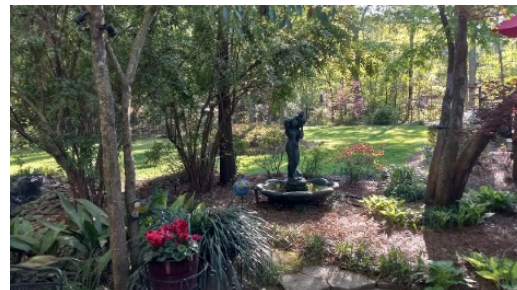
**Thursday, March 30th:** a 3-hour drop in for local friends. We have a new Buc-ee's just up the road, so I bought 4 lbs of sliced Brisket and served some very popular sliders. 54 people, including some neighbors, "dropped by", and most brought more food (this is the South, after all). I'm in the orange shirt.



**Friday, March 31st:** Family arrived from FL, VA, MA, NC, GA, and Germany. Some stayed with us, and I booked 3 rooms at a nearby Holiday Inn. Everybody "hung out" at our house and visited, played, slept, or stayed riveted to a laptop or cell phone. I served more sliders plus food brought the night before. My deceased brother's son had never met my family, and came down from Boston to join the festivities (purple shirt, no hair)



Our azaleas, maples, and flowers cooperated wonderfully, and seemed to hold off blooming until the big weekend arrived:



**Saturday, April 1st:** took the family (20 people) out to eat at a popular local restaurant. The guys tried every appetizer on the menu, and still packed in steak, prime rib, shrimp and grits, chicken with pasta and sausage, and one of each dessert.



**Thursday, April 6th:** 10-hour drive to Pensacola. Took our grandson, who came over from Germany, to spend Easter with our FL family and swim in the Gulf. I did not see the riptide sign, and got caught in it, needing some help to get back. Realized my MIND was swimming like an 18-yr-old, but my BODY was 80.



## The Finale:

**Monday, April 10th:** 10-hour drive back to Florence. Put Joshua on a plane to Germany. I guess my birthday celebration is over, but friends and family are still talking about it. My reason for celebrating this “bend in the road” was that I could, and who knows what will be around the next bend?





## 1 **Pat Payne** is at it again! He has added another experience to his “successful aging and wanderlust”.

“Dear friends, hope you enjoy this "tongue in cheek" yet mostly true adventure which took place on St. Patrick’s Day

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### Happy Saint Patrick’s Day - It’s Race Day in Miami !

In June, 2022 Patty and I moved to Moorings Park Grande Lake lured by the concept of “Successful Aging”. They looked me over and recommended I make a “few” changes to be successful in this endeavor. So far that has meant changing what I eat, how much I “can’t” drink, the method and goals of exercising and figuring how to expand my brain synapses. That seemed to be working well and I was promoted to the “Wanderlust” section. So far that has meant leaping out of an airplane at 14,000 feet and driving over 120 mph on the Homestead Speedway. Welcome to Moorings Park and “Successful Aging”.



Yep, that’s me at 80 years old behind the steering wheel with my instructor Bryan, riding shotgun. Notice the black face mask on his helmet. He assured me he could see the track. In the upper right hand corner you can see the track outline in yellow with the red dot representing the race car.

Here we are lining up to begin the individual three lap trials. The engines were roaring as the four ladies and eighteen men waited anxiously for the start. The track's capacity is 46,000 and at least 10 people were there to watch the 22 Moorings Park residents vie for the coveted time trial. You probably already noticed that this was a very late arriving crowd.



It was a nip and tuck time trial with the winner unknown until the announcement about an hour later. I thought it was fitting that a "Patrick" won on that Saint's Day. The prize was a nice warm hug from the representative from EXTREME EXPERIENCE the company that manages the race days. I'm liking this "Successful Aging" thing! It was certainly a CARPE DIEM day!

The MP team of managers there were "SIMPLY THE BEST". They made sure the wandering herd didn't get lost and shepherded us through the process plus fed us a great lunch. It was a good time for all and we hope to experience another adventure soon. By the way, we HIGHLY recommend this trip for the residents who did not participate. You'll be glad you did.

PS: As readers of LEFTY'S JOURNALS know there is "Some Truth in Every Issue". I'll let you figure it out in this case. Hey, I was there!

Sincerely, Lefty"

## **2. Howard Dudgeon reports some movie trivia:**

a. In Wild Bill: Wild Bill gets kissed by Calamity Jane. Ellen Barkin (Calamity Jane) says, "You are not wiping that kiss off." Jeff Bridges (Wild Bill Hickok) says, "No, I'm rubbing it in."

b. In Texasville: Annie Potts (Karla Jackson) says to Jeff Bridges (Duane Jackson), "Everytime you call me honey. There's a lie involved. "

c. In Gunsmoke: On 12/17/71, the peck on the cheek that Kitty gives Matt in this episode is as close as the two came to an on-air kiss in the twenty years of Gunsmoke on television.

d. In The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance is the first occasion of John Wayne calling someone Pilgrim.

## **Judith Hamff Murphy tells about Little Willie (her fur baby):**

I always like reading about classmates' pet friends. I never had a dog until 1998. We moved to a house on a canyon and we thought that perhaps a re-homed standard poodle would make a good guard dog. Wrong! Great dogs as pets, and the necessary hypo-allergic for our house, but standard poodles are not guard dogs. After Sammi, a black female; we got Lucio, a white male. Lucio was very tall, strikingly attractive, and very smart. Too smart for a dog, and he knew how to work the people for head pets wherever he went. Both dogs traveled well in our RV visiting various states, Mexico, and Canada. Lucio went to more than 20 states with us. As has been previously reported, he died in 2015 while I was at a WHS reunion.

An update on Little Willie (Nelson)—a 15 pound rescue mutt, you've heard about before. The story was that Willie was found in the desert near El Centro, CA and was probably from Mexico. (In Southern California, the word always is that the dog's from Mexico—I have my doubts, as people all over mistreat animals and I'm sure that Californians of all ethnicities are no different.) My curiosity being what it is: Willie's DNA indicates that he is half poodle and a mix of mini-schnauzer, bichon, and a quarter unidentifiable terrier. Willie's about five years old now. He continues to be very easy-going, a great companion, and he certainly goes a long way in helping me stay healthy with my 7500 plus steps a day. A neighbor dog sitter keeps Willie when I travel and with other dogs to play with, sometimes he doesn't want to come home when I return. It's very embarrassing!

I'm attaching a photo of Willie with two of his favorite people—my son Jason and DIL Rachel.



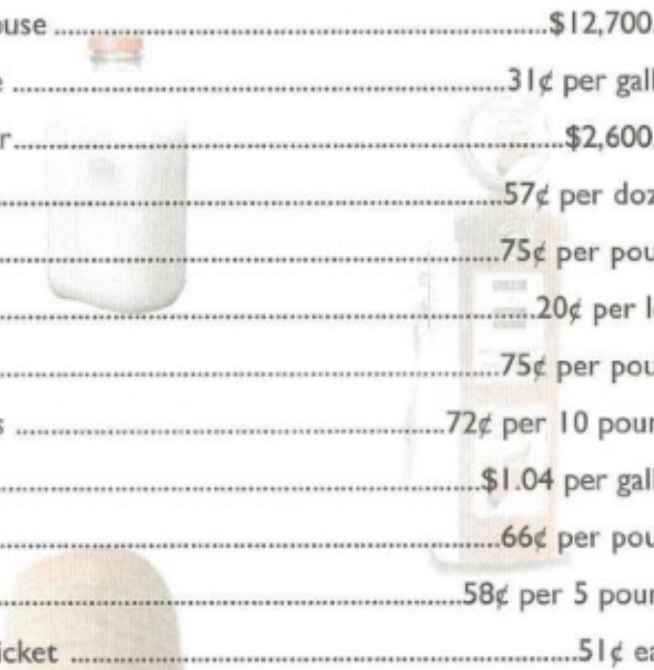


## **May Birthdays:**

- 2 Terrell Reagan**
- 5 Carol Leskin Allen**
- 11 Carol Adams Scarborough**
- 13 Tom Kittlitz**
- 23 Janene Loftis Jett**
- David Ditto**

## **SOME FACTS ON THE YEAR 1960**

## 1960 Review



New House .....	\$12,700.00
Gasoline .....	31¢ per gallon
New Car .....	\$2,600.00
Eggs .....	57¢ per dozen
Butter .....	75¢ per pound
Bread .....	20¢ per loaf
Coffee .....	75¢ per pound
Potatoes .....	72¢ per 10 pounds
Milk .....	\$1.04 per gallon
Bacon .....	66¢ per pound
Sugar .....	58¢ per 5 pounds
Movie Ticket .....	51¢ each

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[www.whs60.com](http://www.whs60.com)