

FROM OUR GRADUATES:

Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff: "I wish I were close enough to join you for the lunches--would be fun to reconnect. Dry in NE too---we just seem to miss all the rain, and all the storms too. Don't miss that, but we do need rain. It seems that climate change affects us all--Lake Waco down 7 feet is really tragic. Hopefully things will turn around, but until we accept what is happening worldwide, I am afraid it will get worse."

David Dibb: "Yes, I agree with Bev, Clara Sue and others that it's fun to read about activities of our 80-year-old peers, even though those activities may not be quite as broad in scope as what we did in our former days. And then, there is always the Pat Payne approach: don't leave any money on the table when the game is over!
Howard Dudgeon: What a fascinating piece of history that Howard tossed a football in the under-construction stadium, witnessed the last game there decades later, and then had an active hand in the financial retirement of the stadium. I can't help but reflect that after we "play our last game" and retire into eternity, we should be so fortunate to have someone trustworthy and who has cherished memories of us taking care of the financial responsibilities we leave behind. Can I get an "Amen"?"

Larry Thomas "Enjoyed reading Howard's account of the last game at Baylor Stadium. He failed to mention it was so cold that people were going out to their cars to warm up and came back because of the significance of the game."

Bev Murphy Wells: "It was great to see everyone having a great time at the luncheon! Great pix! Thank you to the person who took them. Some of us who cannot attend the luncheons, and we really appreciate the connection! I thought I had sent a short sentence about Mickey (Lade Perkins) and how we will all miss her (shortcoming on my part), I always enjoyed her comradery and remember how she enjoyed the reunions and will miss her! Sorry to hear about other losses including those in our classmates' families. Howard's trivia is always interesting too! But, most of all...thanks to Jeanne for her dedication and commitment to keep us all connected! "

REGARDING SCAMS:

1 Mary Beth Cash McMahon: "My husband and I have received four of these kits as part of the medicare scam. We have reported them to medicare. All had different return addresses. There is also another scam they tried to pull on us last year. We each had a notice on our EOB that we had received and they had paid for a glucose monitoring machine and one month's supply of insulin. The next month we were notified that they had paid for another month's supply of insulin. Again, they were from different addresses. Neither of us is diabetic, and we did not receive the items listed. If we had not notified medicare about these fraudulent claims, I expect they would have continued to bill the insulin monthly. These are both medicare scams and need to be stopped. Notice to all of you. When you receive your EOB each month, examine them carefully. Be sure each payment by them is for a legitimate service you Ordered and Received. Thanks, Jeanne, for bringing this to everyone's attention."

2 Linda Phelps McKee

"I too received 8 COVID tests and reported it some time ago. Then I had charges billed to Medicare for a diabetic blood monitor. I am not diabetic. I reported this as well. The other day I received 8 more COVID tests, but this time no lab name only an address. I have been trying to report this as well. If you know anyone that needs COVID tests, please let me know."

5 Hugh Wilfong: "I had the same experience and have now reported it to Medicare."

6 Cathey White Land: "I also think big pharmacies are trying to ride the bandwagon. CVS texted me today to let me know something Covid related was ready; nothing like that has been ordered by or for me."

3 Betty Luedeker Gatlin:

"I have reported several charges to Medicare for me for supplies for diabetes. I am not diabetic and reported it to both Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Both told me that this happens all the time and thanked me for reporting it but I have seen no results from the report. I have determined that this happens for me after I have been to a doctor's office and, of course, Medicare was charged for the visit. It doesn't seem to matter which doctor's office. Therefore, I watch very carefully any claims that come through for me and suggest that everyone do the same. I do order things online and I have people call me frequently for back, knee braces. The calls have a lot of information but not my social security number. I really hate that we have such a dishonest world today."

4 Bev Murphy Wells: "This is a scam going on in The Villages too. How they get your number....unfortunately, if you've been to a medical institution within the past year, your Medicare number has been exposed either when you checked in or on paper. Not everyone even in a medical institution is honorable. They may get a few bucks for sharing; times are desperate!

(Now, a lot of people who have been in the medical field would be appalled at this BUT times have changed.) Our personal information is "out there" for the under-handed to get; they have ways."

7 Elizabeth Bentley: "At least you got some Covid tests. A similar thing happened to me but I only discovered it by checking my statement from Medicare. Seems my account was charged for some medical devices by some clinic I'd never heard of. I called Medicare and told them it was a scam. "

8 David Ditto: "Good info—thank you. There are some devious people out there, and I suspect some of this type of activity comes from overseas. 😞 Thanks for the warning!"

Regarding- Will (Billy) Markum:

Gwen Ewing Hodges: "So sorry! Condolences to all who loved him 🙏🙏🙏"

Tommye Ruth Blair Toler: "I am so sorry to learn of Billy's passing. I will miss his big smile."

Kay Phillips Sparks: "I am so sorry to hear this."

Bev Murphy Wells: "This is really sad news about Billy Markum. Pancreatic cancer is devastating; praying he didn't have to suffer all that long, and praying for those close to him."

Tim Lasseter Latta: So sorry about Billy. He was a sweet boy and man.

Regarding Kay Ullrich Wells:

Bev Murphy Wells: So sad to hear about Kay Ulrich and sad to hear about all that she went through but knowing she is at peace now will bring comfort to her family. Prayers for all.

Gwen Ewing Hodges: Condolences to all who loved her. She lived a worthy life of service and now gets her rewards.



Linda Phelps McKee: What a wonderful tribute from a loving daughter.

Jeannie Dickerson: I have known Kay for so many years and all the Wells family were members of the same church I have attended since I was 3 years old. They were a close and loving family and my heart goes out to Doyle, Heather and all of the family who lovingly cared for her during her time of need. They were so blessed to have Ray and Sharon to also monitor and care for Kay and Doyle. May God bless them all.

Betty Luedeker Gatlin: What a lovely tribute by a loving daughter! Kay is at peace now.

Bev Murphy Wells: What a beautiful eulogy Heather shared for her Mother. And, she's not only beautiful on the outside but on the inside as well! Her love for her mother was divinely expressed. I know Kay and Doyle would be so proud of her! Well done, Kay and Doyle, you brought up a well-spoken and reflective young woman who speaks from her soul!

Tommye Ruth Blair Toler: That's such a nice tribute to her mother. ❤️

About Bob Easter

-by Jim Monnig

I have always had a lot of admiration for Bob Easter. Since we graduated, he has been a really significant member of the class. He, Melissa Starnes, Glenn and his wife Janet Hurta were in charge of three of our reunions. At one point, Bob dedicated himself to finding every member of our class and he did. There were people like Pete Hill and Bill Bishop, who people hadn't heard from in years. He found them. He found Tommy Carter, and a lot of other people who had dropped out of sight. Bob spent countless hours doing that. A few years ago, one of our classmates died and there was no money for a funeral. I talked to Bob about it and he and I both sent in a little money. Bob then got in contact with other people and was able to come up with enough money from our class to provide a decent burial. He has written to us about his gardening project that he does with his church, and how he has raised healthy food and encouraged healthy eating with people who were and are very disadvantaged. Bob makes it plain that his faith is important to him.

Bob is ill right now, and I should say very ill. He has been to many doctors and places including the Mayo Clinic and they have finally figured out that he is one of a tiny minority of people who have experienced an extraordinarily horrible reaction to the covid injections. I spoke to Bob by telephone the other day and he is upbeat as usual. The way he put it; he is in a win-win situation. He will either whip this illness, or soon meet his Lord and either way it is okay with him. Bob told me that his mother always taught him never to be bitter or resentful because that does nothing but bring a person down.

Bob moved to Austin in about 1979. He had been in the newspaper business starting out in Waco, then in Austin, and finally in Palm Beach, Florida for twenty-four years and had a great career. A young family and family concerns brought him to Austin, and he started in the building business. After a while, Bob opened his own company that sold real estate, developing raw land, built homes, and did remodeling. He stayed active in the business until about 2021 and at that time built seven new homes in the Georgetown "Old Town" by the Square. These were spectacular custom homes, and Bob got a lot of recognition for this work. After Bob moved to Austin, he became acquainted with a classmate of mine from law school named Jim Steed. Jim and I have stayed in touch all these years, and so through him I could keep up with Bob. My sister also lives in Austin and knows of Bob. He had a really great career in various phases of the real estate business. I visited with him a couple of months ago and he, Jim Steed, and I went out to lunch. Bob was using a walker and feeling better then than he is now. Notwithstanding all that, we had a lot of laughs and a great time. I was able to see his home in Northwest Austin and meet his wife who is a very lovely woman. Over the years Bob had other health problems, but he just kept on fighting back. Bob is a modest person and despite encouragement from myself and others, he would never send in a story like this. That's just not the way he is. He is, I believe, a really special human being.

This story is not about Bob Easter. This story is about Bobby Easter, with whom we graduated from Waco High. If you had the occasion back when we were at Waco High to be at the school parking lot at 6:00 a.m., on many days you would have seen a blue 1951 Ford with a louvered hood. You might have wondered what incredibly industrious student got to school so early so often. That car belonged to Bobby Easter, and he was not at school. For a lot of his high school years, Bobby would go to work at the Waco News Tribune at 6:00 a.m. He would get to the school parking lot at about 5:45 and then walk down to Franklin where the newspaper was located. Bob operated a PBX machine. That is one of those old-fashioned telephone devices and I am attaching

a copy of one of those machines. Bobby would work until 8:00 a.m. and then go to school. We got out at 3:30 p.m. and Bobby would do what he could to get his homework done because at 5:00 p.m. he was back at the newspaper and operated the PBX until midnight. This was his morning schedule no less than two days a week and his typical afternoon and evening schedule four days a week. On weekends he would work from 3:00 p.m. to midnight on Saturdays and Sundays, again on the PBX.

Bobby never attended one dance, football game, or basketball game when he was in high school. He tells me that sometimes on the weekends he would look out the window from the newspaper and see us driving by going to the movies, on dates, and things like that. You might ask why Bobby worked so hard. The fact is that he was the youngest of 8 children, most of whom were grown or almost grown by the time he came along. His mother was a single mother. She worked weekdays from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. at the Amicable Life Building. She was with a company that played music and piped it into companies like General Tire that were open twenty-four hours a day. In her spare time (of which there was none), she sold insurance door-to-door. There was a Judge living in the neighborhood and Bobby's mother made arrangements for him to sleep at the Judge's house. He would get up real early, go home, clean up, and go to school. Bobby's father was little help and Bobby saw him few times during his entire lifetime. Bobby's dad would send his mother twenty dollars a month for support, and that was his contribution.

Bobby suggested to me that I not go into too much detail about how difficult things were for his mother from a financial standpoint. I'll honor his wishes in that respect but will say that it was very difficult.

Bobby started throwing papers at age eleven on Lyle and Mitchell Streets between Eighteenth and Twenty-Fifth. Later on, he got a motor scooter, and at age thirteen, was throwing a route that was five miles long. Back in those days Terrell Reagan also threw papers. Terrell tells me that one time he and Bobby got the most new starts and were rewarded with a bus trip to the State Fair in Dallas. Terrell said that it was just a great time and one of his happy memories.

Bobby got the PBX job at the Waco Tribune Herald when he was sixteen.

As you can imagine, Bobby didn't have a lot of time for studying, and was just an okay student. One time a teacher called on him and Bobby was unprepared. The teacher said to Bobby "There have been a lot of Easters in this school, but you are the dumbest one by far." Bobby said that all he could think was that he might be dumb, but he was earning more money than the teacher. That money went to Bobby's mom in large part, and that is how they supported themselves.

As I said before, Bobby, or Bob as he is now known, is way too modest and self-effacing to ever write a story like this. I feel proud that Bobby has allowed me to send this story in and I hope you enjoy it.

I think a lot about the class of '60. I love reading the stories that so many of us have sent in. David Dibb's contributions have been wonderful, as have those by so many others. All of the stories have been great, and I hope they will keep on coming. I feel that without Jeanne Holland and the Town Crier, we would all just be a bunch of old memories to one another. She keeps us all alive in my mind, and I feel that she is the reason why we still have something called the class of '60.

Lots of love from... Jim

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An Interesting Story of two graduates reconnecting:

Pictures from Texas

-by David Dobb

Our friend, Naoma, is 87 years old and the eldest of 7 children, 4 of whom passed in previous years. But she still had a brother living “in Texas” who was suffering from ALS “Lou Gehrig's Disease”, and a sister living in Illinois who had terminal cancer. Naoma had a treasury of old family photos, which she enjoyed with her sister, Wilberta, who came to Florence for a last visit. Then they packed up the pictures and sent them to their brother in Texas, who, by then, was bedridden and needed some cheering up.

During a phone call, LaRay, her brother, told her how much the pictures meant to him. His wife had died the year before, and they had no children, so his two sisters were all the family he had left.

Then, one day, there was no answer when she called him, and there was no family to contact to see how he was doing. About that time, Naoma got word her sister had died in Illinois. Some of Naoma’s friends made calls to the Police Dept. in Wimberley, Texas, where her brother lived, and after several tries, finally determined he had died a couple of weeks earlier. Even though the losses were anticipated, it was a shock coming one on the heels of the other, and not being able to even say a proper “goodbye” to her brother.

Naoma was now the last one of a family of nine, and even though she had children and grands of her own here in Florence, it was a very “alone” time for her. The only tangible link she still had with her parents and siblings were those family photos, somewhere in a house likely in probate 1200 miles away where she did not know a soul.

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As caretaker of our WHS60 directory, Jeanne sends me every update. Recently, there have been too many “heaven-bound” notices, but sometimes it’s change of address, phone, or email. While all this was going on with our friend, Naoma, and we were praying God would comfort her, I got an update from Jeanne on Don Busby. He had just moved to Wimberley, Texas. Well!. That had to be more than just a coincidence.

I called Don, and even though we did not know each other at WHS, it seemed like talking to an old friend. He said he had owned property in Wimberley for several years, and knew “a few people” there, and would see what he could find out about LaRay’s house, and who might have access to it. I told him we were looking for a flat box and a large manilla envelope with Geist family pictures.

He soon located Mike, who worked with a legal firm, and was in charge of turning LaRay's entire estate over to The Nature Conservancy. And, yes, he had access to the house, and would look for the pictures. But don't get our hopes up... LaRay had apparently become a hoarder, and there were boxes and envelopes and books and "stuff" piled high on every table and countertop.

But in a few days, Mike did find the pictures... both the box and the envelope labeled "Geist Family Photos"... and shipped them to us here in Florence. They are now safely back in Naoma's hands, and two guys in Texas (Don and Mike), besides being an answer to prayer, have made an old lady very happy.

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2

An interesting story from Howard Dudgeon:

My father served in Australia and New Guinea during WWII. He and other Allied Army officers were guests for meals at General Sir Iven Mackay's home or headquarters. On one occasion my father and a British lieutenant went with the general on some type of trip. They spent the day together, the general, the British lieutenant and my father. This was in 1944.

My father and mother were members of a Knife and Fork club Waco in the 1970s. This was a club that would have speakers that would come in and speak about history or whatever interested the members.

One of the speakers was a British general. My father thought the general looked familiar. In the receiving line after the speech the general shook hands with my father and said, "I am the lieutenant from Australia".

February 2021 Ice Storm

- By Bill Alexander

I've been meaning to share this for a while. My only excuse is sloth, which is one of the "Seven Deadly Sins", so moving right along . . .

Last February Austin had another ice storm like Uri in February 2021 that knocked out power all over the state. Our storm this time was different from Uri in two ways:

First, it was highly local. It only affected Travis County and slices of adjacent counties.

Second, it was much more destructive. The ice coating on power lines and tree branches was thicker and heavier causing significant damage to trees and causing trees and limbs to fall across power lines, knocking out power all over the county. I was without power for four days.

This photo, taken along Barton Creek, shows how large some of the trees we lost were. (No, the guy with the beard isn't me.)



By terrible bad luck, the very day before the storm my automatic garage door opener died. So, for the first and only time in the five years I have owned this current car, it spent that night out in the driveway instead of safely inside the garage. This is what I saw the next morning:



Needless to say, the auto glass places in town were very busy.



UPDATES:

John Anderson: John has NOT been letting any grass grow under his feet! He has just returned from Southern Africa- (Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.) He is then planning a cruise of the New England Islands followed by a trip to Mongolia and Korea, then Australia and New Zealand. He calls himself “a rolling stone”. I am hoping to get a few pictures from him while he is visiting some of these places.

Judith Hamff Murphy: Judith was on a trip in Portugal when her plans did not turn out as she expected. I feel certain she will have a future story to tell us about that trip.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Donald Allen Cook
7	Mickey Lavy
9	Robert Wilson
10	Annita Incardona Henson
13	Susan Harkness Hill
15	Janell Buida Bolton
19	Linda Sadler Easter Ambrosio Silva
22	Sherry Robertson Nunn
23	Linda Phelps McKee
27	George Karahal
30	Gary Lovell

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

“INTELLIGENCE IS MEASURED BY A PERSON’S ABILITY TO SEE VALIDITY WITHIN BOTH SIDES OF CONTRADICTING ARGUMENTS”. - F. Scott Fitzgerald

“Some days you just have to create your own sunshine.” - Sam Sundquist

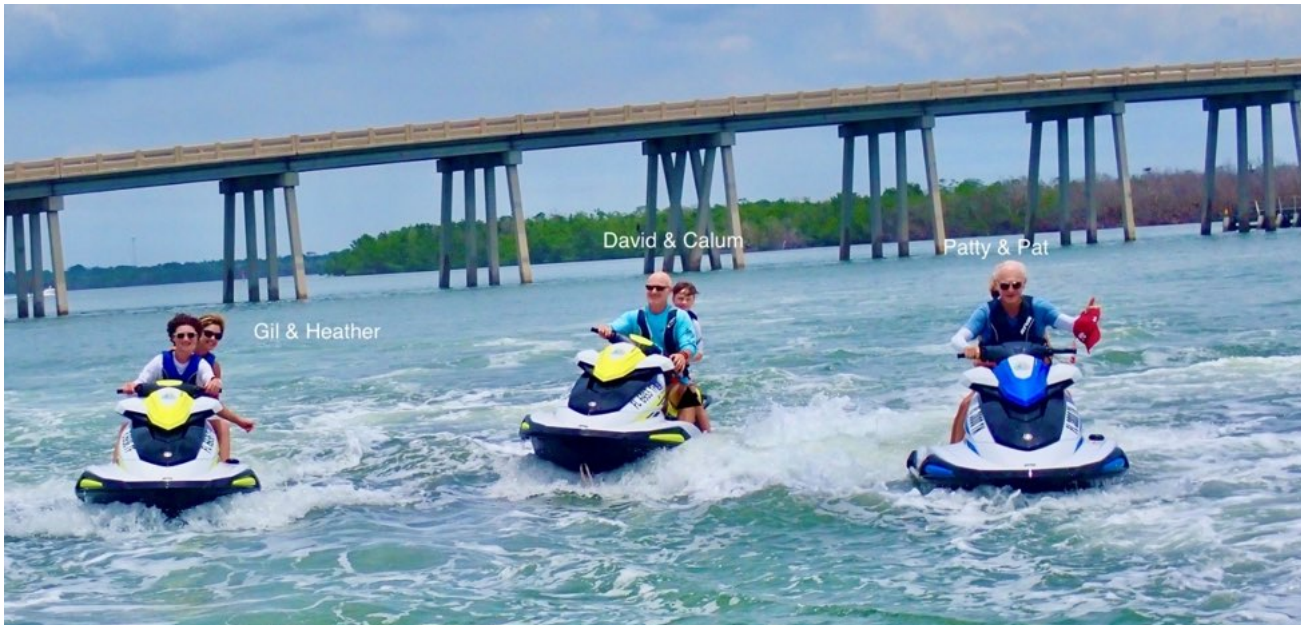
“Never be a prisoner of your past. Tomorrow is a new day. Whatever happened today was a lesson NOT a life sentence.” - Unknown

“I’ve learned that People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

- Maya Angelou

PICTURES:

Payne Family Fun in Naples, Florida!!! **Pat Payne** reports: “Son David, wife Heather, boys Gil and Calum visited Patty and I this week. Yesterday was jet ski day. We found some dolphins who played with us for a while.”



Pat and Patty



It was a big day for **SuEllen Golden Wilson** and John Wilson. They are pictured below with their granddaughter, Chloe, who just received her law degree from SMU this past May. Chloe has a job with a Dallas Law Firm. Congratulations!



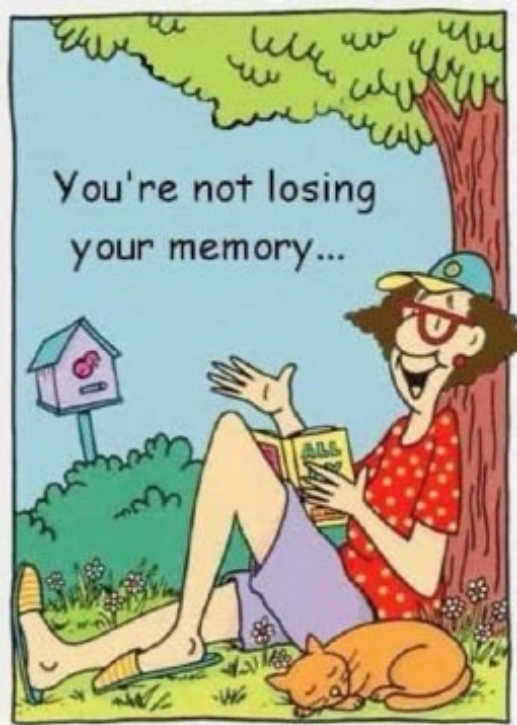
Below is a real blast from the past!!!



Slumber party: bottom row, Virginia Rushing, Betty Buckler, Gwen Ewing

Top row: Martha Campbell, Jeri Boren, Mary Murray, Betty Luedeker, Gayla Miller, Mickey Caperton

HUMOR



You're not losing
your memory...

You're just really good
at letting go of the past!

**By replacing
your morning
coffee with green
tea, you can lose
up to 87% of
what little joy
you still have
left in your life.**



We Do Not Have
★ WiFi... ★
Talk To Each Other
Pretend It's 1995

**You drop something
when you were younger,
you just pick it up.**

**When you're older and
you drop something, you
stare at it for a bit
contemplating if you
actually need it
anymore.**

Everything will kill you



so choose something fun

**WHEN I GROW UP
I'D LIKE TO BE A
RETIRED LOTTERY
WINNER.**

