

## **From Our Graduates:**

Mary Sheffield, sister of **Sissie Blair**, has a message from Sissie:

“Sissie is still recovering from a stroke and has PT 3 times a week. She and Joel are in Assisted Living in Plano. She so appreciates the notes she received from Jim Monnig, Melinda Rickets Chatham, and Melissa Starnes Baugh. Although she has not responded to those letters she has received, she wants everyone to know that she will hopefully be able to respond at some point and she loves hearing their news in the newsletter and if anyone ever wants to write to her, her address is: “

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**From Sissie's younger sister, Johanna, with a typed a message to us on Sissie's behalf:** "Thank you so much for sending these pictures (of 63<sup>rd</sup> reunion), it was so great to see everyone and it looks like a great time was had by all! I'm doing ok, still recovering from my stroke and am in a wheelchair but working each week on PT to hopefully progress to a walker. Joel and I live at Prestonwood Court, an assisted living facility in Plano, close to all our daughters. Please keep me posted if the 65th reunion happens as I would love to come see everybody. Thank you for all of your hard work over the many years in keeping us all connected and aware of updates in each other's lives. Hope you're doing well and hope to see you soon. Love, Sissie"

**Bev Murphy Wells** “It's always great reading all the comments and how grateful our class is for all of those who dedicate so much time and effort to keep all of us connected. We are so fortunate to have had our history shared by so many and each time after reading the Town Crier, I learn something about one or more of our grads and the travel stories activate happy memories! How fun! Stay well”. Praying for all of our graduates who are going through surgeries, illnesses, recuperations. These are difficult times for each one so knowing others are thinking of them may help or hope so. We are all aging and have aches and pains or have been through something similar so we can all relate in one way or another. Still, those going through it now have our full attention, so we are hopeful for you and lift you up with

soon to be better days ahead of healing and complete recuperation. Wanting good for all.

**John Anderson:** John reports that he has returned from Australia and New Zealand and will have some pictures to share with us as soon as he can get them to me. John is spending the holidays in Boston but plans to come to Waco for the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. He plans to bring Judy and show her the sights of Waco. John said he had gotten the summation on our class mortality and did not realize that so many of his old friends were now “flickering memories”.

**Side note:** I was just thinking: it would be great if we could have a quarterly luncheon while John is in town as he gets to Waco so seldom.

**Bev Murphy Wells:** “The obit for Margaret Brown was like reading a significant part of history of Waco and Texas and hope others will step up to keep our great state and city well respected, and with as much dignity and honor as Mrs. Brown did. What a great lady! Thanks for sharing her obit!”

**David and Linda Ditto:** “Thank you for sharing that (on Margaret Brown). My wife, Linda, worked at Extraco Bank for 27 years in the Trust department. Their son was/and still is, the CEO of that privately owned bank. Thank you again.”

### **Regarding Mickey Lavy’s story on 7 Oaks:**

**Gwen Ewing Hodges:** “Thanks Mickey! ❤️”

**Hal Johnson:** “Interesting stories. I did not know Mickey was an avid hunter or outdoorsman. I’m impressed with his adventures @ 7 Oaks.”

**Bev Murphy Wells:** Mickey’s story was an interesting read. What I enjoyed most was his value of his friends and the various highlights he enjoyed with them! Hope he continues his adventures there!

### **Updates:**

It has been reported to me that **Gary Roberts** posted on his Facebook that he and **Carol Adams Scarborough** got married. I have not been in touch with either of them so you will have to get more information elsewhere. All I know: Gary and Carol were married on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Had they married about three weeks sooner, they could have received the ‘*newlywed prize*’ at our last reunion held on October 10, 2023.

**Gwen Ewing Hodges**: “Good news and hopefully everyone heals quickly! 2 weeks ago I had my very infected gall bladder removed and now realize how sick it had made me! Good news is I am eating everything and getting my energy back! I resume Chemo tomorrow which has gone very well for me. By Christmas I plan to get out more with my energy levels back to normal. Thanks for all your prayers and I will keep each of you in my prayers!”

**Judith Hamff Murphy**: “In early October I was moving along with my ankle recovery—PT at home and progressing with a walker. Then on October 9: Wham!! My left eye retina detached from whatever it was attached to. The following Wednesday I had surgery and then spent a month recovering.

If you ask me, the current high tech laser surgery for such situations requires a rather weird recovery process. 1. Lying face down for 3-5 days (a real pain—and thanks to "Alexa" and available podcasts). 2. Several additional weeks of lying on the appropriate side—right side for me, and absolutely no lying flat on my back, face up. Also, no bending over, sudden moves, or straining.

Good news! After four weeks my doctor was pleased with the results and no further restrictions in activities are needed. Now I'm back to focusing on my ankle recovery. I've pretty much left the walker for a cane, and I'm continuing with PT for a full recovery. My pup Willie is finally back home with me and I'm still planning to travel in mid-2024. Wishing all my classmates a Happy Holidays! This year I'm only making reservations!”

**Larry Thomas:** “I got my wonderful macadamia nuts from David Pettus yesterday (Nov.16). We have reconnected and shared some of our 63 years since 1960. Thank you for keeping the class together.”



**Ken Freeman (WHS 61), brother of our graduate Fritz Freeman,** has a tale to tell : “Several years ago I made contact with **Ralph Klatt**.....asking him if he remembered something special about the spring of 1954. He nailed it! Back in that timeframe, My father took Fritz, me, our brother Bob.....and Ralph to Dallas to see an exhibition baseball game between the New York Giants and the Cleveland Indians.....pretty special for young boys back then, spent the night at the Baker Hotel...wow! Ralph hadn’t forgotten any of it....”

2. **Howard Dudgeon** has some trivia regarding **Tom Hanks and Forrest Gump**: Forrest Gump ran for 3 years, 2 months, 14 days and 16 hours. He left from his front porch in Greenbow, Alabama on July 5, 1976 a Monday morning at 7:00 AM Central Time and finished his run on September 19, 1979 a Wednesday at 10:00 PM Mountain Time in Monument Valley, Arizona on US Highway 163 headed north. He ran 15,248 miles estimated.

Tom Hanks has around 170 credited movie and television appearances. His son Colin Hanks has over 400 credited appearances.

3. **David Dibb** : A Senior Shopping Experience

“I have been doing the cooking for Anita and me for about 2 years now. She did it all for the first 50+ years, now it’s my turn. If I had known it would be so much fun, I would not have waited until I was almost 80 to get started. We have always enjoyed sharing our

hospitality with friends, and I can prepare a dinner for 10 or more, as needed. I love creativity and the constant opportunity to make other people happy. And I enjoy the smells, the “cook’s samples”, and the eating.

My favorite dessert to make is German Chocolate cake, and I try to keep the special ingredients for it stocked in our pantry. The other day I used the last can of evaporated milk, so I put that on the shopping list (if I don’t write it down, it doesn’t get done). The part of cooking I don’t like is finding stuff in the grocery store. Aldi has made that process easier, but the bigger stores are sometimes a challenge.

But I stopped by a nearby Food Lion, just for a couple of cans of evaporated milk. The Manager said it was on aisle 3. And it was. On the very bottom shelf. There was 2%, low fat, regular, some on sale and some not, big cans cheaper than small cans, familiar brands and the store brand... all at floor level where my reading glasses couldn’t reach. So, I sat down on the floor to be sure I got what I needed, and at the best price. It didn’t take too long, and as I was getting up, I saw the Manager hurrying toward me. He looked a little flustered, and said, “I saw you on the floor, and was coming over to help you up.”

Well, at least I got my Tuesday Senior Discount.”

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

9/10	Sondi Nelson Pace
13	Jerry Causey
14	Peggy Wake Thyfault
16	Chinky Johnson
17	David McPhail
24	Hal Johnson
26	Howard Dudgeon
	Joan Beaty Settle
28	Gayla Miller Webb
31	Elizabeth Bentley



## 31 Gwen Ewing Hodges

### **PICTURES:**

Rodney and Gayla Miller Webb were all ready for Halloween Trick or Treaters



**PROGRESSION:** what a difference a little time makes:  
Robert Wilson's surgery..... three stages.....

**After surgery**



**going for first walk in the hospital**



Going home!!! -- Ain't no place like home



**Larry Thomas** is getting ready for Christmas. He built a Village with Lemax Buildings and 1:43 model European cars.





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