

MARCH 2024

From our graduates:

Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff: "Interesting facts on the 'horses'---from Howard Dudgeon---I remembered 'Black Jack' from the JFK funeral. I was teaching in California when JFK was assassinated --- that was the quietest my 7th graders ever were. The horse was mentioned numerous times during the event. We are finally having above freezing temps in NE---and someday the snow in our yard may all be gone....June maybe."

Susan Harkness Hill: "I sure enjoyed the Waco Hi Crier as usual. I wish I had something fun and newsy to send. Life is as usual here in NM. Ralph and I are still riding and doing mounted shooting when weather permits, and it has been COLD here too."

I did have a response to Howard's trivia info on the military horses though. Sgt. Reckless was much more than a pack horse. I believe she was the only horse to ever receive a Sgt. Rank and 2 purple hearts."

Betty Luedeker Gatlin: "Sorry Ken and Scoot will not be able to come as often! "

Updates:

Nena Hunt Wallace- Fell and broke her arm close to the shoulder joint. It was unable to be reset so she must let it heal naturally. She spent a little time in rehab but is home now. I understand the rehab was quite painful. Nena said the healing should take 3 months.

Gwen Ewing Hodges and her battle with cancer: "For what I have been thru, I am doing well. Still on Chemo but I have few side effects! Prayers are felt!"

Norma Cissell Smith: On February 20th Norma had melanoma surgery on her arm with a skin graft. The surgery went well, Norma is recovering well, and word is the pain is not that bad. She is just glad it is over. Norma has been a champ with all the health issues that have befallen her.

Kay Sparks- Kay fell and injured her hand, knee, and lower lip in addition to chipping two teeth. She is counting her blessings that the fall did not include a broken hip or pelvis.

Robert Wilson reports about 16 people were able to make the last quarterly luncheon. Several were out sick with covid and there were a few 'no-shows'. The next luncheon will be on April 9th at the same place--

George's on Speight at 12:00 noon. I think **John Anderson** will be in town for the Solar eclipse on the 8th, so I am hoping John will be able to join everyone. Go ahead and put it on your calendar. --**April 9th.**

Judith Hamff Murphy: "Southern Californians are getting sort of grumpy with the season of rain—the atmospheric rivers just keep coming our way with no sign of a changing weather pattern and the El Nino pattern of ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean remains. (This climate event occurs every few years and usually makes for more wet weather in California.) I know there has been some serious flooding and landslides in several parts of the state, but here in the far south (I live about 22 miles from Mexico) we've been spared the heaviest rains and widespread damage. For the last few weeks, most of our heaviest rain has come during the overnight hours—still cloudy and sort of damp during the day with short periods of rain. Californians take their "sun tax" (the locals' term for our relatively high cost of living) seriously—and we expect the weather to cooperate--year round!"

My health update: Per my orthopedic surgeon, my ankle has completely healed. My detached retina surgery was successful and now I have to work on my body and balance after all that time off my feet. I have talked to several people with similar ankle injuries and I'm hearing that it takes almost a year to fully recover. Thank goodness for my sports medicine physical therapy with a major medical center less than 15 minutes from my house!

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Ear-splitting music | 11 Constant Change |
| 2 Greasy Fast Food | 12 Perfectionism |
| 3 Missing Sleep | 13 Following Trendy Diets |
| 4 Keeping up with <u>trends</u> | 14 Complicated Technology |
| 5 Being out every <u>night</u> | 15 Crowded Places |
| 6 Chasing Material Possessions | 16 Pursuing Extreme Sports |
| 7 Dramatic Relationships | 17 Long Commutes |
| 8 Bragging about Overworking | 18 Political Extremes |
| 9 Impulsive Shopping | |
| 10 Small Talk | |

Birthdays in March:

1. Karon Shinault Jackson
- 7 Glenn Hurta
- 14 Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff
- 16 Jeannie Dickerson
- 17 Jane Berry Neece
- 19 David Dibb
- 25 Larry McMurray
- 28 Douglas Crook
- 31 Malachi Kelly
Stan Lennard



1 Bill Alexander: "In January I made my annual pilgrimage to Big Bend National Park with friends. In three days we hiked the Lost Mine, Mule Ear Springs, and Pine Canyon trails. For the first time, my son Randall joined us. Here are the two of us at the top of the Lost Mine trail:"



2. **From Susan Harkness Hill:**

More Trivia on Sergeant Reckless-“Ralph Hill was in charge of a Veterans Memorial Day program in 2022, and we had a special dedication to Edgewood purple heart recipients and included **Sgt Reckless**. I helped write up the bio for the town. Here are 2 articles about the horse.” -*Susan Harkness Hill*

Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse *by Robin Hutton* Amid an inferno of explosives on a deadly minefield in the Korean War, a four-legged Marine proved to be a heroic force of nature. She moved headstrong up and down steep, smoky terrain that no man could travail confidently. In a single *day*, this small Mongolian mare made fifty-one round-trips carrying nearly five tons of explosives to various gun sites. Sergeant Reckless was her name, and she was the horse renowned for carrying wounded soldiers on and off the battlefield and making solo trips across combat zones to deliver supplies.



Staff Sergeant Reckless in retirement.

From Wikipedia:

Staff Sergeant Reckless (c. 1948 - May 13, 1968) (Years of service 1952-1960), Reckless was bought by members of the United States Marine Corps and trained to be a pack horse for the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

She served in numerous combat actions during the Korean War, carrying supplies and ammunition, and was also used to evacuate wounded. Learning each supply route after only a couple of trips, she often traveled to deliver supplies to the troops on her own, without benefit of a handler. The highlight of her nine-month military career came in late March 1953 during the Battle for Outpost Vegas when, in a single day, she made 51 solo trips to resupply multiple front line units. She was wounded in combat twice and was given the battlefield rank of corporal in 1953 and then a battlefield promotion to sergeant in 1954, several months after the war ended. She also became the first horse in the Marine Corps known to have participated in an amphibious landing, and following the war was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and others. She was retired and brought to the United States after the war. She gave birth to four foals. She was officially promoted to staff sergeant in 1959 by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. On May 12, 2018, a bronze statue of Sergeant Reckless was placed and dedicated in the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington Kentucky.

3 Howard Dudgeon Trivia: "When I was working for Baylor, Baylor received a gift of 20 or 25 US gold coins. Baylor sold gifts of this type upon receipt. I asked Douglas Weaver Jewelers to sell them. Douglas Weaver called me and told me that he thought the coins weren't real gold but were counterfeit. He told me that the Germans started making counterfeit gold coins during WWII when it looked like they would lose the war. The coins are exact copies of American gold coins, same amount of gold. The main difference is the German coins have better coin strikes than American coins. The letters and images show better on the German coins.

Douglas Weaver returned the coins to Baylor. All counterfeit coins and currency must be turned over to the US Secret Service, so I called the US Secret Service and Secret Service agent Robert Blossman picked the coins up. I told him that the coins were a gift for Baylor endowment, and he told me if the coins were counterfeit, he would try to get the gold back to Baylor after the coins were defaced so Baylor could sell the gold.

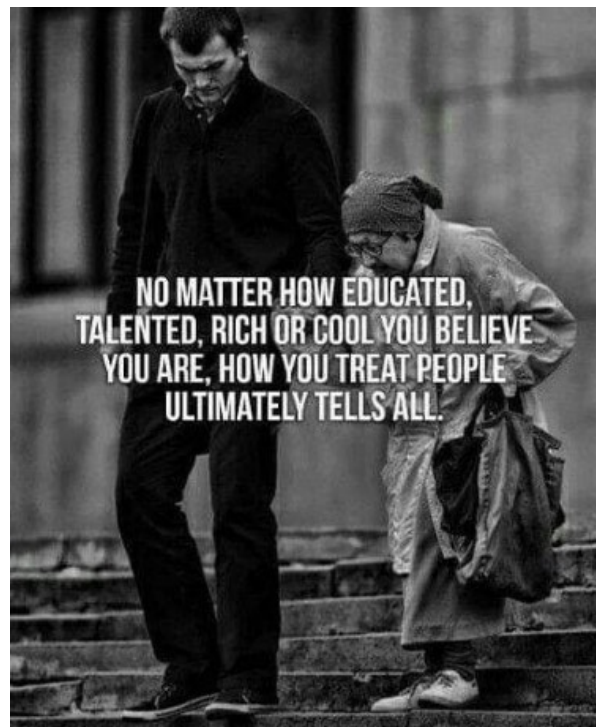
About a month later agent Blossman brought the coins back with a letter from United States Treasury that said the coins were authentic not counterfeit. The coins were authentic because of the trace minerals in the gold. The UST could tell where in the world the gold was mined because of the trace minerals. All the coins Baylor had been mined in the right place.

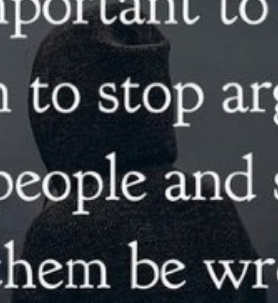
Baylor sold them immediately for more than we thought we would because of UST letter."

4 Jim Monnig ran across this old advertisement of Terrell Reagan's movie, "Slick Silver".



When Smart People Speak, We Should Listen:





In life,
it's important to know
when to stop arguing
with people and simply
let them be wrong.

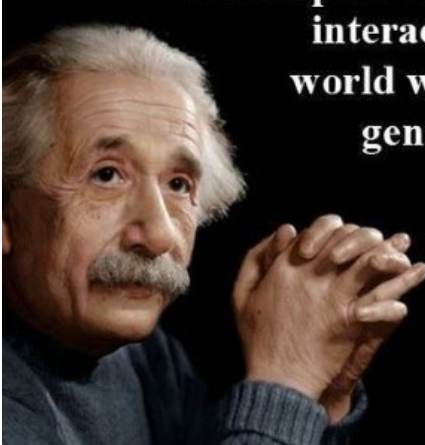
www.YourPositiveOasis.com

**DON'T
TRUST EVERYTHING
YOU SEE.
EVEN SALT LOOKS
LIKE SUGAR.**



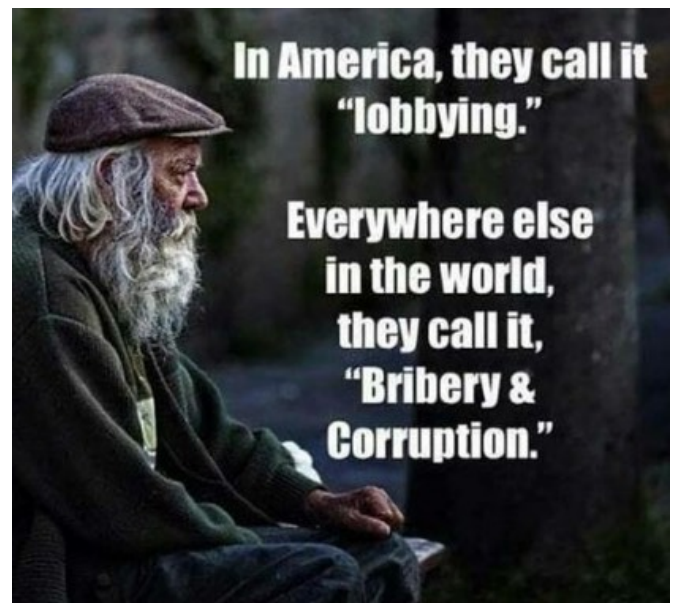
**A SMART PERSON KNOWS
WHAT TO SAY.
A WISE PERSON KNOWS
WHETHER TO SAY IT OR NOT.**

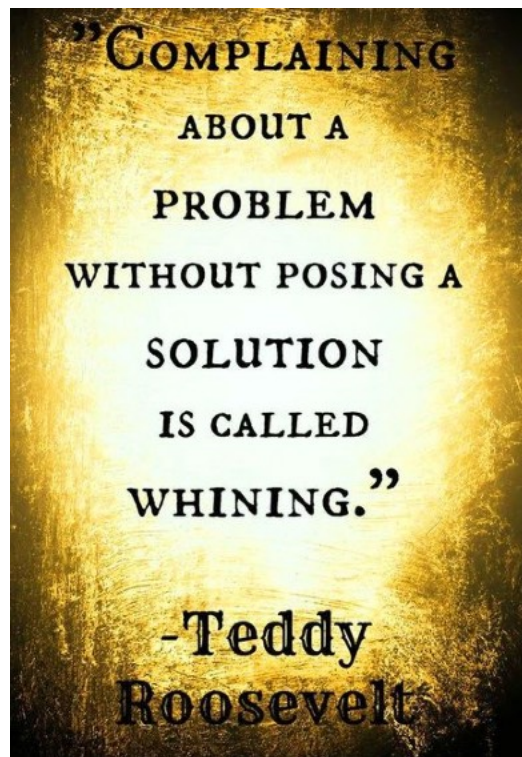
SMOKING SUCCESS



**“I fear the day that technology
will surpass our human
interaction. The
world will have a
generation of
idiots.”**

-Albert Einstein





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