

**JUNE 2024**

## **From Our Graduates:**

**Betty Luedeker Gatlin:** "I did not get any glasses for the eclipse- just took pictures with my cell phone pointed up. It was overcast here. Sat on the back porch when it got really dark. It did not last very long and my dog, Quatro, did not seem to notice. The traffic was awful and the schools closed down so we all stayed home."

**Bev Murphy Wells:** "Jim Monnig and Cate won first prize for me! Wow! What a darling little girl! I know Jim will keep us apprised of her antics from time to time! The little acorn giggling over an insight by her big tree! Good to hear that some of my classmates with challenging medical issues are doing a little better. PTL!"

## **Upon Meeting Famous People:**

*If our good friend and graduate, Linda Jarrett Hagman were still alive, I feel certain she would have a whole list of famous people she has met since she was married to Gary Hagman, half-brother of Larry Hagman, better known as J.R. Ewing. How could we ever forget J.R or who shot him???*

**Gwen Ewing Hodges:** "Someone asked if we had ever met anyone famous. Well on the Celebrity List and Political List I have not only met but worked and hosted many of them. What I learned is that most of us believe what their publicists and consultants tell us! What I found out is to not believe the Story you are told to believe but judge them by the character you witness! Believe me, the ones you are told are the really great ones can really disappoint! Should have learned this lesson earlier in life!"

**Howard Dudgeon:** "I have met several Texas governors through my job at Baylor, Price Daniel, John Connally, Mark White, Allen Shivers. Nancy Marshall who lived near us in Cameron Park was John Wayne's stepsister. When I was in the first or second grade, the Ringling Brothers Circus came to town. School let out early and my mother took my sister and I to the circus. It was out on Circle Road somewhere. Afterwards we ate at The Chef, later called George's Surf and Sirloin. George Williams, Barbara Williams' father, came in with John Ringling North, the owner of the circus. He introduced JRN to everyone in the place.

My mother met quite a few famous people, Josephine Baker, F Scott Fitzgerald, Billy Rose, Tyrone Power, Ann Baxter, Burgess Meredith, Raymond Massey and maybe Charles Laughton. The actors came to Baylor to teach and perform when Paul Baker ran the Baylor theatre department. My mother was taking graduate courses at Baylor then.

My mother went to Salem College in Winston Salem, North Carolina for several years. She met F. Scott Fitzgerald there. I don't know how.

My mother was interviewed for a job by Billy Rose. He offered her a job in New York as a showgirl. She declined. She was later offered a job as a clothes designer in New York by one of the fashion houses. She declined that also and married my dad."

**Jeanne Holland Harman:** I was on the Oil Barron Committee (benefitting Cancer) while living in Odessa and had a chance to meet and have my picture made with George Jones, but I cannot locate the picture.

My parents were from Abbott, TX and in their younger years knew Willie Nelson. They attended the same church as Willie when he was just a small boy. Mother said Willie was so young that his feet would not even touch the floor while sitting in the pew. Later, mother taught Willie in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade before she and Daddy moved to Waco in 1949. Then, in appx 1988, I bought Willie's book Willie with Bud Shrake for my father, and we drove to Abbott to have Willie autograph the book. Here is a picture of my parents with Willie during that visit.



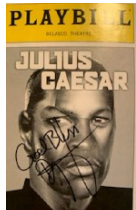
In 1987, my sister and I were in Abbott at Christmas visiting relatives. Willie had bought a house a few doors down, so Debbie and I went to wish Willie "Merry Christmas". (Willie and Annie had not yet married at the time.) He invited us into his living room. Here is a picture of me with Willie in front of his Christmas tree. Many years later I got to meet with Willie backstage at WinStar and he autographed the picture.



The last time I visited with Willie was in 2010, again backstage at WinStar.



In NYC 2005, I saw the play "JULIUS CAESAR" with Denzel Washington. Afterwards, Denzel stood in line and signed the Playbill of everyone who wanted his signature. When he found out we were from Texas, he visited just a bit to tell us about his new movie The Great Debaters that was filmed around Marshall and Jefferson TX. It was about a Black College in Texas. I could not believe Denzel was so nice to stand in line for an hour or more after the play to sign Playbills for all who desired.



*"God Bless, Denzel Washington"*

Lastly, in 2018, I got to go backstage at WinStar and visit with Steve Martin who had just performed a show with Martin Short. Steve Martin was Jack Martin's cousin; however, Jack had already died so instead, I was with Jack's relatives who also attended the show.



To my memory, that is my extent of my meeting famous people; however, I feel certain not a single one of them would remember me."

## **Memories of the May 11, 1953 tornado** *by Howard Dudgeon*

“School was dismissed 2:30 PM because of storm warnings. My mother picked my sister and I up and we went downtown. My mother and sister went to Goldstein’s to get my sister a dress and I went to Holts to get a new baseball glove. By the time we headed home it had gotten dark and started raining and hailing.

When we got home, I put on my football helmet and went out in the hailstorm. I picked up hail stones and brought them inside. My mother took pictures of me with the hail stones. Those pictures are at the Texas Collection at Baylor.

My father came home after the hailstorm was over and said the RT Dennis building was in the middle of 5th street. My mother, my sister and I went downtown and parked by the courthouse and walked to 5th and Austin to see the RTB. The police were on loudspeakers telling people to leave because natural gas was leaking. We left and went over to East Waco to see if our African American friends were safe. They were all safe.

We did not see my father very often over the next week. He was working in the emergency room at Providence or downtown doing triage.

Downtown Waco was under Marshall law all the way up 9th street. You can still see the repairs done to Dr. Pepper building when you drive down 5th street. The First Methodist Church steeple was knocked down. At Baylor a couple of steeples went down or were damaged and taken down. They were put back up in the 1970s.

Many of the doctors who took care of the injured had served in WWII and knew how to take care of mass casualty events. The doctors donated their services. There is plaque somewhere at Providence Hospital that commemorates this.”

## **UPDATES:**

**Babz Wester Musser:** Babz and her hubby, Larry, have now moved into an Assisted Living facility as Larry has Parkinsons and needs more care. They are now in the Grand Living at Georgetown. Their new address is [1330 W University Ave, Georgetown, TX 78628](#) . Their new phone number is **512-591-7240**. For email address- please use her daughter’s: [whoisKDK@yahoo.com](mailto:whoisKDK@yahoo.com)

**Elizabeth Bentley:** has a new email address: [liz\\_bug@icloud.com](mailto:liz_bug@icloud.com) Please update your directory.

**Gary Roberts and Carol Adams Roberts:** new address:  
10217 Creekside Ln  
Waco, TX 76712-2002

**Linda Phelps McKee-** “I am doing great. They took the dialysis port out last week and the diabetes is under control with diet. No medicine or insulin. I’m still weak and no energy, but it could just be laziness. James is tired of waiting on me. Says he is not my servant or slave. The walker and cane are my best friends. Only prayers and God could have brought me through all of this. The doctors said that 80% of people that have sepsis do not recover, much less pneumonia and kidney failure. Thanks to everyone for the prayers.”

## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS:**

- 7- Janice Player Howell**  
**Joyce Player Dorsey**
- 11- Dorothy Bryan McCook**
- 22- John Anderson**
- 27- Lana Neel Zahirniak**
- 28- Rod Sommer**

## **DID YOU KNOW??**



### **1 Tommye Ruth Blair Toler:**

I took a quick trip (if you can call 7 hours each way) to Weslaco, Texas, in March. I'm an amateur birder and I went to a state park called Estero Llano Grande. It is a bird-watching paradise, especially during migration. On Saturday morning I met with a group of experienced birders who were eager to identify birds for me. They carried cameras with long, heavy telephoto lenses. The leader carried a very large scope on a tripod. I had a small monocular and my small Panasonic digital camera. 😊

I was able to capture some photos of many birds I'd never seen before. I thoroughly enjoyed the day. Here are a few of my photos.

---



**Great Kiskadee Flycatcher**



Chachalaca




Green Jay

2. **Pat Payne** and his grandson playing golf in Naples last June. Look at this beautiful setting. No wonder Pat is so happy in Naples! And, he seems to have a sidekick that is a “chip off the old block”.

*(Side note: “My bad. I have had Pat’s pictures for one year and somehow they got overlooked. Please forgive...most of all to Pat. I guess I am slipping in my old age as hard as I fight it. However, there is an old saying—**Better late than never.**”) jh*





 **Your Life Well Organized** -Anika Gandhi

### **Some uses of Dawn Dish Soap that have Nothing to do with Dishes**

- 1\*\* **Homemade ice pack**- fill a Ziplock bag halfway with Dawn dish soap and then place in your freezer. It works just as well as a gel icepack.
- 2\*\* **Deice your walkway**- mixed with hot water and rubbing alcohol, Dawn can clear the ice from your walkway without refreezing. You can get the recipe online.
- 3\*\* **Pest deterrent for plants**- mix a few drops into a spray bottle of water and apply directly to leaves of a plant. You should experience no more pesky pests.
- 4\*\* **Hair product buildup**- once a month shampoo with Dawn will remove buildup from your hair. Always follow with a good conditioner. Do not use daily as it will strip your scalp and hair of the natural oils needed
- 5\*\* **Defog your eye glasses**- apply a drop to each lens and then wipe.
- 6\*\* **First aid for poison ivy**- washing the infected area should give relief because of the oil-fighting properties in it.

[12 Genius Uses of Dawn Dish Soap That Have Nothing to Do With Dishes \(msn.com\)](http://msn.com)

## **Humor:**

### **ROMANCE**

Barb was lying in bed one night. Al was falling asleep but Barb was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk.

She said: "You used to hold my hand when we were courting."

Wearily he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep.

A few moments later she said: "Then you used to kiss me..."

Al, mildly irritated, reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said: "Then you used to bite my Neck..."

Angrily, Al threw back the bed clothes and got out of bed.

"Where are you going?" Barb asked..

"To get my teeth!"

### **DOWN AT THE RETIREMENT CENTER**

80-year old Bessie bursts into the rec room at the retirement home.

She holds her clenched fist in the air and announces, "Anyone who can guess what's in my hand can have sex with me tonight!!"

An elderly gentleman in the rear shouts out, "An elephant?"

Bessie thinks a minute and says, "Close enough."

### **OLD FRIENDS**

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me... I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her.

Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

### **SUPERSEX**

A little old lady who had lost her marbles was running up and down the halls in a nursing home.

As she ran, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say "Supersex."

She ran up to an elderly man in a wheelchair, flipping her gown at him, she said, "Supersex."

He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, "I'll take the soup."

### **DRIVING**

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car - both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to a major crossroad. The stop light was red, but they just went on through.

The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself, "I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light." After a few more minutes, they came to another major junction and the light was red again. Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was losing it. She was getting nervous.

At the next junction, sure enough, the light was red and they went on through. So, she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, did you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!"

Mildred turned to her and said, "Oh! Am I driving?"

One day, you'll be able to tell your grandkids, "I survived the Great Toilet Paper Shortage of 2020."

**They say marriages are made in Heaven. But so is thunder and lightning.**

~ Clint Eastwood

**A person with a sharp tongue will eventually cut themselves.**

~ J. Robson Koenig

There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think "THEY ARE GOING TO FIND ME NAKED."

**Never miss a good chance to shut up.**

~ Will Rogers

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