



JUNE 2026



## From our Graduates

**Betty Luedeker Gatlin:** "Have to read some Ben K. Greene."

**Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff:** "So many memories of Kim's. We ate there at lunch when we could. Loved their hamburgers. Would love to eat there again but can't make it."

**Howard Dudgeon:** Howard reports there are 221 deceased 1960 graduates including the 15 recently discovered and Sue Welborn Hopper.

**Bev Murphy Wells:** "Larry Thomas has a beautiful daughter, know he's proud of her! Agree with Clara Sue, miss the bluebonnets! Also agree with Snoopy, every day's a gift!"

## Re: death of Janene Loftis Jett's husband, Ernest

**Tommye Blair Toler:** "So sorry to hear that. She and Ernie had a wonderful life and raised a beautiful family. I've contacted Janene on Facebook. She and I have been friends since were old enough to walk. We were neighbors."

**Nanci Stiteler Felice:** "Janene was a good friend of mine in high school and was in my wedding party. I also enjoyed knowing Ernie who was a friendly, humorous man and my husband and I socialized with them in the early days of both marriages. Then they moved to Missouri and we moved to Colorado and then the Philippines so we lost touch. I didn't know she was back in Texas."

## More comments regarding John Anderson

**Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff:** "I am so sorry to hear of John's passing, and I feel such sympathy for his wife who is among strangers with much to arrange and oversee....thoughts and prayers are with her and the family."

**Bill Alexander:** "Sad news. John and I were good friends in high school. We were both on the track team and in the off season (Fall) if we didn't play football we were supposed to run to stay in shape. John and I ran all over Cameron Park together. One time we climbed up the Lovers' Leap cliff from bottom to top. I spent a lot of time in his house on Fish Pond road. He was always shoving books in my face: "Here, read this!" far beyond my usual nerdy science fiction fare. I never found a subject he wasn't interested in. John was a remarkable person who led a remarkable life."

**Betty Barkley Flowers:**

"Gosh Jeanne- Just glad he died doing what he loved."

**Tim Lasseter Latta:**

"Still in shock over John's death. Never have I known anyone like him. We exchanged a few letters over the years. I wish we had seen each other while we were both still in CA."

**Mickey Lavy:**

"While John and I were not friends in school, he was always a friendly guy. At the reunion last year, we had a nice visit. I like remembering that, actually, we were friends."

**Bev Murphy Wells:**

"Of course, we're all in shock about John Anderson! I know he had an adventurous life from all his travels, and it was great reading about all of them and hearing about them at the reunion and enjoying his highlights and memories of Waco and other places he lived. It was great seeing him at the reunion and knowing he had found love who also had a love for travel to enjoy with John. He contributed so much to society with his medical experience and his adventures while in the military, adding to his contributions. It's almost like he lived several lifetimes in one with so many interesting highlights. Just glad he was at the reunion, and we were introduced to his wife. Keeping her and John's family in my prayers. John led quite a life and a specimen of multiple talents from military service to doctor, teacher, coach. So glad he was at the reunion so we could enjoy him one more time. And most of us took trips in our imagination when he shared his travels. Knowing he was in one of his favorite places and with his lovely wife with him, is consoling but still the world will miss his talents and his conduit of knowledge."



## **Sharon McCarthy Odell:**

“In July (2025), I was excited and surprised to be invited (at age 82) to join 41 younger participants in Leadership Richardson 2025-2026, a 10-month program that offers hands-on interaction and insights into different areas of the Richardson community. During the past nine months we have discussed team building, leadership styles, problem solving and, by assigned committees, have presented special sessions on Richardson’s Arts and Culture, Public Education, City Government, Healthcare, Social Services, and Business and Economic Development.

My committee, Public Safety, has the final presentation in May. While the other topics were educational and interesting, Public Safety “research” has offered me unique opportunities and experiences I never anticipated - among them an individual ride-along with an on-duty Richardson police officer and participating in a vehicle extraction with Richardson firefighters.

My 4-hour ride-along began as back-up to a speeding citation that quickly escalated to a felony arrest once the wrecker arrived to impound the woman’s car after she refused to climb off her car’s trunk! Next, we rushed to a serious wreck (luckily, no one was injured) where a woman in a Volkswagen T-boned (and totaled) a Tesla. Our last stop was an after-hours bar fight. Both men "left" and were quickly picked up, with one taken by ambulance to the hospital with a broken jaw. I was never in any danger - and the policeman with whom I rode considered it "a slow Friday morning!"

Our committee’s trip to the Richardson Fire Training Center to observe firefighters demonstrating a vehicle extraction in which trapped individuals are safely removed from a wrecked car turned into quite a surprise! RFD Chief Curtis Poovey wanted our team to have hands-on experience before our presentation to the class, so he allowed us to cut up a car! I now can say - and have the photos to prove - that I have sawed open a windshield, punched out two car windows, and used the 50-pound Jaws of Life to cut off two car doors and part of a car’s roof to turn a passenger car into a doorless, windowless “convertible!”

Working with these city leaders has given me valuable insights into my community and has been far more rewarding than I ever could have imagined. These experiences have far exceeded what I expected to be doing in my eighties – and I have enjoyed every minute!”



**sawing a windshield**



**cutting off a door**



a completed car extraction



Sharon with her 'overseers'

## Updates

Carolyn Taylor- widow of Rayburn Taylor has a different home phone number. Please correct your directory. Home ph- 254-666-4552.

Mark (Sandy) Knapp died on May 13, 2026. Mark was our age and went to Waco schools but graduated from Reicher. Still, many may know Mark as he was an attorney for 50 years here in Waco. His obit can be read at this link: [Mark Sanborn Knapp Obituary May 13, 2026 - Wilkerson-Hatch-Bailey Funeral Home](#)



## Those who really liked the 'REUNION' poem:

SuEllen Wilson, Tommye Ruth Toler, Greg Howell, Betty Gatlin, Jim Monnig, David Pettus, Cathey Land, Linda McKee, Tim Latta, Bev Wells. Everyone could relate to some of the experiences conveyed in the poem. A Big thanks to Malissa from ALL of them.

## June Birthdays

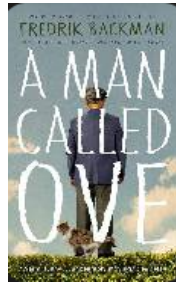
7---- Janice and Joyce Player  
11-- Dorothy Bryan  
27-- Lana Neel Zahirniak  
28-- Rod Sommer



## The Book Corner

### Carol Barry –(AHS'60)

As you know, several people read the Town Crier who are not WHS 1960 graduates. One of these individuals is my freshman college roommate, Carol Burch Barry. Carol and I have stayed in touch over these many years and have become very close friends despite the many miles that separate us. Carol graduated from Arlington High School in Arlington, TX in 1960. She moved to Florida in 1962 and has been a Floridian ever since. Carol is an avid reader and has been a member of the same book club for 34 years. She recommends the following book for this month's newsletter and has these comments:



"Greetings WHS class of 1960.

Since Jeanne began sharing '*The Crier*' with me, I have lived vicariously through its content many times because I did not stay in contact with my own graduating class. I have found it incredible to discover that so many interesting and accomplished people graduated from the same place at the same time. I enjoy each time one of you shares about your life. Everyone, in his own way, has made this a better world. I know how grateful you must be to our mutual friend, Jeanne, for faithfully doing her best to keep everyone in touch after all these many years. It is such a blessing. So, when she invited me into '*The Book Corner*' to suggest a book, I was honored.

I selected [A MAN CALLED OVE](#), first, because I love it. I care about the characters, can see them in my mind, and often sooner than later, feel like I "get" them. Swedish writer, Fredrik Backman, has masterfully written a story that is easy to read, light because of the 'laugh out loud humor' yet still manages to dig deeply into our innermost sorrows.

This novel was published in Swedish in 2012, and after being published in English in 2013, it reached the New York Times best seller list in 18 months where it stayed for 42 weeks. I highly recommend the Swedish film based on the book and given the same title. I found it more closely captures the essence of the film than the enjoyable American version called "*A Man named Otto*" starring Tom Hanks.

The plot? I would like to paraphrase from the back of the book cover and just say it is about a grumpy old man that's an uplifting exploration of the unreliability of first impressions, and reminder that life is sweeter when it is shared with other people." -Carol Barry

## A neat idea



### Vintage Doilies-

If you happen to have any doilies in a drawer that belonged to members of your family and you just ‘could not get rid of’ them because they were hand crocheted....here is an idea that might be useful. With a bit of fabric stiffener (such as Mod Podge) or a little white glue, your fabric will harden into the shape of a bowl to sit on your selected place. This is the perfect way to create a catch-all container that tackles clutter while giving use to the handiwork of your loved ones.

**First**, find a bowl or cup to work as the mold that will determine the shape and size of your doily dish. Wrap the bottom of the container with aluminum foil or plastic wrap to protect it from the glue or fabric stiffener. Wrapping it will also make it easier to pull the doily off the mold when you're finished. If you're using white glue (like Elmer's), you will need to mix it with a bit of water. Combine about 2 ounces of water with 3 ounces of glue, then coat the fabric entirely. With Mod Podge, you may not need to thin it with water first. If you want to change the color of your doily, add a little fabric or acrylic paint in the glue. Once the material is completely soaked, lay it over your mold and wait at least 24 hours for the glue to dry and harden. If you want to enclose the holes in your doilies, use a piece of scrap fabric to line the inside or outside of the bowl. Simply apply the glue to both the doily and fabric piece and place them over your mold together. This will prevent small objects like earrings from falling out of your storage dish.

## Humor

### On Getting older:

- \* **I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.**
- \* **Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time," isn't the correct response.**
- \* **Don't irritate old people. The older we get, the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.**
- \* Have you ever listened to someone for a minute and thought, "Their cornbread isn't done in the middle."
- \* **I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.**
- \* **I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.**
- \* **My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make food right in front of you. I took her to Subway. That's when the fight started.**
- \* Picked up a hitchhiker. He asked if I wasn't afraid because he might be a serial killer? I told him the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely.
- \* **I went line dancing last night.....OK, it was a roadside sobriety test... same thing.**
- \* **As I watch this new generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of....it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.**

**We are not  
aging, we are  
ripening to  
perfection.**

**AS A KID, I USED TO  
WATCH THE WIZARD OF  
OZ AND WONDER HOW  
SOMEONE COULD TALK  
IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE A  
BRAIN. THEN I GOT  
SOCIAL MEDIA.**

**Confucius say: Man who drive like Hell, bound to get there.**

**Confucius Say: Man who live in Glass house should change clothes in Basement.**

**Confucius Say: War does not determine who is right, war determines who is left.**

**Confucius Say: Man with one Chopstick go hungry.**

### Can't Help but Love This Doctor:



**Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?**

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it... don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out, eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

**Q: Is swimming good for your figure?**

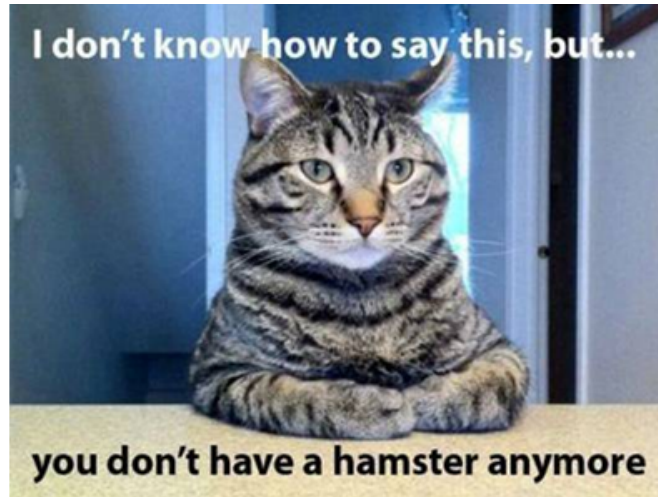
A: If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me.

**Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?**

A: Definitely not! When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger.

You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

*'Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Chardonnay in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO, What a Ride!'*



## **ESTATE PLANNING**

Joe was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. He knew that he would inherit a fortune once his sickly father died.

Joe wanted two things:

- 1 To learn how to invest his inheritance.
- 2 To find a wife to share his fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away.

"I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million dollars."

Impressed, the woman took his business card. Two weeks later, she became his stepmother.

**Moral:** Women are much better at estate planning than men.

-- The Youth may walk faster but the elderly know the road. --



In Memory of our class president,

John David Anderson

June 22, 1942- May-6-2026

doing what he loved to do:  
visiting new places.

In this picture—John at a waterfall, somewhere in Iceland.

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