



TRAVIS ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS NEWSLETTER

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Volume 3

February, 2008

Issue 2

VALENTINE'S DAY HISTORY

St. Valentine's Day originated from several events and customs. It is named after St. Valentine, who was a Christian priest. A Roman Custom also contributed to what we know as Valentine's Day today. They held a festival each year called the Festival of Lupercalia at the same time of the year as Valentine's Day. Later the holiday changed into a holiday to honor the Roman goddess, Juno, whom the Romans believed ruled over marriages. It became a holiday of love. When the Christian church became powerful the Pope changed the holiday to honor St. Valentine.



Left: Sandra Barnes, Joe Dickenson, Glenn Brunson, Richard Urban, Newton Weatherly, Shirley Bridges, Bobby Stephenson, Molly Spence, Wynie Burton, Larry Smith, Gene Smith, Freddie Landford, Griffin Hancock, and Marshall Parish.

For Valentine's Day, I remember my 3rd grade class decorated a Valentine box and placed it on a chair in the hall outside the classroom for students to drop their valentine cards into it at the Main Building in the campus of TSD during the year of 1951. My classmate, Newton Weatherly's mother baked three heart-shaped cakes for his class. *By Glenn Brunson*



NEWS & NOTES



Mr. & Mrs. Tom Compton's daughter Jennifer has a baby daughter born on November 20, 2007 (their first grandchild.) Her name is Maya Elizabeth Connor. She

weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and 18 ¾ in. (By Tom TSD'68 and Patsy (Loyd) TSD'63 Compton)

Tennie Sessions was very surprised when she got two videophone calls from her old friends, Hazel Benefield TSD'64 of Georgia and Kathryn (Wade) Fiscus TSD'55 of Chico, California. Hazel had been at Helen Keller National Center in New York for computer training good. Kathryn has been married to a deaf man of Iowa for 46 years. Tenniel had not seen her for 53 years. She enjoyed chatting with them. (By Virginia (Tennie) Sessions TSD'58)

Wedding Bells: Doug Adkins TSD'75, and formerly of Austin and Jil Thompson TSD'74 were married in Ashford, Canada on November 8, 2007. Jil was the daughter of the late parents, Jack and Shirley Thompson.

Jack TSD'63 and Charlene Giacona flew to Chicago to visit with Charlene's sister and family for Thanksgiving on November 17, 2007.

Dale Hovinga is back at Health South Rehabilitation Hospital and in much better shape than he was before he went to Seton Hospital for his two heart attacks. He is in good spirits and motivated to do physical therapy. (By Sharon Hovinga – Jan. 23, 2008)



Vera Christal TSD'63, Charlene (Grimes) Mullenix TSD'52. Patricia (Beadles) Fair TSD'58, and Jewel (Melugin) Wood TSD'54.

Charlene (Grimes) TSD'52 Mullenix of Fremont, California spent two weeks visiting with her daughter, Patricia Clark in Austin from December 17 thru 30. Her granddaughter, Clark (TSD 2006), who is a first year student at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., flew to Austin to be with them for Christmas. Charlene really enjoyed her visit with her family.

Charlene reported that 85 deaf senior citizens attended a New Year's Eve Party at FOG (Fremont Oak Garden of Deaf Senior Citizens) in Fremont on December 31. They are looking forward to having a Super bowl party at FOG on February 3.

Charlene informed that Vera Christal of Belmont, California took her houseguests, Patricia (Beadles) Fair of Akron, Ohio and her son, Jason Southwell of Miami, Florida to Fremont and visited FOG all day on January 4. Charlene and Jewell Wood were so surprised to see them, and showed them around FOG.

My dearest son, Jason Southwell, gave me a wonderful surprise gift for Christmas, Birthday, and New Years Celebration. An interesting vacation! He flew me down to Miami, Florida to meet him in December.

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On Friday, December 21st we took off to San Francisco, California. We stayed in the bay area for 3 days. We saw a most everything by walking on foot; lots to see and do around the Bay; Wonderful sights like Pier 39, world famous migrating sea lions, lots of great shops and restaurants too! We loved riding the street trolley to Downtown Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf (we had incredible clam chowder in a bread bowl! There were also several cable cars to ride up and down the steep hills like Hyde Street Hill. We even got tickets to go see Alcatraz Island – that famous prison – for when we returned on the final leg of our trip. On Sunday my friends Vera Christal and Bob Akers (both live in San Francisco) took us around see some more wonderful sights! Really interesting places like the Golden Gate Bridge, a trip up a local mountain to overlook the city and bridge (gorgeous view) and riding on the crookedest street in the world! It was so much fun. So many beautiful Victorian homes...several where famous actors and actresses used to live or where they filmed many movies! That evening we went to Spinnaker's the Bay for dinner. A truly great view of the Golden Gate Bridge. We could ever see Otters playing in the Bay below us! It was truly fantastic to see the fog rolling in on the bay near twilight! I just would love to see more there! We owe Vera and Bob many thanks for such a wonderful time! Monday, we rented a car and left San Francisco down the scenic coast of California on Hwy 1. Really thrilling views all the way...mountains, sea cliffs, and the rolling ocean! We stopped in Big Sur to eat in a mountainside restaurant. As we looked out over the water while eating, another tourist told us that we really should go and see the Elephant seals on the beach. We were curious so we went. And what a good time!

They fought and barked like dogs, but they are HUGE! We watched until the sun started to set in the distance. We drove on to Long Beach, California and stayed for 3 days...afloat with Royalty aboard the spectacular "Queen Mary Hotel"...really cool and unusual hotel! We ventured out one day to visit the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum in Simi Valley where it sits atop a hill and overlooks the terrain of the Simi Valley. It was funny to see a sign warning people that there are rattlesnakes around (Yikes!) There was also part of the Berlin Wall just outside of the Museum too! We spend Christmas Dinner with Jason's CODA friends Darlene Geyer and her sister Deanne Nosch at Darlene's beautiful ranch house in the mountains! Darlene's husband cooked for us all...It was really delicious! We spend a wonderful evening together just trading stones! The next day we went to Hollywood! Just full of crazy roads, houses on cliffs...Just lots of fun things to see! Then we went to downtown Hollywood, it wasn't as big as! Expected it to be. The next day we loaded up the car and left for Arizona to see some old family friends in Phoenix. Karen Domabyl and her family (I used to work with Karen at Sea World. She is such a sweet woman, haven't seen her in 14 years! We also visited Gerald Rowe and his daughter Penny. Gerald's wife Irene (passed away years ago) used to be my son Jason's teacher in 1st grade. All of us were so very happy to see each other again after so many years! It was nice to get caught up on old times! After that, we were off to the Grand Canyon! I was not prepared. It was terrible cold (only 12 degrees) and so windy too! However, we did not give up. The view was just too amazing! Just looking out on the horizon! I got goose bumps and my eyes get so wide... just breathtaking! There were lots of icy spots, so we had to be careful! I

did slip and fall, good thing I didn't break a leg! Ha! We stayed there for 3 days! We were able to see some elks walking nearby out cabins, some big raven, and even some odd squirrels with hairy pointed ears! After leaving the Canyon, we went to Hoover Dam. I was amazing to see such a manmade thing stretch from one mountain to another! We drove along the base of the dam. Wow! Then it was off to Vegas' in Las Vegas, Nevada we stayed at the Mirage Hotel for 2 days. Can you believe we didn't do any gambling?! There just was not enough time! Too many things to see and do! We saw an amazing performance by Cirque Du Soleil at the MGM Grand Hotel. The performers did so many dangerous acrobatics we couldn't take our eyes off the show! A really colorful and exciting show! We were so very tired, but pushed on because there was so much to see! Finally, we ended up on Freemont Street to watch the fireworks for New Years. The street was so crowded we could hardly push ourselves through! I imagined it must feel the same way in Times Square in New York for New Years. After the show, we were just too worn out and went back to the hotel for some much deserved rest. The next day we drove off to Death Valley National Park. I was very eager to see it! There was hardly any traffic or cars on this whole leg of the trip...it was so weird. Once we got there, we walked to the sand dunes. These hills are not easy to climb, the sand is so fine! I have never seen pink sand like this before; After that we returned to Vera and Bob's house (They were worried because the fog was so dense the night we arrived) We had to cancel our trip to Alcatraz Island because the fog was so thick instead. Vera took us to Fremont to visit Charlene Mullenix and Jewel Wood in their lovely apartment. I would love to live there myself. I remember

them when we were schoolgirls at TSD. Eventually Vera and bob took us back to the airport where we flew to Florida. I stayed with Jason and William a week before returning home. *(By Patricia Fair)*

Vernon Pate (TSD'50) retired on January 15 after 26 years as a resident educator at TSD. *Best Wishes, Vernon.*

1940-1941 Primary Hall at TSD



Seating: Teacher: Mrs. Bess Allman, Elida De La Frienta-Ima, Jean (Ledbetter) Martin, Linnie Buckekew, Dorothy Gilliam. **Standing:** Minnie Lee (Holst) Collins, Bettie Lou (Ledbetter) Stone, Gus Curbello, Thomas Gonzales, and Thomas Pruitt.

What became of Elida De La Frienta and Dorothy Gilliman, but someone says Dorothy Gilliam lived in Waco, Texas, isn't she? I met Linnie Bucklelew in Lubbock, Texas in 1994 through Finice Taylor that told me she lived there but she was not married so I do not know if she still lives up there or not. Thomas Gonzales died in San Antonio, Texas some years ago. Ima Jean Ledbetter Martin still lives in San Antonio, Texas so is her sister Bettie Lou Ledbetter lives in Kilgore, Texas married to Wesley Stone. Thomas Pruitt lives in Dallas, Texas, married to Martha Baker. What an interesting story about Minnie Lee (Holst) Collins and Gus Curbello were in the same

classmates ever since the first year in September, 1940 till they graduated in May, 1953. Now Minnie Lee lives in Fort Worth, Texas and married to H.C. Collins and Gus Curbello in Houston, Texas, and married to Zelma Sides of Dallas, Texas. *(Submitted by Minnie (Holst) Collins, TSD'53 of Fort Worth, Texas)*

LONE STAR JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF – October 15, 1946

“My mother tried to get me to learn to read lips in school, but I couldn’t do it. Then she met a deaf woman who told her that I had better go to school in Austin. Mother surely thanked her.” *(Lewis Stovall TSD'52)*

NATION DEAFDIGEST:

TEXAS TEEN KILLED WHILE CROSSING STREET

A deaf Texas teen lost his life in a tragic car crash Sunday night, January 6, said CBS 7. James Dale Haney, 18, was carrying a bicycle and crossing West County Road when he was hit by a truck. Haney, who was profoundly deaf, died in the hospital a few hours later. An account has been set up at a local credit union to help the family.

A NOTICEABLE CEMETERY GRAVE

Cemeteries have their own graves whose shape and design stand out among others on the same grounds.

At the Sunnyside Cemetery in Long Beach, CA, one such monument stands out. It is the grave of Dr. Albert Rhea who was buried in 1907.

Rhea was a late deafened physician who was hit by a street car and was instantly killed. Being deaf he was not able to hear and move out of the way of the incoming vehicle.

Not sure if there were other cemeteries whose highly visible monuments were erected to honor the deaf.

Word is out that the captioning lawsuit in Arizona is not going too well. The judge in the lawsuit gave hints that she may rule against the ADA. She is implying that the ADA requires no captioning at all, be it open or closed.

If Judge rules against us, she is opening the doors for an automatic appeal-which only succeeds in one thing, making the attorneys richer!

To get ready for the 2008 Olympics, the Beijing police officers are studying phrases in seven languages, English included. Such phrases are “hello”, “good morning”, “may I help you/”, etc. The police conducted a survey to get feedback from tourists. One such unpleasant phrase the cops unwittingly used in the past, when dealing with tourists, was this: “Are you deaf?” Just hope they will not unwittingly change to this new phrase: “Are you hearing?” *(Copied by Deaf digest)*

TRIVIA

Where was the first supermarket?

France had the first supermarket in the world. It was started by relatives of the people who started the Texas Big Bear supermarket chain. *(Remember?? About 1950's it was on South Congress and Barton Spring Road.)*

AUSTIN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF 1ST ANNUAL MIXED TOURNAMENT



At Westgate Lane
2701 W. William Cannon Drive
February 9, 2008, Saturday
Two squad times: 1:00pm and 3:00pm
Admission - \$7.00
Senior Citizens - \$5.00

Obituaries



Lisa Ann Mosley, 50, exTSD, passed away Wednesday, January 23, 2008 in Pasadena. She was born December 30, 1958



Frank Roy Martino, Jr. 71, TSD'55, retired printer, of San Marcos, Texas, died December 26, 2007. He is survived by his son, Thomas Martino, and one sister of Houston. He was buried at Hays County Cemetery San Marcos.



James Levey Sorenson, founder of Sorenson Video Relay Service and Utah's richest man (\$4.5 Billion, said Forbes), died Sunday of prostate cancer at the age of 86. When Sorenson founded Sorenson VRS in 2003, he

"revolutionized the way the deaf communicate," colleague Dave Johnson told The Salt Lake Tribune. The following year, Sorenson developed a relationship with Gallaudet University through his son, James Lee Sorenson, a member of the school's Board of Associates. The elder Sorenson went on to make one of the largest donations in school history, a \$5

million gift for the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center (SLCC). According to a GU's Daily Digest, Sorenson made his last visit to the campus in April, 2007 for the SLCC groundbreaking ceremony.

Ronnie White, 70, ex-TSD'57, passed away Sunday, January 28, 2007 of Temple, Texas. He went to TSD in 1945 and left school in 1957. More information will be next month Newsletter.



Sara (Stanley) TSD'65 Harris with Betty Thrasher's Dad Mr. Durward Lewter, Jr. when she was a little girl. She looks so cute. (By Betty (Lewter) Thrasher)

DEAFNATION EXPO AUSTIN



The Crockett Center
10605 North Lamar
Austin, Texas 78753

March 1, 2008, Saturday

Exhibit Hours: 9am to 6pm

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

RECIPE

NUTTY CHOCOLATE FUDGE

By Eileen (Kennedy) Brookes

Prep Time: 15 min. Cook Time: 10 min.

- 1 can (5oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) Nestle semi-sweet chocolate morsels.
- ½ cup pecan pieces
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1. Heavily spray an 8-inch square pan with non-stick cooking spray and set aside.
- 2. Combine milk, sugar and salt in heavy saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly, until it boils. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.
- 3. Remove saucepan from heat and add chocolate morsels, pecan pieces and vanilla. Stir the fudge slowly with a spoon until chocolate morsels have completely melted.
- 4. Spread the fudge into prepared square pan. Allow the fudge in a container and use plastic wrap or foil to separate the layers. Make 24 fudge squares.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Glenda McNabb
- 5 Carl Brininstool
- 9 Ruby Garcia
- 19 Tom Compton
- 19 Judy Thomas
- 24 John Hesser
- 24 Ruby Kleberg
- 27 Robert Easley



EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send any news, announcement, note, or favorite recipes **Deadline February 24, 2008** to the Editor, Glenn Brunson, 7101 Hanging Oak Circle, Austin, Texas 78749, or email to gbrunson@austin.rr.com

Renewal Members: June Greer, Ben & Margaret Williams, John & Vivian Hesser, Johnny Martz, Connie Griffin, Alan Stein, and Rosetta Newman.

New Members: Kathryn Fiscus, Julie Spaulding, P.D. Ake, Margie Bridges, Jerry Capell, Shirley Dye, Early McVey, Hazel Benefield, E. Lavonia Morris, Edward Holloway, and Jerry Williams.

NEXT MEETING

South Austin Senior Activity Center
3911 Manchaca Road

February 7, 2008, Thursday

At 1:00 p.m.

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER SPEAK

Meeting

Valentine Refreshments & Door Prizes

Be seeing you there!

WHO ARE THEY?



Left; Tom Withrow, Howard Pace, Lee Morte, Melvin Hoffman, Billy Basham, Ruby Achee, Olan Lawrence, Wanda Parker, Marian (Seale) Jackson, and no names? (If you know their names and teacher, please mail to Glenn Brunson, TSD Heritage Center, 7101 Hanging Oak Circle, Austin, Texas 78749.

Daylight Saving Time

Start and end date changes

Beginning **March 9, 2008** One hour Forward

One hour back in next **November 2, 2008.**

ABE LINCOLN

Try to find the **ABE LINCOLN** words from the list. Words may be hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward, or backward.

G N O R T S G S G R E A T V H
 R A W L I V I C M N P H V C W
 U H R M S R H S L A E D I K G
 B H O E E Y E O M A R R I E D
 S I O N D M C Y T B H T O O B
 Y A B L E N O R W R W K U D F
 T N E D I S E R P A R G N A T
 T I I L P D T L I H L A M U K
 E B S E T D A V S A M I O N E
 G A E L V N B Y S M L O B X E
 R C L E A D E R O Y E R C D S
 H A K T F V D C I S A B V O C
 S S I M P L E N E V R P U N G
 N O R T H I T S E D N T Q E D
 N F C B Q O L I U D H W C J H

ABRAHAM
 BOOTH
 CABIN
 CIVIL WAR
 DEBATE
 DOUGLAS
 GETTYSBURG
 HOLIDAY
 HONEST
 LAWYER
 LEADER
 LINCOLN
 MEMORIAL
 NATION
 PRESIDENT
 SLAVES
 SMART
 SOUTH
 SPEECH

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION SENIOR CITIZENS

(Above 55 years old)

TAD-SC Membership Dues: \$10.00 a year

Please check (X)

New Member

☐

Renewal Member

☐

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Videophone: _____ TTY: _____

Email: _____ FAX: _____

Please mail the above from with a check or money order payable to Travis Association of the Deaf-Senior Citizens (TAD-SC) to Glenn Brunson, Treasurer, 7101 Hanging Oak Circle, Austin, Texas 78749. *Thank you for your support.*

