

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

Volume 4

January, 2003

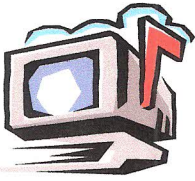
Issue 1

Happy New Year



Today is our **4th** year anniversary. The editorial board would like to thank you for your continued support.

Have a very **Happy New Year** from the staff of SC Newsletter.



From the Editor:

Houston
Deaf
Senior
Citizen
Newsletter

Editor

Frank Shaw

The Staff

Karen Clifton

*Zelma
Curbello*

Pedro Solis

Roger Spivey

*Mary Jo
Stevens*

*Audrey
Leger-Wright*



Please send any news, information, picture or recipe that you wish to share with Senior Citizens. We would appreciate if you could write no more than 250 words of any news due to limited space on the newsletter. Please note that the editor may at his discretion edit articles or news item for brevity and to correct errors. Mail to: Houston Deaf Senior Citizens, 9954 Kirkshire Drive, Houston, TX 77089, email to hdsnews@yahoo.com, or fax to (281) 416-0799 or (713) 781-4576. **The deadline is on 15th of each month.**

Note: If your subscription is not paid within three months after the due date, your name will be removed from our mailing list.

Have a marvelously good and healthy New Year.

Thank you,

Frank Shaw



**Flash News for next field trip
Houston Metro, January 10, 2003**

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray at 8:30 AM. The bus will depart no later than 9:00AM. The group will visit Houston Museum of Natural History ~ 'Century of Change: Texas Natural History', Reliant Stadium (maybe), Holocaust Museum and Art Car Museum.

Fee is \$3.50 per person at the Houston Museum of Natural History plus lunch expense at a buffet restaurant. Free admission to tour Holocaust Museum and Art Car Museum

If you are interested in going on the field trip, please contact Audrey Leger-Wright at 281-437-6224 before the 10th. Come and let's have fun together. See you on 10th.

NEWS

Report by Maxine (Chatelain) Sheffield, Charleston, SC

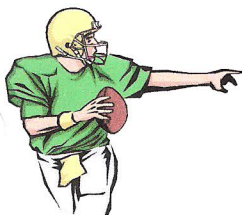
My husband, Robert (Bobby) and I are products of Louisiana State School in Baton Rouge. We moved to Charleston, South Carolina from Baton Rouge in 1997. For the past 5 years we have been enjoying our brand new home.

On Saturday, November 16, 2002 I walked around the house from the back patio to the front sidewalk, and I was shocked to see Faye Sims and her son, Dale. We walked forward to meet and hugged each other. Her coming all the way from TEXAS down to see me with a surprise made my day on my 67th birthday.

We showed them around different places. Faye and Dale enjoyed their sightseeing in the beautiful city of Charleston, SC, where it's third in a rank of America's most historic gateway cities. The first is New York and the second is Chicago.

Herminio Gonzalez, Jr, Head Coach of the FSDB Dragons:

http://ecolatino.com/en/stories/120102/new_gonzalezengjh.shtml submitted by Frank Shaw



Herminio Gonzalez, Jr, is the deaf head coach in Florida. He has built a very competitive football team, recently winning the homecoming game, among others.

"I was born deaf. My mother got rubella when she was pregnant with me." Gonzalez, through a sign language interpreter, said. "My parents took me to Puerto Rico. I grew up in Arecibo."

"I came to the FSDB (Florida School for the Deaf & Blind) on the fall of 1982, starting in fifth grade. I graduated in 1989 and went to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC where I graduate in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education."

Gonzalez started work on a master's degree at UNF in Deaf Education to obtain his certification.

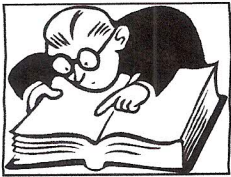
Gonzalez played quarterback and defensive back at the FSDB, and was selected Most Valuable Player. At Gallaudet, he played several positions including quarterback. "I practiced very hard. I tried to help the team win," Gonzalez said. "I have the respect of my players. A good rapport is key to success." I am proud to be at FSDB to be deaf, to be Hispanic and to be a coach and a PE teacher," Gonzalez said. "I am also proud to be a father. I want my deaf baby to grow up to be independent."

A note to Frank Shaw from Marie (Porter) Ramos:

I enjoy reading the monthly newsletter and want to be sure that they will continue working on it. Thanks to all who help get it out. With my blessing and Christmas love, *Marie*

News from Frank Shaw:

My wife, Margaret, and I are excitedly becoming first great-grandparents.



DEAF PERSON TEACHING A POLITICIAN HOW TO COMMUNICATE

Last week's DEAFDIGEST mentioned last week that present Baltimore Mayor O'Malley and former mayor D'Alesandro communicate with each other in a silent way.

It was learned that as a young man Thomas J. D'Alesandro was friend with a deaf man. Through that deaf man the former mayor learned facial expressions, eye movements and body language.

If Mayor Martin O'Malley perfects the Silent Communications System for his future communication needs, then he will have the Deaf Culture to thank for.

A DEAF ZOOKEEPER

The DEAFDIGEST editor is always fascinated by the deaf in non-traditional jobs - such as veterinarian, courthouse judge, Fortune 500 CEO, police detective, etc.

What about zookeeper? Yes, we have one - Mandy Lawyer is a zookeeper with the Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot, ND.

She is the Bird/Reptile Curator at the Minot Zoo.

DEAFNESS THE REASON FOR HOWARD HUGHES' SECLUSION

Many young people do not know who Howard Hughes was. In the thirties through the fifties, Howard was a giant among these Fortune 100 giants. He defied description - movie producer, aviation pilot, CEO of a Hollywood production company, CEO of a huge aircraft plant, CEO of a passenger plane company, CEO of a manufacturing plant, director of a medical research institution, and owner of several Las Vegas casinos. Plus other things.

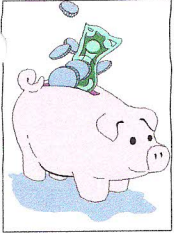
Sometime in the fifties, Howard slipped from public eye and was never seen again. He controlled his business ventures, hidden from public view. This continued for about 20-25 years until he passed away.

Why was he so withdrawn? Some said deafness was a major reason.

DEAFHISTORY - LOOKING BACK:

Year 1898 - Gallaudet's Edward Allen Fay published a book "Marriages of the Deaf in America" as a rebuttal to Alexander Graham Bell's feelings that the deaf should not intermarry.

DEAFDIGEST GOLD - DECEMBER 15, 2002



From Zelma Curbello of LOVE FUND:

We wish to thank you for your generous donations to **LOVE FUND**: Steve Blamires & Early Day, Janice Caraway, Maurice Ford, William Hebert, and Christine McKinnon.

Faye Sims, thank you for your suggestion and willingness to sell the raffles for candy dishes and donate them to **LOVE FUND**.

Billy Buza sold the raffles for several nice gifts and split 50% each to SC Love Fund and TSDAA Museum Fund. *Billy*, thanks for your thoughtfulness!

Anyone who wishes to donate **\$\$\$** to **LOVE FUND** should please make a check or money order payable to Houston Deaf Senior Citizens-Love Fund. Please mail to:

**Mrs. Zelma Curbello
9623 Tiltree
Houston, TX 77075-4042**

RENEWALS:

Thank you for your renewal: Dorotha Altom, M/M Andrew Beckham, Regina Behne, Bernice Bottlinger, Sandra Griffin, Anna & Les C Hill, Doris M Jameson, Joe & Rose Katz, Mary A Luna, Rosetta Newman, Melvia & Ronald Nomeland, Marie E Ramos, Bob & Maxine Sheffield, and Howard Wilkerson.



REST IN PEACE

OBITUARIES



Lester Tomlinson, 88, of Dallas, TX, passed away Sunday, November 17, 2002 in Dallas. He was born February 16, 1914 in Garland. Visitation were held Wednesday night at the funeral home from 6 until 8 PM. Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 21st at 1 PM at Metrocrest Funeral Home in Carrollton, TX. Mr Tomlinson is survived by wife, Mary Tomlinson, daughters, Barbara Tomlinson & Texie White, and 6 grandchildren.

Kenneth K. Kampe passed away November 21, 2002, in Ft. Worth, TX. He was born June 26, 1930 in San Antonio, TX. He attended Texas School for the Deaf. He was a very talented auto mechanic for over 40 years. His wife of 37 years, Patsy Kampe, 2 sons, 1 daughter, and four grandchildren survives him. The family were received friends from 4 until 9 PM Tuesday, November 26th. Interment was followed at Restland Memorial Park Wednesday, November 27th at 3:30 PM.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 3, 2003 (Friday)



FRAT will have a meeting and luncheon Friday, January 3rd from 11 AM to 2 PM at Golden Corral Restaurant (get off Hollister exit from North 290, and make a U-turn. Restaurant is on your right. Come, and you can find out how you can become a FRAT, and have many more savings, as well as a discount toward your birthday or wedding anniversary. Besides getting all you want from the buffet, you can also find out who is getting the discount!

January 3, 2003 (Friday)



ASL Social at Pasadena Mall, "Town Square Shopping Center" Food Court, 171 Pasadena Blvd., Pasadena, TX 77506 (from Hwy. 225, exit on S. Tartar St./Pasadena Blvd. and go south on Pasadena Blvd. the mall is on your left side before Southmore Ave.) from 5 PM to 9 PM. Come and join us to meet old and new friends! Please e-mail to contact Roger Spivey at spivey39@ev1.net before 27th of December.

January 7, 2003 (Tuesday)



Positive Interaction Program (PIP) will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church at 9920 Long Point at 7 PM. This month there will be a special presentation from Officer D. Harmon. She will share with you how she uses a clown costume to teach children about safety as *Office Whistles*. Remember to bring your children. The refreshments will be served. Interpreter & captioning will be provided. Come and join to celebrate

January 8, 2003 (Wednesday)



Houston Senior Citizens will have a general meeting at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Closed Captioning will be provided. Come and enjoy chatting with friends!

January 10, 2003 (Friday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a field trip in Houston area to tour the History museums and Reliant Stadium. Please be at Metropolitan, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX, at 8:30 AM. Let's join us and enjoy ourselves. (See editor page 2, for more information).

January 16, 2003 (Thursday)






















Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at **Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church** at 9920 Long Point from 9 AM to 1 PM. There will be potluck lunch. If you wish to bring a covered dish, please contact **Evelyn Autry** at (713) 984-8186 TTY or **Gertrude Sessions** at (281) 447-7575 TTY and let them know what you will bring.

January 22, 2003 (Wednesday)



Houston Senior Citizens will have a meeting at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Volunteers are welcome to help with folding Senior Citizens newsletters. Your help is greatly appreciated.

January 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR  Evelyn Antry Gene & Jean Harkness-1949 	2 Sue Williamson 	3 ASL Social Pasadena Mall 	4 Jesse Baxter 
5 Billie Holloway 	6	7 PIP Meeting 	8 S.C.M.M.S.C. 	9 Dorothy Curry 	10 Field Trip "Houston Area"  Pauline Corum 	11
12 Billie Holloway 	13	14	15	16 S.C. Social Woodhaven  Dorothy Curry 	17 Elmora Morgan 	18
19	20	21	22 S.C.M.M.S.C.  Billy Corum 	23	24 Walt Anderson 	25
26	27	28	29	30 Jenice Wells 	31	





Christmas Party



On December 8, 2002 SC Newsletter staff had a Christmas party at Golden Corral Restaurant. They enjoyed the party, chatted, and exchanged gifts.

Photo at the right: The staff with their Christmas spirits and smiles!



Zelma Curbello shows off her award at a meeting and Christmas luncheon of Houston Deaf Senior Citizens on December 11th. The award is for her hard work of keeping a record of the Love Fund, and mailing birthday, get-well and sympathy cards to members.



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens brought delicious covered dishes and desserts for Christmas luncheon.

First picture: Christmas tree and Santa Claus cakes made by Janice McKinnon. Thank you, Janice, for the cakes.

Second picture: Senior Citizens stand in line while Christine McKinnon and Opal Piercy set up covered dishes on the table.



December Birthday Group

Happy Birthday to (left to right) *Billy Buza, Rubin Sims, Marie Hays, and Eugene Piercy*. In the middle is *Lavern Fair* who volunteered to interpret for Marie Hays.

Thank you, Lavern, for your big generosity.



Field Trip

On December 13, 2002, Houston Deaf Senior Citizens group enjoyed their field trip to visit Brazos Valley Natural Museum, Bryan Deaf Community Center, and Santa's Wonderland in Bryan/College Station. Fortunately, the weather was perfect ~ sunny and pleasant cool for the field trip after a severe thunderstorm the previous day. The museum has an exhibition of cotton farming in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the importance of cotton in the development of this region. The Ice-Age environment with sculptures and authentic petrified bones of extinct animals, and live snakes and few other reptiles also are demonstrated. Santa's Wonderland really displays a charming land with over 2 million Christmas lights and a whole fantasyland of themes. Also, it was great to have Maurice Ford who moved back to Texas from Ohio with the group on the field trip.



↑ Mary Redman interpreting while tour guide exhibits a live snake. Some people in the group did bravely hold it for a few minutes.



↑ In the photo from left to right: Pernalla Smith, Thelma Jo Hays, Linda Garcia, Early McEvy, and Ruth Weldon won door prizes at Bryan Deaf Community Center. The staff at the Center gave away the door prizes and served the group some refreshments. A Deaf Santa Claus showed up to greet the group.



← This is one of the attractive fantasyland of themes: snowmen skating on the rink at Santa's Wonderland in Tombstone.



Deaf History

"In Kidron, everybody knows Bobby's name" written by Jim Carney
- Beacon Journal staff writer, June 17, 2002 (Submitted by Maurice B. Ford)



KIDRON: Bobby Haas may have the biggest family in Wayne County.

It's the entire town of Kidron, where he has worked and lived for 26 years, and where he is seen as an ambassador of good will. "We are all blessed because he is here," said Max Gerber, owner of the Kidron Town & Country restaurant and grocery store.

In late May, the 48-year-old Haas, who is deaf and spent much of his first 18 years at the Apple Creek state institute in Wayne County, was reunited with five of his six brothers and sisters at a surprise dinner party in Akron. The Haas siblings had believed that Bobb died as a baby. Since that emotional reunion at the home of his brother, Michael Haas, Bobby Haas has been getting to know his newfound blood relatives. But to the rural community of Kidron, Bobby Haas has been family for more than a quarter century.



A Full Life

At Kidron Inc, which manufactures refrigerated truck bodies and trailers, Haas celebrated his 26th anniversary as a janitor last week. He hasn't missed a day of work since he got the job in 1976. In the morning, he unlocks the gates and opens the facility. He has his own parking space for the custom-made three-wheel moped he drives around Kidron. He cleans offices, restrooms and the lunch room, does maintenance around the plant, and picks up mail at the post office. Other odd jobs that come along are also his. "He goes out of his way to help people," said Reid Densmore, who works in the maintenance department with Haas.

Kidron is an unincorporated village in Amish country. It's known for its weekly livestock auction and for Lehman's Hardware & Appliance store. As he carefully drives his moped through town, located south of U.S. Route 30 and east of Wooster in eastern Wayne County, Haas waves at people walking along the street. They always wave back.

When he enters his favorite restaurant, Kidron Town & Country, a friend gives him a pat on the back as he

approaches a stool at the lunch counter. "He's usually in here six days a week," said waitress Esther Hochstetler, who has worked at the restaurant for 18 years. "We like Bobby."

On this day, Hochstetler complimented him on his hairstyle. "You have slicked-down hair today," she said. Haas, wearing a blue Kidron work shirt with "Bobby" inscribed above the pocket, offered her a grin as big as Wayne Country.

'Close to a miracle'

It was because of the love of a woman named Mary Wyss that Bobby Haas became a resident of Kidron. She was a registered nurse at the Apple Creek Development Center - as the state facility is now known - when Bobby was first placed there as an infant. The Haas siblings believe their late parents hospitalized Bobby almost a half-century ago on the recommendation of physicians because he was unresponsive after a bout with spinal meningitis. At that time, it was common practice to institutionalize people with disabilities.

In the 1970s, when patients were being released from state hospitals across Ohio, Wyss took Bobby into her home in Kidron. She and her husband, Clayton, helped him find the job he still has.

Richard Gerber, the former owner of Kidron Town & Country and Max Gerber's father, said people throughout Kidron know the story of how the Wyss family gave Bobby Haas a home. "It's close to a miracle," he said. Haas always referred to Mary and Clayton Wyss as Mom and Dad. After Mary Wyss died in 1988, Haas continued to live with Clayton. Then when Clayton Wyss died three years ago, his nephew, Ron Hofstetter, and Hofstetter's brother-in-law, Brian Troyer, were granted power of attorney over Haas so they could help him handle his affairs.

Now, Haas lives in a mobile home next door to Hofstetter's house and a few blocks from the factory where he works. Jason Huffman, manager of human resources at Kidron Inc., said Haas, who uses sign language to communicate, is always up to date on all the news in town. "Bobby knows everything that goes on around here," Huffman said. Huffman wonders what would have happened to Haas had he grown up at a different time. "Bobby has a great life," he said, but had things been different when he was an infant, "he would have a different life." Huffman talks about how Haas managed to buck the system, even though he did not benefit from the move toward inclusion for today's children with disabilities, such as deafness. "He is a contributing member of society," Huffman said.

Small-town character

At the Kidron Town & Country, Max Gerber said people in town are protective of Haas. "Bobby's a good guy," he said. "Everybody knows how Bobby came to live in Kidron after spending so many years institutionalized. It was a different time." Gerber said Haas is one of those good things about small-town life in Kidron. "He is a character, and we like characters," Gerber said. "Small towns need characters." Agnes Steiner, who retired from the Apple Creek Development Center three years ago after more than 30 years of service, lives a "stone's throw" from Haas. "He is very fortunate," she said. "God works things out."

Household Hints

Household Uses of Hydrogen Peroxide H2O2:

MOUTHWASH: Use 3% hydrogen peroxide for germicidal mouthwash and throat gargle. While cleansing the mouth and throat, it destroys the bad bacteria. It also helps to clear up periodontal disease. Watch how white your teeth become!

TO FRESHEN KITCHEN: Keep a spray bottle of 3% solution of hydrogen peroxide in the kitchen. Use to wipe off counter tops and appliances. It will disinfect and give the kitchen a clean, fresh smell. Works great in the refrigerator and lunch boxes.

Received E-mail; author unknown.



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