HOUSTON DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS NEWSENSON SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE SENIOR CITIZE

Senior Citineur Program

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THE MAGIC RABBIT BY HELEN D. LEWIS



One of the best lessons I ever learned back in the Good Old Days came about because of a bunny rabbit.

It was Easter, April 17, 1938, and I was 4 years old. We had just moved to the country the week before. I thought I was in Heaven, for spring had come early that year, bringing on abundance of blooming daffodils, flowering quince and bridle wreath.

I loved the little farm that my parents had bought. It didn't matter that the house wasn't much to look at, or that Mom papered the walls with newspapers so they'd at least be clean. Nor did I mind the bare floors that she scrubbed with a broom and bleach water. I loved that old house with the wisteria vine growing up the side. I never liked the new house that replaced it two years later nearly as well. Old houses seem to have a personality of their own.

Anyway, that year there wasn't enough money to buy me an Easter basket. Mom worried about me being disappointed because all I was getting for Easter was colored eggs.

On Easter morning when I got up, Mom told me to wait about going out to hunt my Easter goodies; there had been a drizzle the night before and she wanted the grass to dry a little bit before I went out.

I was sitting in the kitchen looking out through one of the little panes that formed the big window when a rabbit came hopping through the yard and down past the grape arbor. I couldn't believe my eyes—the Easter Bunny! I yelled, "Mommy, Mommy, he's here! The Easter Bunny is here! See?"

There was no holding me back then, I ran out the door and went in the direction from which the bunny had come. As luck would have it, that was the area where most of my beautiful eggs were hidden. Mom, still fearing I would be disappointed, explained that the bunny had probably run out of baskets before he got this far out in the country. Who cared! I was on cloud nine! I was the only person I knew who has seen the real Easter Bunny.

Now, after 60 years, I still remember that day, for it was my best Easter ever. Maybe he wasn't the real Easter Bunny, but that little rabbit worked magic for me that day and in later years as well. Seeing that little bunny meant more to me than any expensive basket ever could.

In later years, when I would get to fretting about not being able to buy an expensive gift for someone, I would remember that Easter and remind myself that is not the price of the gift that is important, but the enjoyment that it brings.



April 4, 1999 is EASTER Sunday.

PLEASE ATTEND CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE.







DERF & HARD OF HEARING "PIP" ITTEETING

Harris County Medical Examiner

Dr. Carter



Tuesday, April 6th, 1998 7:00 p.m. Woodhaven Church for the Deaf, 9920 Long Point

From Officer Randy Melton
TDD (713) 308-9071
Voice (713) 308-9079
Fax (713) 308-9073
For emergency dial 911 Then tap your space bar.
E-mail: jrmelton@flash.net





April 14, 1999 - Second Wednesday will be the day for Senior Citizens to meet at M.M.S.C. from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a meeting.

Have a good day!!

April 18, 1999 is third Thursday for Senior Citizens with HAPPY FACES to meet at Woodhaven Baptist Church, 9920 Long Point for happy fellowship covered dish lunch. Please call Maurice Ford at 713-455-3507 or Elnora Morgan at 713-675-1531 and let either know what you expect to bring. Come on and join fun!!

April 28, 1999 is fourth Wednesday for Senior Citizens to meet at M.M.S.C. from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be regular meeting for everyone. Come on and enjoy the day to play games.

Have a nice time!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR RENEWALS!!

Francis Sevier, Lowell Carroll, Gracia Lorello, Mary Longmore, Billie Moehle, Connie Patterson, Robert Smith, Betty Sparks, Lewis Stovall, Alta M. Pearson, Bobbie Cheatham, Haskel Arnold, Ernest Thomas, Carole Allen, Adrenna Montez and Elisa Neve

WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS!

Margaret Rudolph - gift by Lorena Blomdahl
William Dover
Esther Morris - gift by Adrenna Montez
Sue Ramirez





April 4, 1999 is the day to change the time. Please set one hour ahead before you go to bed.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCK ONE HOUR AHEAD.

St. Patrick's Day party

The Houston Deaf Senior Citizens dressed up in green to help celebrate their annual St. Patrick's Day party at M.M.S.C. on March 11. The party drew a crowd of 52 persons who had a lot of fun and food too. Two judges, Z. X. Curry and Jack Richard selected Nellie Bishop and Clyde Hays as the winners of the "Most green Outfits". Clyde was clever enough to paint his old shoes green to match his outfit. Party chairperson Arlene Benham did a wonderful job making plans for the party, and she thanked everyone for their wonderful cooperation in bringing covered dishes to the event. Lillian Morgenson and Marie Hays won the door prizes at the party. Everyone had a lot of fun there.

By Pauline Garrett and Jeanette Mortzfeldt

Our mother Mrs. Helen Padgett just celebrated her 90th birthday last month. She said she could not believe she reached that age, as she felt as if she still were 75 years old. Jeanette surprised both her mother and sister by flying to visit them to help celebrate her birthday. She brought a package of gifts and birthday card. She planned at the last minute to make the trip. Another big surprise for Helen Padgett was when she received a nice birthday card from the White House in Washington D.C. How about that? Really neat!

From Evelyn Autry

I am so sure that you will be interested to hear what Paul Fincher is doing at present. He started an interpreter business here. My business name is "COMMUNICATION ACCESS INTERPRETING SERVICES" Short is C.A.I.S. Jerry Lee from Huntsville and I start the business as partners. It is doing fine. Paul still works for Byran I.S.D. full time and work at C.A.I.S. parttime. Congratulations to you Paul Fincher and Jerry Lee!!

Paul's mother Virginia Andrews Mead had surgery again this time on her breast for cancer. The doctor thinks they got all the cancer! Paul as been deeply praying for her. Thank God! he has really blessed us. She seems to be doing fine.

She really needs to get out of the house more often. She really needs her deaf friends to call her. Virginia, I pray that you are feeling much better and hope to see you in the near future.

Paul still lives in a small town named Hearne about 20 miles from Bryan. He has one acre of land with many, many trees behind is house. He enjoys living out in very quiet neighbood.

We all wish Virginia a speedy recovery. She would certainly love to receive get-well cards and notes from her friends. Her address is 208 N. Edgewood, Houston, Texas 77011-2232.—Jean

Nellie Bishop lost her sister, Dolores C. Franks who passed away March 8, 1999. She was 87 years old and had two sons. Our deepest sympathy goes to Nellie.

Gene Harkness would like to tell a very scary but funny story which really happened to him. For many years he was a member of the painters union local 130. In 1951 he was offered a job to paint a large two-story funeral home. During that job, every day he said "good morning" to the superintendent, manager and secretary of the funeral home until he made friends with them.

One day the manager asked Gene if he would like to drive a funeral car, but he hesitated, because, he was not used to the idea of driving a car with a dead body in it. But the manager urged him to do it. Before he put on his nice suit and tie, he wanted to express respect to a "dead body" in a coffin by removing his cap and put it on his chest. What happened was that the "dead body suddenly sat up in the coffin to look at him. Gene was so scared that he actually frozen from head to toe. In fact he was frighting that he was unable to scream. Then the manager had a big laugh, because it was not really a "dead body but a joke being played on him. Gene was thankful that he was young enough not have a possible heart attack when it happened to him.

When Gene went home after it happened, he was very furious at the joke, because he did not think it was not funny at all. His wife Jean noticed how angry he was for being fooled that way. Then she suddenly had an idea on what Gene could do in return of the joke.

The next day Gene went to look for the manager, but he could not find him What he did was to put on a very evil-looking Halloween mask with hopes of scaring him. But when he opened the door, it was the secretary who saw Gene with the hideous mask and then let out a loud scream with fright. The superintendent rushed to help her, and she pointed to the door. When he opened it, he saw Gene with that frightful mask. Everyone had a good laugh. Gene was surprised that he was not fired. It was too bad that he failed to scare the superintendent or a manager but only the secretary. Everyone was a good sport and laughed at the whole thing.

To this day, Gene had never forgotten that hilarious story when he was really frozen to death upon seeing that "dead body" rising to life again and that the secretary had a bad fright upon seeing his mash.

That was really no April Fool story, but a real one, Interesting, isn't it?

From Opal Piercy

Hi Everyone - I've missed all of you the last few months. I feel as I'm a quinine pig since the doctors have been running so many tests on me. They all are normal so I still have a few more tests to go. I'll be so glad when they are all over. I really don't feel bad. I have good days and bad days and can't drive for six months as I have dizzy spells sometimes.

I do want to thank you for your cards prayers and what you did for me during my sickness.

And thanks to all of you who helped with the food after Mildred Owens Funeral. We were glad we could open our home to the family and some friends. I felt like a Queen Sitting and watching so many of you helping. Thanks again and God bless you all. Sue and Tony appreciated what we did for them. We will really miss Mildred.

By Pernella Smith

There was a surprise 26th Wedding anniversary party for Curtis and myself at the home of Faye Sims' on February 14. We received some nice gifts. A meat tray, sandwiches, nuts and scalloped border cake were served. We played the Mexican Train game. What happened was that we were not aware of the party when we went to visit the Sims. It was a big surprise for both of us. Everyone had a great and enjoyable time.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH YOUR GENEROUS TO LOVE FUND IN MEMORY OF MILDRED OWENS.

Joy & Christine McKinnon, Jack & Hazel Richard, Franklin and Mary Tippett, Billy & Barbara Corum, Menefee Holdren and "Absolute Hair" from Phyllis Locke

OBITUARIES



SMITH BLANCHE HELENA, 61 of Dallas, Tx. Passed away Feb. 21,1999 from injuries sustained after being hit by DART train. Born in Reagan, Texas October 9,1939. She received her Associate of Arts in Theology Degree at Christ for the Nation institute. She was a faithful member of the Eastgate Baptist Church and 'Deaf Ministries of Dallas'. Blanche was a life long optimist who touched many lives with her never-ending faith. She adopted two girls and raised their children after both girls died early. A retired Telephone Operator, she was the first African-American Telephone operator in Temple, Texas, and she excelled in her career until she lost her hearing in 1981. Undaunted, Blanche accepted her loss of hearing as an opportunity to spread the Good News' through Christ. Blanche launched herself full-time into her Deaf Ministry. She met and signed with people worldwide. Everyone wanted to be blessed with one of Blanche's AFGHAN Blankets, Crocheted Dolls, or World-Class Seven-up Cakes. She loved riding the Dallas Area Rapid Transport Train (DART) with her beloved Greatgrandson, Nathaniel Scott. She is survived by: father, Earnestine White of Temple, Tx; siblings, Lea Ann Wells of Cincinatti, Oh., Gwendolyn I. White-Steward of Cincinatti, Oh., Gwendolyn I. White-Steward of Cincinatti, Oh., Carole J. White-Risby of Temple, Tx., Lezely W. White o': Evanston, III., Harold C.M. White of Colorado Springs, Co., Marion G. White-Wicks of Cincinatti, Oh., Charles K. White of Denver, Co., step brother, Ernest Owens of Dallas, Tx.; special friend, Robert Smith of Lubbock, Tx.; Sgrandchildren; she was preceded in death by hemother, two daughters, and two brothers. Funeral Services: 12:30 pm, Friday, February 26,1999, Eastgate Baptist Church - Dallas, Tx. Pastor, H.D. Reagan, off.; Interment, 11:00 am Saturday, Feb. 27,1999, Mt. Zion Garden of Memories Temple, Tx. Family will zindray at Sandra Clark Funeral Home Chapel. A Memorial fund has been established for Blanche Smith at NationsBank. Because we Love her so ... Services entred to:

Sandra Clark
Finnend 9 Jone
"Morotable Funeral Barviosa"
8079 S. R. L. Thornton Frey,
Dellas, Texas 75232
(214) 371-2800





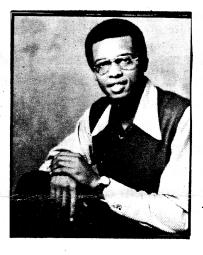
SUNSET Funeral Home 1701 Austin Hwy. 828-2811 "For Those Who Care"

MR. JULIUS WILSON, JR.

Sunrise April 1, 1951

Sunset February 17, 1999







Birthplace:

Marshall, Texas

Birthdate:

April 1, 1951

Parents:

Mr. Julius Wilson, Sr. and Mrs. Rosie L. Wilson

Education:

Texas State School for the Deaf and Blind,

Austin, Texas

Church Affiliation:

Southside Church of Christ, Marshall, Texas

Children:

Christopher Wilson, Houston, Texas

Professional Career:

Employed as a baker in Houston, Texas A postal clerk for the United States Post Office, Houston, Texas for twenty or more years.

Preceded in Death by:

Survivors:

His father, Mr. Julius Wilson, Sr. Left to cherish his memory, a loving and devoted mother, Mrs. Rosie Lee Wilson of Marshall, Texas; one son, Christopher Wilson of Houston, Texas; one sister, Mrs. Shirley Wilson Williams of Austin, Texas; two brothers, Mr. John "Chick" Campbell and Mr. Charles Edward Wilson both of Marshall, Texas; six aunts, Mrs. Eva Jernigan, Mrs. Alice Davis of Marshall, Texas, Mrs. Roxie Rhodes of Gladewater, Texas, Mrs. Ollie Ree Roberts and Mrs. Alberta Flanagan of Dallas, Texas, and Mrs. Bertha Carr of California; one uncle, Mr. Willie Lee $Lane\,of\,Lufkin, Texas; many\,other\,relatives\,and$ friends.

OWENS

MILDRED MARIE OWENS, 75, of Houston, passed away March 5, 1999. She was a member of The Houston Deaf Senior Citizens.

Senior Citizens.
Preceded in
death by husband, LeRoy
Owens. Survived by daughter, Sue Ramirez and husband Tony;
grandchildren,
Lacy Ramirez,
Marla Ramirez,
Marla Ramirez
and Darcy Ramirez. Also survived by numerous other
relatives and
friends. Visitation will be



Marla Ramirez and Darcy Ramirez. Also survived by numerous other relatives and friends. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Sunday, March 7, 1999 at Forest Park East Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Monday, March 8, 1999 at Forest Park East Chapel. Interment to follow in Forest Park East Cemetery.

Forest Park East 21620 Gulf Frwy 332-3111



There will be two tours planned for the Senior Citizens of Austin. The first tour will be on March 30, 1999 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to go sightseeing in the Hill Country. It will include a drive through Marble Falls, Burnett, Kingsland and Buchanan Dam. Lunch will be at the Riverwalk Cafe for \$7.77 per person for buffet, tax and tip. The cost for the ride is \$6.00 per person. The seating capacity is limited to 23 persons.

The second tour will be on April 20, 1999 from 8 a.m. till??? to Waco to visit the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame, Strecker Museum, Dr. Pepper Museum and Cameron Zoo. Seating capacity is for 23 persons, and the cost per person is depending on the facilities to be visited.

Vera Butler moved to a new place which she enjoys very much. She likes the new scenery plus convenience of shops nearly. Vernon and Joan Pate also moved, this time from Austin to Pflguerville which is a suburb of Austin. In the past the Pates did not have enough outside scenery to look at. Now they enjoy watching out through large windows. They are staying in the mobile house of Joan's daughter. Mildred Barnett also moved from an apartment near South Congress Avenue to another part of the city. She is looking forward to moving to La Vista, the retirement community for deaf persons in San Marcos. Ruby Klebery will move to La Vista in June, and so will Mary and Tom Case.

J. C. Morris, J. T. Jacobs and Larry Evans still go golfing as often as they can for their recreation.

There was a surprise birthday party for Ruby Kleberg on Feb. 28, 1999 to help celebrate her 75th birthday at Fairview Baptist Church of the Deaf. 43 attended to help her celebrate it. A covered dish affair was held at the same time. Delicious refreshments were served. There was another surprise birthday party for Dorothy Hays King on March 12, 1999 at her retirement places, Englewood Estates. About 30 persons attended to wish her a happy 85th birthday.

AMARILLO DAILY NEWS - FEBRUARY 22, 1999 FAMILY AWAITS AUTOPSY RESULTS

At about 12:05 a.m. Saturday, someone called police and reported hearing shots in northeast Amarillo neighborhood, an Amarillo Police Department release said.

At about 3 a.m., a grandson discovered Henry and Emily Whitfield dead and James Whitfield shot at the couple's residence at 3919 N.E. 33rd Ave.

Police found James Whitfield lying in the yard with pistol near him, the release said. Potter County Justice of the Peace Jim Tipton arrived at the scene and pronounced Henry and Emily Whitfield dead. James Whitfield went by ambulance to Northwest Texas Hospital where he was pronounced dead about 4:20 a.m., the release said.

Tipton said the couple suffered multiple gunshot wounds and James Whitfield had a single gunshot wound to the head.

Kim Whitfield described a family that revolved around Henry and Emily Whitfield "We were a very close - knit, very loving, very large family.", she said.

"He was very sane." she said. "He was attending college. He was very intelligent. He was more than that."

The Rev. Darrell Bonjour, minister to the deaf at Paramount Baptist Deaf Church, said he had known James Whitfield and his family for a long time. James, who was deaf, attended the church.

"All of us are grieving." Bonjour said. the deaf community, in itself, is grieving.

"James was very kind, very tender - hearted. I can tell you, he loved his family. He was the kind of man that would do anything for a friend. I think that's the hardest thing that people have to deal with.

"James loved his parents. He helped them do everything—and they helped him, too. But I mean, he was very protective of his parents".

Finice Taylor said James Whitfield attended Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, Texas and he left school in 1969's or 70's.

Hi, my name is James Wesley Stone. I am a Coda. My parents are Wesley and Betty Stone of Kilgore, TX. I have been interpreting now for 39 years for my parents, but professionally for 2 years. I really enjoy my work interpreting for all kinds of situations. Married, 13 years, no children, 41 years of age.

Currently hold State of TX. Certification for Sign Language Interpreter and will be testing for higher levels, as soon as it can be scheduled. Sign Language Interpretation at High School and College levels. Employment experience of interpreting in Medical, Psychiatric, Employment Interviews, Courtroom and Jail situations, Mediation Appointments, Alcoholics Aynomonous, Drug Rehabilitation, Insurance Claims, Mental Health, etc.

Sign Language instruction skills have included assisting teachers at the college level in order to better help them understand the Deaf Culture. Instruction and tutoring of students to improve their signing and transliterating skills.

Accomplishments:

Served as Executive Board Member for East Texas Deaf and Hearing Association 1997-1998 Staff Interpreter for ETDHA
Certificate of Proficiency in ASL from Tyler Jr. College May 10, 1997
Outstanding Student Award—TJC
ETDHA Someone Special Volunteer—Outstanding Service to our Community 1997-1998
Member of Rural Interpreting Mentorship Program

Workshops:

Legal Interpreting
Interpreting in Medical Situations
Success Strategies for Interpreters
Deaf Awareness
Legal Interpreting-Introductory to Intermediate
Telling Tales in ASL: From Literature to Literary
Deaf Culture

Johnny Stone, 38 years old, bachelor, Interpreting 36 years.

Football and Basketball Scholarships to the following schools: Baylor University Kilgore College East Texas Baptist University Received a Bachelors Degree in Education

Became an Adult Probation Officer in 1982-1992 Currently, working Juvenile Probation Officer 1992-1999 Pursuing Masters Degree in Public Administration at University TX at Tyler

Tony Stone, 35 years old, married no children, Interpreting 33 years.

Basketball Scholarships to the following schools:
Kilgore Jr. College
South Plains Jr. College
Wayland Baptist University
Received a Bachelors Degree in Police Science and Criminal Justice

Became a Law Enforcement Officer for Gregg County Sheriffs Department 1990-1997 Rank Lieutenant Assistant Jail Administrator Currently working at Kilgore Police Department as a Police Officer 1997-1999

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO LOVE FUND

Henrietta Devine, Ann Edgley, Roy & Joyce Adams, Lanier Page, Annie McFadden, Walt & Dianh Anderson, Billy & Barbara Corum, Ray Wilson, Sr., Betty Telfer, Maurice Ford, Elnora Morgan, Arlene Benham, Frank Shaw and Avie Alaniz

Anyone of you wish to donate \$\$\$ to Love Fund.

Please make the check or money order to Houston Deaf Senior Citizen Fund.

Please mail to Mrs. Zelma Curbello, 9623 Tiltree, Houston, TX 77075-4042.



Happy

Easter!

pt 7ime in 75D History!

.....ALUMNI REUNION IN JUNE......

THOOF OFFINED DO COLOR

The Texas School for the Deaf Alumni Association (TSDAA) usually had its annual major event during the football homecoming weekend. The problem was that the TSD homecoming had expanded until it included several other kinds of activities, such as a carnival, volleyball game, etc. That was the reason for TSDAA not to have sufficient time for its business meeting and election of officers during the last homecoming weekend.

So the TDAA officers and board members voted to start its first annual reunion which will take place on June 4-6, 1999 on the TSD campus. The new event will be from Friday morning to Sunday noon.

Registration and socialization will be on Friday morning, June 4. A tour of TSD campus will be planned for Friday afternoon. Friday night will be reserved for all individual class reunions. The president of each class is responsible in arranging his/her own class reunion in the local restaurants or any other place. Saturday morning, June 5, will be allotted for the business meeting and election of officers and board members of TSDAA. Activities for Saturday afternoon, Saturday evening and Sunday morning Will be announced later.

Cottages will be available for lodging for \$10.00 for one night per person. We will have enough space for only 86 persons. Men and women will sleep separately in assigned cottages. There will be no meals served in the TSD dining room, but we will try to have an arrangement for meals which will be announced later. The meetings and dining will be done in the Middle School gymnasium.

Those who would like to spend one or two nights in the cottages are encouraged to write letters for reservation to:

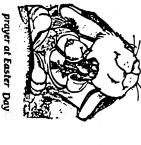
Sandra Smith, TSDAA treasurer P. O. Box 3106 Austin, Texas 78764-3106

Name			
Street			
City	State	Zip	
Phone	(tty or voice) Fax	Email	
Names of persons lodging	with you		

(Remember that it is based on "First come, first served". After we receive 86 names for lodging, the latecomers will need to make their own reservations in the local motels.)

(This is for reservation only. After arrival, write a check and/or money order or pay cash.)











APRIL 1999

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parking spaces. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray from 9:00 A.M. Hello!! Welcome to our Senior Citizen Fellowship at City of Houston to 1:00 P.M. on second and fourth Wednesday. There are plenty of safe

Come on and join Happy Fellowship.





- 3.....Frances Gunter
- 4......Gus Curbello 7......Virginia Mead
- 24....Estella Camerson 8......Douglas Whiteley 18.....Floyd Wicher
- 25....Ann Edgley **Beverly Duncan**







Anniversaries Wedding





April 11, 1953..... 46 years Travis & Gertie Sessions

April 13, 1956..... 43 years Roy & Joyce Adams



Please enter my Subscription: 1 year.....\$10.00 Enclose ()check () money oder Please make payable to **DEAF COMMUNICATIONS** Mail to Jean Harkness 1945 Lynnview Dr. Houston, TX 77055-2011

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you Have a nice day!



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Mary Redman Rita Lee (713) 981-1543 Voice / TDD

You may call them by Relay Texas 1-800-735-2989

Funded in part by Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



