

**NEWSLETTER**

*Did You Know?*

*This series traces people, products and traditions back to their sometimes unusual and interesting roots.*

I MET Florence "Dinghy" Spalding Sharp last December when she'd been invited to speak to a group of children at the opening of a toy exhibit in a Michigan museum.

This charming woman radiated the spirit of Christmas, and there's good reason for that—she's the great-great-granddaughter of Clement Clarke Moore, creator of one of the world's most beloved poems, *The Night Before Christmas*.

Dinghy was invited to share the story of her famous ancestor's poem...but first she had to explain to the children how she got her unusual nickname—it came from her love of a small boat when she was a child. Then she shared the fascinating background behind "Papa" Moore's poem:

Papa created the poem after a trip to town on Christmas Eve in 1822. He was on his way to buy a Christmas goose, but his mind was on his 6-year-old daughter, Charity.

His heart was heavy for the child, who was ill with tuberculosis. Her one request for a Christmas gift was a new story. Her request wasn't unusual in those days—from presents to decorations, Christmas was a homemade holiday.

**Inspiration in Town**

Papa wanted to create something that would cheer and delight Charity. While in town, he happened to visit a local woodcutter named Peter.

Peter had a white beard, often wore a red parka and smoked a Danish pipe. Moreover, he liked telling stories to the local children, including one about a man in Denmark named St. Nicholas who loved children so much he presented them gifts on their birthdays.

Inspired by his daughter's need and Peter's stories, Clement Moore created *A Visit of St. Nicholas*. I was surprised to learn that the poem's modern-day title, *The Night Before Christmas*, was not Moore's own. But a bigger surprise was learning that he never wrote the poem down.



**'Night Before Christmas' Was Never Meant for Publication**

*By Neil Shimp, Spring Lake, Michigan*

Despite the urging of family members, he refused to do so, reciting it only from memory. It wasn't published

until a cousin secretly sent it to the Troy, New York *Sentinel* in 1823.

Published anonymously, it became a huge success. For the next 25 years, it was published annually, but neither Clement Moore nor any of his heirs ever received any money for the poem. "That's why we refer to Papa as the poem's 'creator' and not its author," Dinghy explained.

**Popularity Was Pesteing**

Clement Moore was upset over the publication of his poem, and it was many years before he allowed the guilty cousin back into his home. Not being paid didn't bother him—it was the fact the poem had become famous!

"You see," Dinghy told us, "Clement Moore was a renowned scholar. He taught Greek, Latin and ancient Hebrew at Columbia University. Papa wished to be known for his scholarly work—not for a Christmas story composed for his daughter."

The packed room was hushed as Dinghy began reciting her great-great-grandfather's poem. Her style of recitation had been carefully preserved in her family down through the years.

At age 8, Dinghy learned how to recite the poem from her grandfather, who'd been taught by his father, who'd been taught by Clement Moore himself. "You can't get any closer to the original work than that," she smiled.

When Dinghy finished her stirring recital of *A Visit of St. Nicholas*, silence prevailed for a few seconds before the loud applause began. For me, and everyone else there, it was a moving experience.

Somehow, the animation and drama that Dinghy put into the poem's delivery—plus the knowledge that this was the way Clement Moore had chosen to delight his daughter more than 170 years ago, captivated us all.

Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!

**PRECIOUS POEM.** Florence "Dinghy" Spalding (at left with Neil Shimp) holds her favorite edition of *The Night Before Christmas*, written by her great-great-grandfather.





Houston Police Department  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
"Positive Interaction Program"

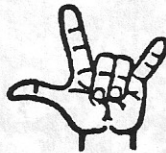


*Christmas  
Party*

**Our Guest will be Chief of Police  
C. O. "Brad" Bradford**

**Where: Woodhaven Church for the Deaf  
9920 Long Point**

**When: 7:00 p.m. Tue. December 1st, 1998**



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.

December 9, 1998; Second Wednesday for Senior Citizens to meet at MMSC from 9:00AM to 1:00 PM. There will be Christmas Party for everyone. Seniors, Please bring fruit salad or desserts. Enjoy Christmas food and fellowship.

There will be only one meeting for December.

Will see you the next year - January 13, 1999.

HAVE A HAPPY TIME!!



December 17, 1998, third Thursday for Seniors with happy faces meet at Woodhaven Baptist Church, 9920 Long Point Rd. at 9:30 AM. There will be Christmas party for everyone with good covered dishes and goodies. Come on and enjoy the happy fellowship and good lunch with us. Please call Maurice Ford at 713-455-3507 with Elnora Morgan and let them know what you plan to bring to lunch. Hope to see more of you there.

COME ON AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR RENEWALS!!

Billie R. Fulbright, Finice Taylor, Alex Pavalko, Mary Jo Stevens, Wanda Hull, Melvia Nomeland, Rubin Slaughter, Henry Hebert, Ruth Pace, Judy Griffin, Claudia Adkins, Dorothea Alton, Reuben McGill, Martha Mirus, Leonor Royce, Sidney Braquet, Tennie Sessions, Ruth Phillips and Billy Basham

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR  
GENEROUS DONATIONS TO LOVE FUND

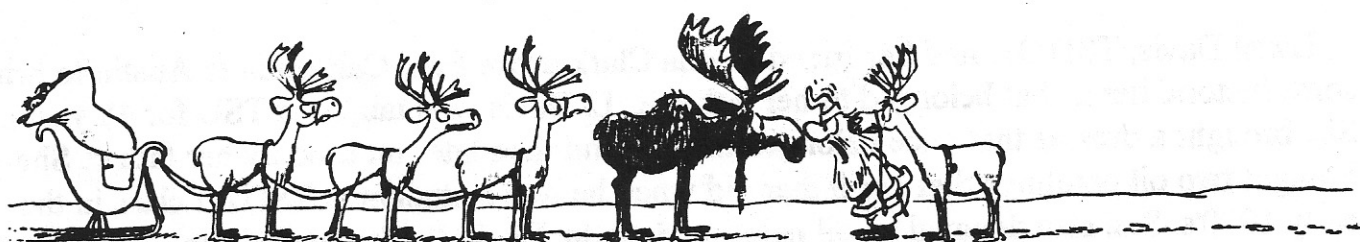
Cathy Simerka, Maurice Ford, Zelma Curbello and Avie Alaniz



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.



'NO!'

On October 28 the Senior Citizens Halloween party was a great success. Around 50 people were there. Prizes were given for their Halloween costumes. The winners were first place Christine McKinnon, second place Maurice Ford, third place Zelma Curbello, fourth place Arlene Benham, fifth place Mary Redman, sixth place Jean Harkness, and seventh place Lucille Koehl. The judges were Cathy Simerka, Audrey Wright, and Mary Jo Stevens. Door Prizes were drawn and the winners were Jesse Baxter, Thelma Jo Hays, and Nellie Bishop. Cookies, cake and apple cider were served.

The November 11 meeting of the Senior Citizens Group was a little messed up. We did not know that our meeting would be closed for Veterans Day. The Group met across the street in a parking lot. Sweet rolls, cake, and orange juice were served while we tried to figure out what to do. Mike, son of Lowell and Ruth Montgomery went to several places in the shopping strip to ask if we could meet in their place. While this was going on, announcements were made. The memo from TCDHH about the Social Security Scam was discussed and certificates of appreciation were given out. The Group ended up at a Cookie Affair. There we saw beautiful gourmet cookie bouquets that are made there. The group had never seen cookies that were like this. They had displayed cookie bouquets for all occasions. The group bought coffee, stood around and talked and had a good time.

Thelma Jo (Sealey) Hays is new grandma for a new baby boy who was born to her son, Bruce Wayne Hays and his wife, Lisa named Matthew Wayne Hays on October 29, 1998 and weighed 9 lbs. 8 oz. Thelma Jo already has 16 grandchildren and is excited to have her first baby Hays in her family.

Opal Piercy looks so much better than before but still have not gotten test results. She is still under doctors care.

Mary and Emitte Corley and their daughter visited James McCallum in the hospital. James is in ICU.

Barbara and Billy Corum are proud to be grandma and grandpa when their daughter, Marsha and her husband Steve Hoffnafle had their first baby girl named Sherrina Nelly on November 10, 1998 and weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. Billy and Barbara have two grandchildren by their son.

#### LIFE IN THESE UNITED STATES - Reader's Digest

Jonathan, 16, our hearing impaired son, was learning to drive with his father each day after school. Finally he was ready to take me for a ride. I sat in the front seat, my husband took the back - and we were off.

We hadn't gone far when my husband told me to sign to Jonathan that there a cross street coming up. I did, and my son smiled, nodded and told me he knew. At the next corner my husband said to remind Jonathan there was a four - way stop. I did, and he nodded again. Next my husband prodded me to tell Jonathan the light was red, so I did.

Suddenly, Jonathan pulled over to the side of the road and signed to me, "Mom, please go sit in the back. Dad never tells me what to do!"

--Susan Belles, Fairmont, N.C.

Submitted by Evelyn Autry

Hazel Davis, TSD '33, and her friend Rhoda Clark drove from California to Austin to bring some historic items that belonged to her father R. L. Davis who taught at TSD for 48 years. She brought a dresser that once belonged to TSD and then later on used by her father. She brought two oil paintings that her father did when he was a student at TSD art class in the early 1900's. She also donated an oil painting done by Dr. Kelly Stevens of one of San Antonio's five missions Concepcion. Hazel donated all of these items to the new Heritage Center at TSD that is housed as a museum.

Bob Selz, TSD, visited TSD for the first time in 50 years to celebrate his class' 50th reunion. He was impressed by the new change on TSD campus. He is presently funeral director at the Natchitoches, LA. He has been with the funeral business ever since he graduated from TSD.

When the news about flooding in New Braunfels and San Marcos were on television, Jerry and Dovie Hassell were concerned about the home of Gene and Nell Davis who were former residents of Houston. For over a week their telephone was out of circuit, and naturally they worried. Then they contacted Kris Lund who is employed by the Travis Council for the Deaf to see if the Davis house was affected. Kris commutes to New Braunfels daily. She found out that the Davis house is safe, but all of the neighbors' houses behind them were wiped out by the flooding river. It was a close shave! Jerrys and Dovies hearts were out to those who lost their homes, but at the same time they are relieved to know that the Davis house was safe. Nell was daughter of Carey and Nell Shaw, long time residents of Houston.

FLASH!      FLASH!      FLASH!



Olon and Jodell Lowrance of Paradise, California reported the sad news about death of Forrest Green. On November 12 Forrest and his wife Wilma were getting ready to attend a large camping for deaf people at Plymouth. Wilma was driving their mobile home while Forrest was behind giving her directions. She was supposed to step on the right pedal to move forward but she accidentally stepped on the wrong pedal which resulted in swift backward movement and ran over Forrest. He was killed instantly. It happened in their hometown Santa Clara. Our prayer are with the family of Forrest Green.

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### DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF HAMBURGER

The stories in the last issue of Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Newsletter were very interesting to me; yet I was surprised at such stories. About 50 years ago I read an interesting tale of how we got the word "hamburger" for our favorite sandwich. Since then I thought what I read was the only version of how we got that word.

What I read was that a ship from Hamburg, Germany docked at New York City in the 1880's. When the passengers debarked, they went to the nearest restaurant. They could not find in the menu there the kind of meat they wanted, so they explained to the cooks to first grind beef and make patties before being fried. Then these passengers asked for loaves of bread and then sliced them. After that, they put the fried ground meat between two slices.

When the cooks asked them what the name of the sandwich was they did not know. Probably it was because the cooks could not understand German while the passengers could not understand English, resulting in confusion.

The cooks gave up and asked with simple gestures where they came from. The passengers said they came from Hamburg, Germany, but the cooks still could not understand them, so they pointed to the nearby ship marked "Hamburg".

Finally the cook caught it and then decided to label the unknown sandwich "Hamburger" and added it to their regular menu. All of a sudden it became popular with those who patronized that restaurant.

How hamburger became famous on a nation-wide scale was when it was sold at Chicago World's Fair in 1893. It was noticed that slices of bread was messy so they used buns instead.

That is how hamburger came into being (I thought).

Jerry Hassell, Austin

WITH OUR VERY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING  
THOUGHTS IN THE LOSS OF ONE VERY DEAR TO YOU.

HOUSTON DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS

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Forrest Dale Green was killed in Santa Clara, Nov. 12, 1998. Mr. Forrest D. Green beloved husband for 55 years of Wilma E. Green of Santa Clara. Loving Father of Beverly Kingborg of Davis and Jeff Green of Hollister. Devoted grandfather of Dr. Jon Kingborg of Winton, Brain Kingborg of New York City and Tyler Green of Hollister and great-grandfather of Patrick and Aaron Kingborg Wilson, A master Plumber and member of a Bay Area Plumber's a Union for more than 50 years. Mr. Green came to Calif. during WWII to work as a plumber / steam fitter in the naval shipyards. He was a graduate of the Texas School for the Deaf, and was active in the community in Bay Area, including service as president of the San Francisco Chapter of the California Association of the Deaf and as Secretary of the San Francisco Chapter of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf. He loved to garden and to travel throughout the United States by motorhome. A native of Clemscott, Oklahoma, age 74 years. Friends were invited to attend Funeral Services Monday, Nov. 16, 1998 at 11:00 a.m. at Santa Clara Funeral Home, 1000 Scott Blvd. Santa Clara, Interment, Skylawn Memorial Park, San Mateo.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1998

ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>. MURPHY BOURQUE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM HEIGHTS HOSPITAL TO "SUN RISE" NURSING HOME IN KATY. HE WAS TRANSFERRED THERE TO BE NEAR BOBBY, HIS SON. HELEN IS STILL AT HOME AND MISSES MURPHY VERY MUCH. HELEN WILL SOON BE MOVING IN WITH BOBBY AND HIS WIFE KAY IN KATY WHERE SHE WILL THEN ALSO BE NEAR MURPHY.

BOBBY TOOK HELEN TO HEIGHTS HOSPITAL ON FRIDAY MORNING TO BE WITH MURPHY WHEN HE WAS BEING TAKEN TO SUN RISE. BOBBY AND HELEN FOLLOWED THE AMBULANCE TO THE NURSING HOME. THE ADDRESS OF SUN RISE IS:

MURPHY E. BOURQUE  
SUN RISE NURSING HOME, ROOM 230B  
1525 TULL DRIVE  
KATY, TX. 77449

IT IS LOCATED OFF MASON ROAD AND KATY FREEWAY, JUST NORTH OF THE KATY FREEWAY. IF ANYONE DESIRES TO VISIT MURPHY, TAKE THE MASON ROAD EXIT OFF THE KATY FREEWAY AND TURN RIGHT ON MASON. GO TO THE FIRST RED LIGHT. THE STREET IS PARK ROW. TURN RIGHT AND GO ABOUT ½ TO 1 MILE AND THE NURSING HOME IS ON THE RIGHT SIDE. THE STREET IS TULL DRIVE.

HE WILL BE MOST EXCITED TO SEE ANY OF HIS FRIENDS AS HE IS LONESOME THERE BY HIMSELF.

MURPHY IS LUCKY IN THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL NURSES AND THERAPISTS THAT CAN SPEAK SIGN LANGUAGE, WHICH HELPS THE NURSES AND THERAPISTS TALK WITH MURPHY.

EVERYONE WHO WORKS AT THE NURSING HOME IS EXTREMELY NICE AND POLITE AND WORKS WITH THE PATIENTS VERY GOOD.

A NOTE FROM BOBBY: IF ANYONE WISHES TO DROP A CARD IN THE MAIL TO MURPHY, HE WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR FROM HIS FRIENDS.

HELEN L. BOURQUE



1998  
Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church  
Proudly Presents the  
10th Annual Christmas Drama

TELL ME  
THE  
STORY OF  
JESUS



**Five Great Performances**

Friday, December 11th, 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 12th, 2:30 pm

Saturday, December 12th, 7:30 pm

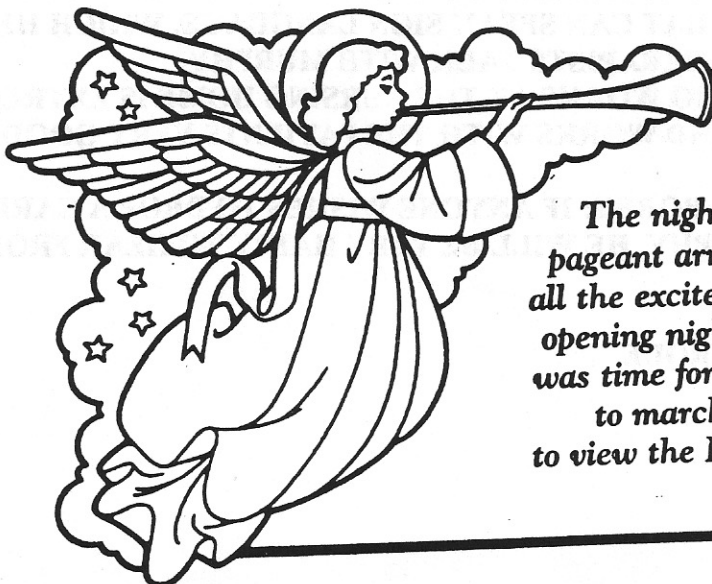
Sunday, December 13th, 10:30 ~~PM~~ AM

Sunday, December 13th, 4:30 pm

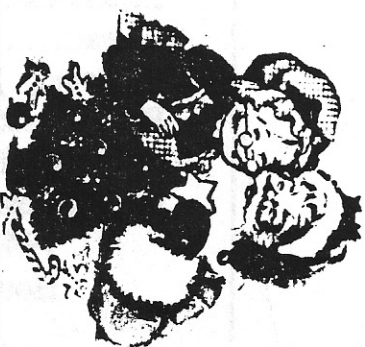


Not Recommended for Children Under 4-Year Old

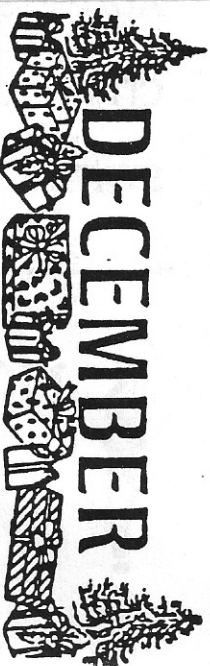
9920 Long Point • Houston, TX 77055 • 713-467-3325 TDD/Voice



The night of the  
pageant arrived with  
all the excitement of an  
opening night. Now it  
was time for the angels  
to march down  
to view the Baby Jesus.



# Merry Christmas



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<small>NOVEMBER 1998</small> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<small>JANUARY 1999</small> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>1</b> P.I.P. Christmas Party	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> S.C. Christmas Party	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Hanukkah	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> S.C. Social Woodhaven	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Winter begins	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> S.C. No meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Christmas Day	<b>31</b>		
				Have a Safe New Year's Eve		



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2.....Jack Richard
- 7.....Rubin Sims
- 9.....Jack Autry
- 15.....Marie Hays
- Joy McKinnon
- 21.....Curtis Smith
- 24.....Sam Mangum
- 28.....Eugene Piercy

### Wedding Anniversaries

- Z. X. & Dorothy Curry  
Dec. 22, 1940.....58 years
- Raymond & Ann Edgely  
Dec. 24, 1977.....21 years
- Thomas & Billie Holloway  
Dec. 25, 1963.....35 years
- Sam & Billie Mangum  
Dec. 31, 1946.....52 years



Please enter my Subscription:  
 1 year.....\$10.00  
 Enclose ( )check ( ) money order  
 Please make payable to  
 DEAF COMMUNICATIONS  
 Mail to ~~Jan Harless~~  
~~1943 Lynnview Dr.~~  
 Houston, TX ~~77035-2021~~

# MOVING?

Please make sure your  
 NEWSLETTER  
 moves with you!

NAME.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....

CITY.....

STATE.....ZIP.....

STATE.....ZIP.....

Thank you very much

Thank you Have a nice day!



## NIGHTINGALE ADULT DAY CENTER

~~5802 Holly~~  
~~Houston, TX 77074~~

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



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

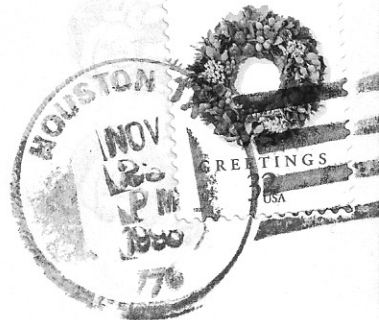
Funded in part by Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

# Merry Christmas

HOUSTON DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS  
 NEWSLETTER

~~1943 Lynnview Dr.~~  
 HOUSTON, TX ~~77035-2021~~

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



~~HOUSTON TX~~