

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

DECEMBER 1999

NEWSLETTER

Senior Citizen Program

Christmas Is Love

By Josie Patrick

I was feverish that Christmas Eve the year I was 5 years old, or I should never have been put to bed on the couch in the living room.

It was an unfolding couch that made a nice double bed, reserved for Mama and whichever one of us children was ill. That was the only nice thing about being sick—getting to sleep with Mama.

I was awakened from my sleep when I heard Mama say, "Santa Claus, your suit fits you nicely."

I opened my eyes, and sure enough, there stood Santa Claus. That was a funny thing for Mama to say to Santa Claus. Here he was right here in the room with me and Mama, and I'd never liked to be near him. He frightened me.

I remembered last year he'd come in on Christmas morning and handed presents to us all—that is, all except Papa, who wasn't there. When Santa Claus called his name and left some packages for him, I'd asked, "Where's Papa, Mama?"

Mama had said, "Oh, he'll be here in a minute," but Papa didn't come till after Santa Claus left.

I remembered my sister Dora, who was two years older than I, kept looking hard at Santa Claus. When my brother Johnny tried to pull his beard, Santa Claus pushed his hand away and backed off.

I didn't even want to get close to him. He was funny looking, but I kept wanting him to go away and I kept wishing Papa would come.

Just like now. I wanted Santa Claus to go away, but I was afraid to say a word. Even the beauty of the Christmas tree with the lights glowing and the ornaments sparkling didn't dim

my fear. I kept wishing Papa would come. If I told him to make Santa Claus go away, I knew he would.

We had all sat around the tree the night before. Mama held me in her lap while Papa told us a story about a bright star that some men watching their sheep followed. They kept going till they came to where Baby Jesus was.

After the story, Papa said, "Now all off to bed. Sissy needs to go to sleep and all of you'll be up early to see Santa Claus."

I started wishing then that Santa Claus wouldn't stay like he did last Christmas, that he would slip in and leave some presents and go away before we woke up. I went to sleep wishing that, and I'd awakened to

see him right there in the room.

I wished Papa would come. I wouldn't be afraid then.

Mama surely didn't seem afraid of Santa Claus. She was standing right up close to him, and suddenly she reached up and tweaked his ear. Then she gave his beard a yank and pulled it right off.

Santa Claus had Papa's face.

"Honey," Mama said, "you make the best Santa Claus I've ever seen."

I wasn't afraid anymore. I knew Santa Claus was Papa. I knew he went with everything that made Christmas so wonderful.

Young as I was, I knew it wasn't the presents that Santa Claus brought that made Christmas a time of happiness.

It was what Mama and Papa gave us all year long.

It was LOVE. ★



December



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



Christmas Party



**Where: Woodhaven Church for the Deaf
9920 Long Point
When: 7:00p.m. Tue. December 7th, 1999**



From Officer Randy Melton
TDD (713) 308-9071
Voice (713) 308-9079
Fax (713) 308-9073

Captioning & Interpreters
Provided



For emergency dial 911 Then tap your space bar.

December 8, 1999 - There will be a Christmas Party for every S. C. at M.M.S.C. Zelma Curbello will be in charge of the party. SENIOR CITIZENS: Please bring fruit salad, homemade cookies, cake, pies and Christmas goodies to M.M.S.C. for Christmas party. There will be only one meeting for December. Will see you next year - January 12, 2000.

December 16, 1999 - third Thursday for Seniors with happy faces meet at Woodhaven Baptist Church. There will be Christmas party for everyone with good covered dishes and Christmas goodies. 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 and join lots of fun playing the games, talking to one another and enjoy good lunch.

Happy Birthday!

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

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Z. X. & Dorothy Curry
Dec.22, 1940.....59 yrs.
- Raymond & Ann Edgely
Dec. 24, 1977.....22 yrs.
- Thomas & Billie Holloway
Dec. 25, 1963.....36 yrs.
- Sam & Billie Mangum
Dec. 31, 1946.....53 yrs.

From Jean Harkness, Newsletter Editor

This is to let you know how much I enjoyed working as editor of this newsletter, and also I want to thank everyone of you for your great help to make my work possible. Starting in January 2000, Frank Shaw will take my place with help from Karen Clifton, Mary Jo Stevens, Audrey Wright and Margie Graham. Please find Frank Shaw's address on the back of this newsletter.

Hopefully, this brand New Year of 2000 will bring good luck, good fortune, good health and much happiness to all Houston Senior Citizens Newsletter readers.

The Senior Citizens who traveled to Port Aransas to attend the 40th Biennial Texas Association of the Deaf conference October 27-30 were Arlene Benham, Frank Shaw, Joe & Lennie Morton, Eugene and Opal Piercy, Jack and Hazel Richard, Joy and Christine McKinnon, Gus and Zelma Curbello, David & Esteline Stewart and Jean Harkness. Raylene Lotz of Round Rock, Texas was selected to be 1999 "Miss Deaf Texas" who will attend the finals at the "Miss Deaf America" at the next National Association of the Deaf convention. Polly Walton, daughter of the Piercys, won a camcorder at the raffles drawn at Casino/Fiestas Buffet while Lennie Morton won a VCR drawn at the Westchester Plaza Exhibit Booth. Congrats to both Polly and Lennie! We all enjoyed chatting with old and new friends at the conference. Everyone had a marvelous time there.

On October 27 the Senior Citizen Halloween party was a huge success at M.M.S.C. Prizes given for the best Halloween costumes went to first place Nellie Bishop, second place Lennie Morton and third place Arlene Benham. They received nice Halloween figure displays. Dinah Anderson was the judge. Big thanks went to Thelma Jo Hays for donating money to the Love Fund to make it possible for the raffles to be drawn for the lovely wooden Halloween display. The lucky winner was Zelma Curbello. Cookies, cake, Halloween candies and orange juice were served.

Cherene (Shadid) Clark, 66, of Houston passed away due to a sudden heart attack on November 9, 1999. She attended the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur in 1940 then Jane Brooks School for the Deaf in Purcell, OK which later on moved to Chickasha, Ok. She was a member of the Houston Senior Citizens group. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Clyde Clark, a daughter, Cherie and two sons. The funeral was held at St. Elijah Orthodox Christian Church in Oklahoma City on November 14, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to St. George Orthodox Church, Attn: Father Boulos, 3505 Bissonnet Street, Houston, Texas 77005. We, senior citizens extend our deepest sympathy to Clyde and his family.

Joy McKinnon lost his brother, Thomas G. McKinnon, age 70, of Cameron on October 27, 1999 and formerly of Houston. Thomas was in furniture making business. We, senior citizens extend our deepest sympathy to Joy and his family.

From Ann Edgley

Ray and Ann Edgley flew to Knoxville, TN. to visit Lester and Christine Arnold for a week. They enjoyed visiting their old friends at their former school homecoming. One of their old friends, Sam took us to them to Chattanooga to see the place where they grew up on Bailey Ave. there. They noticed that the place changed a lot. They visited Sam's mother who looked good for her age of 83. They had not seen her for 46 years ago. They really enjoyed their trip there.



Best Wishes
for the
Holiday Season
and for a
Very Happy New Year!





William "Dummy" Hoy Belongs in the Hall of Fame

William "Dummy" Hoy was the first deaf person to succeed in the Major Leagues. During his 14-year career (1888-1902), Hoy played in 1,798 games, amassing 2,054 hits and 1,004 walks, for a lifetime batting average of .288. He stole over 600 bases (16th among all-time leaders), including 82 as a rookie when he led the National League, and had 9 seasons scoring more than 100 runs as a leadoff man. An outstanding fielder, Hoy had double figures in assists except for one season, for a lifetime total of 389, which included a league-leading 45 assists with the Chicago White Sox. In 1889, with the Washington Nationals, he threw out three men at the plate in one game.

Hoy was also a pioneer, inventing the umpire's hand-arm signals for "strike," "ball," "safe," and "out"--a tradition that makes the game so colorful to this day. Hoy's teammates included Honus Wagner, Sam Crawford, Connie Mack, Clark Griffith, and Charles Comiskey--all Hall of Famers. Most of them learned to communicate in sign language and claimed that Hoy belongs in the Hall.

William Hoy is to deaf America what Jackie Robinson is to black America. Jackie broke the color barrier and "Dummy" broke the communication barrier.

The national pastime would not be the same without Hoy. It's time for Baseball to honor its greatest disabled ballplayer and induct William "Dummy" Hoy into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Submitted by Allan Bubeck



Hoy Facts

1,798 games

2,054 hits

.288 batting average

1,004 walks

607 stolen bases

Invented strike sign

**Had 9 seasons
scoring 100+ runs**

389 outfield assists

**Threw out three men
at plate in one game**

AUSTIN NEWS
By Tennie Sessions

Ray Kirkland, Rosie and Joe Katz and their son, Jerry flew to Hawaii last October for six days. They enjoyed traveling there very much. They got back home safely.

Pauline Frankie Craig, age 89 of Austin, passed away Thursday, October 28, 1999. Her husband, Robert Arthur Craig and daughter, Sandra Pearson, preceded her in death. Mrs. Craig is survived by her son, Bob Craig, daughter, Paula Harry; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. A graveside service was held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30, 1999 at Forest Oaks Memorial Park, in Austin.

Aline Foster, her daughter, Kristina and Lillie Crockett went to Wilke - Clay - Fish Funeral Home to see Pauline Frankie Craig. Kristina was interpreting for them. The funeral was nice and the flowers were beautiful. Pauline's family were glad to see them because they had not seen them for a long time.

Ed Posey, Vocational Supervising teacher at Texas School for the Deaf for many years, passed away, during the last week of October 1999. His wife, Marian Pharr is retired P.E. teacher from 1952 to 1980. She has a nice ranch at Killeen, Texas.

Mrs. Bernadine Willingham passed away in October 1999. She was 96 years old. She was employed at Texas School for the Deaf from 1942 to 1969. At first she was Science teacher and then in 1954 she was selected as supervising teacher of High School. They were married for 74 years.

Donald Williams and his daughter, Patsy traveled to Port Aransas last October to attend Texas Association of the Deaf Conference. They enjoyed meeting many people and seeing the ocean. It was beautiful.

Fannie and Bob Lindberg won first place for the Halloween costume at Durwood Street as we attended Senior Citizen party. We congratulated them.

At first Dovie and Jerry Hassell did not plan to attend the TAD conference, but he started to realize that he had not missed one TAD event for the past 53 years. Then at the last minute they decided to go there just for one day in order to keep his record "clean". So they left Austin Friday afternoon and spent their first night in Corpus Christi. They drove to Port Aransas to attend the conference all day Saturday and also attended the luau that night. They had a wonderful opportunity to meet many old and new friends there. Everyone there was surprised to see them there due to his health problem. We wish to congratulate Jerry for not missing one TAD Conference in 53 years.

In October 14, 1999 I stopped my car on North Lamar and waited for a lady to turn left while the traffic was heavy. A man's car hit the bumper of my car because he did not see the red taillights. I was glad that I was not hurt. the man's insurance paid all of the damage. My car looks nice after it was fixed.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR RENEWALS!!

Judy Griffin, Finice Taylor, Billie Fulbright, Gwendolyn Brown, Zane Owens, Andrew Beckham, Reuben McGill, Melvia Nomeland, William Norvelle, Leonor Royce, Ruth Phillips, Tennie Sessions, Marlene Hanks, Martha Mirus, Sam Derstine, Rosetta Newman and Thomas Withrow

WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS!

Raymond Atwood - gif by George Joffrion
Edie Feliciano

To Ms. Jean Harkness
1945 Lynnview Drive
Houston, Texas 77055

November 9, 1999, Tuesday

For Texas Communications

Charles (Curly) Burney flew to San Diego, CA two weeks ago to be with his son, Robert, for back surgery. His wife, Bonnie (Teer), has to stay behind because of pinched nerve in her back which might slow her down when it comes to a lot of walking. It is not known when Curly will return home because Robert's insurance, a HMO, has not set a date while surgery has been approved for him. Bonnie probably will not have her husband for Thanksgiving and Christmas, but she has been well prepared for it. She has another son, John Lee, who lives at her house so she is not really alone. The bond between Curly and Bonnie is likely to be stronger than ever before after Robert, their only son, gets back on his feet. It looks as if all of us need to learn to be well prepared for a new temporary life change which we are willing to make some sacrifices like what happened to the Burneys. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all of you!

____Bonnie (Charles) Burney

From Lillian Beard

Dear Ones,

Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list.

God is so good.

I've been richly blessed to serve as an interpreter for many, many years. I love each one of you. Keep up the good work. Your paper is very good and it help to keep everyone in touch.

God loves you and I love you always,

Lillian Beard

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS TO LOVE FUND**

Betty Telfer, Daril & Sue Williamson, Z. X. & Dorothy Curry, David & Esteline Stewart, Billy Corum, Walt & Dinah Anderon, Joe & Lennie Morton, Roy & Joyce Adams, Arlene Benham, Frank Shaw, Zelma Curbello, Thelma Jo Hays, Audrey Wright, Mary Jo Stevens, Ruth Montgomery, Rubin & Faye Sims, Ann Edgley, Elnora Morgan, Billie Holloway, Maurice Ford, Lillian Morgeson, Scotty Hill, and Dewey & Doris Adams, Jr.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH YOUR GENEROUS TO LOVE FUND IN MEMORY OF
Lavery Alton.**

Chritine McKinnon

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH YOUR GENEROUS TO LOVE FUND IN MEMORY OF
BARBARA CORUM.**

Rueben McGill

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.



Abraham Lincoln's last Christmas gift

On Christmas Day, 1864, attractively attired Laura Jones made a desperate call on the President of the United States. She absolutely had to get in to see Abraham Lincoln.

A holiday peacefulness had settled over the White House, even though America was still caught up in the throes of the Civil War.

Lincoln had just finished signing a stack of papers. He laid down his pen and sighed.

"What is there left to sign, Mr. Secretary?" Lincoln asked Gideon Welles. "Are we finally through for the day?"

"Mr. President, there is this one special request from a 23-year-old woman who has been trapped in Washington since the war began," Welles responded.

"She desires to have a pass to travel to Richmond in order to have a Christmas wedding to her sweetheart, Jamie Joe Ballinger — a Confederate soldier."

There was a long pause. Then, according to Lincoln's butler, Billy Slade, the President had him go and tell the woman to come in.

Lincoln spoke briefly with the forlorn Laura Jones and her sincerity seemed to make a deep impression on the President.

After silently listening to Laura's story, Lincoln gently nodded his head, and with a few strokes of his pen, pro-



PRESIDENT Lincoln's generous gift helped a young couple wed.

ceeded to write some words on a card.

He handed the travel pass to Miss Jones and wished her a Merry Christmas. Laura Jones could not speak.

Her eyes brimmed with tears of happiness. She was so grateful she fell to her knees before the President.

"Get up," said Lincoln in a soft fatherly tone of voice. "Do not kneel to me, but thank God and go."

"Goodbye, Mr. Lincoln," she said. "I shall probably never again see you until we meet in Heaven."

President Lincoln was deeply moved. "I am afraid with all my troubles I shall never get to the resting place you speak of, but if I do, I am sure I shall find you. That you wish me to get there is, I believe, the best wish you could possibly make for me. Goodbye, Miss Jones."

Helping Miss Jones, a young woman in love with an enemy soldier, was one of the nicest Christmas presents Lincoln ever gave. And it was his last. Less than four months later the 16th President of the United States was shot dead at Ford's Theater.

I Can't Remember

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead. Though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in my head.

I got used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned. I can manage my bifocals, But God, I miss my mind.

For sometimes I can't remember, when I stand at the foot of the stairs. If I must go up for something, or have I just come down from there.

And before the frig so often, my poor mind is filled with doubt. Have I just put food away or have I come to take some out?

And there are times when it is dark, with my nightcap on my head. I don't know if I'm retiring or just getting out of bed.

So if its my turn to write you, there's no need for getting sore. I may think that I have written and don't want to be a bore!

So remember that I love you and wish that you were near. But now it's nearly mail time, so I must say "Good-bye Dear."

P.S. Here I stand beside the mailbox, with a face so very red - instead of mailing you my letter, I have opened it instead!

Author Unknown

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 1 year.....\$10.00
 Enclose () check () money order
 Please make payable to
DEAF COMMUNICATIONS
 Mail to Frank Shaw
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 Houston, TX 77089-2207

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 CITY.....
 STATE.....ZIP.....

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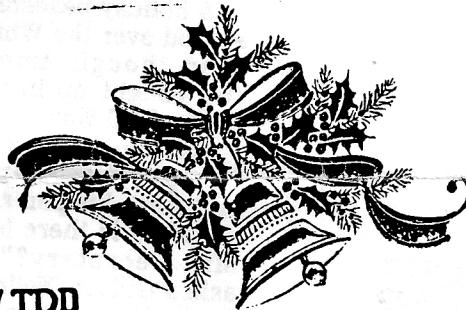
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NIGHTINGALE ADULT DAY CENTER

5802 Holly
 Houston, TX 77074

(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

Deaf Communications
 9954 Kirkshire Dr.
 Houston, TX 77089-2207

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

