

# HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS of TEXAS NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

March 2007

Issue 3



We are planning monthly field trips for Houston Deaf Senior Citizens.

When the place and date are settled, they will be announced on each month of the newsletter.

## REMINDER: New Daylight Savings Time

Effective in 2007 Day Savings Time will be on March 2007 instead of first Sunday of April.

That will be on March 11, 2007. Do not forget to set your clock(s) ahead one hour at bedtime on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Field Trip: Round Top TX – March 9, 2007 (Friday)

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd, Houston, TX. Be there at 8:00 AM. The bus will depart at 8:30 AM.

10:00 AM – Arrive Round Top and sightsee around at Henkel Square – Free admission.

11:30 AM – Lunch: Choose your own restaurants at Henkel Square.

Around 1:30 PM – The Old Car Museum – Admission: \$3.00 a person.

If interested to go, please contact Gertie Sessions at 281-447-7474 TTY/VP or Julie Spaulding at 281-445-1072 TTY/VP before March 7<sup>th</sup>. See you on Mar 9<sup>th</sup>, and let's have fun together.

### *From the Editor*



Hello,

This month is my last as editor and I want to say many thanks for your cooperation in sending items in for our newsletter. It was really nice getting to know everyone over the years. Smiling.....I wish you all the best, health and happiness.

I am still responsible for the renewal dues, temporarily. I have had several requests for addresses of other subscribers lately, people still asking me for friends' address. I am not able to give out this information without your permission. Several have already told me not to release this information, but I don't remember who.

Now I am going to mail you a notice with the newsletter, requesting your signature for either permission or not permission. That will be attached to the address card in our file with your address so we can check on it whenever somebody request for your address.

Again thank you very much....

Truly yours,  
Audrey Leger

For any news, information, jokes, pictures, recipes, sports or anything that you want to share with Senior Citizens.

**Please keep articles at 300 words or less, due to limited space in the newsletter.** Please note that the editor may, at her discretion, edit articles or news items for brevity and to correct errors. **The deadline is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.** Items received after the 15<sup>th</sup> will be held until the next issue.

**NOTE:** Unpaid subscriptions are discontinued after three months. In order to serve you better, a reminder will be sent during the second month. The third month will be your last subscription.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Audrey Leger at  
281-437-6224 TTY / VP / FAX or  
E-mail us at [hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com)

**Houston Deaf  
Seniors of Texas  
Newsletter**

**Editor**

Audrey Leger

**The Staff**

Zelma Curbello  
Thelma Jo Hays  
Nancy Krone  
Rochelle Simpson  
Roger Spivey  
Mary Jo Stevens

**Temporary**

Margie Graham



**From Zelma Curbello of LOVE FUND**

*Deborah Lokey*, Thank you for your hearty thoughtfulness donations to **LOVE FUND IN MEMORY of my brother, Oran Leger and brother-in-law, Barney Varain.**



Anyone who wishes to donate \$\$\$ to **LOVE FUND** or **HDST NEWSLETTER FUND** should please make a check or money order payable either to **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens - Love Fund (or) HDST Newsletter Fund.** And mail to:

**HDSC - Love Fund  
C/o Mrs. Zelma Curbello  
9623 Tiltree  
Houston, TX 77075-4042**

**OR**

**HDST Newsletter Fund  
C/o Audrey Leger  
P. O. Box 664  
Missouri City, TX 77459**

**For Love Fund:** Contact Zelma Curbello at 713-941-3247 TTY/VP



*Joyce L. Adams*, thank you for your thoughtful donation to **HDST Newsletter.**



Subscription is a great gift for your loved family or friends

**New Subscribers:**

Welcome our new subscribers: Janet Hamilton, Alice J. Johnson, and Peter M. Wright.

**Renewals:**

Thank you for your renewal: Eula Adams, Joyce L. Adam, sRegina C. Behne, Henrietta Devine, Mary M. Dunagan, Sandra Griffin, Mary Ruth F. Jones, Lola F. Justiss, Deborah Lokey, Francis C. Sevier, Robert Smith, and Weldon Westmoreland.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## March 2, 2007 (Friday)



FRAT will have a meeting and luncheon from 11 AM to 3 PM at Golden Corral Restaurant, 13145 Northwest Freeway, Houston, TX. (Get off at the Hollister exit from North 290, and make a U-turn. Restaurant is on your right).

## March 2, 2007 (Friday)



ASL Social will be at Willowbrook Mall – Food Court, 2000 Willowbrook Mall, Houston, TX 77070 from 3 PM to 9 PM. Let's come to meet & enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions please e-mail to Earl Johnson at [ejohnson127@houston.rr.com](mailto:ejohnson127@houston.rr.com).

## March 6, 2007 (Tuesday)



Positive Interaction Program (PIP) will have a special field trip this month. They will take a special field trip to the Houston TranStar Center. You must be at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd by 6:45 PM to check-in on the attendance list (Space is limited). They will leave at 7:00 PM Sharp. Let's join and learning something new.

## March 9, 2007 (Friday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a field trip to Round Top, TX. We meet at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church at 9920 Long Point Rd, Houston, TX at 8:00 AM. Hope you can join us. It's sure to be enjoyable. (See editor page 2, for more information).

## March 9, 2007, (Friday)



Houston Hand Talk Social will be at Pappas BBQ Restaurant, 7007 Hwy 59 South at Bellaire, Houston, TX 77074 from 5 PM to 9 PM. Let's come to meet & enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions please contact Roger Spivey at [spivey39@Yahoo.com](mailto:spivey39@Yahoo.com).

## March 10, 2007 (Saturday)

Houston Black Deaf Association (HBDA) will have a meeting at 1615 Binz, Houston, TX 77004 @ 3:00 PM. For more information visit their website at [hbda.org](http://hbda.org). ([www.hbda.org](http://www.hbda.org))



## March 14, 2007 (Wednesday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a business meeting at (new name) West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center (WGARC), formerly Metropolitan Multi-Service Center (MMSC) at 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Let's attend the meeting; afterward enjoy chatting with friends!

## March 15, 2007 (Thursday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a fellowship and potluck at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church at 9920 Long Point from 9 AM to 1 PM. If you wish to bring a covered dish, please contact Evelyn Autry at (713) 984-8186 TTY or Nancy Krone at (281) 565-8614 TTY and let them know what you will bring.

**March 28, 2007 (Wednesday)**



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a social meeting at **West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center (WGARC)**, 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Let's join and enjoy chatting with friends!

## *Thank You Notes*

To my dear friend: *Deborah Lokey*,

Thank you for your thoughtful donations to LOVE FUND in memory of my brother, Oran Leger, and brother-in-law, Barney Varain.

Thanks for being a great friend.

Love, *Audrey Leger*

~~~~~

To Bobby Jo Griggs,

Thank you for your thoughtful donations to Love Fund in memory of my beloved husband, Jerrell Quinn.

I'm sure that he appreciates you for your very thoughtful.

*Betty Jo Quinn*

~~~~~

### **JOKES ON US**

Submitted by Zelma Curbello

A man told his neighbor about his new hearing aid. "It cost me \$4,000, but its state of the art. It's perfect," the man said.

"Really," answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty," the man said.

--BOB BYERS, *Houston*

### **SENIOR MOMENTS**

Received E-mal from a friend

#### **SENIOR DRIVING**

- As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!"  
"Hell," Hermann, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"
- An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried.  
The dispatcher say, "Stay calm, Ma'am, an officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard.", He says. "She got in the back-seat by mistake."





## **Proud Great-Grandparents:**

Glenn & Betty Thrasher are proud great-grandparents of their first great-grandson, Adian in December 2006. He bore on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> to his parents, Colleen & Joshu McAguna. He weighted 7 lbs 4 oz and 20 inches length.

He was four weeks old when the picture was taken by his mother, Colleen (their granddaughter). Now he is two months old.

Congratulations!



## **Houston Seniors Trip to Liberty, TX:** Submitted by Rochelle Simpson with additional details by Sue Wilkerson

We arrived at the Gillard-Duncan house that was built in 1848 by Dr. Edward J. and his wife, Emma. It is one of the oldest homes in Southeast Texas. They moved to Texas from Louisiana to live, grow crops and raise cows. Every room had its own fireplace to keep themselves warm. The kitchen was separated from the house. Upstairs had a schoolroom.

We visited St. Stephen's Episcopal that was built around 1850's. The church had beautiful handmade peg wood high ceiling and floors. We also, visited another house built in 1883 with a bunch of old interesting items.

After the tour, we stopped at My Little Kitchen for lunch. The food was homemade and delicious. Then, we went to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center to see over 100 documents of the history of Southeast Texas. It holds government records, maps, oral history tapes, a cabinet full of old print fonts, etc, including books dated 1869-1904.

We went to Jean and Price Daniel's house which was built in 1982-1984. It was patterned after the original 1856 plans for the Texas Governor's Mansion. It held mementos of the public life of Governor and Mrs. Price Daniel. They used the house for social events. Mrs. Daniel is the great-great granddaughter of General Sam Houston. It has a beautiful small chapel inside of the mansion. There are also displays of the Governor's and his wife's family belongings. Quilt was made out of ties. We passed the Daniels family ranch and the cemetery (One half is old cemetery, the other half is recent Daniels family) where the Governor and his wife were buried.

Everyone enjoyed the trip. We survived the cold windy weather!

## **Birthday Celebration:** Submitted by Tennie Sessions



Genevieve Cummings' son and family gave her a birthday party at the La Vista Retirement Home in San Marcos, with many friends and relatives. She celebrated her 90th on December 28, 2006.

Her only sister, Betty Matleny of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and her sister-in-law, Marion Elearle also from Iowa came to the party.

Genevieve is still an active bowler at the Sunset Lanes with the senior group in San Marcos.

## **Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD)**

Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD) will have a conference in Arlington, Texas June 21 – 23, 2007. They would like to invite you to attend the conference; this is a very special conference because TAD will celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was founded in 1886. The registration includes early-bird combo tickets and at-the door combo tickets. Also available are individual day tickets and single event tickets. For more information see [www.deaftexas.org](http://www.deaftexas.org).



## CAPE COD

DAC Senior Nutrition Program Presents Cape Cod trip on September 27-October 9, 2007.

Motorcoach transportation (Diamond tours)

12 nights lodging including 4 consecutive nights in the quaint Cape Cod area

22 meals: 12 breakfast and 10 dinners - A visit to lovely, artistic Martha's Vineyard

An exploration of the historic seaside towns of Hyannis and Sandwich

A tour of the "outer Cape", including Provincetown and Chatham

A visit to the JFK museum - A New England lobster dinner

Casino and much more

All for \$1,050.00 each person

Meet at DAC in Dallas, Texas

For any questions or more information contact Keri Welchel at DAC #214-521-0407 TTY, or [kweichel@deafactioncentertexas.org](mailto:kweichel@deafactioncentertexas.org) ; Work: IP Address – 69.15.115.23 or Home: (after 6 PM)

VP #817-788-0633.

## Billy Basham's mother, Birdie Basham



GILMER – Leon Czolgosz assassinated the first president in Birdie Basham's life, back in 1901. It was William McKinley. It wasn't the first presidential assassination. More important, it wouldn't be the last one Birdie Basham would live through. In her 109 years on earth, Mrs. Basham has lived through some of the world's greatest scientific discoveries and through its deadliest wars. She's seen the U.S. flag grow from 45 stars and the population increase to 300 million. Upshur Manor Nursing Home threw Mrs. Basham a 109<sup>th</sup> birthday party Thursday, moving her bed out into the hall and inviting

friends and family to fill the long hall in front of her, where they sang "Happy Birthday," ate cake and drank punch. Five generations of family members joined them. Her son, David Basham who is only 14 years removed from his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, was on hand, with his 81-year-old wife Audrey. "I don't have any idea why we live so long," he said when asked about the family's longevity. He said his mother has had a very good life. "She's been very religious and played the piano in the church in New Hope (a town near Lubbock)," he said. Getting a handle on just how long this woman has been around isn't easy. The Wright brothers flew their airplane the year Mrs. Basham turned 6. She was in the bloom of her youth when Charles Lindbergh flew the world's first non-stop flight from New York to Paris. She's lived through 19 of this country's 43 presidents, including Theodore Roosevelt who stepped in for McKinley and became the first president to ride in a car to his inauguration. Mrs. Basham survived the flu epidemic of 1918, which was responsible for the deaths of 20 to 40 million people. She won the right to vote with the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1920. She lived through the much touted "Great War, the War to End all Wars," followed by several more wars. She's even lived through the national question of whether to "prohibit" or "allow" booze. Mrs. Basham, in fact, has lived through both decisions. She was born Dec. 28, 1897, in St. Jo as Birdie Parkhill (no middle name, and Birdie isn't a nickname, according to her children and grandchildren). She grew up to marry Pane Basham, and the two eventually left St. Jo for the Texas Panhandle, where he became a cotton farmer for awhile. Eventually, the couple decided to move to Tulsa, where he sold cars and insurance. She got a job in the alterations department at Street's Department Store in downtown Tulsa. She never learned to drive, preferring to take the city bus to work each day for the next 30 years, her family members said. When Pane Basham died in the early '70s after nearly 50 years of marriage, she moved back to St. Jo for a while, then to Arlington to live with her kids. Thyri (pronounced theory) Hawkins is the nurse administrator at the nursing home and has known Birdie Basham for the last 10 years. "Up until a couple of years ago, Birdie was always laughing with the staff. She took walks around the nursing home, and she was still working crossword puzzles," Hawkins said. Blood pressure problems keep her confined to her bed these days, but that didn't stop officials from the nursing home from rolling her out into the hall for her birthday Thursday. A lot of family members were there. Her great-great-grandson Zachary Hardeman couldn't make it though. He's 108.5 years younger than his great grandmother and not into such socializing yet.

# REST IN PEACE

## OBITUARY

**William Curtis Pasley, 90**, ex-TSD, of Henderson, Nevada, died January 12, 2007.

He was a retired aircraft assembler.

He is survived by his wife, Frances; and son Danny of Sherman Oaks, California, one grandson Dan Pasley and three great-grandchildren.

William and Frances both married for Sixty-six (66) years.



**Margaret Stebbins Finnerty, mother of Marlene Hanks** – Funeral services were held Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 10 a.m. at Gueydan First United Methodist Church for Margaret Finnerty, 89.

Mrs. Finnerty died January 15, at Gueydan Memorial Guest Home.

Burial was in Graceland Cemetery in Abbeville, LA with Reverend Kemper Smith officiating at the service.

She is survived by two daughters, Marlene Finnerty Hanks of Gueydan, LA and Kathleen Finnerty Nelson and her husband, Eddy, of Dallas, Texas; five grandchildren, Margaret Klein of Gueydan, George Lee Hanks of Gainesville, Florida, Douglas E. Nelson of Dallas, Mamie Burton of Calvary, Canada and Michelle LeFors of Prairieville, LA, and 15 great grandchildren.

Visiting hours were observed at Vincent Funeral Home, 311 Fourth St in Gueydan, Friday, January 19, from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Saturday, January 20, from 8 a.m. until time of services at Gueydan First Methodist Church.

All funeral arrangements were conducted by Vincent Funeral Home of Gueydan.



**William Leon Balzer** went to be with the Lord on February 3, 2007 after a long illness. Leon was

born in Robstown, Texas on December 25, 1919 to William Karl and Birdie White Balzer. He attended grade school in Driscoll, Texas and later the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, Texas. It was there that he met "the love of his life" – Dorothy Donoho and they were married January 9, 1943. They came back to Driscoll to help his father in the operation of Balzer Gin Co. and the family farm. He farmed until he retired. Leon drove the school bus for some 20 years. The "Driscoll Dragon", the school year book, was dedicated to him in 1955 with this quotation:



"He is known for his dependability and willingness to be of service to our community. Leon is loved and admired by all those who have known him." He

was a member of River Hills Baptist Church, having accepted Jesus as his Savior through a deaf ministry led by John Price. Leon loved his family and was

blessed to have added family the last two years of his life. He was cared for and loved so specially at Lilly's Home in Robstown by Lilly Flores, Diana Moreno, Monica Sanchez, Bertha Garibaldi and Jamie Zamora.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Balzer and one son, William Van Balzer of Corpus Christi, Texas; one grandson, Brent Allen Balzer and his wife Marlena of Portland, Oregon and one grandson, Damian. He is also survived by a sister, Martha Jean Douglass and her husband, Ransom of Robstown, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation was held one hour before the funeral services.

The celebration of Leon's life was held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, February 7, 2007 in Sawyer-George Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Sam Douglass officiating.

Burial was followed in Robstown Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, friends are asked to make contributions to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, 5151 McArdle, Corpus Christi, Texas 78411 or to the Alzheimer's Association of South Texas, 2910 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78408.



**DeafDigest Blue – February 11, 2007**

Blue Edition – Barry Strassler, Editor

\*National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) will host its 25th Anniversary Conference and [Biennial] Training Program from July 3 - 8, 2007 at the Renaissance Hotel in St. Louis. For more information, visit us out at: <http://www.nbda.org>

\*EVERY PRESIDENT HAS A DIRECT OR INDIRECT LINK WITH THE DEAF President #26 Theodore Roosevelt was deaf in one ear; proposed to establish an all-deaf cavalry unit that would fight in the World War I and in fact, asked for deaf volunteers; there was a long list of these deaf sign ups; the idea, however was shot down by President Woodrow Wilson. One of his pictures was taken by a deaf photographer Alexander L Pach, and for that this deaf man was called "Photographer of Presidents."

**DeafDigest Gold – February 18, 2007**

Gold Edition – Barry Strassler, Editor

\* Miscellaneous sports - Possibly the best deaf bowler in Europe is a 15-year old kid from United Kingdom. The kid, Matthew Forsyth was a runner up in the all-adult European Deaf Ten-Pin Bowling Championships event that took place in Switzerland. 108 adults competed against him.

\* DeafSportsHistory - Year 1892 - Reuben Stephenson, a graduate of New Jersey School for the Deaf, was a career player in the minor leagues; he was called up late in the season by Philadelphia Phillies to replace an injured starter. Reuben hit .277 during his short stay in majors before going back to minors. He never again played a game in the majors.

**HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS of TEXAS**

**Earl W. Day, President**  
Email: [earlwday@aol.com](mailto:earlwday@aol.com)

**Nancy Morris, Secretary**  
Ph # 281-656-2576 (TTY/VP)  
Email:  
[nmorris2@houston.rr.com](mailto:nmorris2@houston.rr.com)

**Houston Deaf Seniors of Texas**  
P O Box 664  
Missouri City, TX 77459

Effective March 2007  
James Fair as Interim Editor of  
HDST Newsletter  
Email:  
[hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com)

**For Address/Renewal Due:**  
HDST Newsletter  
C/o Audrey Leger  
P O Box 664  
Missouri City, TX 77459  
Ph #281-437-6224 (FAX/TTY/VP)  
Email:  
[hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com)

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