

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

Volume 2

February, 2001

Issue 2

Happy Valentine's Day

from

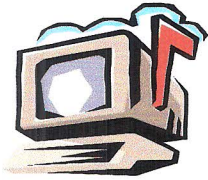
Mary Redman and the Staff of Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced valentines in America.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

Writer Unknown, (quoted from an internet)





FROM THE EDITOR:

Houston Deaf
Senior Citizen
Newsletter

Editor
Frank Shaw



Staff

Karen Clifton



Mary Jo
Stevens



Audrey Wright



Hope this finds you in good spirit and health after your busy holiday.

I would like to share with you that I had a meeting with an agent at Pioneer Tour & Traveler Bus. It is possible to arrange upcoming trip to Biloxi, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana in June. The trip will take three days/two nights. Lodging will be at Isle of Capri (Casino hotel) in Biloxi for two nights. More information will be announced at the meeting on February 14th. Non-member senior citizens are welcome to the meeting, and can sign up for the trip.

Please send any news, information, picture or recipe that you wish to share with other Senior Citizens. **We would appreciate if any of you can write no more than 250 words of any news due to limited space on newsletter.** Please note that the editor may at his discretion edit articles or news items 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 from the due date, your name will be removed from our mailing list.

I appreciate your cooperation.

Thank you.

Frank Shaw

CORRECTIONS:

- *Celebration of Diamond Anniversary* on Page 5 of last month newsletter incorrectly identified the name of Dorothy Curry's husband. The correct name is Z.X. Curry.
- News on Page 10 of last month newsletter incorrectly identified Jean Harkness as Shirley Harkness. The error is regretted.



Upcoming Field Trips for Houston Deaf Senior Citizens



April – June, 2001

- **April 6, 2001 (Friday)**

Trip to Chappel Hill, TX, a town of beautiful bluebonnets

- ✓ Bus departs at 8:00 AM from Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church
- ✓ Stop by McDonald for breakfast
- ✓ Tour Chapple Hill Historical Museum (Site of former Chappel Hill Female College)
- ✓ Tour Bluebonnet Festival including crafts if available on that day (**optional**)
- ✓ Lunch
- ✓ Tour Historic Homes of Chapple Hill – The Stagecoach Inn and the Wallis-Evans House

- **May 5, 2001 (Saturday)**

Trip to Palestine, TX

- ✓ Bus departs at 8:00 AM from Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church
 - ✓ Stop by McDonald for breakfast
 - ✓ Texas State Railroad – Palestine
 - Option A:** Train departs at 11:00 AM and returns at 3:00 PM including lunch at State Park. It takes 25.5 miles to ride around. Tickets are \$13.00 per person including discount for a group.
 - Option B:** Train departs at 11:00 AM and stops by State Park for lunch. It is half way to ride. Tickets are \$8.00 including discount for a group. Our bus will meet and pick us up at State Park after lunch. Then visit National Scientific Balloon Facility.
- (We will vote which option on Feb. 14th meeting.)

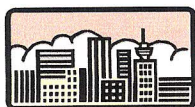
- **June 1, 2001 (Friday)**

Trip to Richmond-Rosenburg, TX

- ✓ Bus departs at 8:30 AM from Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
 - ✓ Stop by McDonald for breakfast
 - ✓ Tour George Ranch Historical Park – 470 acre living history site
 - Option A:** Self-Directed tour - \$6.50/person (minimum of 15 paid persons)
This tour will be on our own pace to see the historical park with our group.
 - Option B:** Escorted Tour - \$8.50/person (minimum of 15 paid persons)
An interpreter who will stay with the group will guide this tour.
 - ✓ Lunch (Bring our brown bag or buy lunch there)
 - ✓ Visit Fort Bend County Historical Museum – Cited as one of state's best small museums.
 - ✓ Visit Brazos Bend State Park – George Observatory (within park features 36-inch telescope).
- (We will vote which option on Feb. 14th meeting.)

- **June 5 – 7, 2001 (Tuesday thru Thursday)**

Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana by bus will take three days and two nights. Lodging will be at Isle of Capri (Casino Hotel) for two nights. There will be a meeting on Feb. 14th to arrange this trip for anyone who is interested in going. More information will be announced in next newsletter.





"100 Years Ago" in America

(Taken from the Internet by unknown writer)

The average life expectancy in the United States was forty-seven.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the United States had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was ten mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the twenty-first most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the U.S. was twenty-two cents an hour. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1500 and \$4000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5000 per year.

Ninety percent of all U.S. physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

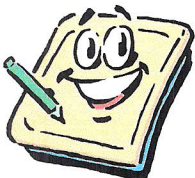
Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason, either as travelers or immigrants.

The five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart Disease
5. Stroke

JOKE



The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which one should have the present.

"Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to mother? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison. "Okay, dad, you get the toy."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 2, 2001 (Friday)

1st Anniversary ASL Social at Joe's Crab Shack – 2621 South Loop West from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Come and join us for great social/fellowship. Contact Roger Spivey (spivey39@infree.com) or Earl Johnson (281) 487-2921 TTY. RSVP before January 29th.



February 6, 2001 (Tuesday)

Positive Interaction Program (PIP). It will be held at Woodhaven Church for the Deaf at 9920 Longpoint at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. Interpreter & Captioning will be provided.



February 6 & 7, 2001 (Tuesday & Wednesday)

Open captioned movie, "*Cast Away*", at AMC Studio 30 on Dunvale and Westheimer.



February 13 & 14, 2001 (Tuesday & Wednesday)

Open captioned movie, "*The Family Man*", at AMC Studio 30 on Dunvale and Westheimer.



February 14, 2001 (Wednesday)*Happy Valentine's Day*****

Houston Senior Citizens will have a meeting at *Metropolitan Multi-Service Center* at 1475 West Gray from 9 AM to 1 PM.



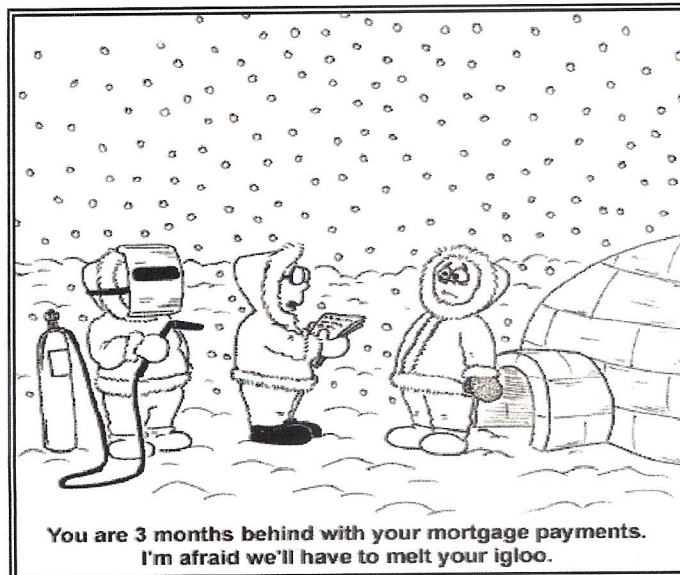
February 15, 2001 (Thursday)

Senior Citizens will meet at Woodhaven Baptist Church at 9920 Long Point. There will be potluck for 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.





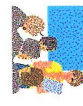







February 28, 2001 (Wednesday)

Senior Citizens will have a meeting at *Metropolitan Multi-Service Center* at 1475 West Gray from 9 AM to 1 PM.



February 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 PIP Meeting 	7	8	9	10
11	12 Abraham Lincoln Birthday 	13 Agnes Foster 	14 Happy Valentine's Day S.C.M.M.S.C. 	15 S.C. Social Woodhaven 	16	17
18	19 Geneva Reagan 	20 Helen Padgett 	21	22 George Washington Birthday 	23	24
25	26 Jack & Hazel Richard 1942 	27	28 S.C.M.M.S.C. 			

Social Meeting

Birthday

Anniversary

Rest in Peace



OBITUARIES

Clifford Cheatham, 76, deceased on December 21, 2000 at his home in Mesquite, TX. He had been worked as a shoe repairman many years before he was retired. Survived by his wife, **Bobbie (Crosby) Cheatham**, his children, grandchildren and great children. He and his wife attended at TSD. They were married for about 45 years. He was buried at Whitehouse Memorial Cemetery in Whitehouse, TX on December 23.

Carl Rowell, 65, passed away on December 28, 2000. During his breakfast he had a heart attack. He had been sick with bad asthma and diabetes for about five years. His funeral service was held at Ringgold, Louisiana on December 30 and then his burial site was in Castor, LA, where Martha Ann resides. Survived by his wife, **Martha Ann Lee Rowell (Class of 55')**, his four children; John Lee, Ann Caskey, Rodney Rowell, and Pat Lerral; and 12 grandchildren.

Bill Billingsley, son of the late William & Ethel Billingsley, passed away last December. His wife, Ruth, is now hospitalized. Bill was a long time houseparent at Texas School for the Deaf before he got a job as an insurance agent. His body was buried at Fort Sam Houston (military) cemetery in San Antonio.

From Zelma Curbello of LOVE FUND:



We wish to thank you very much for your generous donations to **Love Fund: Joyce/Roy Adams, LaRue Clifton, and Elnora Morgan**. Also thanks to Henrietta Devine for her generous donation in **Memory of Curtis Smith**.

RENEWALS:

Thank you for renewal: Lois Bramall, M/M Gordon Gibbons, Bobby Jo Griggs, Delia A. Harris, Marie Ramos, Nell Shanefield, Mary Faye Tappett and Burba Thornton.

News from Tennie Sessions:

Billy Board, a resident at La Vista Retirement Community, had a heart attack and is now in the hospital.

Clarence Broecker had a two by-pass heart surgery and is recovering now. He taught at Texas School for the Deaf, El Paso School for the Deaf and a mainstream program for the deaf in Uvalde.

Robert Gearhart was in the hospital and had a bladder surgery. He is resting at home now. His wife, Audrey, is taking good care of him. Robert was a long time employee at Steck Printing Co before his retirement.



RECIPE

My family views loaves of this bread as oversized blueberry muffins. So you can imagine how quickly they disappear! The recipe includes some little "flourishes" – cinnamon and pecans – which make the bread absolutely addictive.

Submitted by: Elvee O.

Blueberry Nut Bread

(ContentMail Presents: Recipe of the Day)

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1 pint blueberries, rinsed but not dried off | 4 eggs |
| 3 cups plus 3 Tbsp. Whole wheat flour, divided | 1 cup chopped pecans |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 1 tsp. salt |
| 2 cups sugar | 2 cups vegetable oil |
| 1 tsp. ground cinnamon | |

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. In a medium bowl, combine the blueberries and 3 Tbsp of flour. Toss to coat evenly. In a large bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Mix well. Carefully fold the blueberries into the rest of the ingredients. Spoon the batter into two greased 9" x 5" loaf pans. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Allow to cooling slightly and then removing to a wire rack to cool completely.



NEWS



News by Nellie Bishop:

I went to New Braunfels with my daughter, Shirley last December 16, 2000 and spent a night at my son, Ray's house. My nephew called and informed me that my sister, Lucille, had a bad car accident and was sending to Herman Hospital. Next day Shirley & I returned home and visited Lucille. On Friday, Jan. 12 Lucille was released from the hospital and is now at home. Lucille needs my help to take care of her because she has to use a wheelchair. I'm staying at Lucille Baker's house. Here is my address for anyone who wishes to contact me: **810 W. Country Meadows Lane, Pearland, TX. 77584-2083.**

News by Tennie Sessions:

1. Austin Deaf Senior Citizens will have upcoming field trips:
 - Trip to Lockhart on January 23, 2001.
 - Tour the State Capitol in March
 - Get on trail to see bluebonnets on way to Bastrop in April
 - Trip to Dallas is still uncertain at this time.

2. The members at Fairview Baptist Church of the Deaf voted unanimously on January 7, 2001 to move to Congress Ave. Baptist Church effective February 4, 2001. Jack Earwood is the pastor and Carl Earwood as a song leader.

Deaf History

By Karen Hansen Clifton

DR. MADEN VASISHTA

(Taken from "Living Legends III" by Darlene Toole)

Becoming deaf did not stop Maden Vasishta from becoming a successful leader. His accomplishments came from great courage and determination. Read on...

Maden Vasishta was born in a small village in India, near the Himalayan Mountains. Maden, his brothers and sisters were living on a farm owned by their parents to grow wheat and rice. All of them were well educated and could speak several languages.

One night while sick with very high fever, typhoid and mumps, he heard strange noises. He was so frightened that he woke up, looked around his room and realized there was no noise in the room. Obviously, the noises were in his head. He screamed for his mother, who came running into his room. To Maden, Mother was speaking but not using her voice. Realizing that he could not hear his own voice, too, he knew then that he was deaf. He was saddened that his life would no longer be the same.

Since he became deaf at 11 years old, he couldn't go to school because there was no school for the deaf in his part of India at that time. So, he went to work on the farm instead. He brought books with him to the farm and read them when he had free time. He taught himself to read and write. How did his family communicate with Maden? Since paper and pen were so expensive, they communicated by using their fingers as "pens" to trace letters on their arms and hands as "papers".

When he was 20 years old, Maden decided to take a college test, even though some people laughed at him, believing he couldn't pass the test. Everybody was stunned when he made the highest grade in the state. Unfortunately, he could not attend any college because none of the colleges in India would accept a deaf student. This won't stop Maden from doing something for his life. He decided to attend a photography school in New Delhi. It was a first time in his life that he met deaf people and had a deaf teacher using sign language. He was amazed that they could understand each other with sign language. He used his finger-writing communication when talking to them. They looked at him and realized that Maden knew nothing about sign language. From there he picked up fast to learn Indian Sign Language.

After finishing his school, he worked for the Indian government as a very skilled scientific photographer. One day at his job he met a deaf lady who visited from the United States. She mentioned about Gallaudet College, the only liberal arts college for the Deaf in America. He became very interested and wanted to attend Gallaudet so badly, but he had to wait for one year to enable his parents arrange a marriage for him, following Indian tradition. After the marriage, his wife, Nirmala, stayed with his family on the farm while Maden attended Gallaudet College. Through work hard, he earned three degrees, B.A., M.A. and PhD from Gallaudet.

Maden sent out many job applications back to India after his graduation, but unfortunately there was no job offers for him so he decided to stay in United States and got a job as a teacher at Kendall School in Wash., D.C. His wife moved to America to join him and they had two children. He has now retired after different jobs as a teacher at Kendall School at Gallaudet; a Principal at Texas School for the Deaf; an assistant Superintendent at Illinois School for the Deaf; a Superintendent at both North Carolina School for the Deaf; and New Mexico School for the Deaf.

Dr. Vasishta believes that residential schools for deaf children are important because these schools help students with technical as well as educational needs. Such schools also provide great Deaf leaders and educators, which is a great role model to deaf children; they are the center of Deaf Culture, and encourage Deaf pride. Dr. Vasishta advises deaf students that reading is the key to improve knowledge. New technology, for example the web, electronic emails, and the Internet is all based on reading and these should be utilized to maximum advantage to help reading and writing skills.

Dr. Vasishta's dream came true: college education, getting married and having children, and becoming a superintendent of school for the Deaf. He hopes to publish a dictionary of Indian Sign Language and a book of his photographs. His other hope is to travel around the world. His journey seems endless.

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens
9954 Kirkshire Dr.
Houston, TX 77089-2207

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



NIGHTINGALE ADULT DAY CENTER

5802 Holly
Houston, TX 77074

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

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