



**USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET  
“The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast”**

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**USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION  
AND NEXT GENERATIONS REUNION**

**February 21-24, 2008**

**Doubletree- Allan Center**

**400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002**

**Call for room reservations Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Central Time:  
713 759-0202 or 800 222-8733**

**Advise you are with the USS Houston group for the \$89 per night rate  
Have your credit card ready to provide billing information**

**Contact: Val Poss 512 989-0000 Email: CA30NG@aol.com**

**WRONG SPELLING AND DATE** - I received an email from Tom Moore supplying a copy of his letter to politicians requesting corrections on the headstone of DONNIS WAYNE WILLIS (died 10 June '43) from Dennis Willis (died 9 June '48). I passed the note to our email members asking they also contact the politicians thinking there's strength in numbers. There wasn't much of a response from our group HOWEVER, John Schwarz notified a friend of the association who agreed to look into the matter. Thanks to CDR Dave Kenney USN (RC) the problem was resolved within a month! Kudo's to CDR Kenney for working miracles!!

**MAILBAG** – Nancy morrow writes that she and her husband are as well as possible dealing with health issues (his gallbladder & her diagnosis of a rare muscle disease/Myasthenia Gravis). I called to apologize for letting her name slip from the mailing list & got off the back 3 issues to her promptly – AND corrected the error of my ways. Letters from Mattie Atterberry always bring a smile and chuckle. They are filled with antidotes about shooting squirrels, feeding the birds & sharing the newsletter with friends that are home bound. She states “Maybe you’d like to share with others so will sign off. And if you people enjoy the USS Houston as much as I do, come on please and support these kids who are doing a great job keeping the newsletter coming to us old folks”. It was very sad news to receive when Marti Charles died June 30<sup>th</sup> of complications with her fight with a rare form of Hepatitis. We shall all miss her grace and wonderful laugh. Vic Campbell continues to interview WWII vets capturing valuable history. You can keep track of his work by going to his web site [www.me3tv.org](http://www.me3tv.org). Our JOHN HOOD was featured in his local newspaper as their local WWII hero. His family, along with hospice, check on him regularly so he can stay home. After many failed attempts to find GUY ROSE, his daughter emailed me stating he was living in a nursing home. His sister Alberta reports he recently had cataract surgery and now sees very good! The daughter of GUY ROSE emailed and asked for a USS Houston cap for him to wear as he finally received his POW medal.

#### **NOW HEAR THIS!**

All *USS Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association and Next Generation family:  
Spread the Word! To all blood relations of the ship’s crew, descendants, those associated through marriage, or any known persons with a keen interest in the *USS Houston*....

**Scholarship Program** - Applications are accepted beginning June 1 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1. Applications and specific information about applying may be obtained anytime by writing a request to:

John Keith Schwarz  
2500 Clarendon Blvd Apt 121  
Arlington, VA 22201

Applications are now available via the USS HOUSTON website ([www.usshouston.org](http://www.usshouston.org))

Those eligible to apply include students entering the final year of high school with anticipation of going to college, as well as all college under-graduates up through the final year of study. Previous applicants and winners can re-apply.

Applicants are required to present grades or evidence of progress in school and may present outside work experience, extra-curricular activities, etc. Applications must also present an essay.

The '08 scholarship amount will be in the amount of \$3,000 (unless there is a tie so applicants --- give it your best!)

*Any donation is appreciated* – It would be an extraordinarily loving act to donate in honor of or in memory of a loved one. *Please remember the USS Houston Scholarship Fund in your will, estate planning, or beneficiary designations.* Did you know if you leave your IRA or a portion of your IRA to the USS Houston Scholarship Fund, the fund will not have to pay federal income tax on this inheritance?

Make your checks out to:

USS Houston Scholarship Fund % Pam Foster, 370 Lilac Ln, Lincoln, CA 95648

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**PROCESS-** The current scholarship application window is open until November 1, 2007. Please be reminded that due to your generosity, a \$3,000.00 award is offered this year. To-date no applications have been received. Previous applicants and/or winners can apply. Applications have only been advertised to our own 'Houston Family'. Your scholarship committee will have to consider advertising the scholarship award to a broader audience if interest remains low from within our organization. Do your part please to spread the word and 'talk up' to our young folks to get them into the competition. 'You can't win it if you are not in it'.

**FUNDS/FUND RAISING** - I hope you will notice in this newsletter's financial page, that the scholarship fund is at an all-time high level. Our external fund raising efforts have begun to pay-off. There is still much more work to be done. We would need to get to a minimum of \$50,000.00 before we could consider 'freezing' that capital amount, and have the scholarship awarded from interest (approximately \$2,500.00). This would be a tremendous milestone that could ensure a scholarship award, on behalf and in memory of our USS Houston (CA-30) men, virtually forever! We need to raise another \$20,000.00 to reach that benchmark. Your donations are of course, always appreciated. We will also continue to run the auction at the forthcoming '08 reunion which also contributes to the scholarship fund. But in addition, we could always use some good men/women. Everyone/anyone can help as a fund raiser;

- 1- You can simply spread the word and let people know about the program and how to donate (friends, family, associates, businesses, etc.). This is how the Mathews obtained a \$10,000.00 donation!
- 2- You can volunteer to help your committee to fund raise. All you need is a computer, a willingness to spend a little of your time, and a minimal amount of postage cost coverage you are willing to donate. The committee can supply you with everything else you would need including a beautiful new, promotional brochure, a request letter to be individualized to the person you make the plea to, and even a list of potential donors to which to write to.
- 3- You can join our committee and become an active, productive member of our effort and not only fund raise, but be of over-all service to your organization and it's Scholarship Committee.

Please let me know if you have any interest in any of the above or any other scholarship issue(s).

Stay well everyone and look forward to seeing you in good 'ol Houston, February, 2008...

John Keith Schwarz- USS Houston (CA-30) Survivor's Association and Next Generations Scholarship Committee Chairman, and son of the late shipmate Otto C. Schwarz

**ARTIFACTS AND MEMORIALS** - USS HOUSTON MONUMENT: Sam Houston Park, Houston, TX, PORTHOLE: USS Yorktown, Patriots Point, Charleston, SC, CAPTAIN ALBERT ROOKS PARK: Walla, Walla, Washington, CAPTAIN ROOKS FOUNTAIN, ACADEMY RING OF LT. WEILER, & STAINED GLASS WINDOW HONORING CAPT. ROOKS: Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, TREE AND BRONZE MARKER: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA (Just past the arch on the left on McClelland Dr.), BRIDGE TELESCOPE: Harris County Heritage Museum, Houston, TX, .30 CALIBER MACHINE GUN, LAUNDRY MARKER, PAGE FROM A DIARY: Washington Navy Yard, LOST BATTALION MONUMENT: Honolulu, Hawaii, MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC: "Peace Wall" Nimitz Museum, Fredericksburg, TX, MARKER: Oak Harbor, WA (Just inside the gate of the base Widbey Island NAS), LAMP AND FAN: USS Lexington Museum, Corpus Christi, TX, ALBERT H. ROOKS CENTER FOR TACTICAL DEVELOPMENT: Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Norfolk, VA, PHOTOS AND MEMORABILIA: M.D. Anderson Library, Main Campus of University of Houston, Houston, TX.

### **UNDERSTANDING ARCHIVES** by Ron Drees

While many of you know me as Lin's husband, I'm an archivist by education, vocation and certification. I want to explain about the education of an archivist and how an archives is organized and operates.

From 2002-2004, I attended the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin, earning a Master of Science in Information Studies. I have worked as an archivist at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center at the Houston Public Library for over two years.

An archive is not a library and does not operate like one, even if it is housed inside a library – and many are – and even if the archives is part of a library's organization. Libraries deal a lot with current mass-produced pieces of information; books, magazines, videos, etc. These materials circulate; they are loaned out to whomever wants to borrow them. Just pick it off the shelf and check it out. The call numbers are assigned by either the Library of Congress or a commercial organization in Ohio and are used by thousands of libraries across the country. This is all standardized, uniform, so that a book usually has the same call number everywhere a patron visits.

Archives collect, house, protect, organize, catalog and make available items that are no longer used for their original purpose. The archives I work in have, among other treasures, over 125,000 architectural drawings of buildings, generally in the Houston area. Many of these buildings no longer exist. Some were ordinary office buildings, others were skyscrapers, and one is a monument. Everything in an archive is one of a kind, unique, special, and irreplaceable. Nothing circulates. No one can borrow items because everything is special. Stolen or destroyed items are gone forever. You can't go to another archive and expect to find David Flynn's uniform or John Reas' wallet.

Archives have security requirements that are tedious to patrons but necessary to protect items so that future generations can experience them. Almost all archives require patrons to sign in and present valid identification. Personal baggage (even purses) must be stowed away to reduce the chance of theft. The use of pencils is required because pens cause permanent damage. Only one collection can be viewed at a time so items are not intermingled and confused.

Even before a patron can view anything, an archivist must process the materials. They must be reviewed so that rusty metal paperclips and staples are removed from papers, and the papers are

organized in a manner making it easier for researchers to find the information they are seeking. These papers must be put in folders and the folders put in boxes so they can be delivered to researchers and all of this arranging and indexing is listed on a document. The collection I am currently working on has a list fifty pages long and is still growing.

It takes time to retrieve items from an archive. There are no standardized call numbers like those on the spine of a book because everything is unique. Collections can range from one folder to over thousands of boxes so an archivist has to work with a patron and the written documentation to find the correct box, locate the box in the stacks which is out of public access and deliver the box to the patron.

Different archives have different requirements for retrieving collections. On the Sunday prior to Otto's funeral, Lin and I visited the National Holocaust Museum. It's tough to find a public restroom on a Sunday in downtown Washington. Once we got past the armed guards, and the airport-like security, we went to the museum's library where I compared operations to where I worked. I was told that they pulled items from their stacks at only three times a day. Requests made after 3 pm were delayed until the next day. If you went to the National Archives on a Saturday, you would be told that requests had to be made on Friday to be available on Saturday. If you wanted to see architectural drawings at The University of Texas, notice must be given two days in advance so the archives can retrieve the roll of drawings and flatten them by humidification. Again, archives are different than libraries. Items are not retrieved immediately and the process takes time. Be prepared to wait. Prepare yourself by contacting the archives ahead of your visit, learn their requirements, and state your needs so they can be met. Archivists want to help you find what you want but we're overworked, under supported and just cannot do everything as fast as you or I would like. Call ahead and we, archivists, will work with you.

**WIVES OF EX-POWS** – After spending several hours searching through cyberspace, I was disappointed to find just one hit that reflects the life of the wife of an ex-POW (<http://www.awm.gov.au/journal/j28/j28-petr.htm>). These incredible women “adapted” to cope with the horrific memories their husbands brought into the marriage. I think of them as “angels in the shadows”. How many of us would know how to contend with a spouse's odd idiosyncrasies (no rice in the house or the opposite of near panic if none was in the house, hoarding food, etc)? How would we handle sudden mood changes or insisting on specific routines? Many of the wives were young, never married before, and there were no such thing as “marriage counselors” back then. It took a truly unique woman with a heart full of tolerance and compassion to have had the emotional strength to keep the flames of love & nurture them into smoldering embers over the years. The wives were truly strong and yet comforting. None of you have ever stepped ahead of your man to either complain OR brag about your presence in the union. Your example is inspiring to any one that gives thought to your love and devotion. You are truly angels in the shadows!

**GENTLE REMINDER** – Please remember to send a change of address when you move. Please, please – send me your email address so I can send immediate updates!

**DONATIONS TO MUSEUMS** – We have donated our items to the University of Houston for 25 years but some have inquired about names of historical museums. I must refer you to individually contact the museum of your choice to be advised of their requirements:

Curator Branch  
Naval Historical Center  
805 Kidder Breese SE  
Washington DC 20374  
202 433-2220

USS Lexington  
Judith Whipple, Historian  
PO Box 23076  
Corpus Christi, TX 78403 361 888-4873  
361 888-4873

Special Collections  
114 University Libraries  
Houston, TX 77204  
Head of Special Collections:  
Pat Bozeman 713 743-9751  
Digital Projects & Instruction Libraries:  
Julie Grob 713 743-9744

National POW Museum  
Fred Sanchez  
496 Cemetery Rd  
Andersonville, GA 229 924-0343 (ext. 110)

United States Navy Memorial (Lone Sailor)  
Pres. & CEO Rear Adm. Rich Buchanan  
701 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 123  
Washington DC 20004-2608  
Education Programs/Library &  
Historical Information:  
Mark Hacala 202 380-0735

Nimitz Museum  
(National Museum of the Pacific War)  
340 E Main St  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Director: Joe Cavanaugh  
830 997-4379 x 222

The National World War II Museum  
945 Magazine St  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3813  
Jeremy Collins, Asst Director of Collections & Exhibits  
504 527-6012 extension 331  
Seth Paridon, Assistant Director of Research (interviews)  
504 527-6012 extension 312

Yes, I inquired at the museum & library at Annapolis. They only accept donations that pertain to one of their graduates.

## **HOUSTON TELEVISION STATION FILMS CRUISER HOUSTON DOCUMENTARY**

This fall millions will watch the new PBS documentary *The War*, directed and produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. This seven-part series on World War II will air nationally beginning on September 23, 2007. Here in Houston, the local PBS affiliate KUHT is creating a companion piece about one of the most dramatic stories from that war – the tale of the USS *Houston* (CA-30).

Entitled *Cruiser Houston: Of Pride and Purpose*, this hour-long documentary will be airing in the Houston area and possibly some other parts of Texas. The documentary includes interviews with survivors David Flynn, Howard Brooks, William “Bill” Ingram, Harold McManus, and Clarence “Skip” Schilperoort; family members Val Roberts-Poss, Jerry Ranger, and Fred Hekking; USS *Houston* historian Don Kehn, and Cruiser Houston Collection curator Julie Grob. Archival materials from the Cruiser Houston Collection at the University of Houston Libraries will feature prominently in the film.

Senior Producer and Writer Jim Fisher and primary photographer and editor Matt Brawley have shown tremendous dedication in putting together this work. Those of us in the Houston area can look forward to seeing the results in September. Projected air dates are Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 p.m., and Friday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**DONATIONS** – Tax deduction (EIN# 74-2814051). I have received a suggestion & will begin to add this reminder in each newsletter: For either the organization and/or the scholarship fund, please consider arranging to have an amount to be added in your will to be donated or request donations to be made in your memory. Pat & Jack Mintzer in memory of Lt. Fran Weiler, Judy Bunch, John Schwarz, BASIL BUNYARD, Nancy Morrow, Mattie Atterberry. Eileen & ROBERT HANLEY, STANLEY WOODY, Mattie Atterberry, Eileen & ROBERT HANLEY, Robert Cumming in memory of GEORGE CUMMING JR., That's from Joann Wychopen in memory of her father CHARLEY PRYOR, brother Chuck Pryor and B. D. Fillmore (131st/Lost Battalion), BASIL BUNYARD, Fred Viskovich (CA-30 crew member transferred off before sinking).

**OH MY GOODNESS!** - Those of you with email already know the big goof I managed to pull off. I receive so very many emails on a daily basis. A lot of them have to be downloaded. After a couple of weeks I will review them to see if I should delete, revise or put them in a folder. I was doing my clean up and placed a download labeled NEW MEDAL into my MEDALS AND RIBBONS folder. When I have someone that inquires about applying for their loved one's personnel records or what medals they are entitled to, I can just shoot off the two folders. I've sent these two folders to dozens of people inquiring. Jane Matthews had inquired about her dad's records so I sent the two folders as usual. Soon after she replied that she really liked the NEW MEDAL. I couldn't remember what the medal was so I looked it up. OH MY GOODNESS – it was a joke sent to me with a picture of a multi colored ribbon with a behind with an arrow through it hanging from the ribbon looking ever so official! I was mortified knowing I'd sent this out to absolute strangers...I can only hope they had a sense of humor. I'm sure Jane's dad; my dad & Otto were up there in heaven having a good laugh at my expense!

**NEWS FROM THE USS HOUSTON DIVE TEAM CORNER:** At this time I'm (Jerry Ranger) working on getting up another dive trip to Jakarta to finish the dive trip that was stopped in 2006. I have started to work on getting the permits that we will need to let us dive deep inside the ship to find the Officer's stateroom that was opened by another dive team. I have been on the phone with the Navy and they are working with me to make sure nothing goes wrong on this next trip.

I have been in contact with David Phillips who was the one that controlled the VideoRay ROV on the ship. He has informed me that we can use the VideoRay equipment and possibly a side band sonar to make passes over the USS HOUSTON to give us a look at her on the bottom of the bay. This will also show the items that may be away from the ship on the bottom, like the engine from the SOC aircraft. The tuba from the band room that has been touched by a diver that I talked to over in Jakarta but he could not remove it from the sandy bottom. David did have some bad news that VideoRay will not be helping with getting the gear over there or paying for David's plane ticket over to Jakarta and back to the USA. So now I will have to deal with getting the equipment over to Jakarta.

I also have been in touch with Daniel in Jakarta about the trip and he is working on getting the same boat for the dive again. He also stated that he will be glad to help us when we arrive in Jakarta. Daniel has the air tanks and compressor for us to use when we get over there.

I have emailed Brad Gift in Korea, about the dive in March 2008, at this time he believes that his wife and he will be with me on the next dive trip on the USS HOUSTON.

**COUPLE OF SPOTS OPEN ON THE DIVE TEAM;** I wanted to ask the Houston's family first, if there is any SCUBA diver that would like to go on this dive trip, to get in contact with me. They will have to pay their own way over (plane ticket, food and hotel, etc) and some on the dive boat. You can contact me at [Ranger9@bellsouth.net](mailto:Ranger9@bellsouth.net) this is a hard dive, with strong currents and not for the rookie diver. I will be also contacting other divers that I know that have dove on the USS HOUSTON before from around the world to help make up the team. I need a back-up divers for safety reasons.

**SURVIVOR'S WELCOME TO JOIN THE TEAM. IF ANY OF THE SURVIVORS THINK THAT THEY CAN MAKE THE TRIP, AND WANT TO SEE THE VIDEORAY IN ACTION OVER THE TOP OF THE USS HOUSTON CA-30. PLEASE CONTACT ME. I WILL MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS SPACE ON THE BOAT FOR YOU.**

**MONEY;** Several of the Houston's family members have pledged money for the trip at the last reunion to help get this dive rolling. I also have prepared some letters to ask for money from other sources before asking the Houston's Family to fund this trip. The last dive trip was funded by the USS HOUSTON'S FAMILY AND VIDEORAY. But if any of the HOUSTON'S FAMILY would like to pledge money by all means please email with your pledge. Thank you. Send donations to: USS Houston Survivors Assn, 2501 Amen Corner, Pflugerville, TX 78660 (note in remarks DIVE)

Video from the 2006 dive trip: I wanted to let you know that we are still working on the dive video from the trip from last year. We had to start all over and cutting a lot of the video to get it down to an hour. I did not find out until after I gave the two hour talk on the dive that the DVD that Mike had



made for me was stolen at the airport on the way over to Houston. He had to put together another one in the hotel room at night to make sure we had something to show. Now we will be burning DVD's and sending copies to those who would want a copy of the dive from 2006 uncut for a fee. If you would like a copy for approximately \$50.00 please email me, so I can get you a copy.

I will be real busy working on this 2008 dive trip, making sure everything goes off right. I will keep you updated on all that I'm doing with the dive team and video. I also could use some help with getting funding for the trip. If you know of a company that would like to sponsor the dive team. Give me a call or email me. No company too small or amount too small.

I'm also putting together a new dive shirt design for the 2008 dive. If anyone has an idea or drawing that would make a great tee shirt of the dive, they can email me with it.

This is all from the USS HOUSTON DIVE TEAM. I hope to see ya'll at the reunion 2008. Again thank you. Jerry Ranger/Son of the late John W. Ranger/USS HOUSTON DIVE TEAM LEADER/850-623-3399

**CREW ALBUM PROJECT** - Howdy All! I am backup and running, after computer crash. I have recovered most of the data. However, about a year worth of emails, are gone. Mostly all the dive photos, which I will have to pester Jerry for. Ah. speaking of pestering...which brings me to the point of this. I have collected about 25% of the crew in photos. Luckily, I was able to recover all\* . OR So I think. Any how I have redone the ships company, with at least **20+ new crew photos**. Here <http://home.pon.net/shawnf/ca/ca.htm> . Back to pestering, nagging, begging, pleading, and threatening, We need more! Many have responded to my consistent nagging. Yet, there are MANY who still have not sent a picture, bio, of your hero.

NOW IS THE TIME=THE TIME IS NOW

\*If you have sent a picture in and don't see it on the site <http://home.pon.net/shawnf/indexback.htm> . That means I have lost it. If this is the case, I am so sorry; I have just felt terrible thinking I may have lost some. It's driving me crazy, as I think I have accounted for all photos except the dive photos. Unfortunately all the drive photos were saved in an email folder to be organized and posted. And those are unrecoverable. Bummer. Even though I backup my work, to a separate device, I still lost some. I just know it. So, if you had sent something and you don't see it please email me. [shawnf@pon.net](mailto:shawnf@pon.net) . HUGS all around. Thanks, Shawn Flynn, 5240 Tenino Way, Kelseyville Ca 95451 (707.277.7693) <http://home.pon.net/shawnf>

**ITEMS FOR SALE** – You can find our items for displayed on the internet at [www.usshouston.org](http://www.usshouston.org) under NEWS. It not only shows what we have in our inventory but the cost of mailing along with a order sheet.

**AUGUST REUNION REPORT-** Mike & Gail Bialis (daughter of Luther Prunty) were President this year and did a great job! 131<sup>st</sup> survivors Dan Buzzo (with son Mike & daughter Lori) A.B. “Youngun” Clark (& Wanda) Carl Clements (I didn’t catch his wife’s name) Frank Ficklin (& Leeta & Eddie Fung (& Judy Yung), Stanley Galbraith (with nephew Ron Lackner) “Quaty” Gordon (& Frankie), Hubert Griffith (& Martha), J.W. Hoover (& Rita), W.F. “Hook” Matthews (& Gladys), Luther Prunty (& Dorothy), George Ray, E.L. Rayburn, Warren Robertson (& son Jim), Ruben Slone, Walter Smith, J.L. Summers (& Mariel), Coy York (& Lula Mae) Rufus Choate, Cecil Minshew (20) attended with family & friends. Representing family were Barbara, Bernice, Charles, Denie, Noel Clay & Janice & Kenneth Savel (Melvin Clay), Pat & Joe Cadenhead (Garth Slate), Shannon Falk, Jeanne Fillmore & John Fillmore (B.D. Fillmore), Becke & Michael Freitas (Dub Reed), Lynn Stasey (Thomas Lumsden & Dan Buzzo). AL KENNEDY, BOB CHARLES & ROBERT HANLEY of the USS Houston crew also attended. Widows Rosalie Gregg, Dottie Johnson, Imogene Knight, Hazel Leatherwood, Pauline Long, Marie Matlock, Hortense Offerle, Juanita Ogle, Jimmie Pryor, Lee Robinson, Trudy Schwarz, Erma Snyder, Ozella Solomon, Inal Spencer, Reba Thornton, & Nadine Faulk were also there. USS HOUSTON NG’s Sharon Green & Dana Charles (BOB CHARLES), Max & Val Poss (VALDON ROBERTS), Chuck Baloga, Paul Wartchow & Ben Stefanek (JOHN STEFANEK), Trudy Bredberg, Pam Clere & Kim McGrew (EARL SNYDER), Patty & Palmer Dauphine (BERT PAGE), Eva & Jennifer Dye, Anessa, David, Hanna & Lucy Jean Pryor & Joann Wychopen (CHARLEY PRYOR), Walter R. Grice (WALTER GRICE), Joan Filson (ROBERT HANLEY), Patty Letze & Sharron Long (ALBERT MCGARVEY), Judy Robinson (MARVIN ROBERTSON) and Steve Kenedy (AL KENNEDY), Cullen Brimage (Wade Webb), Sharon Brimhall, (Onis Brimhall) also attended. The Prunty, Clay, Gordon, Ficklin, York and Leatherwood’s were well represented by family in large numbers. Many of the “young people” participated in the annual “No Talent – Talent Show”. This year was a huge success with the patient mentoring and encouragement of director/producer NG Dana Charles. The final skit will forever give new meaning to Spike Jones’ “Der Feurer’s Face” ---

**REUNION PROGRESS -** I THOUGHT I’d help Lin Drees out with the details of the reunion since Sharron Long was going to be out of town a lot this year. First, I offered to contact the city about confirmation of the date to schedule the reunion around the Rodeo (we didn’t want to compete with the high hotel rates OR the parade going by during our Memorial Service). I was absolutely amazed at the number of calls and all the forms and permits Lin has to go through. Since I was obviously clueless, we agreed for me to stay out of Lin’s business and let her handle it. So, I merrily contacted the Doubletree to compare ‘07’s contract & set up one for ‘08. It seems there’s been a huge turn over in personnel & the new people weren’t familiar with us. Proposed contracts and corrections were faxed back and forth..... I was informed the market “has been soft” these past few years & we’re competing with large companies willing to pay more for room rates, etc. At one point I told them if they weren’t willing to negotiate we could go to Motel 6 and order in pizza! We finally agreed to \$89 per night and no increase in meal prices from last year. My mantra has always been KISS – Keep It Simple Sweetheart. However, the new fella seemed as we Texans say “bumfuzzled” & kept trying to make it more difficult than necessary. **KNOW THIS** – if you are quoted a different rate of \$92 you will NOT pay more than \$89. If you are quoted \$20+ per day for parking --- you will NOT pay more than \$5. Your registration packet will have a copy of that part of the contract. It seems that the left hand hasn’t figured out what the right is doing. Our dealings with the new sales manager wasn’t only obstinate but down right condescending.

**IN CONCLUSION** – Eye, it's been a wee bit of a busy quarter. Trying to stay honest with the IRS providing meeting notes, etc., I was told all I needed to do was fill out a couple of forms & they gave me the form numbers. Awwwww boy! One "form" was 27 pages long! The questions on the forms weren't just yes/no or fill in a dollar amount in the blank – ½ were essay type questions. It took awhile, but I've mailed off a packet of information. Many thanks to Ron Drees being so very particular in the wording of the scholarship purpose and requirements that made filling out the forms so much easier for both the IRS AND State of Texas Comptrollers office. Also thanks to Susan Krug for her meticulous record keeping and John Schwarz for helping fill out some of the questions. You will notice a EIN donation number instead of a DNL number. Although we don't have employees, we are now required to have an Employee Identification Number. Go figure..

I will be out of touch for several weeks after Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> recuperating from surgery. We have been holding our breath for the past several months as I was sent to one doctor after the other for one treatment after the other and finally got the good news that the cancer is now gone. My surgery will be "maintenance" – not of any great concern although the recovery will be slow (and I'm not all that patient)! I'm having a lot of trouble with the Windows program on this computer. I haven't the foggiest if it's the program, hard drive or what. Just a heads up that there may be some money spent getting it fixed or upgraded. Now my AOL is AOL UK. Just what I need is pop ups stating sales in Euro dollars!!

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT –**

DEBITS		CREDITS	
Print newsletter	120.46	Previous balance	7813.28
Postage newsletter	112.26	Donations	1986.64
Storage	191.25	Interest	1.49
Telephone	149.44	Sales	49.00
Supplies	651.22		
Postage	130.89	New balance	6508.39
Total	1304.89		

#### **Scholarship Fund Treasurer's Report**

May 26 – August 19, 2007

Beginning Balance – Checking Account \$22,460.65

#### **Receipts**

Donations \$450.00

John & Kathy Stefanek – in memory of John Stefanek

John K Schwarz – in memory of Otto Schwarz

Jonathan & Bonnie Altman – in memory of John Stefanek

Edward & Suzanne Wrobel – in memory of John Stefanek

Gregg & Beth Stefanek – in memory of John Stefanek

Interest received May – July 2007 (checking account & CD) \$417.86

Sub Total \$23,328.51

Disbursements	
Postage	-\$41.00
Total disbursements	-\$41.00
Ending Balance – Checking Account	\$23,287.51
Certificate of Deposit	\$10,000.00
Cash on Hand	\$33,287.51

**WORDS OF WISDOM** -Be determined to use any adversity you encounter as a tool to become sharper, stronger, and more loving.

UNTIL THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

GOD BLESS & KEEP ONE AND ALL

