

December 2016



## "HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS"

The Official Publication of Hidden Valley Ranch  
Property Owners' Association, Inc. (HVRPOA)  
Vol. XXIX, Issue 2

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Clubhouse Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Activity Center: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Exercise Room: Open 24/7

### 2016 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Freilingner  
Vice-President: Vern Drescher  
Directors: Mary Crawford  
Elaine Kekstadt  
~~Jim Moore~~ (resigned)  
Rick Radl  
Mike Yost  
Secretary: Judie Gustafson  
Treasurer: ~~Gayle Constable~~ (resigned)

A list of Committee Chairpersons (such as for Architecture, Maintenance, Dance, etc) is posted online and on the bulletin board across from the front office counter.

*Hidden Highlights* Editor: John Constable  
Submissions: HVRPOA.com link to Hidden Highlights editor.  
Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### President's Message

Forms are available at the Front Office for candidates who wish to run for Board positions.

At this time, the following seven positions are open:

1. President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Director (4 openings)

This Park has a lot of members who would do a good job in any of these roles.

Please consider running for office in the upcoming January elections.

Steve Freilingner  
President, HVRPOA

### **Dec 9 9:30a (Open) Board Meeting**

Members can raise any concerns or questions they might have during the open mike session.

### **Dec 10 9a Membership Meeting**

*The gift of Love,  
the gift of Peace,  
the gift of Health,  
the gift of Happiness,  
the gift of Joy and Contentment*

*May these gifts be yours now and  
throughout the coming year.*

## **FRONT DESK HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

So that the front desk volunteers can enjoy the holidays with family, the front desk will be closed

NOV 24      and      NOV 25  
DEC 23      and      DEC 30

## **GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT**

.... **YAHOO** resumes Thurs Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm  
in the Clubhouse (J. West)

.....**BOWLING** resumes Thurs Dec 1 at 12 noon  
at Incredibowl 2140E Bus hwy 83. This is strictly  
for fun – no team leagues. (D. Hendricks)

...**MUSIC JAMS** resume Fri Dec 2. Look for  
more info on page 3. (L. Dodd)

....Inter-Park **CRIBBAGE** tournaments resume  
Fri Dec 2. More info on page 10. (J. Roberts)

.... **DANCES** resume Dec 3. More info on page 5.  
Full Season's itinerary is posted in the Hall.

.... Inter-Park **BIBLE STUDY** has resumed on  
Thursdays. Look for more info on page 7.

..... Free **CREATIVE QUILTING CLASSES** start  
on Dec 7th. Look for more info on page 3.

.... **BREAKFASTS** resume Fri Dec 9. More  
info on bottom of page 3. (G. Sanders)

.... HVR **WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT** will  
resume in January. Look at the posted schedule  
in the Clubhouse, and in January's newsletter for  
more details. (L. Dodd)

## **CONTACTING THE EDITOR**

There are several ways to send me notices:

1. Through the HVRPOA.com click the link  
for Hidden Highlights editor
2. Through my personal e-mail address or by  
dropping them off at the house. Both those  
addresses are listed in the Park directory.
3. Drop off your notices any time in the  
designated folder at the front office.
4. See me (or Gayle) around the Park.

## **IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY HEAR:**

After receiving legal clarification from our  
lawyer for some Park concerns, the Executive has  
decided on the following procedures:

**Members for whom we have missing deeds in  
our files do NOT need to locate their deeds for  
us to photocopy, as was previously requested.**

Two Executive Board members have gone  
to the County Courthouse records and made  
copies of any missing deed information.

**Lot owners who have previously shown proof  
of age are NOT required to re-show proof of  
age for the Park census.**

To remain a designated 55+ Park, at least  
one person occupying the lot and whose name is  
on the deed must be 55 or older.

If proof of that has been previously  
established for a lot, and providing nothing has  
changed (regarding occupancy and/or names on  
the deed), then that will continue to suffice.

**New owners** who have not yet provided  
that proof of age are reminded they must do so.

**Renters** must also provide proof of age.

**In summary, (most) members do not have  
to bring the requested deed info to the office,  
nor have to prove that they're getting older!**

## **FUNDRAISER:**

### *OUT OF THE ORDINARY* RECIPE BOOKLET

These recipe booklets are being sold as a  
fundraiser towards upgrading the kitchen counters  
in the Main Hall. They are **available from J.  
Constable now**. He will deliver within HVR.  
A donation of \$8 is suggested.

Recipes were collected from HVR  
members. The selected ones use common on-  
hand ingredients and require minimal preparation.  
Above all, recipes were chosen that serve up  
something tasty but different – something a little  
**OUT OF THE ORDINARY.**

**Santa says they would make great  
Christmas gifts** for neighbors, or to mail to  
relatives and friends up North.

## **A POST-ELECTION LIFE LESSON**

The Canadian politician Jack Layton (1950-2011) spoke as a party leader in the House of Commons prior to his stepping down for health reasons. He died a few months later from cancer.

In his final message, he called upon friends of ALL political parties (for he never referred to them as his opponents) to **put aside their differences and work together** for their country.

It seems to be USA's turn to heed his words:

"My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful, and optimistic, and together we'll change the world."

## **HVR's "20th year" CELEBRATIONS**

It's coming quickly! Next month, we want to look back at both our Park's beginnings and our achievements over the last twenty years.

To help be a success, **we need two things:**

### **1. Photos of the early days**

You can display your early Park photos yourself on the yet-unspecified day, or call John C to collect and categorize them by date or area onto a display board with captions underneath. You'll get them back unharmed, he promises!

It has been suggested that they also be scanned for display on the Hall TVs for part of that month. That involves a lot of time (sorting and captioning) so please drop them off asap.

### **2. Activity helpers needed...**

... to assist with activities (Scavenger hunt? Park BBQ?),. Help John with your ideas and working out the logistics, and setting/cleaning up. We need to plan in early Dec, in time to get info into Jan newsletter (that deadline is Dec 20).

**Without some help, it just won't happen!**

## **BREAKFAST 7:30 – 9:00 am**

Fri Dec 9: biscuits & gravy

Fri Dec 23: eggs & ham (or sausage).

Sign-up sheets are posted.

Bring your appetites (and your own table service)

## **CRAFTER'S CORNER NEWS**

Grab whatever project you're working on and come join the other crafters every Tuesday from 12:30 – 2:30 in the back of the main hall. Check out this year's schedule of craft classes posted on the bulletin board area and see what might be of interest to you. If you have any questions, call Judy Hamilton (584-6727)

## **CREATIVE QUILTING**

Creative Quilting classes will be starting on Wednesday, Dec 7, at 9:30am in the HVR clubhouse. These are free classes teaching techniques in machine piecing/quilting.

Projects for this year's Creative Quilting classes are posted on the bulletin board in the back hall and on the hvrpoa website. Collect your materials and join us.

As always, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are open in the clubhouse for quilting for anyone, whether or not you are involved in the class

The RGVQG Quilt Show will take place on January 27 – 28, 2017, on South Padre Island. More info in Jan newsletter or go to RGVQG.com

For more information or questions contact Karen Eck (956-432-9215).

## **FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC JAMS**

Hello from the Jam & Entertainment Leaders and welcome to the 2016-17 Season. A GREAT variety of wonderful music is planned for this season's Jams, with plenty of Country music, Gospel, and Light Rock & Roll to entertain you.

The best news of all is that this year's band will be almost the same as last year's, with only the rhythm guitar player being changed from Mick Morrow to Ray Burton. Ray is a fine musician from Oleander Park, and Ray's wife Ginger will be a fine addition to the Jam as well.

Our Jams will be held, as usual, every Friday evening at 5:30 PM Hot dogs and sandwiches will be available at a very reasonable cost starting at about 4 PM.

**We hope to see everyone at our first Jam of the season on December 2.**

Lee & Sue Dodd (leedodd@cox.net)  
or call 316-655-3272 or 316-350-4469

### **"I HAVE NO GIFTS TO BRING..."**

Here's some "No cost" or very "Lo-Cost" gift ideas you can do for yourself and for others:

Do something nice for someone without telling them you did it.

**Toast your friends** when they are in your home. Tell them how much it means to you to have them as friends.

**Volunteer** to work in a soup kitchen on Christmas day. Check with local churches.

**Be nice** to sales clerks. They're often wearier than you are.

. Set out a can of soda and/or a couple of cookies in a zip-lock baggie for your mail carrier and your sanitation workers.

Buy a box of Christmas cards, sign them "from Santa" and donate them to a nursing home to distribute to residents who don't often get mail.

**Offer** a plate of Christmas baked goodies to a neighbor who lives alone.

**Help** an elderly neighbor decorate their house. Put something "Christmasy" in EVERY room of your house.

Make a friend of an enemy this Christmas.

Be a generous giver, and a gracious receiver.

Remember that the loving holiday spirit depends more on the kind words you speak and the kind actions you do than on the gifts you give.

**Hug** your partner after opening your presents and tell them they are your best gift.

**Pray** that God will help you see opportunities to be a blessing to others this Christmas.

**Invite** a single neighbor to share Christmas dinner with you, even if you go out to eat.

Pay a debt for someone. "Pay it forward."

This Christmas, give yourself the gift of peace with those things you cannot change.

**Call** friends who have lost family members since last Christmas, and make a special effort to cheer them during the holidays.

Amidst the hustle and bustle, the stress and the strain, take time to be good to yourself.

Don't forget whose birthday we're celebrating. If you don't know Him, speak to someone who does.

### **GRIEF SHARE Support Group**

If the finality of a loved one's death is hard for you to accept, there is a support group here in HVR that may help you to understand that you are not alone and that can offer comfort, support and encouragement.

For more information, get a flyer from the Clubhouse, or contact Charlee & Jack Fish  
(816)518-9504

### **HVR'S Notary Publics**

Lila Helm 7609 Par (507)377-2008

Sallie Remington 2500 Fairway Ct.  
(509)539-3510

Most commonly requested services:

Warranty deeds      Title transfers  
Affidavits      Rental agreements  
Medicare enrollment

No service fees, but photo ID is required.

### **THINKING OF RENOVATING?**

HVR owners wishing to make any exterior changes to their property (such as awning, deck, shed, concrete, etc) must **first seek approval** of their plans from the HVR Architectural Committee, then obtain proper permits from the County, and show these permits to the HVR Committee **BEFORE** proceeding with any changes.

Packets which set out Park and County rules and regulations are available at the Office.

The Architectural Committee meets every Thursday and will readily answer your concerns and/or assist you with the paperwork

### **QUIZ**

"If you have it and you know it, you have it. If you don't have it and you think you have it, you have it. But if you have it and you don't know you have it, you don't have it."

**Who said it?**

- a) Winston Churchill      b) Jackie Gleason  
c) Donald Trump      d) "Broadway Joe" Namath

Think about it. Answer on page 13

## **HVR DANCES**

**Dec 3:** Regan James & Hired Hands, plus special guest Brenda Cohn.

**Dec 17:** Solitaire

**Dec 31:** Pure Country Ken Thompson

## **TRAVEL HUMOR**

[Ed note: I do not recall if someone once told me this story about themselves, or if I read it many, many years ago somewhere - perhaps in a Reader's Digest.

The story is a personal favorite, and I'm reminded of it every time I see certain Holiday decorations.]

It concerns a 7 or 8 year-old boy who was visiting his grandparents for the Holidays, and was "dragged off" to their quiet little country church for a Christmas Eve Service

The Church would be packed for the occasion, and the boy was squeezed in between his grandmother and the end of the pew. Every second row of pews had their armrests decorated with a festive arrangement of holly, white satin balls and a huge red bow. The boy was disappointed that his pew's armrest was one of the ones not decorated.

The boy had apparently never seen holly before, and its leaves with "all the pointy edges" immediately grabbed his interest. He wondered what that strange leaf felt like. He moved forward in his seat and stretched his arm towards the decoration on the pew ahead. But before he could investigate this strange leaf cluster, his Granny quickly grabbed his arm away and told him not to touch anything.

She passed the boy a hymnal to keep his hands busy. He turned page after page, feigning interest in the songbook while the corner of his eye kept staring at the strange leaves in that decorative cluster just an arm's stretch away. What was that strange leaf with the jagged pointy edges? Was it real or was it artificial?

The Church continued to fill up, and a rather huge lady came in and sat in the pew directly in front of the boy. She was wearing a red velvet dress that was stretched to its limits.

Continued in next column...

The dress was matted and thread-bare at the elbows and rear seat areas, the result of many years of wear from when she had first bought it and when she had likely been many pounds lighter.

The Service began, and the congregation was asked to stand and bow their heads in prayer. The boy stood and was now just inches from the pew's decoration. Curiosity got the better of the boy and here was his chance. With Granny's head bowed and her eyes closed, the boy reached up to feel the (stiff plastic) holly leaf.

He had barely touched it when it dislodged from the cluster on the pew's armrest, and noiselessly fell directly onto the seat from where the huge lady had just risen. What should he do? Before he could figure out how to fetch the decoration and put it back in place with the other parts, he heard everyone saying, "Amen." and the Pastor telling the Congregation they could be seated. Everyone sat down, including the lady ahead of the boy.

Two words suddenly resounded throughout the Church, echoing loudly off the arched wood-stained ceiling and resonating throughout the entire building. Now, while the first word, "Holy", was often heard in Church, the word that followed it was rarely heard there.

The boy was quickly whisked home from the Church Service.

Epilogue: I do not recall any mention of whether the boy received a visit from Santa that next morning, or whether the grandparents ever went back to that little country church.

## **REMEMBERING DEC 25 2004**

Those of you who were here remember it well.

Those who weren't here have likely heard about it from those who did experience it.

It happened on Christmas Day back in 2004, HVR awoke that morning to a light snow covering throughout the Park.

Turn the page and re-live the experience through pictures.

(Thanks to J. Roberts, E Baltzell, and L. Armatage for sharing their photos).

PS: Pictures are better if seen in color on the website edition.

**Dec 25, 2004 in HVR:  
“I’m dreaming of a white Christmas....”**



It had been 108 years since the last recorded snowfall in the Rio Grande Valley,



Expressway I-83 was clogged with vehicles full of sight-seers who travelled from afar to see this “freaky weather phenomenon” in the Valley.



Edith (below) recalls walking to the Clubhouse for cards Christmas Eve “in fairly nice weather”. A couple of hours later, she “hurried home through sleet”.



## **THE PERFECT GIFT ?**

Shopping for your grandkids? Remember that the bigger the toy, the more likely the kids will want to play instead with the box it came in.

## **HVR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Choir Practice Wed in our clubhouse  
3:30-4:30. Join us for the fun of singing.

Pastor Cliff Stewart is available for hospital visits or counseling. Contact him at 7606 Eagle Dr. (lot 27) or by phone (970)-302-7033.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

will be held Dec 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00pm. Special monetary offering for the Penitas Food Pantry.

## **INTER - PARK BIBLE STUDIES**

Thursdays\* 8:30-9:30am currently at  
Leisure's Hall,

All are welcome to join us as we currently study the Gospel of John.

\*normally every Thursday, but due to other hall usage this busy season, we will meet Dec 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> then not until Jan 5 & 19.

### **MOVIE NIGHT: "The Christmas Wish"**

Wed Dec 14 at 6:30pm at LVR Clubhouse

A wholesome 1998 made-for-TV movie  
starring **Debbie Reynolds & Neil Patrick Harris.**

Plot: Intent on fulfilling his grandma's Christmas wish, a young man sets out to discover some secrets of his past and the true meaning of Christmas.

FREE popcorn FREE cookies FREE soda

"FREE" admission, but non-perishable food donations will be accepted for local food banks.

Presented by the Inter-Park Bible Study Group.

## **Keep your pets safe**

The leaves of poinsettias, holly, and mistletoe, if ingested, are poisonous to dogs & cats.

Chocolate, caffeine, grapes (raisins, currants), macadamia nuts, xylitol (artificial sweetener), and onions & garlic are also not good for dogs.

It's getting cooler at dusk, so the rattlers seek the warmth of the pavement. Use flashlights at night on your dog walks!

Did you know there is an **anti-venom shot** available for your pets? Considering there were two cases of dogs bitten by rattlesnakes in the Park last year, it might be worth checking out with your Vet.

## **"THERE WAS NO ROOM AT THE INN"**

A "rooming" house or "boarding" house, as we well know, is a place where a person can rent a room, usually for an extended length of time.

He has a room, so he "rooms" (or stays) there

He's in a boarding house, so he "boards" (or stays) there.

So, the phrase *Room and Board* means what? That he has a place to stay and.... stay?? Think about it! Doesn't that phrase "room and board" seem redundant?

Using the modern verbal meaning for the term "board", yes the phrase does seem redundant, but we must remember that words change meanings over time. *Computer*, for example, originally referred to the person who was using the computing machine but now means the device itself. As another example of changed meanings, nobody uses *gay* to mean cheerful anymore.

Let's delve into where the phrase came from:

The phrase "room and board" goes back a long way – back to Medieval times when only royalty had such a thing as a dining table. In humble dwellings, the dining "table" was a plain length of board. These boards were hung on the wall when not in use, and were individually perched on the diner's knees when food was served. .

Over time, the word *board* came to signify not just the dining surface but the meal itself, which is when *board* then came into combination use in the phrase *room and board*.

Room and Board = Room and Meal.

It was much later again before these lodgers themselves started being called *boarders* staying in a *boarding house* as we know it today.

However, the older meaning for the phrase *room and board* remains in use to this day.

It also explains why, even today, an honest person – someone who keeps his hands visible at all times – is said to be *aboveboard*.

(Source for idea: J Riis in "How The Other Half Lives")

## **OVERHEARD**

"I just came across last year's "New Year's Resolutions" list. My only goal for 2016 was to lose 10 pounds to reach my target weight.

So, I have just 15 more pounds to go!"

## **ANDY LANDERS ADVICE for Men**

Dear Andy: My wife complains that I watch too much football on TV. What do you think?

**Andy here:** Is there such a thing as too much football? But I'll warn you about one thing, men: When the wife comes into the room and asks, "What's on the TV?", don't reply, "Dust."

Dear Andy: My friend has every conceivable tool on his workbench, but I can't afford all those gadgets. What basic tools do you recommend?

**Andy here:** Men, you only need 3 tools on your workbench: a can of WD-40 lubricant, a roll of duct tape, and a hammer.

If it doesn't move, and it should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move, and it does, use the duct tape. Anything else that can't be fixed with a hammer must be an electrical problem. That will require two steps: Step 1. Call an electrician

Step 2. Go grab a beer while you wait.

**Andy here, signing off,** reminding you men to just accept it: a woman always has the last word in an argument. Anything a man says after that is the start of the next argument.

## **HEART RANGERS**

HVR is the ONLY Park in the Valley to offer the following vital services to anyone in the Park, whether Owners, Renters, or Guests:

- Assist the ambulance in finding your lot
- Apply CPR if necessary
- Assist in gathering your meds & File of Life
- Assist in locking up your house
- Drive the spouse to the hospital, if needed
- Pet sit, pending other arrangements
- Call family or a neighbor at your request

Basically, we assist in any way you wish.

Clip out and post:

### **In case of Emergency:**

1. Dial 956-213-3002, and wait for the message prompter to end, then enter your lot number (NOT your address!). My Lot # is \_\_\_\_\_
2. Hang up and dial 911. Tell them you live in Hidden Valley Ranch at the end of Western Road in Palmview. Tell them your street, your house number, and lot number.

**Put the Rangers # in your cell phone NOW**

## **LETTERS / E-MAILS / COMMENTS**

Letters for publication in *Hidden Highlights* must be signed, but names can be withheld upon request.

Editor reserves the right to correct spelling & grammar, and/or condense wording to fit into the available space.

### **.... Message from the Boswells:**

(Curt & Bettye were victims of a head-on collision in Oct.)

"I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, and well-wishes. I am now at my son and daughter-in-law's place (near home). It overlooks a lake, and is a beautiful place to recuperate.

Curt is still in Rehab, and must wait to see his hip surgeon on the 8<sup>th</sup> to determine what's next.

Thank you all and God Bless!" Bettye

### **....Commentary: On Policies & Respect**

In an effort by the current Board to be more accountable to the members by allowing them to have more say in how their money is spent, a policy was established that requires any proposed expenditures over \$500 to be brought before the members for a vote.

As examples of following that policy, this Board had the Park vote on expenditures for new security cameras, vote on expenditures for short-term maintenance like floor stripping/re-polishing and vote on expenditures for long-term maintenance like the re-tiling of the hot tub.

This "over \$500" voting policy for non-emergency expenditures is as it should be. The process is democracy at work. Members wanted more say in what was done and how their money was spent, and this Board should be commended for following their wishes with this voting policy.

This Board has also openly encouraged members to submit requests for new acquisitions or for maintenance on existing equipment. In doing so at the open mike sessions, members should understand and respect the due process and not berate the Board for following it.

Sadly, this was not done by all at the last open meeting, with an unfortunate post-result.

Speaking – and listening – to each other should be done in a non-confrontational manner. We're all adults here, all trying to do what's best for the Park. Let's remember to treat each other with respect, even when our opinions differ.

- J. Constable

## **PREPARING FOR TEXAS "WINTERS"**

People in the northern States are going through their checklists in preparation for cold snaps and power outages. It got me "ta-thinkin". Maybe we need a similar but **slightly altered check-list for our HVR winter homes.**

I'm happy to share my check-list with you:

1. **SEAL ALL CRACKS:** Apply lip balm generously. Use a good moisturizing face cream before your stroll on the beach.
2. **ADD MORE INSULATION:** Keep warm slippers by your front door. Some mornings, it's just too cool to fetch your newspaper at the curb in just your bare feet.
3. **STOCK UP ON WINTER FUEL SUPPLY:** Have lots of multigrain tortilla chips and pretzels in the pantry for those extra carbs necessary to keep your body warm.
4. **TOP UP YOUR FUEL TANK:** Nothing more annoying than having your propane tank run out while entertaining friends.
5. **STOCK UP THE FREEZER:** Make extra ice cubes and store them in the freezer. If the ice maker on your fridge quits, you'll still have a ready supply for your drinks.
6. **BUY FOAM INSULATION:** Those foam sleeves will keep everyone's beer or soda can cold for a successful patio party.
7. **PURCHASE GLOVES:** These are essential for warding off frostbite as you delve into the freezer for more frozen margarita mixers.
8. **HAVE EXTRA BLANKETS ON HAND:** These make a good cover to protect the blooms on your rosebushes and pansies on those near-freezing winter nights.
9. **KEEP EXTRA BLANKETS IN THE CAR:** You never know when you might meet a friend at the mall, and spontaneously decide to go tan on the SPI beach.
10. **HAVE FRESH BATTERIES ON HAND:** Absolutely essential for your camera when you go on your nature walks in the parks.
11. **CHECK TIRE PRESSURES:** There's nothing worse than getting a flat tire on your vehicle when you still have three holes left to play!

There, now! Rest easy knowing you have things ready in your winter retreat.

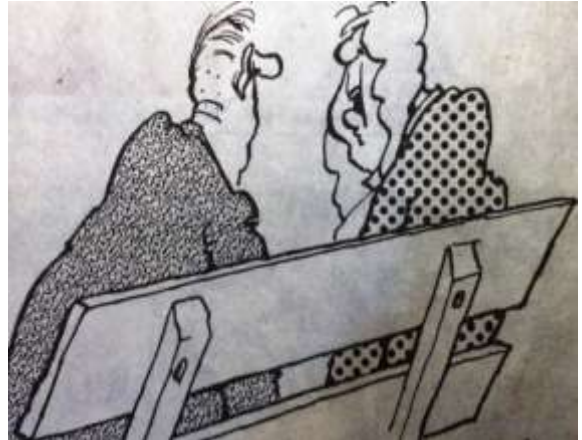
**Isn't retirement here in HVR great?**

## **Big Contest; Small prizes**

### **JUST FOR FUN....**

Look at this *Herman* cartoon, and imagine:

**What is she saying to him??**



Send or tell me your humorous ideas, to share in next month's issue. Send as many comic sayings as you want. Include your full name with all your ideas, but names will be withheld if desired. Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Here's a few ideas** of what she could be sayings, but I'm sure you can come up with funnier ones:

"I'm living in the hereafter. I go into a room and wonder what I'm here after."

"I love to cook with wine. Sometimes, I even add some to the food."

"Who cares whether the glass is half full or half empty? As long as it's refillable."

"My doctor said he thought I needed an operation. I said I wanted a second opinion. He then told me I was overweight, too."

Entries will be judged by an independent crew (which is to say the first 5 or 6 people I catch in the Clubhouse), The best eight or ten entries will be printed in the next newsletter and each of those winners will receive a fabulously small prize!

But, hey, it's really just for the fun of it.

E-mail your suggestions to [HVRPOA.com](mailto:HVRPOA.com) to attention of the Editor, or drop them in the folder at the front desk, or place them in my mailbox (Lot 222), or catch me around the Park.

## **CHRISTMAS ANGELTREE PROGRAM**

Please become a generous Santa and pick a name from the tree (in the Clubhouse) and purchase all the listed items for a needy child from **Flores Elem. School**. Do it with a friend – it's half the cost and twice the fun shopping together!

Please complete your collection by Dec 17. If interested, join us for the gift distribution on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Due to limited parking at the school, we'll meet at 1:00 at 2117 West Bogey and carpool to the school for 1:30.

### **Christmas Concert**

Join us for the **Flores Elem. School Choir Christmas concert** in the Clubhouse  
9:00 am on Tuesday Dec 20th.

We treat them to cookies after the concert, so **donations of cookies** on that day would also be appreciated by Park members (by 8:00am).

We are looking for a new leader to run this seasonal program as well. For more information on what's involved, call Grace Harris at (651) 335-0308.

## **Inter-Park CRIBBAGE Tournaments**

Registration starts at 12:30; play starts at 1:30  
Cost \$ 4 / couple. Grab a partner and join us for some fun. You'll win cookies; will you win cash?  
Sorry, these tournaments are not for beginners.

Dec 2: Oleander Park

Dec 15: Sleepy Park

## **LAST MINUTE NEWS INSERT**

"I wish to thank the many Park residents who took the time to commend me on the job I was doing as Treasurer. I had set a high standard of accuracy for myself, but I find that my ability to continue in that fashion is no longer possible.

Without any discussion, there was a re-write of the Treasurer's duties that are no longer in accordance with our by-laws (specifically, article VI –sec 6). These changes make it impossible for me to maintain responsibility for this position.

Therefore, I found it necessary to resign as Treasurer."

Regrettably, Gayle Constable

## **GET ACTIVE! GET MOVING!**

*Biting your fingernails shouldn't be your only exercise today.*

If you think your nagging arthritis pain or that old rotator-cuff tear of yours gives you an excuse or license to retire to the sofa with a remote control day after day, think again!

That may have been the way of thinking twenty years ago, but doctors today recommend some form of exercise for everyone.

One orthopedic specialist put it best: "My patients with arthritis and sore backs who exercise daily complain about the arthritic pain in their knees lasting for just a few hours after exercising. But my patients who don't exercise complain about the arthritic pain that exists all day and night long."

### **Go for a little pain for a BIG gain, Folks!**

Find a fitness routine that suits your age. Whether you walk, swim, or do aerobics, it will all help to keep your moving parts lubricated.

So, c'mon! Shift out of neutral and take your body for a spin!

### **J'es wonderin'.....**

If you jog backwards, do you put on weight?  
(John McBain)

Speaking of exercising:

Yesterday, a friend waded in water, escaped from a wild dog in the heavy brush, jumped away from an aggressive rattlesnake, marched up and down several rocky hills, stood in a patch of poison oak, crawled out of mud holes, and meandered back and forth through trees.

No, he's not an outdoorsy type; just a lousy golfer!

## **ON THE DARKER SIDE**

Research shows that light destroys many of the antioxidants in olive oil. Studies found olive oil stored in clear bottles under supermarket lighting lost at least 30 percent of their vitamin E and carotenoids. Light also oxidizes olive oil, creating free radicals that cause (rather than prevent) premature aging. So choose olive oil that come in darkly tinted bottles, or at least reach for a bottle at the back of the shelf, where it's had less lighting effects. At home, keep the bottle in a dark cool place, perhaps wrapped with paper or tinfoil

"Friendship improves happiness and abates misery, by the doubling of our joy and the halving of our grief."  
Cicero (d. 43 BC)

"A faithful friend is better than gold."  
Robert Burton

### **"HE'S MAKING A LIST...."**

Ed.note: I modified this somewhat from a card's verse.

Each year when Christmas comes

In the midst of crisp December,

**Make a list of far-off friends**

It's a pleasure to remember.

Then you can visit in your thoughts

Each and every precious reason

Why you wrote their names so carefully

During this very special season.

Is it the laughs and good times shared

With those friends you hold so dear?

Or do they make your life seem fuller

Each day throughout the year?

Review their names, and pray for them

'Tho they're miles away from sight.

Give thanks for knowing folks like them.

**It helps make this season bright!**

"Of all possessions, a friend is the most precious."  
- Herodotus

### **A TOAST TO THEIR HEALTH**

Have you ever wondered why a speech proposing good health to someone is called a **TOAST**?

Well, In 17<sup>th</sup> century England, it seems the wine wasn't quite as good as it is now. So in order to improve its flavor, pieces of spiced toast were floated in the goblet before the wine was drunk.

When people raised their glasses in the tradition of drinking to wish someone good health, it was considered rude not to finish every drop, and so the soggy toast was often consumed along with the wine.

The custom came to be called "toasting", but eventually the actual piece of toast was tossed.

It is said that the Romans used to toast a woman's health by drinking a glass of wine for every letter in her name. Oh, what merry times were undoubtedly had when Cornelia Theodora Agrippina Augustus attended a party!

### **ASKING AROUND THE PARK.....**

**"What is your favorite  
memory of Christmas?"**

... "Having the big family dinners." D. Roberts

... "Horseback riding in the snow" K. Gautier

... "Watching Christmas movies" Cathy S

... "Getting together with family" K. Eck

... "Watching my Mom bake gingerbread cookies while humming along to her Johnny Mathis Christmas album playing in the background"

... "Visiting family and friends" G. Fox

... "Finally locating the burnt-out bulb on those old sets that wouldn't light unless they all worked."

... "Receiving the prettiest dress when I was 8. We weren't rich, and I found out many years later that it was a cousin's hand-me-down." J. Hamilton

... "The year all 19 family members went to Salt Lake City and stayed in one house" J. Tack

... "I received an electric Lionel train set in 1948. I still have it!" J. Pierce

... "Dad won me a Shirley Temple doll" L. Cutting

... "Going to grandma's house in Aberdeen SD, and eating lots of German food." D. Moore

... "All 90 of them!" S. Recknagel

... "After visiting relatives in Wisconsin, Dad closed the station wagon tailgate and shattered its window. We had to drive home like that to Minneapolis in 23 below zero weather." M. Yost

... "Tying my new toboggan to the car bumper and having Dad drive me all over (our small) town."

G. Constable

... "Dad coming home from WWII. I got to spend Christmas with him with a real tree and in a real house"

B. Benson

... "Having all my family together. To me, that's the most important thing."

J. Furman

### **THE BOWLED AND THE BEAUTIFUL?**

In the court of French King Louie XI, ladies of the upper class dined primarily on bowls of soup, believing that excess chewing of anything else would cause premature wrinkles.

## **Here and There Around TOWN**

Contributed by Barb Frantz

11/27: Performance of **"Annie"** at new McAllen Performing Arts Center 801 Convention Center Blvd. McAllen at 7 pm. Tickets on sale after 10/17 through [www.LiveinMcAllen.com](http://www.LiveinMcAllen.com)

11/28: Starting at 8 am tickets go on sale for **"Once Upon a Mattress"** at Nikki Rowe High School by the Choir. Performance dates are 1/20/17 through 1/28/17. Info: (956) 632-5152.

11/29: 6pm **Orchestra Concert** at LaJoya High School located at 604 Coyote Drive, LaJoya

11/30 to 12/4: LaJoya HS Theatre Production **"A Greater Tuna"** Shows: 7pm on 11/30; 2pm and 7pm on 12/3; 2pm on 12/4. Info: (956) 323-2896.

12/1: 6pm **Classical Guitar Program** at LaJoya HS located at 604 Coyote Dr. LaJoya.

12/1-12/3: **"The Wizard of Oz"** at McAllen Memorial HS 101 E. Hackberry McAllen. Show times 12/1& 12/2 @ 7:30pm and 12/3 @ 2pm. Cost is \$10.00. Tickets: (956) 632-5258.

12/1 to 12/4: An evening of short plays called **"The Life & Times of Winter Texans"** at Albert Jeffries Theatre at UTRGV 1201W. University Dr. Edinburg. Eight original plays take a humorous look at snowbirds. Info: (956) 665-3581.

12/2: 6:30 pm **Christmas concert** by LaJoya High School Choir 604 Coyote Dr. LaJoya.

12/2: **Night of Lights Parade & Festival** in the Edinburg City Courtyard 415 W. University Dr. Edinburg. Parade time is 7 pm and starts at corner of University Dr and z Sugar Rd and will continue east to end at the town square (courthouse parking lot). Info: (956) 383-4974 or [www.edinburg.com](http://www.edinburg.com)

12/2: **Music After Hours Arts and Crafts Fair** from 6pm - 10 pm at Archer Park located at 101 N. Broadway St, McAllen. Good live music with arts and craft vendors.

12/3: **McAllen Christmas Parade and festivities.** Parade will run from Bicentennial & Business 83 north to McAllen High School starting at 6:30pm. Vendors and entertainment. Info: (956) 682-2871.

12/3 to 12/4: **"The Nutcracker"** - Rio Grande Valley Ballet at McAllen PAC 801 Convention Center Blvd. McAllen. Show times are: 7 pm Sat 12/3 and 2 pm Sun, 12/4. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

12/5:7pm **Christmas Choir Concerts** by three LaJoya Middle Schools at LaJoya HS 604 Coyote Dr. LaJoya.

12/6: **Tony Bennett** at the new McAllen Performing Arts Center - info through [www.LiveinMcAllen.com](http://www.LiveinMcAllen.com)

12/6: 7pm **LaJoya HS Band Christmas Program** at LaJoya High School.

12/7: 7pm **Juarez-Lincoln HS Band Christmas Program** at LaJoya High School.

12/8: 6:30pm **Palmview HS Band Christmas Program** at LaJoya High School.

12/10: **Weslaco Christmas Parade** with floats traveling down Texas Blvd from Pike to 6th Sts. Info: (956) 968-2102 or [www.weslacoedc.com](http://www.weslacoedc.com).

12/10: City of **Pharr Christmas Fiesta** with great music, food booths, family fun & entertainment. Info: (956) 402-4332.

12/10: The **Broadway musical "Elf"** at the new McAllen Performing Arts Center located at 801 Convention Center Blvd. McAllen. Info at [www.LiveinMcAllen.com](http://www.LiveinMcAllen.com)

12/15 to 12/17: Edinburg Dance Theatre presents **"The Nutcracker"** at UTRGV Performing Arts Center, 1201 W. University Dr. EDINBURG. Show times 7: 30 pm with an extra performance at 1:30 pm on 12/17 Info: (956) 383-2623

12/16: **Food Park Unplugged** at 10 N. Broadway, McAllen from 5-10 pm. Info: (956) 682-2821

12/16 to 12/17: Palmview HS Musical **"Chicago"** at LaJoya HS PAB. Performances on 12/16 at 2pm & 7pm and on 12/17 at 2pm.

12/20: 7pm - **Palmview HS Band Christmas Concert** will be at LaJoya HS PAB located at 604 N. Coyote Dr., LaJoya.

## **Here and There Around TEXAS**

Contributed by Barb Frantz

11/21 - 1/1/17 **Dean Porter Park Lighted Village** 501E Ringgold St Brownsville. View the massive light displays until 10pm (11pm on weekends)

11/22 to 1/8 Galveston, Tx - **Festival of Lights** at Moody Gardens - take a tour of a Victorian Mansion, walk streets of historic downtown district or go to the festival of lights. Call (800) 582- 4673 or visit: [www.moodygardens.org](http://www.moodygardens.org).

12/2 to 12/3 and 12/9 to 12/10: Tablerock, Texas - annual production of **"A Christmas Carol"** at the Tablerock Amphitheater at 7pm. Info: (254) 947-9205 or [www.tablerock.org](http://www.tablerock.org).

12/2 to 12/4: Copperas Cove, Tx - 22nd downtown **Christmas Bazaar, Parade, and Krist Kindl Market.** AVENUE D Christmas Parade and on Saturday the H.O.T. Bowl kicks off at Bulldog Stadium. For info: (254) 547-7571 or [www.copperascove.com](http://www.copperascove.com)

12/6: 7:30pm UTRGV's **Mariachi Aztlan Christmas Concert** at SPI Convention Center. Cost is \$15.00 pp Info: [www.elpaseoarts.org](http://www.elpaseoarts.org).

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12/10 LaFeria, Texas - **Lighted Christmas Parade**  
5:30pm theme "South Texas style Christmas". Free parking and admission. Call (956)797-2261 or visit [www.cityoflaferia.com](http://www.cityoflaferia.com).

12/10: Killeen, Texas - **Christmas Parade** – Info:  
[www.killeentexas.gov](http://www.killeentexas.gov)

12/17 to 12/19: 7:30pm - **"Showstoppers"** at the SPI Convention Center will be a musical comedy journey back through past seasons with musical selections and comedy scenes from local productions. Tickets \$30 pp through [www.elpaseoarts.org](http://www.elpaseoarts.org).

**HEADS UP:** Get your tickets early:

1/5/17: El Paseo Arts Foundation presents the **"Almost Patsy Cline Band"** at The SPI Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom with Hors d'oeuvre & cash bar at 6:30pm and curtain time at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$30. Info: [www.elpaseoarts.org](http://www.elpaseoarts.org).

### Heading to Corpus Christi ??

Check out these exciting points of interest:

**USS Lexington-** 11 decks 250,000 sq.ft WWII aircraft carrier. Info: 800-523-9539 or [www.usslexington.com](http://www.usslexington.com)

**South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center** - Butterfly House, Orchid Conservatory, Rose Gardens, Resident Reptiles and Exotic Parrots just to name a few. Catch parrot talks on Fri, Sat, & Sun at 1:30pm. Visit: [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org) or call (361) 852-2100.

**Texas State Aquarium** – Info: call (800) 477-4853 or visit: [www.texasstateaquarium.org](http://www.texasstateaquarium.org)

**Art Museum of South Texas** - special exhibit through January 2017 honoring 20th century artist, Dorothy Hood. Info: (361) 825- 3500 or visit: [www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org](http://www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org)

### LIFE LESSONS

"I've had the most amazing things happen. I've also had not so great things happen. You kind of have to take it in your stride and not let it affect your soul and not let it affect your passion for living."  
(Leona Lewis, singer)

"All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."  
(Charles Schultz, cartoonist)

### Answer to Quiz from page 7

b) Jackie Gleason, talking about talent

This month's Feature Article:



We see it all over the Valley: H-E-B.

We likely shop there often: H-E-B.

Now, raise your hand if y'all know exactly what the 3 initials H-E-B stand for.

..... Hmmmm, not many hands up (but then neither could I).

For the answer to that, let's first go back 111 years.

In 1905, Florence Butt opened the C. C. Butt Grocery Store in Kerrville, up in the Texas Hill County, after her husband Charles was diagnosed with tuberculosis and was unable to work any longer. She invested \$60 in the business to get it started.

[Ed. Note: That was a fair chunk of change back then. By comparison, it is the equivalent of approximately \$2.2 Million in 2016 money]

In the early 1920's, her youngest son took over the business, and expanded it with two new stores. His name was Howard Edward Butt, hence the initials H-E-B. So, now you know.

### Did you also know:

In 1940, he opened their first air-conditioned store and began stocking frozen food.

In 1954, their first supermarket was opened, which consolidated a fish market, butcher shop, pharmacy, and bakery all under one roof.

A grandson of Florence, also called Charles, first helped out in his grandmother's store when he was only eight. As a young adult, Charles became an Evangelist travelling around with Billy Graham (often preaching at the First Baptist Church in Dallas). He became CEO of the H-E-B food business in 1971. Now at 78 years of age, he is currently the company's major shareholder

In 2004, the H-E-B-PLUS concept was introduced, adding electronics, clothing, and gardening departments into the food mix.

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Today, 111 years after Florence first opened the doors to serve the public, H-E-B is now the largest independently-owned food chain in the United States, with 378 stores (52 of which are in Mexico), 76,000 employees, and annual sales of \$15 billion,

As you can see, Flo's "young'uns done good" for themselves!

### Other interesting H-E-B factoids:

- H-E-B operates the **largest milk plant** in Texas, opened in San Antonio in 1976.
- H-E-B opened a HUGE regional dry-grocery warehouse facility in Weslaco in 2007 to serve the Rio Grande Valley.
- H-E-B's **fully-automated bakery** in Houston opened in 2004, and it produces 153 loaves and 750 buns per minute.  
(Yes, every MINUTE!)
- H-E-B **donates 5%** of their pre-tax profits to charities. They donate 30 million pounds of food to food banks across the State each year, and prepare a quarter-million free hot meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the needy in over 30 different counties throughout Texas and Mexico,
- H-E-B hosts the **Excellence in Education Awards** Celebration each year, awarding nearly one million dollars to outstanding Educators in honor of their dedication to furthering their studies to improve themselves and hence improve their impact on their classroom students.

### HOSPITALITY:

the art of making guests feel at home when you really wish they were.

### The Last Word (Editorial)....

NOTE: Views expressed below are not held by everyone. Opposing views are welcomed.

### Call me Politically INcorrect!

It is that time of the year again.... when I can walk through any Mall or Store and see "festive" decorations everywhere.

(Sadly, some of these decorations have been up since before Hallowe'en, Memorial Day, and/or Thanksgiving, but that's another gripe....)

Over the loudspeakers, I can hear the latest pop stars "singing" (if you can call it that) modern holiday songs. Clerks wish me a "Happy Holiday".

What bothers me is what I CAN'T see or hear. I can't see a "Merry Christmas" banner anywhere. I can't find mangers in Town Squares anymore. I don't hear old-fashioned carols like "Joy to the World" or "O Holy Night" being played over store speakers or radio. It's almost impossible to find a Christmas card with a religious theme.

And why not? It's because all of that is now considered to be taboo in today's "politically correct" society. These days, mention God publicly and you are laughed at or, more likely, admonished. It might "upset" someone.

I personally do not appreciate that we have to refrain from what was – and still is – Biblical correctness regarding this Christian celebration. We are expected, instead, to tiptoe ever so carefully around in this public sewer called "political correctness"

Well, I for one refuse to become "politically correct" if doing so requires me to renounce God or my faith in His Son or my belief in "the words written in red" in the Bible.

This "holiday season", as they now want to call it, exists for one and only one reason, and that is to **celebrate HIS Birth and rejoice in its subsequent meaning to mankind.**

So, since I do not wish to downplay any public acknowledgment of those facts by climbing on any "political correctness" bandwagon, I will end my rant by personally wishing y'all a

..... Very..... Very ..... **MERRY...CHRISTMAS !**

John C. (The Editor)