

The Mondy Morning
CHRONICLE

Family Poop Sheet since 1990
Volume XIII, Issue 16, September 30, 2002
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ERCIL (WHITE) TELLS OF HER 70TH

Yes, Harrison, it was a GREAT, UNFORGETTABLE, AWESOME, HUMBLING Celebration. You just had to be there to believe how GREAT it was. This did not come to pass without MUCH planning and that began in January of 2002.

Our daughters came and with the two sons here and their wives, made the decision to let Vicki Ann (Jinks' wife) do the ground work and report her suggestions to all so it could be a unanimous decision. Jinks and Vicki Ann had married off both twins in the space of a year apart so Vicki Ann knew the places to look. First came the place for the Celebration and we chose First Baptist only to learn that a long weekend would NOT be available. We had to have Labor Day weekend as relatives were coming from 6 states and needed travel time. Pop and I took care of that and we got the Church reserved for that weekend. From then on, we stayed out of it as much as possible. The 6 plus Jane (Dean's wife) took over with Vicki Ann doing the hardest part. She must have interviewed 6 catering places before she found the right one that suited them all. She reserved 15 rooms at one of the nicest motels, ordered the cakes, talked with the florist, and on and on, always reporting to the daughters and getting their suggestions or OK's. And that is why it was such a great success - ALL that careful planning.

Now here is why you were SO surprised at so many. We had 15 of our 18 grandchildren, 13 of our 16 Great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and their mates, great nephews and great nieces and even ONE GREAT< GREAT nephew to attend. They came from Virginia, California, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oklahoma and you shake the bushes in Texas and relatives and friends just FELL out. How could it not be a GREAT celebration? Lester and I had worked with University Students at FBC for 50 years and many came from as far back as the 40's through to the 90's from the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex, all through the Middle of Texas and as far as North and East of Amarillo plus Lubbock. We had spent the last 18 years working with Texas Baptist Men Retirees and they came in couples from the Houston area, Dallas-Ft. Worth area, to Amarillo and all in between. We could not believe it either. We are still receiving long distance calls, cards galore and E-Mail as far away as Russia and Africa. We wanted NO gifts, just their presence but we did get a framed letter from President and Mrs. Bush. Guess they do not know of many 70th wedding anniversaries or maybe just because we are Texans - what do you think? MaWe had reserved 5 pews at our church for Sunday, each pew holding 12. All were filled and the late-comers had to sit elsewhere. Naturally, we were recognized. Many left Sunday after lunch, some Monday but a few waited until Tuesday. Lester only has one sister and she came from California.

I have two sisters, Judy from Houston and Margaret from New Mexico and they both came. Our cup truly did RUN OVER. I know this is long but I could not leave out anything and COULD have added more. Love and God Bless, Ercil

* * *

FROM BEA TAYLOR (9/4/02)
(Bea's letter didn't arrive in time for last Chronicle. Sorry, Bea)

I haven't forgotten you, it's just that I have to have a lot of rest. I am getting a little stronger. I was down to 87 pounds but I have gained about 2 1/2 pounds. It will take a long time to gain my weight back.

I will fly to Kansas City on the 13th to our granddaughter's wedding. I'm looking forward to it though it will be hard on me, for I can't stay up long at a time. Kate belongs to our daughter Jaque who lives in Scottsdale, AZ. Jerry and his oldest daughter Allison, are flying in so it will be a sort of family reunion.

Clouds are coming in so we may get a shower. That's about all we are getting these days.

RA, my heart goes out to you with all your pain. I don't understand why the Lord steps in with so much pain for he could do away with it.

Jack has become a great house-keeper and cook, and keeps the kitchen nice and clean. He still works for Enterprize Car Rental. They are real good to him - they will have to fire him to get him to quit. He'll be 82 on September 23rd and is still in good shape.

Margaret, how long did it take you to get your strength back so you were able to do things around the house after your hip

replacement? Do you still have pain? I have more pain at night.

I talked to Nell the other night and she also has some pain. Guess it comes with old age.

[Bea, my doctor says "getting old is not for sissies." He is about 70. I can answer your question about Margaret's recovery. She was in the hospital less than a week then in Rehab for a few days then came home. In one month and one day, from the date of her operation, she attended her sister's birthday party in Lubbock TX and did not walk with a cane or walker. The only thing she couldn't do was bend over but she had a "reacher" she used for that. I think the secret to her short period of recovery was the amount of exercise she had been taking before the accident, she was walking two miles. Now she walks only a mile for her exercise. Her broken hip was not caused by weak bones but by her heavy exercise machine which fell on her hip. You also asked about Mark Mondy, he is the youngest of Dewel's two children, his brother, Dick, being the older.]

* * *

FROM LINDA (JINKS) PHELPS

Just a note to let you know Roger didn't have his surgery as planned on Friday the 13th. They had him all prepped and the anaesthetic doing it's thing when he had one of his little petite mall seizures. They panicked and thought they were killing him so shipped him across the street to the emergency room where they did EKG's, CAT scan of the head and chest x-rays and, of course, found nothing. If I had been there I could have prevented all the hoopla but I had run to the Mall to get a battery for my watch so I missed it. Roger has been having

these little episodes for many years and every test has been run to try to find the origin. They'd finally decided it was just part of his makeup. Some little fuse in the brain gets lit every now and then; what causes it is debatable but I think stress and fear has a lot to do with it because that seems to be the only times he has them. If I had been there I would have had them call his local doctor who would have told them to wait until it's over and then proceed with the surgery. So now we have to go to the doctor Monday just to be sure everything is ok and then reschedule the surgery all over again after his doctor calls the surgeon and explains everything. Long day.

Well, as you've probably heard, the twins are FINALLY here. Kelly (Daughter of Sandra Wood, Linda's sister) was halfway there when she entered the hospital Friday morning. She had the epidural and just lay back and waited for nature to do the rest. Sis said she had a very easy time of it, the twins were 5 minutes apart and their births went like clockwork. Today is Sunday and they should be going home if everything checks out. Can't wait to get my first pictures of them. Sure wish I was there to hold them.

It's been raining for the last couple of days (of course. The State Fair is here). but today the sun is shining, it's about 65 degrees out and not supposed to go over 75 today. I'm going to the Fair with a couple of other girlfriends to see Charlie Pride. He's not my favorite but my girlfriends are and I'm looking forward to spending some time with them. Wouldn't have been able to go if Rog had had his surgery. Looking forward to what you write about the White anniversary party. Didn't we have fun? It was so

good seeing all of you. Everyone was so sweet to Roger. You should have seen Mark (Miller) playing with Roger in the pool Sunday morning. They had so much fun. They're both little boys. The White kids did such a good job of planning the reception and dinner and taking care of everyone's needs. We had a very nice place to stay that was clean and quiet (when we weren't all yelling).

I am so excited about your book Uncle Harrison. Thank you for showing it to us and reading it. I'll want quite a few copies for presents. What a precious, cute story for the little ones. That includes me of course.

Hope the trip to California went without a hitch. See you soon we hope.

Love, Linda and Roger

* * *

Time for a joke? If you have seen it already, don't stop me. I want to read it again.

This guy sees a sign in front of a house

TALKING DOG FOR SALE.

He rings the doorbell and the owner tells him the dog is in the back yard. The guy goes into the back yard and sees a mutt sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the mutt replies.

"So, what's your story?"

The mutt looks up and says, "Well, I discovered this gift pretty young and I

wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leader, cause no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies eight years running. The jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals. Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

The owner says "Ten dollars."

The guy says he'll buy him but asks the owner, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him for \$10?"

The owner replies, "He's such a liar. I don't know where he gets all that stuff. He's never been out of this yard."

* * *

The Duffers say:

"Dear Harrison, cousins, and friends I thought I had written you but I guess I just thought I did.

About four weeks ago I had to go to the hospital to see if anything could be done for the horrible pain in my hip and groin. I was in the hospital for nine days. They gave me two steroid shots in the hip. It helped a lot but I still can hardly get around. Both knees and both hips are completely worn out

the doctors say, so there is nothing to do except take pain pills which I can't do. When I lie down, it sounds like popcorn popping with all four joints popping.

While I was gone, Russell fell. They thought he had broken a hip, so the day I got out of the hospital, he went in. Xrays showed a break – my world went black.. They put him in traction until they could decide what to do. Then one of the doctors called for a MRI. They found no break – so the lights came on again. To enable him to get around again, they put him in therapy Jerry just told me he will be coming home tomorrow – praise the Lord. This is the longest time we have been separated since we married.. We celebrated our 68th wedding anniversary with him in the hospital and me at home, barely able to walk.. This is the first one we have not celebrated together. Tomorrow will be a real celebration day. They moved us from one section of the home to another but we are pretty well straightened out. We get more help and care in this section. We have less kitchen space and less space in the bedroom but more room in the living room. We are really happy here and the workers are very nice

Son Jerry and his wife have been to Reno, NV visiting their only grandchild and his parents. They report a spoiled baby now because of grandparents.

Son Bob and wife, June, will be coming to the mainland to visit us and their two sons and three grandchildren here. They have a son and four grandchildren there in Hawaii. We are looking forward to their visit.

We are having hot weather with showers around nearly every day.

We were so sorry to read of Lois' passing away and send our sympathy and prayers to the family. That leaves me the

oldest of the seven cousins left I'll be 91 on November 15th and Russell will be 94 on November 23rd.

Nell, I have finished reading your book, all the way through. I never cease to marvel that one woman could do so much. It is a great book. Thank you, Nell. We are all so proud of the great things you have contributed to the welfare of mankind.

Love and God Bless, RA and Russell

* * *

Speaking of Nell's many accomplishments, our beloved cousin has just been nominated for the International Peace Prize. I'm printing her letter of notification on the next page. This is a real honor and I congratulate her as do you.

* * *

We have put our house on the market. With the many book deals cooking My time is sold out for the rest of the year. I'm scheduled for an appearance in Los Angeles on Oct 19 and 24 and in Denver on Nov. 11. and maybe other places. I'll try to see that the Chronicle is published. I already have several orders for books (autographed, of course). The illustrator and coordinator are throwing a big book selling party for the 19th of Oct. If you want an invite, email me. More than a hundred invitations have gone out already. I know several of the attendees will buy one or more books and I'll begin to get my investment back.

* * *

Hey! Selling a house is no fun! It's got to look spic and span. You have got to leave home so the agents can show off the house and the prospective buyer can't ask you any questions. The agents have already asked

you every possible question and have the answers stored in their brain. You sit on pins and needles waiting for some one to buy and you have to make arrangements for U-hauls or Penskys to move you to some unknown point. Maybe no one will buy for another six months and you can breathe easy and go ahead with your life. 'Taint fun!

* * *

Are you for or against the President's war with Iraq? It will cost us about a hundred billion dollars (based on the Gulf war). The President wants your opinion, according to an email I received. You can call the following to register your approval or objection. The number to call is

(202) 456 1111

A machine will answer your call, detain you for a short time then ask you if you to answer one way or another (You can't make a speech) "I approve" or "I oppose"

Good Luck.

We are leaving Wednesday (Oct. 2) Sunday for Lubbock for the doctor's report on Margaret's eyes. Will return the 6th.

We will be leaving on the 16th for Los Angeles for the big promotion of my little book and will not arrive back home until the 26th. So I'm trying to get out this issue of the Chronicle PDQ.

Love to all, Harrison



August 9, 2002

Ms. Nell Irene Mondy
126 Honness
Ithaca NY 14850

Dear Ms. Mondy:

I am honored to enclose your nomination for the United Cultural Convention's **INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE**. The United Cultural Convention, established in the year 2000, came along at a momentous time in world history. The UCC has been praised by government leaders, statesmen, unified fellowship organizations, strategic research centers, international halls of learning, and world media, among others. The UCC pledges to help make the world more peaceful. Men and women who make intentional decisions to make a difference peacefully and whose efforts promote global harmony are the individuals chosen to receive the valiant **INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE**.

The **PRIZE** represents the attainment of equitable social relationships and the resolution of conflict with a goal of attaining just societies. Persons nominated for the honor are concerned with conditions of positive peace, whether in interpersonal relationships, community relations, within organizations and countries, or with reference to international relations. The objective of the **PRIZE** is to celebrate the work of individuals who are achieving results across political, religious and ethnic divisions, for peace and justice.

The enclosed leaflet describes the **INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE** in detail. The spirit of the Eagle reflects strength, honor, and unlimited freedom. It is appropriately combined with a Dove of Peace on a crystal-clear piece rising from the golden Eagle to represent hope, courage, and unity. A document replica of the award, along with the names of recipients, will be forwarded to the United Nations.

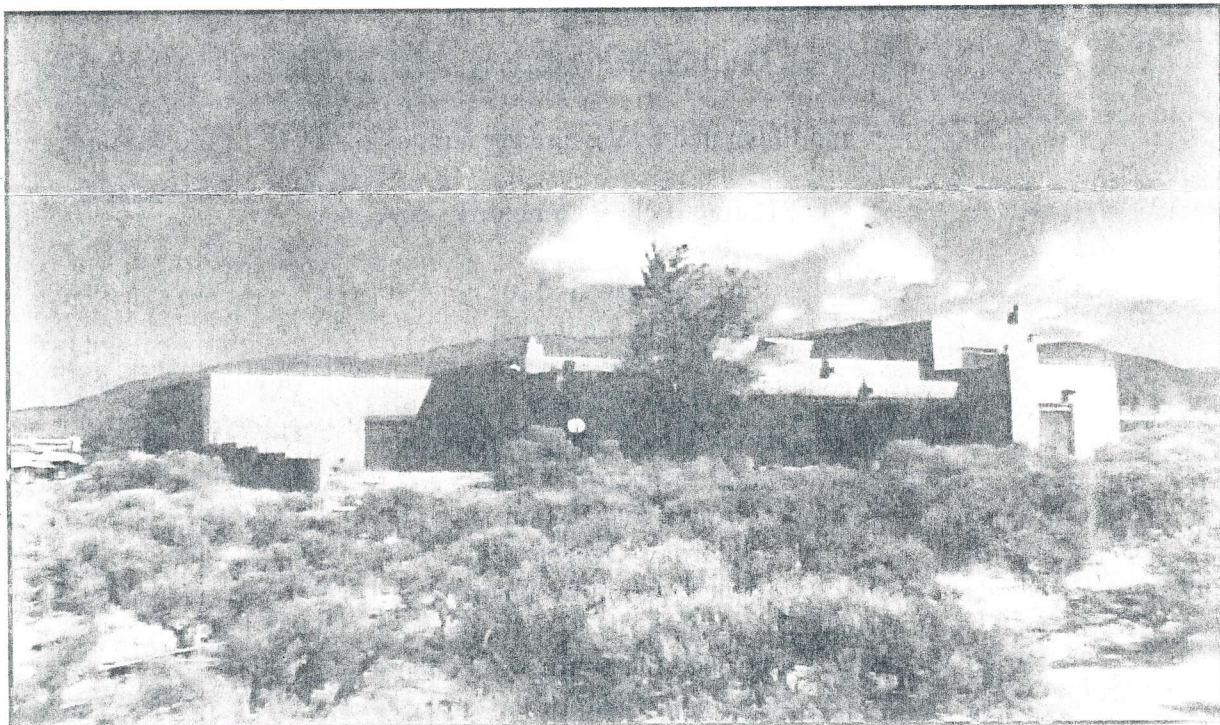
The honor for which you have been nominated is an exclusive, irreplaceable design commissioned by the United Cultural Convention. It would be my privilege to present you with this honor of a lifetime. I look forward to receiving your reply to the nomination by September 8, 2002.

With respect and admiration, I remain,

J. M. Evans
General-in-Residence

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Karen Michael Crawford

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There will be a
Book Unwrapping Party
at the Armstrong House
from 2 to 4 PM on
Saturday, October 19
(Complete with refreshments.)

The Author and Illustrator will be there
to autograph copies of the book.

The price of the book is \$14.95 each
But I'm hoping to get special rates for family members.

How many copies do you want? Let me know
and I will reserve them for you. If you want them
autographed to someone, be sure to send me the name of the recipient.

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